



September 29, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

The purpose of this letter is to emphatically support the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER 2017) Grant Application for multi-modal connections to Kansas City's Berkley Riverfront. BNIM represents a constituency of architects, landscape architects, planners, interior designers and graphic designers located at 2460 Pershing in Kansas City, Missouri. We have a large employee base that live in the neighborhoods served by the street car and our office is located at the south terminal of the street car in Crown Center. It is noteworthy that transit has impacted our staff in a positive way in that 50% of our staff do not drive to the office. We advocate for increasing the usefulness of all public transit systems in Kansas City including the proposed extension to the Berkley Riverfront precinct.

BNIM worked with the City, the Port Authority and KCATA and many other organizations including 13 downtown neighborhoods in creating the *Greater Downtown Area Plan*. The plan is important because it brought together the very diverse Downtown community around four principles and resulted in approval by each constituent organization and the City Council as quickly and smoothly as is allowed by city charter. Those principles include walkability, sustainability, increasing resident population and increasing jobs and employment and retain and develop authentic neighborhoods. Each of those principles is directly applicable to the goals of this grant request. To date the plan has generated \$4.5 B in development and the extension of the streetcar will continue the momentum.

KC•CORE – *Connecting Our Riverfront for Everyone* is a superb example of a project that supports the long-term national goals that have been established by the TIGER Grant program and by the call for Public Private Partnerships (P3) by the Trump Administration. In developing this project, the City has demonstrated a “can-do” attitude in all of its efforts and has been unwaveringly committed to an accelerated expansion of successful 2016 RideKC Streetcar. The Kansas City Streetcar Authority, Port Authority of

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Kansas City, MO (Port KC), and the grant Applicant the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority are teamed up and on schedule to deliver a half-mile extension of Kansas City's successful 2016 Streetcar Starter Line Operations by 2021.

Enthusiasm for the project has never been a question as the local capital funding for this project will be born 100% by Port KC and the private developers who are building projects now and in the future on the 120-acre Berkley Riverfront. The half-mile project is a natural extension of the initial KC Streetcar and bridging to the riverfront will allow for more integrated recreation, bike, pedestrian, parking, and commuter options for the system and will moreover provide over 50 acres of development-ready ground to the existing system for economic development.

KC•CORE – *Connecting Our Riverfront for Everyone* meets the TIGER goals for significant regional impact and will be successful for generations. Our organization strongly recommends that you select the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority's 2017 TIGER Grant Application to join the ranks of approved TIGER projects. This project is an ideal one to earn the privilege of being a part of this vital national infrastructure program. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve McDowell'.

Steve McDowell
CEO