



City of Lexington

JIM GRAY
MAYOR

April 19, 2016

Dear Secretary Foxx,

As I shared with you in our recent visit to Washington, we are excited about the opportunity to complete a regional project in our community that has been years in the making. My experience as a businessman, executive of an international engineering and construction firm, and now Mayor, has taught me to stay focused on bottom-line numbers when investing money in projects. Bold visions and good intentions aren't enough, especially when it comes to spending public dollars. However, being steadfast and committed to the cause can allow projects to continue to move forward.

With that determination in mind, we seek your approval of federal TIGER Grant funding for the Town Branch Commons project, a transformational transportation project in the heart of the Bluegrass that will improve safety, grow jobs, educate, improve health and unite people. We believe the return on investment will be enjoyed by our thriving community for years to come.

No other public infrastructure project has the potential to shape the future of Lexington so completely – linking neighborhoods, college campuses, businesses, hospitals, churches and more – from the urban core to the Bluegrass world-class countryside.

And few projects anywhere can boast such a broad public-private partnership that includes state and local governments, Kentucky's flagship university, the region's transit authority, our downtown development agency and convention center, public schools, businesses, civic groups and non-profit organizations.

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In this application, we demonstrate the need for this investment and quantify the broad-reaching benefits across many areas of public need. But the bottom line is this: For every federal dollar spent, the project will yield a high return in positive benefits as outlined in the Benefit Cost Analysis.

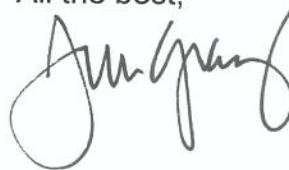
But the benefits go well beyond the dollars quantified as part of the Benefit Cost Analysis - many just make common sense:

- Saving lives and preventing injuries in a community where 67 people were killed or injured while walking or bicycling in the past 10 years;
- Lowering our state's 33.2 percent obesity rate, the nation's fifth highest;
- Reducing our carbon footprint by eliminating many thousands of tons of carbon dioxide emissions through reduced motor vehicle trips and increased bike and pedestrian traffic;
- Reducing 51.2 million gallons of storm water runoff;
- Meeting growing regional transit demand (now at 1.2 million annually) and the needs of bike commuters (up 435 percent since 2000);
- Connecting 19.5 miles of existing walking trails and bike paths now separated by gaps and barriers;
- Fostering and supporting \$1 billion of ongoing and announced public and private construction underway in the Lexington area;
- And creating 200 construction jobs annually as we complete the corridor.

For all of these reasons, Town Branch Commons Project is a smart, strategic investment in transportation improvements that will generate a tremendous return for our city, our state and our nation.

I respectfully ask for your support.

All the best,

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

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, D.C., 2059