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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 support the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Application for multi-modal connections to Kansas City's Berkley Riverfront. The Missouri Public Transit Association represents transit providers from across the state including KCATA, St. Joseph Transit and OATS. Multi-modal connections and transit are key to moving economic development forward in the Kansas City area.

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. It is our hope that you will give this proposal serious consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kimberly Cella". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kimberly Cella, Executive Director

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