

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

April 18, 2022

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The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to you to ask for full and fair consideration of the City of Spokane Valley's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's *Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)* grant program for the Pines Road/BNSF Grade Separation project.

The City of Spokane Valley is seeking a RAISE grant to grade separate Pines Road with an underpass at the BNSF mainline, removing the risk of road-rail collisions while eliminating four hours of traffic stoppage each day. This crossing is a deficient component of an east-west rail corridor that supports the economic vitality of more than 38 million Americans across eight states and handles 94% of bulk rail cargo in Washington State alone. In coordination with BNSF, the project provides capacity for up to four total tracks and will accommodate future growth of the BNSF mainline. To highlight the importance of this project, Washington State's Joint Transportation Committee released its *Prioritization of Prominent Road-Rail Conflicts*, which ranked this project as the top unfunded priority in Washington State.

This important project also provides much needed safety and mobility upgrades at the adjacent intersection of two state highways, State Route 27 (Pines Road) and State Route 290 (Trent Avenue). The existing signalized intersection will be replaced with a dual-lane roundabout. The underpass and roundabout promote the expansion of bus transit routes that can provide new service to adjacent residents and businesses, ultimately providing new access to shopping and employment centers for some of Spokane Valley's most disadvantaged populations, which includes its designation as a Historically Disadvantaged Community. A new shared-use path will also be installed that connects the adjacent school, business park, and commercial businesses to a new trailhead facility (equipped with electric vehicle charging stations) that will serve the Spokane River and the Centennial Trail, a regional trail system spanning from Spokane, WA to Coeur d'Alene, ID.

CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS
5TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

REPUBLICAN LEADER,
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This project is essential in mitigating the collision risks between rail and highway traffic as this crossing sees an average of 67 train crossings a day. The delays in traffic times due to these crossings is also an issue faced by commuters with each crossing averaging roughly 3.5 minutes per train, the street is closed for roughly 4 hours a day. This project will ease the flow of traffic and make for safer commutes. I would like to urge your full and fair consideration of this RAISE Grant application as it meets several of the criteria necessary for consideration of this grant.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Paige Blackburn in my Spokane office at Paige.Blackburn@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress

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