



STATE OF WASHINGTON

FREIGHT MOBILITY STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BOARD

505 Union Avenue SE, Suite 350 • PO Box 40965 • Olympia, WA 98504-0965 • (360) 586-9695 • FAX (360) 586-9700

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Chair

December 15, 2016

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Web Site
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The Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: 2016 USDOT FASTLANE Grant Application–Barker Road/BNSF Grade Separation Project

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (FMSIB) is pleased to support the 2016 FASTLANE grant application for the Barker Road/BNSF Grade Separation project. The intersection is near the Spokane Business and Industrial Park, the largest in eastern Washington, and one of the largest business/industrial parks in the country.

FMSIB is well aware of the potential detrimental effects of this at-grade crossing and its importance to freight movement. FMSIB has committed \$10 million to this project and \$2 million for the Sullivan Road West Bridge replacement in recognition of critical freight movements in the City of Spokane Valley.

The new grade separation project will address the current failing level of service at the Barker/Trent (SR 290) intersection. There is an average of 55 BNSF trains that intersect Barker Road and Pines Road (SR 27) daily and this is expected to increase to over 115 freight trains per day over the next 20 years. Removing these at-grade rail crossings will improve public safety by reducing the potential for rail/vehicle collisions and improve emergency access to residents and businesses. Completion of this project will also allow for the closure of additional at-grade crossings and improve overall safety and rail speeds in the region.

This project would significantly improve key links to I-90 and the BNSF railroad for expanded freight use and is crucial to jobs and economic development for the region. Because the existing intersections are failing intersections, many freight trips

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are forced to access I-90 via a circuitous route and suffer from congestion due to inadequate capacity for vehicles accessing the Barker Road/I-90 interchange. Additionally, Barker Road serves as a secondary access to a major commercial area in Spokane County, making the intersection frequently over capacity.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Ashley Probart in cursive script.

Ashley Probart
Executive Director

cc: Steve Worley, City of Spokane Valley