



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND HIGHWAYS

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ACTING SUPERINTENDENT

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March 9, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (CCDOTH) 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 eliminate highway-rail conflicts. This project will increase operational efficiency and safety for railroads, roadway users, and pedestrians and will benefit the low-income and minority population immediately surrounding the project by improving safety, air quality, emergency response times, and transit service speed.

The Archer Avenue and BRC crossing sees 32 freight trains, 18,600 vehicles and 259 buses daily. 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. These delays will be eliminated by the grade separation. GS9 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. It is an integral location for connecting to other railroad corridors serving the Chicago metropolitan area, including an industrial district directly south in Bedford Park, as well as a critical connection to nearby Midway International Airport.

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. Not only does this project support economic growth, but neighboring communities also benefit from cleaner air, reduced vehicle and railroad delays at the Archer Avenue crossing, improved economic development potential and more fluid rail and roadway systems. CCDOTH fully supports this application and looks forward to the project's successful implementation.

Sincerely,

Jennifer "Sis" Killen, P.E., PTOE  
Acting Superintendent  
Department of Transportation and Highways  
Cook County, IL