

Spokane River BNSF Bridge

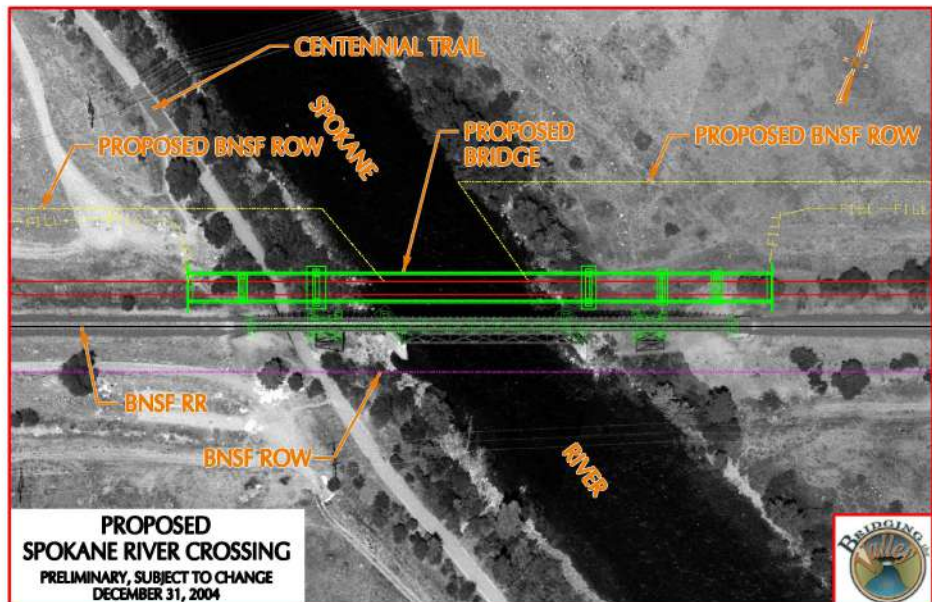
Spokane Valley, WA

Project Location

The Spokane River Bridge is the bridge that carries BNSF trains over the Spokane River in Spokane Valley. The new proposed bridge is located between the existing single track BNSF bridge and Trent Avenue. The bridge is located between Pines Road to the west and Evergreen Road to the east.

Project Description

The project will add one new railroad bridge over the Spokane River associated with the construction of one additional BNSF mainline track. The additional mainline track is required to move Union Pacific (UPRR) train operations from their mainline corridor into the BNSF corridor. This will allow free movement of freight and commuter vehicles across all railroad mainlines between Spokane, WA and Athol, ID.



Proposed Schedule

The Design Report, completed in December 2004, incorporates comments from the BNSF. Environmental approval for the entire Bridging the Valley project was received in August 2006. Final design and construction will begin when funds are available.

Summary of Benefits

When completed, the Bridging the Valley project will separate vehicle traffic from train traffic in the 42 mile corridor between Spokane, Washington and Athol, Idaho. By removing all at-grade rail crossings, Bridging the Valley will:

- Improve public safety by reducing rail / vehicle collisions;
- Improve emergency access to residents and businesses along the corridor;
- Eliminate waiting time for vehicles at rail crossings;
- Reduce noise levels—no more train whistles near crossings;
- Improve traffic flow due to separated grade crossings; and
- Enhance development opportunities with a single rail corridor served by the region's largest railroads.

