

# United States Senate

December 9, 2024

The Honorable Amit Bose  
Administrator  
Federal Railroad Administration  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE W-32  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Bose:

I am writing to express my support for the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) application to the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) *Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail (FSP)* grant. Funds will support the *Rock Island Connection* project, known as P2, which will support the construction of a flyover bridge between Belt Junction and Metra Commuter Rail's Rock Island District (RID) line.

The Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) mission is to provide safe, cost-effective transportation for Illinois' residents and visitors in ways that enhance quality of life, promote economic prosperity and demonstrate respect for the environment. IDOT performs routing visual inspections of bridges at least every two years and underwater inspections every five years. IDOT's *Rock Island Connection* project, known as P2, will allow Southwest Service trains access to LaSalle Street Station instead of Union Station, which increases capacity for the Southwest Service while also freeing capacity at Union Station for increased Amtrak service and proposed high-speed rail. By implementing P2, commuter trips will also now terminate at LaSalle Street Station, versus Chicago Union Station (CUS), serving to shorten the average travel time for commuters and enabling an expansion of Amtrak's intercity passenger rail service in the Midwest, by opening capacity at CUS.

As a U.S. Senator and member of the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, I have made it a priority to modernize Illinois transportation systems, expand accessible transit and support investments that improve our environment. IDOT's application falls within the traditional bounds of the *FSP* to reduce the state of good repair backlog, improve performance and expand intercity passenger rail service.

Please accept this letter of support for the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) application to the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) *Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail (FSP)* grant. In keeping with your existing rules and regulations, I urge you to give their application full and fair consideration. If you have any questions, please contact my Downstate Director, Randy Sikowski, by calling (217) 528-6124.

Sincerely,



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator