

Columbus Park Community Council

A non-profit neighborhood association

September 22, 2022

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

RE: Kansas City Riverfront Railroad CRISI Grant Application

Dear Mr. Bose:

Thank you for the opportunity to express support for the Kansas City Riverfront Consolidated Rail Infrastructure & Safety Improvements grant application. We enthusiastically endorse this project to improve safety and create better connections between the Berkley Riverfront and adjacent neighborhoods by eliminating the at-grade rail crossings on Lydia Avenue.

Kansas City and Port KC have made enormous strides in improving the riverfront and creating a regional amenity along the Missouri River. However, the railroad lines to the south create a barrier between the Riverfront and adjacent neighborhoods such as Columbus Park. Today, Lydia Avenue is the only connection between the Riverfront and the neighborhoods to the east and south and requires crossing four railroad lines at-grade. Trains often park on the crossing for long periods of time, blocking cars, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

Continuing development along the Riverfront, particularly the construction of the new KC Current stadium, will continue to attract more residents, workers, and visitors to the area. Removing the at-grade rail crossings at Lydia Avenue will provide a safer connection between the Riverfront and the Kansas City community.

Improving connections by eliminating the at-grade crossings will also advance economic development of the area. 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. This is especially vital to Columbus Park and nearby areas, who are home to public and affordable housing, and who wish to attract and retain more young people and families. Many workers in service jobs rely on our neighborhoods to provide stable housing and a safe, walkable community.

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 black ink, appearing to read "Kate Barsotti". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K" and a prominent "B".

Kate Barsotti
President
Columbus Park Community Council

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