

**Remarks Prepared for FRA Administrator Amit Bose  
Tennessee CRISI Selections Event  
Short Line Railroads Bridge Bundle Project  
Nashville, TN  
Thursday, September 28, 2023**

Thank you very much to Commissioner Eley and the Tennessee Department of Transportation for making today possible.

Freight railroads are critically important to our Nation.

Still, I think a lot of people expect more from America's rail system, whether that's fewer derailments, fewer delays or issues getting goods from ports to shelves, less time waiting or worrying about a stopped train at a highway rail crossing, or increased access to modern, efficient passenger rail.

One of the main reasons we face these challenges is more than a half a century of underinvestment in our rail network.

President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is changing that with \$66 billion dedicated to freight and passenger rail over five years.

More than \$1.4 billion of that funding, being awarded through FRA's Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements program, is being announced this week—going to 70 projects in 35 states, including right here in Tennessee.

On behalf of the Biden Harris Administration, I am proud to formally announce more than \$23.7 million dollars to the Tennessee Department of Transportation for the Tennessee Short Line Railroads Bridge Bundle Project.

As the name suggests, this project supports both people and infrastructure essential to rail's success and to the nation's economy and regional supply chains.

More than 40 bridges across the state are set to be repaired or replaced through this grant, with federal funding supporting 10 different short line railroads.

FRA is proud to make these investments and this partnership.

In addition to TDOT, I want to thank the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association, their members, and all the railroads involved in the project we're celebrating.

Today is a very good day for these businesses and for Tennessee.

It's a good day for many more communities across 35 states thanks to CRISI funding being four times higher through to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

\$1.4 billion is a big number for this competitive grant program.

And, when you look at where the dollars are going and the benefits this funding will provide, the impact is going to be even bigger.

In addition to replacing or rehabilitating aging bridges, projects nationwide will improve nearly 1,900 miles of track.

That means safer infrastructure, greater efficiency, and increased capacity.

Projects that build and rebuild sustainable infrastructure to protect against threats of extreme weather, while others will address highway-rail grade crossings.

With four times the funding, we're going to fix and invest in a lot more.

Projects to ensure families and workers are breathing cleaner air by funding locomotives with fewer emissions, and federal funding going towards workforce development opportunities essential to the rail industry's future and our economy.

Other projects will help to expand world-class passenger rail.

Overall, this means improved infrastructure that will contribute to stronger supply chains, getting goods where they need to be safely and quickly. It means reducing the costs for families and making it easier for American businesses to succeed.

Since the start of the Biden-Harris Administration, FRA has now advanced more than 190 rail development projects nationwide.

And more funding and more selections are to come.

But, this has never been about the numbers. It's about investing in America and the economy. It's about improving daily life. It's about positive community impact.

FRA is proud to partner with TDOT and so many short line railroads.

This project is a perfect reminder of that, making a difference in Cumberland, Davidson, Dyer, Gibson, Knox, Madison, Marion, Montgomery, Obion, Putnam, Roane, and Smith Counties.

Our agency is proud to put federal investments to work across the state, and to see those investments directly benefit local families and business.

And, I am proud to be here today. Again, congratulations to all of you for your vision and your work to make this possible.

Thank you.