

SPOKANE AREA GOOD ROADS ASSOCIATION

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April 6, 2016

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

SUPPORT APPROVED
FOR 2017 FASTLANE II

RE: Pines Road and Barker Road/BNSF Grade Separation Projects for the 2016 FASTLANE Grant Application

Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers:

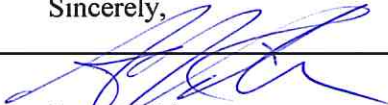
The Spokane Area Good Roads Association is 113 years old this year and can trace our transportation advocacy back to the beginning of building this region's excellent transportation system. Our membership is made up of the major corporations and businesses in the region as they realize that the transportation infrastructure is the lifeblood of our economy in the Inland Northwest.

We, the Board of Directors wish to express our support of the 2016 FASTLANE grant application for the Pines Road and the Barker Road/BNSF Grade Separation projects. Spokane and the Valley are at the crossroads of two class I railroads and all rail shipments in the northwestern United States pass thru our area. We have diligently worked at improving the safety and separation of our roads and rail thru the Valley for the past 20 years with our Bridging the Valley initiative. These two at-grade crossings are the next priorities for improving the freight and auto mobility north-south.

These projects would significantly improve a key link to I-90 and the BNSF railroad for expanded freight use, and are crucial to jobs and economic development for our region. Because of the current status of existing intersections, many freight trips are forced to access I-90 via a circuitous route, experiencing congestion due to inadequate capacity for vehicles accessing the Barker Road and the Pines Road/I-90 interchanges. Additionally, Pines Road and Barker Road serve as a secondary access to a major commercial and industrial area in Spokane County; these intersections are frequently over capacity.

The high train volumes intersecting Pines Road and Barker Road at the at-grade crossings are an increasing safety risk. Removing the at-grade rail crossings will improve public safety by reducing the potential for rail/vehicle collisions and improve emergency access to residents and businesses. In order to help our businesses and our community thrive, we urge you to provide funding crucial to the construction of the Pines Road and Barker Road/BNSF Grade Separation projects.

Sincerely,



Steve Robinson

President

Officers: Steve Robinson, President • Roger Flint, Vice President • Joe Tortorelli, Secretary

Directors: David Coombs, W. Stacey Cowles, Matt Ewers, Larry Krauter, Max Kuney, Michael K. Murphy (Emeritus), Tom Quigley, Peter Stanton, Tim Welsh, Richard Wendle, James C. Williams

Continuous Service Since 1903 * Good Roads Mean Better Business and Better Understanding Among Communities