



RAPID CITY AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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February 12, 2026

Sean Duffy

U.S. Secretary of Transportation

United States Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE

Washington, DC 20590

RE: Letter of Support for FY 2026 BUILD Opportunity: US 16 Reconstruction Project,
Pennington County, SD

Dear Secretary Duffy,

I am writing in support of the South Dakota Department of Transportation's (SDDOT) application for the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program. SDDOT will use this funding to reconstruct the intersection of U.S. Highway (US) 16 and Catron Boulevard (US 16 Bypass) in Pennington County, South Dakota. The intersection will be converted to an interchange, improving this key roadway condition in western South Dakota.

The first phase of this Project, proposed to be funded with BUILD grant assistance, involves reconstructing US 16 from south of its intersection with Promise Road to the intersection of US 16 and Enchantment Road, just under two miles. This phase includes replacement of concrete along US 16, realignment of the Promise Road/ US 16 intersection, and the conversion of the current intersection with Addison Avenue into a cul-de-sac to enhance access management. Additionally, grading for the future ramps at the Catron Boulevard intersection will be completed to facilitate its conversion to an interchange during future phases.

The second and third phases complete the conversion of the US 16 and Catron Boulevard intersection to a full interchange. This Project will significantly improve safety at what has been frequently described as the "most dangerous intersection in South Dakota", improve mobility and community connectivity, and maintain the highway in a state of good repair.

The total cost of this project phase is estimated to cost \$34.3 million and is asking for \$25 million in BUILD funding. SDDOT will be providing a \$9.3 million match for the BUILD grant utilizing National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) dollars. The estimated date of completion for the project is Fall of 2027.

The Project aligns with USDOT's priorities of safety, workforce development, job quality, and wealth creation by improving a vital corridor relied on by residents of Rapid City, Pennington County, and rural South Dakota for access to daily necessities including schools, places of employment, and grocery stores. This corridor is also critical for

national tourism, as the Project is less than a 30-minute drive from the Black Hills National Forest and Mount Rushmore National Monument. This grant will provide the funding needed to ensure the highway serves as a safe corridor for community access and mobility. The quality of life for residents of Rapid City and greater South Dakota will be improved by the Project.

I support SDDOT's application for the US 16 Reconstruction Project in Pennington County and urge you to give full and careful consideration to SDDOT's BUILD grant application.

Sincerely,

Mayor Larry Larson
Chair, Executive Policy Committee
Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization