



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Midwest Regional Office
5600 West American Boulevard
Norman Pointe II, Suite 500
Bloomington, Minnesota 55437



IN REPLY REFER TO:

ENGINEERING/ROADS

January 25, 2024

Jeff Donnell
Red Lake Tribal Engineering Division
PO Box 274
Red Lake, MN 56671

Re: Thunder Lake Road (Route 0174)

Dear Mr. Donnell:

Thunder Lake Road (Route 0174) has been on the official Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) inventory since 2000 - with a bituminous surface beginning in 2005. Currently, with a SCI rating of 58 - the pavement is nearing the end of its life - coming up on 20 years. Normally, bituminous surfaced roads in northern Minnesota are programmed for rehabilitation with a mill/overlay after 10-15 years. I highly recommend the tribe consider Thunder Lake Road as a high priority construction project on the tribal priority list. I suspect if nothing is done to this route in the very near future - the route would deteriorate to the point where it would be hazardous to drive by the traveling public in approximately 4 years (2028) at which point a total reconstruction would be necessary. I also strongly encourage tribe to pursue all grant opportunities that exist now to help fund this project. I recommend the replacement of all outdated old sewer/water lines prior to or in conjunction with the road project to eliminate any open cutting of a newly constructed road surface for the repair/replacement of utility lines.

If you have any additional questions or concerns about the above recommendation, please do not hesitate to call me at (218) 766-2023.

Sincerely,

Kurt Slettvedt, P.E.
Supervisory Highway Engineer