

DONALD A. MANZULLO
16TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1316

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July 23, 2010

Hon. Ray LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
12th and New Jersey, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Illinois Department of Transportation's TIGER II grant application for construction of the downtown rail station and other site amenities in the City of Rockford.

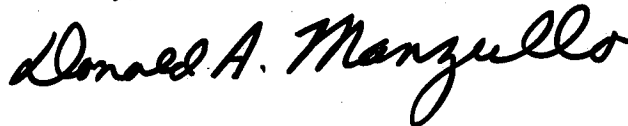
The funds sought by IDOT will be used to create a rail station that will substantially replicate the original Illinois Central station that was once the center of activity in the core of Rockford. Combined with \$60 million from the Illinois Jobs Now capital program, passenger rail will become a reality in the Chicago-Rockford-Dubuque corridor for the first time since 1981.

The citizens of the Rockford region have shown overwhelming support for passenger rail projects and the elected officials that represent them are committed to work together to make this important regional initiative a reality.

The passenger rail improvements in downtown Rockford are a top regional priority and are a key component of the successful implementation of transit-oriented development that brings a sustainable and livable mixed use, mixed income revitalization that provides more housing and transportation choices.

Once again, I strongly support the Illinois Department of Transportation's TIGER II grant application. I respectfully request that you give their application your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,



Member of Congress
16th District of Illinois



August 10, 2010

Mr. Joseph Shacter
Director of Public and Intermodal Transportation
Illinois Department of Transportation
1 West Randolph Street
Suite 6-600
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Mr. Shacter:

The National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) would like to take this opportunity to express its support for the Illinois Department of Transportation's ("IDOT") application under the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) National Infrastructure Investments "TIGER II Discretionary Grants" program, funded under the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for 2010, for preliminary engineering, final design, and construction of a proposed new multi-modal station at Rockford, Illinois which will serve proposed future Amtrak service.

At this time, we have an exciting opportunity to advance projects that are integral to developing a multi-modal, performance-based surface transportation system. Based on the information made available to us by IDOT regarding this project's eligibility, and subject to the development of such project-specific agreements as DOT may require, we support IDOT's application to fund this project under the TIGER II program because we believe that this project, upon completion, could have a significant and positive impact on the long-term outcomes sought by the TIGER II program.

The advancement of projects like these will help develop transportation infrastructure improvements that will have a significant impact on regions, metropolitan areas and the Nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael W. Franke".

Michael W. Franke
Assistant Vice President, Policy & Development (Central)