

July 10, 2018

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 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Application for multi-modal connections to Kansas City's Berkley Riverfront. The Kansas City Regional Transit Alliance is a non-profit organization that educates the public on transit accessibility, gathers public opinion, communicates, and advocates to expand, enhance, and improve mass transit in the Kansas City region.

KC•CORE is a superb example of local government teamwork operating at a peak level with the Kansas City Streetcar Authority (KCSA), Port Authority of Kansas City, MO (Port KC), the City of Kansas City, Missouri (the City) and the grant Applicant – the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority (KCATA / RideKC) teaming up to provide direct financial support to deliver this highly anticipated, three-quarter-mile extension of the KC Streetcar by 2021. Port KC continues to partner with private developers who are building projects on the Berkley Riverfront and have willingly included large, seven-figure construction-triggered lump sum payments in their development agreements to supplement the local agencies' funding.

This three-quarter-mile project is a natural extension of the KC Streetcar starter line and will advance integrated commuter options – including recreation, bike, pedestrian, and parking for the RideKC regional system. Moreover, this project will bridge existing railroad barriers and connect over 50 acres of development-ready ground to Downtown KC – further expediting the rate and value of economic development.

KC•CORE supports the long-term national goals that have been established by the BUILD Grant program and the call for Public Private Partnerships (P3) by the Trump Administration. In developing this project, the Team has demonstrated a “can-do” attitude in all of its efforts and has been unwaveringly committed to an accelerated expansion of the successful 2016 RideKC Streetcar. KC•CORE meets the BUILD goals for significant regional impact and will continue to be successful for generations. Our organization strongly recommends that you select the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority's BUILD Grant Application to join the ranks of previously approved TIGER projects. This project is an ideal candidate to earn the privilege of becoming a part of this vital national infrastructure program. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sarah M. Frost

Chair, Kansas City Regional Transit Alliance

borderless transit / borderless region