

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704  
May 25, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of an application submitted by the City of Spokane Valley for the U.S. Department of Transportation's *Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants Program* for the Pines Road/Burlington Northern Santa Fe Grade (BNSF) Separation project.

The City of Spokane Valley is seeking a RAISE grant to eliminate an at-grade rail crossing where Pines Road intersects with the BNSF mainline. Pines Road is one of the city's busiest arterial streets, carrying commercial and residential traffic from SR 290 to I-90. Pines Road is a direct connection to Valley Hospital and the surrounding commercial and industrial corridors.

This project would construct a new underpass at Pines Road at the BNSF crossing and construct a multi-lane roundabout at the intersection of Pines Road and Trent Road, both of which are state highways, SR 27 and SR 290, respectively. The new rail underpass would expand the capacity from one track to four and provide a shared use path along Pines Road, connecting businesses and residents to schools, expanding bus service routes, and improving reliability on Pines Road. It would also add a new parking lot, which would include electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and a trailhead facility to provide access to the Centennial Trail and the Spokane River.

This project would reduce congestion and improve the movement of freight traveling on the roadway between Canada and I-90 and on the BNSF mainline, which runs through Spokane Valley and transports raw materials, finished goods, agriculture, and energy products between ports and destinations on the West Coast and the Midwest.

The city has made considerable progress on this project since spring 2021. They have received approvals from the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) that have them on track to reach 60 percent design approval by summer 2022. Additionally, the city is coordinating with BNSF to permit BNSF to self-perform the railway bridge design and construction, reducing the city's total project cost. Lastly, Avista Utilities donated all seven parcels that required full acquisition, highlighting the impact this project would have on the community as well as the value it holds with private industries.

Thank you for your consideration of the City of Spokane Valley's application. Please contact Bree Rabourn in my Seattle office at 206-553-0724 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray  
United States Senator

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