

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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

November 30, 2022

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 Fox Valley and Lake Superior Rail System's (FOXY) application for Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) program funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration. If awarded, funding will support the Fox River Railroad Swing Bridge Improvement and Sustainability Project, which would assist in completing all preliminary engineering and design work, including all environmental work, to three swing bridges that traverse the Fox River in Brown and Outagamie Counties in eastern Wisconsin. Due to its importance, this project is listed in the Wisconsin State Rail Plan.

All three swing bridges have suffered through years of deferred maintenance from the previous owner/operator and are currently under restricted weight loadings. Additionally, the bridges experience random and regular service interruptions to both rail and marine traffic. If these bridges were to fail, rail service could be impacted for an indefinite period of time and there would be widespread effects to Wisconsin's transportation and agricultural industries, including potential impacts to marine and recreational transportation.

Completion of Preliminary Engineering and Design Plans for the Fox River Railroad Swing Bridge Improvement and Sustainability Project, including the Environmental/NEPA Analysis, will position the FOXY to develop a Construction Scope of Work that will identify capital needs, costs, schedule, and maintenance plan to reach the industry standard of 286,000 lbs. gross weight on rail.

I strongly support projects that help to modernize and improve the safety of Wisconsin's transportation infrastructure. For this reason, I request full and fair consideration be given to FOXY's application for CRISI 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