



**GREAT
NORTHERN**
CORRIDOR COALITION

Members:

Idaho DOT
Minnesota DOT
Montana DOT
North Dakota DOT
Oregon DOT
Washington State DOT
Wisconsin DOT
Federal Highways Administration
BNSF Railway
Port of Everett
Port of Seattle
Port of Tacoma
Port of Grays Harbor
Port of Longview
Port of Vancouver, USA
Port of Portland, OR
Port of Pasco
Port of Quincy
WA Public Ports Association
Port of Northern Montana

April 14, 2016

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

**SUPPORT APPROVED
FOR 2017 FASTLANE II**

Subject: 2016 Federal Funding for City of Spokane Valley's Pines Road and the Barker Road/BNSF Grade Separation projects.

The members of the Great Northern Corridor Coalition support the City of Spokane Valley's efforts to secure federal funding from FASTLANE for these two grade separations as a first step to completing the larger multi-state/ multi-jurisdictional Bridging of the Valley project. This set of projects is located on the Great Northern Corridor.

The Great Northern Corridor Coalition is a multi-state coalition comprised of eight states, ports, BNSF Railway, and other interested stakeholders along the Corridor. With the assistance of two FHWA Multimodal Corridor Operations and Management grants and Coalition member contributions, the states of [Oregon](#), [Washington](#), [Idaho](#), [Montana](#), [North Dakota](#), [Minnesota](#), [Wisconsin](#), and [Illinois](#), along with ports and BNSF Railway, have been collaborating for several years to promote regional cooperation, planning, and shared project implementation along the Great Northern Corridor.

The Great Northern Corridor is [an east-west artery of commerce](#) that is a vital link in the nation's supply chain for energy products, raw materials and finished goods that support major U.S. industries and consumer [markets for more than 38 million Americans](#). The unifying thread and primary focus of this Corridor is the rail network stretching from the Great Lakes to the Pacific Northwest, and logistics infrastructure such as highways, ports, and terminals.

The completion of these two grade separation projects would add vital transportation mobility to our region. This project supports the Coalition's vision for "a globally competitive, multistate freight corridor consisting of a seamless road and rail network that promotes economic growth for neighboring communities and accommodates the demand for safe, efficient, and environmentally sound transportation services."

We thank you for your consideration of the City of Spokane Valley's application for funding from the FASTLANE program.

Sincerely,

James Thompson
Chair, Great Northern Corridor Coalition

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Coalition website – GreatNorthernCorridor.org