

Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors

AECOM

August 21, 2023

Metropolitan
Transportation
Commission

Alameda Corridor-East
Project, San Gabriel Valley
Council of Governments

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary

Moffatt & Nichol

California Department
of Transportation

United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

National Railroad
Construction and
Maintenance
Association

Cambridge
Systematics, Inc.

Canaveral Port Authority

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

NASCO – North
American Strategy for
Competitiveness

Cascadia Center

Chicago Metropolitan
Agency for Planning

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is seeking Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity (MPDG) funds on behalf of the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program for its **EW2 Project**. The Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors (CAGTC) is a national group dedicated to improving our nation's freight infrastructure and its membership includes key CREATE Program partners.

The Northwest
Seaport Alliance

City of Chicago

Nossaman LLP

City of Industry

COMPASS – Community
Planning Association of
Southwest Idaho

DCLI

Dewberry

The CREATE Program will utilize MPDG funding to segment the Belt Junction and 80th Street Junction Replacements (EW2), which includes reconfiguring the Belt Railway Company main tracks between the Dan Ryan Expressway and Belt Junction. This project will help alleviate congestion at Belt Junction, the most congested rail chokepoint in the Chicago terminal, where 30 Metra and 90 freight trains cross paths each day.

Orange County
Transportation Authority

Florida Department
of Transportation

This project is a critical component of the overall 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project (CIP), a grouping of four smaller projects that constitute the most complex portion of the CREATE Program and have been advanced as a single project. The first two components of the CIP began construction in October 2022 with the support of a 2018 INFRA grant.

Port Authority of
New York & New Jersey

Florida East
Coast Railway

Port Houston

Florida Ports Council

Florida Transportation
Builders' Association, Inc.

Project EW2 aligns with the CREATE Program's overall goals to improve rail operations in the Chicago metropolitan area while reducing the environmental impacts of rail operations on the public. The project will benefit the national supply chain by supporting the movement of people and consumer goods along important railway systems and communities. Not only does the project support economic growth by providing education and workforce opportunities, but neighboring communities will benefit from cleaner air, reduced railroad delays, and improved economic development potential.

Port Newark Container
Terminal

Freight Mobility Strategic
Investment Board
(Washington State)

Port of Hueneme

Gateway Cities Council of
Governments

Port of Long Beach

HERZOG

Port of Los Angeles

HNTB Corporation

Port of New Orleans

Intermodal Association
of North America

Port of Oakland

Kootenai Metropolitan
Planning Organization

Port of San Diego

Los Angeles

We hope you will consider the merits of IDOT's application on behalf of the CREATE Program for its **EW2 Project**. As an organization, we support investments in freight infrastructure and we encourage USDOT to continue investing in goods movement projects through the MPDG program. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Port Tampa Bay

Los Angeles
County Metropolitan
Transportation Authority

Port of Vancouver USA

Majestic Realty Co.

Ports America
Chesapeake

Maricopa Association of
Governments

Prime Focus, LLC

Memphis Chamber of
Commerce

Sincerely,

Puget Sound Regional
Council



RAILCET

Elaine Nettle
Executive Director

SANDAG - San Diego
Association of
Governments

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Southern California
Association of
Governments

Tennessee Department
of Transportation

Washington State
Department of
Transportation

Will County Center for
Economic Development

WSP