

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1304

December 20, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing with regard to the Springfield Rail Improvements Project (SRIP), a joint effort between the City of Springfield, Illinois; Sangamon County; and the Illinois Department of Transportation. This initiative began in 2014, and includes a portfolio of projects to relocate all passenger and freight traffic from the Third Street Corridor to Tenth Street in Springfield.

Since 2014, I have greatly appreciated the U.S. Department of Transportation's support in securing more than \$90 million in federal funding for the project, including its most recent 2022 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. With this support, Springfield has been able to construct underpasses at Carpenter Street, Ash Street, and Laurel Street, as well as new double-track rail bridges at Fifth and Sixth Streets, among other work that is underway. Through this investment, SRIP has proven itself to be one of the most successful and efficient examples of project coordination across the local, state, and federal levels of government.

As of today, the City has only one remaining segment to complete the entire Tenth Street Corridor as it envisioned nearly a decade ago. This segment includes constructing a new transportation center that includes an Amtrak station, bus transfer facility, and parking garage. This transportation center would not only improve connectivity for Springfield residents and all who pass through Illinois' capital, it also would spur transit-oriented development and benefit historically underserved residents in the area.

Springfield's goal was to complete this Corridor by 2025, and the total cost of the remaining work to do so is roughly \$138.5 million. However, despite the City applying for several federal rail grants this year, I was disappointed to see SRIP was not selected for any new funding. This means the City's long-standing goal to complete the Corridor by 2025 is no longer feasible.

While this has been disappointing to all who are invested in the project, it is my hope that you will strongly consider SRIP's applications for any federal rail grants in 2024, so the project can move forward. The remaining work is shovel-ready, and the City of Springfield and its partners are eager to move the project across the finish line after a decade of effort.

I look forward to working with you to capitalize and expand on the previous \$90 million of federal investment in SRIP to help Springfield complete the Tenth Street Corridor.

Sincerely,



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Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator