

April 7, 2022

Pete Buttigieg
United State Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE 2022 RAISE GRANT PROGRAM: BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
ROUTE 6 RESURFACING AND RECONSTRUCTION (STANDING ROCK INDIAN RESERVATION,
NORTH DAKOTA/SOUTH DAKOTA)

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are writing in support of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. The RAISE funding would facilitate resurfacing and reconstruction improvements to Bureau of Indian Affairs Route 6 (BIA 6). This project aligns with USDOT's strategic goals as it addresses critical safety concerns in rural communities within the Standing Rock Indian Reservation, North Dakota/South Dakota, supports economic development of the region, improves local and regional mobility and connectivity, and reduces systemic inequities in historically disadvantaged communities. The reconstruction and resurfacing of BIA 6 will improve interstate connectivity and regional access to basic healthcare, services, and employment.

BIA Route 6 is a significant interregional corridor connecting several tribal and non-tribal rural communities within the Standing Rock Indian Reservation. Improving transportation connections to healthcare and educational facilities, retail/commercial destinations, and culturally significant areas is essential to the residents and visitors of the Standing Rock Reservation. Maintaining and improving transportation infrastructure is also a critical component of the Tribe's economic development strategy. Improvements to BIA 6 will strengthen our transportation system and contribute to growth in our region for years to come.

We support the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's application for the funding of the BIA 6 Resurfacing and Reconstruction Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2022 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal for your full consideration.

With Gratitude,



William T. Panos
Director