



Kansas City Streetcar Authority

May 18, 2020

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

RE: Kansas City Riverfront BUILD application

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 Kansas City Streetcar Authority, as operator of the current system and partner in the multi-modal plan to connect our riverfront, voices our strong support for this application. We look forward to continuing the momentum of the starter-line and building on past federal investments which have made the initial project a reality and lead to national and international acclaim.

The KC Streetcar Riverfront Extension is a superb example of local government teamwork 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, half-mile extension of the KC Streetcar by 2023. 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 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.

As evidence of our support for the aforementioned request the Kansas City Streetcar Authority Board of Directors has approved an allocation of \$1m of local funding to support related facility and yard trackage improvements called for in the project budget. We thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Gerend", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Tom Gerend  
Executive Director  
Kansas City Streetcar Authority