



**Plymouth Area Chamber of Commerce
Higher Education Leadership Council**



April 29, 2016

Mr. Francis Gay, Administrator
GATRA
10 Oak St. 2nd Floor
Taunton, MA 02780

Dear Mr. Gay:

On behalf of the members of the Plymouth Area Chamber of Commerce Higher Education Leadership Council, I am pleased to present this letter in support of the Greater Attleboro-Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA)'s application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's FY 2015 TIGER Discretionary Grants for the Plymouth Multimodal Center in Plymouth, MA.

The member schools of the HELC, Bridgewater State University, Cape Cod Community College, Curry College, Massasoit Community College and Quincy College, as well as the Superintendent of the Plymouth Public Schools, have identified the lack of transportation options as a major factor in limiting student success in Plymouth.

This project will support Ladders of Opportunity by investing in infrastructure that improves access to jobs, services, medical care and education while saving time, money and environmental impacts through transportation choice. Many students who would be served by the project have median incomes substantially lower than both the Town of Plymouth as a whole and Massachusetts. These students are also more dependent on transit to commute to work than the Town of Plymouth as a whole.

For all of the reasons enumerated above and more, the Chamber's Higher Education Leadership Council urges your support for this important economic development project.

Sincerely,



Kevin O'Reilly
Executive Director