



**LEXINGTON AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
*Transportation Planning for Fayette and Jessamine Counties*

April 1, 2016

The Honorable Mayor Jim Gray  
Lexington Fayette Urban County Government  
200 E. Main Street  
Lexington, KY 40507

Dear Mayor Gray,

As you are aware, the Lexington Area Metropolitan Planning Organization is the federally-designated transportation planning agency for Fayette and Jessamine Counties, bringing together key transportation stakeholders and representatives of every level of government to make the best short and long-term transportation planning decisions for our regional community. The Lexington Area MPO along with the MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (or BPAC) whole heartedly supports the Town Branch Commons Corridor project.

We know that walkable bike-able communities with well-integrated bike facilities generally have stronger local economies, better air quality, improved public safety and more active citizens – both socially and physically. Over the last decade, the Lexington Area MPO has increased its emphasis on bicycle, pedestrian and transit projects to improve livability, reduce congestion, and provide more connected and sustainable transportation options. The Town Branch Commons Corridor project is an important part of our shared vision for the future mobility of Lexington.

In 2007, the MPO developed a Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan that lays a foundation for a “Complete Street” philosophy fitting into national goals of making safer streets for both motorized and non-motorized users. The plan also includes corridors of “Greenway Trails.” Improvements along Vine Street were listed as a high priority in that document. Since the Plan’s adoption, the network of bicycle facilities has more than doubled in mileage. Pedestrian infrastructure has increased in terms of sidewalk mileage and safer crossings. Former Governor Steve Beshear committed about \$7 million toward substantially completing the Town Branch Trail, which will connect the Bluegrass countryside to all of downtown Lexington – if combined with the Town Branch Commons Corridor project.

In addition to economic advantages of a more walkable downtown, there is an expected economic impact to better connecting to regional bike trails. The Bluegrass Region is lauded as one of the most scenic and beautiful places in the country for bicycling. There are many opportunities to promote and market the region as a destination for cycling tourists. The scenic terrain, rolling hills, horse farms and small towns are attractive to day-long and weekend tourists alike – and the Town Branch Commons Corridor will make downtown Lexington a natural starting point.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Max D. Conyers".

Max Conyers, Transportation Planning Manager  
Lexington Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)  
Cc: MPO Administrative File