



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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

April 15, 2016

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I write in strong support of The City of Wichita's **TIGER** application, **Multi-Modal Transportation Connections for the Wichita State University Innovation Campus** which complements the strategic vision of WSU and the regional advanced manufacturing strategy as outlined in the Investing in Manufacturing Partnership. 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.

This project's transit component connects 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. The development of improved transit service to neighborhoods will facilitate development along the HUB Zone corridors.

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 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 make our economy more globally competitive by growing the firms, networks, and traded sectors that drive broad-based prosperity.

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 twenty-first century jobs and industries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John W. Bardo'.

John W. Bardo, President