

# TOWN BRANCH COMMONS CORRIDOR

Letters of Support



*“Transforming Lexington Kentucky with a Regional Vision”*

# **Federal and State Support**

*from*

Governor Steve Beshear

Kentucky Legislative Research Commission

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

Kentucky Horse Park

U.S. Representative Andy Barr

U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell

U.S. Senator Rand Paul



**LEXINGTON**



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STEVEN L. BESHEAR  
GOVERNOR

700 CAPITOL AVENUE  
SUITE 100  
FRANKFORT, KY 40601  
(502) 564-2611  
FAX: (502) 564-2517

June 2, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government TIGER Grant Application

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Please accept this letter of support for the 2015 TIGER Grant Application submitted by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government for the Town Branch Commons Corridor, a visionary, multi-modal improvement project.

This project connects the urban core of Lexington, the state's second largest city, to the surrounding neighborhoods and pastoral farm fields of the Bluegrass. The Commonwealth of Kentucky, City of Lexington, schools and philanthropic groups have invested millions of dollars in roads, trails, parks, bike lanes and sidewalks that will be joined together as never before.

This project offers wide-ranging, transformative improvements to citizens and community including:

- **Safety** – From designated bike lanes and accessible sidewalks to traffic-calming street improvements and lighting enhancements, the project is designed with safety in mind.
- **Public Health** – With some of the nation's highest rates for obesity and chronic health problems, our citizens will benefit from new ways to commute, recreate and exercise.
- **Mobility** – Better connections to neighborhoods, parks and countryside will help bring people together and strengthen our region.
- **Equality** – The improved pedestrian access to the Lexington Transit Center, and the bus stop improvements mean Lexington families, including our poorest neighbors, have reliable, safe transportation to schools, jobs, health care and cultural opportunities.
- **Quality of Life** – This project builds on the many public and private investments that are revitalizing Lexington and making it a destination place.
- **Economic Competitiveness** – Businesses and the young talent choose communities based on the kinds of amenities that Town Branch Commons will create.



THE HONORABLE ANTHONY FOXX  
June 2, 2015  
Page 2

- **Environmental Sustainability** – Reclaiming the historic stream that flows through our region is a central component, part of on-going efforts to protect the Commonwealth's natural resources.

Thank you for your consideration of this TIGER grant request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Secretary Michael Hancock of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet at 502-564-5102.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven L. Beshear". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "B".

Steven L. Beshear



May 19, 2015

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

Dear Mayor Gray,

As legislators, we work every day to confront the many issues facing our state and especially our districts in Central Kentucky. It's not often that there is a public-policy solution that will address so many concerns – from transportation and economic development to public health and the environment – and help Kentuckians at every socioeconomic level.

The Town Branch Commons Corridor is one of those once-in-a-generation projects that will benefit the community and region for many decades. That's why we support this project and urge the federal government to become a partner through a TIGER grant.

Whether you bike, walk or ride public transportation, this project has something for you.

Whether you live and work downtown, or visit one of the many attractions in the city, this project has something for you.

The project will create a series of multi-modal transportation connections to better connect our community regionally through our network of already successful trail systems. It will activate Lexington's downtown corridor by linking established and emerging neighborhoods.

If citizens aren't using a car, the road currently is not set up to meet their needs. It drives up vehicular speeds, lacks dedicated space to make walkers feel comfortable and doesn't include dedicated bike facilities, which have been proven to attract new riders.

Mobility enhancements include completing critical gaps in trail infrastructure, separating bike infrastructure, improving pedestrian facilities, improving transit center access and transforming it into a multi-modal plaza, safety improvements and traffic calming. This rebalancing effort also will ensure that the corridor is ADA-compliant.

The project further allows us to set up environmental elements that will allow us to infiltrate rainwater, bypassing the already taxed closed storm sewer systems and also create green space.

The result will be better experiences for all residents and visitors who travel throughout the Town Branch network, an increase in healthy fitness activities, better connectedness for neighbors and bus riders, and better opportunities for businesses adjacent to the route.

Through the Town Branch Commons Corridor project, we will create better connectivity throughout the region and help other communities access our employment opportunities; health-care facilities, which serve people from more than half the state; and entertainment options.

Sincerely,



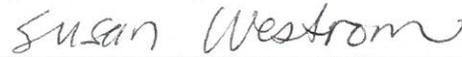
Senator Ralph Alvarado



Representative James Kay



Senator Tom Buford



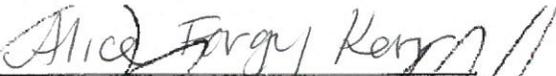
Representative Susan Westrom



Senator Jared Carpenter



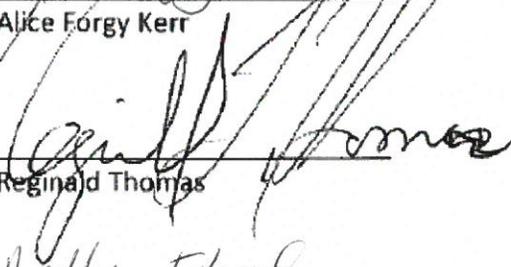
Representative Russ Meyer



Senator Alice Forgy Kerr



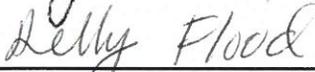
Representative Sannie Overly



Senator Reginald Thomas



Representative Ruth Ann Palumbo



Representative Kelly Flood



Representative Ryan Quarles



Representative George Brown Jr.



**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
TRANSPORTATION CABINET**

Frankfort, Kentucky 40622  
[www.transportation.ky.gov/](http://www.transportation.ky.gov/)

**Matthew G. Bevin**  
Governor

**Greg Thomas**  
Secretary

April 22, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, D.C., 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, I ask for your support for a TIGER grant to fund a critical connection through the City of Lexington's downtown core – the Town Branch Commons Corridor. This investment will provide infrastructure improvements from the planned Town Branch Park, along the spine of the downtown business district and to the western edge of the city center.

The transportation challenge is complex: constructing sidewalks, bike lanes, roads, bridges and paths along existing neighborhoods, through a developed downtown and beside an urban stream. To date, we have invested or committed over \$10 million to design and develop more than six miles of this urban-to-rural passageway.

This investment will be transformational for Lexington and the Central Kentucky region. The many benefits include improved safety, expanded economic development, responsible stewardship, and enhanced livability.

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet is proud to partner with Lexington and ask you to join us by providing TIGER grant funding to move this project from vision to reality.

Sincerely,

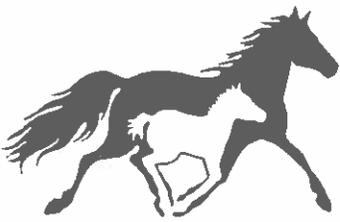
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Thomas".

Greg Thomas  
Secretary

c: Patty Dunaway, KYTC State Highway Engineer  
Ron Rigney, KYTC Director of Program Management



An Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/D



# KENTUCKY HORSE PARK

Matthew G. Bevin  
GOVERNOR

Don Parkinson  
CABINET SECRETARY

Regina Stivers  
DEPUTY SECRETARY

Jamie Link  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 19, 2016

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

Dear Mayor Gray,

I am writing to express my support for the TIGER Grant application for the Town Branch Commons Corridor project in Lexington. As the former Chief Executive Officer of the 2010 World Equestrian Games and now Executive Director of the Kentucky Horse Park, it is my strong opinion that the Legacy Trail has added a whole new dimension to the fitness and sports tourism attraction of the Bluegrass Region.

I believe the Town Branch Commons project will only add to the tourism and economic development appeal of our region. As a regular user of the Legacy Trail for walking, running and bicycling, I have noticed increased activity at the Horse Park by virtue of the trail bringing more and more people to this wonderful facility. I have no doubt the Town Branch project will have the same impact on Lexington by connecting various neighborhoods to downtown in a safe and innovative way.

As we are strengthening the Kentucky Horse Park's position as the premier equestrian facility in the world, we also want to create a fun and healthy destination for equestrian and non-equestrian enthusiasts, alike. I envision the enhancement of Lexington's mixed-use trail system, including the Town Branch Commons Corridor project, as a great economic driver for our region as well as a shining example of what progressive communities can do to improve the quality of life for their citizens and visitors.

I, therefore and respectfully, wish to add my support for this initiative and grant application.

Sincerely,

Jamie Link

ANDY BARR  
SIXTH DISTRICT, KENTUCKY

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS  
AND CONSUMER CREDIT  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING  
AND INSURANCE



UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1432 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4706

2709 OLD ROSEBUD ROAD, SUITE 100  
LEXINGTON, KY 40509  
(859) 219-1366

April 26, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I write to you in strong support of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government's (LFUCG) application to the Department of Transportation's TIGER grant program.

With funding from the Department of Transportation, LFUCG will complete the Town Branch Commons Corridor (TBCC) project, an innovative multimodal greenway that removes barriers, increases mobility, enhances safety, and connects the larger regional Legacy and Town Branch Trail systems.

TBCC brings together a strong coalition of public and private sector partners to make a transformative impact on the community and region, by improving transit access, fixing operational challenges, and reducing pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular conflicts, while producing multiple, long-term benefits to area residents. It simultaneously addresses multiple overlapping community needs through a single project: connecting low-income and middle-income neighborhoods with downtown; educational institutions; and tourism, entertainment, and historical sites.

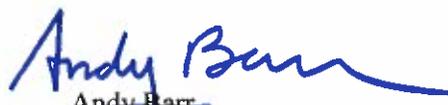
TBCC has widespread and diverse stakeholder support from throughout the region. Public and private sector partners have invested \$25 million to bring the project to its current state, with an additional \$22.7 collectively committed by LFUCG, the Transit Authority of Lexington (LexTran), the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program.

TBCC offers an opportunity to increase the economic competitiveness of the area by enhancing the attractiveness of Lexington to potential employers and talent, while fostering and supporting approximately \$1 billion of ongoing and announced public and private construction in the downtown area.

As you receive many worthy applications to the TIGER grant program, I ask that you give the LFUCG application full and fair consideration. If you have any questions regarding this letter or the application, please contact Eric Bunning on my staff at 202-225-4706 or at [eric.bunning@mail.house.gov](mailto:eric.bunning@mail.house.gov).

I appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Andy Barr  
Member of Congress

May 4, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I write again on behalf of my constituents at the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG) regarding their competitive grant application with the Department of Transportation's TIGER discretionary grant program.

I am told that this funding, if awarded, would allow LFUCG to complete the Town Branch Commons Corridor (TBCC) project. TBCC is a comprehensive trail system that if funded to completion will connect Lexington's urban core to its rural areas. The innovative multimodal greenway and park system is intended to enhance accessibility to green space and improve mobility and safety in the area by connecting low and middle income neighborhoods to downtown Lexington and to a number of community facilities.

Over the past several years, LFUCG—along with its community partners—has committed significant resources to advancing the initial stages of this project, including with strategic planning. My constituents have informed me that LFUCG has secured \$24 million to build the related Town Branch Trail and Legacy Trail, with which TBCC will connect. In the past year alone, LFUCG secured funding to complete TBCC up to construction.

This comprehensive project in Kentucky's second-largest city has the potential to address multiple overlapping community needs by developing new public green space and by connecting neighborhoods with educational institutions, and tourist, entertainment, and historical sites. My constituents also believe TBCC will improve transit access and reduce pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular conflicts in the area. It is my understanding that the awarding of a TIGER grant for TBCC would allow LFUCG and its partners to complete this important project to benefit the Lexington community and the greater Central Kentucky region.

As our nation continues on a path of unsustainable debt, it is more important than ever that we in Congress, and you in the Administration, work to ensure every tax dollar is spent wisely. It is with this in mind that I draw your attention to LFUCG's application, which I believe merits your full and fair review.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



MITCH McCONNELL  
UNITED STATES SENATOR

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 26, 2016

Mr. Anthony Foxx, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am contacting you on behalf of the Department of Environmental Quality and Public Works with the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government in support of the Town Branch Commons Corridor in regard to their grant application for the 2016 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant through the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The TIGER Grant will assist the Department of Environmental Quality and Public Works with completing an innovative multimodal greenway that removes barriers, increases mobility, enhances safety, and connects the existing trail systems. The TIGER grant will no doubt benefit the completion of the Town Branch Commons Corridor and ensure the protection of citizens and the community by making these necessary infrastructure improvements. Because of the tremendous need in their service area, I believe that the Department of Environmental Quality and Public Works' application deserves your full and fair consideration.

Upon the completion of this process, please contact my State Office in Bowling Green, Kentucky at 270-782-8303 or by facsimile at 270-782-4970.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rand Paul". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rand Paul, M.D.

