



July 7, 2021

Mayor Ben Wick  
City of Spokane Valley  
10210 E. Sprague Ave  
Spokane Valley, WA 99206

**RE: Support for Spokane Valley's Pines Road/BNSF Grade Separation Project**

Honorable Mayor Wick and Councilmembers:

Avista supports the City of Spokane Valley's continued efforts to secure funding for the Pines Road/BNSF Grade Separation Project (GSP). This is significant project for our region and Avista is proud to be a contributing member of the project team. Although it is understood that this project core purpose is providing safety and freight-mobility benefits, this project also promotes clean transportation and improves community access to recreation.

As you know, Avista Utilities produces and delivers electricity to over 395,000 customers and natural gas to 364,000 customers in eastern Washington, northern Idaho and parts of Oregon. Since our founding in 1889, Avista has played a key role in the communities we serve as an energy provider and as a partner working for community vitality.

We own several parcels of land adjoining the Centennial Trail along the Spokane River, between the BNSF Railway tracks and Trent Ave. Our team has been working with your staff to create a new public access to the Centennial Trail at this location. This new access will enhance opportunities for outdoor recreation while reducing the risks to our customers of maintaining the parcel as it currently exists.

We are moving forward with the steps necessary to donate this land to the City of Spokane Valley, which will allow the City to construct a new trailhead facility. Facility plans include a parking area, restrooms, signage and the potential for electric vehicle charging stations and bus parking. The proximity and coordination of this project with the GSP provides a unique opportunity to enhance public safety, add recreational amenities, and promote greenhouse gas emission reductions by supporting non-motorized transportation and electric vehicle use.

Avista supports the City of Spokane Valley's effort to provide a new Centennial Trail trailhead. Although the project is not within the Spokane River FERC License Project boundary, the improvement is consistent Avista's ongoing efforts under the license to enhance access to the River and the River corridor.

We look forward to the continued coordination between our organizations and strongly support your efforts to deliver this important regional transportation project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Bruce Howard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bruce Howard  
Sr. Director, Real Estate & Environmental Affairs