

BRADLEY

UNIVERSITY

June 2, 2009

Mr. Joseph P. Clary
Illinois Department of Transportation
Division of Public & Intermodal Transportation
J.R. Thompson Center, Suite 6-600
100 West Randolph
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Mr. Clary:

Easy access to reliable transportation is a necessity if economic growth and development is to grow in a region. Transportation in this case is defined by access to modern highway networks, air cargo facilities and rail transportation to move not only goods but people involved in the growth and development. As a first-of-its-kind partnership between the State of Illinois, City of Chicago, Metra, Amtrak, Association of American Railroads and U.S. DOT, the Chicago Region Environment and Transportation Efficiency Program (CREATE) will potentially provide the vehicle that will increase the movement of goods and services throughout the State.

It is important to our academic mission that economic development is enhanced in Central Illinois to provide job opportunity and internships for our graduates, thus a modern and efficient transportation system is essential to attracting new businesses, encouraging entrepreneurial start-up ventures, and enticing current businesses to remain in the region. In addition, Bradley University's College of Engineering and Technology is involved in research and development on transportation safety and in developing materials to improve the efficiency of the transportation infrastructure. It is for these reasons that we support the CREATE program.

As we look for new business opportunities to start-up or move into the Peoria and Central Illinois Regions it is essential that rail transportation as well as highway and air transportation be highly efficient and available to these regions. It also is essential that the burgeoning Port of Peoria have efficient and effective over land transport to move manufacturing and agricultural products for river shipping.

Delays in rail freight, including at grade crossings, threaten the economic vitality of the region, lead to increased traffic congestion on roadways, generate unnecessary levels of air pollution, raise safety concerns, discourage new business to start-up or move into the region and adversely affect the reliability and speed of rail passenger service. With funding from the State of Illinois, the City of Chicago, the U.S. Department of Transportation, Metra, Amtrak, and the nation's major freight railroads, CREATE will alleviate these problems.

PRESIDENT

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Our success as an academic institution is dependent on a viable economy; an economy that offers opportunities for our faculty and students to engage in research, find or create jobs in the immediate region, or to be able to travel from the region in a very timely manner. Our college of Engineering depends on experiential learning opportunities for its students, these opportunities come from within the economic structure of the region.

We support state of Illinois capital and federal funding to fulfill the \$1.3 billion needed to complete CREATE projects by 2015.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joanne K. Glasser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "K".

Joanne K. Glasser
President

JKG:rm