



RAPID CITY AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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February 12, 2026

Office of Infrastructure Deployment
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear BUILD Grant Review Team:

At its February 12, 2026 meeting, the Executive Policy Committee of the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization approved a motion to support the City of Rapid City's BUILD Program Planning Grant Application for Country Road between Haines Avenue and 143rd Avenue.

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.

The Executive Policy Committee, with a recommendation from the Technical and Citizens Committee, encouraged support of this application. This support is driven by the goal of continuing to expand opportunities for MPO member agencies the chance to provide a safe transportation system within the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Area.

Sincerely,

Mayor Larry Larson, Chairperson
Executive Policy Committee