



# Society of St. Vincent de Paul

## St. Patrick Conference

*"An Open Door to Hope"*

April 12, 2016

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

Dear Mayor Watkins:

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

Thank you for this opportunity to note St. Vincent de Paul's support for the Lewis Street overcrossing project in seeking federal grant funding.

St. Vincent de Paul is a Catholic, non-profit organization dedicated to serving the needs of the poor and marginalized in Pasco and Franklin County. We have a warehouse and office facility located at 215 S. Sixth Avenue, less than one mile from the current Lewis Street undercrossing. From our facility we provide food bank, clothing and community services to the needy. Many of our clients live on the east side of Pasco and travel to our facility via the Lewis Street undercrossing. They would benefit greatly from the proposed new overcrossing.

The current Lewis Street undercrossing of the BNSF rail yard, which was built in 1937, is a narrow undercrossing with an adjacent pedestrian pathway. The structure does not meet ADA requirements, is structurally deficient and does not meet design standards – with no shoulders and very narrow lanes. The City has been seeking funding to replace this undercrossing with an overcrossing that spans the rail yard and also provides a safe connection for bikes and pedestrians.

In 2015, the Washington state legislature approved a 16-year package of transportation earmarks including \$15 million dollars for replacing the Lewis Street undercrossing in the 2019/2021 biennium. This investment brings this long needed improvement closer to reality. With matching grant investments like TIGER and FASTLANE, this project can transform and renew Pasco.

Respectfully,

Marie Schultz, President      Food Bank and Community Services  
PO Box 4273 | 215 So. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. | Pasco, WA 99302 | (509) 544-9315  
[www.svdppasco.org](http://www.svdppasco.org) | [secretary@svdppasco.org](mailto:secretary@svdppasco.org)