

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

August 2, 2021

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Spokane Regional Transportation Council (SRTC) serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Spokane County, WA. SRTC wishes to express support for Spokane County's Bigelow Gulch Corridor Safety and Mobility Improvement Project. This surface transportation project is included in SRTC's Horizon 2040 Plan (our Long-Range Transportation Plan) as part of the regional priority freight network and is also included in our Transportation Improvement Program.

The project supports many of SRTC's goals in Horizon 2040, including:

- Support areas of potential economic development;
- Support the efficiency of freight movement;
- Support improvements to roadway safety deficiencies to reduce crashes within all modes of transportation; and
- Prioritize transportation investments by mode that enhance accessibility and connections between city centers, regional centers, attractions, towns, and areas of employment.

Once completed, this project will improve freight movements in the greater Spokane region and will address safety hazards along a busy rural connector between two important regional industrial areas. The project will increase economic competitiveness in the region by promoting efficient freight mobility via road and rail networks and enhance the access and reliability to new and established industrial properties in northeast Spokane and east Spokane Valley. The realignment and widening adds additional travel lanes, turn lanes, truck climbing lanes and shoulder space thereby increasing capacity and providing for efficient 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.

Thank you for your support and consideration of funding for this important project.

Sincerely,



Kevin Wallace
Interim Executive Director