



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 my 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. Friends of the River Kansas City represents a constituency of 22 volunteer board members from community business and non-profit organizations at 300 Wyandotte Street in Kansas City, Missouri.

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 “will-do” attitude in all of its efforts and has been unwaveringly committed to an accelerated expansion of our cities successful 2016 RideKC Streetcar project. The Kansas City Streetcar Authority, Port Authority of Kansas City, MO (Port KC), and the grant Applicant the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority are partnered 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. This expansion project benefits our organization as we manage many of Kansas City's premier events on the Berkley Riverfront such as Battle 4 KC, Play at the Park, Movies on the Riverfront, Riverfront Fitness, PopUp Disc Golf, and one of Kansas City's largest annual events KC Riverfest on July 4th annually.

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,

Stefan White
President, Friends of the River Kansas City