



STATE OF WASHINGTON

## FREIGHT MOBILITY STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BOARD

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December 15, 2016

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[www.fmsib.wa.gov](http://www.fmsib.wa.gov)

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

Re: 2016 USDOT FASTLANE Grant Application –Pines Road (SR 27)/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 Pines Road (SR 27)/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 identified this project since year 2000. FMSIB has also committed \$10 million to the nearby Barker Road/BNSF Grade project, in recognition of the need to remove critical at-grade crossing chokepoints in the City of Spokane Valley.

The new grade separation project will address the current failing level of service at the Pines (SR 27)/Trent (SR 290) intersection. There is an average of 55 BNSF trains that intersect 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.

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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 intersection is failing, many freight trips are forced to access I-90 via a circuitous route, which is ineffective for freight movement.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Ashley Probart in cursive.

Ashley Probart  
Executive Director

cc: Steve Worley, City of Spokane Valley