



**395 John Ireland Boulevard
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155**

February 16, 2024

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

Re: Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Application for the County State Aid Highway 2 Road and Shared Use Path Improvements Project in Redwood County, Minnesota

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

This letter is in reference to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity grant application for the County State-Aid Highway (CSAH) 2 road and shared use path improvements project in the Lower Sioux Indian Community (LSIC) and Redwood County, in Minnesota.

The Lower Sioux Indian Community, in partnership with Redwood County, will reconstruct 10 miles of CSAH 2, create a shared use path and include Electric Vehicle charging station infrastructure. This project will address infrastructure failures, safety improvements and multimodal connectivity to safely link services, homes and resources for the community.

The highway is an important freight transportation route, but the road subgrade is compromised and requires truck load restrictions for up to 12 weeks of the year. Reconstruction is likely to refine traffic performance and diminish emissions along the highway. It will also provide equitable access to a highway of local and regional importance and connect disadvantaged neighborhoods to job centers, school bus stops and community and cultural facilities.

Currently, the total project cost estimate is \$26.3 million, and Redwood County has identified \$1.3 million. The project is planned for construction in 2028. The Minnesota Department of Transportation currently does not have the project included in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) or funding identified in the 10-year Capital Highway Investment Plan (CHIP). It is MnDOT's assumption that the local agency will be responsible for delivery costs and funding gaps. MnDOT looks forward to continued cooperation with the Lower Sioux Indian Community and Redwood County on this important transportation need.

Thank you for your interest and support to improve Minnesota's transportation system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Nancy Daubenberger'.

Nancy Daubenberger, P.E.
Commissioner

cc: Jamie Bents, Director, Environmental Planning, WSP
Jon Huseby, District Engineer, District 8, Minnesota Department of Transportation

February 21, 2024

U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program
County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 2 Road and Shared Use Path Improvements Project
Lower Sioux Indian Community (Cansayapi) / Redwood County, Minnesota

Dear U.S. Department of Transportation,

I am writing this letter of support of the CSAH 2 RAISE Grant to reconstruct and rehabilitate CSAH 2, from Morgan to the Lower Sioux Indian Community. The project will enhance traffic operations and safety in the region, boost mobility, reduce congestion, spur economic activity and growth, and improve the quality of life for all those who use the area transportation system.

CSAH 2 is a dangerously narrow, substandard roadway that cannot carry 10-ton per axle loads. The roadway is heavily used by contractors as a haul road to facilitate road and bridge projects in the region, supports heavy agricultural farm to market use and is a primary road for the Lower Sioux Indian Community.

We understand the project includes reconstruction of CSAH 2 from CSAH 11 to 305th Street, pavement rehabilitation from Morgan to CSAH 11, additional pavement rehabilitation from 305th Street to CSAH 24, will create a 10-ton pavement network, install pedestrian crossings and construct an important trail segment from Jackpot Junction to the Interpretive Center.

We also understand the project will address equity, climate change, tribal needs, safety, economic strength and infrastructure needs, among many other federal, state and local initiatives.

Our company strongly supports funding the Lower Sioux Indian Community and Redwood County Highway Department's RAISE Grant application for funding of this project.

Sincerely,



Dale Bednarek
President/CEO
Farmers Union Industries, LLC



John Riley Construction, Inc.

PO Box 535
Morris, MN 56267
320-589-1895

February 14, 2024

U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program
County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 2 Road and Shared Use Path Improvements Project
Lower Sioux Indian Community (Cansayapi) / Redwood County, Minnesota

Dear U.S. Department of Transportation,

I am writing this letter of support of the CSAH 2 RAISE Grant and reconstruction of CSAH 2. CSAH 2 is a dangerously narrow, substandard roadway that cannot carry 10-ton per axle loads. The in-place asphalt surfacing is extremely old, with the following layers;

- 1) 1960 (1.5", lowest lift) (64 years old)
- 2) 1974 (1" middle lift) (50 years old)
- 3) 1985 (2" upper lift) (39 years old); and
- 4) Finally an emergency 1.5" emergency mill and overlay was done in August of 2023 to try to save the rapidly deteriorating roadway.

The roadway is heavily used by contractors as a haul road to facilitate road and bridge projects in the region, supports heavy agricultural farm to market use and is a primary road for the Lower Sioux Indian Community. This roadway absolutely needs to be reconstructed!

The 1.5" emergency overlay completed in 2023 will only last for 3 years maximum, based on judgement from my 30 years of road building experience. The overlay was placed on top of severely deteriorated and failed pavement surfacing, with inadequate 8" aggregate base.

I very strongly urge you to fund the Lower Sioux Indian Community and Redwood County Highway Department's RAISE Grant application for funding of this project!

Sincerely,

February 14, 2024

Name:

Date:

John Riley Construction, Inc.

Business:

February 13, 2024

U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program
County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 2 Road and Shared Use Path Improvements Project
Lower Sioux Indian Community (Cansayapi) / Redwood County, Minnesota

Dear U.S. Department of Transportation,

I am writing this letter of support of the CSAH 2 RAISE Grant to reconstruct and rehabilitate CSAH 2, from Morgan to the Lower Sioux Indian Community. The project will enhance traffic operations and safety in the region, boost mobility, reduce congestion, spur economic activity and growth, and improve the quality of life for all those who use the area transportation system.

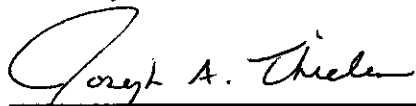
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We understand the project includes reconstruction of CSAH 2 from CSAH 11 to 305th Street, pavement rehabilitation from Morgan to CSAH 11, additional pavement rehabilitation from 305th Street to CSAH 24, will create a 10-ton pavement network, install pedestrian crossings and construct an important trail segment from Jackpot Junction to the Interpretive Center.

We also understand the project will address equity, climate change, tribal needs, safety, economic strength and infrastructure needs, among many other federal, state and local initiatives.

Our company strongly supports funding the Lower Sioux Indian Community and Redwood County Highway Department's RAISE Grant application for funding of this project.

Sincerely,



Name: Joseph A. Thielen

Date: 2/14/24

Thielen Bus Lines Inc.
Business: