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June 24, 2026

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

Dear Administrator Fink:

We are pleased to support the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) application to the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program to advance the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program's Rock Island Connection project. The project will reduce delays for freight rail users by completing a flyover bridge for separation of passenger trains and freight traffic.

Completion of the project would reduce conflicts between freight and passenger trains, improving passenger rail performance across the Chicago terminal and the Midwest. This change strengthens Amtrak's ability to provide reliable service with improved travel times and reduced freight conflicts for intercity rail service.

Chicago's Union Station (CUS) is the national network's busiest station, home to 17 intercity lines and serving nearly 17 million passengers annually. The project will greatly improve the safety, reliability, and travel times of passenger rail service, aligning with the goals of the CRISI program via the requested funding.

Thank you in advance for giving IDOT's grant application your thorough consideration. We strongly believe that the proposed project will positively impact rail safety in the region. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristina Boardman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kristina Boardman
Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Transportation