



The Fayette Alliance

601 West Short Street, Ste. 200
Lexington, KY 40508
(859) 281-1202

Board of Directors

Larkin Armstrong
Antony Beck
Jim Bell
Todd Clark
Thomas Gaines
Greg Goodman
Margaret Graves
Arnold Kirkpatrick
Debbie Long
Patrick McGee
John Nicholson
Nick Nicholson
John Phillips
Walt Robertson
Don Robinson
Mackenzie Royce
Jim Shropshire
David Switzer
Emma Tibbs
Gay Haggin VanMeter
Jack van Nagell
Holly Wiedemann
Judy Worth

Executive Director

Elizabeth Knox van Nagell

Shane Tucker
Office of Local Programs
Transportation Cabinet
200 Mero Street
Frankfort, KY 40622

February 20th, 2009

Dear Mr. Tucker,

I am writing this letter on behalf of The Fayette Alliance. The Fayette Alliance is Lexington's only land-use advocacy organization dedicated solely to protecting our renowned rural landscape in Fayette County and strengthening the city of Lexington through innovative infill redevelopment and adequate infrastructure.

If responsibly pursued, this growth approach will improve our city and protect our productive and beautiful farmland--creating a quality of life crucial to Lexington- Fayette County's economic and environmental success today and in the future.

In furtherance of this mission, The Fayette Alliance supports LFUCG's federal grant application to finance and improve the "Town Branch" Trail.

With federal funding, LFUCG will re-grade a dangerous section of Old Frankfort Pike for the placement of a pedestrian crossing—connecting McConnell Springs Nature Park with the historic Town Branch Creek and Trail. This part of the Town Branch Trail will carry bicyclists and pedestrians to the following Lexington-Fayette County landmarks:

- McConnell Springs- An urban nature preserve filled with native flora, fauna, and unique karst hydrology; also the site of Lexington's founding in 1775
- Spring Hill- An antebellum farmstead with original outbuildings;
- Old Woolen Mill- Circa 1820 stone ruins of an industrial building beside the Town Branch Creek;
- Town Branch Creek- Middle fork of the Elkhorn on whose banks the town was settled in 1779; substantial remains of a 200-year-old dry laid limestone creek bank still stands in this area

Town Branch Trail is a cultural amenity that will promote local tourism and alternative modes of transportation in Lexington's urban core—making the city a vibrant destination for knowledge-based professionals and market investment, while reducing growth pressure on our limited Bluegrass farmland and minimizing the carbon footprint of our metro area.

For these reasons, The Fayette Alliance strongly supports LFUCG's federal grant proposal for the Town Branch Trail.

Sincerely,

Knox van Nagell