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April 6, 2016

Honorable Matt Watkins, Mayor of Pasco
Pasco City Hall
525 N. Third Ave.
Pasco, WA 99301

RE: Letter of Support for the City of Pasco Lewis Street Project

Dear Mayor Watkins

Thank you for the opportunity to add Franklin County's support for the Lewis Street project in seeking federal grant funding. We recognize the importance of this project to both the City of Pasco and the broader Franklin County community. Lewis Street is a critical connection within Franklin County as one of only two crossings of the BNSF yard that bisects the City. As our community continues to grow, transportation and walkway improvements are critically important for the life, safety and esthetic values of the area and it is always extremely challenging to find the financial resources to dedicate to these necessary improvements. The current underpass has become unreliable for transit and school buses, emergency vehicles, bicycles, trucks and pedestrians. Replacement of the underpass with an overpass would reconnect the City and provide a critical link for economic development, safety, and security.

Lewis Street is an important east-west connection for economic development in Franklin County. It connects the business downtown to the west with the Port and industrial development areas in the east. Lewis Street is an important link to meet regional growth expectations and if rebuilt as a modern structure to current design standards, would greatly enhance and accommodate the vehicular, safety and pedestrian demands in this area of the County.

Accordingly, we support your grant request and look forward to working with you on this important project.

Respectfully,

Franklin County Commissioners

Rick Miller, Chair

