



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

207 STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

JB PRITZKER
GOVERNOR

June 18, 2026

The Honorable David A. Fink
Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Fink:

On behalf of the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program, I am writing to offer my full support for the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) application for funding through the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program. The CREATE Program is the nation's largest public-private partnership among the freight rail industry and federal, state, and local government agencies.

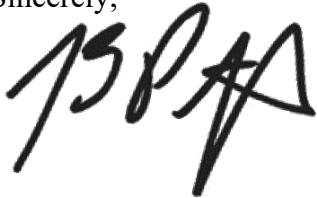
As Governor of Illinois, it is a top priority to invest in modern, reliable, and efficient transportation infrastructure throughout the state. Currently, freight operators using the Belt Junction corridor run approximately 90 trains through this area each day, handling more than 350,000 annual lifts. The corridor also serves nearly 980,000 riders annually. Chicago's Union Station is the busiest station on the National Network, serving 17 intercity routes and nearly 17 million passengers each year. I am proud of the work our administration has done to invest in freight and passenger rail infrastructure that supports economic growth and mobility.

With federal support and funding, CREATE's Rock Island Connection Project (P2) can advance to the next phase of the larger 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project. This phase will construct a flyover bridge to reduce conflicts between freight and passenger trains. The P2 project is critical to improving passenger rail performance throughout the Chicago terminal and the Midwest by increasing reliability, reducing travel times, and minimizing freight-related delays to intercity passenger rail service. It will also help maintain existing rail service capacity while improving efficiency, safety, reliability, and overall network performance across Chicago and the nation.

The P2 project advances the CREATE Program's overarching goals of increasing the efficiency, capacity, safety, and reliability of passenger and freight rail transportation throughout Chicago and the nation. This investment is more than a local improvement; it is a nationally significant

infrastructure project that will strengthen supply chain reliability and support long-term economic growth. I reaffirm my full support and encourage full consideration of this application and vital project. I look forward to the successful implementation of the P2 project through the award of CRISI funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JB Pritzker", with a stylized, overlapping "P" and "A" at the end.

Governor JB Pritzker