



April 26, 2016

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

RE: Letter of Application for the FY 2016 TIGER Discretionary Grants Program

Dear Mr. Foxx:

The City of Wichita recently participated in the development of the Wichita-South Central Kansas Regional Export Plan to address changes in the aviation industry and help lead underachieving sectors into the global marketplace. One of the key strategies of the export plan is to invest in infrastructure related to transportation and skilled workers in order to promote global economic competitiveness of the region.

One of the partners in developing the export plan, the Brookings Institution, recently published a study noting that a new urban development model called "innovation districts" is a leading-edge approach to economic development. As one part of the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership initiative, Wichita State University is developing a 120 acre Innovation Campus to locate leading-edge anchor institutions on the campus to connect with students and faculty involved in applied research and development. The Innovation Campus is located in the heart of Wichita, will be physically compact, and offer mixed-use office, retail, and housing. The Innovation Campus will be connected to the greater community by all modes of transportation.

The multi-modal transportation connections for the Wichita State Innovation Campus are the focus of the City of Wichita's FY 2016 TIGER Discretionary Grants Program application. Through the TIGER program, the City of Wichita will significantly enhance the multi-modal transportation connections to the Innovation Campus. TIGER funds will be used to construct complete street projects adjacent to the campus. Bus service will be significantly enhanced with increased hours of service and greater service frequency on the route that connects the Innovation Campus to Wichita State's new Old Town Campus as well as to major employment, shopping centers, and park and ride locations. A transit hub will be constructed on campus that includes bike share. Bicycle and pedestrian improvements will connect the Innovation Campus to the existing 100-mile pathway system.

The City of Wichita is honored to submit an application to the FY 2016 TIGER Discretionary Grants Program. I encourage you to fund this exciting multi-modal transportation project that will promote infill development and foster growth and development of our community in innovative ways.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeff Longwell".

Jeff Longwell, Mayor  
City of Wichita

**Office of the Mayor**

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