



RAPID CITY AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Metropolitan Planning Organization Committee Members

FROM: Kip Harrington, Division Manager

DATE: February 2, 2026

RE: **26TP008 – Letter of Support for FY 2026 BUILD Opportunity:
Country Road Reconstruction Project, Rapid City, SD**

The City of Rapid City is submitting a BUILD Grant application to assist with funding the Country Road reconstruction project. Country Road provides a critical east-west corridor link across the north side of Rapid City. When constructed, it served a rural area of Pennington County, well outside of city limits. With population growth expanding city boundaries, Country Road from Haines Avenue to 143rd Avenue is now owned and maintained by the City.

Country Road currently does not meet City street standards. It is a narrow two-lane road with drainage ditches and no shoulder. Significant vertical curve issues lead to areas of poor sight distance and safety concerns. No pedestrian or bicycle facilities exist, forcing non-motorized travelers to walk or bike in the roadway. In 2016, two children riding a tricycle in the roadway were struck by a vehicle, resulting in one fatality and one serious injury.

With the imminent arrival of the B-21 Raider bomber to nearby Ellsworth Air Force Base, additional housing growth is anticipated in the areas served by Country Road because of its proximity to the base. Reconstructing Country Road to current standards and providing bicycle and pedestrian improvements will enhance safety, provide more opportunity for development, and help to serve the B-21 Raider mission and national security.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of the Letter of Support
FY 2026 BUILD Opportunity: Country Road Reconstruction Project, Rapid City, SD**