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The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Active Transportation Alliance is fully supportive of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) application for Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant funding on behalf of the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program. This grant will fund the Archer Avenue and Belt Railway of Chicago (BRC) Grade Separation Project (defined as "GS9"), which includes lowering Archer Avenue under existing BRC tracks to grade separate. The improvement will increase operational efficiency and safety for rail, vehicles, and pedestrians.

GS9 experiences 32 freight trains, 18,600 vehicles and 259 buses daily with being located less than one mile away from Chicago Midway International Airport. The heavily used at-grade crossing results in 59,600 hours of delay each year and is also a 911 critical location for emergency services to access communities with a high frequency of train crossings and delays. GS9 is an integral location for connecting to other railroad corridors serving the Chicago metropolitan area, including an industrial district directly south in Bedford Park.

Eliminating the at-grade crossing will reduce roadway congestion, eliminate railroad conflicts, and potentially reduce delays for trains operating in the GS9 corridor. The grade separation project will contribute to an area with a low-income and minority population by improving safety, air quality, emergency response times and transit services, and enhancing pedestrian and bicyclist facilities.

Based in Chicago, the Active Transportation Alliance is a non-profit advocacy organization that works to improve conditions for bicycling, walking and transit. We believe a connected, regional transportation system, built for all road users, is critical for creating healthier, more equitable communities, cleaner environments, and vibrant local economies. The GS9 project supports the movement of people by foot, bike, and bus, and neighboring communities will benefit from cleaner air, reduced vehicle and railroad delays at the Archer Avenue crossing, improved economic development potential, and more fluid transit systems.

The Active Transportation Alliance fully supports this application and looks forward to the project's successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Amy Rynell, Executive Director
Active Transportation Alliance