



February 24, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) is pleased to submit an application for the SD 73 Reconstruction Project – improving mobility, safety, and access to the Pine Ridge Reservation in Jackson County, South Dakota for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. This project will provide many improvements for Jackson County, the Pine Ridge Reservation, and the region. The existing infrastructure is in poor condition with below standard shoulder width, causing many problems for the roadway users (both vehicular and pedestrian), freight haulers, and businesses along the corridor. This project will address these issues in a historically disadvantaged community and an area of perpetual poverty.

In addition to bringing the corridor back to a state of good repair, the project will provide multiple safety outcomes for all roadway users, including trucks, motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians by:

- Reconstructing nearly nine miles of roadway to new construction
- Expanding and paving of roadway shoulders from two feet to six feet
- Installing edge-line rumble strips
- Adding new pavement marking (paint, epoxy, tape, durable)
- Addressing geometric deficiencies, including twelve horizontal curves and 24 vertical curves to meet 70 mph design speeds
- Flattening backslopes to assist with the removal of drifting snow traps and melting
- Correcting inslopes to ensure proper roadway drainage and reduce the risk of hydroplaning
- Changing intersection control at the SD 73/SD 248 intersection from right-turn yield to stop controlled
- Installing lighting at the SD 73/SD 248 intersection and along nearly one mile of SD 248 to improve visibility
- Improve clear zone to 30'
- Replacing 42 cross culverts under mainline, 33 driveway culverts, one box culvert and one cattle pass

SDDOT is committed to providing \$675,444.49 in state funds to match the NHPP formula funding needed to cover the estimated project cost that exceeds the maximum award of \$25 million to achieve a successful RAISE grant for this important project. Thank you for your interest and support to improve South Dakota's transportation system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Behm". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michael Behm
Division Director