



April 11, 2016

Mr. Anthony R. Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue 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 Mr. Foxx:

On behalf of the Wichita Downtown Development Corporation (WDDC), I would like to express our organization's support of the City of Wichita's 2016 **TIGER** Grant Application for **Multi-modal Transportation Connections for the Wichita State University Innovation Campus**. Our organization represents a constituency of thousands of business and property owners in Downtown Wichita, KS.

Having a strong multi-modal transportation connection to the City's largest university, Wichita State, is a key driver to the success of Downtown Wichita. Ensuring that students, professors and other visitors to the University have access to Downtown will be important as we continue work on Downtown's revitalization and improve the economic vitality in the core. Wichita State recently announced the expansion of its campus to Downtown by physically relocating multiple programs and support service departments into the Old Town neighborhood of Downtown. The proposed project will provide a much needed new transit connection from the main campus to the new satellite campus. Strengthening the connectivity of the urban core to other parts of the City is also vital if Wichita is to remain competitive nationally. This project will improve the quality of life for Wichita workers, residents and visitors by providing enhanced multi-modal options for transportation. As our community strives to increase its economic competitiveness, having a reliable multi-modal transportation system will help us to attract and retain a talented workforce and also ensure we are able to adequately serve all potential users.

The City's Multi-modal Transportation Connections Project is an outstanding example of an initiative that supports the long-term national goals that have been established by the TIGER Grant program. The project also aligns with Wichita's regional strategy for economic growth, that prioritizes initiatives which increase access to advanced manufacturing research and innovation as primary, catalytic public sector investments for the region. By expanding access to the University campus through improvements to transit, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, we are able to harness the expanded capacity of the University and provide a stronger connection for users to Downtown and other employment and economic bases in the community.

The WDDC is confident that the infrastructure investment for this project will be a catalyst for private sector development along the proposed transportation corridor. We look forward to the new development, business creation and the increased collaboration that this investment will spur in Downtown and other areas of the community.

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

- A safe, connected, and 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.

The Multi-Modal Transportation Connections for the Wichita State University Innovation Campus project meets the goals of the TIGER program for significant regional and national impact. This project, if funded, will be transformational to Wichita and the region. The Wichita Downtown Development Corporation strongly recommends the City of Wichita's 2016 TIGER Grant Application for funding. We appreciate the opportunity to offer this letter of support and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Fluhr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "F".

Jeff Fluhr  
President