

PHILIP B. SCOTT  
GOVERNOR



State of Vermont  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

November 15, 2022

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

RE: St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad Upgrade CRISI Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my support for the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad (SLR) project that is competing for \$8.8 million in Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) funding.

This is a three-state project, supported by the Vermont Agency of Transportation, New Hampshire Department of Transportation and Maine Department of Transportation. The project will complete the final work needed to upgrade the SLR mainline from 263,000 lbs. to 286,000 lbs. gross rail weight capacity by replacing existing older, non-control cooled jointed mainline 100# rail with heavier 115# continuous welded rail, which will increase the safety and reliability of the route. It will complement previous projects by the SLR, as well as other state and federal investments.

The project will create a three-state heavy haul rail corridor that connects businesses in rural areas with two Class I railroad networks, CSX Transportation and Canadian National Railway. Most of the project area is not served by interstate highways, making rail freight shipping even more important. Upgraded weight capacity is needed to retain existing business as well as attracting new customers. A freight railroad corridor that is in a good state of repair and meets modern weight capacity standards may be critical to reviving local economies that have lost industrial manufacturing jobs.

I believe the SLR Upgrade Project would be an ideal candidate for CRISI funding. I hope you share my enthusiasm for this application and I would be happy to discuss its merits with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip B. Scott", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Philip B. Scott  
Governor

PBS/kp