

Little Wound School Board

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Superintendent

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Secretary Buttigieg
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the administrators, teachers, and students of the Little Wound Community School in Kyle, South Dakota we are writing in support of the Oglala Sioux Tribe's application for a RAISE Grant to improve BIA 2, the main artery which comes through the center of our community.

The project would improve more than 20 miles of road and reestablish a safe route between our community and Wanblee, to the northeast. Both communities are on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, but we suffer from a substandard road connecting the two. Our busses pick up students along the project corridor and all the way to Wanblee and Georgetown in the northeast region of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Specifically, our busses travel BIA 2 east of Kyle 3-5 times per school day and have at least 8 stops to pick up students. The existing road is too narrow and has so many hills making stopping on the road to pick up students extremely dangerous.

The Little Wound School encompasses Elementary, Middle and High School and has approximately 900 students with a 50-mile attendance area. Students living inside a 1-mile radius must walk to school while the remainder are bussed. More than 250 students and staff walk to school each day and cross BIA 2 in town. Improvements would make this crossing safer and encourage even more community members to walk.

In addition to students, we provide free dinner to all community members under the age of 18 and we have activities and athletic events which can last until 9:30 p.m. In winter months the sun sets early enough to create even more danger for those crossing the street. A mix of low visibility and winter road conditions can be very dangerous for staff, students and community members.

This project would also provide significant improvements to the one mile of BIA 2 in Kyle. This would allow safer pedestrian and bike transit to our hospital, bus stop, post office, Lakota Bank, Kyle Grocery, Oglala Lakota College, and our school. Improving this transportation corridor would benefit anyone transiting between Kyle and Wanblee and greatly improve the public safety of our community in Kyle.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles Cuny, Jr.'.

Charles Cuny, Jr.

Superintendent

Little Wound Community School, Kyle, South Dakota