

Lexington  
Downtown  
Development  
Authority

101 East Vine Street  
Suite 100  
Lexington, KY 40507  
www.lexingtondda.com

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Ethan Howard, *Project Manager*  
Hannah O'Leary, *Operations Manager*

April 8, 2016

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

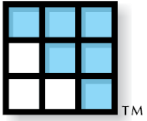
Dear Mayor Gray,

As president and COO of the Lexington Downtown Development Authority, I am pleased to announce that completed, under construction, and planned development downtown exceeds over \$1.5 billion in investment. The University of Kentucky continues to invest through new residential buildings, academic facilities, research building, and the expansion of its medical campus. Meanwhile, the world class 21C Museum Hotel has opened, local entrepreneurs are revitalizing the Distillery District, and the renovation of the Old Fayette County Courthouse is about to begin. These investments will provide exciting new opportunities for citizens and visitors. But they will also place new demands on our ability to move people in and around our community safely, efficiently and sustainably.

That's why the Town Branch Commons project is so important. It represents a truly transformative opportunity – a chance to revolutionize the feel and flow of downtown Lexington. It will support and enhance the public and private investments already being made, and ensure that those investments will pay off for the community. It will also solidify our reputation as a livable and innovative University City, a place where people can enjoy healthy, active, innovative and interesting lives.

Specifically, the design of Town Branch Commons significantly improves the active commuting and recreation opportunities for downtown residents and workers, creating the vital “connective tissue” that makes downtown function at its best. It will:

- Provide the cycling and pedestrian infrastructure demanded by the top talent that our employers are trying to attract and retain
- Transform our current inadequate crossings – including near the transit center, where we too often see commuters climbing over barrier walls as they dash for the bus



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- Create a vital, central “spine” of bike lanes – making downtown the connection point it should be for city and recreational bike paths, enabling bikers to go from downtown to the peaceful quiet of Bluegrass Country

The investments currently taking place in downtown Lexington are vital to our community. Likewise, state-of-the-art transportation infrastructure is vital to making those investments work. We believe that Town Branch Commons will have a catalytic impact not only on the streets it touches directly, but throughout the entire region, as we open up our city in a new, bold, and transformative way. Funding for Town Branch Commons Corridor will be money well spent.

Sincerely,

Jeff Fugate  
President and COO  
Lexington Downtown Development Authority