To: Ashley Myers, Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Office

The Santa Fe Station in East Lawrence is both the city's gateway to the national Amtrak passenger rail service and - potentially - a key component of the emerging Warehouse Arts District. Rehabilitation of this facility will improve the safety and enhance the comfort of travelers arriving in and departing from Lawrence. It can also lead to greater use of the facility for any number of worthwhile purposes, given its strategic location just east of the city center.

An advocacy group known as Depot Redux has worked tirelessly for several years in support of the restoration of this mid-century modern landmark. The project enjoys substantial support in the community and within the municipal government. The highly competitive TE grant, awarded in 2014, is essential to the success of the project. It is crucial that this grant not be allowed to slip away, even though projected costs of the project have changed in that time.

Along with other members of the Depot Redux group, I encourage the Transportation Advisory Board to approve the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program – Amendment #4 which includes the addition and revision of costs and schedules for multi-modal roadway and rail depot projects.

Kevin Boatright

MPO response 1-17-18

Thank you for your comments. We will share your comments with the Technical Advisory Committee and the MPO Policy Board as they vote to approve the TIP amendment in February.

Date received 1-12-18

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