



August 12, 2010

The Honorable Secretary Ray LaHood  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Tiger II Planning Grant for Territorial Highway Corridor Plan

On behalf of the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC), I want to express enthusiastic support for a TIGER II rural planning grant for Territorial Highway corridor planning.

MPC is the governing body for the Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization (CLMPO) area. While Territorial Highway is not within the MPO, it runs the length of Lane County and is a rural regional facility used heavily by MPO residents as well as citizens who work in the MPO but live in surrounding rural areas, and to access recreational areas, tourist destinations, and travel beyond the county lines.

Funding for safety, bicycle and pedestrian improvements will promote Lane County tourism and economic development on many levels. The highway serves several small Lane County communities in an area dominated by farming and forestry. It also provides direct access, or must be used to get to, eleven of Lane County's award winning wineries. It is used annually by thousands of bicycle touring enthusiasts.

Particularly at the southern end of the highway there is barely enough width for two trucks to safely pass. So it is not surprising that a tragic fatality occurred in 2006 when a bicyclist slipped on a slick fog line just as a truck was passing. TIGER II funding would prepare the highway for improvements, for which funding is being sought through Federal Transportation Bill reauthorization.

In closing, the MPC is aware that at least \$140 million of TIGER II grants are to be used in rural areas. We cannot imagine a more worthy project than Territorial Highway.

Thank you for considering our endorsement.

Sincerely,

Alan Zelenka, Chair  
Metropolitan Policy Committee

## **CENTRAL LANE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

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