Transportation and Spokane County

MIKE GRIBNER, REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR, EASTERN REGION
Washington State Transportation Commission Meeting
September 21, 2021
Despite challenges, we continue to deliver

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US 395/North Spokane Corridor: Current Construction

- **2nd BNSF Railroad Realignment** – Project is substantially complete.

- **Columbia to Spokane River – New Segment** – Construction has started building the overcrossing at Euclid Avenue and are beginning to reconstruct the interchange at Wellesley Avenue.

- **Children of the Sun Trail** – Work is underway on the first design-build contract in the region to bring the placemaking effort to life.

- **Spokane River to Sprague – Phase 1** – Construction has started on two prestressed concrete girder bridges for the freeway being built over the Spokane Community College parking lot.
US 395/North Spokane Corridor: Future Construction

- **Spokane River Crossing** – Ad date is Jan. 31, 2022. Construction to follow in the spring.

- **Sprague Ave. to Spokane River – Phase 2 & 3** – Work would include the raised freeway from Mission to Sprague Ave. including the Trent/SR 290 interchange. Work scheduled to begin in 2023.

- **I-90 to Sprague Ave.** – The final section of the North Spokane Corridor will be a design-build project to connect the NSC to I-90. Construction expected to begin in 2023.
I-90 Harvard Road Widening

- Added a northbound lane to Harvard Road bridge over I-90.
- Additional lane provides an exit only to the loop on-ramp to westbound I-90. Added lane completed Friday, Sept. 3.
- Extended both westbound I-90 on-ramps to allow for a longer acceleration lane and safer merge.
- Kramer Road Overcrossing and local connections to begin soon.

Bridge girders being lifted into place by N.A. Degerstrom at the Harvard Road overpass in Liberty Lake.
SR 290/Trent Ave. Bridge

- East Trent Bridge from 1910 has been completely removed.
- New piers and columns are being constructed.
- Completion expected in 2023.
Medical Lake/SR 902 & Geiger Interchange Improvements

Medical Lake/SR 902 (right) –
- 3 new roundabouts
- Added a parallel bridge over I-90
- STA exit only to the West Plains park and ride
- Shared use path
- Project was completed in May 2021

Geiger/Grove interchange (left) –
- 3 new roundabouts – 2 are complete
- Shared use path
- Removed the westbound loop on-ramp
- Extended the eastbound on-ramp
- Remaining work happening at Geiger/Grove interchange north of I-90.
- Estimated completion mid-October
Spokane now has six ramp meters –
• US 195 to EB I-90
• Browne/Division to EB & WB I-90
• Walnut Street to EB I-90
• Monroe Street to EB I-90
• Hamilton Street to EB I-90
How do we connect transportation to planning?
Growth in Spokane Valley & Liberty Lake

Barker Grade Separation project with Spokane Valley

“GEG 2” 2nd Amazon fulfillment center in Spokane Valley
Growth on US 195 corridor

- We understand that there is a need for housing.
- Continued growth leads to concerns around safety.
- How do we work with partners to create the needed infrastructure?
Growth on the West Plains continues...

Growth bursting on Spokane’s edges: West Plains, north continue to be focus in county

Updated: Wed., April 28, 2021

Hundreds of new jobs expected as Amazon expansion in region continues with plans for Airway Heights delivery station

With at least 2,000 new jobs on the horizon, West Plains poised for rapid growth

Industrial development booms on the West Plains

New project among 4.2M in square footage planned, underway west of Spokane

Natasha Nellis  February 25th, 2021
Maintenance & Preservation
Spokane’s growing economy

Spokane – Spokane Valley – (‘16) $24.3B, (‘17) $25.8B, (‘18) $27.1B, (‘19) $28.6B*

* IHS Markit for Council of Mayors

The greater Spokane area has roughly a $30 billion economy. This economy is solely dependent on the infrastructure we currently own.
In Chinese, the word ‘crisis’ is composed of two characters. One stands for danger, the other opportunity. - JFK
Preservation is needed now to achieve State of Good Repair

- 4,000 lane miles of pavement are due for preservation, another 3,600 are past due, 1600 rated as poor; currently repaving 750 lanes miles per year
- 15 bridges need replacement, 19 need major rehabilitation; 2 are being replaced
- 60 steel bridges are due for painting, 39 are past due; 4 are being painted
- 56 concrete bridge decks are past due for repair, and 30 more are due; 8 are being repaired
- 17 of the 22 Ferry Vessels Have a Preservation Backlog – the average vessel is 28 years old
- More than 20% of the Palouse River and Coulee City (PCC) railway is in poor condition and only capable of 10 MPH operations; of 75 miles in poor condition, 20.8 are being replaced
- 110, or 39%, of WSDOT facilities are more than 50 years old
Resilience
Transportation system becoming less resilient

Rosamond Bridge over I-90 closed April 21, 2021, due to deck delamination. Currently, there is no funding for repairs.

Buckled expansion join on US 395 in N. Spokane due to heat.

Bleeding oil and peeling pavement on SR 20 due to extreme heat.

Buckling concrete on US 195 due to extreme heat.
Statewide Unfunded bridge needs
Spokane County 10-year unfunded bridge needs

Map does not include I-90 Viaduct or Latah Bridge replacement need. Cost for all needs in Spokane County

= $345,357,465
Statewide unfunded paving needs
We are nearing the point where half of the system is an unfunded need in Spokane County.
What about our workforce?

In the last 18-24 months, our workforce has faced more challenges than in the past four decades.

What will the costs be?
Variable Message Signs

Creativity sparks conversation, conversations create changes in behavior.

Part of VMS is the partnership with NWS…
Pathfinder partnership

- Partnership between National Weather Service, Idaho DOT, WeatherNet & WSDOT.
- Consistent messaging from multiple agencies on all forms of social media and across state lines.
- VMS & Pathfinder activation allows 24-48 hours of warning before expected weather event for the public.
Make difficult decisions.

Leverage partnerships.

What’s next?

2021

2022

2023

2024
In the midst of every crisis, lies great opportunity.

— Albert Einstein —
Thank you!

MIKE GRIBNER, REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR, EASTERN REGION
Washington State Department of Transportation
gribneM@wsdot.wa.gov