United States Senator

# Local Independent Agency Support

*from*

Bluegrass Airport

Commerce Lexington

Fayette County Property Valuation Administrator

Lexington Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Lexington-Fayette County Health Department

Lexington-Fayette County Housing Authority

Lexington Parking Authority

Lexington Public Library

Lextran

VisitLex



**LEXINGTON**



March 29, 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:

I would like to express Blue Grass Airport's support of the proposed Town Branch Commons Corridor project. This investment will create a multimodal corridor throughout the heart of our city and will better connect people to the neighborhoods, businesses, amenities and natural features of central Kentucky. We believe it will benefit Lexington and the surrounding Bluegrass region tremendously and will also provide a lasting impression for our visitors.

As the region's primary air service provider, Blue Grass Airport's vision is to serve as a catalyst for economic growth in our community. Through an array of commercial and private aviation services, the airport provides \$370 million in annual economic impact and supports 3,478 jobs. Much of this impact comes from business, tourism and convention travelers.

It is our belief that the addition of the Town Branch Commons Corridor would enhance Lexington and improve the downtown experience for visitors and convention attendees. We also believe that it may encourage business growth as employers realize that Lexington would be an excellent location to begin a business due to the high quality of life the community would provide potential employees. All of these elements combined could stimulate air service and provide a long-lasting positive impact to the airport and the Bluegrass region economy.

We enthusiastically support the Town Branch Commons Corridor project and hope that it will come to fruition in the near future. Both Blue Grass Airport and our community would benefit from the positive results of this project.

Sincerely,

Eric J. Frankl, AAE  
Executive Director



April 8, 2016

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

Dear Mayor Gray,

As the community's chamber of commerce representing nearly 1,700 members, Commerce Lexington Inc. partners with the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government to recruit and retain businesses. We work in close cooperation with chambers throughout Central Kentucky to grow jobs and improve our regional economy.

The Town Branch Commons Corridor directly addresses issues that our chamber and others in the region have identified as top priorities -- economic development, transportation connectivity, and quality of life. This project will help transform the community and enhance our collective economic vitality.

We are keenly aware that job recruitment is more competitive than ever and that entrepreneurs are looking for a community that offers an excellent quality of life.

A Knight Foundation survey showed that three main qualities connect people to place: social offerings (entertainment venues and places to meet), openness (how welcoming a place is) and aesthetics (the physical beauty and green spaces).

The Town Branch Commons Corridor improves all three of those qualities through an innovative, multi-modal linear park through downtown Lexington. It will connect downtown entertainment sites, provide a much-needed link to fitness trails throughout the county and beyond, and it will invigorate the area by increasing access and providing gathering spots.

Employers also will benefit, because workers who use public transportation or bike or walk to work will find their commute easier and safer.

The Town Branch Commons Corridor will help Lexington recruit high-quality, high-wage jobs; improve the quality of life of our community through linking fitness trails and public transportation; and connect diverse neighborhoods to each other and to entertainment options downtown. With funding support from a TIGER Grant, Lexington can begin building that important connectivity that will leave a legacy for future generations to enjoy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert L. Quick".

Robert L. Quick, CCE  
President & CEO



**DAVID O'NEILL**  
**Property Valuation Administrator**  
**Fayette County**

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

March 29, 2016

Dear Mayor Gray,

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.

As the property valuation administrator for Fayette County I understand the impact a project of this scope can have on the community and its desirability, livability and property values.

This project will have a tremendous and transformative impact on our community, creating a multimodal corridor throughout the heart of our city and better connecting people to the neighborhoods, businesses, amenities and natural features of Central Kentucky.

Town Branch Commons Corridor will make our community safer for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. 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.

This connecting pathway creates opportunities for active commuting and recreation that will help residents build physical activity into their day, improving our community's public health.

The project will improve quality of life and economic opportunity through improved accessibility for all populations. 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 enthusiastically raise our voice in support of federal TIGER Grant funding for Town Branch Commons Corridor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. O'Neill".

David O'Neill  
Fayette County Property Valuation Administrator



**LEXINGTON AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
*Transportation Planning for Fayette and Jessamine Counties*

April 1, 2016

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

Dear Mayor Gray,

As you are aware, the Lexington Area Metropolitan Planning Organization is the federally-designated transportation planning agency for Fayette and Jessamine Counties, bringing together key transportation stakeholders and representatives of every level of government to make the best short and long-term transportation planning decisions for our regional community. The Lexington Area MPO along with the MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (or BPAC) whole heartedly supports the Town Branch Commons Corridor project.

We know that walkable bike-able communities with well-integrated bike facilities generally have stronger local economies, better air quality, improved public safety and more active citizens – both socially and physically. Over the last decade, the Lexington Area MPO has increased its emphasis on bicycle, pedestrian and transit projects to improve livability, reduce congestion, and provide more connected and sustainable transportation options. The Town Branch Commons Corridor project is an important part of our shared vision for the future mobility of Lexington.

In 2007, the MPO developed a Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan that lays a foundation for a “Complete Street” philosophy fitting into national goals of making safer streets for both motorized and non-motorized users. The plan also includes corridors of “Greenway Trails.” Improvements along Vine Street were listed as a high priority in that document. Since the Plan’s adoption, the network of bicycle facilities has more than doubled in mileage. Pedestrian infrastructure has increased in terms of sidewalk mileage and safer crossings. Former Governor Steve Beshear committed about \$7 million toward substantially completing the Town Branch Trail, which will connect the Bluegrass countryside to all of downtown Lexington – if combined with the Town Branch Commons Corridor project.

In addition to economic advantages of a more walkable downtown, there is an expected economic impact to better connecting to regional bike trails. The Bluegrass Region is lauded as one of the most scenic and beautiful places in the country for bicycling. There are many opportunities to promote and market the region as a destination for cycling tourists. The scenic terrain, rolling hills, horse farms and small towns are attractive to day-long and weekend tourists alike – and the Town Branch Commons Corridor will make downtown Lexington a natural starting point.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Max D. Conyers".

Max Conyers, Transportation Planning Manager  
Lexington Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)  
Cc: MPO Administrative File



Lexington Fayette County Health Department

650 Newtown Pike  
Lexington, Kentucky 40508-1197  
(859) 252-2371  
(859) 288-2359 Fax  
(859) 288-7510 Medical Fax

April 26, 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:

This is to support the Town Branch Commons Corridor project because it offers real public health benefits in addition to its positive impact on improved transportation and ease of getting around Lexington. Others can comment more effectively than I can on the environmental, economic, and recreation benefits so I will limit my comments to the public health benefits of the project.

This department convened a broad based community group in 2011 to develop a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) based on several health assessments by the health department and others. After several discussions the CHIP team selected obesity, lack of jobs, and safe neighborhoods as their long range objectives. This project has elements that apply to each of these initiatives. Obesity is a condition that impacts people and the economy and is a measure where Lexington ranks below the national average in the recent County Health Survey report. The parks, the walk ways, the ease of moving about on foot and the overall benefit of the project can only increase the probability that people will walk and play in the area and this increased activity will help us address obesity as a health risk in Lexington.

One has to assume that such outdoor activity will attract businesses similar to those along the River Walk in San Antonio and the mall in Washington, DC. The jobs that support those businesses are frequently the kind that otherwise unemployed people can fill. From a public health perspective, there is good data to show that an adequate income is essential if a family is to have a healthy life style. The project will contribute to a healthy community through job growth.

The CHIP team also selected safe neighborhoods as a health objective because safe neighborhoods increase the chances that children will play outside and reduce the chances that they will be harmed by risky behaviors being exhibited by others. This project emphasizes increased safety for those using the developed space and will help Lexington reduce another of its below national health averages—premature death.

Easier access to public transportation will help patients who use the bus service to reach the health department clinics and will increase participation in the many health education and clinical services available from the health department.

Finally let me add that the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department welcomes opportunities to support ideas like this and to participate in them as they develop and become active. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this worthwhile project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julie Wrenn".

Acting-Commissioner of Health

Cc: Paula Anderson, Board Chair  
Lexington-Fayette County Board of Health



## **LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY**

300 West New Circle Road • Lexington, KY 40505 • Phone: (859) 281-5060 • Fax: (859) 281-5055

April 12, 2016

*Equal Housing Opportunity*

### **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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William H. Wilson  
Commissioner

Sally Hamilton  
Mayor's Designee

Austin J. Simms  
Executive Director

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

Dear Mayor Gray,

The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Housing Authority has been a leader in ensuring safe, affordable housing since the Great Depression. With more than 1,300 units of public housing under our direct management and more than 2,500 Section 8 vouchers available, the Housing Authority is an integral part of building self-sufficiency for 4,000 low-to-moderate-income families.

Transportation is a key issue for many of our clients. Some are not licensed. Some do not have access to a vehicle. And some have a vehicle, but it is not reliable enough or adequate for the needs of the entire household. Adequate bus stops downtown, safe pedestrian crossings – particularly those around the transit center—and improved sidewalks and biking paths can make a world of difference when it comes to navigating the city in the way that is necessary for these families to truly grab onto our existing ladders of opportunity and make their way to the top. That is why the Town Branch Commons Corridor Project is so vital for our community. Libraries, schools, government offices, cultural opportunities for children, and post-secondary education offerings – these are investments our community makes in ensuring opportunity for all residents. But they need to be easily and safely accessible to be of value to our clients.

Imagine you are parent with a child in a stroller, or an elderly person who is not as quick or confident in crossing a busy road – how would that affect your decision about taking the bus to the library on a rainy day? Or about whether to make a preventative health appointment when it's scorching hot? The Town Branch Commons Corridor Project will provide traffic calming measures, better bus stops, and safer, better-placed pedestrian crossings – as well as better connected bike lanes.

As we encourage and require clients to make strides toward self-sufficiency, we recognize that we must have the infrastructure to support them. This is a transportation project that will reverberate throughout our community – opening it up in a way that will open up the entire world for many of our families and clients. We look forward to seeing the Town Branch Commons Corridor Project in Lexington.

Sincerely,

Austin Simms  
Executive Director

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Housing Authority

visit our website at  
[www.lexha.org](http://www.lexha.org)

# Lexington & Fayette County Parking Authority

162 E. Main Street, Suite 212 • Lexington, KY 40507 859.233.PARK (7275)



March 29, 2016

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

Dear Mayor Gray,

The operations of the Lexington & Fayette County Parking Authority are an important component of economic growth, especially in our downtown. Parking that is available at market-driven prices benefits residents, businesses, and visitors of our community.

We work collaboratively with other transportation organizations like Lextran and with venues that draw large crowds to our community, including Rupp Arena, the Convention Center, and the University of Kentucky.

Herefore, we are proud to support the Town Branch Commons Project and the TIGER grant request, which will help provide key transportation components that are fundamental to the project's success.

We also are proud that the Project complements LEXPARK's commitment to green initiatives. The emphasis on improving bike and pedestrian connections and pathways as well as the bioswales, which will filter and detain runoff, will build upon other environmental initiatives already occurring in our community.

This collaborative approach among local, state and federal governments, as well as the private sector, will continue to increase the momentum gained in downtown during the last 10 to 15 years and make Downtown Lexington an even more attractive place to work, live and visit.

Sincerely,

James H. Frazier, III  
Chair, Lexington Parking Authority



*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



April 8, 2016

The Honorable Jim Gray, Mayor  
Office of the Mayor  
200 E. Main St.  
Lexington, Ky. 40507

Dear Mayor Gray,

Lextran strives every day to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Lexington and beyond by providing optimal mobility solutions. Our goal is to connect people to work, school, home, shopping and entertainment by providing timely, safe and reliable transportation.

That's why we whole-heartedly support the TIGER grant for the Town Branch Commons project. If awarded, this project has the ability to transform our entire downtown area by making transportation safer for all modes of travel.

Currently, approximately 57 percent of Lextran passengers are commuting to work or medical facilities, and most do not have access to a car. In addition to serving 13 Lexington bus routes, the downtown Transit Center is also used by smaller bus systems from more rural areas that bring passengers into Lexington to access services they may not have in their home county.

Our customers currently face many obstacles from speeding traffic to inconsistent pedestrian accommodations to allow them to safely move through the City. The Town Branch Commons project, with the support of TIGER grand funding, will improve safety and access to all its users. It also will provide a much needed link to make it a regional, multimodal facility.

So whether they are riding Lextran as a necessity to get to work or health-care appointments, taking public transportation for environmental reasons, or using our services for pleasure to travel to equestrian or University of Kentucky sporting events, Lextran fills an important role in our city.

The Town Branch Commons project, and its investment in a multimodal plaza, is a key component to improving transportation in our city and the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Fugate", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jeff Fugate  
Chairman, Lextran Board of Directors  
President, Downtown Development Authority



April 8, 2016

The Honorable Jim Gray, Mayor  
Office of the Mayor  
200 E. Main St.  
Lexington, Ky. 40507

Dear Mayor Gray,

VisitLEX, the community's convention and visitors' bureau, hears firsthand from travelers and meeting planners about what they seek in a city they visit.

