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U.S. DOT, Secretary Lahood Invest \$23 Million in the PDX Innovation Quadrant Grant is only one of its kind in Oregon, one of 51 projects in the country

A partnership led by the City of Portland Bureau of Transportation and the Portland Development Commission has been awarded a federal TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant of \$23,203,988 to enhance transportation connections in Portland's Innovation Quadrant. Portland's unique application faced incredible competition; a total of 14,000 applications worth more than \$60 billion contended for the \$1.5 billion in federal grant money awarded across the country.

"This federal investment in our city could not have come at a better time for our economy," said Portland Mayor Sam Adams. "In addition to the immediate construction jobs, this project helps build the foundation for the city of Portland's Innovation Quadrant, and our long-term economic prosperity, " said Mayor Sam Adams.

The \$23 million grant will be directed to the SW Moody Avenue reconstruction project in the South Waterfront district, which the TIGER application partners identified as a top priority. SW Moody will be reconstructed as a green street, with facilities to manage storm water and improve water quality and enhance our watershed health.

"The Bureau of Transportation is ready to build this critical piece of transit infrastructure for South Waterfront," said PBOT Director Susan Keil. "We look forward to coordinating with our private and public sector partners to ensure this money is spent wisely and on time."

Construction on the project will begin in the fall of 2010 and is anticipated to generate more than 3,100 construction, design and engineering jobs -- 1,000 directly funded by the TIGER grant and 2,100 jobs next year for construction of OHSU's Life Sciences Complex. In addition the project will facilitate long-term job creation by unlocking parcels, which are adjacent to the project, for future development.

The TIGER grant will help reconstruct SW Moody Avenue from SW River Parkway to SW Gibbs Street. The reconstructed avenue will include three traffic lanes, dual streetcar tracks, and a two-way cycle-track and pedestrian facilities. The roadway will be elevated with an additional 14 feet of fill, allowing redevelopers of adjacent brownfields to offer "tuck-under parking" without disturbing capped contaminated areas. The elevated street also integrates mixed-use developments with street-level transit facilities, encouraging transit ridership and reducing auto trips. The cycle track and pedestrian connections are essential elements of this project.

"These funds will facilitate a coordinated solution for transit options and land use in South Waterfront to complement the Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Project, as well as make an easy transfers to the Portland Streetcar," said TriMet General Manager Fred Hansen.

In addition, improvements supporting bike and pedestrian traffic will provide safe access to the transit bridge to the east side and connect the district to the employment center of downtown.

"This award advances the vision of the Innovation Quadrant to link universities, jobs and people, and clearly demonstrates the value of the strong collaboration between the city, higher education and business here in Portland," said Bruce Warner, PDC Executive Director.

The Innovation Quadrant spans four central city districts, bringing together the leaders of academic and research institutions, emerging sustainable industries, workforce development providers, private sector companies, governmental partners and cultural institutions. The area represents a combined regional economic impact of more than \$4 billion, with the potential for the creation of thousands of family wage jobs. The four districts that comprise the Quadrant are:

- The University District around Portland State University
- The South Waterfront
- The Central Eastside Industrial District around the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry
- Oregon Health and Science University Marquam Hill Campus

"I want to express my appreciation to Secretary Ray LaHood for recognizing the value of this project as a job generator and an essential investment in Portland's infrastructure," said Mayor Adams. "I also want to thank Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley and Congressmen David Wu, Earl Blumenauer and Kurt Schrader for their unwavering support of the application, and Portland's city staff for their tireless work to bring this funding to Oregon."

For more information on the Innovation Quadrant, the TIGER Grant and the component project details, visit: www.pdxinnovation.com