

April 4, 2016

City Councilmembers
City of Spokane Valley
11707 E. Sprague Ave
Suite 106
Spokane Valley, WA 99206

**SUPPORT APPROVED
FOR 2017 FASTLANE II**

RE: Barker Rd/BNSF Grade Separation project 2016 FASTLANE grant application

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers:

I am writing to express my support of the 2016 FASTLANE grant application for the Barker Rd/ BNSF Grade Separation Project. As the owner of the 300 + acre Highland Estates residential development that is adjacent to this project, I am keenly aware of the necessity of this improvement. Additionally, as owner of this property I can work in partnership to assist with locating necessary right of way for the North leg of the project.

This new grade separation project will address the current failing level of service at the Barker / Trent (SR 290) intersection and open up hundreds of acres of industrial zoned land for development, while at the same time provide safe passage and emergency access to and from the Highland Estates neighborhoods to the North.

The current high volume of trains along with the proposed growth in train traffic through Spokane due to increased oil and coal shipments to the west coast, make this a high priority and long overdue improvement.

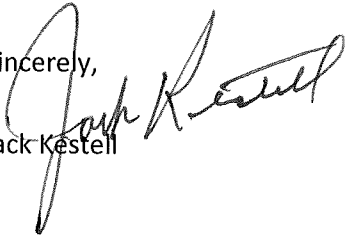
This project would significantly improve a link to I-90 and the BNSF railroad for expanded freight use, and is crucial to jobs and economic development for this region. Because the existing intersection is a failing intersection, many freight trips are forced to access I-90 via a circuitous route that creates congestion due to inadequate capacity for vehicles accessing the Barker Road / I-90 interchange. It would also allow the hundreds of families a secure route to jobs, services, and the growth in jobs that would occur as a result of this project.

As a local Real Estate Broker for over 40 years, and 2015 President of the Spokane Association of Realtors I recognize the urgency of this improvement to bring about safe passage and economic growth that is desperately needed. It was originally part of the "Bridging the Valley" project to have been built a number of years ago. With the downturn in the economy and sequestration, the project was put on a back burner without funding. Now is the time to move this project forward.

I strongly believe in the future of Spokane Valley and I urge you to provide funding necessary for the construction of the Barker Road/BNSF Grade Separation project.

Sincerely,

Jack Kestell

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Kestell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.