One of the top issues is a lively downtown with easy accessibility from the convention center to local attractions, such as historic sites, restaurants, bars, and entertainment. The Town Branch Commons Corridor will provide that access and connectivity, which currently is sporadic and disjointed. Parts of downtown are connected, but other tourist destinations are not.

In addition, with several high-profile half-marathons, the 200-mile Bourbon Chase relay and other race events, fitness is a growing component of the tourism industry. Improving our biking and walking pathways is a strong message to residents and visitors alike that Lexington is serious about going green and staying in shape.

The Town Branch Commons Corridor project, bolstered by a TIGER grant, would boost our tourism efforts in an increasingly competitive market. And the reach would extend beyond Lexington because we work collaboratively to market tourism sites throughout the region.

This added recruiting feature would return investments to the local and state economy. In 2014, visitors to Fayette County spent more than \$1.2 billion in direct expenditures and more than \$1.9 billion in total expenditures. In addition, the industry employed more than 25,000 people in the county.

But the benefits go beyond making Lexington more attractive and welcoming to visitors. Every year, we focus on encouraging our own residents to explore their own backyard through a staycation. What started as a theme during tight economic times has continued because of its popularity. The Town Branch Commons Corridors is a perfect example of what's good for the tourist is also good for the resident.

Sincerely,

Mary Quinn K. Ramer  
President

# **Educational Institution Support**

*from*

Bluegrass Community and Technical College

Fayette County Public Schools

Transylvania University

University of Kentucky



**LEXINGTON**

# Bluegrass

## Community & Technical College

### Office of the President

April 8, 2016

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

Dear Mayor Gray:

We believe in investing in downtown. It's good for downtown and good for the investor. That's why we believe in the Town Branch Commons Corridor Project and the importance of the TIGER grant investment.

Five years ago, Bluegrass Community and Technical College, one of the largest two-year community and technical colleges in the state, broke ground on a 92,240-square-foot, four-story Classroom Building in an underserved area of Lexington. The LEED-certified facility now accommodates over 1,500 students and houses 11 academic programs, including high-wage, high-demand programs such as Computer Information Technology.

The Classroom Building was an unprecedented opportunity to help transform a neighborhood, a city, and a region. We had many partners help us become a brand new, vibrant, urban community college campus.

It's good for our students to have a state-of-the-art building that is easy to access. And it's good for the neighborhood, much of which is low-income, that educational opportunities are within walking distance and on convenient bus lines.

We envision a similar transformation with the Town Branch Commons Corridor project. Not only will the project benefit our students who live in and travel through downtown, it will also improve downtown with accessibility and environmentally friendly features.

Finally, it will benefit the investors – from the city to the federal government to private organizations – as they see a downtown that is vibrant, citizens who are connected to increased opportunity and visitors who spend money at our stores and restaurants.

**Cooper Campus**  
470 Cooper Drive  
Lexington, KY 40506-0235  
859-246-6200

**Leestown Campus**  
164 Opportunity Way  
Lexington, KY 40511-2623  
859-246-6200

**Newtown Campus**  
500 Newtown Pike  
Lexington, KY 40508-1207  
859-246-6200

**Danville Campus**  
59 Corporate Drive  
Danville, KY 40422-9690  
859-239-7030

**Lawrenceburg Campus**  
1500 Bypass North, US 127  
Lawrenceburg, KY 40342-9465  
502-839-8488

**Winchester - Clark  
County Campus**  
2020 Rolling Hills Lane  
Winchester, KY 40391-6078  
859-737-3098

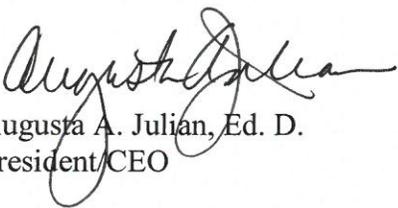
BCTC is an equal opportunity employer and education institution.

Page 2  
Mayor Gray  
April 8, 2016

From our own experience with our transformative Classroom Building, we know that big ideas aren't realized without partnerships. For this reason – and for all the project benefits to our students, their potential employers and their community – we ask for funding to support the Town Branch Commons Corridor project.

If you need any additional information, please contact me by email at [augusta.julian@kctcs.edu](mailto:augusta.julian@kctcs.edu) or by phone at 859-246-6501.

Sincerely,



Augusta A. Julian, Ed. D.  
President/CEO



April 25, 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,

Our responsibility and commitment to the nearly 41,000 students enrolled in the Fayette County Public Schools isn't contained within the four walls of our classrooms. We share responsibility not only for their transportation to and from school, but also for the expansion of their learning experiences, opportunities and horizons after the school bell rings.

The Town Branch Commons Corridor project will improve safety for our students as they travel between home and school, increase opportunities for physical activity and create an outdoor laboratory for learning. For those reasons, the Fayette County Public Schools offers our strong support for the project and request for TIGER grant funding.

Safety will be improved by the construction of bike infrastructure separate from traffic and creation of pedestrian facilities. Through improvements to transit center access and the transformation of the facility into a multi-modal plaza with traffic calming devices, ADA compliance along the corridor also will be achieved.

We firmly believe that those safety efforts will also encourage more walking and biking and complete critical gaps in trail infrastructure, which will help our community become healthier and complement the health and wellness efforts our district has undertaken.

The Town Branch Commons Corridor also will provide students with an opportunity to study the latest environmental techniques and their impact on water quality and runoff. For example, bioswales will be used to infiltrate rainwater, bypassing the already taxed closed storm sewer

**AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Board of Education: Melissa Bacon, Chair • Amanda Ferguson, Vice Chair • Douglas Barnett • Daryl Love  
Superintendent Emmanuel Caulk

701 East Main Street, Lexington, Kentucky 40502 • Phone: 859.381.4100 • [www.fcps.net](http://www.fcps.net)

**Mailing Address:** 1126 Russell Cave Rd., Lexington, Kentucky 40505

systems and, in turn, creating green space. Students can study real-life examples of how landscape elements are designed to remove silt and pollution from surface runoff water.

This project also will benefit a diverse population, which is especially important to us because our student population is increasingly diverse. This year, children of color comprise more than 46 percent of our student enrollment, including nearly 4,000 students for whom English is not their native language. Additionally, more than 54 percent of our students qualify for receive reduced or free lunch.

On behalf of our roughly 41,000 students, their families and our more than 5,000 employees, we support the Town Branch Commons Corridor project and its innovative efforts to improve safety and access, support healthier living, and provide learning opportunities.

Sincerely,

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

Emmanuel Caulk

Superintendent

Fayette County Public Schools



April 8, 2016

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

Dear Mayor Gray,

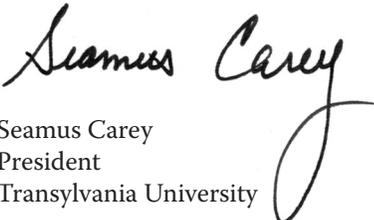
When I was considering the position of president of Transylvania University in 2014, one of the key attractions to me was that it was an elite liberal arts university situated in the heart of a thriving city. Too many colleges are isolated from the communities that surround them, but Transylvania – the nation’s 16th oldest college with 24 major buildings on 60 acres – is very much connected to Lexington. And we have a stake in making downtown Lexington as inviting, accessible, and safe as possible.

I know it’s no surprise to you that students considering Transylvania often ask about “quality of place” factors – including a lot of questions about cycling opportunities. They know that Transylvania has an excellent academic reputation, but they want to make sure they can also get around safely, go on recreational rides in the region, and find fun things to do around the city.

We promote both our University and our city as a bike-friendly place. “Bikes are Welcome” – that’s a key page on our website, and a key message we have for students. We were one of only 127 colleges named a Bike Friendly University by the League of American Bicyclists. We will lend bikes to students who need them. We have a facility for fixing bikes when repairs inevitably are needed. Bikes are part of our sustainability plan. We have particularly touted the Legacy Trail as a worthy recreational opportunity for our students and have shared the city’s plan to better connect interesting trails, to create a truly interconnected biking city. The Town Branch Commons Corridor project is the spine of that plan – and it will sustain and enhance the city’s biking reputation in a valuable and vital way. While we are justifiably proud of the great biking opportunities in and around Lexington, that doesn’t mean as much if you can’t safely ride through the heart of the city. Our students deserve and expect that safety.

Transylvania University was proud of building a \$10 million Athletic Center in Lexington in 2014 – part of a period of record development in downtown Lexington. We would like to see an enhanced multi-modal downtown transportation grid that will continue to improve the University’s connection with the greater community.

Sincerely,

  
Seamus Carey  
President  
Transylvania University

**Office of the President**

300 North Broadway | Lexington, KY 40508 | (859) 281-3512 | [transy.edu](http://transy.edu)

FOUNDED 1780



April 8, 2016

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

Office of the President  
101 Main Building  
Lexington, KY 40506-0032  
859 257-1701  
fax 859 257-1760  
[www.uky.edu](http://www.uky.edu)

Dear Mayor Gray,

The University of Kentucky supports the Town Branch Commons Corridor project for the benefit of our campus, community, and Commonwealth. As the Kentucky's flagship institution, we are called to serve the state. At the same time, Lexington is our home. Just as our histories are linked, so, too, is the future of our shared community.

Specifically, the project will help in our recruitment of quality students, expert faculty, and skilled staff; as well as improve the public health and welfare of our campus and city.

First, Lexington's attractions and assets play a strong role in student, faculty, and staff recruitment and retention. We tout the beauty, history, and amenities of Lexington as an integral part of the UK experience, and we encourage the UK family to integrate and serve the Lexington community.

As we continue to redevelop the portion of campus closest to the downtown corridor, we recognize that a strong relationship with the city is important. The planning process for our 2013 Campus Master Plan included support of and connections to the proposed Town Branch Commons.

Second, the project complements our health initiatives. Increased bike and pedestrian safety, connectedness, and convenience throughout the city and the region will help our students and citizens make fitness part of their daily routine. Our Transportation Master Plan emphasizes improvements to bike and pedestrian connectivity on campus and with the surrounding community.

The Town Branch Commons Corridor is an ambitious endeavor to improve and connect our city and region. It has the potential to enhance the well-being of those we serve, build community in Lexington, support the University, promote healthier lifestyles, and celebrate our city's history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eli Capilouto". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Eli Capilouto  
President

# Not-for-Profit Organization Support

*from*

21<sup>st</sup> Century Parks

AARP

Awesome, Inc.

Bluegrass Community Foundation

Community Ventures

Downtown Lexington Corporation

Fayette Alliance

Kentucky League of Cities

Lexington Center Corporation

Lexington Downtown Development Authority

Town Branch Trail, Inc.

United Way of the Bluegrass

Urban League LFUCG





Bringing nature into neighborhoods

RECEIVED

MAY 12 2016

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

May 9, 2016

The Honorable Jim Gray, Mayor  
Lexington Fayette Urban County Government  
Office of the Mayor  
200 East Main ST  
Lexington, KY 40507

Dear Mayor Gray,

Great cities have, and preserve, great parks. The 21<sup>st</sup> century will be an urban century and those cities that build and sustain great park systems will themselves be sustainable and provide a firm foundation for healthy, diverse, economically viable communities. Part of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Parks' mission is to serve as stewards entrusted to create and preserve unexcelled parklands that reflect the needs and values of our whole community. Lexington's Town Branch Commons Corridor (TBCC) will activate underutilized parks and transform them into an unprecedented linear park system.

Having led in the construction of a similar park and multimodal system in Louisville, our organization has found that TBCC will do many things for a city. It will create and sustain community, fuel economic development, support the environment, and help to create a healthy urban core.

TBCC will have a transformative impact on the entire community. Creating a multimodal and linear park corridor through the heart of the city will provide a safe alternative transportation path and provide enjoyment to the city's entire population. Furthermore, this project is an environmentally responsible and sustainable project, helping restore more ecological balance to the urban landscape with increased tree canopy, greenspace, rain gardens, and storm water collection facilities.

Simply put, TBCC is the type of project 21<sup>st</sup> Century Parks believes in, and we strongly support federal TIGER grant funding for it.

Sincerely,

Daniel H. Jones, M.F., Ph.D.  
Chairman and CEO



10401 Linn Station Road, #121 | Louisville, KY 40223  
1-866-295-7275 | Fax: 502-423-7031 | TTY: 1-877-434-7598  
aarp.org/ky | kyaarp@aarp.org | twitter: @aarpky  
facebook.com/AARPKentucky

April 11, 2016

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

Dear Mayor Gray,

On behalf of AARP members in Fayette County, I am writing in continued support of the impacts that the Town Branch Commons Corridor (TBCC ) project will have on the central Lexington business district and immediate neighborhoods and the broader contextual impact the TBCC will have on the region.

Lexington is one of three Kentucky communities enrolled in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities and we believe this investment to improve mobility options will further this work by completing critical gaps in trail and pedestrian infrastructure, separating bike infrastructure from vehicles, improving pedestrian facilities and providing safe pedestrian access to transit facilities, safety improvements and traffic calming features.

The Town Branch Commons Corridor Project will make the community safer for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists of every age. We support improvements to the existing transportation infrastructures by eliminating barriers and hurdles to mobility and transforming the transit center into a downtown multi-modal epicenter.

For these reasons and for generations to come, we enthusiastically support the TIGER Grant funding for the Town Branch Commons Corridor Project.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ron Bridges'.

Ron Bridges  
State Director  
AARP Kentucky

AARP  
Real Possibilities



# AWESOME INC

502.209.9960 | WWW.AWESOMEINC.ORG  
348 E MAIN ST. LEXINGTON, KY 40507

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3/30/2016

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 Awesome Inc, 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.

Awesome Inc exists to grow the entrepreneurial and high tech communities of Lexington. We accomplish this mission by (1) providing computer coding education, (2) running an educational program for new entrepreneurs, (3) hosting community events and (4) operating a co-working space downtown.

This project will have a tremendous and transformative impact on our community, creating a multimodal corridor throughout the heart of our city and better connecting people to the neighborhoods, businesses, amenities and natural features of Central Kentucky.

Town Branch Commons Corridor will make our community safer for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. 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.

This connecting pathway creates opportunities for active commuting and recreation that will help residents build physical activity into their day, improving our community's public health.

The project will improve quality of life and economic opportunity through improved accessibility for all populations . 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 enthusiastically raise our voice in support of federal TIGER Grant funding for Town Branch Commons Corridor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Raney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brian Raney  
CEO  
Awesome Inc

April 8, 2016

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

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Joe Rosenberg  
Dr. Ronald Saykaly  
Nancy Allen Turner  
Griffin VanMeter  
Bud Watson

Lisa Ashner Adkins, J.D.  
President and CEO

Dear Mayor Gray,

Blue Grass Community Foundation was created as a permanent endowment in 1967 by a visionary Lexington couple, Irene and C.W. Sulier. They loved the Bluegrass Region that surrounds and envelopes their hometown and wanted to ensure that their charitably minded friends and neighbors have a trusted “go-to” place for giving and engagement.

As a public charity overseen by a volunteer board of community leaders, and run by professionals who are experts in all aspects of local philanthropy, we have awarded tens of millions of dollars in grants. We have an intimate understanding both of the needs of the region – and of the shared vision the people of this area have for a healthier, more vibrant future.

We support the Town Branch Commons Corridor as an important regional development. This focused investment – just a few blocks through the heart of Lexington – can have broad impacts on livability and quality-of-life for our entire area.

- Connecting a growing railway system to the amenities of downtown Lexington, this project supports bicycle tourism for the entire state and connects urban and rural interests in a way that supports the well-being of both type of communities.
- Providing key opportunities for active recreation, commuting, and adventure-seeking – this project meets the expectations of a modern workforce by helping retain and attract the skilled young people who are the innovators and employers of the 21st century.
- Encouraging and enabling more active lifestyles, this project creates a valuable tool for a region that struggles with obesity, diabetes and other conditions related to inactivity.

This is why the Blue Grass Community Foundation is the lead agency, partnering with the city, to make Town Branch Commons Corridor a reality. BGCF has the responsibility to incubate the Town Branch Commons Conservancy, which will ultimately be a stand-alone, 501c3, with an independent board of directors, who’s mission will be the construction and maintenance of a new a new park and the accompanying multimodal path through the park as part of Town Branch Commons Corridor.

We are currently in year one of a \$50 million capital campaign for this project and are in the early stages of identifying and cultivating qualified prospects. To date, we have received grants from national foundations in the amount of \$472,400 for projects directly related to the Town Branch Commons Corridor. In addition, Lexington is one of five city finalist from across the country competing for one of two, \$5 million, national grant awards, as part of a new and prestigious funding partnership between the Knight, Kresge and Rockefeller Foundations to specifically enhance existing public assets along the Town Branch Commons Corridor.

The region has grown and developed in so many ways since the Blue Grass Community Foundation was formed in 1967. But what makes this region special is the unwavering commitment to stay connected to our sense of place and community. The Town Branch Commons Corridor feeds the heart of that community connection and is very much deserving of support.

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Dr. Ronald Saykaly  
Nancy Allen Turner  
Griffin VanMeter  
Bud Watson

Lisa Ashner Adkins, J.D.  
President and CEO

Sincerely,



Lisa Adkins  
President & CEO



## community ventures

Your Dream. Our Mission.

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*Board Member*

April 8, 2016

The Honorable Jim Gray, Mayor  
Office of the Mayor  
200 E. Main St.  
Lexington, Ky. 40507

Dear Mayor Gray,

Midland Avenue is a highly visible gateway to downtown Lexington with great potential to become a defining corridor for our community.

For generations, investment and residents fled to suburban areas. But that trend is changing. Community Ventures (CV) stands at the forefront of an initiative to revitalize this underutilized gateway with new mixed-use development, improved green space, traffic calming measures, and a proposed bike path to connect to downtown.

The proposed mixed use development is a dense mixture of retail, residential, and office space that aims to build a stronger East End Neighborhood.

Through to the planned revitalization efforts by CV and the Town Branch Commons Corridor project, the East End will benefit from the synergies of these two large-scale, complementary projects.

A mix of private and public investment will signal the importance of this area of downtown, create stability for residents and mark a new era for this historic neighborhood, which traces its history to the 1800s. Build around the city's premier horse track at the time, the East End was bustling through the 1940s. It was home to an eclectic mix of doctors, teachers, small business owners and jockeys. Many African-Americans who migrated from the South made their homes here to be close to jobs in the neighborhood.

Our two projects can help the neighborhood recapture the energy, vibrancy and diversity that were once its hallmarks.

MAIN OFFICE  
1450 N BROADWAY  
LEXINGTON, KY 40505

CVKY.ORG





## community ventures

Your Dream. Our Mission.

The Town Branch Commons Corridor will encompass a larger downtown and regional community/environmental initiative. The East End neighborhood, along with the entire community, will benefit from improved bike and pedestrian paths, better accessibility to public transportation and a water quality initiative with bioswales, bio-retention and other stormwater improvements along Town Branch Creek.

CV is moving forward with programming and planning for the development along Midland. We strongly support the Town Branch Commons Corridor project and the TIGER grant, which will allow the investment to occur more rapidly.

Together, these two initiatives will be integrated and create a standard for sustainable development in an urban core that blends infrastructure improvements with environmental elements to promote a safe, healthy green gateway into downtown Lexington.

Sincerely,

Kevin R. Smith  
President & CEO

MAIN OFFICE  
1450 N BROADWAY  
LEXINGTON, KY 40505

[CVKY.ORG](http://CVKY.ORG)





***"DLC is a partnership of businesses, individuals and the public sector committed to the shared vision of a clean, safe and vibrant Downtown."***

April 1, 2016

The Honorable Jim Gray, Mayor  
Office of the Mayor  
200 East Main Street  
Lexington, Kentucky 40507

Dear Mayor Gray,

As an organization dedicated to promoting Lexington's downtown as a unique and vibrant place for business, residential life and entertainment, the Downtown Lexington Corporation is accustomed to addressing challenges, including:

- The perceived lack of parking,
- people exiting downtown once they finish work,
- misconceptions from suburban dwellers about the opportunities in the urban core, and
- cars speeding along too fast to realize there are local restaurants and shops to enjoy.

Lexington has come a long way in the last several years to make downtown more inviting and attractive. The Fifth Third Bank Pavilion serves as a gathering place for outdoor entertainment and the weekly farmers market. Since the addition of the Pavilion millions of dollars in private investment have been made in the adjacent area. That investment is beginning to spread; last year, downtown property owners agreed to pay additional property taxes to create a downtown management district that will provide additional enhancements and services in the urban core.

Our community believes in downtown, and so do we. We know that you do, too. The Town Branch Commons Corridor is critical to ensuring that downtown is a vibrant place for people in all of Lexington and the greater region to enjoy. Projects such as the Town Branch Commons Corridor are proven to bring people downtown to eat and shop, which brings tax revenue to the city and creates jobs. Others want to live a healthier lifestyle by biking or walking to their destination.

Prospective Lexington residents will be drawn to this greenbelt amenity, making it a valuable recruitment tool in today's economy, where workers and companies choose where they want to live because technology allows them to work from anywhere.

It's not often that a project will benefit such a variety of demographics and provide benefits related to safety, economic development, community building and accessibility. The Town Branch Commons Corridor is that project. We strongly support the TIGER grant request, which will help launch this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Renee Shepard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R".

Renee Shepard  
President, Downtown Lexington Corporation



### Fayette Alliance

603 West Short Street  
Lexington, Kentucky 40508  
859.281.1202 Phone  
info@fayettealliance.com  
fayettealliance.com

---

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Joe & Jacqueline Murphy  
Don Robinson  
Bill Shively  
Tom VanMeter  
Derek Vaughan  
Fra Vaughan  
Brian & Lori Wood  
Misdee Wrigley Miller  
Chris & Josefina Young

The Honorable Jim Gray, Mayor  
Government Center  
200 East Main Street  
Lexington, KY 40507

March 30, 2016

Dear Mayor Gray,

My name is Don Robinson, and I am writing this letter on behalf of Fayette Alliance.

Through our land-use advocacy efforts at government and beyond, Lexington can become the model for sustainable growth, by connecting and balancing its vibrant city with its unique and productive Bluegrass farmland.

In furtherance of this mission, Fayette Alliance supports LFUCG's Federal TIGER grant application for the Town Branch Linear Park.

If secured, the federal grant will combine with local matching funds to finance transportation infrastructure for Town Branch. This significant investment in Lexington's urban core will anchor the emerging park project, and transform how the city grows and functions into the future.

As with most American cities in the twentieth century, Lexington's growth model favored an approach where people, goods, and capital moved outward to the perimeter of the community.

This approach created new markets...but it came at a price that Lexington is addressing today.

Over time, downtown and older neighborhoods suffered from depressed property values, reduced economic activity, social disparity, and diminished quality of life. We also lost Bluegrass farmland at an alarming rate to suburban sprawl, leading to a World Monument Fund designation for Lexington and the inner Bluegrass Region in 2006. As we grew, new carbon footprint and water infrastructure challenges also surfaced throughout the community, confronting Lexington in unprecedented ways.

These factors, along with the great recession, the rise of the knowledge-based economy, demographic changes, and limited natural resources require that Lexington—and cities across America—operate in a more compact, efficient, and sustainable way.



Town Branch will play critical role in this movement. The park will provide a well-programmed and much-needed greenspace that will make downtown a more attractive place to live, work, and invest—drawing market forces inward to the core of our city, and alleviating development pressure from our signature rural landscape.

It will leverage the best of what the Bluegrass has to offer, by seismically reinforcing urban infill redevelopment, and in turn farmland preservation efforts in Lexington-Fayette County.

This hand-in-glove approach will result in the creation of a world-class city in a world-class landscape...forever changing the conversation in Lexington, and unlocking its economic development and quality of life potential in innumerable ways.

Lexington is not reinventing the wheel, and the transformative power of park and trail facilities has happened across the U.S. For example, in 2013, Indianapolis built a \$63 million, eight-mile bike path connecting cultural districts, neighborhoods, and parks—with an economic impact of \$864,599,000.

While Town Branch has promise, much work must be done...from building private sector support and implementing a strategic plan, to constructing and operating a feasible, first component of the linear park system. In particular, the initial phase of Town Branch is estimated to cost \$75 million, of which \$25 million is transportation infrastructure:

\$25 million: Transportation Infrastructure

\$30million: New Park or Parks, and Improvements to Existing Parks

\$8million: Initial Decade of Operations

\$12million: Operating Endowment (generates \$500k/annum)

**\*Please see the enclosed strategic plan for additional details.**

This is a big deal and a historic challenge for Lexington. With pragmatism and community buy-in, it can be done. Securing a TIGER grant is a fundamental step in making the Town Branch Commons a reality, and we respectfully request and urge its approval.

Thank you for your consideration of our position, and your leadership as we sustainably grow our city and promote our farms in Lexington-Fayette County.

All my best,



Don Robinson  
*Acting Director & Chairman of the Board*  
*Fayette Alliance*



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Deputy Executive Director, KLC: J.D. Chaney  
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Chief Member Services Officer: Robin Cooper  
Chief Financial Officer: Dawn Harlow  
Chief Administrative Officer: Martha Cosby

March 29, 2016

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

Dear Mayor Gray:

On behalf of Kentucky League of Cities, 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.

Established in 1927, the Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) is a non-stock, nonprofit membership association that serves more than 360 Kentucky cities as well as municipal agencies. KLC provides legislative advocacy, legal services, community consulting, training, research and grant writing/administration among other services. KLC also offers municipal finance options, and KLC Insurance Services insures more Kentucky municipal members than all other insurance carriers combined. KLC is the united voice of cities with a mission to support community innovation, effective leadership and quality governance.

This project will have a tremendous and transformative impact on our community, creating a multimodal corridor throughout the heart of our city and better connecting people to the neighborhoods, businesses, amenities and natural features of central Kentucky.

The Town Branch Commons Corridor will make our community safer for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. 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 multimodal epicenter downtown.

This connecting pathway creates opportunities for active commuting and recreation that will help residents build physical activity into their day, improving our community's public health.

The project will improve quality of life and economic opportunity through improved accessibility for all populations. Businesses, residents and visitors will all benefit from this visionary investment that both preserves our past and prepares for our future. The Town Branch Commons Corridor will be catalytic in how it will improve property values, revitalize neighborhoods, encourage business growth and have a long-lasting positive regional impact.

The 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 enthusiastically raise our voice in support of federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant funding for the Town Branch Commons Corridor.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Steiner  
Executive Director/CEO  
Kentucky League of Cities



100 East Vine Street, Suite 800, Lexington, Kentucky 40507  
Tel. 859.977.3700 or 800.876.4552 Fax 859.977.3703 [www.klc.org](http://www.klc.org)





April 8, 2016

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

Dear Mayor Gray,

As president and CEO of the Lexington Center Corporation, I am intimately familiar with infrastructure needs of downtown Lexington. The Lexington Center is the region's most popular multi-use entertainment, convention, and shopping complex. It includes a 130,000-square-foot convention center, a 23,000-seat arena, an historic opera house, shops, two hotels and Triangle Park, which is an important downtown green space and gathering spot.

Within a day's drive of 75 percent of the nation's population, Lexington Center is a gathering spot for hundreds of thousands of people each year – more than 120,000 annually for basketball alone. In fact, some would argue that the basketball arena is the heart of our entire state.

Unfortunately, the people coming to our center each year are not as connected to the rest of downtown as they should be. Pedestrian crossings are inadequate, and in some key points nonexistent. There is not the sort of bike infrastructure that would encourage cyclists to attend our events and attractions without a car. In short, our guests can feel like they are "on an island" – with no clear, safe or inviting way to fan out into the city, experience its amenities or support its businesses.

That's why we support the Town Branch Common Corridor project. This is an opportunity to transform downtown Lexington in a fundamental and powerful way – strengthening the arteries that connect the "heart of Kentucky" with the city that supports it.

New bike lanes would not only lead to the Lexington Center but would cross our center to connect with trail ways that lead throughout the region. And it will ensure that the planned Town Branch Park will become an interconnected, multi-modal "destination" for our community and visitors. It will make the already beloved Triangle Park easier for families to access.

The Lexington Center is a vital gathering point for Lexington and our entire region, but this plan will help it better integrate into the fabric of downtown in a truly transformational way.

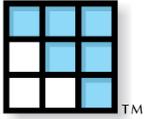
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Owen".

Bill Owen  
President and CEO  
Lexington Center Corporation

**Lexington Center Corporation**

430 West Vine Street • Lexington, KY 40507-1654 • (859) 233-4567 • Fax (859) 253-2718  
www.lexingtoncenter.com • www.rupparena.com • www.lexingtonoperahouse.com



Lexington  
Downtown  
Development  
Authority

101 East Vine Street  
Suite 100  
Lexington, KY 40507  
www.lexingtondda.com

**Board of Directors**

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Paula Hanson  
Allison Lankford  
Danette Wilder

**Staff**

Jeff Fugate, *President*  
Ethan Howard, *Project Manager*  
Hannah O'Leary, *Operations Manager*

April 8, 2016

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

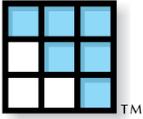
Dear Mayor Gray,

As president and COO of the Lexington Downtown Development Authority, I am pleased to announce that completed, under construction, and planned development downtown exceeds over \$1.5 billion in investment. The University of Kentucky continues to invest through new residential buildings, academic facilities, research building, and the expansion of its medical campus. Meanwhile, the world class 21C Museum Hotel has opened, local entrepreneurs are revitalizing the Distillery District, and the renovation of the Old Fayette County Courthouse is about to begin. These investments will provide exciting new opportunities for citizens and visitors. But they will also place new demands on our ability to move people in and around our community safely, efficiently and sustainably.

That's why the Town Branch Commons project is so important. It represents a truly transformative opportunity – a chance to revolutionize the feel and flow of downtown Lexington. It will support and enhance the public and private investments already being made, and ensure that those investments will pay off for the community. It will also solidify our reputation as a livable and innovative University City, a place where people can enjoy healthy, active, innovative and interesting lives.

Specifically, the design of Town Branch Commons significantly improves the active commuting and recreation opportunities for downtown residents and workers, creating the vital “connective tissue” that makes downtown function at its best. It will:

- Provide the cycling and pedestrian infrastructure demanded by the top talent that our employers are trying to attract and retain
- Transform our current inadequate crossings – including near the transit center, where we too often see commuters climbing over barrier walls as they dash for the bus



**Lexington  
Downtown  
Development  
Authority**

101 East Vine Street  
Suite 100  
Lexington, KY 40507  
www.lexingtondda.com

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Jeff Fugate, *President*  
Ethan Howard, *Project Manager*  
Hannah O'Leary, *Operations Manager*

- Create a vital, central “spine” of bike lanes – making downtown the connection point it should be for city and recreational bike paths, enabling bikers to go from downtown to the peaceful quiet of Bluegrass Country

The investments currently taking place in downtown Lexington are vital to our community. Likewise, state-of-the-art transportation infrastructure is vital to making those investments work. We believe that Town Branch Commons will have a catalytic impact not only on the streets it touches directly, but throughout the entire region, as we open up our city in a new, bold, and transformative way. Funding for Town Branch Commons Corridor will be money well spent.

Sincerely,

Jeff Fugate  
President and COO  
Lexington Downtown Development Authority

# TOWN BRANCH TRAIL, INC

*a greenway trail along Lexington's historic waterway*



April 8, 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,

Imagine a trail that connects downtown Lexington with the Bluegrass countryside -- a pathway from the bustling urban core into fertile fields and pastures. You pass by limestone springs, early distilleries and discover Lexington's historic waterway, Town Branch of the Elkhorn.

Soon, it won't take an imagination -- just a comfortable pair of running shoes or a bicycle to experience the Town Branch Commons Corridor. Town Branch Trail, Inc., a local 501(c)3 nonprofit, is excited to be a partner on this transformative project and supports your request for federal TIGER grant funding.

The corridor will connect downtown Lexington with the region's world-famous horse farms, neighborhoods, parks and historic sites.

This project is the culmination of years of planning and unprecedented public/private collaboration -- coalescing local planning, transportation, preservation and low-income advocates. Our community envisions a corridor that transforms neglected and underutilized urban areas along our historic creek into a multi-modal trail that will benefit recreation, commuting, the environment, tourism and economic development.

Since 2001, Town Branch Trail, Inc., a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, has been advocating for such a visionary investment, writing grant proposals and working to build consensus in the community. In conjunction with the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, TBT, Inc. has raised more than \$7.5 million in trail funds, \$1 million in land donations, and has three miles of trail in design and construction.

We are eager to support and help coordinate this transformative project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Clem', written over a horizontal line.

## United Way of the Bluegrass

100 Midland Ave Suite 300  
Lexington, Kentucky 40508  
tel 859.233.4460  
fax 859.259.3397

[www.uwbg.org](http://www.uwbg.org)



April 8, 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,

The United Way of the Bluegrass is proud to support the Town Branch Commons Corridor project, an investment that will improve our community and directly support our mission to create opportunities for all citizens to live better lives.

United Way of the Bluegrass is a leader and motivator of change for long-term solutions for Central Kentucky communities. We are working diligently to achieve our bold goal of helping 10,000 more families in the Bluegrass achieve self-sufficiency by 2020.

Two of the key drivers that we have identified are ensuring basic needs and creating financial stability for our citizens. Better transportation is central to both of these priorities, and the multi-modal improvements planned in the Town Branch Commons Corridor will help reduce inequities and remove barriers.

This project will help all people – regardless of economic level – access the neighborhoods, businesses, amenities and natural features of Central Kentucky. With improved transportation, our citizens will have greater opportunities for jobs, better access to support services and new pathways to educational and community resources.

By connecting Lexington's urban core to the surrounding neighborhoods and communities of Central Kentucky, we will create a stronger, more united region to benefit all our citizens. That's what the United Way is all about.

For these reasons, we strongly support the Town Branch Commons Corridor project and Lexington's application for federal TIGER Grant funding to accelerate its construction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Farmer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Farmer  
President/ CEO



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

# Private Entity Support

*from*

21 C

Anderson Communities

AU Associates

Barrel House Distilling

BB&T

Central Bank

Columbia Gas

Cornett Media

Cup of Commonwealth

Kentucky American Water Co.

Kentucky Utilities

Lexington Bluegrass Association of Realtors

Lexington Real Estate Company

PNC

Stites & Harbison

The Livery

Vulcan

West Sixth Brewing



**LEXINGTON**



April 08, 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,

21c Museum Hotels is proud to be part of the ongoing renaissance in downtown Lexington, a vibrant city that values its past and prepares for the future.

Our 88-room boutique hotel, contemporary art museum and restaurant opened earlier this year in Lexington's historic First National Bank Building. In fact, our new home was the city's first skyscraper designed by famed New York architecture firm McKim, Mead & White.

We are especially enthusiastic about the Town Branch Commons Corridor project, which promises to transform the transportation options in Lexington and the surrounding Bluegrass region. We readily lend our support and endorsement as you seek federal TIGER grant funding to accelerate the project.

This project will have a tremendous positive impact on our community, creating a multimodal corridor throughout the heart of our city and better connecting people to the neighborhoods, businesses, amenities and natural features of Central Kentucky.

21c Lexington represents an investment of more than \$40 million in downtown – an investment we made because we see the opportunity for growth and development here. Public-private investments like the Town Branch Commons Corridor are part of the reason we chose to invest in Lexington.

We believe Town Branch Commons Corridor will fuel the ongoing economic development efforts and entice other investments as it draws more pedestrians, cyclists and motorists to use this urban-to-rural pathway.

We are proud to be a part of the excitement and opportunity that is building in Lexington. The Town Branch Commons Corridor can be a catalyst for even more vitality in Lexington's downtown and the surrounding region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Greenberg', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Craig Greenberg, President  
21c Museum Hotels



April 4, 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 myself and Anderson Communities, Inc., 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. My company is devoted to building walkable, healthy communities where residents get to know each other and can easily access retail and commercial development. Two prime examples of this are Townley Park and McConnell's Trace, located off of Leestown Road in Lexington. In order for neighborhoods to be walkable, safe and healthy, they need to be connected with their city. This trail will help better connect our communities with their city. It is my belief that this project will have a tremendous and transformative impact on our community, creating a multimodal corridor throughout the heart of our city and better connecting people to the neighborhoods, businesses, amenities and natural features of Central Kentucky.

Town Branch Commons Corridor will make our community safer for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. 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.

This connecting pathway creates opportunities for active commuting and recreation that will help residents build physical activity into their day, improving our community's public health.

The project will improve quality of life and economic opportunity through improved accessibility for all citizens. Businesses, residents and visitors will all benefit from this visionary investment that both preserves our past and prepares for our future. We believe Town Branch Commons will be a catalyst in

improving property values, revitalizing neighborhoods, encouraging business growth and impacting the region.

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 support of federal TIGER Grant funding for Town Branch Commons Corridor.

Sincerely,



Dennis R. Anderson  
President  
Anderson Communities, Inc.

April 11, 2016

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



Dear Mayor Gray,

My belief in the importance of downtown is so strong that I've made it my life's work. AU Associates focuses on adaptive use, opportunities for urban infill and the revitalization of existing structures. We have been directly responsible for creating more than 500 units of mixed-income housing, 100,000 square feet of commercial space and more than \$124 million of projects across Kentucky and West Virginia. Five of those projects are in Lexington. We are now working on the sixth project; the iconic Fayette County Courthouse for downtown Lexington, so it is with complete conviction and dedication that I write this letter.

What makes Lexington so special is our commitment to preservation, our love of greenspace and nature, and our priority on infill redevelopment to preserve our beautiful rural landscape. But I've seen first-hand the challenges of building, working and living downtown for all demographics of our community.

Families of all income levels want a safe place for walking or biking. While some do those activities for their health benefits, for others it is a necessity because they can't afford a car.

Lexington is making great strides by increasing bike paths in town and trails that connect us to our rural neighbors. We're also rethinking and expanding efforts for affordable housing and improving access to community and technical training and education. But we must continue to make strides in helping all neighborhoods of Lexington feel connected and be more accessible, to create a communal gathering spot in the heart of our city and to attract a diverse group of residents and visitors. We must construct the Town Branch Commons project.

It's not often that a project helps all of those demographics and provides benefits related to safety, economic development, community building and accessibility. The Town Branch Commons is that project. I urge you to support the TIGER grant request, which will help launch this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Holly B. Wiedemann  
President

April 2, 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 Barrel House Distilling Company and BBPH Properties, 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.

Barrel House Distilling Company is Lexington's first post prohibition micro distillery located on the historic James E. Peppery Distillery immediately adjacent to Town Branch on Manchester Street. We have been producing small batch spirits on the site since 2008.

BBPH Properties purchased 1200 Manchester Street, the old barreling house for the James E. Pepper Distillery in 2013. This building is immediately adjacent to Town Branch, and is the home of Barrel House Distilling Company and Studio 300, a woodwork company producing specialty products from reclaimed bourbon barrels.

This project will have a tremendous and transformative impact on our community, creating a multimodal corridor throughout the heart of our city and better connecting people to the neighborhoods, businesses, amenities and natural features of Central Kentucky.

Town Branch Commons Corridor will make our community safer for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. 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.

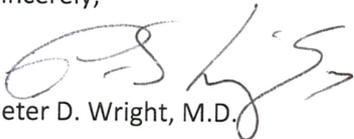
This connecting pathway creates opportunities for active commuting and recreation that will help residents build physical activity into their day, improving our community's public health.

The project will improve quality of life and economic opportunity through improved accessibility for all populations. 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 enthusiastically raise our voice in support of federal TIGER Grant funding for Town Branch Commons Corridor.

Sincerely,



Peter D. Wright, M.D.

Co-Owner, Barrel House Distilling Company  
Member, BBPH Properties, LLC  
1200 Manchester Street  
Lexington, KY 40504

March 31, 2016

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

Heath W. Campbell, Regional President  
BB&T Plaza  
200 West Vine Street  
Lexington, KY 40507  
(859) 281-2121  
Fax (859) 253-6915

Dear Mayor Gray:

On behalf of BB&T, I am writing to strongly support the Town Branch Commons Corridor project, an investment in improved transportation and mobility for Lexington and the surrounding Bluegrass region.

BB&T is one of the largest financial services holding companies in the U.S. with \$209.9 billion in assets and market capitalization of \$29.5 billion, as of December 31, 2015, and proudly has six locations serving the Lexington community.

We believe this project will have a tremendous and transformative impact on our community, creating a multimodal corridor throughout the heart of our city and better connecting people to the neighborhoods, businesses, amenities and natural features of Central Kentucky.

Town Branch Commons Corridor will make our community safer for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. 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.

This connecting pathway creates opportunities for active commuting and recreation that will help residents build physical activity into their day, improving our community's public health.

The project will improve quality of life and economic opportunity through improved accessibility for all populations. 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, BB&T enthusiastically raises its voice in support of federal TIGER Grant funding for Town Branch Commons Corridor.

Sincerely,



Heath W. Campbell

Regional President



April 27, 2016

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

Dear Mayor Gray:

On behalf of Central Bank, I am writing to support the Town Branch Commons Corridor project, an investment in improved transportation and mobility for Lexington and the greater Bluegrass Region.

A member of the community since 1946, Central Bank has grown to become Central Kentucky's largest, locally-owned community bank. We serve our communities through a wide range of banking, insurance, investments and wealth management services that are well-suited to consumer and business customer needs. A large majority of our 500 Central Bankers actively serve local communities through their involvement and participation in charitable and civic organizations. As a member of the Lexington community, I believe this project will have profound benefits for a large number of our citizens.

This project will have a tremendous and transformative impact on our community, creating a multimodal corridor throughout the heart of our city and better connecting people to the neighborhoods, businesses, amenities and natural features of Central Kentucky.

Town Branch Commons Corridor will make our community safer for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. 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.

This connecting pathway creates opportunities for active commuting and recreation that will help residents build physical activity into their day, improving our community's public health.

The project will improve quality of life and economic opportunity through improved accessibility for all populations. 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 have a catalytic effect by improving property values, revitalizing neighborhoods, encouraging business growth and creating 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 enthusiastically support federal TIGER Grant funding for Town Branch Commons Corridor in downtown Lexington.

If you have any questions or require additional information please contact my office at 859-253-6184.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Luther Deaton Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'L' and a trailing flourish.

Herbert A. Miller, Jr.  
President

March 29, 2016

P.O. Box 14241  
2001 Mercer Road  
Lexington, KY 40512-4241  
(859) 288.0275  
Fax: (859) 288.0258  
hamiller@nisource.com

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

Dear Mayor Gray,

On behalf of Columbia Gas of Kentucky, 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.

Columbia Gas is one of the state's largest distributors of natural gas, serving over 135,000 business and residential customers through 2600 miles of pipelines in 30 Kentucky counties. Our headquarters is in Lexington and more than half of our customers reside in Fayette County.

This project will have a tremendous and transformative impact on our community, creating a multimodal corridor throughout the heart of our city and better connecting people to the neighborhoods, businesses, amenities and natural features of Central Kentucky.

Town Branch Commons Corridor will make our community safer for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. 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.

This connecting pathway creates opportunities for active commuting and recreation that will help residents build physical activity into their day, improving our community's public health.

The project will improve quality of life and economic opportunity through improved accessibility for all populations. 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 enthusiastically support of federal TIGER Grant funding for Town Branch Commons Corridor.

Sincerely,



Herbert A. Miller, Jr.

President

# CORNETT

April 26, 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 CORNETT, I am wiring to support the Town Branch Commons Corridor project, an investment in improved transportation and mobility for Lexington and the surrounding Bluegrass region.

My marketing firm is very interested in the quality of life here in Lexington, in particular how it relates to attracting and retaining a creative culture.

This project will have a tremendous and transformative impact on our community, creating a multi-modal corridor throughout the heart of our city and better connecting people to the neighborhoods, businesses, amenities and natural features of Central Kentucky.

Town Branch Commons Corridor will make our community safer for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. 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.

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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 enthusiastically raise our voice in support of the federal TIGER Grant funding for Town Branch Commons Corridor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kip Cornett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a stylized "C".

Kip Cornett  
President/CEO  
CORNETT



2300 Richmond Road  
Lexington, KY 40502

P 859.268.6333  
F 859.268.6327

[www.kentuckyamwater.com](http://www.kentuckyamwater.com)

April 12, 2016

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

Dear Mayor Gray,

Kentucky American Water brings national resources to our local management of the water systems in Fayette and portions of ten other counties in Central Kentucky. As such, we bring local, regional and national perspective to both community improvement and environmental stewardship. From that unique vantage point, we strongly support the Town Branch Commons Corridor project and the application for TIGER grant funding.

Like many other cities, Lexington has an aging sewer infrastructure. Another contributing factor to its sanitary sewer overflow is inflow and infiltration from rainwater entering and overwhelming the system. More than \$600 million will be spent to improve the sanitary sewer system in the next 10 years as part of a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency consent decree. The Town Branch Watershed, which contains this project, is targeted for 10 projects totaling \$156 million.

A key element in the Town Branch Commons Corridor project is a series of bioswales and rain gardens, which will effectively and responsibly manage rainwater as an alternative to the already-taxed storm-sewer system. They will not only provide much-needed greenspace in the heart of the city, they also can be shaped to create pockets of slow space within the promenade and protect walkers and bicyclists from surrounding vehicular traffic. Greenway gardens will collect, filter and slow stormwater runoff. Combined with the transportation infrastructure improvements, the project will create safer, more environmentally responsible spaces.

As a company committed to protecting the environment, we work to prevent pollution, promote sustainability and enhance the natural environment. The Town Branch Commons Corridor project will be a key component to helping Lexington and Kentucky American Water achieve our shared goals.

Sincerely,

Nick. O. Rowe  
President





April 8, 2016

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

Dear Mayor Gray,

On behalf of A Cup of Common Wealth and Common Wealth Mercantile, 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.

We are a quaint coffee shop and specialty shop on the eastern part of downtown. While we are just a small cog in the continued growth and success of Lexington, we feel it is important to pass on our support of the project. At our businesses we make all of our decisions based off of our mission: Embrace community. Serve others. Create culture.

We view the Town Branch Commons Corridor as something that fits into our mission and a project we would love to stand behind.

It is our understanding that the project will have:

“A tremendous and transformative impact on our community, creating a multimodal corridor throughout the heart of our city and better connecting people to the neighborhoods, businesses, amenities and natural features of Central Kentucky.

“Town Branch Commons Corridor will make our community safer for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. 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.

“This connecting pathway creates opportunities for active commuting and recreation that will help residents build physical activity into their day, improving our community’s public health.

“The project will improve quality of life and economic opportunity through improved accessibility for all populations . 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.”



Our team sees this as a profound step forward for Lexington and view it as an action that makes an impact on so many parties for the better.

For these reasons, we enthusiastically raise our voice in support of federal TIGER Grant funding for Town Branch Commons Corridor.

Sincerely,

Salvador Sanchez

Principal/Owner

A Cup of Common Wealth, LLC



April 8, 2016

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

Dear Mayor Gray,

As a business located along Vine Street, Kentucky Utilities sees the transportation challenges our employees, customers and visitors to downtown face every day – limited bike lanes, speeding car and an unwelcoming, cramped paths for pedestrians.

As an active member of our local chamber of commerce and a key economic development partner, we understand that recruiting jobs is as much about selling the city and lifestyle as it is about statistics and tax incentives.

And as corporate citizen, we realize that our city can do a better job connecting all our citizens to each other and to opportunity.

The Town Branch Commons Corridor project will improve transportation safety for walkers, bicyclists and bus riders while making the city more attractive to businesses, entrepreneurs and employees through enhanced quality of life in a vibrant downtown.

We wholeheartedly support this project, which will transform the community and boost our collective economic development efforts.

The Town Branch Commons Corridor project is a visionary approach that will help improve property values, increase commerce and revitalize neighborhoods. The time is now to start this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David F. Fairchild Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



# Lexington-Bluegrass Association of REALTORS®

2250 Regency Road  
Lexington, Kentucky 40503

Phone (859) 276-3503 · Fax (859) 277-0286  
elaine@LBAR.com

April 7, 2016

## OFFICERS

Carl Tackett  
President

Ty Brown  
President-Elect

John Groff  
Treasurer

Judy Craft  
Treasurer-Elect

Elaine Hangis  
Chief Executive Officer

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

Dear Mayor Gray,

On behalf of the Lexington Bluegrass Association of Realtors, 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.

As the region's leading advocate for homeownership, Lexington-Bluegrass Association of REALTORS® (LBAR) represents more than 2,600 REALTORS located in 22 Kentucky counties.

## DIRECTORS

Ben Allen  
Nancy Allison  
Greg Buchanan  
Matt Coomer  
Sallie Davidson  
Sha Fister  
Larry Freels  
Judy Giannasio  
Kristy Gooch  
Mike Gooch  
Todd Hyatt  
Lura Justice  
Becky Locknane  
Randy Newsome  
Amanda VS Marcum

This project will have a tremendous and transformative impact on our community, creating a multimodal corridor throughout the heart of our city and better connecting people to the neighborhoods, businesses, amenities and natural features of Central Kentucky.

Town Branch Commons Corridor will make our community safer for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. 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.

This connecting pathway creates opportunities for active commuting and recreations that will help residents build physical activity into their day, improving our community's public health.

The project will improve quality of life and economic opportunity through improved accessibility for all population. 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.

**HOME OWNERSHIP MATTERS**



The Voice for Real Estate™



The Honorable Jim Gray, Mayor  
April 7, 2016  
Page 2

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, shrub, rain gardens and storm water facilities.

For these reasons, we enthusiastically raise our voice in support of the federal TIGER Grant funding for Town Branch Commons Corridor.

Sincerely,



Carl Tackett  
President  
Lexington-Bluegrass Association of Realtors



April 12, 2016

The Honorable Jim Gray, Mayor  
Office of the Mayor  
200 E. Main St.  
Lexington, Ky. 40507

Dear Mayor Gray,

Sixteen years ago, I founded LRC, Lexington's Real Estate Company, with \$10,000 and one goal: affordable, high quality rental options for Lexington's disadvantaged neighborhoods. I saw the need for housing that residents could be proud of and for housing that would serve to enhance the community. Over the next several years, I've achieved this goal by providing superior and accessible rental housing to hundreds of Lexington residents.

