

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4105

July 6, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

It has come to my attention the Oglala Sioux Tribe (OST) has submitted a request for planning and intermediate construction funding from the United States Department of Transportation under the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program. As a strong advocate for investing in our nation's infrastructure, I write in support of their application.

Should they receive funding, the OST will move forward with all planning and preconstruction activities for the BIA Route 2 Rural Safety and Regional Access Project. The eastern portion of BIA Route 2, from SD Highway 44 to Kyle, South Dakota, includes several dangerous intersections, sharp turns, hillside ascents and descents, and currently cannot support the local agricultural and commercial trucking economy.

Their proposal is significant, as it coincides with the OST's request to designate the Crazy Horse Scenic Byway. As you will note in the tribe's application, the eastern stretch is a critical component to the overall scenic byway project, and its eventual reconstruction would complement the federal funding allocated in 2013 for the western portion of BIA Route 2.

I applaud the Oglala Sioux Tribe for their commitment and dedication to making this endeavor a reality. Upon completion, the overall project will enhance connectivity through significant improvements to the local and regional transportation system. More importantly, however, it will provide safety upgrades for commuters and residents in the area, including those accessing the Crazy Horse School in Wanblee, the Little Wound School in Kyle, Oglala Lakota College, and visitors to the Badlands National Park South Unit.

As you know, making investments into our nation's infrastructure system is important to job creation and sustained economic growth in communities throughout the country. Your thorough review of their application would be greatly appreciated, and I urge you to give it every consideration. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kindest regards,



JOHN THUNE
United States Senator