

February 28, 2023

Mr. Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

SUBJECT: Bureau of Indian Affairs Route 6 Reconstruction & Preservation (Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, North Dakota/South Dakota) 2023 RAISE Grant Program Application

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) is pleased to support the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's application for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. The RAISE funding would facilitate completion of the long-planned reconstruction and preservation (resurfacing) of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Route (BIA) 6. The project helps to strengthen a Justice40 designated community and improve resiliency of the Tribe.

The project aligns with USDOT's strategic goals as it improves safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, improves mobility and community connectivity, economic competitiveness and opportunity, state of good repair, partnership and collaboration, and innovation through both local and regional impacts. This project reconstructs and preserves BIA 6 to address poor pavement conditions, correct vertical curve deficiencies, improve ditch-slope, modernize signage and striping, and bring BIA 6 into a state of good repair. The project sustains access to existing transit opportunities between rural communities within the Reservation, providing critical mobility and connectivity to essential tribal resources such as emergency services, healthcare, education, higher education, and historically & culturally significant resources.

BIA 6 is a significant interregional corridor connecting several tribal and non-tribal rural communities within the Standing Rock Reservation by connecting residents and visitors to essential healthcare and educational facilities, retail/commercial destinations, and historically & culturally significant areas in Fort Yates. In line with the Tribe's economic development strategy, maintaining BIA 6 will strengthen the rural community, improve resiliency, and sustain growth on the Reservation for the next generation.

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I support the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's application for the funding of the BIA 6 Reconstruction and Preservation Project and look forward to the infrastructure investment in our region through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please give this 2023 RAISE Discretionary Grant proposal your full consideration.

With gratitude,



Ronald J. Henke, PE
Director

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