Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate

LAKE TRAVERSE RESERVATION
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February 2025

U.S. Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Department of Transportation Facility Project

Dear Secretary,

On behalf of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate (SWO) Executives and Tribal Council, I am writing this letter in support of the (SWO) application for FY 2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant funding for construction of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Department of Transportation Facility Project.

Transportation is critical to the Lake Traverse Reservation and the Sisseton community. Being located in rural South Dakota/North Dakota and encompassing 1450 square miles, reliable transportation access plays a critical role for residents to commute to jobs, attend school, receive health care, and have access to essential services.

Currently, the Tribe does not have an efficient facility to house all their SWO DOT programs in one location. SWO plans to consolidate their DOT maintenance, transit, and administrative services into a one transportation facility. Integrating these programs and offices to one site will enhance productivity, improve efficiency, and provide additional transportation solutions for the SWO DOT. The project will provide additional space for SWO to grow their staff capacity and maintain their own community transit service to meet the current needs and increasing demand for transit service on the Reservation. Additionally, the project will provide a safe space for vehicles to be stored inside, space for in-house maintenance on vehicles and equipment, and a covered salt/sand storage area that will serve all the Lake Traverse Reservation, an area that suffers from persistent poverty and a lack of economic resources.

SWO seeks to provide a more livable community and enhance the quality of life for their residents. This project will not only enhance transportation in the area, but it will catalyze critical conditions for economic growth and access to opportunity.

I thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important project and look forward to its completion.

Sincerely,

Chairman J. Garret Renville

