

Appendix C

Letters of Support

DEBBIE DINGELL
12TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEES ON
HEALTH
ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEES ON
NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS
WATER, OCEANS, AND WILDLIFE
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4071

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SUITE 103-E
DEARBORN, MI 48124
(313) 278-2936

301 WEST MICHIGAN AVENUE
SUITE 400
YPSILANTI, MI 48197
(734) 481-1100

WEBSITE: DEBBIEDINGELL.HOUSE.GOV

June 3, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

This letter is being sent in support of the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) application for federal grant funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Program for Trespass Prevention and Pedestrian Safety Enhancements on the Michigan Line. The project includes work in the cities of Dearborn, Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, Canton, Inkster, Wayne, Albion, Marshall, Battle Creek, Chelsea, Jackson, Parma, Galesburg, Augusta, and Kalamazoo.

In the past four years, 12 pedestrians have been struck by trains and many more near misses have been recorded on MDOT's portion of the Michigan Line. This project proposes infrastructure improvements designed to prevent pedestrian trespassing at "hotspot" locations where many strikes have occurred and where near misses occur regularly. "Hotspot" locations are found in downtown Dearborn, Eastern Michigan University (Ypsilanti), University of Michigan Hospital (Ann Arbor), Albion College (Albion), Galesburg, and downtown Kalamazoo.

CRISI grant funding will help the State of Michigan and MDOT to complete necessary improvements and upgrades at these locations. Through the installation of right-of-way fencing and tree clearing, MDOT will deter trespassing along both sides of the right-of-way where trains travel faster than 90 mph, and install fencing and pedestrian safety enhancements at select grade crossings in high-foot-traffic areas to safely route pedestrians to cross the tracks. Each site has unique challenges and MDOT is working with railroad operators and local officials to effectively construct the improvements needed to safeguard the public.

These improvements are also critical to the health and safety of the local community. The infrastructure changes will improve both pedestrian and rail passenger safety, specifically in "hotspot" locations that often coincide with college and university campuses.

I respectfully request that MDOT's proposal for CRISI grant funding be given full and fair consideration consistent with applicable law, rules, and regulations. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Dingell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Debbie" and last name "Dingell" clearly distinguishable.

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

United States Senate

June 9, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

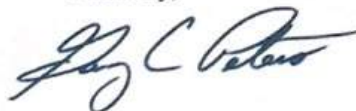
I am writing to express my strong support for the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) application for federal grant funding through the United States Department of Transportation Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Program for Trespass Prevention and Pedestrian Safety Enhancements on the Michigan Line. The project includes work in the cities of Dearborn, Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, Canton, Inkster, Wayne, Albion, Marshall, Battle Creek, Chelsea, Jackson, Parma, Galesburg, Augusta and Kalamazoo.

Over the past four years, 12 pedestrians have been struck by Amtrak trains and many more near misses have been recorded on MDOT's portion of the Michigan Line. This project proposes infrastructure improvements designed to prevent pedestrian trespassing at "hotspot" locations where many strikes have occurred and where near misses occur regularly. "Hotspot" locations are found in downtown Dearborn, Eastern Michigan University (Ypsilanti), University of Michigan Hospital (Ann Arbor), Albion College (Albion), Galesburg, and downtown Kalamazoo.

The \$15,506,518 in requested CRISI grant funding will help the State of Michigan/MDOT to complete necessary improvements and upgrades at these locations, many of which coincide with college and university campuses. Through the installation of right-of-way fencing and tree clearing, MDOT will deter trespassing along both sides of the right-of-way where trains travel faster than 90 mph, and install fencing and pedestrian safety enhancements at select grade crossings in high-foot-traffic areas to safely route pedestrians to cross the tracks. Each site has unique challenges, and MDOT is working with Amtrak and local officials to effectively construct these improvements which are critical to the health and safety of the local community.

I am confident that the application by MDOT for CRISI funding will receive all appropriate consideration. If I may be of any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Elise Lancaster of my Lansing office at (313) 505-5615. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 8, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing in support of the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) application for the 2020 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant program. This project focuses on trespass prevention and pedestrian safety enhancements on the prominent Michigan Line railroad corridor that encompasses various cities across Wayne County.

