

# Appendix A: LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION &  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
AVIATION  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND HAZARDOUS  
MATERIALS

March 18, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write in strong support of the City of Chicago's application for the Bridge Investment Program funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation to rehabilitate the California Avenue Bridge.

The California Avenue Bridge, which spans the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, is a vital regional connector for freight traffic. It links economically important industrial areas, like the nearby Little Village, Pilsen, and Brighton Park industrial corridors, to key intermodal freight centers. It is also adjacent to Interstate 55 and close to several major expressways. Funds for this project will ensure the bridge is preserved and the connection across the Sanitary and Ship Canal is maintained.

In addition to regional freight significance, this project enhances local connectivity in a historically disadvantaged area. It provides essential access to schools, parks, and businesses. This grant will help improve and connect Chicago residents to the industrial corridors and improve safety and connectivity for all modes of transportation. The California Avenue Bridge supports the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) Bus Route 94, which connects neighborhoods across the city and allows for transfer to multiple train lines. Not only will the California Avenue Bridge rehabilitation project ensure connectivity and access for residents and visitors, but it is also an important investment in our local and regional infrastructure.

Given the positive impact this proposal will have for the district and the City of Chicago, I strongly support this project and recommend funding to make this proposal a reality. Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact my Chief of Staff, Patty Garcia, at [Patty.Garcia@mail.house.gov](mailto:Patty.Garcia@mail.house.gov) or (312) 489-7726.

Sincerely,



Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress  
Illinois' 4th Congressional District

# United States Senate

March 21, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my support for the city of Chicago's application to the Department of Transportation's (DOT) *Bridge Investment Program*. Federal funding for this project will enable the city of Chicago to rehabilitate a bridge that provides a critical connection across the Sanitary and Ship Canal for local communities and businesses.

Located in the neighborhood of Little Village on the southwest side of Chicago, the California Avenue Bridge serves as a regional connector between the city and the industrial sector. The bridge serves over 15,000 vehicles per day, 20% of which are heavy commercial and public transportation vehicles. The bridge provides access to schools, parks and economic centers, all of which are essential to the economic vitality of the region. At nearly one hundred years old, this bridge desperately needs updates to ensure that the citizens of Little Village have access to all modes of transportation within the city limits and around the Industrial Corridor.

As a U.S. Senator representing Illinois and a member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, I have made it a priority to support projects that modernize Illinois' transportation and infrastructure systems. The California Avenue Bridge project will provide safe connectivity and access to all citizens of Chicago, demonstrating the continued investment in local and regional infrastructure.

Please accept this letter of support for the City of Chicago's application to the Department of Transportation's (DOT) *Bridge Investment Program*. In keeping with your existing rules and regulations, I urge you to give the application full and fair consideration. If you have any questions, please contact my Chicago Director, Stacey Berdejo at (312) 886-2525.





DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND HIGHWAYS

**JENNIFER "SIS" KILLEN, P.E., PTOE**

SUPERINTENDENT

69 West Washington Street, 24th Floor • Chicago, Illinois 60602 • (312) 603-1601

**TONI PRECKWINKLE**

PRESIDENT

**Cook County Board  
of Commissioners**

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15th District

FRANK AGUILAR

16th District

SEAN M. MORRISON

17th District

February 29, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Letter of support for the City of Chicago's California Avenue Bridge application for the Bridge Investment Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for the Bridge Investment Program funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation. This federal funding will enable Chicago to rehabilitate the California Avenue Bridge.

As part of the Illinois Priority Freight Network, the California Avenue Bridge is a vital regional connector for freight traffic linking to economically important industrial areas and key intermodal freight centers. The bridge serves over 15,000 vehicles per day, of which nearly 20% are heavy commercial vehicles.

The California Avenue Bridge is adjacent to the I-55 expressway and 2.75 miles south of the I-290 expressway. The bridge spans the Sanitary and Ship Canal, which is lined with industrial uses, many of which utilize the freight system. The bridge is in the Little Village Industrial Corridor. Combined with the Pilsen and the Stevenson Industrial Corridors, an industrial center for Chicago is formed along the Sanitary and Ship Canal. The funding of the project will help ensure this bridge is preserved and the connection across the Sanitary and Ship Canal is maintained.

