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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

October 12, 2017

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing in strong support of the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority's (KCATA) application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER IX) grant program.

I understand the application is a public-private partnership between the Kansas City Streetcar Authority, Port KC and the KCATA. This application will fund an extension to our region's successful 2016 Streetcar starter-line. This extension will allow streetcar service to reach the isolated Berkley Riverfront Park area in Kansas City, including 77 acres available for economic development. Located in Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, this extension will serve as a catalyst for job creation, enhanced safety, and increased residential and commercial development. This proposal includes multi-modal connectivity thru integrated recreational, bike, pedestrian and parking options for commuters, thereby transforming access to the Riverfront and creating opportunity for new hotels, apartment housing and retail shops. This effort will connect the Riverfront to Kansas City's thriving downtown and midtown areas, which feature major cultural, performing and sporting venues that make Kansas City a truly remarkable community.

I hope you will give the KCATA's TIGER IX application every favorable consideration as it builds on and continues Kansas City's forward thinking, positive "can do" spirit. If I can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or Geoff Jolley, of my staff, at (816) 842-4545. I appreciate your time and attention to this worthy effort.

Warmest regards,



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

EC:jv

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