

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

July 17, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: City of Pasco's BUILD (DTOS59-18-RA-BUILD1) application

Dear Secretary Chao,

I write to offer my support for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program proposal submitted by the City of Pasco for the Lewis Street Overpass Project. The existing underpass at Lewis Street is structurally deficient and poses a threat to regional freight mobility, public safety, and local business access.

The Lewis Street underpass, built in 1937, is a 79-year-old facility that is in critical need of reconstruction. It currently serves as the primary link between eastern Pasco and the Pasco Central Business District and services transit and school busses, emergency vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians. The community of Pasco has outgrown this deteriorating structure, and improvements are critically needed to provide updated, safe, and ADA compliant pathways for its residents.

The low clearance of the Lewis Street underpass prevents trucks carrying freight from taking a direct route between the Port of Pasco and regional transportation corridors. Rapid economic development has put pressure on this street and outdated infrastructure has limited transportation opportunities and threatens mobility of trains along Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) rail lines.

The Lewis Street Overpass Project would create four 12-foot travel lanes, two 5-foot bicycle paths, and two 6-foot sidewalks to enhance efficiency, mobility, and safety of all road users. Construction of an overpass removes a constricted railroad crossing in the statewide rail system and mitigates hazards on BNSF's primary rail east-west corridor, carrying more than 5 million tons of freight each year.

This project aims to improve multi-modal access for pedestrians, bicycles, vehicles, freight trucks, and trains while promoting economic growth and easing freight congestion through the city. For these reasons, I support the City of Pasco's application. Thank you for your full and fair consideration of their request.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator