



September 25, 2024

The Honorable 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 Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) supports the Spokane Transit Authority's (STA) application for the FY 2024 RCP Discretionary Grant Program for the Division Street Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. STA has collaboratively coordinated with WSDOT in planning and developing the Division Street BRT project which will convert the existing Route 25 local bus to BRT service. The BRT project will add new stations and provide roadway modifications for 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 the town of 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.

The neighborhoods along the proposed BRT corridor include various diverse populations that 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 no-vehicle households.

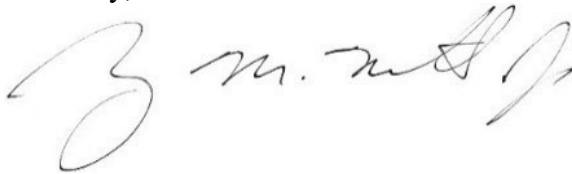
Division Street is a state-owned facility, and much of the BRT corridor will be developed within WSDOT right-of-way. Thus, we are particularly invested in its continued improvement. Fast, safe, and reliable transit service coupled with multimodal improvements is a key element of WSDOT's plans for improved mobility for communities served by Highways 2 and 395 (i.e., portions of this corridor) in

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Spokane County. The Division Street BRT project would significantly advance these important objectives, as well as further the state legislature's Complete Streets vision for its facilities.

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, appearing to read "R. Millar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a stylized "M".

Roger Millar, P.E., FAICP, Dist. M., ASCE
Secretary of Transportation