In the past four years, 12 pedestrians have been struck by Amtrak trains and many more near misses have been recorded on MDOT's portion of the Michigan Line. This project proposes infrastructure improvements designed to prevent pedestrian trespassing at locations where many strikes have occurred and where near misses occur regularly.

This funding will help the State of Michigan and MDOT complete necessary improvements and upgrades to enhance safety measures. Through the installation of right-of-way fencing and tree clearing, MDOT will deter pedestrian foot traffic along both sides of the rail where trains travel faster than 90 miles per hour. Funding will also focus on creating walking routes in high-foot-traffic areas to ensure increased pedestrian safety when crossing the tracks.

Each site has unique challenges and MDOT is working in partnership with Amtrak and local officials to effectively construct the improvements needed to safeguard the public and provide high-quality safe walking routes for pedestrians.

These improvements are not only critical to the health and safety of the local community but will enhance the efficiency and reliability of the Michigan Line. I ask that you give this worthy project a full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,



Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL
SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HOUSING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT,
AND INSURANCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND REFORM

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC AND CONSUMER POLICY
VICE CHAIR - SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE
ENVIRONMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RASHIDA TLAIB
13TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

CAPITOL OFFICE
1628 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
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(FAX) (202) 225-9985

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7700 2ND AVE.
DETROIT, MI 48202
(PHONE) (313) 463-6220

(WEBSITE) WWW.TLAIB.HOUSE.GOV
(EMAIL) RASHIDA@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV

June 2, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter of support for the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) application for federal grant funding through the United States Department of Transportation Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Program for Trespass Prevention and Pedestrian Safety Enhancements on the Michigan Line. The project would benefit the communities that I represent in the 13th Congressional district, including funding work in the cities of Wayne and Inkster.

In the past four years, 12 pedestrians have been struck by Amtrak trains and many more near misses have been recorded on MDOT's portion of the Michigan Line. This project proposes infrastructure improvements designed to prevent pedestrian trespassing at "hotspot" locations where many strikes have occurred and where near misses occur regularly.

CRISI grant funding will help the State of Michigan/MDOT to complete necessary improvements and upgrades at these locations. Through the installation of right-of-way fencing and tree clearing, MDOT will deter trespassing along both sides of the right-of-way where trains travel faster than 90 mph, and install fencing and pedestrian safety enhancements at select grade crossings in high-foot-traffic areas to safely route pedestrians to cross the tracks. Each site has unique challenges and MDOT is working with Amtrak and local officials to effectively construct the improvements needed to safeguard the public.

These improvements are also critical to the health and safety of our local communities in the 13th Congressional District. The infrastructure changes will improve both pedestrian and Amtrak passenger safety, specifically in "hotspot" locations that often coincide with high pedestrian traffic communities.

I give my strong support to MDOT's CRISI grant application, and I ask for your full consideration for this request to support the communities of the 13th Congressional District. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (313) 463-6220.

Sincerely,



RASHIDA TLAIB
Member of Congress



June 11, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

On behalf of the Albion College students, faculty, and staff, I am writing to support the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) application for federal grant funding through the United States Department of Transportation Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Program for Trespass Prevention and Pedestrian Safety Enhancements on the Michigan Line. The project includes work in the cities of Dearborn, Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, Canton, Inkster, Wayne, Albion, Marshall, Battle Creek, Chelsea, Jackson, Parma, Galesburg, Augusta and Kalamazoo.

This request is so critical to the safety and protection of our students and the surrounding community. We have been in conversation with MDOT for many years and we all agree on the need to take action as quickly as possible. However, the need is even more heartfelt this year as we mourn the loss of a student who died on the tracks that slice in half the Albion College campus. Sadly, this was just one of 12 pedestrians that were struck by Amtrak trains and many more near misses have been recorded on MDOT's portion of the Michigan Line. This project proposes infrastructure improvements designed to prevent pedestrian trespassing at "hotspot" locations where many strikes have occurred and where near misses occur regularly. We invite you to Albion to see the challenging safety issues for yourself if your time allows. You will see that the street intersections and the railway right of way improvement needs are apparent, and the safety concerns are very real.

CRISI grant funding will help the State of Michigan/MDOT to complete necessary improvements and upgrades at these locations. Through the installation of right-of-way fencing and tree clearing, MDOT will deter trespassing along both sides of the right-of-way where trains travel faster than 90 mph, and install fencing and pedestrian safety enhancements at select grade crossings in high-foot-traffic areas to safely route pedestrians to cross the tracks. Each site has unique challenges and MDOT is working with Amtrak and local officials to effectively construct the improvements needed to safeguard the public.

We can state with absolute certainty that these improvements are also critical to the health and safety of the local community. The infrastructure changes will improve both pedestrian and Amtrak passenger safety, specifically in "hotspot" locations that often coincide with college and university campuses.



I, and the entire Albion College leadership team give our strong support to MDOT's CRISI grant application, and I ask for your full and fair consideration. If you have any additional questions, please contact me at 517/629-0446.

Sincerely,

Bob Anderson
Executive Vice President, Albion College

NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION

1 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001
Tel 202.906.2486 Fax 202.906.2850



Stephen J. Gardner

Senior Executive Vice President, Chief Operating and Commercial Officer

June 11, 2020

The Honorable Ronald Batory
Federal Railroad Administrator
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: FY20 CRISI Grant Application: Michigan DOT

Dear Administrator Batory:

On behalf of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak), I am writing to express our support for the Michigan Department of Transportation (Michigan DOT) grant application submitted under the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant program. CRISI grants fund capital investments that improve safety, efficiency and reliability of intercity passenger and freight railroads.

Amtrak's support relates to the following project:

Trespass Prevention and Pedestrian Safety Enhancements on the Michigan Line (MI)

Amtrak's local match contribution commitment is \$1,000,000 for the project.

This project includes infrastructure improvements designed to prevent pedestrian trespassing at "hotspot" locations where strikes and near misses occur on a regularly basis along the Michigan Line right-of-way that includes Amtrak's *Wolverine* and *Blue Water* services. The installation of right-of-way fencing will deter trespassing along both sides of the right-of-way where trains operate at speeds greater than 90 mph. Also, the installation of fencing and pedestrian safety enhancements at select grade crossings in high-foot-traffic areas, including Dearborn, Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, Albion, and Kalamazoo will route pedestrians to safely cross the tracks. This project also contains the installation of warning devices and pedestrian gates at two trail Kalamazoo River Trail crossings just east of Kalamazoo, at McCollum and Dickman Roads, which are heavily used by pedestrians and cyclists alike.

The project includes up to 157 miles of fencing (or 80 route miles), and pedestrian safety warning devices and other safety improvements at select crossings (e.g., sidewalk, striping, signage, pedestrian crossing gates).



The Honorable Ron Batory

June 11, 2020

Page 2

It is Amtrak's expectation that, prior to the obligation of grant funds for this project, Michigan DOT and Amtrak will discuss resource requirements and Amtrak's ability to adequately support the project, and subsequently enter into an agreement setting forth our roles and responsibilities with respect to the project, with terms acceptable to Amtrak.

The advancement of this project will reduce trespassing along with the associated delays and will increase safety along the Michigan Line corridor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen J. Gardner", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Stephen J. Gardner

Senior Executive Vice President,

Chief Operating and Commercial Officer

cc: Rob Lippert, Manager, Rail Infrastructure Section-Office of Rail, MDOT



EASTERN MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY

June 15, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for MDOT application for CRISI funding on the Michigan Line

Dear Secretary Chao:

Eastern Michigan University (EMU) is pleased to submit this letter supporting the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) application for federal grant funding through the United States Department of Transportation Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Program for Trespass Prevention and Pedestrian Safety Enhancements on the Michigan Line. The project includes work in the cities of Dearborn, Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, Canton, Inkster, Wayne, Albion, Marshall, Battle Creek, Chelsea, Jackson, Parma, Galesburg, Augusta and Kalamazoo.

EMU is located in the City of Ypsilanti, Michigan, and is the second-oldest public university in the State of Michigan. We educate over 17,000 students each year and employ approximately 2,000 full and part-time employees. Many of EMU's students and employees commute from areas throughout southeast Michigan. Transportation safety is therefore important to our students and employees.

In the past four years, 12 pedestrians have been struck by Amtrak trains and many more near misses have been recorded on MDOT's portion of the Michigan Line. This project proposes infrastructure improvements designed to prevent pedestrian trespassing at "hotspot" locations where many strikes have occurred and where near misses occur regularly. "Hotspot" locations are found near EMU's campus in Ypsilanti, as well as in other college-towns including Ann Arbor, Albion, and Kalamazoo.

CRISI grant funding will help the State of Michigan/MDOT to complete necessary improvements and upgrades at these locations. Through the installation of right-of-way fencing and tree clearing, MDOT will deter trespassing along both sides of the right-of-way where trains travel faster than 90 mph, and install fencing and pedestrian safety enhancements at select grade crossings in high-foot-traffic areas to safely route pedestrians to cross the tracks. Each site has unique challenges and MDOT is working with Amtrak and local officials to effectively construct the improvements needed to safeguard the public.

On behalf of EMU, I strongly support MDOT's CRISI grant application, and I ask for your full and fair consideration. If you have any additional questions, please contact me at president@emich.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James M. Smith".

James M. Smith, Ph.D.
President

cc: The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
The Honorable Gary Peters
The Honorable Debbie Dingell



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

241 W. South Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49007-4796
Phone: (269) 337-8047
Fax: (269) 337-8182
www.kalamazoo-city.org

Thursday, June 11, 2020

**To: The United States Department of Transportation
Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Grant Program**

RE: Trespass Prevention and Pedestrian Safety Enhancements on the Michigan Line

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to voice the City of Kalamazoo's strong support for the Michigan Department of Transportation's application to the United States Department of Transportation Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements grant.

The project proposes infrastructure improvements designed to prevent pedestrian trespassing at "hotspot" locations where many pedestrian train strikes have occurred and where near misses occur regularly. Through the installation of right-of-way fencing and pedestrian safety enhancements at select grade crossings, these high-foot-traffic areas will be better equipped to safely route pedestrians to cross the tracks.

The City especially hopes for improving levels of pedestrian safety along the railroad corridor in ways that take into account the overall context of our built environment including a strong need to maintain real and perceived connectivity between our core neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

James K. Ritsema, ICMA-CM
City Manager

June 7, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter of support for the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) application for federal grant funding through the United States Department of Transportation Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Program for Trespass Prevention and Pedestrian Safety Enhancements on the Michigan Line. The project includes work in the cities of Dearborn, Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, Canton, Inkster, Wayne, Albion, Marshall, Battle Creek, Chelsea, Jackson, Parma, Galesburg, Augusta and Kalamazoo.

In the past four years, 12 pedestrians have been struck by Amtrak trains and many more near misses have been recorded on MDOT's portion of the Michigan Line. This project proposes infrastructure improvements designed to prevent pedestrian trespassing at "hotspot" locations where many strikes have occurred and where near misses occur regularly. "Hotspot" locations are found in downtown Dearborn, Eastern Michigan University (Ypsilanti), University of Michigan Hospital (Ann Arbor), Albion College (Albion), Galesburg, and downtown Kalamazoo.

CRISI grant funding will help the State of Michigan/MDOT to complete necessary improvements and upgrades at these locations. Through the installation of right-of-way fencing and tree clearing, MDOT will deter trespassing along both sides of the right-of-way where trains travel faster than 90 mph, and install fencing and pedestrian safety enhancements at select grade crossings in high-foot-traffic areas to safely route pedestrians to cross the tracks. Each site has unique challenges and MDOT is working with Amtrak and local officials to effectively construct the improvements needed to safeguard the public.

These improvements are also critical to the health and safety of the local community. The infrastructure changes will improve both pedestrian and Amtrak passenger safety, specifically in "hotspot" locations that often coincide with college and university campuses.

I give my strong support to MDOT's CRISI grant application, and I ask for your full and fair consideration. If you have any additional questions, please contact me at 517-974-1737.

Sincerely,

Curtis A. Stewart

Assistant State Coordinator

Michigan Operation Lifesaver



Norfolk Southern Corporation
Strategic Planning
Three Commercial Place
Norfolk, VA 23510

John V. Edwards
General Director Passenger Policy
757-629-2838
757-533-4884 – Fax
John.Edwards@nscorp.com

June 9, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter of support for the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) application for federal grant funding through the United States Department of Transportation Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Program for Trespass Prevention and Pedestrian Safety Enhancements on the Michigan Line. The project includes work in several communities across Michigan.

In the past four years, 12 pedestrians have been struck by Amtrak trains and many more near misses have been recorded on MDOT's portion of the Michigan Line. This project proposes infrastructure improvements designed to prevent pedestrian trespassing at several locations where many strikes have occurred and where near misses occur regularly. These locations are found in downtown Dearborn, Eastern Michigan University (Ypsilanti), University of Michigan Hospital (Ann Arbor), Canton, Inkster, Wayne, Albion College (Albion), Marshall, Battle Creek, Chelsea, Jackson, Parma, Galesburg, Augusta and downtown Kalamazoo.

CRISI grant funding will help the State complete necessary improvements and upgrades at these locations. Through the installation of right-of-way (ROW) fencing and tree clearing, MDOT will deter trespassing along both sides of the ROW where passenger trains travel faster than 90 mph, and install fencing and pedestrian safety enhancements at select grade crossings in high-foot-traffic areas to safely route pedestrians to cross the tracks. Each site has unique challenges and MDOT is working with Amtrak and local officials to effectively construct the improvements needed to safeguard the public. These improvements are also critical to the health and safety of the local community. The infrastructure changes will improve both pedestrian and rail, specifically in the several high incident locations that often coincide with college and university campuses.

Norfolk Southern gives its strong support to MDOT's CRISI grant application. We ask for your full and fair consideration. If you have any additional questions, please contact me at 757-629-2838.

Sincerely,



John V. Edwards
General Director Passenger Policy

COMMISSIONERS
DOUGLAS E. FULLER
CHAIR

BARBARA RYAN FULLER
VICE-CHAIR

RODRICK K. GREEN
MEMBER

GLORIA LLAMAS
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JO ANN McCOLLUM
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**WASHTENAW COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS**

555 NORTH ZEEB ROAD
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48103
WWW.WCROADS.ORG
TELEPHONE (734) 761-1500
FAX (734) 761-3737

SHERYL SODERHOLM SIDDALL, P.E.
MANAGING DIRECTOR

MATTHEW F. MacDONELL, P.E.
DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING
COUNTY HIGHWAY ENGINEER

JAMES D. HARMON, P.E.
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

DANIEL D. ACKERMAN
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & IT

June 4, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter of support for the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) application for federal grant funding through the United States Department of Transportation Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Program for Trespass Prevention and Pedestrian Safety Enhancements on the Michigan Line. The project includes work in the cities of Dearborn, Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, Canton, Inkster, Wayne, Albion, Marshall, Battle Creek, Chelsea, Jackson, Parma, Galesburg, Augusta and Kalamazoo.

In the past four years, 12 pedestrians have been struck by Amtrak trains and many more near misses have been recorded on MDOT's portion of the Michigan Line. This project proposes infrastructure improvements designed to prevent pedestrian trespassing at "hotspot" locations where many strikes have occurred and where near misses occur regularly. "Hotspot" locations are found in downtown Dearborn, Eastern Michigan University (Ypsilanti), University of Michigan Hospital (Ann Arbor), Albion College (Albion), Galesburg, and downtown Kalamazoo.

CRISI grant funding will help the State of Michigan/MDOT to complete necessary improvements and upgrades at these locations. Through the installation of right-of-way fencing and tree clearing, MDOT will deter trespassing along both sides of the right-of-way where trains travel faster than 90 mph, and install fencing and pedestrian safety enhancements at select grade crossings in high-foot-traffic areas to safely route pedestrians to cross the tracks. Each site has unique challenges and MDOT is working with Amtrak and local officials to effectively construct the improvements needed to safeguard the public.

These improvements are also critical to the health and safety of the local community. The infrastructure changes will improve both pedestrian and Amtrak passenger safety, specifically in "hotspot" locations that often coincide with college and university campuses. I give my strong support to MDOT's CRISI grant application, and I ask for your full and fair consideration. If you have any additional questions, please contact me at (734) 327-6688.

Sincerely,

Matthew F. MacDonell, P.E.

County Highway Engineer & Director of Engineering

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Government Relations



June 5, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter of support for the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) application for federal grant funding through the United States Department of Transportation Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Program for Trespass Prevention and Pedestrian Safety Enhancements on the Michigan Line. The project includes work in the cities of Dearborn, Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, Canton, Inkster, Wayne, Albion, Marshall, Battle Creek, Chelsea, Jackson, Parma, Galesburg, Augusta and Kalamazoo.

In the past four years, 12 pedestrians have been struck by Amtrak trains and many more near misses have been recorded on MDOT's portion of the Michigan Line. This project proposes infrastructure improvements designed to prevent pedestrian trespassing at "hotspot" locations where many strikes have occurred and where near misses occur regularly. "Hotspot" locations are found in downtown Dearborn, at Eastern Michigan University (Ypsilanti), University of Michigan Hospital (Ann Arbor), Albion College (Albion), Galesburg, and downtown Kalamazoo.

CRISI grant funding will help the State of Michigan/MDOT to complete necessary improvements and upgrades at these locations. Through the installation of right-of-way fencing and tree clearing, MDOT will deter trespassing along both sides of the right-of-way where trains travel faster than 90 mph, and install fencing and pedestrian safety enhancements at select grade crossings in high-foot-traffic areas to safely route pedestrians to cross the tracks. Each site has unique challenges and MDOT is working with Amtrak and local officials to effectively construct the improvements needed to safeguard the public.

These improvements are also critical to the health and safety of the local community. The infrastructure changes will improve both pedestrian and Amtrak passenger safety, specifically in "hotspot" locations that often coincide with college and university campuses.

On behalf of Western Michigan University, I give my strong support to MDOT's CRISI grant application, and I ask for your full and fair consideration. If you have any additional questions, please contact me at (269) 716-0400.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey S. Breneman
Vice President

Government Relations
Western Michigan University
1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5247
PHONE: (269) 387-2072
WEBSITE: wmich.edu/government

CAMPUS SITE: Room 3010 Seibert Administration Building

June 17, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter of support for the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) application for federal grant funding through the United States Department of Transportation Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Program for Trespass Prevention and Pedestrian Safety Enhancements on the Michigan Line. The project includes work in the cities of Dearborn, Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, Canton, Inkster, Wayne, Albion, Marshall, Battle Creek, Chelsea, Jackson, Parma, Galesburg, Augusta and Kalamazoo.

In the past four years, 12 pedestrians have been struck by Amtrak trains and many more near misses have been recorded on MDOT's portion of the Michigan Line. This project proposes infrastructure improvements designed to prevent pedestrian trespassing at "hotspot" locations where many strikes have occurred and where near misses occur regularly. "Hotspot" locations are found in downtown Dearborn, Eastern Michigan University (Ypsilanti), University of Michigan Hospital (Ann Arbor), Albion College (Albion), Galesburg, and downtown Kalamazoo.

CRISI grant funding will help the State of Michigan/MDOT to complete necessary improvements and upgrades at these locations. Through the installation of right-of-way fencing and tree clearing, MDOT will deter trespassing along both sides of the right-of-way where trains travel faster than 90 mph, and install fencing and pedestrian safety enhancements at select grade crossings in high-foot-traffic areas to safely route pedestrians to cross the tracks. Each site has unique challenges and MDOT is working with Amtrak and local officials to effectively construct the improvements needed to safeguard the public.

These improvements are also critical to the health and safety of the local community. The infrastructure changes will improve both pedestrian and Amtrak passenger safety, specifically in "hotspot" locations that often coincide with college and university campuses.

I give my strong support to MDOT's CRISI grant application, and I ask for your full and fair consideration. If you have any additional questions, please contact me at 734-483-1421.

Sincerely,



Ronald A. Akers
Director of Public Services
City of Ypsilanti