



Urban League of
Lexington-Fayette County

*Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.*

April 8, 2016

The Honorable Jim Gray, Mayor
Office of the Mayor
200 E. Main Street
Lexington, KY 40507

Dear Mayor Gray,

As president and CEO of the Urban League of Lexington-Fayette County, it is my pleasure to support the Town Branch Commons project. As you know, the Urban League is committed to assisting African Americans and disadvantaged citizens in the achievement of social and economic equality. To that end, we work to ensure that all children are well-educated; that all people have access to job training, homeownership and other pathways to self-sufficiency; and that all communities are healthy and safe.

The Town Branch Commons project supports all these endeavors. In a community like ours, not having access to a car can be a significant challenge for many families. Whether the task at hand is attending a school function for children, attending a community class for adults, or simply getting to work or to health-care facilities – we know that affordable, reliable and connected transportation opportunities are vital to supporting families as they move up the ladders of opportunity.

The design of Town Branch Commons significantly improves the connectivity of bus transportation and improves the ability of walkers and cyclists – including those people who have taken the bus downtown – to move safely around our city.

A key portion of the project involves creating better access to the city Transit Hub on Vine Street. Not only does this plan call for improved bus stops to be built throughout the corridor, it promises safer pedestrian access to the transit building itself. Currently, many people dash across the street in mid-block, hopping barrier walls, to make their bus on time. This is clearly unsafe, but also creates an uninviting atmosphere that may discourage many people from attempting to take the bus to downtown amenities.

I believe the Town Branch Commons project will make the opportunities available in Lexington more fully accessible to all of our citizens and will, in particular, give struggling families a hand up as they work to support their children and build their own future.

Sincerely,

P.G. Peeples Sr., President/CEO
Urban League of Lexington-Fayette County