

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS
FOREIGN RELATIONS
INDIAN AFFAIRS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

March 31, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write today to request full and fair consideration of the South Dakota Department of Transportation's (SD DOT) Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application for the reconstruction of U.S. Highway 12. This project highlights the importance of the Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) Initiative and also meets RAISE's goal of funding projects that will have a significant local or regional impact.

The project will reconstruct U.S. Highway 12 from Morristown east to Watauga for 9 miles. The reconstruction will widen the shoulders, increase safety along the corridor and replace a bridge currently in poor condition. It is a significant highway on the Standing Rock Reservation and in Corson County, providing vital east-west access through a designated area of persistent poverty. If this project is completed, it will help support economic vitality for both tribal and non-tribal communities in this region. The route connects rural residents to goods and services, healthcare, schools, employment, childcare and recreation. Modernizing this aging roadway will directly benefit the rural communities and residents that live along U.S. Highway 12 and allow them to continue to maintain reliable access to the national road network.

I appreciate the work the United States Department of Transportation has done to promote efficient and modern transportation in South Dakota. Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this grant application.

Sincerely,



M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator