



Office of the Mayor

January 15, 2021

Mr. Ronald Batory, Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Batory:

Reference is made to the Underpass Project at Uptown Station in Normal, IL, for which the Town of Normal was awarded a USDOT 2019 BUILD Grant.

The Town is seeking additional funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in the form of Section 130 Rail-Highway Crossings Program funds and is requesting Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) concurrence that the use of these funds is appropriate for the Underpass Project. The Section 130 funding request is being processed through the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Bureau of Local Roads and Streets. IDOT is supportive of the use of Section 130 funds for the project.

The Section 130 program funds are eligible for projects at all public crossings including roadways, bike trails and pedestrian paths. Fifty percent of a State's apportionment under 23 USC 130(e) is dedicated for the installation of protective devices at crossings. The remainder of the funds apportionment can be used for any hazard elimination project, including protective devices. The FAST Act extends eligibility to include projects at grade crossings to eliminate hazards posed by blocked crossings due to idling trains. The Federal Highway Administration has determined that Section 130 funds, in combination with the BUILD funds, cannot exceed a cumulative 80% federal share of project funding; and that use of Section 130 funds requires the concurrence of FRA since it is the federal sponsoring agency of the overall project.

The Underpass Project would provide a safe grade-separated crossing for passengers accessing the south platform at Amtrak Uptown Station, as well as pedestrians and bicyclists traversing the north-south multi-use Constitution Trail. Station and trail users currently need to detour over 1,000 feet to cross the Union Pacific Railroad tracks at grade at Broadway Avenue or Linden Street in order to make these connections. The Section 130 funds will provide approximately 20% of the funding for this grade separation project and help close the funding gap so that the entire project as envisioned in the BUILD grant application, including the underpass structure, ADA-compliant multi-use paths and accommodations, and north and south plaza areas, can be completed.

The projected costs of the Underpass Project are indicated in **Table A** below, and proposed funding sources, including federal funds and local match, are indicated in **Table B** on the following page.

"Committed to Service Excellence"

11 Uptown Circle • Post Office Box 589 • Normal, Illinois 61761-0589
Telephone (309) 454-2444 • Fax (309) 454-9609 • TDD (309) 454-9630
www.normal.org

Town of Normal
January 15, 2021

Table A – Projected Costs

Item	Cost
Final Design	\$2,852,400
Bid Services	\$81,900
Railroad and Utility Relocation Design	\$213,500
Construction Professional Services	\$1,562,200
Construction	\$19,920,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$24,630,000

Table B – Proposed Funding Sources

Source	Amount	Percentage of Total
Federal		
2019 BUILD Grant	\$13,000,000	52.8%
Section 130 Rail-Highway Program	\$5,000,000	20.3%
Federal Subtotal	\$18,000,000	73.1%
Local		
ICC Grade Crossing Protection Funds*	\$1,250,000	5.1%
Additional ICC funding**	\$5,000,000	20.3%
Town of Normal	\$380,000	1.5%
Local Subtotal	\$6,630,000	26.9%
GRAND TOTAL	\$24,630,000	100%

* Per ICC Order of April 16, 2014

** Additional ICC funding to be determined

Please indicate your concurrence with use of Section 130 funds at your earliest convenience. If you have any questions, please contact me at mayor@normal.org or (309) 454-9777 or Jason Comfort at jcomfort@normal.org or (309) 433-9917.

Sincerely,



Chris Koos
Mayor, Town of Normal
11 Uptown Circle
Normal, IL 61761

cc: Arlene Kocher, FHWA Illinois Division Administrator
Omer Osman, IDOT Secretary of Transportation
Andrea Green-Armstrong, FRA