



## Mayor Lisa Brown

September 30, 2024

Mr. Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: FY 2024 Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Discretionary Grant Program  
Application for Spokane Transit Authority – Division Street Bus Rapid Transit**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The City of Spokane is excited to support Spokane Transit Authority's application for the FY 2024 RCP Discretionary Grant Program for the Division Street Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. The Division Street BRT project will convert the existing Route 25 local bus route to BRT service, with new stations and roadway modifications that will provide faster, safer, more reliable, and more frequent bus service. The project will also include pedestrian and bicycle facility improvements to enhance access to transit and the use of active modes of transportation.

Division Street is one of the busiest streets in Spokane, WA, and serves as the main north-south roadway connecting communities between downtown Spokane and Mead. The existing Route 25 bus service along Division Street carries nearly one million passengers each year – the second highest ridership of any route in STA's system. This project will also intersect with the City Line, Spokane Transit Authority's first BRT line.

This diverse corridor contains relatively high concentrations of several populations who experience mobility challenges and are more likely to use and rely on transit, including low-income and minority populations, youth, and seniors. The Division Street BRT project will provide reliable service to and from key destinations along and near the corridor, particularly for low or non-vehicle households.

The proposed Division Street BRT project will serve the University District (home to Gonzaga University, Eastern Washington University, University of Washington, and Washington State University Medical Schools) and Whitworth University to the north, major employers, and bring tangible mobility and accessibility improvements to the neighborhoods adjacent to this commercial corridor.

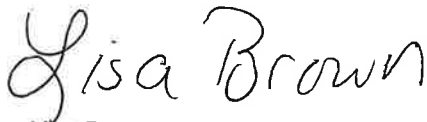
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808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd. • Spokane, Washington 99201-3335  
Phone: 509.625.6250 FAX: 509.625.6563

In concert with this investment, Spokane Transit Authority, the City of Spokane, and Spokane County have started a corridor-long, FTA grant-funded TOD planning process with the goal of maximizing the development impact of transit investments by integrating transportation with jobs and housing and supporting regional economic competitiveness by leveraging private investment.

We believe the benefits of this project can extend well beyond the transportation sector and be truly transformative. Thank you for your consideration of this important project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa Brown

Mayor, City of Spokane