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February 6, 2020

Dear Robbie Makinen and Pete Comer – KCATA Administration,

RE: Zero Fare Bus Rides

We eagerly await word on whether or not Zero Fare Bus Rides in Kansas City will become a reality this spring. It would be HUGE for the many clients we assist each year to find and keep employment and who are truly struggling financially. Although our agency assists with approximately \$15,000 annually in one ride and monthly bus passes, this is only a fraction of the transportation needs of our job search clients. Last year we assisted 604 job seekers looking for work in addition to 1,100 alumni who were involved with us in follow-up services and support. For the past 10 years we have assisted 8,923 current clients seeking sustainable work through our Employment Services Program. Anecdotally, we have story after story of folks whose struggle with transportation cost them a job or kept them from getting hired.

Our staff members have witnessed the *tremendous benefit* of being a part of the 90 day Ride Opportunity Bus Pass Program as well as the success of the Veteran and Student ongoing bus pass opportunity programs. We have witnessed the success of the Zero Fare of the streetcar. Now is the time to implement this program to low-income KC residents.

For any new issues that may arise with a Zero Fare Transit Program for all, we are prepared to be part of solutions to make this work – again – for everyone involved.

Respectfully,



Kathleen Kennedy, MSW, MO LCSW
