

February 7, 2020

Mr. Robbie Makinen  
KCATA  
1200 E 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, MO 64108

Mr. Makinen,

Thank you for your recent efforts in moving our city towards Zero Fare transportation. Transportation is critical to create equity for opportunities for those in our city who struggle the most. Many of these individuals are daily making decisions on what is most important to spend their money on -- getting to and from work, accessing health/mental health appointments, paying for prescriptions and groceries are a few conflicting priorities. When individuals are not having to spend money on transportation that opens up their options to use that money elsewhere in support of their family.

Goodwill of Western Missouri and Eastern Kansas has appreciated participating in the Opportunity Pass program launched by KCATA several months ago. We have individuals we support in their job search and our own employees who have benefited from a 90-day bus pass. This has allowed individuals to get to job interviews, daily work, health/mental health appointments and other services. We've had employees struggling with making ends meet and were able to provide them with a bus pass to help them reduce their overall expenses. Even with 90 days free, many individuals reach back out inquiring about additional passes due to the constant financial pressures they face.

We appreciate and support your continued advocacy for Zero Fare transportation.

Thank you,



Laura Ritterbush, MS, CRC  
Chief Mission Officer  
Goodwill of Western Missouri and Eastern Kansas

#### **Our Mission--**

Goodwill empowers people to discover their potential and adapt for the future through the power of work.

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