



Spokane Regional Transportation Council
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September 3, 2009

Secretary Raymond LaHood
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary:

On behalf of the 16 jurisdictions and agencies represented by Spokane Regional Transportation Council (SRTC), we are sending this letter to support the Washington State Department of Transportation's \$35 million TIGER grant request for the North Spokane Corridor (NSC).

As the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Spokane metropolitan area, SRTC has been working with a broad base of transportation agencies and community leaders to finally finish a project that has been over 50 years in the making. While the North Spokane Corridor was originally envisioned as a freeway project, that has changed to include several key features that makes it unique from other major transportation projects. The NSC is now a truly multimodal corridor that includes a limited access High Priority Corridor called US 395, a separated bike path running the entire 10.5 miles, park-and-ride facilities, freight rail service, as well as full right of way for a future high-capacity transit system. Currently 5.5 miles of the project is under construction.

On August 22, 2009, we celebrated opening the first drivable segment of the NSC (US 395), as well as the parallel "Children of the Sun" pedestrian/bike trail to great fanfare. Because of the multimodal nature of this project, it enjoys tremendous community and legislative support, which is evidenced by our community's ability to successfully secure hundreds of millions of dollars at the state and local levels to continue construction of this \$3 billion project.

To date, the federal participation on the North Spokane Corridor has been \$18 million out of almost \$600 million already dedicated to the project. We believe this project surpasses all of the criteria for TIGER grant funding by creating short term job creation; opening economic development opportunities in economically disadvantaged areas in our community; relieving congestion and reducing air quality emission on city principle arterials that are currently designated NAFTA routes; and reducing commuter, freight and goods movements adjacent to Spokane's schools, parks, neighborhoods and retail centers. All of these factors have an impact on the livability of our region. In fact, we strongly believe this project would make a great example of what USDOT considers a true TIGER project.

Besides the ability to generate both short and long term job creation and improve the region's livability, the North Spokane Corridor as an infrastructure asset will greatly improve the long-term economic viability of the Inland Northwest. As a commerce corridor into the Canadian

provinces of British Columbia and Alberta, we see continued economic opportunities in the future, especially with further development of the Oil Sands projects near Edmonton, Alberta.

We, the undersigned, constitute the Board of Directors for SRTC, which represents Spokane County, Spokane Transit Authority, and all of the local municipalities within the County, hope that you will recognize the benefit of selecting WSDOT's North Spokane Corridor project for TIGER funding.

If you have further questions or need more information, please feel free to contact SRTC Transportation Manager, Glenn Miles, at 509-343-6382.

Sincerely,

SRTC Board Chair:


Micki Harms, Small Town Representative, City of Rockford
Council Member

Board Member:


Mark Richard, Spokane County Commissioner

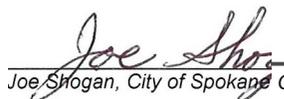
SRTC Board Vice-Chair:


Diana Wilhite, City of Spokane Valley Council Member

Board Member:


Mayor Wendy Van Orman, Spokane Transit Authority
Representative, City of Uberty Lake

Board Member:


Joe Shogan, City of Spokane Council Member

Board Member:


Keith Metcalf, Washington State Department of Transportation,
Eastern Region

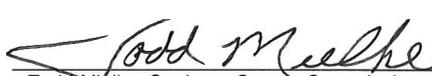
Board Member:


Nancy McLaughlin, City of Spokane Council Member

Board Member:


Latisha Hill, Washington State Transportation
Commissioner/Avista Representative

Board Member:


Todd Melke, Spokane County Commissioner

Board Member:


Jim Williams, Private Sector Transportation Provider

cc: Governor Christine Gregoire
Secretary of Transportation Paula J. Hammond
U.S. Senator Patty Murray
U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell
Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers