



"DLC is a partnership of businesses, individuals and the public sector committed to the shared vision of a clean, safe and vibrant Downtown."

April 1, 2016

The Honorable Jim Gray, Mayor
Office of the Mayor
200 East Main Street
Lexington, Kentucky 40507

Dear Mayor Gray,

As an organization dedicated to promoting Lexington's downtown as a unique and vibrant place for business, residential life and entertainment, the Downtown Lexington Corporation is accustomed to addressing challenges, including:

- The perceived lack of parking,
- people exiting downtown once they finish work,
- misconceptions from suburban dwellers about the opportunities in the urban core, and
- cars speeding along too fast to realize there are local restaurants and shops to enjoy.

Lexington has come a long way in the last several years to make downtown more inviting and attractive. The Fifth Third Bank Pavilion serves as a gathering place for outdoor entertainment and the weekly farmers market. Since the addition of the Pavilion millions of dollars in private investment have been made in the adjacent area. That investment is beginning to spread; last year, downtown property owners agreed to pay additional property taxes to create a downtown management district that will provide additional enhancements and services in the urban core.

Our community believes in downtown, and so do we. We know that you do, too. The Town Branch Commons Corridor is critical to ensuring that downtown is a vibrant place for people in all of Lexington and the greater region to enjoy. Projects such as the Town Branch Commons Corridor are proven to bring people downtown to eat and shop, which brings tax revenue to the city and creates jobs. Others want to live a healthier lifestyle by biking or walking to their destination.

Prospective Lexington residents will be drawn to this greenbelt amenity, making it a valuable recruitment tool in today's economy, where workers and companies choose where they want to live because technology allows them to work from anywhere.

It's not often that a project will benefit such a variety of demographics and provide benefits related to safety, economic development, community building and accessibility. The Town Branch Commons Corridor is that project. We strongly support the TIGER grant request, which will help launch this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Renee Shepard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Renee Shepard
President, Downtown Lexington Corporation