



**PanhandleSpecial Needs, Inc.**  
1424 N Boyer Ave.  
Sandpoint ID 83864  
Phone: (208) 263-7022

Subject: Partnership and Coordination on Boyer Avenue Improvements

Dear SURA Board Members,

We at Panhandle Special Needs are excited that you are considering improvements to Boyer Avenue and the right-of-way between the tracks and south to the alternative school. We fully support this project and would welcome the opportunity of working with you — coordinating timing and efforts to best serve our shared goals.

As you know, we're in the process of planning and building our new campus. Below is a brief overview of our programs and the ways we contribute to the community. Your planned improvements, supported by SURA funds, will significantly enhance Boyer Avenue and the surrounding area, directly benefiting our programs and the people we serve. In addition, our new campus will enhance the vitality of this part of town. **We would greatly appreciate the opportunity to briefly meet with you as soon as possible to discuss the city's plans for Boyer Avenue, possible SURA input and assistance towards the future new campus for PSNI, and the needed crosswalk that we have previously mentioned.**

Panhandle Special Needs is more than a service provider — we're a respected program in Idaho and a vital part of fostering inclusion, dignity, and opportunity in the City of Sandpoint. As the only adult developmental disability training center serving rural Bonner and Boundary Counties, we fill a critical gap by empowering individuals with disabilities to lead fuller, more independent lives. We offer life skills training, vocational development, and community integration in a region where such supports are otherwise unavailable. Panhandle Special Needs has become a destination program, attracting families to Sandpoint and reinforcing the city's reputation as a welcoming, inclusive community for people of all abilities.

Beyond our direct services, Panhandle Special Needs contributes meaningfully to the local economy — generating over \$1.2 million in annual revenue and employing up to 40 staff members, including educators, job coaches, program coordinators, and support professionals. *(Current and projected growth in both revenue and staffing is available on request.)*

For Sandpoint, our presence means more than care — it means economic impact, social inclusion, and a stronger, more connected community. Families stay rooted here because their loved ones are supported. Local businesses benefit from our job training and placement programs. And together, we help Sandpoint thrive as a compassionate and equitable city.

Our mission is to build skills, confidence, and independence in vulnerable teens transitioning out of school — and to continue supporting them and their families as they navigate adulthood. Without Panhandle Special Needs, many of our most vulnerable residents would be left behind. With us, they have a voice, a future, and a place in this community.

**If at all possible we would appreciate an opportunity to meet with you at anytime this week or as soon as possible.** At this moment we are in process of seeking a permit from the city to widen and improve the driveway in preparation for building the Panhandle Special Needs new campus. As the 2033 deadline quickly approaches we are excited, yet faced with an urgent need to plan and build PSNI's new home.

Respectfully,

Trini Nicholson  
Executive Director  
Panhandle Special Needs, Inc.

Jim DuBuisson  
Vice-president  
Panhandle Special Needs Board