

PORT COMMISSIONERS:  
James T. Klindworth  
Ronald P. Reimann  
Jean Ryckman

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:  
Randy Hayden

April 5, 2016

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

Dear Mayor Watkins

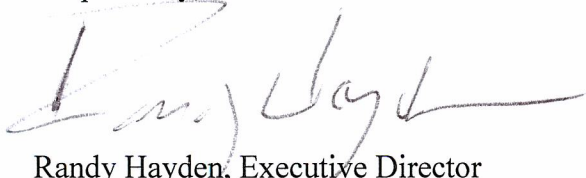
RE: Letter of Support for the City of Pasco Lewis Street Project

The Port of Pasco strongly supports the City's efforts to obtain federal grant funding for the Lewis Street overpass over the BNSF mainline rail. Speaking as a local business and multi-modal freight agency, we believe that replacing the current undercrossing with a new and safer overpass is a top priority for our region. Along with local benefits, the new overpass will ensure that the freight moving along the BNSF mainline route is not obstructed because of the crumbling condition of the existing undercrossing. BNSF uses this route extensively to transport bulk goods from the nation's heartland to the gateway Ports in the Pacific Northwest for international export. It is a critical corridor that must remain open.

Lewis Street is also 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.

We are pleased that the Washington state legislature approved \$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,



Randy Hayden, Executive Director  
Port of Pasco

c: Ahmad Qayoumi  
Haley Meredith