

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704  
February 24, 2023

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 Spokane International Airport for the U.S. Department of Transportation's *Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program* for the From Interstate to Airways: Airport Drive and Spotted Road Safety and Multimodal Improvements Project.

Spokane International Airport is seeking a RAISE grant to address critical aviation safety and intermodal freight mobility issues at the airport. Currently, Spotted Road's location falls within the Runway Protection Zone (RPZ) for the Airport's Primary Instrument Runway, which does not meet Federal Aviation Administration safety standards. Spotted Road also connects the airport's cargo carriers to a T-2 Truck Freight Corridor on U.S. 2 as well as Interstate 90. Every year numerous accidents, many involving serious injuries and fatalities, occur at the two intersections.

In order to mitigate the surface transportation safety issues and address the roadway's conflict with the RPZ, this project would realign the road outside of the RPZ and construct a grade-separated section of Spotted Road to eliminate the current conflict with the inbound and outbound airport access roads. This grade-separation project would increase safety, improve accessibility for traffic traveling to and from the airport and adjacent business park, and accommodate current and future growth. Additionally, this project would improve multimodal access for motorized and non-motorized traffic and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from idling traffic waiting to cross the intersections. Finally, it would provide a safe, convenient connection for citizens in nearby Airway Heights, which has been identified as a disadvantaged community and an Opportunity Zone by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Spokane International Airport has partnered with several government agencies and various stakeholders on the vision and design of the project to ensure that it would provide a safe and effective transportation option capable of accommodating current and projected future growth in the region.

Thank you for your consideration of the Spokane Airport Board'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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VANCOUVER, WA 98661-3856  
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e-mail: <http://murray.senate.gov/email>  
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YAKIMA, WA 98901-2760  
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MARIA CANTWELL  
WASHINGTON



United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

March 20, 2023

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 the Spokane International Airport's application to the FY2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program for the From Interstate to Airways: Airport Drive and Spotted Road Safety and Multimodal Improvements Project.

Spokane International Airport is applying for \$22.8 million in RAISE funding to construct a grade-separated portion of Spotted Road. Spotted Road is located within the Runway Protection Zone for the Airport's Primary Instrument Runway. According to the Airport, the current condition of Spotted Road does not meet Federal Aviation Administration safety standards. Spotted Road also connects the Airport's cargo carriers to a T-2 Truck Freight Corridor on State Route 2 as well as to the Interstate Highway System (I-90). Because of the at-grade roadway, lower-speed traffic trying to cross the inbound and outbound airport access roads at two intersection points regularly leads to accidents that have resulted in serious injury and fatalities.

This project will eliminate the conflict with the inbound and outbound Airport access roads by relocating the Airport Drive/Spotted Road interchange to the east, with a new grade-separated 230-foot overpass interchange above and across five lanes of Airport Drive. This will also result in another significant safety improvement with the realignment of Spotted Road outside of the Airport's Runway Protection zone. The project would also deliver several other benefits, such as facilitating traffic flow for freight traffic, enhancing access to the roadways for both motorized and non-motorized traffic, improving air quality, and reducing overall traffic congestion. Moreover, the project is located adjacent to Airway Heights, which the Department of Housing and Urban Development has recognized as a disadvantaged community, as well as an opportunity zone. This grade-separated project offers a safer and quicker connection for residents and businesses in the area.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of Spokane International Airport's request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maria Cantwell".

Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator

CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS  
5TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

REPUBLICAN LEADER,  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
COMMITTEE

## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

February 13, 2023

COUNTIES:  
ASOTIN  
COLUMBIA  
FERRY  
GARFIELD  
LINCOLN  
PEND OREILLE  
SPOKANE  
STEVENS  
WALLA WALLA  
WHITMAN

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to ask for full and fair consideration for the Spokane International Airport's From Interstate to Airways: Airport Drive and Spotted Road Safety and Multimodal Improvements Project, being submitted to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program. Their \$22.8 million request is a sound and appropriate application of federal funds to address aviation and traffic safety, modal connectivity and the access to jobs related to the substantial current business growth taking place on and in the immediate vicinity of the Airport.

From a surface traffic perspective, the project will address the confluence of the Airport passenger vehicle, transit, shuttle, taxi, TNC, cyclist, pedestrian and freight truck traffic on the inbound and outbound lanes of Airport Drive and the intersection of Spotted Road. The 2015 Airport Drive Spotted Road Study, which was funded by the Washington State Department of Transportation and the Spokane Regional Transportation Council, revealed these intersections were the site of over 40 collisions that included severe injuries and even fatalities. Construction of a grade-separated interchange on Spotted Road would isolate the Critical Urban Freight Corridor route from traffic traveling to the Airport, decrease traffic congestion, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from idling vehicles and improve the access for both motorized and non-motorist traffic using the roadways. The realignment would provide a more efficient connection to the Primary Highway Freight Network, as well as a safer and more convenient connection for nearby Airway Heights, which has been identified as a disadvantaged community by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

With regard to aviation safety, the project will remove Spotted Road from the Runway Protection Zone (RPZ) for the Airport's Primary Instrument Runway. Currently Spotted Road is only a little over 1,000 feet from the end of the runway and bisects the runway approach lighting system. Removing Spotted Road from the RPZ will meet current Federal Aviation Administration safety regulations and also allow the Airport to ultimately extend a properly graded area beyond the Runway Safety Area to provide maximum safety in the event of an aircraft undershoot or overrun. Removing this roadway from the RPZ substantially lowers the risk of any vehicles being involved in an aviation accident.

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COLVILLE, WA 99114  
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CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS  
5TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

REPUBLICAN LEADER,  
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COMMITTEE

## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

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WALLA WALLA  
WHITMAN

Spokane International Airport is one of the most important transportation assets in the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. The estimated regional economic impact from the Airport's businesses results in 4,612 jobs: \$222M in labor income all rolling up into a total of \$708,500,000 of output spending. This past year, air cargo tonnage increased 3% versus 2021 and approximately 14% versus 2019, and passenger traffic numbers in 2021 returned to near pre-pandemic levels. Over 3.92 million passengers traveled through Spokane International Airport last year, a nearly 20% jump year-over-year and less than 3% below the Airport's record-breaking passenger totals in 2019. Between the increase in passenger traffic and the current and anticipated commercial and industrial growth in the area, the Airport, in collaboration with several government agencies and stakeholders, has developed a vision and design of a project that provides safe roadways but also accommodates the expected growth.

The Airport's RAISE grant application will resolve current air and surface transportation modal safety and efficiency objectives which delivers an outsized benefit for the transportation system and maximizes the impact of federal funds.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Kristina Sabestinas in my Spokane office at [kristina.sabestinas@mail.house.gov](mailto:kristina.sabestinas@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress

1035 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
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February 14, 2023

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Please accept this letter of support for the Spokane International Airport's RAISE discretionary grant application for the Airport's From Interstate to Airways: Airport Drive and Spotted Road Safety and Multimodal Improvements Project in the amount of \$22,800,000.

The Airport's annual economic impact of over \$3 billion is testimony to the integral role it plays in the regional economy, and includes the Airport's passenger and cargo operations, along with direct and indirect jobs and associated salaries and benefits. The Airport's passenger traffic is nearing its historical levels prior to the pandemic, and in 2022 the Airport handled more cargo tonnage than ever before. Significant commercial development activity is happening now within and around the Airport's boundaries, principally attributed to Amazon, which is helping move our economy in a positive direction.

This project will eliminate a major traffic safety issue that exists at the intersection of a crossing roadway called Spotted Road, which is part of the Critical Urban Freight Corridor that provides access to the Airport Industrial Park with two separate and very busy inbound and outbound airport access roads. The combination of lower speed traffic trying to cross the inbound and outbound airport access roads with higher speed traffic at two interesting points has led to multiple accidents, many of which are serious injury accidents and even includes some fatalities. Spotted Road is also located inside the Runway Protection Zone (RPZ) for the Airport's Primary Instrument Runway, which does not meet current Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) safety requirements to protect people on the ground from aircraft that may undershoot or overshoot the runway.

The Airport, in partnership with the City of Spokane and other government agencies and various stakeholders, has developed the From Interstate to Airways: Airport Drive and Spotted Road Safety and Multimodal Improvements Project to resolve these safety and efficiency issues by realigning Spotted Road outside of the RPZ and constructing an at grade-separated section that eliminates the intersections at Spotted Road and the Airport Inbound and Outbound Roads.



The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
February 14, 2023  
Page 2

While the safety benefit alone is substantial, the project additionally decreases overall traffic congestion, improves traffic flow in and around the Airport, enhances multimodal access for both motorized and non-motorized traffic using the roadways and reduces the amount of greenhouse gases being emitted. Freight mobility would become more efficient as trucks would be able to move unimpeded through the Airport area to and from State Route 2, a T-2 Truck Freight Corridor and Interstate 90. The project also delivers a safer, convenient connection for residents of adjacent Airway Heights, which has been identified as a disadvantaged community and an Opportunity Zone by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

As the Airport continues to grow, separating these roadways and also improving runway and roadway safety is a strategic approach to maximizing benefits for air and surface transportation modes. According, we strongly encourage you to support Spokane International Airport's \$22.8 million RAISE discretionary grant application for the From Interstate to Airways: Airport Drive and Spotted Road Safety and Multimodal Improvements Project, as it will be an investment in improved traffic safety and modal connectivity while also supporting continued passenger and freight growth essential to the regional economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nadine Woodward".

Nadine Woodward  
Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Breean Beggs".

Breean Beggs  
Council President

*Board of County Commissioners*

— office of —

AL FRENCH, COMMISSIONER – DISTRICT 5



February 13, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to voice my support for Spokane International Airport's \$22.8 Million RAISE discretionary grant application for the From Interstate to Airways: Airport Drive and Spotted Road Safety and Multimodal Improvements Project.

The Airport's annual economic impact of over \$3 billion is testimony to the integral role it plays in our regional economy. In 2022, approximately 3.92 million total passengers traveled through the Airport, a 20% increase over 2021 and less than 3% below 2019, when the Airport set a record for passenger traffic. Additionally, the Airport handled a record 78,895 tons of air cargo during the year. This total air cargo tonnage increased by 3% from the previous year and almost 14% from 2019. The Airport's growth and the additional commercial development in the surrounding West Plains area, including several recently built and announced Amazon facilities, brings with it the need to safely and efficiently accommodate additional traffic, including transit as well as truck freight, transiting on the Airport's inbound and outbound roadways to access State Route 2, a T-2 Truck Freight Corridor and Interstate 90.

One of the unique aspects of this project that is noteworthy is the opportunity to achieve several objectives related to aviation safety and traffic safety as well as enhancing freight mobility, transit circulation and even bus routes to nearby schools. Another aspect to highlight is the collaboration between the Airport, Spokane County, and other government agencies and stakeholders in developing the vision and design of the project.

Spotted Road, crossing both the Airport Inbound and Outbound Roads as well as being located inside the Runway Protection Zone (RPZ) for the Airport's Primary Instrument Runway, is simply not configured well. The roadway geometry creates two at-grade intersections at which drivers have to come to a complete stop and then attempt to cross through a flow of high speed traffic on the airport access roads. As a result, there are multiple routine accidents, as many as multiples per week, some of which are serious injury accidents and there have even been fatalities. Spotted Road is also located in the Runway 21 RPZ, which does not meet current FAA

safety standards. The Airport has conducted planning studies and that have established the feasibility of realigning Spotted Road and removing it from within the Runway 21 RPZ and constructing a grade-separated section that eliminates the two at-grade intersections from the Airport inbound and outbound access roads.

This grade-separation project will allow trucks to travel more safely and efficiently through a more protected Critical Urban Freight Corridor route and improve the connection with the Primary Highway Freight Network. Additionally, the project provides greater multimodal access for motorized and non-motorized traffic to utilize the roadways, improves overall air quality, and reduces traffic congestion. It also offers a roadway that can accommodate the current and anticipated increase in overall vehicle traffic through the area over the next decade, as well as providing a safe and convenient connection for traffic from nearby Airway Heights, which has been recognized by the Department of Housing and Urban Development as a disadvantaged community and an Opportunity Zone area.

I strongly encourage you to support the Airport's \$22.8 Million RAISE discretionary grant application for the From Interstate to Airways: Airport Drive and Spotted Road Safety and Multimodal Improvements Project. It will be an investment in a rare opportunity to improve aviation and traffic safety and modal connectivity while also supporting continued passenger and freight growth essential to the regional economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Al French".

**Commissioner Al French**  
Spokane County Board of Commissioners





*For our children, our community, our world, our future*  
**CHENEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

12414 S. ANDRUS RD., CHENEY, WA 99004

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(509) 559-4599 \* FAX 559-4508  
www.cheneysd.org

February 13, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the Spokane International Airport's \$22.8 million RAISE discretionary grant application for the From Interstate to Airways: Airport Drive and Spotted Road Safety and Multimodal Improvements Project.

Over the last few years the West Plains area, the majority of which is located within the Cheney School District, has seen substantial growth in transportation, logistics, industrial and commercial development. This growth has not only provided a number of sustainable family-wage jobs to area residents, it has also contributed towards a strong economic recovery and a significant increase in population for the Spokane region. As a consequence, our school district has been similarly impacted by the significant population growth. The Cheney Public School District encompasses 381 square miles in western Spokane County adjacent to the Airport, and residential property has expanded rapidly within our district's boundaries. In 2016 our school district had 4,400 students enrolled in grades K-12; by 2020, that number had jumped to nearly 5,100 students.

The Airport is located in the Westwood Middle School attendance area, which also includes the adjacent Windsor Elementary School. Approximately 1,095 students attend these schools, requiring the use of 40 bus trips each school day to transport them to and from their homes. A portion of students attending one of these two schools live north of U.S. Highway 2, and transporting these students to their respective schools requires crossing two major intersections on Spotted Road with the inbound and outbound Airport Drive roadways. Also, there is one high school that services all of Airway Heights, the greater West Plains area, and Cheney causing high school students to use that thoroughfare as well. The current layout of the Airport Drive/Spotted Road intersections are not suitable to the rising levels of vehicle traffic from the Airport, freight traffic from the area's industrial and commercial companies and the number of students traveling to and from school with their parent/guardian or one of our district's school buses.

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
February 10, 2023  
Page 2

If Spotted Road was modified to pass over the inbound and outbound Airport roadways as the Airport proposes with this project, the risk of an accident diminishes considerably and bus and vehicle traffic heading away/towards Westwood Middle School and Windsor Elementary School can safely transit through the Airport. Additionally, the proposed roadway realignment and separation would save time as the buses and vehicle traffic would no longer have to stop at each intersection to wait for cross-traffic to pass. Furthermore, the project will decrease overall traffic congestion, enhance multimodal access for motorized and non-motorized traffic utilizing the roadways, and reduce vehicle emissions from traffic idling at the intersections.

Having an improved and safe route for our students to utilize will also be even more critical in the coming years. A ten-year student population projection study we conducted two years ago anticipates the number of K-12 students in our district to increase to almost 6,500 students by 2030, an increase of 55.4% over current enrollment levels, and we are exploring opportunities for additional school facilities in the West Plains that would increase frequency of our bus traffic on Spotted Road.

The Cheney Public Schools' mission is to guarantee a safe and caring environment where all students can learn at high levels and graduate with options for post-secondary education, careers and civic engagement. The From Interstate to Airways: Airport Drive and Spotted Road Safety and Multimodal Improvements project helps us to fulfill that mission, and because of that I strongly support the Airport's \$22.8 million RAISE discretionary grant application.

Sincerely,



Ben Ferney, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Cheney Public Schools



February 21, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) supports Spokane International Airport's 2023 RAISE grant application for the From Interstate to Airways: Airport Drive and Spotted Road Safety and Multimodal Improvements Project.

This project is regionally significant and is included in the Spokane Regional Transportation Council's (MPO) Transportation Improvement Plan – the comprehensive four-year list of priority projects and their Horizon 2040 Plan – the regional long range transportation plan. This project has been properly vetted and is a worthy investment of federal funds. The Airport has also committed a greater than 50% match of project funds, which demonstrates strong partnership and the involvement of critical local stakeholders.

