

November 13, 2019

**Resolution No. 190951** - Testimony for Transportation, Infrastructure and Operations Committee

Dear Chair Teresa Loar and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our support for Resolution No. 190951 today.

Food insecurity, inconsistent access to food, is closely linked with negative health outcomes like diabetes, obesity and heart disease. More than 20,000 households in Kansas City, Missouri lack access to a reliable vehicle<sup>1</sup> and often live in areas with low access to healthy, affordable food. For them, a trip to the grocery store can be challenging.

When active transportation is safe, accessible and affordable, people are more likely to walk, bike or use public transportation. Bus riders told us that to improve access to food by bus, riders need to feel safe and comfortable and bus fares need to be reduced, especially for riders with low incomes.<sup>2</sup>

In Jackson County:

- 10.4% of households have no access to a vehicle<sup>3</sup>
- 16.2% of residents and 18.1% of kids experience food insecurity<sup>4</sup>
- 22.3% of residents live more than 1 mile from a supermarket<sup>5</sup>
- 11.2% of adults have diabetes and 31.0% of adults are obese<sup>6</sup>

We support this resolution to make public transportation safe, accessible, efficient and fare free to improve access to food, lower food insecurity and improve public health.

Sincerely,

Andrea Clark  
Policy & Planning Associate  
KC Healthy Kids  
Greater KC Food Policy Coalition



**GREATER KC  
FOOD POLICY  
COALITION**  
kchealthykids

Erin Gabert  
Senior Community Health Director  
American Heart Association



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<sup>1</sup> American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2013-2017

<sup>2</sup> Better by Bus: Ways to Improve Grocery Shopping by Bus in the Kansas City Metro 2018

<sup>3</sup> American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2013-2017

<sup>4</sup> Feeding America 2017

<sup>5</sup> USDA Economic Research Service Food Environment Atlas 2015

<sup>6</sup> USDA Economic Research Service Food Environment Atlas 2013