

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

November 15th, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing in support of the Spokane Transit Authority's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's *Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant Program* for the *Division Street Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project*.


Division Street is one of the busiest streets in Spokane 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 annually – the second-highest ridership of any route in STA's system.

The *Division Street BRT Project* will convert the existing Route 25 local bus to BRT service, with new stations and roadway modifications that will provide faster, safer, more reliable, and more frequent service. This project will also intersect with the City Line, Spokane Transit Authority's first BRT line, and will include improvements to pedestrian and bicycle facilities to enhance access to transit and increase the use of active modes of transportation.

This diverse corridor contains high concentrations of populations who experience mobility challenges and are more likely to use and rely on transit, including low-income communities, people of color, youth, and seniors. The Division Street BRT project will provide reliable service to and from critical destinations along and near the corridor, particularly for low- or no-vehicle households.

Thank you for your fair and full consideration of the Spokane Transit Authority's application. Please contact Emma Abraham in my Seattle office at 206-553-0724 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator