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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 emphatically support the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Application for multi-modal connections to Kansas City's Berkley Riverfront. I represent the Board of Directors and ratepayers of The River Market Community Improvement District (RMCID) located within the River Market Neighborhood of Kansas City, Missouri. The RMCID represents nearly 100 rate payers who have elected to self-fund marketing, security and infra-structure improvements within its boundaries. The RMCID boundary contains a large portion of the currently existing KC Streetcar system and is located immediately adjacent to the proposed extension to the Berkley Riverfront. I write to you today to urge support of the BUILD Grant Application as it directly impacts our interests and the interests of over 100 businesses and 3,000 residents of the River Market Neighborhood and growing.

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.

This project is of particular and vital interest because:

- It adds a commuter interface for transit and parking solutions for businesses within the RMCID.
- Connects more residents that will be able to visit businesses on a more regular basis.
- It will encourage new clients to visit RMCID businesses.
- Visitors to Berkley Riverfront events will be connected to downtown translating into greater revenue for my business.
- The construction jobs created provide a much-needed boost to RMCID economy.
- Constructing and operating the system will create jobs for members of our community.
- Increased access to the recreational and event amenities on the Riverfront and RMCID will draw new residents, businesses, and visitors to downtown and strengthen our urban core.
- River Market Neighborhood residents, employees and employers will have greater access to business, retail and cultural opportunities which makes living and working