APPENDIX C- Public Meeting Summary

Sign In Sheets

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING/OPEN HOUSE Hill City High School, Commons Area

April 20, 2016 - 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

SIGN IN SHEET

Name	Address	Phone Number	Email Address
Jessica Brisbois	6300 S. Old Village Pl. Suite 100 Sioux Falls, SD 57107	8118	Jessica. Brisbois @ hdrinc.
Sharon & Gary Fromme	Soux Falls, SD 57107 22942 S Rochford Rd Hill City SD 57745		s fromme @wildbl net
Beverly Howe	500	574-2361	
Valerie Howey	10940W Deerfield Rd Hillcity S.D	5742361	
Brown 5	500 4th 3t Ellich I, IN 51532	712-760 -	
SDDOT	700 E Brede		
Marla Sebudo	21989 N. Rochard for	605-390-6317	mksebade@vastbb.ne
LARRY V. CHILETIZOM	1052C ASHWOOD CT RC 57702	605390440)	CENTURY UNK. NES
Thomas Dolney	4002 Ridge Heights G Rapid City, SD 57701	605-651-2711	Tom. Lolney@ centurylink.net
Dallas Atokonon	11748 Occrp. e. ORO He so 57745	405 381 727 0	Dallas Alexandere Quest-OFFice, net

Pennington County Highway Department





PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING/OPEN HOUSE Hill City High School, Commons Area

April 20, 2016 - 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

SIGN IN SHEET

Name	Address	Phone Number	Email Address
LINDARAMER	23120 S Rock	62744746	linderhamer. borderlands gmail.com
LisaJuhan	- Shodladki		Salsers@rushuare
Daw Richer	Twin Springs	5/4-17/	Wodwald 20 OUTLOOK. COM
CAROLP:44s	+Rochford 10185-KSTBlyp	6955770	Pittebrookings.net
Lyle Venhuixer	Rochford Rapid City	484-7620	
STEELE	22744 HILLOTY S, Ruchford Rd	605 584-9073	js3dantkde qmail.com
OHUBR Summers	22896 SRICHTIOND	5752127	
MARK Schock	5301 Dealer Dr Bapid City 57703	394-2166	MARKS@pennes. ORg
PARC LARSON	All City, S.D.	605 5743938	
Charles Piper	H.11 C.t	574-2017	

Pennington County Highway Department





PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING/OPEN HOUSE Hill City High School, Commons Area April 20, 2016 – 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

SIGN IN SHEET

Address	Phone Number	Email Address
POBOX 157 Camistota 3D 57012 (22602 S Rochford Rd)	605- 359-8223	sally o Qunitel sol.com
Pierre, SA 57501	605-773-3576	wade. dahl@ State. Sd. 45
3604 Cambell Street Repod City 50 5770	394-2166	west @penneo. org
22762 Do. Rochford Rd	584-4808	Time
		9 (
	POBOX 157 Camistota 3D 57012 (22602 S Rochford Rd) 700 E. Bioadway Pielle, SA 57501 3604 Cambell Street Rep.d City 50 5770	POBOK 157 Camistota 3D 57012 605-359-8223 (22602 S Rochford Rd) 700 E. Broadway Pierre, SD 57501 605-773-3576 3600 Cambell Street Rep.d City 50 57701 394-2166







PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING/OPEN HOUSE Hill City High School, Commons Area

April 20, 2016 - 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

SIGN IN SHEET

Name	Address	Phone Number	Email Address
Marion Bomber	Pierre, SD	605 774 1012	maria. borber edot. gou
Shaolie Vis	Deadwood	405-578-2247	







PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING/OPEN HOUSE Hill City High School, Commons Area

April 20, 2016 - 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

SIGN IN SHEET

Name	Address	Phone Number	Email Address
Amon Forcemens	723 MAIN ST, RAPIS CITY	605.791.6100	aan un fagerness @ kdrine.au
BRYAN	POBOXI7 CUSTERS D 57730	1 00 173-115	wharub@gwte.nel
JEFF WILLEST		8824	SOSEFFWILLETTE GMAIL. COM
Varel	23180 S. Racht. Road 14.11c 144 57245	574-284	
Cherry	14 St Joe 12C, SP	444-0334	Chapmanne [oursburgu.
BRANDON MATTISON	3901 PARKRIDGE DRIVE RAPID CITY, 50	605-431-5173	

Pennington County Highway Department





U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING/OPEN HOUSE Hill City High School, Commons Area April 20, 2016 – 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

SIGN IN SHEET

Name	Address	Phone Number	Email Address
JOH PAGE	703 MAIN STREET PARIO CITY SD 57701	791-6120	Jody. Progratina. com
Mary Kennu	4903 Pierre St Rapid City SD	718-2276	mkenner c Louisberger.com
		+ -	

Pennington County Highway Department





PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING/OPEN HOUSE

Hill City High School, Commons Area April 20, 2016 – 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

SIGN IN SHEET

Name	Address	Phone Number	Email Address
Roe Pat Eidsness	11630 Bangor Loop Rochford SD 57745	584-0028	eidsnessrp@gmail.com
RICH ZACHER	P.O. BOX 431 CUSTER SD	673-4943	rich. Zacherestate, sd, us
Mary Heln A	23/805/Ruch Sono 1105 D57745 exacides	574.2935	
Burlande	POBOX846 Hill C. 475. Dange	605 393-7329	prhode Je ya hoo.cou
Soe Colombe	23046 S. Rodriford Rd. Hill Cig.S.D.	605. 828.5763	







