

April 13, 2016

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

RE: FY 2016, IMCP Letter of Support for the City of Wichita's U.S. Department of Transportation's TIGER Discretionary Grant Application

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Wichita State University (WSU) and the South Kansas region were selected as one of the first twelve Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) designees through the interagency initiative led by the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration. South Kansas is poised to be a global leader in advanced materials and their commercialization in advanced manufacturing/high-technology manufacturing. The region's dominance is due to its unique world-class assets in the following areas: workforce and training, supplier networks, research and development, infrastructure and site development, and trade and international investment.

This letter provides endorsement from the South Kansas' "Manufacturing Community" in support of the City of Wichita's application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's TIGER Discretionary Grant Application. The proposed scope of work is in alignment with the region's IMCP strategic plan which prioritizes access to advanced manufacturing research and innovation investments as the primary catalytic public investments for the region. The City of Wichita's multi-modal transportation connectivity proposal will improve and expand access to economic drivers through improvements to streets, transit, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure thereby bringing together large and small businesses, defense contractors, research enterprises, academia, university researchers, students, support organizations, and government agencies to accelerate innovation by investing in industrially relevant advanced manufacturing technologies.

The TIGER work plan will provide cost-effective, efficient, multimodal access for disadvantaged neighborhoods, Innovation Campus, and hospital, employer and downtown districts where ladders of opportunity can be leveraged by citizens, businesses, entrepreneurs and student communities. Increased access to and expanded capacity of the Innovation Campus and employer locations will move our economy up the value chain of global competitiveness by growing the firms, networks, and traded sectors that drive broad-based prosperity.

Wichita State's leadership and technical staff are excited about the opportunity to work on this initiative and its potential for the industrial base at large. We believe that the strategies are timely and critical to our global competitiveness, and that the region's unique composition of expertise, facilities, and ideas will greatly benefit manufacturing companies.

Sincerely,



John S. Tomblin
Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer