

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

March 15, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing in support of Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) application for Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant funding on behalf of the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program. This federal funding will enable CREATE to 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.

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. Archer Avenue is part of the Chicago Region National Highway System and the project corridor is bounded by two other National Highway System mainline roads; IL 50 (Cicero Avenue) and Pulaski Road. 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 rail-road 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, and emergency response times. The efficiencies resulting from this project support the movement of people and consumer goods along important roadway and railway systems and to communities throughout the nation.

Please give full and fair consideration to Illinois Department of Transportation's application. If you require additional information, please contact my Chicago Director, Clarisol Duque, at (312) 353-4952.


Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



Danny K. Davis  
United States Representative



Bobby L. Rush  
United States Representative



Marie Newman  
United States Representative



Jan Schakowsky  
United States Representative



Mike Quigley  
United States Representative



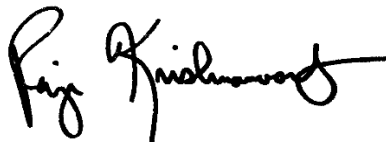
Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
United States Representative



Robin L. Kelly  
United States Representative



Bill Foster  
United States Representative



Raja Krishnamoorthi  
United States Representative



Bradley Schneider  
United States Representative



Sean Casten  
United States Representative