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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I write today in support of the Oregon Department of Transportation’s application for Tiger IV grant funding for the Interstate 5 Woodburn Interchange project in Woodburn, Oregon. The completion of this interchange project is my top transportation priority.

Woodburn is a culturally diverse economic hub in Oregon’s Mid-Willamette Valley. The region is currently served by an interchange that was designed in the 1960s, and since that time the region has experienced significant population growth, development of tourist sites and events, and it has become a regional center for freight and commercial traffic. In order for Woodburn to safely keep pace with the demands associated this growth, this interchange must be modernized.

In addition to being outdated and unsafe, the current interchange serves as a major impediment to commerce and to local economic development initiatives. Interstate 5 is the key corridor for moving freight up and down the West Coast, and the regular traffic bottlenecks that accompany seasonal events and area tourist attractions make the Woodburn interchange a major impediment to the free flow of freight and commerce. A modernized interchange has the potential to greatly enhance West Coast freight mobility while also drawing investments and jobs to the 400 acres of industrial land that sit undeveloped within Woodburn’s city limits.

ODOT’s plan to replace this interchange will improve safety, increase freight mobility and boost the region’s economy. I am pleased to support this project consistent with all applicable laws and regulations. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress

KS: ts
March 21, 2012

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: TIGER IV grant application for I-5 Woodburn Interchange

Dear Secretary LaHood:

The Oregon Transportation Commission is pleased to offer its strong support of the Oregon Department of Transportation’s application for TIGER IV grant funding for the I-5 Woodburn Interchange project.

After reviewing this and other TIGER IV proposals from throughout Oregon, the Commission chose to designate this project one of our top priorities in the state because of its important benefits to Oregon’s transportation system, the state’s economy and the livability of our communities. The Commission believes this project would be a strong candidate for TIGER IV funds.

This project would reconstruct an important regional interchange on Interstate 5, the West Coast’s main trade corridor. The project would improve safety, relieve a significant congestion chokepoint, improve freight mobility and provide opportunities for developing industrial lands near the interchange. It would also incorporate a transit park and ride facility that would improve opportunities for local residents to access public transportation services.

The project is a priority for local governments, including the City of Woodburn and Marion County, and it has also been rated a top priority of the Mid-Willamette Valley Area Commission on Transportation and the Oregon Freight Advisory Committee, two ODOT advisory committees.

Thank you for considering this grant application.

Sincerely,

Pat Egan
Chair, Oregon Transportation Commission
March 14, 2012

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: TIGER IV grant application for I-5 Woodburn Interchange

Dear Secretary LaHood:

The Oregon Transportation Commission is pleased to offer its support of the Oregon Department of Transportation’s application for TIGER IV grant funding for the I-5 Woodburn Interchange project. This project would reconstruct an important regional interchange on Interstate 5, the West Coast’s main trade corridor. The project would improve safety, relieve a significant congestion chokepoint, improve freight mobility and provide opportunities for developing industrial lands near the interchange. It would also incorporate a transit park and ride facility that would improve opportunities for local residents to access public transportation services.

As the State of Oregon’s top transportation policy body, the Commission reviewed TIGER IV grant proposals. After reviewing this proposal, we agree that the project would benefit Oregon’s transportation system, and it would also have a positive impact on the state’s economy and the livability of our communities.

Thank you for considering this grant application.

Sincerely,

Pat Egan
Chair, Oregon Transportation Commission
Honorables Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

March 11, 2012

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing in support of the Oregon Department of Transportation’s (ODOT) application for funding for the reconstruction of the Interstate 5-Woodburn Interchange project, utilizing the USDOT Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER IV) program. It is my hope that you will favorably consider this application, thereby providing the region with a farsighted transportation improvement and a much-needed boost in construction employment.

This application by ODOT will improve the heavily utilized Interstate-5 Woodburn Interchange, and add travel lanes to Oregon Highway 214, opening up industrial opportunities on hundreds of acres near the interchange and fostering economic development of existing commercial areas. The project also features bicycle and pedestrian improvements and a transit facility that will offer transit enhancements and electric vehicle charging stations. Investments like this can bring lasting infrastructure benefits to Woodburn and nearby communities, making them safer and more livable. Moreover, this proposal will have the added benefit of creating significant numbers of new jobs, fulfilling the TIGER grant program’s economic recovery mission.

I urge you to give Oregon Department of Transportation’s Interstate-5 Woodburn Interchange project, your full and favorable consideration.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Jay Ward in my Portland, Oregon office at (503) 326-7525.

Sincerely,

Ron Wyden
United States Senator