



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

July 15, 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,

Please accept this letter in support of the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority’s (KCATA) application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant to fund multi-modal connections to Kansas City’s Berkley Riverfront. Projects like this are essential to the future of our city by ensuring that our citizens have access to transportation that gets them to where they need to be, like the thriving River Market.

KCATA has partnered with with other local government agencies to form KC•CORE. Together, the Kansas City Streetcar Authority, the Port Authority of Kansas City, MO, the City of Kansas City, MO, and the grant applicant, the KCATA, provide direct financial support to deliver the highly-anticipated, three-quarter-mile extension of the KC Streetcar by 2021. Concurrently, the Port Authority continues to partner with private developers, who are building projects on the Berkley Riverfront and have willingly included construction-triggered, seven-figure lump sum payments in their development agreements to supplement KC•CORE’s funding.

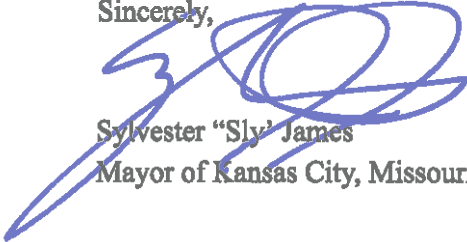
This three-quarter-mile project is a natural extension of the KC Streetcar starter line and will advance integrated commuter options, including recreation, bike, pedestrian, and parking for the KCATA regional system. Moreover, this project will bridge existing railroad barriers and connect over 50 acres of development-ready ground to downtown Kansas City– 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. We strongly recommend 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,



Sylvester "Sly" James
Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri