

RAILCET INTELLIGENCE REPORT

To: RAILCET
From: Ray Chambers
Date: June 13, 2025

Subject: Secretary Duffy approves rail grants

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), signed by President Biden, authorized \$66 billion for passenger rail over FY 2022–2026. Initial worries about the Musk DOGE government's spending cuts affecting passenger rail funding were unfounded. Passenger rail infrastructure is now a priority for the Duffy DOT.

Yesterday DOT Secretary Sean Duffy criticized the backlog of 3,200 grant-funded projects announced during the Biden administration but not yet obligated. He said that since January 20, the Trump administration has cleared 1,065 projects worth roughly \$10 billion. According to the Duffy press release the USDOT will continue to "rip out red-tape roadblocks" to get projects moving." Each grant in this Biden- approved backlog is being reviewed for compliance with the policies established during the Trump administration, including those concerning diversity, equity, and inclusion.

In preparation for the announcement made yesterday, Duffy approved another 529 infrastructure grants totaling \$2.9 billion. These approvals include 34 grants, valued at a combined \$182 million, for rail projects. Among them:

- \$69 million in Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements program grants were cleared for eight projects;
- \$83 million in Federal-State Partnership program grants were cleared for three projects;
- \$28 million in Railroad Crossing Elimination program grants were cleared for 22 projects; and
- \$2 million in a Safety Infrastructure Improvement program grant was cleared for one project.