



October 3, 2017

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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 **KC-CORE (Connecting Our Riverfront to Everyone)**, an innovative multi-modal grant request to reconnect Kansas City's historic Berkley Riverfront to the heart of Downtown Kansas City.

The Downtown Council of Kansas City, Missouri and our affiliated organizations are firmly committed to creating a vibrant, diverse and economically sustainable Downtown Kansas City, Missouri. We believe Downtown is the arts and cultural center of our metropolitan area, a model of sustainable development, a collection of diverse residential neighborhoods, an energetic work place and a setting for entrepreneurial creativity.

The **KC-CORE** Project is a superb example of a project that supports the goals that have been established by the TIGER Grant program, with its focus on strong regional partnerships, multi-modal connectivity, and well-coordinated economic development strategies. The local partnership to advance **KC-CORE** consists of Kansas City Streetcar Authority, Port Authority of Kansas City, MO (Port KC), and the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority and the underlying project includes a northern extension of the successful and record-setting KC Streetcar system in addition to new dedicated pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

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 one-mile project is a natural extension of initial KC Streetcar and will allow for a reconnected riverfront, access to recreation, integrated bike, pedestrian, parking, and commuter options and will leverage and reposition over 50 acres of development ready ground to the existing system for economic development.

Our organization strongly recommends that you select the KC region's "**KC-CORE**" 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,

William Dietrich
President & CEO
The Downtown Council of Kansas City, Missouri