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MARC
MID-AMERICA REGIONAL COUNCIL

November 24, 2026

Missouri Department of Transportation

City of Kansas City, Missouri

Dear regional planning partners,

On behalf of the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), I am writing to express our support for the Parkway Alternative and the broader Reconnecting the East Side project. The project's purpose to improve safety, multimodal access and mobility, and address congestion along the US-71 corridor is an important investment in Kansas City and the region. Its goals of addressing the highway's existing effects on nearby properties, implementing cost-effective solutions, and partnering with the local community are also important.

As the metropolitan planning organization for the Kansas City region, MARC recognizes the importance of transportation investments that improve mobility while strengthening connections among neighborhoods, employment, businesses and community destinations. The US-71 corridor serves an important transportation function, but its design also affects how people access and experience the communities along it.

MARC supports the Parkway Alternative because it offers an opportunity to better balance regional mobility with improved local access, safety and connectivity. A more context-sensitive corridor can strengthen connections across US-71, improve access to businesses and community destinations, and better serve people traveling by different modes. MARC also appreciates the emphasis on public engagement. Continued collaboration among the Missouri Department of Transportation, the City of Kansas City, community members, businesses and regional partners will be important as the project advances.

We support efforts to address the Federal Consent Decree so the project team can move forward with the Parkway Alternative and continue advancing a safer, more accessible and better-connected US-71 corridor.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to engaging communities and regional partners in shaping the future of this corridor.

Sincerely,

Geraldine Gardner
Executive Director

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