

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

April 21, 2023

Mr. Amit Bose
Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Bose,

I am pleased to support the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's (WisDOT) application for Corridor Identification and Development (Corridor ID) program funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). If awarded, funding will help to support the implementation of a downtown rail connection in the Twin Cities and a second daily round trip of *Great River* Amtrak service between Minneapolis, Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota, La Crosse, Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Chicago, Illinois.

WisDOT and the Minnesota Department of Transportation are in the final stages of implementing a single daily round trip in the Corridor and anticipate that the *Great River* service will begin operating later in 2023. Connecting Minneapolis and St. Paul by rail and adding an additional *Great River* service frequencies would improve mobility for underserved communities, provide expanded access to education and employment opportunities along the Corridor, and enhance connectivity between the major economic centers of the Twin Cities, Milwaukee, and Chicago.

WisDOT has worked with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Illinois Department of Transportation, FRA and Amtrak on planning and implementing the single daily round trip *Great River* service and all entities have had key roles on the project as funding partners, technical support, and railroad coordination support. In studying the potential development of this Corridor, WisDOT proposes to work with the FRA, Minnesota, Illinois, Tribal and local governments, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Amtrak, hosts railroads, and other interested parties in detailing local routing, service plans, and service options.

I strongly support projects that help to improve our regional transportation infrastructure for all users. For this reason, I request full and fair consideration be given to WisDOT's application for Corridor ID program funding. Please keep my staff informed on the progress of this application by e-mail at projects_grants@baldwin.senate.gov. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of my request.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator