

**Plymouth Growth and Development Corporation
40 Court Street, Floor 1, Unit 1
Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360
(P.O. Box 3544, Plymouth, MA 02361)**

April 25, 2016

**Francis J. Gay, Administrator
GATRA
10 Oak Street, 2nd Floor
Taunton, MA 02780**

**SUBJECT: Plymouth Transportation & Visitor's Center Project
2016 TIGER GRANT APPLICATION LETTER OF SUPPORT**

Dear Frank,

The Plymouth Growth & Development Corporation supports the Greater Attleboro-Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA)'s application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's FY 2016 TIGER Discretionary Grants for the Plymouth Transportation & Visitor's Center in Plymouth, MA.

This project will create a true intermodal center in the heart of the Historic Plymouth Downtown/Waterfront District. Residents, employees, visitors and tourists may utilize a range of transportation modes that will be located within the proposed Center including GATRA bus service, parking, car and bike share/rentals, pedestrian connections, taxi and pedi-cab services. Vastly improved transit amenities will be provided including an inside bus passenger waiting area with transit routing and schedule information.

Multi-Modal

The Transportation & Visitor's Center provides enhanced passenger experience for the growing number of GATRA bus passengers and allows better connections for shuttles to remote parking locations for special events and tourist traffic. The transportation center will connect via GATRA buses to MBTA passenger rail service to Boston, Plymouth & Brockton intercity bus service to Boston and passenger ferry services to Provincetown. 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 Street. The multi-modal aspect of the new Center will reduce vehicle-miles traveled and vehicle emissions.

Parking

The project will provide additional structured parking spaces to serve the new Center and downtown/waterfront area. By centralizing parking in the downtown with strong transit connections, other existing surface parking areas along the waterfront can be redeveloped for uses that support community development efforts for downtown Plymouth.

Mixed-Use Development and Tourism

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. The additional parking and transit amenities, services and connections provided by the project will increase the year-round viability of the adjacent Memorial Hall as a performing arts center.

Ladders of Opportunity

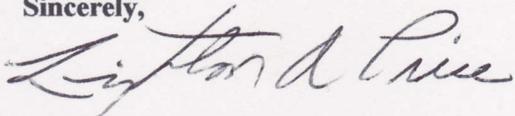
The new Center will provide access to jobs, services, medical care and education while saving time, money and environmental impacts through transportation choice. In addition to providing essential connections to bus and rail services for many residents and tourists, GATRA service benefits populations that are dependent upon transit service - those unable to transport themselves due to their age, income, or health conditions. Residents of the project area have median incomes substantially lower than both the Town of Plymouth as a whole and Massachusetts, and residents of the project area are also more dependent on transit to commute to work than the Town of Plymouth as a whole.

Innovation

The Plymouth Transportation & Visitor's Center will include innovative technology for parking and transit. LEED certification can also be pursued based on community connectivity, provisions for alternative transportation, stormwater design, low emitting materials, and construction waste management and recycling.

For the aforementioned reasons, the Plymouth Growth & Development Corporation strongly supports this application.

Sincerely,



**Leighton A. Price, President
Plymouth Growth and Development Corporation**