

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

BILL FOSTER
11th District of Illinois
<http://foster.house.gov>

2366 Rayburn
House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-3515

February 6, 2026

The Honorable David A. Fink
Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Fink,

I am writing to express my support for the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) application, on behalf of the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program, for the National Railroad Partnership Grant Program through the U.S. Department of Transportation. With the help of federal funds, IDOT aims to improve reliability, travel times, and safety for both passengers and freight trains in the nation's most congested rail terminal.

The Rock Island Connection Project (P2), the next phase of the larger 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project, will construct a flyover bridge to eliminate a major chokepoint and reduce conflicts between freight and passenger trains. Additionally, P2 is critical to improving passenger rail performance across the Chicago terminal and the Midwest. As the nation's premier freight hub, Chicago handles nearly half of all intermodal containers and one-third of U.S. carload freight.

Furthermore, Chicago's Union Station (CUS) is the National Network's busiest station, home to 17 intercity lines and serving more than 3 million customers annually. P2 will greatly improve the reliability of passenger rail service at Chicago Union Station by allowing Metra to direct 30 daily trains away from CUS to LaSalle Street Station. This change will strengthen Amtrak's ability to provide reliable service with improved travel times and reduced freight conflicts for intercity rail service across the Midwest. This investment is a pivotal step in improving regional infrastructure, enhancing supply chain resiliency, and driving economic growth nationwide.

I urge your full and fair consideration for the Illinois Department of Transportation's application for the National Railroad Partnership Grant Program through the Department of Transportation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Bill Foster
Member of Congress