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TRANSPORTATION CABINET
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GOVERNOR

Jim Gray
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**Transportation Secretary Jim Gray Joins City of Frankfort Officials to Break
Ground on New Transit Center, Garage**

Project supports downtown masterplan, provides modern public transit facility

FRANKFORT, Ky. (May 9, 2023) – Kentucky Transportation Secretary Jim Gray today joined Frankfort Mayor Layne Wilkerson in breaking ground on a new transit facility and parking garage on Clinton Street in downtown Frankfort to improve transportation for Kentuckians. The project is funded by the City of Frankfort and two federal grants.

Last July, Gov. Andy Beshear joined state and local officials to ceremonially present \$6.75 million in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding, a portion of which is administered through KYTC.

“It’s exciting to kick off construction on this project in our capital city that will create a modern, more efficient public transit hub that will serve the city for decades to come and highlight the history and arts in the area,” said Gov. Beshear.

The proposed facility will consist of a 300-space parking structure above a 5,000-square-foot, ground-level building that will include Frankfort Transit administrative offices and transit user public space. There will be an exhibit on the history of the North Frankfort area and the predominantly African American homes and businesses that were relocated from the neighborhood during urban renewal.

Several interior spaces will include public art. The Frankfort Public Art Masterplan will be activated through these commissions, which are overseen by Melanie VanHouten of Josephine Sculpture Park.

Parking spaces will be available for Frankfort Transit operations, the general public and nearby hotel and commercial development. Plans also include infrastructure for electric vehicle charging stations. Messer Construction was awarded the design-build contract for the garage.

“Our Kentucky families depend on public transportation options and a robust infrastructure system to get to school and work,” Secretary Gray said. “Team Kentucky is working hard to ensure our

communities have safe and efficient transportation systems in place for our people and for ongoing economic growth, such as the redevelopment of this vital city center in Frankfort.”

The transit center will occupy part of the site of the former Capital Plaza complex. Another part of the property, the proposed Parcel B and C development area on Clinton Street, has been identified for new development by Craig Turner of CRM Companies. That project is to include demolition of the former YMCA building, extension of Washington Street, new infrastructure, and retail, dining, office space and housing.

“This transit center is the first step in the mixed-use redevelopment of the former Capital Plaza site, and a catalyst for the activation of our Downtown Frankfort Masterplan,” Mayor Lane Wilkerson said. “We are incredibly grateful to Governor Beshear and Secretary Gray for their support of this project. We look forward to the extension of Washington Street, new housing, businesses, and a more vibrant neighborhood that connects to our historic downtown.”

Craig Turner, of CRM Companies, said the transit center project launches the development of a vital area of Frankfort. “We are grateful to be part of Frankfort’s growth, and excited about the vision for this area of downtown. We pride ourselves on being collaborative partners and look forward to getting to work.”

Jason Wright, of Messer Construction said, “We are proud to be working alongside the City of Frankfort as the design-builder for this new transit center. Messer has been leading complex construction projects across Kentucky for the past 30+ years—working to build better lives for our customers, communities and each other. We are really excited to be able to positively impact the Frankfort community through this project.”

Melanie VanHouten of Josephine Sculpture Park added, “Public art creates interesting and beautiful places in our hometown that positively impact economic development as well. It also reflects the identity of our diverse communities and we look forward to partnering with the city on this innovative project.”

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