The project is consistent with and integral to our objectives of providing safe and efficient solutions for passenger and freight traffic transiting between I-90, the Airport's passenger terminal and air cargo complexes, and State Route 2. It will also reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance multimodal access for motorized and non-motorized traffic utilizing the roadways, and decrease overall traffic congestion. WSDOT is committed to be a good partner with the Airport as its passenger and cargo operations are of critical importance to the continued expansion of the regional economy.

The scope of the Airport's project has many advantages in that it constructs a grade-separated section of Spotted Road that eliminates two at-grade intersections where traffic using Spotted Road is crossing the Airport's Inbound and Outbound Drives allowing for much better flow of truck freight to and from the Airport. Additionally, the project also resolves an aviation safety issue by removing Spotted Road from the Runway Protection Zone (RPZ) of the Airport's Primary Instrument Runway.

We hope you give this project full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Millar'.

Roger Millar, PE, FASCE, FAICP  
Secretary of Transportation

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

February 14, 2023

**RE: From Interstate to Airways: Airport Drive and Spotted Road Safety and Multimodal Improvements Project**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Spokane Regional Transportation Council (SRTC) serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Spokane County, Washington. SRTC wishes to express support of the Spokane International Airport's \$22.8 Million RAISE discretionary grant application for the **From Interstate to Airways: Airport Drive and Spotted Road Safety and Multimodal Improvements Project**. This surface transportation project is included in SRTC's Horizon 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan as part of the regional priority freight network and can be added to our Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) immediately if funding is made available.

This regional transportation project improves safety by eliminating high-crash intersections and improves freight mobility between a T-2 Truck Freight Corridor and the Interstate Highway System. The net result is expected to include a decrease in greenhouse gas emissions; enhanced multimodal access for motorized and non-motorized traffic; and a reduction in overall traffic congestion and crashes. The project provides a safer and more convenient connection for residents of nearby Airway Heights, which the Department of Housing and Urban Development has identified as a disadvantaged community and an opportunity zone. Finally, the Airport's passenger and cargo operations are of critical importance to the regional economy and the center of the pandemic recovery.

Recognizing the potential value of this surface transportation project, SRTC participated in, and provided funding, to identify an alternative that best serves the long-range needs of the Airport and the local community. The SRTC Board has also acknowledged the importance of this project by including it on our Unified List of Regional Transportation Priorities. The network improvements that will result from this project support the advancement of the SRTC's Mission and Guiding Principles. SRTC has previously provided letters of support for this project, and in December 2022 the SRTC Board took additional action to support this project.

The **From Interstate to Airways: Airport Drive and Spotted Road Safety and Multimodal Improvements Project** has unique and considerable merit and benefits to both aviation and surface transportation in our region and we request that the Airport's application be fully funded at the \$22.8M amount.

Sincerely,



Lois Bollenback, Executive Director  
Spokane Regional Transportation Council



February 11, 2023

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

Dear Secretary, Buttigieg:

On behalf of Greater Spokane Incorporated (GSI), I am writing today to express our support of the Spokane International Airport's \$22,800,000 RAISE discretionary grant application for the From Interstate to Airways: Airport Drive and Spotted Road Safety and Multimodal Improvements Project.

This project directly supports two elements of our Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy – Thrive Spokane. Strategy 4.6.1 advocates for increased investments in modal connectivity and Strategy 4.6.2 supports regional transportation infrastructure that supports business growth, specifically calling out for investments at the Spokane International Airport.

The Spokane Region's economic health and continued well-being is predicated on safe and efficient passenger and cargo air transportation connectivity. Economic growth is often led by increased air service, opening new markets for business expansion. The Airport's pre-pandemic passenger volumes established historic records for growth and traffic has nearly returned to these levels. In 2022 over 3.92 million passengers traveled through the Airport, a nearly 20% increase from 2021 and less than 3% below 2019. As for air cargo, it is essential for the transportation of high-value products produced and needed in Spokane. Air cargo tonnage increased 3% from 2021 and almost 14% over 2019, and we expect the amount of cargo moved by air to continue to increase. The area has also seen an increase in residential neighborhoods, including adjacent Airway Heights, which has been identified by the Department of Housing and Urban Development as a disadvantaged community.

