



CREATE
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CREATE PROGRAM
C/O CTCO
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CHICAGO REGION ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRANSPORTATION EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

August 21, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
West Building – 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are pleased to submit this letter as evidence of our commitment to providing matching funds for the Illinois Department of Transportation’s application for Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Program (MPDG) funding on behalf of the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program for the EW2 Segment A (EW2A) project. This project focuses on implementing the next phase of the 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project (75th Street CIP), which is an integral CREATE program effort to eliminate the most congested, disruptive rail bottlenecks in the Chicago Terminal.

To compliment the \$260 million in federal MPDG funds requested via this grant, the CREATE partners commit to collectively provide \$174 million in matching funds for the balance of EW2A’s estimated cost.

EW2A directly aligns with the Biden Administration’s commitment to enhancing safety in the freight and passenger rail system by reducing inefficient rail-rail conflicts and delivering a suite of infrastructure improvements along a 3-mile elevated rail corridor on Chicago’s South Side, where 93% of census tracts qualify as Historically Disinvested Communities or Areas of Persistent Poverty. Improvements include reconfiguring and adding bypass tracks at key junctions; replacing and restoring aging bridge structures, tracks, and viaducts to improve their state of good repair; modernizing antiquated signal systems to enhance communication; and surface street and sidewalk mobility improvements throughout the corridor, including ADA and pedestrian enhancements, drainage system replacements (supporting climate resiliency), and energy-efficient LED street lighting to improve safety.

EW2A will improve safety and efficiency of the infrastructure in the Chicago Terminal, the most significant rail hub in the United States, laying the foundation for the next phase of CREATE’s 75th Street CIP and decreasing transportation-related emissions. In addition, with a calculated benefit-cost ratio of 1.63, this investment in core infrastructure is also cost-effective and is expected to yield over \$350 million in benefits with a net present value of more than \$135 million.

The CREATE program has established a record of delivering complex infrastructure projects on time and on budget. We are confident that we can successfully deliver this project according to the timeframe and budget in our application and look forward to the project’s successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Omer Osman
Secretary,
Illinois Department of
Transportation

Thomas Carney
Acting Commissioner,
Chicago Department of
Transportation

Ian Jefferies
President and CEO,
Association of
American Railroads

Jennifer (Sis) Killen, P.E., PTOE
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