

April 25, 2014

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

RE: St. Louis Central Corridor Transit Enhancement and Job Access Program

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to express the strong support of Cortex for the Central Corridor Transit Enhancement and Job Access Program and the 2014 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER 2014) Grant Application submitted by the Bi-State Development Agency (dba Metro).

Cortex is a not-for-profit organization focused on positioning St. Louis as a regional, national and international hub for technology research, development and commercialization. To achieve this objective, Cortex has developed and is implementing a mixed-use master plan vision for a 200-acre technology district located in the midtown area of the City of St. Louis.

Alternative transportation plays a critical role in this master plan, and is essential for us in achieving our goal of becoming the technology epicenter for innovation and entrepreneurship in the St. Louis region. Car optional transit choices, bicycle facilities, and walkability are all central to the mixed-use innovation district that Cortex is creating. The new Cortex MetroLink light rail station and the bike trail segment associated with it are key investments to advance this objective, and the Central West End station improvements ensure that the light rail system will be an excellent alternative for workers to move within the central corridor and between Cortex and other major employment centers in the region. Further, the proposed investments will build on and leverage the soon to be completed new I-64 interchange to enhance connections between adjacent neighborhoods, new employment centers, and a major new public open space that we are building, the Cortex Commons.

Because of the significance of this TOD project and the positive jobs creation impact it will have on St. Louis' central corridor and the community as a whole, **Cortex will commit \$2,000,000 in Cortex District tax increment financing (TIF) funds as a match towards the grant application.** In



2012, a City TIF overlay master plan was approved by the Board of Alderman to assist in the redevelopment of the technology district. Though the majority of approved TIF funding is dedicated to incentivize private developers, a portion has been reserved for street infrastructure and public amenities. Cortex will direct \$2,000,000 of the infrastructure portion to support development of the proposed MetroLink station. The first TIF bonds related to the District are being prepared for issuance in July 2014. The match dollars for the Central Corridor Transit Enhancement project will be dedicated from the second TIF bond issuance related to projects currently under development, including an IKEA store one block from the proposed Metro station and slated to open in 2015.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you and Metro to advance this important project.

Sincerely,



Dennis Lower  
President & CEO





For a clean, green, connected St. Louis region.

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

April 11, 2014

Honorable Anthony Foxx  
United States Secretary of Transportation  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: TIGER Grant for the CORTEX MetroLink Station in St. Louis

Dear Secretary Foxx,

On behalf of the Great Rivers Greenway District, we support the TIGER Discretionary Grant application for the CORTEX MetroLink Light Rail Station and Bicycle/Pedestrian Link project. This initiative has strong potential to be a catalyst for significant economic development in the Central Corridor of the City of St. Louis. Furthermore the project complements Great Rivers Greenway's long-term plans for Chouteau Greenway, a four-mile open space corridor linking Forest Park with the Mississippi Riverfront and Gateway Arch.

For over a dozen years, Great Rivers Greenway has demonstrated overwhelming commitment to the realization of Chouteau Greenway. Through the formation of strategic partnerships of the local business community, major institutions, non-profit organizations and a variety of public agencies, the plans for Chouteau Greenway have evolved from a conceptual vision to a technical alignment study which is currently underway.

Following completion of the study later this year, the District intends to incorporate implementation funds in upcoming capital budgets. The segment of Chouteau Greenway between Boyle and Sarah Avenues, with connection to the proposed CORTEX MetroLink light rail station, is considered a high priority and strategically important connection in the overall greenway corridor.

**Making the St. Louis region a better place to live.**

Great Rivers Greenway | 6174A Delmar Boulevard St. Louis, MO 63112 | Phone 314.436.7009 | Fax 314.436.8004





**For a clean, green, connected St. Louis region.**

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

Great Rivers Greenway strongly encourages the Department of Transportation to provide a TIGER Discretionary Grant to develop the proposed light rail station and associated bicycle/pedestrian facilities at CORTEX. Should you have any questions regarding the District's support, please contact us at 314-436-7009.

Sincerely,

Susan Trautman  
Executive Director  
Great Rivers Greenway District

**Making the St. Louis region a better place to live.**

Great Rivers Greenway | 6174A Delmar Boulevard St. Louis, MO 63112 | Phone 314.436.7009 | Fax 314.436.8004

