



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MEADE COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA
1300 Sherman Street STE 222
Sturgis, South Dakota 57785
Tel 605.347-3818
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Ted Seaman
Chair
Rich Liggett
Vice Chair
Doreen Allison Creed
Commissioner
Talbot Wieczorek
Commissioner
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Commissioner
Rhea Crane
Executive Director

August 15, 2023

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

RE: Letter of Support for FY 2023-2024 MPDG Opportunity: New Underwood Road Resurfacing and Reconstruction Project, Meade County, SD

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of South Dakota Department of Transportation's (SDDOT) application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Opportunity. The MPDG funding would facilitate completion of the long-planned connections and safety improvements in Meade County through the New Underwood Road Resurfacing and Reconstruction project.

The project will resurface and/or reconstruct approximately 30 miles of New Underwood Road between Interstate 90 and State Highway 34 in Meade County. It will also replace all existing pipe and box culverts in the project area as well as upgrade the roadway to current state design standards. The project will improve access for historically disadvantaged communities of Cheyenne River Reservation and Standing Rock Indian Reservation to vital healthcare and commercial destinations in Rapid City, SD.

The project aligns with USDOT's strategic goals as the resulting crash reduction due to low-cost, high-impact solutions will improve the safety along the corridor; enhanced travel time reliability will reduce the greenhouse gas emissions; and upgraded roadway design will improve the resiliency of the infrastructure and quality of life for travelers along New Underwood Road.

The project will have a positive impact on all Meade County residents that live in the eastern and northern half of the county. New Underwood Road is critical for the rural residents, the City of Faith residents, and is an integral roadway for the region's agricultural livelihood. It is the main corridor to reach Interstate 90 and the City of Rapid City, which is the main hub for needed health care and transportation. New Underwood Road is also a critical corridor for emergency services and intrastate and interstate traffic. The completion of the roadway and multimodal improvements along the project corridor will strengthen our system of transport and contribute to growth in our region, including the anticipated growth of Meade County itself.

The Meade County Commission supports SDDOT's application for the funding of the New Underwood Road Resurfacing and Reconstruction Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this FY 2023-2024 MPDG funding proposal your full consideration and if we can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Rich Liggett, Meade County Vice Chair. Rich may be reached at 605-431-0177, or richard.liggett@meadecounty.org.

Respectfully,


Ted Seaman, Chair
Meade County Commission

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4105

August 14, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

It has come to my attention the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) has submitted a request for funding from the United States Department of Transportation under the Rural Surface Transportation (RURAL) program. As a strong advocate for investing in our nation's infrastructure, I write in support of their application.

Should they receive funding, the SDDOT would reconstruct New Underwood Road, a rural arterial roadway in western South Dakota. This project includes reconstructing over 32 miles of an existing two-lane road, with improvements to its width and slopes, resurfacing, new shoulder lanes, rumble strips, bridge modifications, and installation of essential drainage features. This well-traveled route connects SD 34 with I-90, and it is the only paved roadway in Meade County east of Ellsworth Air Force Base. These significant improvements will serve the area surface transportation system well, as it is a critical link for communities in the region, including the Cheyenne River and Standing Rock tribal nations.

As you know, making necessary investments into our nation's infrastructure system is important to job creation and sustained economic growth in communities throughout the country. Your thorough review of their application would be greatly appreciated, and I urge you to give it every consideration. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kindest regards,



JOHN THUNE
United States Senator

DUSTY JOHNSON
SOUTH DAKOTA

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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION &
INFRASTRUCTURE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

August 15, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in regard to the Rural Surface Transportation (RURAL) grant application submitted by the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT). SDDOT intends to use this grant to reconstruct New Underwood Road, a rural arterial roadway between State Highway 34 and Interstate 90 in Meade and Pennington Counties in South Dakota.

The project includes reconstructing 32.2 miles of the existing two-lane road to address critical safety, resiliency, and transportation reliability needs. The project consists of improvements to the roadway's width and slopes, resurfacing, newly paved shoulder lanes, median and edge running rumble strips, modifications to bridges, and installation of essential drainage features.

As the only paved north-south aligned road east of Ellsworth Air Force Base in Meade County that connects State Highway 34 and Interstate 90, New Underwood Road is a crucial linkage between residents of surrounding towns and hamlets of rural western South Dakota, particularly the Cheyenne River and Standing Rock tribal nations.

I strongly urge you to give full and careful consideration to SDDOT's RURAL application.

Sincerely,

DUSTY JOHNSON
Member of Congress



CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701-2724

Office of the Mayor

300 6th Street

605-394-4110

E-mail: mayorsoffice@rcgov.org

August 3, 2023

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

RE: Letter of Support for FY 2023-2024 MPDG Opportunity: New Underwood Road Resurfacing and Reconstruction Project, Meade County, SD

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

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The project will resurface and/or reconstruct approximately 30 miles of New Underwood Road between Interstate 90 and State Highway 34 in Meade County. It will also replace all existing pipe and box culverts in the project area as well as upgrade the roadway to current state design standards. The project will improve access for historically disadvantaged communities of Cheyenne River Reservation and Standing Rock Indian Reservation to vital healthcare and commercial destinations in Rapid City, SD.

The project aligns with USDOT's strategic goals as the resulting crash reduction due to low-cost, high-impact solutions will improve the safety along the corridor; enhanced travel time reliability will reduce the greenhouse gas emissions; and upgraded roadway design will improve the resiliency of the infrastructure and quality of life for travelers along New Underwood Road.

Rapid City is currently experiencing significant growth in population, and also serves as a regional hub for employment, healthcare, retail, and service providers. Ellsworth Air Force Base will expand with the addition of the B-21 Raider Bomber program. The completion of roadway and multimodal improvements along the project corridor will strengthen our system of transport and contribute to growth in our region, including the anticipated growth of Rapid City and Ellsworth Air Force Base.

I support SDDOT's application for the funding of the New Underwood Road Resurfacing and Reconstruction Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this FY 2023-2024 MPDG funding proposal your full



CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701-2724

Office of the Mayor

300 6th Street

605-394-4110

E-mail: mayorsoffice@rcgov.org

consideration and if I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I may be reached at (fill in your information).

Sincerely,

Jason Salamun

Mayor

City of Rapid City, South Dakota



CITY OF FAITH

P.O. Box 368

Faith, South Dakota 57626-0368

Phone: (605) 967-2261

August 15, 2023

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

RE: Letter of Support for FY 2023-2024 MPDG Opportunity: New Underwood Road Resurfacing and Reconstruction Project, Meade County, SD

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The project aligns with USDOT's strategic goals as the resulting crash reduction due to low-cost, high-impact solutions will improve the safety along the corridor; enhanced travel time reliability will reduce the greenhouse gas emissions; and upgraded roadway design will improve the resiliency of the infrastructure and quality of life for travelers along New Underwood Road.

Our ambulance services utilizes this road whenever possible. However, the road's current conditions prevents them from utilizing it more often, as a smooth road is imperative when working on a patient. The completion of roadway and multimodal improvements along the project corridor will strengthen our system of transport and contribute to growth in our region.

I support SDDOT's application for the funding of the New Underwood Road Resurfacing and Reconstruction Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this FY 2023-2024 MPDG funding proposal your full consideration and if I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I may be reached at the City Office at 605-967-2261.

Sincerely,

Glen Haines, Mayor
City of Faith