



CREDIT AND FINANCE PROGRAM
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Secretary Peter Paul Montgomery Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

RE: FY2021 RAISE PLANNING GRANT FOR BIA 2 RURAL SAFETY AND REGIONAL ACCESS PROJECT

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

As the Director of the Oglala Sioux Tribe's Credit & Finance Program, I'm very pleased to hear about the Tribal Department of Transportation's application for 2021 RAISE Planning Grant funds for the BIA 2 Rural Safety and Regional Access Project. Awarded funding will be the catalyst to making the project "shovel-ready" and propelling the ultimate 20.7-mile road reconstruction project towards completion.

I have been involved in establishing and seeking funding opportunities to grow the tourism market within the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. We are currently seeking funds to perform a Market Study of the businesses and infrastructure needed along the Crazy Horse Scenic Byway to support tourism growth. This study would address the need for additional lodging and dining businesses, fuel stations, picnic areas and camping facilities, public facilities, and scenic overlooks along the byway. The BIA 2 Rural Safety and Regional Access Project will meet a few of the goals established in the Market Study by incorporating tourism pull-offs and breathtaking views of the Badlands and Buttes scenery, further enticing tourism travel.

Improving this road will create a reliable route for Tribal members as well as visitors. Please give this project close and careful consideration as it would positively impact an area of dependent on tourism development.

Thank you,