

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

September 27, 2024

**Re: Fiscal Year 2024 Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Discretionary Grant Program  
Application for Spokane Transit Authority (STA) – Division Street Bus Rapid Transit**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Spokane Regional Transportation Council (SRTC) serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Spokane County, Washington. SRTC is pleased to express our support for STA's application for the FY 2024 RCP Discretionary Grant Program for the Division Street Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. The project will convert the existing local bus route to BRT service, with new stations and roadway modifications that will provide faster, safer, more reliable, and more frequent bus service. Improvements will also be made to pedestrian and bicycle facilities throughout the corridor to enhance access to transit.

Division Street is one of the busiest streets in Spokane and serves as the main north-south roadway connecting communities between downtown Spokane and the growing community of Mead to the north. 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 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 safe and reliable service to and from key destinations along and near the corridor for low- or no-vehicle households, college students and commuters.

SRTC's support for the implementation of Bus Rapid Transit along Division Street and the associated corridor improvements is consistent with the region's long-range metropolitan transportation plan, Horizon 2045. Specifically, the project is consistent with the SRTC's Regional Vision, as well as the Guiding Principles of: Economic Vitality, Safety; Stewardship; Quality of Life and Equity.

We are confident that the benefits of this project will extend well beyond the transportation sector and be truly transformative for the community. 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,



Lois Bollenback  
Executive Director

**SRTC MEMBER AGENCIES**

City of Airway Heights | City of Cheney | City of Deer Park | City of Liberty Lake | City of Medical Lake | City of Millwood | City of Spokane  
City of Spokane Valley | Kalispel Tribe of Indians | Spokane County | Spokane Transit Authority | Spokane Tribe of Indians  
Town of Fairfield | Town of Latah | Town of Rockford | Town of Spangle | Town of Waverly  
Washington State Dept of Transportation | Washington State Transportation Commission