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The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

May 6, 2020

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. The Downtown Council, The Downtown Community Improvement District and the River Market Community Improvement District, represents a constituency of 135,000 office workers and over 50,000 residents located in Downtown Kansas City, Missouri.

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.

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. Our organization strongly recommends 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,

Sean O'Byrne

Downtown Council of Kansas City,

Downtown Council of Kansas City Missouri

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This project is of particular and vital interest because

Downtown Businesses

- It adds a commuter interface for transit and parking solutions for businesses in the entire central business corridor.
- Connects more residents that will be able to visit my business on a more regular basis.
- It will encourage new clients to visit downtown businesses like mine.
- Visitors to Berkley Riverfront events will be connected to downtown translating into greater revenue for my business.

Contractors

- The construction jobs it creates provides a much-needed boost to downtown economy.
- Constructing and operating the system will create jobs for members of our community.

Developers/Property Owners

- Increased access to the recreational and event amenities on the Riverfront will draw new residents, businesses, and visitors to downtown and strengthen our urban core.
- Residents (or Employees) in my properties will have greater access to business, retail and cultural opportunities which makes living (or working) downtown more desirable – and translates into higher occupancy rates for my business in the long run.

Neighborhood Associations

- More riverfront business, retail, and recreational opportunities connected by better transit, bike, and pedestrian options improve the sustainability of our neighborhood downtown.
- Easier access to the Riverfront recreational, event, and park amenities improves the livability of our neighborhood downtown.