

COLUMBIA CORRIDOR
A S S O C I A T I O N

17 April 2009

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
United States Senate

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Kurt Schrader
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Greg Walden
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable David Wu
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Members of the Oregon Congressional Delegation:

The Columbia Corridor Association would like to express support for the \$13 million authorization request for improvements to the I-205 northbound access at Airport Way, submitted by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). This improvement is critical to address the access needs of the both passengers and air cargo at Portland International Airport (PDX).

The Columbia Corridor is Oregon's largest economic corridor and home to 2500 businesses employing 60,000 people. The Columbia Corridor Association strongly supports this authorization request because our members rely on the Airport Way/I-205 interchange to serve businesses throughout the region. Our economic success depends heavily on the efficiency of the transportation system and in particular the functioning of this interchange.

Vehicles on Airport Way currently experience long back-ups as they turn onto to Interstate 205 going northbound into Washington State. Congestion at this intersection will only worsen as cargo and passenger volumes grow overtime and Portland International Center continues to develop.

The \$13 million request by ODOT will allow for construction of the improvements needed at the interchange and leverage the \$1 million received for preliminary engineering in the last Transportation Authorization Bill (SAFETEALU) as well as \$7 million in funds allocated to the project from the Port of Portland. .

We urge your support of this request. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,



Corky Collier
Executive Director,