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April 13, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

**SUPPORT APPROVED
FOR 2017 FASTLANE II**

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing in support of the City of Spokane Valley's 2016 FASTLANE grant application for the Pines Road and Barker Road/BNSF Grade Separation Projects.

In Spokane Valley, high train volumes intersecting Barker Road and Pines Road at the at-grade crossings are an increasing safety risk. As you are aware, the BNSF railroad corridor is the primary east-west rail line between Seattle and Chicago. Currently, 5100 vehicles and up to 50 trains per day cross this intersection, 19 of which are unit oil trains. The Washington State Department of Ecology projects oil train numbers to exceed 100 unit trains per day within the next ten years. Removing the at-grade rail crossings will improve public safety by reducing the potential for rail/vehicle collisions and improve emergency access to residents and businesses.

The Pines Road and Barker Road/BNSF Grade Separation Projects would eliminate the train-vehicle conflicts and delays from the at-grade railroad crossing and provide appropriate high-speed on and off ramps for traffic. The projects will improve key-links to I-90 and the BNSF railroad for expanded freight use, which is crucial to jobs and economic development for the region. As such, I believe these projects will benefit the City of Spokane Valley along with Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho.

Aligning Washington State's infrastructure with 21st century economic needs, I encourage you to give full and fair consideration to the City of Spokane Valley's 2016 FASTLANE grant application for the Pines Road and Barker Road/BNSF Grade Separation Projects.

Sincerely,


Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress

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