



The Plymouth Area
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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April 20, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Gay:

The Plymouth Area Chamber of Commerce, representing over seven-hundred businesses across the South Shore, is 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 project is a true intermodal center located within a 10-minute walk of the Plymouth Main Street business district, as well as historic and working waterfront sites. Residents, visitors, tourists, and boaters may utilize a range of transportation modes housed at the proposed Multimodal Center including GATRA bus service, a seasonal circulator shuttle, parking, pedestrian connections, bicycle accommodations, taxi and pedi-cab services.

The 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. Residents of the project area have median incomes substantially lower than both the Town of Plymouth as a whole and Massachusetts. Residents of the project area are also more dependent on transit to commute to work than the Town of Plymouth as a whole.

A key priority for the project is the provision of enhanced pedestrian connections between the waterfront and the business and cultural venues along Court/Main Streets. Two new public spaces are created as part of this project as well as an enclosed area for a local bicycle sharing program or bicycle rental facility.

Additional parking spaces are provided to meet well-documented seasonal shortages, transit use and ferry services. Centralizing parking in the downtown with strong transit connections reduces vehicle miles travelled, and therefore, reduced emissions as well as supporting tourism and economic opportunity in Plymouth.

The project provides for mixed-use development including an expanded visitor center and unique leasable spaces along Water Street. Not only does this buffer the scale and industrial quality of structured parking from the historic Plymouth waterfront, but helps to stitch together the urban and economic ambitions of the project into a single identity that will enhance the growth, development and character of the Plymouth waterfront.

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It provides increased year round viability for Memorial Hall due to additional adjacent parking and transportation connections provided by the Plymouth Multimodal Center. It also provides access to jobs along the Plymouth waterfront and downtown area, as well as to employment and service centers served by GATRA routes.

The Plymouth Multimodal Center will include innovative technology for parking and transit, and can pursue LEED certification due to community connectivity, provisions for alternative transportation, storm-water design, low emitting materials and construction waste management and recycling.

For all of the reasons enumerated above and more, the Chamber urges your support for this important economic development project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin O'Reilly". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Kevin O'Reilly
Executive Director