



February 22, 2011

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood
U. S. Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood,

As Mayors of key cities along the Pacific Northwest High Speed Rail (HSR) corridor route, we share a joint interest in ensuring the economic vitality and improving the quality of life for our residents along the route. We have demonstrated our commitment to rail service by preserving Amtrak same-day service through the existing rail corridor, successfully applying for \$ 598 million in federal money, and receiving \$ 161.5 million in reallocated funds. We believe that the Pacific Northwest High Speed Rail corridor route is the right choice for further federal high speed rail investment. As partners along this corridor, we respectfully request a reallocation of HSR funding, resulting from the recent decision by Florida to reject this funding, to the Pacific Northwest High Speed Rail corridor route.

We welcome the President's recent commitment to investing an additional \$ 53 billion into a national high speed rail network. This bold statement by the administration matches our regional efforts to improve inter-city transportation options. Pacific Northwest HSR connects cities that are already committed to mass transit infrastructure, including expanded access to buses, light rail, streetcars, trams and bicycling. This commitment to advanced transportation planning, coupled with a rapidly growing population that embraces alternative transportation modes, makes our corridor the best choice for receiving reallocated funds.

While the requested funding source can only be used in the U.S. portion of the corridor, elected officials in the Canadian province understand the importance funding this vital Pacific Northwest high speed rail corridor has for their economic development, transportation and sustainability goals. Our long-standing Pacific Northwest regional collaboration and commitment to a high speed rail corridor was reaffirmed through a Memorandum of Agreement entered into on June 9, 2010 between the Mayors of Vancouver, British Columbia, Seattle, Washington and Portland, Oregon.

The Pacific Northwest region leads the nation in sustainable practices and is actively working to create a stronger, greener economic future for our residents. Further federal funding for the Pacific Northwest High Speed Rail corridor will help us meet our climate action targets and meet the Administration's call to win the future in clean energy.

We thank you for your previous investments in high speed rail here in the Pacific Northwest and stand ready to make additional strategic investments to further the transportation goals of this Administration.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signature of Gregor Robertson.

Gregor Robertson, Mayor
City of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Handwritten signature of Michael McGinn.

Michael McGinn, Mayor
City of Seattle, Washington

Handwritten signature of Sam Adams.

Sam Adams, Mayor
City of Portland, Oregon

Handwritten signature of Kitty Piercy.

Kitty Piercy, Mayor
City of Eugene, Oregon

C: Governor John Kitzhaber, State of Oregon
Governor Christine Gregoire, State of Washington
Honourable Gordon Campbell, Premier, Province of British Columbia, Canada