

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

28 August 2009

Councilor Carlotta Collette, Chair JPACT
600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232

re: Funding for the I-84 to US 26 corridor in the 2009 Regional Transportation Plan

Dear Chair Collette and JPACT Members,

The Columbia Corridor Association has had a longstanding interest in improving north-south connections in east Multnomah County. The lack of efficient connections to the south of the Columbia Corridor has increasingly become a disincentive for businesses to locate in places such as Rockwood Urban Renewal Area and the Reynolds Industrial site.

In the past, many businesses have refrained from involving themselves in the political disagreements that delayed action on a north-south corridor. But the east county cities are now in agreement, the East Multnomah County Transportation Committee (EMCTC) is requesting funding of a corridor plan, and Metro and JPACT support the idea of improving connectivity with a grid system throughout the region.

The Columbia Corridor Association supports the concept of multiple north-south corridors. We believe this is the most economical and agreeable solution for connections to the Columbia Corridor. We also believe this will bring some relief to the strained east-west corridors in east Multnomah County. It will also eventually help development of Damascus.

We ask that you support EMCTC's request to include a comprehensive study of the I-84 to US 26 corridor in the 2009 Regional Transportation Plan.

Respectfully submitted,



Corky Collier
Executive Director