Our most recent development projects, Main + Rose and Nunn Building Lofts, represent more than \$30 million worth of new Downtown Lexington development. These projects added more than 120 residential units and 25,000 square feet of retail space to Downtown Lexington.

I am now working with Community Ventures Corporation, a nonprofit community development organization, to redevelop the eastern end of downtown along Midland Avenue from Vine to Third Streets.

The Town Branch Commons Corridor Project will be a vital component in transforming this long-neglected section of downtown into a vital, connected neighborhood. It will provide a multimodal transportation link throughout downtown and beyond to our rural areas. This linkage is important for low-income residents who rely on alternate modes of transportation and young professionals who are attracted to downtown living but also want a park-like setting and biking/running pathways.

That's why I enthusiastically support the project and the grant application.

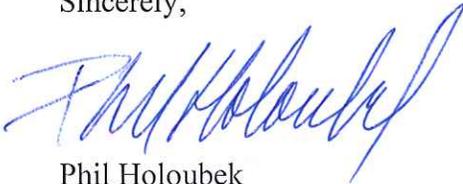
Midland Avenue is one of the greatest opportunities we have as a community to transform a gateway into our downtown. It brings together several different neighborhoods, which include low income, higher income and the downtown core all in one area. When you picture Midland Avenue right now, you might picture racing cars that are trying to get out of downtown from the downtown core out to Winchester Road without having to slow down or stop.

When you picture Midland Avenue a few years from now, you might envision multistory, mixed use projects and a very pedestrian-friendly environment that includes a grassy median, bike lanes, and sidewalks with people walking and hanging outside of cafes.

We need that critical mass and density on both sides of downtown. We really need people living downtown. Any vibrant downtown has not just people working downtown, but it has people eating, and playing and living downtown. To get that successful retail, you have to have those people living downtown as well.

Through private and public investment, this vision will become a reality. Town Branch Commons Corridor Project will be another recruiting tool to achieve that success, and the TIGER grant is a crucial foundation.

Sincerely,



Phil Holoubek



April 13, 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 PNC Financial Services Group, 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 PNC Financial Services Group is one of the United States' largest diversified financial services organizations with assets of \$358 billion. PNC operates primarily in 19 states. In Central Kentucky, PNC has 25 branches, employs 231 people and is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest bank in the region ranked by deposits.

This project will have a tremendous and transformative impact on our community, creating a multimodal corridor throughout the heart of our city and better connecting people to the neighborhoods, businesses, amenities and natural features of Central Kentucky.

Town Branch Commons Corridor will make our community safer for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. 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.

This connecting pathway creates opportunities for active commuting and recreation that will help residents build physical activity into their day, improving our community's public health.

The project will improve quality of life and economic opportunity through improved accessibility for all populations. 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.

The PNC Financial Services Group

301 East Main Street Suite 200 Lexington Kentucky 40507

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 enthusiastically raise our voice in support of federal TIGER Grant funding for Town Branch Commons Corridor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Gohmann", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Gohmann  
Regional President, Lexington Market  
PNC Bank

March 29, 2016

Gregory P. Parsons  
(859) 226-2314  
(859) 425-7928 FAX  
gparsons@stites.com

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

Dear Mayor Gray:

As the Lexington Office Executive Member of Stites & Harbison, PLLC, 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.

Stites & Harbison is a large, full-service law firm. Our Firm and its predecessors have been practicing law in Lexington for generations. Our offices are located in downtown Lexington. We are deeply invested in our community.

This project will have a tremendous and transformative impact on our community, creating an inviting corridor throughout the heart of our city and better connecting people to the neighborhoods, businesses, amenities and natural features of Central Kentucky.

Town Branch Commons Corridor will make our community safer for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. 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.

This connecting pathway creates opportunities for active commuting and recreation that will help residents build physical activity into their day, improving our community's public health.

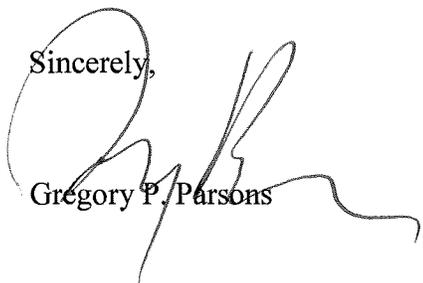
The project will improve quality of life and economic opportunity through improved accessibility for all populations. Businesses, residents and visitors will all benefit from this visionary investment that both preserves our past and prepares for our future. Town Branch Commons will improve property values, revitalize neighborhoods, encourage business growth and have a long-lasting positive regional impact.

The Honorable Jim Gray, Mayor  
March 29, 2016  
Page 2

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 enthusiastically support a federal TIGER Grant funding for Town Branch Commons Corridor.

Sincerely,



Gregory P. Parsons

GPP:kma

# Thistle Holdings, LLC

March 31, 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 Thistle Holdings, LLC, 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.

Thistle Holdings, LLC acquired and is in process of developing a 202 unit, 16 story, apartment structure with related retail on a four acre site located on Newtown Pike between W Third and W Fourth Sts in Lexington. The project, named Thistle Station in honor of Lexington's agricultural and railroad heritage has received zoning and TIF approvals. A General Contractor has been selected and three architect firms have been interviewed for the project. Specifically, Town Branch Commons constitutes a significant amenity for Thistle Station residents and businesses. We expect Town Branch Commons to bring downtown Lexington, and its many neighborhoods, a joint educational and socially significant and visitor attractive venue.

This project will have a tremendous and transformative impact on our community, creating a multimodal corridor throughout the heart of our city and better connecting people to the neighborhoods, businesses, amenities and natural features of Central Kentucky.

Town Branch Commons Corridor will make our community safer for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. 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.

## Thistle Holdings, LLC

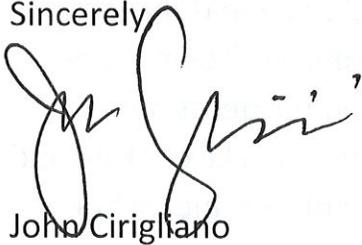
This connecting pathway creates opportunities for active commuting and recreation that will help residents build physical activity into their day, improving our community's public health.

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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 enthusiastically raise our voice in support of federal TIGER Grant funding for Town Branch Commons Corridor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Cirigliano". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "C".

John Cirigliano

Managing Member

Thistle Holdings, LLC

# The Livery



LEXINGTON EST. 1868 KENTUCKY

April 27th, 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 Livery, 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 Livery is downtown Lexington's premier event space. In a renovated old horse livery, the space serves as a meeting space for events such as weddings, corporate events, fundraisers and community development. Much like the livery in the past, our transformed space serves downtown in a way that connects both the art of the city as well as its commerce. Our back entrance opens up to the KU lot on Water Street and we imagine the day we look out the back window and see the water features and parks proposed.

This project will have a tremendous and transformative impact on our community, creating a multimodal corridor throughout the heart of our city and better connecting people to the neighborhoods, businesses, amenities and natural features of Central Kentucky. Town Branch Commons Corridor will make our community safer for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. 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 of downtown.

This connecting pathway creates opportunities for active commuting and recreation that will help residents build physical activity into their day, improving our community's public health. This project will improve quality of life and economic opportunity through improved accessibility for all populations. 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

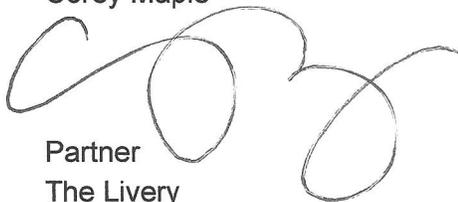
how it improves property values, revitalize neighborhoods, encourage business growth and have a long-lasting positive regional impact.

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 stormwater facilities.

For these reasons, we enthusiastically raise our voice in support of federal TIGER Grant funding for Town Branch Commons Corridor.

Sincerely,

Corey Maple

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Corey Maple', with a stylized, cursive script.

Partner  
The Livery



DAVID P. CLEMENT  
PRESIDENT – CENTRAL DIVISION

121 BUSH ROAD  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, 37217  
TELEPHONE: (615) 361-8550  
FAX: (615) 399-0167  
E-MAIL: clementd@vmcmail.com

April 28, 2016

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

Dear Mayor Gray,

On behalf of Vulcan Materials Company, I am writing to support the Town Branch Commons project, an investment in improved transportation and mobility for Lexington and the surrounding Bluegrass Region.

Vulcan Materials Company has been part of the Lexington community for more than 50 years, operating two sites in Fayette County. Our people are proud to give back to the communities in which we live and work, and being a strong community partner means recognizing unique opportunities to make a lasting difference.

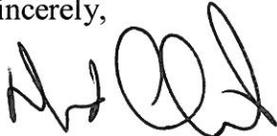
Vulcan is the largest producer of construction aggregates in the United States – primarily crushed stone, sand and gravel - and is also a major producer asphalt and ready-mixed concrete. Our coast-to-coast footprint and strategic distribution network align with and serve the nation's growth centers, and we are proud to serve the local and regional economy with our major operations in Lexington.

The Town Branch Commons project will have a tremendous and transformative impact on our community, creating a multimodal corridor throughout Central Kentucky and connecting people to neighborhoods, businesses, amenities and green space. This project will provide the employees of dozens of companies located along its path, like us, a safe alternative to automobiles for traveling to work and to leisure activities. It will also provide important connections to a multitude of parks, green space, and nature preserves.

A cornerstone of our business is our commitment to being a good neighbor, and always striving to build meaningful, lasting relationships. We look forward to fulfilling this commitment in this instance through our support the Town Branch Commons project. If Lexington is awarded the TIGER Grant, we will be pleased to supply \$50,000 worth of construction materials as an in-kind donation to this project.

Businesses, employees, residents, and visitors will all benefit from this visionary investment, and we enthusiastically raise our voice in support of federal TIGER Grant funding for Town Branch Commons.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and curves, positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

President – Central Division

April 26 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 West Sixth Brewing 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.

West Sixth Brewing is a production brewery and taproom located in an urban revitalization project called the Bread Box. We, along with several other tenants have redeveloped a 100-year-old abandoned bread factory and have turned a 90,000 square foot empty warehouse into a bustling center of commerce. West Sixth Brewing is one of the largest breweries in Kentucky, producing and distributing over 11,000 barrels of beer in 2014. We distribute our beer throughout the state of Kentucky, and are completely committed to our amazing city of Lexington.

This project will have a tremendous and transformative impact on our community, creating a multimodal corridor throughout the heart of our city and better connecting people to the neighborhoods, businesses, amenities and natural features of Central Kentucky.

Town Branch Commons Corridor will make our community safer for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. 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 . All of which will make our downtown more vibrant, having a positive impact on our business as well as our personal lives!

This connecting pathway creates opportunities for active commuting and recreation that will help residents build physical activity into their day, improving our community's public health.

The project will improve quality of life and economic opportunity through improved accessibility for all populations. 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 enthusiastically raise our voice in support of federal TIGER Grant funding for Town Branch Commons Corridor .

Sincerely,

  
Ben Self, co-founder, West Sixth Brewing

# Community Organization Support

*from*

Bluegrass Cycling Club

Charles Young Center Board

Commission for Citizens with Disabilities

Historic South Hill Neighborhood

Isaac Murphy Memorial Art Garden

Kenwick Neighborhood

Mentelle Park Neighborhood Association

Picnic with the Pops

Scott County Legacy Trail Extension Committee

Woodward Heights Neighborhood

YMCA of Lexington



**LEXINGTON**



Bluegrass Cycling Club  
PO Box 1397  
Lexington, KY 40511  
www.bgcycling.net

April 21, 2016

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

Dear Mayor Gray,

The Bluegrass Cycling Club is excited about the Town Branch Commons & Vine Street Mobility Improvements project. It is our understanding that you are seeking a TIGER grant to help further this project. Our club has just over a 1,000 members and we have great interest in seeing this project completed. A project that once completed will no doubt increase the connectivity of the city, but also the region as plans are being made throughout the region to increase connectivity and access. We know by experience that these projects encourage and enable people to become active and not only enjoy the wealth of beauty and assets our community has to offer, but also improve the physical health of individuals and the economic health of the region. As an example of economic impact we just held our 38th annual Horsey Hundred this past Memorial Day weekend and we had over 2,500 riders attend from 32 states, Canada, Denmark and the United Kingdom. Many come early and stay later to enjoy our city and region.

We strongly support this effort and I pledge to you my willingness to work with you in any way or manner you need.

Good luck and I look forward to what we can all accomplish together.

