

August 17, 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 the 2022/2023 PROTECT Grant Program: SD 28 Reconstruction & Resilience from 458th Avenue east of Lake Poinsett to 5.2 miles west of Estelline in Hamlin County, South Dakota

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing in support of the South Dakota Department of Transportation's (SDDOT) application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) grant. The PROTECT funding will facilitate completion of the grading and reconstruction project along South Dakota Highway 28 (SD 28) between U.S. Highway 81 and the city of Estelline. The Project will enhance the resilience of SD 28, a corridor that serves a key role in the regional economy and serves as a vital rural freight corridor, connecting rural communities to services and employment opportunities. Resiliency of SD 28 will be strengthened by improving the roadway grade, replacing structures prone to flooding, and reducing the need to close the road during Spring snowmelt and other significant precipitation events.

The SD 28 Reconstruction and Resilience Project aligns with the goals of the PROTECT program, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the USDOT by strengthening the surface transportation system, making it more resilient to natural hazards, including flooding caused by extreme weather events. Using grading, realignment, and reconstruction of the roadway and critical structures, this project will improve highway safety, minimize the impact of flood events on the road and over structures, and reduce the occurrence of closure on SD 28 during flood events.

[PLEASE ADD ANY DETAILS YOU ARE COMFORTABLE SHARING ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION AND ITS OPERATIONS AND/OR EXPANSION PLANS AROUND PROJECT AREA. THIS CAN ALSO INCLUDE HOW THE PROJECT WOULD POSITIVELY IMPACT YOUR ORGANIZATION.] The completion of the SD 28 Reconstruction and Resilience Project along the SD 28 corridor will strengthen our system of transport and contribute to growth in our region.

I support the South Dakota Department of Transportation's application for the funding of the SD 28 Reconstruction and Resilience Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2022/2023 PROTECT Discretionary Grant proposal your full consideration and if I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I may be reached at [CONTACT INFORMATION].

Sincerely,

Name

Title

Company/Organization/Agency