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July 16, 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 am the president of the River Market Community Association (RMCA) Board of Directors. RMCA serves the businesses and residents of the River Market Neighborhood of Kansas City, Missouri by sponsoring and promoting events for all members. A large portion of the existing KC Streetcar system is already in the area that RMCA services 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 more than 3,000 residents of the River Market Neighborhood.

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 RMCA service area.
- Connects more residents that will be able to visit businesses in the neighborhood on a more regular basis.
- It will encourage new clients to visit River Market businesses.
- Visitors to Berkley Riverfront events will be connected to the neighborhood translating into greater revenue for businesses RMCA represents.
- The construction jobs created provide a much-needed boost to River Market economy.
- Constructing and operating the system will create jobs for members of our community.