



Office of the Mayor

Mayor Sylvester “Sly” James, Jr.

29th Floor, City Hall
414 East 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

(816) 513-3500
Fax: (816) 513-3518

October 6, 2017

Executive Director Matthew Welbes
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Kansas City Streetcar Riverfront Extension

Dear Mr. Welbes,

I'm writing to express my strong support for Kansas City's efforts to extend light rail to the Berkley Riverfront and respectfully urge full and fair consideration of the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority's (KCATA) Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) application. The Kansas City Streetcar Riverfront Extension is a collaborative effort of the KC Area Transportation Authority, Port KC, and KC Streetcar Authority.

These funds will support implementation of planned transit, bicycle, and pedestrian improvements. The Riverfront Extension project is included in Smart Moves, the Kansas City region's 20-year transit and mobility plan adopted by the Mid-America Regional Council and KCATA. Connecting Downtown to our Riverfront is important for the continued development of Kansas City. The Riverfront has long been planned for improvement and redevelopment but has been hindered by limited access due to constrained transportation connections, topography, and railroad tracks despite its close proximity to Downtown. The light rail extension will serve as a catalyst for the continued development of the Riverfront – providing future residents, employees, and visitors easy access to Downtown.

The Kansas City Streetcar is a proven engine for growth. The downtown starter-line, opened in May 2016, has been a resounding success: The KC Streetcar reached 2 million passenger trips in its first-year anniversary, downtown residential density has increased by 40 percent, and \$2 billion in adjacent development in the form of new businesses, hotels, apartments, and amenities. The KC Streetcar has exceeded ridership and economic development forecasts and been nationally recognized. I am confident the proposed extension will enhance our connectivity and grow our economy.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I hope we can count on your support.

Sincerely,

Sylvester “Sly” James
Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri