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COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS AND
GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED ENTERPRISES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
MONETARY POLICY AND TRADE

BILL FOSTER

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
11TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

October 15, 2013

Members of the MPO Policy Committee
C/O Chair Ann Schneider
233 South Wacker Drive
Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Committee Members:

We write in support of the inclusion of the Illiana Expressway project in the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) GO TO 2040 plan. The Chicago Metropolitan Area as a whole benefits economically from its geographic location and existing transportation infrastructure. The Illiana Expressway is a necessary investment to enhance this benefit and to provide relief to the communities that currently bear the brunt of freight traffic in the region.

Over the last decade, the private sector has worked successfully alongside local government to develop significant freight infrastructure throughout the Will County area. People in the Chicago Metropolitan Area pay less for the products they buy and the items they ship because of Will County's role as a regional freight hub. However, the Will County area pays the price of increased congestion due to its geographical location and must repair its roads and bridges more frequently than other parts of the region. That impact can be seen most clearly on I-55, I-80, and IL-53. The Illiana Expressway would relieve the pressure on these existing roads.

We understand that the funds available for large infrastructure projects are constrained. The public-private partnership (P3) proposed for the Illiana is a financing option that will reduce the investment required by the state and serve as a gatekeeper to ensure the project's economic viability. Negotiated properly, it will reduce taxpayer risk while providing greater assurance of economic viability. Given the challenges faced by the Highway Trust Fund, the P3 proposed for the Illiana will help lead the way towards what may be the best option for the state to leverage existing resources.

It is important to note that the Illiana Expressway is not a speculative gamble on future growth, but an investment that will help manage economic growth that has already occurred. We respectfully request that you give full consideration to this project with the understanding that the freight economy in the southwest suburbs provides benefits to all.

We also recognize that all of the projects in the GO TO 2040 plan are important. The UP Northwest Improvements or the I-90 Managed lanes are valued improvements to the communities they will serve. We ask for the same consideration for the Illiana Expressway in the spirit of cooperation and collective will needed for regional planning.

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We appreciate your consideration in this matter. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our offices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Foster".

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Adam Kinzinger".

Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robin Kelly".

Robin Kelly
Member of Congress