



KENWICK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

April 6, 2016

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

Dear Mayor Gray,

On behalf of the Kenwick Neighborhood Association (KNA), I am writing to support the Town Branch Commons Corridor project, an investment in improved transportation and mobility for Lexington and the surrounding Bluegrass region.

The KNA draws its membership from about 1000 households located very near both Lexington's downtown area and the University of Kentucky campus. We are concerned, involved neighbors with a shared desire to continue improving our neighborhood through community building. Our activities in the previous year include: hosting informational talks of community and general interest, connecting residents with LFUCG officials and services, maintaining a community garden that regularly distributes free fruits and vegetables, and organizing the Kenwick Bungalow Tour home tour and fundraiser.

The streets of our neighborhood were laid by 1920, and homes were primarily constructed from the 1920's to 1940's. During that era, walking, cycling, and public transportation were common and convenient modes of daily transportation. As automobiles have proliferated these options have become less safe and desirable. I firmly believe, however, that projects such as the Town Branch Commons Corridor hold tremendous transformative potential for connecting neighborhoods such as ours with the rest of the city and region.

Town Branch Commons Corridor will create a multimodal corridor throughout the heart of the city, and will greatly improve the ability of our neighborhood's residents to safely reach businesses, amenities, and natural features of Central Kentucky without an automobile. Furthermore, this project will make our community safer for motorists, in addition to pedestrians and cyclists. The planned improvements to our existing transportation infrastructure will eliminate many of the barriers and hurdles to mobility, and truly transform our transit center into a multi-modal epicenter downtown.

Town Branch Commons Corridor is also 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. Maintaining an attractive natural environment in the city and broader region will further support outdoor recreation and active lifestyles.

Town Branch Commons Corridor is essential for supporting the desire of many residents in our recently reinvigorated neighborhood to regularly engage in active transportation for work, leisure, and commerce. The KNA therefore enthusiastically supports federal TIGER Grant funding for Town Branch Commons Corridor.

Sincerely,

W. Jay Christian, PhD, MPH
President, Kenwick Neighborhood Association