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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

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December 16, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: City of Pasco, Washington, Lewis Street Overpass Project

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am pleased to support the City of Pasco's FASTLANE application for the Lewis Street Overpass project. As a United States Congressman who has the honor of serving the people of Central Washington, I recognize the benefits of completing construction of this structure that is currently outdated and obsolete.

The proposed project will provide a multimodal east-west corridor that safely connects downtown businesses with the Port and industrial development areas in the east. It also provides the necessary space for transit and school buses, emergency vehicles, bicycles, trucks, and pedestrians to access this major thoroughfare. The structure does not currently meet ADA design standards and does not adequately accommodate all modes of transportation. The project would also provide a key connection for the large low-income and diverse community that is represented in Downtown Pasco. Investing in this improvement allows access to an important range of resources including education, health and human services, and a regional transportation hub.

Additionally, Lewis Street is one of only two crossings of the BNSF rail yard that bisects the City, and it provides a key connection for the Pasco Street network. The existing underpass is a decaying tunnel structure that acts as a "pinch point" for the BNSF rail yard that services transcontinental freight and passenger travel. Improving the underpass as the project proposes would allow BNSF to expand their capacity and meet growing freight demands.

The Lewis Street Overpass project is critical to the growing Tri Cities area, the 4th Congressional District, and the nation, as it transports goods in and out of Washington. The requested funding would help complete a project that has earned community and state support. I ask that you give full and fair consideration to the City of Pasco's application.

Sincerely,

Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress