



Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of Intermodal Project Implementation / Bureau of Freight Rail Management
69 West Washington Street / Suite 2100 / Chicago, Illinois 60602

March 19, 2021

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We are pleased to submit this letter to demonstrate our commitment to providing matching funds for the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) application for an Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant for the Archer Avenue and Belt Railway of Chicago (BRC) Grade Separation Project (defined as "GS9"), which is an important inter-related element of the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program. As member partners of CREATE, we are vested in the CREATE Program's success and increasing the Chicago rail network's overall capacity to efficiently accommodate anticipated increases in national demand for freight and passenger rail.

The preliminary engineering and environmental study (Phase I) and design engineering (Phase II) of \$11 million for GS9 are fully funded by IDOT and Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT). To leverage the \$30 million in INFRA funds we are requesting for construction (Phase III) via this grant, we commit to collectively providing \$20 million (\$17 million IDOT and \$3 million BRC) in matching funds to construct the GS9.

The CREATE Program, the GS9 project and our significant funding commitment align perfectly with the Biden Administration's objectives of sharing responsibility and accountability, pooling State, local and private resources to maximize our contributions, and using public funds to leverage private investments to deliver a nationally significant infrastructure investment. As a reflection of this, our commitment of \$20 million includes public funds from IDOT and private funds from our Class I railroad partners and is equal to 40% of the project construction cost of \$50 million. The total federal funding for all GS9 uses (Phase I, Phase II, and Phase III) is 49.1%, which falls well below the allowable 80% statutory cost share allowance for total federal funding towards an entire project and allows more infrastructure investment on the part of the Administration.

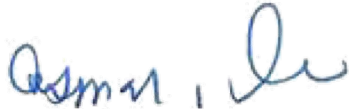
The significant benefits of the GS9 project are consistent with the Administration's goals and objectives and will ensure the U.S. remains competitive and poised for growth both stateside and abroad while creating good-paying jobs, ensuring safety, addressing climate change, and building innovative, transformative projects.

With the CREATE Program's record of delivering complex infrastructure projects on time and on budget, we are confident that we can successfully deliver this project according to the timeframe and budget in our application and we look forward to the project's successful implementation.

Sincerely,
The CREATE Stakeholders

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Grace". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "M" and a long, sweeping tail.

Michael J. Grace
President
Belt Railway of Chicago

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Omer Osman". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a large initial "O" and a long, sweeping tail.

Omer Osman
Acting Secretary
Illinois Department of Transportation