

S.14.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

June 12th, 2024

Mr. Anka of Lincoln (for herself, Ms. Moctezuma) introduced the
following bill

A BILL

To provide funding through competitive contracts for the construction of two electric passenger rail projects from Chicago to Detroit, and Chicago to Grand Rapids, Michigan.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of
America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

SHORT TITLE—This Act may be cited as the "Transformative Rail-Aid Is
Needed Swiftly Act of 2024" or the "TRAINS Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS

(a) FINDINGS—The Senate finds the following:

1. Transportation Infrastructure: Improved transportation infrastructure is essential for economic growth, regional connectivity, and environmental sustainability.
2. Rail Connectivity: Enhancing rail connectivity between major cities such as Chicago, Detroit, and Grand Rapids promotes tourism, business travel, and commuter options.
3. Economic Benefits: Investing in electric passenger rail projects stimulates job creation, boosts local economies, and reduces dependence on fossil fuels.
4. Cost Estimates:
 - i. The Chicago to Detroit electric passenger rail project is estimated to require \$8 billion for construction, including track upgrades, electrification, and station improvements.

- ii. The Chicago to Grand Rapids electric passenger rail project is estimated to require \$6 billion for similar upgrades and construction.

SEC. 3. ENACTMENT.

(a) APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Transportation \$14 billion to fund the construction of two electric passenger rail projects through competitive contracts:

- i. \$8 billion allocated for the Chicago to Detroit project.
- ii. \$6 billion allocated for the Chicago to Grand Rapids project.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS—Funds appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (a) shall remain available until expended

SEC. 4. COMPETITIVE CONTRACT PROCESS

(a) CONTRACT PROCESS—Request for Proposals (RFP): The Department of Transportation (DoT) shall initiate a competitive bidding process within 60 days of the enactment of this bill.

(b) EVALUATION CRITERIA

- i. Proposals will be evaluated based on cost-effectiveness, technical feasibility, environmental impact, and adherence to project timelines.
- ii. Bidders must demonstrate expertise in rail construction, electrification, and compliance with safety regulations.

(c) CONTRACT AWARD—Contracts shall be awarded within 180 days of the RFP issuance, with construction to commence within 90 days of contract execution.

SEC. 5. PROJECT OVERSIGHT AND REPORTING

(a) OVERSIGHT—A bipartisan oversight committee shall be established within the Senate to monitor the progress of both projects, review expenditure reports, and address any issues that arise during construction.

(b) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS—Quarterly progress reports shall be submitted to the Senate, detailing project milestones, budget allocations, and any deviations from the original plan. An annual audit shall be conducted by an independent auditor to ensure financial transparency and accountability.

SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

EFFECTIVE DATE—This Act shall take effect immediately upon its passage and signing into law.

SEC. 7. SEVERABILITY

SEVERABILITY—If any provision of this Act, or the application thereof, is held invalid, the remainder of this Act and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 8. SUNSET PROVISION

This Act shall expire when the Secretary of Transportation, with consultation of the President of the United States, has deemed the projects to be complete to the point in which they no longer require the provisions of this act.
