

April 18, 2016
The Honorable Jim Gray, Mayor
Lexington Fayette Urban County Government
Office of the Mayor
200 E Main St
Lexington, KY 40507

Dear Mayor Gray,

On behalf of the Historic South Hill Neighborhood Association, I am writing to support the Town Branch Commons Corridor project.

Our Neighborhood's close proximity to the proposed project will be of enormous value to our residents and property owners. In 1781 Lexington's five-man Board of Trustees petitioned the Virginia Assembly for 710 acres of land to be subdivided into various sized lots and developed. The "South hill" portion consisted of larger lots located just outside the town of Lexington and is named because it overlooked the Town Branch of Elkhorn Creek that once flowed through the city's center. Its earliest homes were built during the early 19th century, and many were once owned by free African Americans at the time when slavery still existed in Kentucky. Many of these homes survive along with those built after the Civil War and into the 20th and 21st centuries. South Hill was once on the outskirts but is now in the heart of the city.

This project will also have a transformative impact on our entire community, creating a multi-modal corridor throughout the heart of our city. Town Branch Commons Corridor will make our downtown safer for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists. The planned improvements to our existing transportation infrastructure will eliminate many of the barriers to mobility and transform our transit center into a multi-modal epicenter downtown.

This connecting pathway creates opportunities for active commuting and recreation that will encourage residents to build physical activity into their day, improving our community's public health. 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 very much support federal TIGER Grant funding for Town Branch Commons Corridor.

Sincerely,



Matt Hovekamp, Interim President
Historic-South Hill Neighborhood Association
PO Box 239
Lexington, KY 40588