



December 14, 2022

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

RE: Kansas City Riverfront CRISI Study

Dear Mr. Bose:

Thank you for the opportunity for the Housing Authority to express its 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.

The Housing Authority of Kansas City, Missouri operates the Guinotte Manor public housing development between Troost and Lydia Avenues 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 many 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.

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. 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.

Continuing development along the Riverfront, particularly the construction of the new KC Current stadium and the pending KC Streetcar Riverfront Extension, 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.

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,

Edwin Lowndes,
Executive Director

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