



WICHITA METRO
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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:

I write in support of The City of Wichita's **TIGER** application, **Multi-Modal Transportation Connections for the Wichita State University (WSU) Innovation Campus**, which builds on the strategic vision of the Investing in Manufacturing Partnership. Wichita and South Kansas received one of the first 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.

The innovative, cross-modal proposals includes Ladders of Opportunity projects that will support workforce development and experiential learning opportunities, particularly for low income groups, persons with visible and hidden disabilities, elderly individuals and minorities. This project's transit component will connect historically underutilized business (HUB) zone neighborhoods, the university, K-12 schools, downtown business district and hospital district.

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

The City of Wichita's **Multi-Modal Transportation Connections for the WSU Innovation Campus** will provide the following outcomes: 1) A safe, connected, and accessible transportation system for the multi-modal movement of people and innovation. 2) A strong foundation for the commercialization of ideas, and the creation and expansion of firms and jobs via proximity and collaboration. 3) The opportunity for expanding employment and educational opportunities for disadvantaged populations.

Sincerely,

Gary Plummer
President/CEO