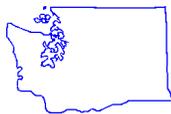


MARIA CANTWELL
WASHINGTON



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

June 11, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing in support of Spokane County's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program for the Bigelow-Sullivan Corridor Freight Mobility & Safety project. The project will improve the safety and reliability of this regionally significant freight corridor.

The Bigelow Gulch Corridor serves as a vital gateway for regional goods and freight movement, linking key industrial areas, intermodal facilities, and commercial centers on the east side of the City of Spokane to industrial and business hubs in the City of Spokane Valley. According to the County, the corridor is a narrow and undersized route with a history of fatal and serious crashes. The Bigelow-Sullivan Corridor Freight Mobility & Safety project will realign, widen and reconstruct portions of the corridor. This includes adding additional travel lanes, turn lanes, truck climbing lanes and shoulder space to increase capacity and improve efficiency and reliable movement of freight and goods. The project will incorporate Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) for the length of the corridor, alerting drivers to road conditions, delays, and strengthen communication with emergency services.

The project will also improve access to new and established industrial properties in northeast Spokane and east Spokane Valley. At the west end of the project is Washington State Department of Transportation's North Spokane Corridor (US 395) and the City of Spokane's Northeast Public Development Authority. At the east end of the project is the Spokane Business & Industrial Park, which is one of the largest in the county with 615 acres of property and over 5 million square feet of industrial building space.

These improvements will promote economic prosperity in the region while creating a safer transportation network for all users. Thank you for your full and fair consideration to Spokane County's application for the Bigelow-Sullivan Corridor Freight Mobility & Safety project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maria Cantwell". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator