

JESÚS "CHUY" GARCÍA

4TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

2334 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-8203

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION INTEGRITY,
SECURITY, AND ENFORCEMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE
STATE, REGULATORY REFORM, AND ANTITRUST

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION &
INFRASTRUCTURE**

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
AVIATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND HAZARDOUS
MATERIALS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

June 22, 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,

I am writing in strong support of the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) application, on behalf of the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program, for funding through the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program. This project is essential to improving safety at roadway crossings and enhancing supply chain fluidity across both road and rail networks, while also reducing the negative impacts of freight movement on nearby communities.

Federal funding will advance CREATE's Rock Island Connection project (P2), the next phase of the larger 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project. This phase will construct a flyover bridge to eliminate a major chokepoint and reduce conflicts between freight and passenger trains. P2 directly aligns with the goals of CRISI by improving safety, reliability, and travel times for both passenger and freight trains in the country's most congested rail terminal. Furthermore, P2 is necessary to fully realize the delay reductions for freight rail users at Belt Junction once passenger trains are separated from freight traffic.

A key benefit of the project is the reduction of conflicts between freight and passenger trains that currently share tracks at Belt Junction. Because passenger trains are prioritized, freight trains are curtailed at least twice daily during peak morning and afternoon commuting periods, as well as during non-peak periods. Rerouting Metra's SouthWest Service using the P2 bridge will improve freight flows through Belt Junction, particularly to and from the adjacent Norfolk Southern Landers Intermodal Yard. Ultimately, the P2 project advances the CREATE Program's overarching goals of increasing the efficiency, capacity, safety, and reliability of passenger and freight rail throughout Chicago and the nation. This investment is not merely an infrastructure upgrade—it is a pivotal step toward strengthening supply chain resilience and driving economic growth nationwide.

Securing this grant is vital for my district because the massive infrastructure construction will provide immediate, direct employment opportunities and boost the local economy. Furthermore, by building the flyover bridge to separate passenger and freight traffic, the project drastically improves local community safety and slashes commuting delays for residents. Given the transformative potential of this project, I strongly support IDOT's request and urge you to grant them full consideration and funding. If you have any questions, please contact my District Director, Adrian Calderón, at Adrian.Calderon@mail.house.gov or (773) 342-0774.

Sincerely,



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress
Illinois' 4th Congressional District