



November 29, 2022

Mr. Amit Bose, Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: **The Fox Valley and Lake Superior Rail Systems' 2022 CRISI Grant Program Application
"The Fox River Swing Bridge Improvement and Sustainability Project"**

Dear Administrator Bose:

The Fox Valley and Lake Superior Rail System (FOXY) is a new short line railroad (est. January of 2022) operating approximately 261 miles of track in the state of Wisconsin. FOXY owns and operates former Wisconsin Central Ltd. (WCL) branch lines throughout Northern Wisconsin, including the Green Bay, Appleton and Wausau areas. Our parent company, Watco Transportation Services, LLC is a diversified company specializing in freight transportation across our nation. Together, our two companies provide exceptional customer service in the Transportation industry and we look forward to expanding our service throughout Wisconsin and across the country.

The FOXY is excited to submit an application for federal CRISI funding that, if awarded, will allow our project to complete Preliminary Engineering/Design and all Environmental work necessary to reconstruct three rail/maritime swing bridges over the Fox River, in Brown and Outagamie Counties, Wisconsin. Modernizing our three swing bridges to 286K standards will ensure multi-modal connectivity throughout the greater Fox Valley region over the long-term and will help avoid any unnecessary service outages for rail and maritime freight transportation.

All three moveable swing bridges are nearly a century old and have gone through years of deferred maintenance from the previous owner/operator. The moveable swing spans at each location have varying degrees of age and deterioration of existing mechanical, electrical and structural components. Due to the age and continued deterioration of these bridges, the FOXY is regularly forced to take the bridges out of service for an undetermined period of time leading to delays in rail and maritime freight shipments that also create public safety issues.

Our multi-modal project has significant benefits to the public and private sectors. With a CRISI investment of \$2,045,160 or 80% of Project costs, our build scenario yields a **Benefit Cost Ratio of 2.96**. The FOXY is pleased to be providing the 20% local match of \$511,290.

In addition to our local match commitment, the FOXY has committed to a three year plan of ongoing inspections and repairs to our three swing bridges in order to maintain a base level of service until which time we can rehabilitate to 286k standards. Accordingly, the FOXY is dedicating \$3M of its own resources over the next three years to maintain service over these aging and deteriorated structures. I believe this commitment along with the letters of support for this project shows a strong local match and demonstrates how important this project is to our region, our economy, and to the future of freight rail and maritime transportation in our state.

As part of our commitment to this project, the FOXY will provide sufficient regular investment in repairs and maintenance from our internal resources to keep these infrastructure improvements in a good state of repair and to preserve and maximize the operational benefits for the full life cycle of the assets.

Please give strong consideration to funding the PE/Design and Environmental work associated with the Fox River Swing Bridge Improvement and Sustainability Project.

Sincerely,

Jason Danz

Jason Danz, General Manager
Fox Valley and Lake Superior Rail System (FOXY)