



February 12, 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 CEO of Greater Spokane Inc. (GSI, the Associate Development Organization for Spokane County), 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. GSI shares a responsibility to coordinate business recruitment, retention and expansion efforts to drive economic development. In doing so, we prioritize the needs of our business membership to create a desirable destination for businesses and a hub of economic expansion. I'd like to highlight some of the details of the project that are most significant to my organization:

To drive economic expansion, our region needs to be economically competitive with neighboring regions. Spokane County's Bigelow Gulch Road project sustains our economic competitiveness by promoting efficient freight mobility via road and rail networks. This project also enhances the access and reliability of buildable industrial properties in northeast Spokane, expanding regional opportunities for business development.

Improving the health and safety of our region greatly supports business growth efforts. The Bigelow Gulch Road project drastically improves the safety of a narrow, undersized rural collector and commuter route that has a history of fatal and serious crashes. It also upgrades network redundancy, essential for emergency vehicles, travel reliability and transit operations. Finally, these efforts significantly improve air quality in the County by reduce congestion, fuel consumption and tailpipe emissions for vehicles idling in delayed traffic using Spokane's arterial system and Interstate 90.

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 "Alisha Benson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alisha Benson
Chief Executive Officer
Greater Spokane Incorporated

TOGETHER WE'RE GREATER

801 W RIVERSIDE | SPOKANE, WA 99201 | GREATERSPOKANE.ORG | ADVANTAGESPOKANE.COM