Sincerely,



Patrick Wesolosky  
Bluegrass Cycling Club

April 8, 2016

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

Dear Mayor Gray,

The Charles Young Community Center has been a gathering place for Lexington's East End neighborhood for more than 70 years – and it promotes a variety of programs, recreational activities, and services for children, seniors and all ages in between.

Many of our clients – children and adults alike – have mobility and transportation challenges. In the time since our Center first opened, the roads surrounding it have grown into major thoroughfares for vehicle traffic, but feature little accommodation for bus-riders, walkers, or bikers.

Even just crossing the street can be dangerous in places. That's why the Charles Young Center supports the Town Branch Commons Corridor project. We believe the improvements planned for the section going through our neighborhood will create a much safer, calmer and accessible atmosphere – encouraging children to attend programs and promoting peace of mind among parents.

The Center wants to become a vital run on the ladder of opportunity for families in this area. We believe that the transportation improvements are critical component of making sure families feel comfortable connecting with the center and its services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'JS' followed by a stylized flourish.

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government

## COMMISSION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



April 11, 2016

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

Dear Mayor Gray,

The Commission for People with Disabilities was appointed to promote the inclusion and empowerment of people with disabilities throughout our community, and to advise both your office and the Urban County Council on issues that affect accessibility in Lexington.

Our mission is broad-ranging – from promoting public awareness about handicap parking to promoting businesses who are proactive about hiring individuals with disabilities. But one of our core concerns always must be the basic accessibility of public buildings, thoroughfares and amenities.

Accessibility for all citizens is why we support the proposed Town Branch Commons Corridor project. Downtown has long been fragmented. Many improvements have been made, though there are still areas where the sidewalks are narrow, missing or too obstructed to accommodate wheelchairs. Inadequate bus shelters, incomplete sidewalks and a lack of pedestrian crossings is unsafe for all users, making our city inaccessible for people with disabilities – many of whom have no alternative but public transportation.

Traffic calming will be a significant benefit for people who have restricted mobility. Crossing the street at several locations throughout downtown can be challenging for even the most confident pedestrians. For those of us who move a little more slowly, it can be so intimidating that it discourages us from even trying. Residents and visitors alike should have easy access to the transit center, Libraries, and public parks.

The Commission has long supported improved access between the Downtown Transit Center and the rest of Downtown. Currently the only options are to take an elevator to the viaduct or travel long distances to the next crosswalk in either direction.

This proposal will rebalance the roadway and make the entire passage ADA compliant. We support these efforts to make downtown Lexington safer and more accommodating to all our residents.

Sincerely,

Roger Daman  
Vice Chairman  
Commission for Citizens with Disabilities  
(859) 227-6640  
[rdaman@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:rdaman@lexingtonky.gov)

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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 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



May 27, 2016

Mayor Jim Gray  
Lexington Fayette Urban County Government  
200 East Main Street  
Lexington, KY 40507

Dear Mayor Gray,

It's no secret that Lexington takes great pride in its history and its horse racing. The recently constructed Isaac Murphy Memorial Art Garden combines both of those elements by telling the story of often overlooked African American jockeys in the sport of Thoroughbred racing. With its colorful story boards, large circular amphitheater and handsome stone walls, the garden is an outdoor classroom that celebrate the post-Civil War struggles and accomplishments of black horseman, some of whom, like Isaac Murphy, reached the pinnacle of their sport. The garden is more than a green oasis on the side of the road. It is a soothing welcome sign at the gateway of a neighborhood in the midst of a rebirth. While honoring our equine history, the garden is also helping to transform the too-often negative perception of the East End neighborhood, a mostly African American enclave located just a stone's throw from the heart of downtown Lexington.

The Isaac Murphy garden is a success story born out of a public/private partnership and the vision of a group of dedicated people who had a dream and chased it. The members of the Isaac Murphy Memorial Art Garden advisory board believe the Town Branch Commons Corridor will be an even greater catalyst for downtown Lexington. Therefore, the board wholeheartedly endorses this project.

We believe the Town Branch Commons, with its linear park-like design, will make downtown more pedestrian friendly, and that in turn will bring more people downtown and to those neighborhoods bordering downtown, like the East End. It is worth noting that the Town Branch Commons Corridor will originate at a point very close to the Isaac Murphy garden, thus further enhancing the gateway to our neighborhood.

For these reasons and more, the Isaac Murphy Memorial Art Garden advisory board offers its full support of this innovative project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas Tolliver D.C.".

Thomas Tolliver

President, Isaac Murphy Memorial Art Garden board

**Isaac Murphy Memorial Art Garden c/o Blue Grass Community Foundation**

499 High St • Suite 112 • Lexington, KY 40507 • (859) 225-3343

[www.isaacmurphy.org](http://www.isaacmurphy.org)



# 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.

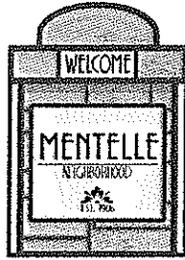
Town Branch Commons Corridor will create a multimodal corridor throughout the heart of the city, and will greatly improve the ability of our neighborhood's residents to safely reach businesses, amenities, and natural features of Central Kentucky without an automobile. Furthermore, this project will make 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



Mentelle Neighborhood Association

[www.mentelle.org](http://www.mentelle.org)

April 18, 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 Mentelle Neighborhood Association, 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 Mentelle Neighborhood has over 300 households in downtown Lexington and near Town Branch Commons Corridor. Our mission is to improve our neighborhood through our community. This includes hosting informational talks of community and general interest, connecting residents with LFUCG officials and services, and advocating for those city amenities that will benefit our neighborhood. Town Branch Commons Corridor is such an amenity.

The streets of our neighborhood were laid in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. During that era, walking, cycling, and public transportation were common and convenient modes of daily transportation for Lexingtonians. Unfortunately, as automobiles have proliferated, these options have become less safe and desirable. However, Town Branch Commons Corridor holds tremendous transformative potential for reconnecting neighborhoods to each other and downtown as they were before cars.

Town Branch Commons Corridor creates 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.

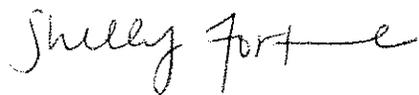
Maintaining an attractive natural environment in the city and broader region will further support outdoor recreation and active lifestyles.

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. Therefore, Mentelle Neighborhood Association enthusiastically supports federal TIGER Grant funding for Town Branch Commons Corridor.

Sincerely,

 Linda Wiley, vice-president

Mentelle Neighborhood Board Members

 Shelly Fort - president



April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016

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

**Commission Members**

Jim Gray  
*Mayor*

Robert Morris  
*Chair*

Connie Hale  
*Vice Chair and Treasurer*

Sharon Reed  
*Secretary*

Lori Houlihan

Scott Terrell

Frances E. Elsen

Sarayarose Brewer

Everett McCorvey

Barbara Gail Bennett

Harry Clarke

Stacie Williams

Penny Ebel

Kip Cornett

Jake Gibbs, *LFUCG Council  
Member, 3rd District*

Sharon Caruso  
*Recording Secretary*  
Picnic with the Pops Commission  
c/o LFUCG Division of Parks and  
Recreation  
469 Parkway Drive  
Lexington, KY 40504

Dear Mayor Gray,

On behalf of the Picnic with the Pops Commission, 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.

Picnic with the Pops is a commission of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government committed to improving quality of life in Lexington through outdoor performances with the Lexington Philharmonic Orchestra and popular guest artists. We are also chartered with finding suitable public spaces for these outdoor performances.

Town Branch Commons Corridor will have a tremendous and transformative impact on our community, creating a multimodal corridor throughout the heart of our city and better connecting our people to the neighborhoods, businesses, public spaces, amenities and natural features of Central Kentucky.

This project will improve quality of life and economic opportunity through improved accessibility for all. 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 enhance property values, spur neighborhood revitalization, and encourage business growth. This project will have a long-lasting positive regional impact on our people, economy, and culture.

Town Branch Commons Corridor will make our community safer for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. 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.

This connecting pathway creates opportunities for active commuting and recreation that will help residents build physical activity into their day, improving our community's public health.

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 enthusiastically raise our voice in support of federal TIGER Grant funding for Town Branch Commons Corridor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rob Morris", is written over a blue horizontal line.

Rob Morris  
Commission Chair

\*\*\*\*\**Christie Robinson*

**111 Shadowcreek Path  
Georgetown, Kentucky  
40324**

April 8, 2016

The Honorable Jim Gray, Mayor  
Office of the Mayor  
200 E. Main St.  
Lexington, Ky. 40507

Dear Mayor Gray,

I am a part of an excited, dedicated group of citizens working to extend the Legacy Trail – currently a 12-mile walking and biking trail through Lexington – all the way through the Kentucky Horse Park and into Georgetown. The Legacy Trail was originally designed to link non-driving downtown guests with the Kentucky Horse Park. The extension would continue the trail four miles through the Horse Park and then another 3 miles to Georgetown.

Those of us interested in the Legacy Trail extension are very supportive of the Town Branch Commons Corridor Project and believe it is well-deserving of TIGER grant investment. We understand that the value of trails expand exponentially when they tie into other pedestrian or bike-friendly passageways. The Town Branch Commons Corridor Project is a great example of that. We are working toward a day when Georgetown residents could easily commute by bike to downtown Lexington jobs – but that depends on having safe, efficient ways to get around downtown once they arrive.

By improving the overall traffic picture in Lexington – making it safer for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers – we believe the Town Branch project will dramatically improve the safety, feel and flow of downtown Lexington.

Sincerely,

*Christie Robinson*

Christie Robinson ([christiemrobinson@gmail.com](mailto:christiemrobinson@gmail.com))

Chair, Scott County Legacy Trail Extension Committee

**WOODWARD HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

April 1, 2016

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

Dear Mayor Gray:

Please accept this letter of support for the Town Branch Commons. As president of **Historic Woodward Heights Neighborhood Association**, which is immediately adjacent to the proposed site, I speak for our entire neighborhood when I say this is a monumental and history-making project with huge potential to improve quality of life in Lexington.

Our downtown neighborhood has climbed out of the abyss resulting from the exodus to the suburbs in the 1950s and the misguided urban renewal efforts of the 1960s and early 1970s. As one of the only remaining Victorian-era neighborhoods in Lexington, we have clung to the hope that Lexington would one day come to its senses and do something forward-thinking with the vast parking lots and industrial detritus surrounding the Town Branch waterway.

This little stream meandering through downtown Lexington was originally the lifeblood of the community and the town grew up around it. It enabled commerce and Lexington's critical early development. In its next incarnation, as Town Branch Commons, it can build a healthier, more connected populace. There are so many reasons that this is the right "next step" for Lexington.

We now have hope! Please support this project and put resources toward making Town Branch Commons a reality. The project will quite literally transform Lexington and act as a bridge bringing people and neighborhoods together and allowing all to enjoy a livable, walk-able, more vibrant community.

Thank you for your support of this project that has the power to shape our future.

Sincerely,

Fran Taylor

Fran Taylor, President  
Woodward Heights Neighborhood Association



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

April 8, 2016

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

Dear Mayor Gray,

Families, fitness, social responsibility – those are the watchwords for the YMCA of Central Kentucky. And nowhere are those priorities more apparent than our High Street YMCA, which is located in the heart of downtown Lexington.

We serve those who work and live in the city. And at this downtown location, we provide temporary shelter for people in need. We strive every day to advance the health of Lexington residents through fitness, diabetes classes and other offerings.

We are excited to support the Town Branch Commons Corridor project – particularly the improvements to the Transit Center area – because it will further our efforts to serve people at all socioeconomic levels.

As neighbors, we know the Town Branch Commons Corridor project will enhance and connect people to other downtown amenities, jobs and social services. It will remove barriers to public transportation and encourage more people to walk and bike.

We must reverse the unhealthy state of the Commonwealth, which ranks near the top in smoking, obesity, diabetes and cancer. Too many of those illnesses can be traced back to lifestyles and behavior. The Y is working with individuals and families to develop healthy lifestyles while they are in our facilities and as they go about their daily lives. But people need additional opportunities to incorporate exercise into their daily routines.

Because a lack of physical activity is one of the most important indicators for a host of health problems, including obesity, linear parks that connect



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

neighborhoods and provide opportunities for walking, running and biking have potential to significantly improve the health of residents.

A 2014 UCLA study found that linear recreational/commuting pathways, especially around water, appeared to have an impact on public health, specifically citing one study that found that "every \$1 investment in trails for physical activity led to \$2.94 in direct medical benefit."

An investment from the city and a TIGER grant will be an important step to transforming lives through healthier living and connectedness to community, jobs and downtown amenities.

Sincerely,

David Martorano  
President & CEO