

Statement by Anne Canby Director, <u>OneRail Coalition</u> In response to the U.S. Department of Transportation CRISI Grants Announcement June 14, 2019

The OneRail Coalition applauds the announcement of more than \$326 million in <u>grant funds</u> under the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program by the Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration. The CRISI program was authorized as part of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.

The grants will fund 45 projects in 29 states, including 21 short line and regional railroads. These grants represent an important investment in railroad infrastructure across the country by boosting reliability and efficiency on our rails, providing alternatives to highway and air travel, and improving environmental and safety benefits to our transportation system. The funds will be used for a variety of projects, including the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) program in Illinois, advancing passenger service along the Gulf Coast, as well as improving and expanding rail infrastructure. Together, these CRISI grants will further advance our strong freight and passenger rail system.