

CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

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August 28, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

For four years, the Chicago Public Library Foundation has been pleased to partner with the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program and the 75th St. Corridor Improvement Project (CIP) to make possible Library programming that truly goes above and behind to meet the needs of our community.

The workforce of both today and tomorrow will need the 21st skills developed through quality STEM education, such as critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, and sound decision-making. Thanks to support from the 75th St. Corridor Improvement Project, we have been able to invest in a wide range of free programming at our Library—spanning from digital literacy to engineering, makerspaces to citizen science projects—that builds these skills.

The Library Foundation is aware that IDOT is applying for Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity (MPDG) funding on behalf of the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program. This grant will fund a segment of the Belt Junction and 80th Street Junction Replacements, defined as “EW2.” With EW2 the largest component of the 75th St. Corridor Improvement Project (CIP), a successful MPDG grant will tie the other three projects together in the CIP and expand the boundaries of the education commitment program—resulting in more schools and neighborhood branches benefitting from low barrier access to the resources and information they need to build brighter futures for themselves and their families.

The Library Foundation deeply appreciates the investment of the CREATE Program in our community and welcomes its continued partnership in ensuring that all Chicagoans can enjoy quality lifelong learning opportunities, particularly in high-priority STEM subjects.

Sincerely,



Brenda Langstraat Bui
President & CEO