

Educate. Advocate. Empower.

PRESIDENT

Mayor Deborah Frank Feinen, Champaign

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Village President Sheila Chalmers-Currin, Matteson

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Mayor Gary W. Manier, Washington

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Brad Cole, Former Mayor, Carbondale

VICE PRESIDENTS

Mayor Richard H. Veenstra, Addison

Mayor David Goins, Alton

Mayor Richard Irvin, Aurora

Mayor Mary Alexander-Basta, Bolingbrook

Village President Katrina Thompson, Broadview

Mayor Carolin Harvey, Carbondale

Mayor Mark Kownick, Cary

Mayor Brandon Johnson, Chicago

Mayor Jeff Stehman, Collinsville

Mayor Cohen Barnes, DeKalb

Mayor Teresa Kernc, Diamond

Mayor Reggie Freeman, East Moline

Mayor Art Risavy, Edwardsville

Village President Donny Schmit, Fox Lake

Mayor Jodi Miller, Freeport

Village President Mike McCormick, Godfrey

Village President Rodney S. Craig, Hanover Park

Village President Vernard L. Alsberry, Jr., Hazel Crest

Mayor Andy Ezard, Jacksonville

Mayor Christopher W. Curtis, Kankakee

Village President James L. Discipio, La Grange Park

Mayor Rick Hall, Mattoon

Mayor Chris Brown, Morris

Mayor Joe Judge, Mount Carmel

Mayor John C. Lewis, Mount Vernon

Town President Chris Koos, Normal

Mayor Herb Roach, O'Fallon

Mayor Rita Ali, Peoria

Mayor Michael A. Troup, Quincy

Mayor Susan L. Harbaugh, Red Bud

Village President Rick Reinbold, Richton Park

Mayor Thomas McNamara, Rockford

Mayor George Van Dusen, Skokie

Mayor Misty Buscher, Springfield

Mayor Christopher Nelson, West Dundee

Mayor Billy McKinney, Zion

PAST PRESIDENTS

Village President Karen Darch, Barrington

Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe, Decatur

Mayor Mark T. Kupsky, Fairview Heights

Mayor Michael J. Inman, Macomb

Mayor Leon Rockingham, Jr., North Chicago

Mayor Gerald R. Bennett, Palos Hills

Village President Catherine M. Adduci, River Forest

Mayor Ricky J. Gottman, Vandalia

December 9, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg

Secretary

United States Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE

Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Illinois Municipal League (IML) fully supports the Illinois Department of Transportation'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. Implementing P2 will enable Metra to shift its SouthWest Service (SWS) trains to the RID line, reducing congestion and conflicts between freight and passenger service in and out of Belt Junction and shortening the average travel time for commuters. It will also enable an expansion of Amtrak's intercity passenger rail service in the Midwest, by opening capacity at Chicago Union Station.

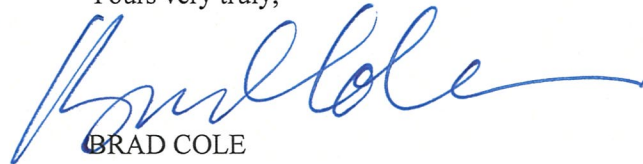
This project is a key part of the 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project (CIP). The first two components of CIP (projects P3 and GS19) began construction in October 2022 with the support of a 2018 INFRA grant and are on schedule for completion in 2026. In 2024, the next phase of the 75th St CIP (Project EW2A) was awarded MPDG funding for construction, which will commence in 2026. The remaining two project components of the 75th Street CIP, P2 and other segments of EW2, are critical to ensure the full benefits of the overall project.

Project P2 helps achieve the CREATE Program's overall goals to improve rail operations in the Chicago metropolitan area and improve the quality of life in neighborhoods near rail. These improvements will also have a significant positive impact on the national supply chain. The 75th St CIP project includes investments in K-12 education, workforce opportunities and community mobility improvements (CMI). These CMIs enhance the safety, accessibility, quality of life, and visual appeal of the community while enhancing local transportation systems.

IML fully supports this application and looks forward to the project's successful implementation.

Please feel welcome to contact me if I may be of assistance with this or any other matter. I may be reached by phone at (217) 525-1220 or by email at bcole@iml.org. Thanks.

Yours very truly,



BRAD COLE

Chief Executive Officer

c: Jim Derwinski, METRA

500 East Capitol Avenue | P.O. Box 5180 | Springfield, IL 62705-5180 | Phone: 217.525.1220 | Fax: 217.525.7438 | www.iml.org

