



Mayor Nadine Woodward

February 19, 2020

City Councilmembers
City of Spokane Valley
10210 E. Sprague Ave.
Spokane Valley, WA 99206

RE: Project Support for Bigelow-Sullivan Corridor Freight Mobility & Safety Project

Dear Councilmembers and Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support of the Spokane County and City of Spokane Valley joint application for funding of the Bigelow-Sullivan Corridor Freight Mobility & Safety project.

The City of Spokane initially partnered with Spokane County in a joint funding opportunity to reconstruct Francis Avenue from Market to Bigelow Gulch. We successfully obtained a State grant and constructed the project in 2013. This work “finished” the missing link between the west end of Bigelow Gulch and WSDOT’s North South Corridor (NSC) Project. We are excited to hear the County and City of Spokane Valley are partnering to complete the east end of this important regional project.

I’d like to highlight some of the details of the project that are most significant to our regional perspective:

Economic Competitiveness

- Promotes efficient freight mobility via road and rail networks.
- Enhance the access for freight movement, intending to access to the east, without having to continue to travel south through the City of Spokane and impacting I-90 in an already congested urban area.

Mobility

- The project adds Intelligent Transportation Systems for the length of the corridor, alerting drivers to road conditions or hazards and notifying users of travel time delays or suggested alternate routes.
- The project adds additional travel lanes, turn lanes, truck climbing lanes and shoulder space to an established freight and commuter corridor.
- The realignment and widening of the Bigelow Gulch Corridor increases capacity providing for efficient and reliable movement of freight and goods.

The City of Choice

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- The project reconstructs the Sullivan/Trent interchange, improving its intersection operations and rebuilds the bridges over BNSF railroads and over Trent Ave.
- According to WSDOT's Washington State Rail Plan, almost 94% of Washington's east-west bulk cargo rail traffic travels through this project's rail corridor.

Safety/Quality of Life/Environmental

- This project drastically improves the safety of a narrow, undersized rural collector and commuter route that has a history of fatal and serious crashes.
- Improves ADA-accessible pedestrian facilities to current standards.
- Improves network redundancy, important for emergency vehicles, travel reliability and transit operations.
- Reduces congestion, fuel consumption and tailpipe emissions for vehicles idling in delayed traffic using Spokane's arterial system and Interstate 90.

Regional Strategy

- The corridor improvement an integral piece of the region's long range transportation plan.
- Provides traffic communication infrastructure across the entire length of the project, linking the project's traffic signals to the region's traffic control center.
- The corridor is funded by multiple federal, state, regional, and local funding programs. Funding from the highest level can be the last dollars in and deliver an impactful project that benefits the region.

This project is key to the growth and prosperity of the Spokane region and its booming manufacturing and industrial businesses. If our transportation network cannot safely and efficiently support commerce in the region, we cannot succeed. In order to help our business and community thrive, we urge you to provide funding crucial to the construction of the Bigelow-Sullivan Corridor Freight Mobility & Safety project.

Sincerely,



Nadine Woodward
Mayor