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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 support the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER 2017) Grant Application for multi-modal connections to Kansas City's Berkley Riverfront. The Missouri Public Transit Association represents a constituency of transit providers, stakeholders and non-profits vested in the expansion and operation of transit across Missouri. The Kansas City Area Transportation Authority (KCATA) is a leader in Missouri and nationally on innovative transit programs through public/private partnerships, and the **KC•CORE** – *Connecting Our Riverfront for Everyone* is another opportunity for success.

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.

The Missouri Public Transit Association values personal mobility as a basic quality of life by promoting access to public transit services.

Goals:

- *Elevate the status of transit in Missouri. * Build new coalitions to expand advocacy base.*
- * Promote and support MPTA members.*

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimberly Cella", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kimberly Cella, Executive Director

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