Pennington County Highway Department
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MEMO

TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DATE: FEBRUARY 20, 2024

FROM: JOSEPH MILLER
SUPERINTENDENT

RE: RAISE PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION
BOMBING RANGE ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

The U.S. Department of Transportation has announced a notice of funding opportunity in the amount of $1.5 billion through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program for 2024. Bombing Range Road needs full reconstruction due to an unstable clay road base and poor asphalt condition. Current efforts including asphalt surface patching, asphalt deep patching and crack sealing are no longer effective in maintaining the road. As the road serves as a primary access route for the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, the community of Scenic, Buffalo Gap National Grasslands and Badlands National Park, we feel that the road project is a good candidate for the RAISE grant.

We contracted with KLJ Engineering, LLC in 2023 to assist our department in preparing a planning grant application for this project. The proposed grant application will be for preliminary and design engineering that will provide "shovel ready" plans for construction. This work is estimated to cost approximately $1.45 million. We would propose a 20% ($290,840) match with local dollars in our grant application. The full cost of this engineering work is not fiscally achievable in our department budget in the foreseeable future without an outside funding source. If our planning grant application is successful, we would propose applying for another RAISE grant to assist with the reconstruction costs at a later date.

Motion is requested to authorize the Highway Department to submit a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application for the Bombing Range Road Safety Improvements Planning Project.

JM:cjb
Attachment

