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Brookings, SD 57006

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www.cityofbrookings.org

December 26, 2019

Darin Bergquist
Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Transportation
700 East Broadway Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: 20th Street South and I-29 Interchange Build Grant Project

Dear Mr. Bergquist,

The City and County of Brookings were pleased with the recent announcement that the Brookings "Bridging the Interstate Divide" project was awarded a Build Transportation Discretionary Grant. The project includes a new overpass of I-29 with access ramps along with the construction of 20th Street South between 22nd Avenue and 34th Avenue. The goals of the project include reducing travel times, increasing access to housing developments and to provide a new traffic alternative for 6th Street to relieve congestion and enhance safety.

The project budget includes \$18,677,630 in Build Grant funds and \$4,669,407 in local dollars (City/County/Private Business). We sincerely appreciate the time that SDDOT and FHWA staff have invested in meeting with Brookings staff to discuss the project scope and deadlines of the grant. The meetings have been very helpful in understanding the magnitude of the project and the timelines for each phase of the work.

We gave serious consideration to the option of having the City administer the project with FHWA and constructing the project as a possible design-build. There are a number of concerns with that option, including the risk and timeline in getting the City approved to use the Delphi system, the number of staff the City could dedicate to the environmental and design process for the project, and our staff's limited knowledge with design build and large interchange projects.

The City of Brookings is respectfully requesting assistance from the SDDOT to administer this Build Grant project. The SDDOT staff has experience in federal projects including environmental review, right of way, and interchange and off-ramp design. The SDDOT financial system is also approved to use the FMIS system, which would expedite the approval of the Advance Construction for the Grant. We would assign the Brookings City Engineer to be the Project Manager for the project. Jackie Lanning has nearly 30 years of experience with the City of Brookings and would administer all the contractual elements of the project, including working with the selected consultant, coordinating communication and other management aspects of the project. The City would also request that the SDDOT perform the bid letting and Construction Engineering, especially with the complexity of the interchange project.

We realize this project will be a team effort on behalf of the City and County of Brookings, FHWA, SDDOT and many others. The City of Brookings is committing to giving the project as much effort as possible to make it a success. Thank you for considering our request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Paul Briseno", is written over a horizontal line.

Paul Briseno
Brookings City Manager