



March 20, 2020

Spokane Valley City Council
Spokane County Commissioners
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 Spokane Transit's 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 Spokane Transit Authority, the regional transit provider in Spokane County, I support this application for mobility improvements through the greater Spokane region that will provide solutions for the safety hazards along a dangerous, busy, narrow, rural connector between two growing industrial, urban areas. I'd like to highlight some of the details of the project that are most significant to STA:

Mobility

- The project adds additional travel lanes, turn lanes, truck climbing lanes and shoulder space to an established transit corridor.
- The realignment and widening of the Bigelow Gulch Corridor increases capacity providing for efficient and reliable movement of people, freight, and goods.
- The project reconstructs the Sullivan/Trent interchange, improving its intersection operations for all roadway users, including transit, and rebuilds the bridges over BNSF railroads and over Trent Ave.

Safety/Quality of Life/Environmental

- This project drastically improves the safety of a narrow, undersized rural collector and commuter route that has a history of fatal and serious crashes.
- Improves ADA-accessible pedestrian facilities to current standards.
- Improves network redundancy, important for emergency vehicles, travel reliability and transit operations.
- Reduces congestion, fuel consumption and tailpipe emissions for vehicles idling in delayed traffic using Spokane's arterial system and Interstate 90.

Regional Strategy

- The corridor improvement is an integral piece of the region's long-range transportation plan.

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 and the efficient movement of people in the region, we cannot succeed. In order to help our business and region 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 blue ink that reads 'E. Susan Meyer'.

E. Susan Meyer, CEO
Spokane Transit Authority