



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

207 STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

JB PRITZKER
GOVERNOR

January 27, 2026

The Honorable David Fink, Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
West Building
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590-9898

Dear Administrator Fink:

On behalf of the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program, I am writing in support of the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) application for the National Railroad Partnership Program. CREATE's P2, also known as the Rock Island Connection Project, represents the highest-priority rail project and the largest public-private partnership of its kind in the State of Illinois involving the nation's rail industry.

CREATE's P2 is a critical component of the larger 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project. By eliminating a major chokepoint and reducing conflicts between freight and passenger trains, P2 directly aligns with the goals of the National Railroad Partnership Program—to improve safety, reliability, and travel times for both passenger and freight rail in the nation's most congested rail terminal.

As Governor, investing in modern, reliable transportation infrastructure is a core priority. P2 advances the CREATE Program's longstanding goals to improve efficiency, capacity, safety, and reliability across Chicago's rail network. The implications of this project extend far beyond Chicago, the nation's premier freight hub. It also has significant impacts on passenger rail performance across the Midwest and the country, as Chicago Union Station is the busiest station in the national passenger rail network. This project will create the capacity to significantly improve operations at Union Station, strengthening Amtrak's ability to provide reliable intercity service, improve travel times, and reduce conflicts between passenger and freight rail across major metropolitan areas.

Through my Administration's continued commitment to transportation investments in freight and passenger rail, Illinois has delivered measurable benefits to mobility, reliability, and economic growth. I fully support IDOT's application for the National Railroad Partnership Grant Program. This investment is more than a local improvement; it is a nationally significant infrastructure project that will strengthen supply chain reliability and support long-term economic growth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JB Pritzker".

Governor JB Pritzker