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# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE STRATEGIC  
COMPETITION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES  
& CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY.  
RANKING MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT & ACCOUNTABILITY

SUBCOMMITTEE:  
ECONOMIC GROWTH, ENERGY POLICY,  
& REGULATORY AFFAIRS

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
INTELLIGENCE

SUBCOMMITTEE:

THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I'm writing to express my support for IDOT's application to the Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Grant Program funding 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' trains to the RID line, ultimately reducing congestion and conflicts between freight and passenger service in and out of Belt Junction, where 30 Metra and 90 freight trains cross each other's paths each day. By implementing P2, commuter trips will also now terminate at LaSalle Street Station, instead of Chicago Union Station, resulting in a shorter average travel time for commuters and enabling an expansion of Amtrak's intercity passenger rail service in the Midwest.

This project is a key part of the 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project (CIP) - a grouping of four major improvements that make up the most complex portion of the overall CREATE Program. These four improvements are being advanced as a single project due to their logistical and environmental linkages. The first two components of the CIP 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 was awarded MPDG funding for construction, which will commence in 2026.

Project P2 helps achieve the CREATE Program's overall goals to improve rail operations in the Chicago metropolitan area and the quality of life in neighborhoods near rail sites. The 75th St CIP project includes investments in K-12 education, workforce opportunities, and multimodal transportation benefits. The project is expected to enhance the safety, accessibility, quality of life, and visual appeal of the community. Not only does P2 support broader economic growth, but neighboring communities also benefit from cleaner air, reduced railroad delays, and improved development opportunities.

I urge you to give IDOT's application full and fair consideration, and I look forward to the project's successful implementation. If you require any additional information, please contact my office.

Sincerely,



Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress