



**OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT**



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July 1, 2021

Peter Paul Montgomery Buttigieg, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Oglala Sioux Tribe RAISE Planning Grant Application for the BIA 2 Rural Safety and Regional Access Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, please accept this letter as formal assurance of completing right-of-way acquisition to support the BIA 2 Rural Safety and Regional Access Project. If awarded RAISE planning grant funds, a follow up project named BIA 2 Right-of-way Acquisition will be completed with Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) funds as evidenced by the recently submitted 2021-2025 TTIP.

This project seeks to improve public safety, stimulate the local economy, reduce travel time, and create jobs by reconstructing 20.7 miles of arterial transportation corridor on BIA 2, which stretches from Kyle, South Dakota to South Dakota Highway 44. This request of RAISE funds is for planning and preconstruction activities and does not include right-of-way acquisition.

As the Director of the Department of Transportation, it is my duty to oversee fiscal management of TTP funds. The Oglala Sioux Tribe Department of Transportation (OSTDOT) has extremely limited funding, but because the BIA 2 Rural Safety and Regional Access Project is a significant project, the OSTDOT has committed \$750,000 in TTP funding from fiscal year 2024 to acquire right-of-way and temporary construction easements through a separate project following the RAISE funded planning project.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Tonya Huber, PE, with KLJ. Mrs. Huber can be reached at 605-721-5553 and tonya.huber@kljeng.com.

Sincerely,

David A. Kelly
Director