

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

February 24, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in support of an application submitted by the City of Spokane Valley for the U.S. Department of Transportation's *Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grants program* for the Bigelow-Sullivan Corridor Freight Mobility & Safety Project.

Spokane Valley has been working to deliver a regionally significant project that would benefit freight movement through the Pacific Northwest. This project would complete a new bridge and make interchange improvements that promote economic prosperity in the region while creating a safer transportation network for all road users. The Sullivan Road bridge is over 60 years old and has been rated "structurally deficient", "high-risk", and in "poor" condition. Further, the bridge has a low clearance over State Route 290 and has been struck at least six times over the last decade. The bridge is too narrow, which limits Sullivan Road to four lanes, small sidewalks, and inadequate space to add necessary turn lanes to safely accommodate left-turning trucks.

Included in this project is the reconstruction and realignment of a rural freight corridor with narrow and winding two-lane roads that have a deadly crash history. This would improve driver sight distance, steepness of grade, provide additional turn lanes, truck climbing lanes, and would widen shoulders. Finally, the project would reconstruct the Sullivan Road-State Route 290 interchange which serves as a gateway for rural freight movements into the greater Spokane-Spokane Valley urban area.

At the west end of the project is Washington State Department of Transportation's North Spokane Corridor (US 395) and the City of Spokane's Northeast Public Development Authority. At the east end of the project is the Spokane Business and Industrial Park, which is one of the largest in the country with 615 acres of property and over 5 million square feet of industrial building space. This corridor is a critical route carrying up to 20 percent freight and links the region while alleviating the congestion of Interstate 90 through the City of Spokane's downtown core. This project would improve mobility and reliability for all users with improved travel times for freight and commuter traffic.

Thank you for your consideration of the City of Spokane Valley and Spokane County's application. Please contact Bree Rabourn in my Seattle, WA office at 206-553-0724 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray  
United States Senator

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