

Oglala Lakota College

P.O. Box 490

KYLE, SOUTH DAKOTA 57752-0490

Telephone (605) 455-6020

FAX (605) 455-6023

COLLEGE PRESIDENT
THOMAS H. SHORTBULL

BOARD CHAIRMAN
DENNIS BREWER

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

July 1, 2021

Peter Paul Montgomery Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Secretary Buttigieg,

At the Oglala Lakota College we are proud to offer one of South Dakota's best educational opportunities to more than 1,400 students. On behalf of our college community I am writing to support the Oglala Sioux Tribe's 2021 RAISE grant request for the BIA 2 roadway from west edge of Kyle to SD Highway 44. This 20.7-mile project would improve the safety of our entire community by improving BIA 2, which runs straight through the middle of our community of Kyle, South Dakota.

Currently students and staff who walk to our Pejuta Haka College Center face unsafe conditions when crossing BIA 2. This includes all the students for the Kyle Head Start program, which is administered on our campus and requires guardians and young students to cross the street together.

Additionally, the project would incorporate a sidewalk and lighting along the north side of BIA 2 from the Pejuta Haka College Center to the Little Wound School where high school students currently walk from to take college level courses. Improving BIA 2 conditions in Kyle would greatly improve public safety for all community members who walk or bike to our campus, K-12 school, the bus stop, post office, bank, grocery, or hospital.

Please take the time to review the OST application and feel free to contact us with any questions.

Thank you,



Thomas Shortbull,
President
Oglala Lakota College
Kyle, South Dakota