



April 25, 2016

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

Dear Mayor Gray,

Our responsibility and commitment to the nearly 41,000 students enrolled in the Fayette County Public Schools isn't contained within the four walls of our classrooms. We share responsibility not only for their transportation to and from school, but also for the expansion of their learning experiences, opportunities and horizons after the school bell rings.

The Town Branch Commons Corridor project will improve safety for our students as they travel between home and school, increase opportunities for physical activity and create an outdoor laboratory for learning. For those reasons, the Fayette County Public Schools offers our strong support for the project and request for TIGER grant funding.

Safety will be improved by the construction of bike infrastructure separate from traffic and creation of pedestrian facilities. Through improvements to transit center access and the transformation of the facility into a multi-modal plaza with traffic calming devices, ADA compliance along the corridor also will be achieved.

We firmly believe that those safety efforts will also encourage more walking and biking and complete critical gaps in trail infrastructure, which will help our community become healthier and complement the health and wellness efforts our district has undertaken.

The Town Branch Commons Corridor also will provide students with an opportunity to study the latest environmental techniques and their impact on water quality and runoff. For example, bioswales will be used to infiltrate rainwater, bypassing the already taxed closed storm sewer

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education: Melissa Bacon, Chair • Amanda Ferguson, Vice Chair • Douglas Barnett • Daryl Love
Superintendent Emmanuel Caulk

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systems and, in turn, creating green space. Students can study real-life examples of how landscape elements are designed to remove silt and pollution from surface runoff water.

This project also will benefit a diverse population, which is especially important to us because our student population is increasingly diverse. This year, children of color comprise more than 46 percent of our student enrollment, including nearly 4,000 students for whom English is not their native language. Additionally, more than 54 percent of our students qualify for receive reduced or free lunch.

On behalf of our roughly 41,000 students, their families and our more than 5,000 employees, we support the Town Branch Commons Corridor project and its innovative efforts to improve safety and access, support healthier living, and provide learning opportunities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Caulk', written in a cursive style.

Emmanuel Caulk

Superintendent

Fayette County Public Schools