



ANDOVER, BEL AIRE, BENTLEY, CHENEY, CLEARWATER, CONWAY SPRINGS, DERBY, EL DORADO, GARDEN PLAIN, GODDARD, HARVEY COUNTY, HESSTON, HUTCHINSON, KECHI, KINGMAN COUNTY, MAIZE, MOUNT HOPE, MULVANE, NEWTON, PARK CITY, RENO COUNTY, ROSE HILL, SOUTH HUTCHINSON, VALLEY CENTER, WELLINGTON, WICHITA

April 20, 2016

Secretary Anthony R. Foxx  
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:

The Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP), is a council of governments, comprised of 26 city and county governments in nine counties of South Central Kansas. These jurisdictions voluntarily joined together to advocate for state investments and encourage strategic public policies for economic growth. The members of REAP focus on issues of common concerns that drive the regional economy including transportation, water, workforce development and energy. Recognizing the regional impact of the Wichita State University Innovation Campus, REAP is pleased to support the grant application submitted by the City of Wichita's TIGER application, Multi-Modal Transportation Connections.

Wichita State University Innovation Campus complements and builds on the strategic vision of the WSU and the regional advanced manufacturing strategy. Wichita and South Kansas received one of the first 12 Manufacturing Community designations awarded through the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the proposed TIGER project demonstrates a strong, ongoing collaboration among a broad range of stakeholders and an outcome of a robust planning process.

Wichita State University 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. Along with employment growth and the establishment of Wichita State as a destination, there comes additional transportation related needs. Transit, improved streets and signaling technology, and bicycle, and pedestrian infrastructure will play a key role in providing access to WSU for students, faculty and employment and visitors. Increased access to and expanded capacity of the Innovation 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.

Strategic long-term investments in the innovation and industrial ecosystem of Kansas will spur the development of twenty-first century jobs and industries.

Sincerely,

Keith Lawing, Senior Administrator  
Regional Economic Area Partnership