



April 8, 2016

The Honorable Jim Gray, Mayor
Office of the Mayor
200 E. Main St.
Lexington, KY 40507

Dear Mayor Gray,

As the community's chamber of commerce representing nearly 1,700 members, Commerce Lexington Inc. partners with the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government to recruit and retain businesses. We work in close cooperation with chambers throughout Central Kentucky to grow jobs and improve our regional economy.

The Town Branch Commons Corridor directly addresses issues that our chamber and others in the region have identified as top priorities -- economic development, transportation connectivity, and quality of life. This project will help transform the community and enhance our collective economic vitality.

We are keenly aware that job recruitment is more competitive than ever and that entrepreneurs are looking for a community that offers an excellent quality of life.

A Knight Foundation survey showed that three main qualities connect people to place: social offerings (entertainment venues and places to meet), openness (how welcoming a place is) and aesthetics (the physical beauty and green spaces).

The Town Branch Commons Corridor improves all three of those qualities through an innovative, multi-modal linear park through downtown Lexington. It will connect downtown entertainment sites, provide a much-needed link to fitness trails throughout the county and beyond, and it will invigorate the area by increasing access and providing gathering spots.

Employers also will benefit, because workers who use public transportation or bike or walk to work will find their commute easier and safer.

The Town Branch Commons Corridor will help Lexington recruit high-quality, high-wage jobs; improve the quality of life of our community through linking fitness trails and public transportation; and connect diverse neighborhoods to each other and to entertainment options downtown. With funding support from a TIGER Grant, Lexington can begin building that important connectivity that will leave a legacy for future generations to enjoy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert L. Quick'.

Robert L. Quick, CCE
President & CEO