WICHITA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

April 15, 2016

Anthony R. Foxx, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: FY 2016, Letter of Support for the City of Wichita's U.S. Depart. of Transportation's TIGER Discretionary Grant Application

Dear Secretary Foxx:
As a 6th generation Kansan, and CEO of the Wichita Community Foundation, I have a very personal and professional sense of and appreciation for the role of community in our lives. My family came to Kansas from Buffalo, NY, in 1876, and our family still lives on that property today. Needless to say, I understand the impact appropriate transportation can have for literally generations to come. My ancestors had covered wagons, and while the mode of transportation has changed, its importance has not.

The City of Wichita's **TIGER** application, **Multi-Modal Transportation Connections for the Wichita State University (WSU) Innovation Campus** can be equally impactful for our community as those covered wagons were for my family. These connections will complement and build on the strategic vision of the WSU, and serve as important drivers in the regional advanced manufacturing strategy as outlined in the Investing in Manufacturing Partnership.

This project's transit component will connect the metropolitan area's low- and moderate-income and historically underutilized business (HUB) zone neighborhoods; university; K-12 schools, downtown business district; hospital district; Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation residential care complex; and the Envision, Inc. workforce locations with commercial, educational, healthcare, social services, and employment opportunities.

WSU anticipates a period of significant growth over the next several years. Student population is growing and the campus will nearly double in size with the development of the Innovation Campus, which will attract cutting-edge businesses to the Wichita area creating job growth. With this growth there will be additional transportation needs.

Wichita's **Multi-Modal Transportation Connections for the Wichita State University Innovation Campus** will provide:

- A safe, connected, and accessible transportation system for the multi-modal movement of people and innovation.
- A foundation for the commercialization of ideas, and the creation of firms and jobs via proximity and collaboration.
- A vehicle for both revenue growth and a more efficient use of existing and strategically planned infrastructure.
- The opportunity for expanding employment and educational opportunities for disadvantaged populations, given that the Innovation Campus is located in low- and moderate-income and HUB zone neighborhoods.
- The potential for denser residential and employment patterns and the leveraging of mass transit.

To have a strong community, we must connect our areas of strength and places where people naturally gather. I believe that making strategic long-term investments in the innovation and industrial ecosystem of Kansas will operationalize the vision to out-innovate the rest of the world and spur the development of 21st century jobs and industries.

Warm regards,

Shelly Prichard

Shelly Prichard
President & CEO

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