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April 1, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We strongly support the South Dakota Department of Transportation's combined Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) application for the reconstruction and paving of US Highway 12 from Morristown east to Watauga for 9 miles. The project advances the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects (INFRA) grant's goal of funding projects of national or regional significance to improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of freight and people in and across rural and urban areas. The project similarly advances the Rural Surface Transportation (Rural) grant's goal of to improve and expand the surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas to increase connectivity, improve the safety and reliability of the movement of people and freight, and generate regional economic growth and improve quality of life.

US 12 provides vital access to the Standing Rock Reservation and Corson County, which is a designated area of persistent poverty. This illustrates the importance of the grant and the importance of the Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) Initiative.

The project promotes equity by improving transportation access to a disadvantaged area. It improves mobility, connectivity, and economic competitiveness of the Standing Rock Reservation and the surrounding region and advances economic vitality, reduces climate change impacts, reduces barriers to opportunity, leverages Federal funding, attracts non-Federal investment, and holds grant recipients accountable for their performance.

Thank you for any assistance you can provide in funding this grant. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact SDDOT Secretary Joel Jundt.

Sincerely,

Janet Alkire, Chair  
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe