



December 13, 2024  
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) is writing in support of IDOT's application for the Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail (FSP) Grant Program on behalf of the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program. This grant will fund the Rock Island Connection project, known as P2. The project focuses on constructing a flyover bridge between Belt Junction and Metra Commuter Rail's Rock Island District (RID) line. Addressing the design issues that create traffic conflicts between freight and passenger rail in Chicagoland is essential to reliable regional and intercity transport, including Amtrak.

Freight truck traffic is a major health and safety hazard to Chicago's neighborhoods. CNT's [Chicago Truck Count Data Portal](#) developed with the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization shows the massive scale of truck activity some of Chicago's Black and Brown neighborhoods face. CNT sees the clean, safe transportation of goods by rail as part of a sustainable decarbonization of our freight network. The current freight rail infrastructure in Chicago also creates bottlenecks for clean passenger rail and federal infrastructure funding is vital to enabling reliable, accessible low-carbon transportation options.

CNT supports this application and looks forward to continuing to engage with the U.S. DOT and IDOT as we work with Chicago's community based organizations towards a just transition of our freight network.

Sincerely,

*Miriam Savad*

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