



Reading is just the beginning.

March 29, 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,

The Lexington Public Library connects people, inspires ideas and transforms lives. We believe the Town Branch Commons Corridor Project has the same potential, which is why we join you as a project supporter in favor of the TIGER grant application for this important project.

We serve more than 300,000 people across the county through a central library, five neighborhood branches, an active outreach department, and rapidly expanding virtual services. Our customers reach us every day through public transportation, walking or biking – particularly at our central location downtown, which is a couple of blocks from the Transit Center.

Having improved bike and pedestrian pathways as well as transforming the adjacent Transit Center into an accessible multimodal plaza will help the library expand our reach and effectiveness.

As President Franklin D. Roosevelt said: "Libraries are ... essential to the functioning of a democratic society ... libraries are the great symbols of the freedom of the mind."

That's why we like to say that "Reading is just the beginning." We also offer a digital studio with a full array of video and audio editing equipment for customer use, a job lab where customers can get personalized help with resumes and job applications, and a bilingual homework help program.

Those services will provide families with the opportunity to achieve stability and success. But the services are only effective if people can access them. Town Branch Commons Corridor Project will increase access tremendously for our downtown residents and all our customers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Hammond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ann" being particularly prominent.

Ann Hammond
Executive Director