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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

February 1, 2023

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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 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 Bigelow-Sullivan Corridor Freight Mobility & Safety: Sullivan & Trent Interchange project application submitted by the City of Spokane Valley.

The City is seeking RAISE funding to reconstruct one of the region's busiest urban, freight interchanges. The Sullivan Road bridge spanning State Route 290 (Trent Avenue) is over 60 years old, has been rated as "structurally deficient," "high risk," and in "poor" condition. Further, the bridge has low clearance over Trent Ave. and has been struck at least six times in the last 10 years. The bridge is also too narrow, limiting Sullivan Road to four lanes, very narrow sidewalks, and inadequate space that excludes much needed turn lanes to safely accommodate left-turning trucks.

The proposed interchange project will restore the needed capacity for future growth while adding bike and pedestrian facilities to improve mobility for all users. The project location is a gateway to a regional freight corridor serving as a parallel route to Interstate 90. Spokane County's Bigelow Gulch corridor connects the project to the west with Washington State Department of Transportation's North Spokane Corridor (US 395) and the City of Spokane's Northeast Public Development Authority. On the opposite end, the project is adjacent to the Spokane Business & Industrial Park, one of the largest in the country with 615 acres of property and over 5 million square feet of industrial building space. The corridor is a critical route carrying up to 20% freight and links the region while alleviating the congestion of Interstate 90 through the City of Spokane's downtown core.

Thank you for your consideration. 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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