

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

April 28, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I write to offer my support to the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER VIII Grant Program proposal submitted by the City of Pasco for the Lewis Street Overpass Project. The existing underpass at Lewis Street is structurally deficient and poses a threat to regional freight mobility and public safety.

Lewis Street serves as the primary link between the Pasco Central Business District and eastern Pasco, crossing the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) yard south of Interstate-182. Built in 1937, the 79-year-old Lewis Street underpass fails to meet current design standards and is in critical need of reconstruction. The deteriorating structure is characterized by a narrow undercrossing with an adjacent pedestrian pathway that is not ADA compliant. Transit and school buses, emergency vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians cannot reliably use the undercrossing.

Rapid economic development in eastern Pasco has placed pressure on Lewis Street and the outdated underpass has become a choke point along this major arterial. Low clearance prevents trucks carrying freight from utilizing the most direct connection between the Port of Pasco and regional transportation corridors. The constricted railroad crossing poses a threat to the mobility of BNSF trains, slowing transport of freight along an R-1 rail corridor carrying more than 5 million tons of freight a year.

The Lewis Street Overpass Project would provide residents with safe and reliable multi-modal access to jobs and residences on either side of the BNSF railyard, while promoting economic growth and easing freight congestion through the City. The project creates four 12-foot travel lanes, two 5-foot bicycle paths, and two 6-foot sidewalks to enhance mobility and safety of all users. The overpass further removes a constricted railroad crossing in the statewide rail system and mitigates hazards on BNSF's primary rail corridor between the East and West Coasts of the United States.

Replacement of the undercrossing at Lewis Street would reconnect City residents and promote economic development and rail security in rural Washington state. For these reasons, I urge your full and fair consideration of the City of Pasco's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER VIII Grant Program.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

EVERETT
2930 WETMORE AVENUE
SUITE 9B
EVERETT, WA 98201
(425) 303-0114
FAX: (425) 303-8351

RICHLAND
825 JADWIN AVENUE
SUITE 204/204A
RICHLAND, WA 99352
(509) 946-8106
FAX: (509) 946-6937

SEATTLE
JACKSON FEDERAL BUILDING
915 2ND AVENUE, SUITE 3206
SEATTLE, WA 98174-1003
(206) 220-6400
TOLL FREE: 1-888-648-7328
FAX: (206) 220-6404

SPOKANE
U.S. FEDERAL COURTHOUSE
WEST 920 RIVERSIDE, SUITE 697
SPOKANE, WA 99201
(509) 353-2507
FAX: (509) 353-2547

TACOMA
950 PACIFIC AVENUE
SUITE 615
TACOMA, WA 98402
(253) 572-2281
FAX: (253) 572-5879

VANCOUVER
MARSHALL HOUSE
1313 OFFICERS' ROW
FIRST FLOOR
VANCOUVER, WA 98661
(360) 696-7838
FAX: (360) 696-7844

WASHINGTON, DC
511 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705
(202) 224-3441
FAX: (202) 228-0514