

EMANUEL CLEAVER, II
FIFTH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
HOUSING AND INSURANCE SUBCOMMITTEE
RANKING MEMBER

OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE



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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

July 11, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing in strong support of the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority's (KCATA) application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's, Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD), grant program.

I understand the application is a public/private partnership collaboration of the City of Kansas City, Kansas City Streetcar Authority, Port Authority of Kansas City and the KCATA. This application will fund a three-quarter mile extension to the successful Streetcar Starter Line currently in operation. This extension will allow streetcar service to reach Kansas City's 120-acre Berkley Riverfront Park that is in Missouri's Fifth Congressional District and serve as a catalyst for ground ready economic development underway. This development includes integrated recreation, bike, pedestrian options for commuters as well as new hotels, apartment housing and retail shops with connectivity to Kansas City's thriving downtown and mid-town that features major cultural, performing and sporting venues that make Kansas City a truly livable City to reside in.

I hope you will give KCATA's Build application favorable consideration as it builds on and continues Kansas City's forward thinking, positive "can do" spirit. If I can provide any additional information please do not hesitate to contact me directly or Whitney Frost of my staff at (816) 842-4545.

Warmest regards,

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

EC:jv

PLEASE REPLY TO:

2335 RAYBURN HOB
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4535 (PHONE)
(202) 225-4403 (FAX)

101 WEST 31ST STREET
KANSAS CITY, MO 64108
(816) 842-4545 (PHONE)
(816) 471-5215 (FAX)

211 WEST MAPLE AVENUE
INDEPENDENCE, MO 64050
(816) 833-4545 (PHONE)
(816) 833-2991 (FAX)

1923 MAIN STREET
HIGGINSVILLE, MO 64037
(660) 584-7373 (PHONE)
(660) 584-7227 (FAX)