

COLUMBIA CORRIDOR

A S S O C I A T I O N

4 November 2016

Metro Planning
600 N.E. Grand Avenue
Portland, OR 97232
transportation@oregonmetro.gov

RE: Support for Cornfoot Road Multiuse Path

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to express our support for the Port of Portland's Cornfoot Road Multiuse Path funding application. This critical project is necessary to ensure safe pedestrian and bicycle access on a high volume roadway located within a booming employment district.

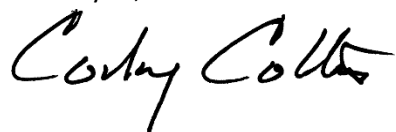
The Columbia Corridor is the largest economic corridor in Oregon and the largest industrial area in the Metro region, with more middle wage jobs for communities of color than other sectors.

Cornfoot Road, located on the southern portion of the airfield for PDX, is home to 19 businesses. Used for business access, as well as a cut through for those traveling to I-205 north, more than 9,000 trips a day occur on the road. Of those trips, nearly ten percent are coming from heavy vehicles. The absence of a shoulder on either side of the roadway forces pedestrians and bicyclists to either be in the street or in the grass adjacent to the roadway. The winding road further reduces visibility of non-vehicular traffic increasing safety issues. The relocation of the downtown post office to the intersection of NE Cornfoot Rd and Alderwood Rd in the next few years will add a significant number of employee and truck trips to the system.

A *separated* multiuse path on this stretch of road will complete a significant gap in the routes connecting Cascade Station and PDX to areas west and south of the airport and keep the route safe for all users. This will provide the more than 12,000 employees at PDX alone to utilize alternative modes of transportation to and from work. Not only does this benefit current employees of PDX, many of whom who live in the adjacent Cully neighborhood to the south, it also reduces barriers for accessing those jobs found at PDX and the surrounding businesses. A trip that currently takes 47 minutes with a transfer from a bus to the MAX would be cut nearly in half with the ability to utilize a multiuse path on Cornfoot Road. Those twenty four minutes could make all the difference to someone looking for employment.

We recognize that demand will always exceed the funds available. However, because this project is so incredibly important for job access and growth as well as pedestrian and bicyclist safety within the Portland Metropolitan area, we strongly encourage funding of this project.

Thank you,



Corky Collier
Executive Director