

April 24, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am fully supportive of IDOT's applications for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity (MPDG) and Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Programs funding on behalf of the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program. These grants will fund the first segment of the Belt Junction and 80th Street Junction Replacements project, known as EW2a. The project includes reconfiguring the Belt Railway Company (BRC) main tracks between the Dan Ryan Expressway and Belt Junction where four freight railroad tracks intersect with each other and Metra's SouthWest Service operations.

This project is a key part of the 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project (CIP) - a grouping of four major improvements that make up the most complex portion of the overall CREATE Program. These four improvements are being advanced as a single project due to their logistical and environmental linkages. The first two components of the CIP (projects P3 and GS19) began construction in October 2022 with the support of a 2018 INFRA grant and are on schedule for completion in 2026. The remaining two project components of the 75th Street CIP, projects EW2 and P2, are critical to ensure the full benefits of the overall project. Project EW2 is being designed as multiple project segments, due to the scope and scale of the project, with EW2a being the first phase of the effort.

Project segment EW2a will reconfigure Belt Railway Company (BRC), Norfolk Southern (NS), and Metra tracks and rebuild 14 century-old railroad structures, including 86 bridges, over local streets in three South Side Chicago neighborhoods. A third dedicated BRC main track will be constructed, eliminating route conflicts for freight and Metra trains. This project will begin to alleviate the most congested rail chokepoint in North America, Chicago's Belt Junction, where 30 Metra and 90 freight trains cross each other's paths each day. The project will also improve neighborhood connectivity by replacing railroad structures over city streets and will set the stage for re-routing Metra's SouthWest Service trains out of Union Station and into LaSalle Street station via upcoming CREATE project P2, which will greatly increase Union Station capacity for future Amtrak intercity and Metra commuter rail service.

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I fully support this application and look forward to the project's successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Print Name: Shelia Jasmine McCalpin

Title: Block Club Chairperson

April 24, 2024

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Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

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Sincerely,

Print Name: Ramella Smith

Title: 1

April 24, 2024

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Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

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Sincerely,

Print Name:

Amelia Brown

Title:

Community Member I Case

April 24, 2024

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Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

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Sincerely,

Print Name: Tommye J. Smith

Title: community member from eyeRare

April 24, 2024

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United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

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Sincerely,

Print Name: Robert Smith

Title: (member of I-Can)

April 24, 2024

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Secretary  
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Washington, DC 20590

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Sincerely,

Print Name: Franklin Barker & Idema Barker

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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I fully support this application and look forward to the project's successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Print Name: Patricia Porter

Title: Community

April 24, 2024

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Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
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Washington, DC 20590

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I fully support this application and look forward to the project's successful implementation.

Sincerely, 

Print Name: Tina Hammond

Title: Family Child Care Provider  
West Englewood

April 24, 2024

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Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

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Print Name:

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I fully support this application and look forward to the project's successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Print Name: Cheryl Whitmore

Title: Community Member

April 24, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
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Sincerely,

Print Name:

Sonja Smith

Title:

Community Meeting

April 24, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am fully supportive of IDOT's applications for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity (MPDG) and Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Programs funding on behalf of the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program. These grants will fund the first segment of the Belt Junction and 80th Street Junction Replacements project, known as EW2a. The project includes reconfiguring the Belt Railway Company (BRC) main tracks between the Dan Ryan Expressway and Belt Junction where four freight railroad tracks intersect with each other and Metra's SouthWest Service operations.

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I fully support this application and look forward to the project's successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Print Name: Tracy E. Smith

Title: Community Member

April 24, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

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I fully support this application and look forward to the project's successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Print Name: Joseph Ryan

Title: Block Club president <sup>78776</sup> HAMILTON AVE  
HOVNE 78776<sup>th</sup>

April 24, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

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I fully support this application and look forward to the project's successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Print Name: WILL A. MANUEL

Title: Community Member

April 24, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

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I fully support this application and look forward to the project's successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Print Name: ELLA Echols

Title: Community Member 17ward.

April 24, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

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I fully support this application and look forward to the project's successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Print Name: FRANK GREEN

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

April 24, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

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I fully support this application and look forward to the project's successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Print Name: Darius Moore

Title: Operator Engineer

April 24, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

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I fully support this application and look forward to the project's successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Print Name: Remington Brown

Title: Carpenter

April 24, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

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I fully support this application and look forward to the project's successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Print Name: LaVerne Gilliam

Title: Resident

April 24, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

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I fully support this application and look forward to the project's successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Tiffany Oden  
17<sup>th</sup> ward

April 24, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

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I fully support this application and look forward to the project's successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*HAZEL GRAYSON*

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

*Retired*

April 24, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

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I fully support this application and look forward to the project's successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Print Name:

Zenda J. Whitlock RTR

Title:

SR Radiology Tech

April 24, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am fully supportive of IDOT's applications for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity (MPDG) and Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Programs funding on behalf of the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program. These grants will fund the first segment of the Belt Junction and 80th Street Junction Replacements project, known as EW2a. The project includes reconfiguring the Belt Railway Company (BRC) main tracks between the Dan Ryan Expressway and Belt Junction where four freight railroad tracks intersect with each other and Metra's SouthWest Service operations.

