



February 26, 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

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.

As the President and CEO of the Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce in Spokane Valley, I support this application which improves freight movements through the greater Spokane region and fixes the safety hazards along a dangerous, busy, narrow, rural connector between two growing industrial, urban areas. Our business membership represents over 700 individual businesses employing thousands of local employees. These employees utilize the Bigelow-Sullivan Corridor on a daily basis whether traveling to and from work, or moving goods as part of services while working. The importance of this corridor to the success of our local and regional economy is obvious. The location being tied to our major freight routes only elevates the need for further investment.

I'd like to highlight some of the details of the project that are most significant to my organization:

- This project drastically improves the safety of a narrow, undersized rural collector and commuter route that has a history of fatal and serious crashes.
- This project enhances the access and reliability to buildable industrial properties in northeast Spokane or east Spokane Valley to continue job creation in this important sector of our economy.
- The realignment and widening of the Bigelow Gulch Corridor increases capacity providing for efficient and reliable movement of freight and goods.
- This project 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lance Beck". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lance Beck
President and CEO
Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce