

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

October 23, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing in support of an application submitted by the City of Pasco for the U.S. Department of Transportation's *Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants* program for the Lewis Street Overpass and Replacement of Obsolete Undercrossing project.

The City of Pasco is seeking a TIGER grant to build a new overpass across the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) mainline. This project would replace the current underpass with an overpass with four 12-foot traffic lanes, two 5-foot bicycle paths, and two 7-foot sidewalks.

The current underpass at Lewis Street, built in 1937 is functionally obsolete. It has an enclosed pedestrian walkway which blocks visibility, narrow traffic lanes that do not meet overhead clearance standards, and creates a bottleneck slowing truck and residential traffic. It is also a choke point for the BNSF railyard due to the narrowness of the railroad roadbed. If no improvements are made, in time, the deteriorating sidewalls of the underpass could collapse, forcing detours for vehicle traffic and potentially impacting the BNSF railyard. The BNSF railyard and mainline is important to the Washington and national economy, transporting U.S. exports and imports between ports and destinations on the West Coast and the Midwest.

The City of Pasco has experienced growth in recent years, especially in the eastern portion of the city. This has increased safety concerns and congestion along the Lewis Street underpass as it serves as the City of Pasco's main east-west corridor. The underpass connects western Pasco, where city and government offices, the hospital, and shopping centers are located, with eastern Pasco, where the Port of Pasco, industrial development areas, and limited shopping and service opportunities are located.

The City of Pasco and Washington state have invested in this project, securing nearly 70 percent of the project cost through local and state funding. This project would provide a critical link between the Pasco Central Business District and eastern Pasco for emergency services, school and transit buses, residents, businesses, and freight and in doing so would increase safety, and reduce congestion.

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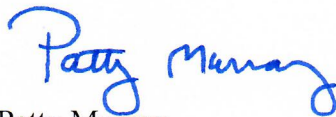
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Thank you for your consideration of the City of Pasco's application. Please contact Samara Ressler in my Washington, D.C. office at 202-224-2621 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patty Murray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Patty" and last name "Murray" clearly distinguishable.

Patty Murray
United States Senator