



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 Goodwill Industries of the Columbia's support for the Lewis Street undercrossing project in seeking federal grant funding. This project is very 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 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.

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.

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,

Ken Gosney
Executive Director
Goodwill Industries of the Columbia