

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704
December 22, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

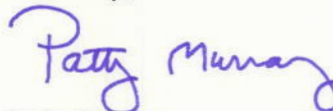
I am writing in support of an application submitted by the City of Pasco to the U.S. Department of Transportation's *Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE)* grant for the Lewis Street Overpass and Replacement of Obsolete Undercrossing project.

The City of Pasco is seeking a FASTLANE grant to build a new overpass across the Burlington Northern Santa Fe mainline to better connect residents and businesses with community services, increase safety, and reduce congestion. An outdated underpass at Lewis Street built in 1937 is functionally obsolete, has an enclosed pedestrian walkway which blocks visibility, narrow traffic lanes that do not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 Burlington Northern Santa Fe rail yard due to the narrowness of the railroad roadbed. Every day between 37 and 47 trains pass through Pasco, producing congestion and impacting emergency response services. This project would replace the underpass with an overpass with four 12-foot traffic lanes, two 5-foot bicycle paths, and two 6-foot sidewalks.

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. This project would provide a critical link between the Pasco Central Business District and eastern Pasco for freight, emergency services, school and transit buses, residents, and businesses. It would also improve connectivity for low income and minority communities.

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

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator