

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

June 3, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

**SUPPORT APPROVED
FOR 2017 FASTLANE II**

Dear Secretary Foxx

I am writing in support of the application submitted by the City of Spokane Valley for the U.S. Department of Transportation's *Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE)* program for the Pines Road and Barker Road/ Burlington Northern Santa Fe Grade Separation project.

The City of Spokane Valley is seeking a FASTLANE grant to eliminate four at grade rail crossings at Pines, Barker, University, and Flora roads where they intersect with the Burlington Northern Santa Fe mainline. Today, these at grade crossings cause congestion, prevent the efficient movement of goods by rail and roads, and negatively impact SR 290. The Burlington Northern Santa Fe mainline runs through Spokane Valley and transports raw materials, agriculture products, finished goods, and energy products between ports and destinations on the West Coast and the Midwest.

The Pines Road and Barker Road/ Burlington Northern Santa Fe Grade Separation project would build an overpass at Barker Road and an underpass at Pines Road. The increased capacity and efficiency of these two grade separations would in turn allow the City of Spokane Valley to close the two additional at grade rail crossings at Flora and University roads. The upgraded intersections where Pines and Barker roads link to SR 290 would also improve the freight traffic traveling between Canada and I-90. The closure of these at grade crossings can often increase traffic as large numbers of trucks attempt to bypass the congestion of U.S. Route 95 in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho by using SR 290 to reach I-90.

This project would improve the safety and efficiency of freight and rail movement in Spokane Valley, benefiting the regional and national economy. In addition, it would facilitate the development of industrial, mixed use, and commercial land which is currently available but difficult to access due to the combination of rail and truck traffic. Pedestrian and bicycle improvements would also better link residents and businesses to the center of Spokane Valley.

Thank you for your consideration of the City of Spokane Valley's application. Please contact Shavenor Winters in my Washington, D.C. office at 202-224-2621 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator