



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 6, 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 am writing to express my support for the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for federal funding through the National Railroad Partnership Program. It is my understanding that if selected, IDOT, on behalf of the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program, will use these funds to advance the Rock Island Connection project (P2), a key phase of the broader 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project. The proposed investment will construct a flyover bridge to eliminate a major rail chokepoint, reduce conflicts between freight and passenger trains, and improve reliability, safety, and travel times within the nation's most congested rail terminal, directly advancing the objectives of the National Railroad Partnership Program.

To my knowledge, the CREATE Program is the largest public-private partnership of its kind in the country, bringing together freight railroads, passenger rail operators, and all levels of government. It is my belief that federal funding for the P2 project will deliver meaningful benefits to constituents of Illinois' Third Congressional District as well as Illinois residents at large by improving freight mobility, strengthening passenger rail reliability, and reducing congestion in the Chicago rail network. By separating freight and passenger operations at the Belt Junction, the project will enhance supply chain efficiency, support economic activity, and improve rail service for commuters and intercity travelers who rely on Chicago as a critical hub for regional and national rail travel.

I respectfully urge the Federal Railroad Administration to give full and fair consideration, consistent with applicable law, rules, and regulations, to IDOT's application for funding through the National Railroad Partnership Program.

If you have any questions, please reach out to my office at 773-799-8219.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delia C. Ramirez".

Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress - 3rd District of Illinois