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I fully support this application and look forward to the project's successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Print Name: Valencia Holmes

Title: resident

April 24, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

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I fully support this application and look forward to the project's successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Print Name: Lorraine N. Lee

Title: homeowner

April 24, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

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I fully support this application and look forward to the project's successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Print Name: Johnnie R Cottrell

Title: Home Owner

April 24, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

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I fully support this application and look forward to the project's successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Print Name: Freddie McNeal

Title: Home Owner

1

April 24, 2024

The Honorable *Pete* Buttigieg  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

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I fully support this application and look forward to the project's successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Print Name: Deborah A. Mabery

Title: Property Owner

April 24, 2024

The Honorable *Pete* Buttigieg  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

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I fully support this application and look forward to the project's successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Print Name: Jerry Binford

Title: DXR Community Member

April 24, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

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I fully support this application and look forward to the project's successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Print Name: MARI BLACK

Title: community member

April 24, 2024

The Honorable *Pete Buttigieg*  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

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I fully support this application and look forward to the project's successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Print Name: *Lynelle D Allen*

Title: *4/24/2024*

April 24, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

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I fully support this application and look forward to the project's successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Print Name: BEVERLY A CAMERON

Title: VOLUNTEER 17TH WARD

April 24, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

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I fully support this application and look forward to the project's successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

RODOLFO GARCON

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

LABORER

April 24, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am fully supportive of IDOT's applications for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity (MPDG) and Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Programs funding on behalf of the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program. These grants will fund the first segment of the Belt Junction and 80th Street Junction Replacements project, known as EW2a. The project includes reconfiguring the Belt Railway Company (BRC) main tracks between the Dan Ryan Expressway and Belt Junction where four freight railroad tracks intersect with each other and Metra's SouthWest Service operations.

This project is a key part of the 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project (CIP) - a grouping of four major improvements that make up the most complex portion of the overall CREATE Program. These four improvements are being advanced as a single project due to their logistical and environmental linkages. The first two components of the CIP (projects P3 and GS19) began construction in October 2022 with the support of a 2018 INFRA grant and are on schedule for completion in 2026. The remaining two project components of the 75th Street CIP, projects EW2 and P2, are critical to ensure the full benefits of the overall project. Project EW2 is being designed as multiple project segments, due to the scope and scale of the project, with EW2a being the first phase of the effort.

Project segment EW2a will reconfigure Belt Railway Company (BRC), Norfolk Southern (NS), and Metra tracks and rebuild 14 century-old railroad structures, including 86 bridges, over local streets in three South Side Chicago neighborhoods. A third dedicated BRC main track will be constructed, eliminating route conflicts for freight and Metra trains. This project will begin to alleviate the most congested rail chokepoint in North America, Chicago's Belt Junction, where 30 Metra and 90 freight trains cross each other's paths each day. The project will also improve neighborhood connectivity by replacing railroad structures over city streets and will set the stage for re-routing Metra's SouthWest Service trains out of Union Station and into LaSalle Street station via upcoming CREATE project P2, which will greatly increase Union Station capacity for future Amtrak intercity and Metra commuter rail service.

Project segment EW2a helps achieve the CREATE Program's overall goals to improve rail operations in the Chicago metropolitan area and improve quality of life in neighborhoods near rail. Beyond these local and regional benefits, these improvements will have a significant positive impact on the national supply chain. The efficiencies resulting from this project support the movement of people and consumer goods throughout the nation. The 75<sup>th</sup> St CIP project includes investments in K-12 education and workforce opportunities as well as community mobility improvements (CMI). These CMIs enhance the safety, accessibility, quality of life, and visual appeal of the community while enhancing local transportation systems for people walking, bicycling, taking transit, and driving. Not only does EW2a support broader economic growth, but neighboring communities also benefit from cleaner air, reduced railroad delays, and improved development opportunities.

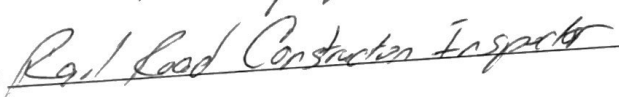
I fully support this application and look forward to the project's successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Print Name:



Title:



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I fully support this application and look forward to the project's successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Print Name: Jesse Burns

Title: Block Club President

April 24, 2024

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Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

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Sincerely,

Print Name: Anthony W. Ellis  
Title: Block Club

April 24, 2024

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Washington, DC 20590

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I fully support this application and look forward to the project's successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Print Name: Mr. & Mrs Eddie Riley

Title: \_\_\_\_\_