

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. The Kansas City Regional Transit Alliance (KCRTA) is a 501c3 that represents a constituency of advocates, business leaders, and transportation professionals located in Kansas City, Missouri.

KCRTA has spent a considerable amount of our organizational energy backing the wildly successful streetcar implementation in Kansas City – educating the community, hosting vendors, raising funds for expansion – and are pleased that this Riverfront extension would complete the “River Crown Plaza” vision for strengthening our urban core. The Streetcar Starter Line has changed the conversation locally about public transportation and economic development.

**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 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,



David Johnson  
Chair

This project is of particular and vital interest because

#### Downtown Businesses

- It adds a commuter interface for transit and parking solutions for businesses in the entire central business corridor.
- Connects more residents that will be able to visit my business on a more regular basis.
- It will encourage new clients to visit downtown businesses like mine.
- Visitors to Berkley Riverfront events will be connected to downtown translating into greater revenue for my business.

#### Contractors

- The construction jobs it creates provides a much-needed boost to downtown economy.
- Constructing and operating the system will create jobs for members of our community.

#### Developers/Property Owners

- Increased access to the recreational and event amenities on the Riverfront will draw new residents, businesses, and visitors to downtown and strengthen our urban core.
- Residents (or Employees) in my properties will have greater access to business, retail and cultural opportunities which makes living (or working) downtown more desirable – and translates into higher occupancy rates for my business in the long run.

#### Neighborhood Associations

- More riverfront business, retail, and recreational opportunities connected by better transit, bike, and pedestrian options improve the sustainability of our neighborhood downtown.
- Easier access to the Riverfront recreational, event, and park amenities improves the livability of our neighborhood downtown.