The Airport Inbound and Outbound Roads are Principal Arterials that facilitate the movement of people and freight along with Spotted Road, which is a Major Collector. Because these roadways intersect, there have been numerous accidents that have resulted in serious injuries and fatalities. Additionally, Spotted Road is located within the Runway Protection Zone (RPZ) of the Airport's Primary Instrument Runway which does not meet Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) safety regulations.

The Airport, with considerable input from multiple government agencies and stakeholders, has developed the From Interstate to Airways: Airport Drive and Spotted Road Safety and Multimodal Improvements Project to address the aviation safety and traffic safety issues by removing Spotted Road from the RPZ and constructing a grade-separated flyover that eliminates the two high-accident at-grade intersections. Removing Spotted Road from the RPZ will protect people in the event of an aircraft undershoot or overshoot of the runway and meet current FAA safety standards. The project will untangle the flow of trucks and vehicles from one another and allow unimpeded access to State Route 2 and I-90, which will improve freight mobility. In addition, the project will enhance multimodal access for motorized traffic as well as cyclists and pedestrians, decrease vehicle emissions from vehicle traffic idling at the intersections, and reduce overall traffic congestion.

For these reasons, we support the Airport's \$22.8 million USDOT RAISE discretionary grant application and urge you to respond favorably to the funding request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alisha Benson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Alisha Benson, CEO  
Greater Spokane, Inc.

**TOGETHER WE'RE GREATER**

801 W RIVERSIDE | SPOKANE, WA 99201 | GREATERSPOKANE.ORG | ADVANTAGESPOKANE.COM

February 13th, 2023

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I serve as the Spokane Plant Manager of the Regional Processing and Distribution Facility (RPDF), based at Spokane International Airport. I am writing today in support Spokane International Airport's \$22,800,000 USDOT RAISE discretionary grant application for the From Interstate to Airways: Airport Drive and Spotted Road Safety and Multimodal Improvements Project.


The RPDF is a 362,000 square foot facility and a work site for approximately 450 employees January – October. In November and December, we increase employment to approximately 575 persons to accommodate the additional holiday mail volume. Annually, the RPDF processes nearly 650 million pieces of mail and the facility is served by over 67,000 annual truck trips. The facility also receives mail via our contract with UPS, FEDEX, DHL and AMAZON. As a result, the RPDF is a significant Airport Area employment site and the safety of our employees and the truck drivers we contract with to serve the facility are of utmost importance.

The safety concerns posed by the intersection of Spotted Road at inbound and outbound Airport Drive are something that I know of first-hand. I applaud the Airport for performing the traffic studies and implementing a number of traffic safety measures; however, the safest solution available is to grade-separate Spotted Road from the Airport's inbound and outbound access roads. This grade-separation project will separate Spotted Road from traffic traveling to and from the Airport, which not only increases safety but also enhances the mobility for our truck drivers navigating the roadways around the Airport and reduces overall travel time.

The realignment will continue to connect with Interstate 90 and State Route 2, which is important to the USPS and is valuable to the region's freight modes. I also understand that this project will remove Spotted Road from the Runway Protection Zone (RPZ) for the Airport's Primary Instrument Runway, which is also a major benefit and will remove our drivers from an area that is meant to have no such facilities inside of it due to its proximity to the runway. In addition, the project will decrease greenhouse gas emissions, improve multimodal access for both motorized traffic and cyclists and pedestrians using the roadways, and reduce overall traffic congestion for our employees and other traffic who use this route.

Once again, I strongly support the Spokane International Airport's \$22,800,000 USDOT RAISE discretionary grant application. It is a necessary safety improvement and a smart and strategic investment of federal resources.

Sincerely,



Earl R. Eisenrich  
Spokane Plant Manager  
Regional Processing & Distribution Facility



February 13, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of Spokane International Airport's \$22,800,000 USDOT RAISE discretionary grant application for the From Interstate to Airways: Airport Drive and Spotted Road Safety and Multimodal Improvements Project.


