

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

February 24, 2023

RE: Bigelow-Sullivan Corridor Freight Mobility & Safety: Sullivan & Trent Interchange Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Spokane Regional Transportation Council (SRTC) serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Spokane County, Washington. SRTC is pleased to express our support of the application submitted by the City of Spokane Valley to the U.S. Department of Transportation's *Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant* program for the **Bigelow-Sullivan Corridor Freight Mobility & Safety: Sullivan & Trent Interchange Project**. This surface transportation project is consistent with SRTC's Horizon 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and is identified as part of the regional priority freight project needs adopted by SRTC.

Spokane Valley has been working diligently to deliver a regionally significant project that improves safety and mobility for all users, replaces deteriorating bridges, and benefits freight movements in the Pacific Northwest. RAISE funding is vital to completing the last segment of a regional freight corridor that promotes economic prosperity while creating a safer transportation network for all users.

The project includes the reconstruction of 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 east end of the project is the Spokane Business & 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. The corridor is a critical freight route carrying up to 20% truck traffic. It also serves to alleviate congestion of Interstate 90 through the City of Spokane's downtown core. However, the interchange currently operates with a Level of Service (LOS) of "F" and is projected to worsen over time.

The existing sidewalk network also requires improvements to maintain a safe environment as commercial activity has increased. This project will add a new shared use pathway on the west side of Sullivan Road and new, wider sidewalks on the east side. Additionally, the roundabout configuration will make it easier for non-motorized users to cross traffic, having to manage only one direction of traffic at a time.

The Sullivan Road bridge over Trent Avenue is regularly struck by tall loads travelling on Trent Avenue. It is rated in "poor" condition, is deemed "structurally deficient" and is considered a "high risk" bridge. The project also lengthens the existing adjacent Sullivan Road bridge over the BNSF Railway track. The existing BNSF transcontinental railway will be provided with added capacity for the future construction of two new rail lines, totaling four tracks.

On behalf of SRTC, I respectfully request that you give full consideration to the merits of the **Bigelow-Sullivan Corridor Freight Mobility & Safety: Sullivan & Trent Interchange Project** as reflected in the project application submitted by the City of Spokane Valley.

Sincerely,



Lois Bollenback, Executive Director
Spokane Regional Transportation Council

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