

April 21, 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. Department of Transportation's TIGER Discretionary Grant Application

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am pleased to write a letter supporting the City of Wichita's application for a TIGER grant to fund its multi-modal transportation connectivity proposal. This proposal is in alignment with TIGER goals and the South Kansas Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) regional strategy, which prioritizes access to advanced manufacturing research and innovation as primary catalytic public investments for the region and which earned one of the first 12 Manufacturing Community designations awarded through the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The City of Wichita's multi-modal transportation connectivity proposal will improve and expand access to WSU's Innovation Campus through improvements to streets, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian infrastructure. Increased access to and expanded capacity of the Campus will move our economy up the value chain of global competitiveness by growing the firms, networks, and traded sectors that drive broad-based prosperity.

The City of Wichita's Multi-Modal Transportation Connections for the Wichita State University Innovation Campus will provide the following:

- A safe, connected, accessible transportation system for the multi-modal movement of people and innovation.
- A strong foundation for the commercialization of ideas, and the creation and expansion of firms and jobs via proximity and collaboration.
- A vehicle for both revenue growth as well as 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 historically underutilized business (HUB) zone neighborhoods.
- The potential for denser residential and employment patterns and the leveraging of mass transit.

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.

Sincerely,



Sam Brownback
Governor