

Herbert A. Miller, Jr. *President* 

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A NiSource Company

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

Dear Mayor Gray,

On behalf of Columbia Gas of Kentucky, I am writing to support the Town Branch Commons Corridor project, an investment in improved transportation and mobility for Lexington and the surrounding Bluegrass region.

Columbia Gas is one of the state's largest distributors of natural gas, serving over 135,000 business and residential customers through 2600 miles of pipelines in 30 Kentucky counties. Our headquarters is in Lexington and more than half of our customers reside in Fayette County.

This project will have a tremendous and transformative impact on our community, creating a multimodal corridor throughout the heart of our city and better connecting people to the neighborhoods, businesses, amenities and natural features of Central Kentucky.

Town Branch Commons Corridor will make our community safer for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. The planned improvements to our existing transportation infrastructure will eliminate many of the barriers and hurdles to mobility and truly transform our transit center into a multi-modal epicenter downtown.

This connecting pathway creates opportunities for active commuting and recreation that will help residents build physical activity into their day, improving our community's public health.

The project will improve quality of life and economic opportunity through improved accessibility for all populations. Businesses, residents and visitors will all benefit from this visionary investment that both preserves our past and prepares for our future. Town Branch Commons will be catalytic in how it will improve property values, revitalize neighborhoods, encourage business growth and have a long-lasting positive regional impact.

Town Branch Commons Corridor is an environmentally responsible and sustainable project. The improvements will better protect the natural streams that flow through our region and restore more ecological balance to the urban core with trees, shrubs, rain gardens and storm water facilities.

For these reasons, we enthusiastically support of federal TIGER Grant funding for Town Branch Commons Corridor.

Sincerely.

Herbert A. Miller, Jr.

President