

DARIN LAHOOD

16TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS
LaHood.house.gov

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT
COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHINA



503 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6201
FAX: (202) 225-9249

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

June 23, 2026

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

Dear Administrator Fink,

I write to express my support for 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. The CREATE Program is the largest public-private partnership of its kind, involving the nation's rail industry and all levels of government.

Federal funding will advance CREATE's Rock Island Connection project (P2), the next phase of the larger 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project, which 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 the CRISI Program by improving safety, reliability, and travel times for both passenger and freight trains in the country's most congested rail terminal.

The P2 project advances the CREATE Program's overarching goals—increasing the efficiency, capacity, safety, and reliability of passenger and freight rail throughout Chicago and the nation. Chicago is the nation's premier freight hub, handling nearly half of all U.S. intermodal containers and one-third of rail cars. This investment is a pivotal step toward enhancing supply chain resilience and driving economic growth nationwide.

Within all relevant rules and regulations, it is my hope that you will give this application full and fair consideration. Please feel free to contact me or Will Emerson in my office at (202) 225-6201 with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Darin LaHood
Member of Congress

NORMAL DISTRICT OFFICE
108 EAST BEAUFORT STREET
NORMAL, IL 61761
(309) 445-8080

PEORIA DISTRICT OFFICE
100 NE MONROE STREET, ROOM 100
PEORIA, IL 61602
(309) 671-7027
FAX: (309) 671-7309

ROCKFORD DISTRICT OFFICE
527 COLMAN CENTER DRIVE
ROCKFORD, IL 61108
(779) 238-4785

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER