

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 15, 2009

Ms. Lana Hurdle, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs
Mr. Joel Szabat, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Ms. Hurdle and Mr. Szabat,

We write to express our support for the joint application by the City of Hillsboro, Oregon, and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) for a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant made available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The funds would be used to restore capacity at the intersection of US Highway 26 and Shute Road to accommodate full utilization of industrial lands adjacent to the interchange.

The interchange is located in the heart of Hillsboro's industrial high-tech employment and manufacturing area. Currently serving the mobility needs for over 25,000 employees and associated commercial traffic, the interchange has reached 98% of its capacity. Without significant improvements, expansion of existing businesses and attraction of new businesses to industrial lands adjacent the interchange will be significantly impaired.

Our nation's current economic recession has significantly impacted the entire state of Oregon, which currently is suffering under a staggering unemployment rate of 12.2%. As we work to stem the loss of jobs and prevent businesses from permanently closing their doors, this project could help create significant numbers of direct jobs and indirect jobs in a community that is critical to Oregon's economic recovery.

Thank you for your full and fair review of the City of Hillsboro and ODOT's request. If you have any questions please contact Jay Ward in Senator Wyden's Portland office at (503) 326-7525 and Jessica Adamson in Senator Merkley's Portland office at (503) 326-3386.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Jeff Merkley
United States Senator