

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