

TOWN OF IRON RIVER

Bayfield County
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March 7, 2023

Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary, US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Bayfield County Raise Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express support for the application of Bayfield County, Wisconsin for a US DOT RAISE grant in 2023. Bayfield County is a rural county in NW Wisconsin. Our communities place a very high priority on transportation infrastructure. It is critical to maintain roads to support our forest and tourism industries.

Reconstruction of County Highway A from Iron River to Highway N and then west to Highway 27 will provide year-round transportation options for forestry and construction work in a crucial part of Bayfield County. Bayfield County is the second largest county in Wisconsin covering 1500 square miles. Highway 63, located on the eastern side of the county is currently the only All-Season highway going south of US 2 in the County. Presently all county roads are closed to heavy traffic for approximately 75 days a year as frost comes out of the ground and road bans are in place.

In addition, in the last five years we have experienced multiple significant storms. Both Highway 2 and Highway 63 have been closed for extended period of time due to damage from these storms. These proposed improvements will have a significant impact on roadway safety and will create critical backup routes in case of severe weather events.

Improvements on these existing county highway's will support commerce, economic development opportunities, and improve safety for county residents, visitors and travelers through improved construction standards and increased durability.

The Town of Iron River recognizes the significance Highways A and N provide to the region's economy. This road improvement will create immediate savings for local business and improve revenue streams for local government benefitting from year-round access on these two county highways.

Please fund Bayfield County's Raise Project in 2023.

Sincerely,



David Ciembronowicz
Chairperson
Board of Supervisors