During the past year, air cargo tonnage at Spokane International Airport increased by 3%, and 14% over 2019. The growth in air freight also correlates to additional truck and freight trips on the Airport's inbound and outbound roadways to access State Route 2 (a T-2 Truck Freight Corridor) and Interstate 90. The combination of lower speed traffic, typically cargo or commercial-based, trying to cross the inbound and outbound airport access roads with higher speed traffic at two intersecting points has resulted in numerous and routine accidents many of which are serious injury accidents and even some of these accidents have resulted in fatalities. In addition to the above surface transportation safety issues, Spotted Road is also located within a Runway Protection Zone for the Airport's primary instrument runway, which does not meet Federal Aviation Administration safety standards. Accordingly, the project also achieves an important aviation safety objective.

Studies conducted by the Airport in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Transportation and the Spokane Regional Transportation Council have resulted in the Airport selecting a realignment and grade-separated concept that removes Spotted Road from the Runway Protection Zone and from the Airport inbound and outbound access roads. This grade-separation project will isolate the Critical Urban Freight Corridor route from traffic traveling to and from the Airport, while also continuing to connect with the Primary Highway Freight Network, which is important to maintain and is valuable to the regions' freight modes. In addition to enhancing safety and freight traffic mobility, the project will also improve multimodal access for motorized and non-motorized traffic using the roadways, decrease vehicle emissions and reduce overall traffic congestion.

The Airport's annual economic impact of \$3 billion is testimony to the integral role they play in the regional economy, and includes the Airport's passenger and cargo operations and the direct and indirect employment and the corresponding salaries and benefits. As the Manager of FedEx's GEG operations and a daily user of the roadway

network, I know first-hand the conditions that exist at the intersections of inbound and outbound Airport Drive with Spotted Road and would strongly encourage you to support the Airport's \$22.8 million RAISE discretionary grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jared Anthony', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jared Anthony  
Sr. Operations Manager  
FedEx Express





UPS Airport Properties  
1400 N Hurstbourne Parkway  
Louisville, KY 40223  
502.329.3990

February 14, 2023

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing on behalf of UPS in support of Spokane International Airport's \$22.8 Million RAISE discretionary grant application for the From Interstate to Airways: Airport Drive and Spotted Road Safety and Multimodal Improvements Project.

UPS operates an on-airport facility and off-airport facilities throughout the Spokane metro area. Spokane has been experiencing considerable economic growth, much of it concentrated in the immediate vicinity of the Airport in an area known as the West Plains. One of the most obvious impacts of this growth is increased traffic, particularly on roadways that are critical to UPS for freight movement to and from the Airport to critical freight corridors on State Route 2, a T-2 Truck Freight Corridor, as well as to Interstate 90.

The current geometry of Spotted Road creates two at-grade intersections that require drivers to cross over the higher speed inbound and outbound access roads serving the Airport terminal area, including our on-airport facility. As a result, there have been numerous accidents that have become routine occurrences at these intersections ranging from fender-benders to serious injury rollovers and unfortunately, even some fatalities.

We have a unique viewpoint to our support for the Airport's RAISE grant application because of our dual interests in the aspects of the project that will improve aviation safety as well as the safe and efficient movement of freight. We understand that part of Spotted Road is located within the Runway Protection Zone for the Airport's Primary Instrument Runway which does not meet Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) safety standards, and that the realignment of Spotted Road outside of the RPZ is an important improvement to aviation safety. We also see a significant benefit with the increased efficiency of freight traffic mobility the project will provide, as well as reduced traffic congestion, improved air quality and the enhanced access for multimodal traffic, including both motorized and non-motorized vehicles, to use the roadways safely.

UPS assigns the utmost value to the safety of our employees who operate our aircraft and our vehicles. Our business model depends on safe and efficient air and surface infrastructure. The Airport's solution to resolve the aviation safety and traffic safety deficiencies created by the current Spotted Road by realigning it and constructing a grade-separated roadway is a very worthwhile project and we strongly encourage you to support their \$22.8M RAISE grant request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shane J. Seely", written over a horizontal line.

Shane J. Seely  
Airport Properties Manager  
United Parcel Service