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Washington State Senate

Senator Mike Padden
4th Legislative District

March 10, 2020

Committees:

Law & Justice, *Ranking Member*
Early Learning & K-12 Education
Transportation

District Office:

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City Councilmembers
City of Spokane Valley
10210 E Sprague Avenue
Spokane Valley, WA 99206

Spokane County Commissioners
116 W Broadway Avenue
Spokane, WA 99260

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

Dear Councilmembers and Commissioners,

This letter is to express my support of the Spokane County and City of Spokane Valley joint application for funding of the Bigelow-Sullivan Corridor Freight Mobility and Safety Project.

The Bigelow-Sullivan Corridor Freight Mobility and Safety project improves freight movement through the greater Spokane region and fixes the safety hazards along a narrow rural connector between two growing industrial urban areas.

This project will promote efficient freight mobility on both road and rail networks. It will also enhance the access to expanding industrial properties in northeast Spokane and east Spokane Valley. The project will improve the economic competitiveness of the 4th district.

It also adds intelligent transportation systems for the length of the corridor, so drivers will know the changes in road conditions, hazards or delays and suggested alternate routes. This traffic communication infrastructure will link the traffic signals to the region's traffic control center. Additional travel and turn lanes, truck lanes and shoulder space will be included. The realignment and widening of the Bigelow Gulch Corridor will increase capacity and safety for the reliable movement of freight.

The project also reconstructs the Sullivan/Trent interchange, improving the intersection operations and rebuilding the bridges over the BNSF railroad and Trent Avenue. BNSF handles almost 94% of Washington's east-west bulk cargo rail traffic through this corridor. There is on average, 58 freight and two passenger trains daily - due to expand greatly in the future. This project will assist the BNSF to progress with their double track expansion project to increase rail safety and capacity.

This narrow rural collector and commuter corridor has a history of fatal and serious crashes. The project will improve routes for emergency vehicles and reduce congestion, fuel consumption and emissions from idling vehicles delayed in traffic. ADA accessible pedestrian facilities also will be included.

The Bigelow-Sullivan Corridor project is an integral part of the region's long-range transportation plan. It is key to the growth and prosperity of the Spokane region and its rapidly expanding manufacturing and industrial businesses. Our transportation network needs to make safety and efficiency improvements in order to meet the demand and succeed. I support this funding crucial to the construction of the Bigelow-Sullivan Corridor Freight Mobility and Safety project.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Padden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "M".

Senator Mike Padden