



LEXINGTON CENTER®

April 21, 2021

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

Dear Congressman Barr:

Lexington Center Corporation, a not for profit agency of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, is nearing completion of an over \$300 million replacement, expansion and renovation of Central Bank Center and Rupp Arena at Central Bank Center. This ambitious project comes after almost 10 years in planning and will take our convention meeting facilities to a new level expanding Lexington as a convention destination and extending the life of one of college sports best-known basketball venues. The economic benefits expected from this expansion for the entire region will add jobs and vitality. The success of this initiative depends on a safe and efficient transportation network for business and the many visitors accessing our urban core. For these reasons, I urge support for completing the Newtown Extension project.

Completion of the Newtown Pike Extension is vital for improving access to and from the interstate highway system and will contribute 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.

Thank you for your support of federal funding necessary to complete this important transportation project.

Sincerely,

Bill Owen
President CEO

Lexington Center Corporation

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