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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## KANSAS CITY ANNOUNCES OPENING DATE OF THE KC STREETCAR

Street parties celebrate downtown revitalization as KC Streetcar opens to public

During the first weekend of May, Kansas City will throw a series of street parties along the streetcar route as residents and visitors celebrate our dynamic downtown in a family-friendly environment. Together with Mayor Sly James and the City of Kansas City, Missouri, the KC Streetcar Authority announced Friday, May 6, 2016, as the first day of public ridership on the KC Streetcar.

Mayor Sly James said the grand opening of the KC Streetcar is more than a celebration of the end of construction. "This is the first step of what I believe will be a truly historic transformation of the entire city," James said. "Building owners and developers have completed, started or announced more than \$1.6 billion in construction in the KC Streetcar district since the route was announced three years ago. I'm confident the entire city will find new momentum as the KC Streetcar energizes the heart of our community."

The grand opening marks the launch of the KC Streetcar system while highlighting all the wonderful things that make downtown Kansas City a unique and fantastic place to live, work and play. The KC Streetcar runs through the heart of downtown, connecting neighborhoods along the route: the River Market; the Central Business District; the Crossroads Arts District; and the Union Station and Crown Center area.

"For many Kansas Citians, this day is long in the making," said Mike Hagedorn, Chairman of the KC Streetcar Authority and president & CEO of UMB Bank. "This weekend in May will not only be a time to celebrate the KC Streetcar but to also celebrate the people, businesses, and landmarks that make downtown so wonderful," said Hagedorn.

Specific details will be announced soon, but please mark your calendars for activities all-day Friday and Saturday May 6 & 7. As details develop, information will be posted online at [www.kcstreetcar.org](http://www.kcstreetcar.org) and [www.kcmo.gov](http://www.kcmo.gov).

**MEDIA CONTACT:** KC Streetcar and the City of Kansas City, MO, will be available for media interviews today from 10:00am – 11:00am at the Metro Center Streetcar Stop at 12<sup>th</sup> & Main.

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