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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

July 18, 2018

VICE-CHAIR
NUCLEAR CLEANUP CAUCUS

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am pleased to support the City of Pasco's BUILD Grant application for the Lewis Street Overpass project. As the Representative who has the honor of serving the people of Central Washington, I recognize the benefits of completing construction of this structure that is currently outdated and obsolete.

The proposed project will provide a multimodal east-west corridor that safely connects downtown businesses with the Port and industrial development areas in the east. The structure does not currently meet ADA design standards and does not adequately accommodate all modes of transportation. The project would also provide a key connection for the large low-income and diverse community that is represented in Downtown Pasco. Investing in this improvement allows access to an important range of resources including education, health and human services, and a regional transportation hub.

Additionally, Lewis Street is one of only two crossings of the BNSF rail yard that bisects the City, and it provides a key connection for the Pasco Street network. The existing underpass is a decaying 79-year-old tunnel structure that acts as a choke point for the BNSF rail yard that serves transcontinental freight and passenger travel. Improving the underpass as the project proposes would allow BNSF to expand their capacity and meet growing freight demands.

The Lewis Street Overpass project is critical to the 4th Congressional District, and the requested funding would help complete a project that has earned community and state support. I ask that you give full and fair consideration to the City of Pasco's application.

Sincerely,

Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress