



Washington State Legislature

April 18, 2016

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

Dear Mayor Watkins

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

Thank you for this opportunity to lend our support for the Lewis Street undercrossing project in seeking federal grant funding. We are writing as the 9th Legislative District delegation. The Burlington Northern Railroad switching bisects this community and access between the two sides is very limited.

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.

Economic Redevelopment – 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.

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.

Sincerely,

Three handwritten signatures in black ink. From left to right: Mark A. Schoesler, Mary Dye, and Joe Schmick.

Senator Mark Schoesler

Rep. Mary Dye

Rep. Joe Schmick