CROW TRIBE TRANSPORTATION

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January 21, 2025

Mr. Sean Duffy, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Crow Tribe of Montana FY25 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant- BIA 91 Highway Reconstruction Project

Dear Secretary Duffy:

On behalf of the Crow Tribe, please accept this letter as formal approval of submission of the above noted application and assurance of match commitment.

BIA 91 is a 44.8 mile long, two lane, rural major collector highway in Big Horn County, Montana. While the FHWA Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER) method of assessment indicates most of the pavement condition is generally fair, there are sections of the road in poor condition. In addition, there are side slopes in some areas that have shifted causing damage to the roadway. The side slopes do not meet current design standards, there are several missing or poor condition roadway signs, and adequate roadside protection, such as guardrail, is lacking. Additionally, there are some sections of the corridor with significant potholes, rutting, low points, heaving, and pavement patches which negatively impact safety and connectivity. While crash data is limited and fatality crashes on BIA 91 are low, the overall condition of the road results in travelers, including emergency and first responder vehicles, avoiding the corridor, and detouring an average of 39 miles to reach Pryor and other communities on the reservation.

The Project addresses identified safety and connectivity issues utilizing proven countermeasures. These include installation of guardrail, shoulder rumble strips, delineators, retroreflective pavement markings, horizontal alignment signs, advisory speed plaques, and chevron alignment signs, as well as flattening sub-standard side slopes, replacing culverts, improving the roadway surface and flattening of a horizontal curve. Completion of construction will result in BIA 91 meeting roadway and storm water standards and addressing identified safety, mobility, and connectivity deficiencies throughout the Project area. It will alleviate the need for the detour most vehicles are now taking and will provide faster and safer access for emergency and first responder vehicles, reconnecting very rural tribal communities to each other and to essential services

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The Crow Tribe is fully committed to the Project. Submission of the grant application has been approved. In addition to significant Tribal financial investment into the BIA 91 Corridor study and related preliminary engineering and design, the Tribe is committed to providing match in the amount of 27 percent (estimated at $9,372,713 over the next 5 years).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important transportation project.

Sincerely,

Frank White Clay, Chairman
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