

Exh. EM-2

Barker Road Corridor Transportation Projects

City of Spokane Valley - Barker Road Corridor Construction ...



The City of Spokane Valley is making progress with street improvements designed to make the 3.5-mile Barker Road corridor safer and more efficient. View our video or read more below.

Barker Road parallels the city's eastern boundary, connecting the city's north boundary at State Route 290, or Trent Avenue, to its south boundary near 8th Avenue. Within the corridor, Barker Road intersects Interstate 90, Sprague Avenue and Appleway Avenue, all busy east-west transportation routes serving the greater Spokane region.

Traffic congestion in the Barker Road corridor has increased rapidly. North Barker Road is heavily traveled by industrial and commercial vehicles using I-90 and State Route 290 (Trent Avenue) to transport goods between Idaho, Canada and the greater Pacific Northwest. In addition, the city's **planned action ordinance** (<https://www.spokanevalley.org/PlannedAction>) has streamlined the permitting process in the northeast industrial area, leading to swift industrial growth along north Barker Road.

In the southern part of the corridor, rapid growth within the city and in neighboring Liberty Lake is generating additional residential traffic and congestion. The city has been planning for many years to improve the capacity of the corridor to handle this emerging growth. Several projects have been completed or are underway.

Barker Road/BNSF grade separation project

Construction started March 2021 on the \$26 million **Barker Road/BNSF Railway grade separation project**

(<https://www.spokanevalley.org/BarkerBNSF>)

. This project is estimated for completion in August 2022.

An overpass will be built at the BNSF Railway track adjacent to Trent Avenue to separate vehicle and train traffic at that location. The BNSF mainline serves an average of 60 freight trains and two passenger trains daily, closing Barker Road to traffic for nearly four hours each day. The overpass will reduce traffic congestion, improve vehicle and rail safety, and provide increased access to emergency services.



At the adjacent intersection of Barker Road and Trent Avenue, a two-lane roundabout will be constructed to improve safety at the intersection. The Washington State Department of Transportation will provide construction oversight of both the grade separation and intersection work.

This project is part of the ‘bridging-the-valley’ initiative, a multi-agency plan established in 2006 with the goal to separate vehicle and train traffic, and improve safety along a 42-mile freight corridor between Athol, Idaho, and Spokane. The project is funded with a combination of city, state, federal and private monies.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BARKER ROAD GRADE SEPARATION PROJECT
(<https://www.spokanevalley.org/BarkerBNSF>)

Barker Road reconstruction and widening

The Barker Road widening project is a multi-year, estimated \$7.7 million project that involves three phases of construction between the Spokane River Bridge and grade separation project area.

- Phase 1 - The city began the widening project in 2019 with the widening and reconstruction of 1.5 miles of Barker Road from E. Euclid Ave. north to the south side of the BNSF train tracks. The project included road widening to create an additional center turn lane, curb and gutter work, storm water improvements, and sewer installation (note: all sewer installation on this project is in partnership with Spokane County and the Consolidated Irrigation District No. 19).
- Phase 2 - Construction on widening the section of Barker Road from the Spokane River north to just south of E. Euclid Ave. (where the UP Railway track is) began in July 2020 and continued through the summer 2020, and picked up again in March 2021 and was completed at the end of May. The improvements in this section also included road widening to create an additional center turn lane, curb and gutter work, storm water improvements, and sewer installation.
- Phase 3 - Includes improvements to the UP railroad crossing just south of E. Euclid Ave and the intersection of Barker and Euclid. This work includes widening, installing new curbs, pedestrian ramps, and sewer installation. In addition, a 10-foot-wide paved multi-use path from the Spokane River to just south of Trent Avenue will also be

constructed in this phase. The path will connect to the Centennial Trail at the River. This work is slated for fall 2021 or summer 2022.

Barker Road and Sprague Avenue intersection



The city is also focused on improving the Barker Road and Sprague Avenue intersection in the south corridor.

The city plans to replace the four-way-stop controlled intersection with a single lane roundabout, which will improve efficiency and safety. The project will cost \$2.3 million and will be funded with \$2.1 million in federal grants and nearly \$200,000 in city funds. The city is hoping to be ready for

construction in 2022.

The remaining four projects in the south Barker Road corridor focus on road widening and intersection improvements, all designed to improve safety and mobility. The city will consider those projects in coming years as funding becomes available.

Additional information and comments

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