



PORTLAND FREIGHT COMMITTEE

May 18, 2015

Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Support for Tiger VII application for Marine Terminal Freight and Jobs Access project

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the Portland Freight Committee we are writing to express our support for the joint TIGER VII grant application submitted by the Port of Portland and the City of Portland. This grant application will significantly enhance marine terminal exports, increase middle income jobs, and improve safety, freight mobility and community livability in Portland, Oregon. Adding a needed grade separation over an important rail lead into Port of Portland's Marine Terminal 5 will help keep U.S. exports cost competitively move to international markets while benefitting numerous businesses in Oregon's largest industrial district. The project will also close a gap in pedestrian access to the industrial district creating new connectivity between the employment center and a disadvantaged neighborhood.

The Portland Freight Committee (PFC) has been serving as an advisory group on freight mobility issues to the Portland Bureau of Transportation and Portland City Council since 2004. The PFC is comprised of over 40 members that include both public and private sector representatives including logistic service providers, shippers, trade associations and various businesses related to multi-modal freight activities including the Port of Portland and the Union Pacific Railroad. The mission of the PFC is to support and enhance the economy of the City of Portland by advancing a balanced and well-managed multi-modal freight network.

The project is located in Portland's Rivergate Industrial District, which includes two of the Port's busiest marine terminals within an increasingly constrained Portland metropolitan area. Rivergate is Oregon's primary gateway for international trade, and has been a hub for U.S. exports since the 1800s. The TIGER VII grant application submitted by the Port and the City would complete a critical component necessary to fully serve the marine terminals and area businesses, supporting rail velocity and vehicle fluidity for planned growth. The grade separation and related improvements that would be funded by the TIGER VII grant would allow for a significant increase in exports through the Port's marine terminals and open this dynamic area up to additional businesses, job creation and transportation options.

With this grant, Rivergate Industrial District would become an even more productive, valuable and balanced community asset. We thank you for your consideration of our views on this application, which we fully endorse without reservation or qualification. The project matches the concept and spirit of the TIGER program, and we are requesting your support.

Respectfully yours,

Debra Dunn
PFC Chair

Pia Welch
PFC Vice Chair