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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

April 29, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing in support of the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for TIGER 2016 funding for the Historic Columbia River Highway (HCRH) State Trail: Viento State Park to Perham Creek project in the Columbia River Gorge.

As I understand, if funded, this important project will construct 1.7 miles of the remaining five miles of abandoned Columbia River Highway awaiting reconnection as part of the HCRH State Trail. Combined with existing trail segments and those under construction, this project will contribute to the completion of a 7.7 mile continuous trail corridor between the Gorton Creek Trailhead at Wyeth and Perham Creek.

As America's first scenic highway, the Columbia River Highway served thousands of travelers and took full advantage of the Columbia River Gorge's natural beauty and became known as the "King of Roads." Much of this original highway has been lost, and the remaining sections have been disconnected for decades. The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act of 1986 directed the State of Oregon to connect these abandoned highway sections as a pedestrian and bike trail. Today, a great deal of work is underway to complete this vision. In fact, five miles of the HCRH State Trail will be under construction in 2016 – the highway's centennial year.

Momentum and excitement is building in the Gorge around the HCRH State Trail and the highway's centennial. When completed, the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail will create a world-class cycling and safe transportation corridor that will enhance the livability and the economy of the communities in the Columbia River Gorge.

I strongly urge your full and fair consideration of ODOT's application for this important project. I can provide any additional information for your review please do not hesitate to contact me at my district office in Medford.

Sincerely,

Greg Walden  
Member of Congress