



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

February 3, 2026

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

Dear Administrator Fink:

I write 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 funding through the National Railroad Partnership Program. The CREATE Program is the largest public-private partnership of its kind, involving the nation's rail industry and all levels of government.

Federal funding will advance CREATE's Rock Island Connection project (P2), the next phase of the larger 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project, which will construct a flyover bridge to eliminate a major chokepoint and reduce conflicts between freight and passenger trains. P2 directly aligns with the goals of the National Railroad Partnership Program by improving reliability, travel times, and safety for both passenger and freight trains in the country's most congested rail terminal.

The P2 project advances the CREATE Program's overarching goals—increasing the efficiency, capacity, safety, and reliability of passenger and freight rail throughout Chicago and the nation. Chicago is the nation's premier freight hub, handling nearly half of all intermodal containers and one-third of U.S. carload freight. This investment is a pivotal step toward enhancing supply chain resilience and driving economic growth nationwide.

Within all relevant rules and regulations, it is my hope that you will give IDOT's application full and fair consideration. Thank you for taking the time to review IDOT's application, and please feel free to contact my Legislative Assistance, Samuel Jockisch, at (202) 225-6201 with any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darin LaHood".

Darin LaHood
Member of Congress