In addition to regional freight significance, this project enhances local connectivity in a historically disadvantaged area. It provides essential access to schools, parks and economic centers. Two goals of the Little Village Industrial Corridor Framework (2019) are to "Maintain the Little Village Industrial Corridor as an employment hub" and "Provide better access for all modes within and around the Little Village Industrial Corridor". This grant will help to support these goals through connecting Chicago residents to the industrial corridors and through improving safety and connectivity for all modes. The California Avenue Bridge carries CTA Bus Route 94, which provides access across the city and connects to multiple train stations. We are excited about the opportunity to ensure safe connectivity and access, and for the continued investment in our local and regional infrastructure and economic vitality.

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Re: Letter of support for the City of Chicago's California Avenue Bridge application for the Bridge Investment Program

The California Avenue Bridge is the type of project that is consistent with our own goals at Cook County Department of Transportation as well. The project maintains and modernizes the critical infrastructure we already have and provides better access for freight, which is vital to our region's economy. The project is also addressing needed improvements in areas of high need, investing equitably in our region.

I thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide Bridge Investment Program funding for the California Avenue Bridge project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Jennifer 'Sis' Killen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer "Sis" Killen, P.E., PTOE  
Superintendent  
Department of Transportation and Highways  
Cook County, Illinois

**JULIA RAMIREZ**  
ALDERWOMAN, 12TH WARD  
3868 SOUTH ARCHER AVENUE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60632  
PHONE: 773-475-6783  
E-MAIL: WARD12@CITYOFCHICAGO.ORG



**CITY OF CHICAGO  
CITY COUNCIL**

CITY HALL ROOM 200  
121 NORTH LASALLE STREET  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**  
BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
COMMITTEES AND RULES  
CONTRACTING OVERSIGHT AND EQUITY  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENERGY  
FINANCE  
HEALTH AND HUMAN RELATIONS  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
ZONING, LANDMARKS, AND  
BUILDING STANDARDS

March 11, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for the Bridge Investment Program funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation. This federal funding will enable the City to rehabilitate the California Avenue Bridge.

As part of the Illinois Priority Freight Network, the California Avenue Bridge is a vital regional connector for freight traffic linking to economically important industrial areas and key intermodal freight centers. The bridge serves over 15,000 vehicles per day, of which nearly 20% are heavy commercial vehicles.

The California Avenue Bridge is adjacent to the I-55 expressway and 2.75 miles south of the I-290 expressway. The bridge spans the Sanitary and Ship Canal, which is lined with industrial uses, many of which utilize the freight system. The bridge is in the Little Village Industrial Corridor. Combined with the Pilsen and the Stevenson Industrial Corridors, an industrial center for the City is formed along the Sanitary and Ship Canal. The funding of the project will help ensure this bridge is preserved and the connection across the Sanitary and Ship Canal is maintained.

In addition to regional freight significance, this project enhances local connectivity in a historically disadvantaged area. It provides essential access to schools, parks and economic centers. Two goals of the *Little Village Industrial Corridor Framework* (2019) are to "Maintain the Little Village Industrial Corridor as an employment hub" and "Provide better access for all modes within and around the Little Village Industrial Corridor." This grant will help to support these goals through connecting Chicago residents to the industrial corridors and through improving safety and connectivity for all modes.

**JULIA RAMIREZ**  
ALDERWOMAN, 12TH WARD  
3868 SOUTH ARCHER AVENUE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60632  
PHONE: 773-475-6783  
E-MAIL: WARD12@CITYOFCHICAGO.ORG



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CITY COUNCIL**

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121 NORTH LASALLE STREET  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**  
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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
ZONING, LANDMARKS, AND  
BUILDING STANDARDS

The California Avenue Bridge carries CTA Bus Route 94, which provides access across the city and connects to multiple train stations. We are excited about the opportunity to ensure safe connectivity and access, and for the continued investment in our local and regional infrastructure and economic vitality.

We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide Bridge Investment Program funding for the California Avenue Bridge project.

Sincerely,

Julia Ramirez  
Alderman, 12th Ward



CITY OF CHICAGO



BYRON SIGCHO-LOPEZ  
ALDERMAN, 25TH WARD

March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for the Bridge Investment Program funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation. This federal funding will enable the City to rehabilitate the California Avenue Bridge.

As part of the Illinois Priority Freight Network, the California Avenue Bridge is a vital regional connector for freight traffic linking to economically important industrial areas and key intermodal freight centers. The bridge serves over 15,000 vehicles per day, of which nearly 20% are heavy commercial vehicles.

The California Avenue Bridge is adjacent to the I-55 expressway and 2.75 miles south of the I-290 expressway. The bridge spans the Sanitary and Ship Canal, which is lined with industrial uses, many of which utilize the freight system. The bridge is in the Little Village Industrial Corridor. Combined with the Pilsen and the Stevenson Industrial Corridors, an industrial center for the City is formed along the Sanitary and Ship Canal. The funding of the project will help ensure this bridge is preserved and the connection across the Sanitary and Ship Canal is maintained.

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CITY OF CHICAGO



BYRON SIGCHO-LOPEZ  
ALDERMAN, 25TH WARD

For any additional questions or concerns, please reach out to my Chief of Staff, Lucia Calderon, at [Lucia.Moya@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Lucia.Moya@cityofchicago.org) or at (773) 523-4100.

We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide Bridge Investment Program funding for the California Avenue Bridge project.

Sincerely,

Byron Sigcho-Lopez  
Alderman, 25<sup>th</sup> Ward



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

433 West Van Buren Street  
Suite 450  
Chicago, IL 60607

312-454-0400  
cmap.illinois.gov

March 8, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is pleased to support the Chicago Department of Transportation's (CDOT) Bridge Investment Program application for the rehabilitation of the California Avenue Bridge over the Sanitary and Ship Canal.

As the comprehensive regional planning organization for northeastern Illinois, CMAP is committed to supporting strategic investments that will advance equity, improve safety, and maintain the region's status as North America's freight hub. The California Avenue Bridge is a vital regional connector for freight traffic linking to economically important industrial areas and key intermodal freight centers.

Located in the Little Village Industrial Corridor, the bridge spans the Sanitary and Ship Canal, serving over 15,000 vehicles per day – 20% of which are heavy commercial vehicles. The funding will help ensure the freight connection across the Sanitary and Ship Canal is maintained. In addition to regional freight significance, this project enhances local connectivity in a historically disadvantaged area and provides essential access to schools, parks, and economic centers.

Once again, CMAP strongly supports CDOT's Bridge Investment Program application for the rehabilitation of the California Avenue Bridge over the Sanitary and Ship Canal. The rehabilitation of this bridge will lead to a greater movement of freight on the national system, enhance supply chain resilience, and provide safer mobility options for residents in Chicago's Southwest Side.

Sincerely,

Erin Aleman  
Executive Director

EA:rg

## Board Members

Gerald Bennett, Chair  
Frank Beal  
Matthew Brolley  
Gary Grasso  
Paul Hoefert  
Nina Idemudia  
John Noak  
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John Roberson  
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Carolyn Schofield  
Anne Sheahan  
Matthew Walsh

## Non-voting Members

Leanne Redden  
Abolfazl Mohammadian

## Executive Director

Erin Aleman



March 5, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Chicago's application for the Bridge Investment Program funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation. This federal funding will enable the City to rehabilitate the California Avenue Bridge.

As part of the Illinois Priority Freight Network, the California Avenue Bridge is a vital regional connector for freight traffic linking to economically important industrial areas and key intermodal freight centers. The bridge serves over 15,000 vehicles per day, of which nearly 20% are heavy commercial vehicles.

The California Avenue Bridge is adjacent to the I-55 expressway and 2.75 miles south of the I-290 expressway. The bridge spans the Sanitary and Ship Canal, which is lined with industrial uses, many of which utilize the freight system. The bridge is in the Little Village Industrial Corridor. Combined with the Pilsen and the Stevenson Industrial Corridors, an industrial center for the City is formed along the Sanitary and Ship Canal. The funding of the project will help ensure this bridge is preserved and the connection across the Sanitary and Ship Canal is maintained.

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This grant will help to support these goals through connecting Chicago residents to the industrial corridors and through improving safety and connectivity for all modes. The California Avenue Bridge carries CTA Bus Route 94, which provides access across the city and connects to multiple train stations. We are excited about the opportunity to ensure safe connectivity and access, and for the continued investment in our local and regional infrastructure and economic vitality.

We thank you for your careful review of this application and urge you to provide Bridge Investment Program funding for the California Avenue Bridge project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Bernard Jennings", with a stylized flourish at the end.

E. Bernard Jennings  
Executive Director  
Lawndale Business Renaissance Association