

HOOD RIVER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



DAVID MERIWETHER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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April 21, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: TIGER grant application for Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Hood River County extends our overwhelming support for the Oregon Department of Transportation's effort to secure TIGER funds to allow for the design and construction of the Historic Columbia River Highway State trail between Viento State Park and Perham Creek in Hood River County. Today, cyclists wishing to travel the Gorge in Hood River County must ride on the shoulders of the freeway as motor vehicles speed past them. As Oregon continues to recognize the value of promoting cycling and pedestrian travel and tourism, we can think of no more fitting project than to restore Lancaster's vision – where now it will be cyclists and hikers who “will wonder at its wild grandeur when it is made accessible by this great highway” during this special centennial year.

Samuel Lancaster designed the first 20 miles of what we now call the Historic Columbia River Highway as a world-class scenic highway, intending it to allow people to drive cars through this place of unmistakable beauty. The effort to serve the needs of motor vehicles eventually led to the construction of I-84, which served the original route in multiple locations.

The use of TIGER funds can help complete our region's ambitious vision to (re)create one of the truly unique cycling and pedestrian routes in the country. It's the kind of project that defines Oregon as we see it today and wish for others to see it as well.

Sincerely,
Hood River County
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A Small County with a big mission:
Providing Quality of Life for all.