

Congress of the United States

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Rep. Lipinski Joined by Federal, State, and Local Officials to Announce New Agreement on Funding CREATE

Historic Rail Project Will Ease Traffic Congestion, Create Jobs, Improve Air Quality,
And Maintain Region's Leadership in Rail Transport

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, Congressman Dan Lipinski, joined by government, business, and labor leaders, announced a new \$330 million funding agreement for the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) rail improvement program. Through the unprecedented cooperative effort led by Congressman Lipinski, congressional and federal officials, the State of Illinois, the City of Chicago, and the railroad industry have reached a consensus to move forward with \$330 million in rail improvements in northeastern Illinois over the next three years.

The CREATE program is a public-private partnership that will alleviate congestion on regional rail lines and enhance the efficiency of our transportation infrastructure. CREATE includes numerous improvements to both the local railroad infrastructure and the highway system, and it would benefit freight traffic, commuter traffic, intercity rail passengers, and local road traffic.

"I am very happy to bring everyone together to advance this crucial program which will provide substantial benefits to Chicago-area residents and the entire nation," said Lipinski. "Moving our rail infrastructure into the 21st century will help us locally with more jobs, less congestion on roads, and better passenger rail service, and will benefit the national economy with a more efficient movement of freight."

The new three year, \$330 million funding agreement includes the \$100 million Congressman Lipinski secured in federal funding, \$100 million from the railroads, \$100 from the State of Illinois, and \$30 million from the City of Chicago. Chicago is the nation's transportation hub with one third of all cargo passing through. Over the next 20 years the demand for freight rail service is expected to nearly double, and without the improvements provided by CREATE, the region could lose out on 17,000 jobs and \$2 billion in annual economic production.

Besides rail improvements, CREATE includes new overpasses or underpasses where roads cross railroad tracks. This will reduce congestion on roadways, reduce grade crossing accidents, and also help reduce air pollution.

"CREATE is going forward, and that is good news for Chicago, the State of Illinois, the nation and the railroads," said Association of American Railroads President & CEO Edward Hamberger. "It will reduce highway congestion, improve passenger rail service and enhance the efficiency and capacity of freight rail operations through the area. It's what public private partnerships are all about."



Congressman Dan Lipinski speaks at the press conference.