

June 25, 2026

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

RE: Illinois Department of Transportation's Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program (CRISI) Grant Program Application (the Grant Application)

Dear Administrator Fink:

This letter shall serve as confirmation of our funding commitment for matching funds in support of the Illinois Department of Transportation's application for funding through the Grant Application. IDOT's Grant Application is submitted on behalf of the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program and its public and private partners for the Rock Island Connection project (P2).

In support of this application and the request for \$383,976,978 in federal participation via CRISI funds, the CREATE public and private partners hereby commit to collectively contribute \$95,994,245 in matching funds (public and private funding sources) for P2's estimated construction cost.

The grant and match funding are needed to advance CREATE's Rock Island Connection project (P2), the next phase of the larger 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project, that will construct a flyover bridge eliminating a major chokepoint and conflicts between freight and passenger trains. P2 directly aligns with the goals of CRISI by improving reliability, travel times, and safety for both passenger and freight trains in the country's most congested rail terminal. P2 is necessary to fully realize the delay reductions for freight rail users at Belt Junction once passenger trains are separated from freight traffic. With P2 a flyover bridge over freight rail infrastructure will be constructed between Belt Junction and Metra's Rock Island District (RID) line. By eliminating a major chokepoint and conflicts between freight and passenger trains P2 will reduce travel times, enhance safety, and improve reliability. P2 will also reroute passenger trains that serve approximately 4,000 weekday commuters from Chicago Union Station (CUS) to LaSalle Street Station.

The P2 project advances the CREATE Program overarching goals to increase efficiency, capacity, and safety for reliable commuter, intercity passenger and freight rail throughout the Chicago region. P2 strengthens Chicago's position as the nation's premier freight hub, which handles nearly half of all intermodal containers and one-third of U.S. carload freight. By constructing a flyover bridge to eliminate bottlenecks, increase capacity, improve safety, improve reliability, and reduce the state of good repair backlog, P2 will deliver measurable benefits to freight movement and passenger service alike. This investment is not merely an infrastructure upgrade – it is pivotal step toward enhancing supply chain resilience and driving economic growth nationwide.

CREATE is a public-private partnership that includes the nation's rail industry and levels of state and local government. The CREATE partners through continued public and private collaboration aim to build on prior successes by continuing to deliver complex capital infrastructure projects such as P2. As a strong public-private partnership we can successfully deliver this project as set forth in the Grant Application.

Sincerely,



Gia Biagi
Secretary
Illinois Department of Transportation

See attached signature page for AAR

Ian Jefferies
President and CEO
Association of American Railroads

See attached signature page for CDOT

William Cheaks, Jr.
Commissioner
Chicago Department of Transportation

See attached signature page for CCDOTH

Jennifer (Sis) Killen, P.E., PTOE
Superintendent
Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways

See attached signature page for Metra

Jim Derwinski
CEO/Executive Director
Metra

See attached signature page for Amtrak

Roger Harris
President
Amtrak

Sincerely,



Ian Jefferies
President and CEO
Association of American Railroads

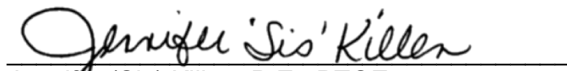


Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'William Cheaks, Jr.', is written over a horizontal line.

William Cheaks, Jr.
Commissioner
Chicago Department of Transportation

Sincerely,



Jennifer (Sis) Killen, P.E., PTOE
Superintendent
Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways

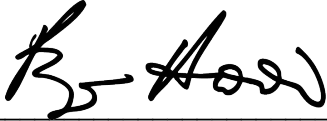


Sincerely,


Jim Derwinski
CEO/Executive Director
Metra

Amtrak has committed \$15,000,000 in matching funds (Program Income) to this Project.

Sincerely,



Roger Harris
President
Amtrak