



September 30, 2022

The Honorable Amit Bose, Administrator  
Federal Rail Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Kansas City Riverfront Railroad Crossing Elimination Study**

Dear Mr. Bose:

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for the Kansas City Riverfront Railroad Crossing Elimination Study grant application. We enthusiastically endorse this project to improve safety and create better connections between the Berkley Riverfront and adjacent neighborhoods by eliminating and replacing the at-grade rail crossings on Lydia Avenue between Guinotte Avenue/1<sup>st</sup> Street and Berkley Parkway/Front Street.

Kansas City and Port KC have made enormous strides in improving the riverfront and creating a regional amenity along the Missouri River. New developments there adds housing, employment, and recreational opportunities. However, the railroad lines immediately to the south create a barrier between the Riverfront and nearby neighborhoods. Today, Lydia Avenue is the only connection between the Riverfront and the neighborhoods to the south and east of Missouri Highway 9. This connection remains slow and unsafe as it requires crossing four railroad lines at-grade. The connection is especially inappropriate for pedestrian or bicycle usage.

The Housing Authority of Kansas City, Missouri operates the Guinotte Manor public housing development between Troost and Lydia in the Columbus Park neighborhood immediately south of the railroad tracks. This 219-unit development has apartments and townhomes ranging up to four-bedrooms in size. As you can imagine, there are a lot of large families with children at the site. We would like for them to have easier and safer access to the Riverfront for both the employment and recreation.

Safer connections along Lydia Avenue will encourage additional development opportunities in the area, connect neighborhood residents to jobs, and support the significant investments along the Riverfront. We are excited to see the positive impacts this study will have on our community and look forward for the chance to lend further support in its implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edwin Lowndes".

Edwin Lowndes,  
Executive Director

cc: Congressman Emanuel Cleaver, II, Fifth District of Missouri