



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

Downtown Pasco Development Authority encourages the City in its pursuit of federal funding for the Lewis Street undercrossing project. Replacing the obsolete Lewis Street undercrossing with an overcrossing structure is important to our agency (to provide community connectivity and cohesion, economic redevelopment of our downtown, safe multi-modal access, and reliable and redundant access)

The current Lewis Street undercrossing of the BNSF rail yard, which was built over 80 years ago, 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 project has been a priority for the region for over a decade. A new overcrossing that spans the rail yard should also provide a safe connection for bikes and pedestrians.

Downtown Pasco is a designated Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) area with strong representation of minority and low income residents and businesses. The success of the HUB as well as economic redevelopment of Pasco depends on reliable connections, especially Lewis Street. Lewis Street provides important connections and if rebuilt provides an important connection for transit, pedestrian, and bike modes that serve low income and minority populations.

Lewis Street is an important east-west connection for economic development. 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 the community and regional growth and if rebuilt as a modern structure to current design standards, can accommodate trucks, bikes and emergency vehicles.

This project is a priority for our organization and we are encouraged that the City is so close to achieving full funding for the project, including \$15 Million from the Washington state legislature as part of the statewide transportation packaged approved in 2015. A BUILD grant could provide the last brick for funding this transformative project in Pasco.

Respectfully,

  
Luke Hallowell, Executive Director

  
Jacob Gonzalez, President