



Oct. 5, 2012

Bob Steinbach
Director of Regional Initiatives
Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission
1 S. Main St., Suite 260
Dayton, OH 45402

Re: City of Dayton New Freedom Application, Countdown Pedestrian Signal Head, Phase I Project

Dear Mr. Steinbach:

On behalf of the Downtown Dayton Partnership (DDP), I am pleased to write this letter in support of the City of Dayton's application for New Freedom funds to place countdown pedestrian signal heads at 26 locations throughout the City.

The DDP is a nonprofit organization committed to the growth of downtown Dayton and believes an active, vibrant and diverse urban core is vital to the region's overall economic wellbeing. This is why we partnered with the public and private sectors to develop the Greater Downtown Dayton Plan, a strategic blueprint for the future of our center city. The Plan calls for designing an urban environment with multimodal transportation options for all citizens. The installation of pedestrian signal heads is the type of project supported by the plan, since they would make downtown more pedestrian-friendly for all users and particularly because these signals are vital to assisting those with handicaps or disabilities cross busy intersections.

As a community stakeholder, the DDP believes it is vital that handicapped and disabled individuals have every opportunity to fully participate in society. We believe countdown pedestrian signal heads at these locations will enable those with handicaps or disabilities to better judge their ability to cross the street to access RTA's fixed route bus system, as well as adjacent commercial areas, hospitals, centers of higher education and the downtown transit hub. The signals will better help people know when to cross and avoid the dangerous situation of being out in traffic as the light changes.

We affirm a project such as this is needed in our community for those currently living with a handicap or disability, or those who may develop a handicap or disability in the future. We hope MVRPC strongly considers this project for funding.

The future belongs to those regions taking urban revitalization seriously — and urban areas that are pedestrian friendly and handicap accessible are a key ingredient in that revitalization. It is those regions with strong urban centers that will continue to attract high-value jobs and creative, young professionals — and the businesses and organizations that want to employ them.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. We welcome its implementation in our community.

Sincerely,

Sandra K. Gudorf
President, Downtown Dayton Partnership