



U.S. Congressman Andy Barr
2430 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Barr:

Commerce Lexington Inc., VisitLEX and the Downtown Lexington Partnership work each day to support local businesses, promote the region as a great place to live, work and visit, and position Lexington as a vibrant and economically powerful urban core. Central Kentucky's economic vitality depends on a safe and efficient transportation network for business and industry, as well as the many visitors who come to the Bluegrass annually.

For more than two decades, community leaders representing our organizations have advocated for transportation improvements to the Newtown Pike corridor. It is a vital transportation artery for Central Kentucky's economic and workforce development – serving as the central “connection point” for north/south and east/west interstate commerce.

Our three organizations fully support investments in the Newtown Extension to improve interconnectivity in the region and along the state's vital corridors. Maintaining adequate funding for transportation infrastructure is one of the most important investments in economic development. Funding for the Newtown Pike Extension is a critical to completing this project, which contributes greatly to:

- Reducing congestion and improving public safety.
- Improving connectivity to interstate highways I-75, I-64 and I-65 and other state highways, the Bluegrass Airport, rail systems and public transit.
- Strengthening economic competitiveness and logistics infrastructure for key employers in Central Kentucky, who employ thousands of the region's workers.
- Improving access to the higher education providers like the University of Kentucky, Bluegrass Community and Technical College and Transylvania University.
- Improving access to regional healthcare providers.
- Enhancing access to signature tourism destinations, including downtown Lexington and the newly expanded and renovated convention space at Central Bank Center, Rupp Arena at Central Bank Center, Keeneland Racecourse, bourbon distilleries, horse farms, Alltech, the Distillery District entertainment destination and numerous restaurants and retail stores.

We appreciate your support of federal funding for the Newtown Extension.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Quick, CCE
President & CEO
Commerce Lexington Inc.

Mary Quinn Ramer
President & CEO
VisitLEX

Terry Sweeney
President & CEO
Downtown Lexington Partnership