

I-90/Harvard Road Bridge Interchange/Henry Road Overpass

The Cities of Liberty Lake and Spokane Valley



BACKGROUND

The *Connecting Washington* transportation package included \$26.5 M in funding for *I-90/Barker to Harvard – Improve Interchanges & Local Roads* in the 2027-29 and 2029-31 biennia, to address major congestion choke points, freight mobility issues, and safety concerns on I-90 from Spokane Valley to the Idaho border. The project consists of three components:

- Harvard Road – Northbound Bridge widening and Harvard to Westbound I-90 ramp extension
- Barker Road – Interchange congestion improvement in City of Spokane Valley
- Henry Road – Overpass to connect North and South Liberty Lake

Since 2012, the City of Liberty Lake, in coordination with WSDOT and Transportation Improvement Board, has invested \$6.9 million in Harvard Rd. improvements in an effort to mitigate existing and future operational issues. Design for the Harvard Road Bridge widening and ramp extension will be completed by the summer of 2019. Following the *Connecting Washington* funding schedule to complete the improvements will result in **significant peak hour congestion for 13 more years**.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

- The City of Liberty Lake is the 10th fastest growing jurisdiction in the State of Washington.
- The City of Liberty Lake is home to 7,100 plus jobs (and growing); Barker Road's northeast industrial area anticipates 700 new jobs by 2025 and has capacity for 3,200 new jobs.
- The City of Liberty Lake is bisected by the I-90 corridor, and Harvard Road is the only crossing route in the City of Liberty Lake; the closest alternate route is Barker Road in Spokane Valley, a distance of 5.5 miles using city streets.
- Central Valley School District (CVSD) will complete the construction of a new middle school for 600 students on the north side of I-90 in 2019, and a new high school for 1,600 students on the south side of I-90 in 2021.
- Harvard Road's two lane bridge currently has 22,000 average daily trips; Barker Road's two lane bridge currently has 15,000 average daily trips.
- WSDOT has identified safety concerns with the current Harvard Road ramp design, the site of numerous crashes and a recent fatality. The adjacent intersections currently operate at a Level of Service "F" during peak periods with significant delays. It can take 3 to 5 signal cycles to work through the traffic cue during peak hours.

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- Traffic volumes on Barker Road consist of 12-17% freight, and its westbound I-90 ramp is failing during the peak-hour.
- Almost weekly traffic incidents on I-90 during peak commute times result in frequent gridlock on Harvard Road Bridge, raising resiliency and public safety response concerns for the community.

SOLUTION

- The Harvard Road Bridge Widening and Interchange Improvement project and the Henry Road Overpass project together will resolve Liberty Lake congestion concerns. The Barker Road Roundabout will address capacity issues in Spokane Valley, and provide additional network alternatives and resiliency.
- Accelerating funding for the *I-90/Barker to Harvard – Improve Interchanges & Local Roads* would address the immediate and growing needs for improved capacity, safety and resiliency.
- Joint planning and cooperation between the cities of Liberty Lake and Spokane Valley to complete these badly needed improvements in the 2019 to 2021 biennium provides immediate relief and improves constructability.

2019 LEGISLATIVE REQUEST

The Cities of Liberty Lake and Spokane Valley respectfully request the acceleration of funding for the critical *I-90/Barker to Harvard Project*, according to the following schedule:

Project Component	Requested Funding 2019-2021	Requested Funding 2021-2023
Harvard Road Bridge & Ramp -- Construction	\$6.8M	
Henry Road Overpass – Design & ROW	\$5.85M	
Henry Road Overpass – Construction	\$4.0M	\$4.15M
Barker Road – Design & Construction	\$2.3M	
TOTAL PER BIENNIUM	\$18.95M	\$4.15M

Accelerating the remaining project funds currently programmed for the 2027-29 and 2029-31 biennia will resolve the challenges and address the community’s compelling needs in a timely fashion.

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

This proposal is supported by the following organizations:

