



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

December 9, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express my support for the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) application for federal funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail (FSP) Grant Program. I was informed that IDOT has submitted an application for funding to support the Rock Island Connection project, known as P2. It is my understanding that, if selected, this project will involve constructing a flyover bridge between Belt Junction and Metra Commuter Rail's Rock Island District (RID) line that aims to reduce congestion, minimize conflicts between freight and passenger services, and improve overall rail efficiency and safety in the Chicago metropolitan area.

It is my understanding that the Rock Island Connection project is part of the broader 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project (CIP), which addresses critical rail infrastructure needs in the region. P2 will allow Metra's SouthWest Service trains to terminate at LaSalle Street Station instead of Chicago Union Station, reducing travel times for commuters and creating additional capacity for Amtrak intercity passenger rail services. The project also includes enhancements to local infrastructure, such as community mobility improvements, which are designed to improve safety, accessibility, and quality of life for surrounding neighborhoods.

It is my belief that this project will bring direct benefits for constituents of Illinois' 3rd Congressional District, including cleaner air, reduced train delays, and safer, more accessible transportation options. These improvements will support local communities while also advancing regional and national rail efficiency.

I urge the United States Department of Transportation to give full and fair consideration, consistent with applicable law, rules, and regulations, to IDOT's application for this grant program. If you have any questions, please reach out to my office at 773-799-8219.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Delia C. Ramirez".

Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress - 3rd District of Illinois