

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government

COMMISSION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



April 11, 2016

Mayor Jim Gray
Lexington Fayette Urban County Government
Office of the Mayor
200 E. Main Street
Lexington, KY 40507

Dear Mayor Gray,

The Commission for People with Disabilities was appointed to promote the inclusion and empowerment of people with disabilities throughout our community, and to advise both your office and the Urban County Council on issues that affect accessibility in Lexington.

Our mission is broad-ranging – from promoting public awareness about handicap parking to promoting businesses who are proactive about hiring individuals with disabilities. But one of our core concerns always must be the basic accessibility of public buildings, thoroughfares and amenities.

Accessibility for all citizens is why we support the proposed Town Branch Commons Corridor project. Downtown has long been fragmented. Many improvements have been made, though there are still areas where the sidewalks are narrow, missing or too obstructed to accommodate wheelchairs. Inadequate bus shelters, incomplete sidewalks and a lack of pedestrian crossings is unsafe for all users, making our city inaccessible for people with disabilities – many of whom have no alternative but public transportation.

Traffic calming will be a significant benefit for people who have restricted mobility. Crossing the street at several locations throughout downtown can be challenging for even the most confident pedestrians. For those of us who move a little more slowly, it can be so intimidating that it discourages us from even trying. Residents and visitors alike should have easy access to the transit center, Libraries, and public parks.

The Commission has long supported improved access between the Downtown Transit Center and the rest of Downtown. Currently the only options are to take an elevator to the viaduct or travel long distances to the next crosswalk in either direction.

This proposal will rebalance the roadway and make the entire passage ADA compliant. We support these efforts to make downtown Lexington safer and more accommodating to all our residents.

Sincerely,

Roger Daman
Vice Chairman
Commission for Citizens with Disabilities
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