

April 30, 2009

On behalf of the Chicago Southland Economic Development Corporation (CSEDC), I extend the organization's unconditional support to the implementation of the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) program.

A public/private coalition is working on a request for the maximum \$300 million a state can receive from the federal stimulus program's \$1.5 billion in discretionary spending for infrastructure. The request is in conjunction for consideration of a portion of high-speed rail corridor funds to address the three high speed rail corridors which terminate in the City of Chicago.

With several of CREATE's first phase projects having been completed or near completion, those projects will reflect an obligation of all SAFETEA-LU funding provided for the program by the time federal authorization of transportation funds expires in September of this year. The CREATE program is one of a handful of programs nationally that can claim total utilization of federal funding provided.

While the program's completion is at least several years away, continued progress will pay immediate dividends locally and nationally in addressing freight movement across North America.

The region's and country's foundation is based on transportation and an efficient, environmentally-sound system will continue to run on rails. Investing stimulus funds provides unparalleled linkage with manufacturers, renewed passenger rail service, and unprecedented coast-to-coast shipping economies.

The time for action is now. CREATE is the conduit for a revitalized 21<sup>st</sup> Century economy.

Sincerely,

  
Michael J. Scholefield  
Chairman

Strengthening the Southland