Public Meeting Presentation

WELCOME

Public Information Meeting
South Rochford Road
Environmental Assessment

Pennington County, South Dakota

April 20, 2016



Project Team

- South Dakota Department of Transportation
- · Pennington County Highway Department
- · Federal Highway Administration
- U.S. Forest Service
- Consultants
 - HDR
 - · Louis Berger
 - Interstate
 - QSI



South Rochford Road Environmental Assessment

Presentation Overview

- Meeting Purpose
- Overview of the NEPA Process
- Alternatives
- Environmental Assessment
- Rapid Creek Bridge
- Next Steps



South Rochford Road Environmental Assessment

Public Information Meeting

Project Schedule

Notice of Intent Published------ January 30, 2012 Public Input Meeting------March 1, 2012 Tribal Perspectives Meeting----- March 15, 2012 Agency Scoping Meeting-------April 19, 2012 Public Scoping Meeting------April 19, 2012 Tribal Perspective Meeting------ July 19, 2012 Draft Tribal Coordination Plan----- March 2013 Landowner Meeting------April 5, 2013 Agency Update----- August 29, 2013 TCP Survey and Report------Fall 2013 to Spring 2014 Onsite Meeting with Forest Service------ May 5, 2014 Public Information Meeting------July 21, 2014 Public Steering Committee Meeting------July 22, 2014 Rescission of NOI----- December 17, 2015 EA for Public Availability----- March 31, 2016 Public Meeting------April 20, 2016



South Rochford Road Environmental Assessment

Public Information Meeting

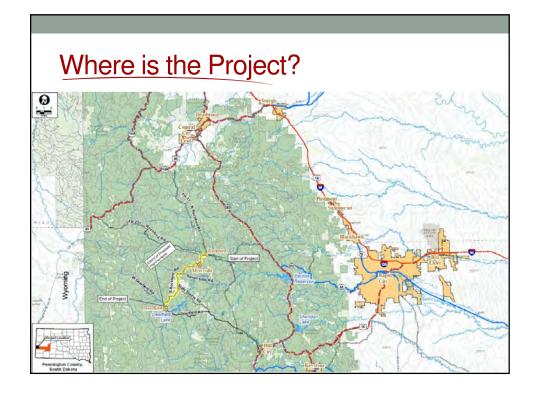
Meeting Purpose

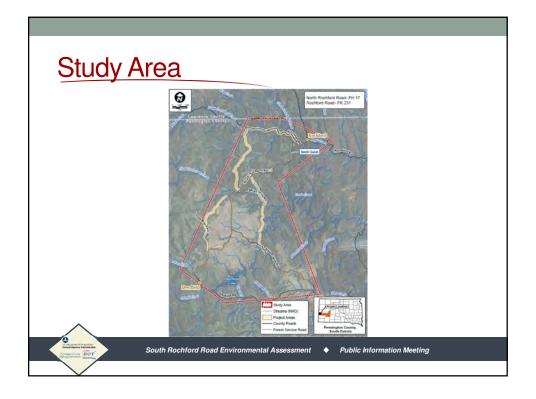
The purpose of this meeting is to update the public on the Project and to gain input on:

- The Environmental Assessment
- The project-related environmental impacts
- The recommended preferred alternative



South Rochford Road Environmental Assessment





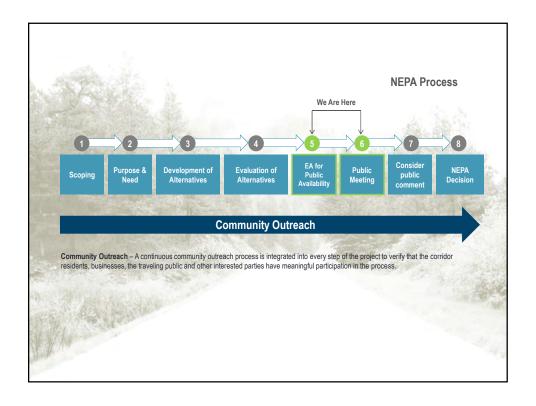
Why an EA instead of an EIS?

Modifications to the roadway design standards led to the:

- · Minimization of historic property impacts
- · Minimization of wetland impacts
- · Preservation of sensitive plant species



South Rochford Road Environmental Assessment



Public Involvement

- Public Input Meeting March 1, 2012
- Public Scoping Meeting April 19, 2012
- · Landowner Meeting April 5, 2013
- · Public Information Meeting July 21, 2014
- Public Steering Committee Meeting July 22, 2014
- EA for Public Availability March 31, 2016
- · Public Meeting April 20, 2016
- NEPA Decision June 2016



South Rochford Road Environmental Assessment • Public Information Meeting

Tribal Consultation

Tribes Invited to Participate			
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe*^	Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma		
Chippewa Cree Tribe (Rocky Boys)	Ponca Tribe of Nebraska		
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes	Prairie Island Indian Community		
Crow Creek Sioux Tribe*^	Rosebud Sioux Tribe*^		
Crow Nation*^	Sac and Fox Nation		
Eastern Shoshone Tribe	Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri and Kansas*		
Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe	Sac and Fox Tribe of Mississippi		
Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes*	Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska		
Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska*	Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate*^		
Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma	Southern Ute Indian Tribe		
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe	Spirit Lake Tribe		
Lower Sioux Indian Community	Standing Rock Sioux Tribe*^		
Northern Arapaho Tribe*^	Three Affiliated Tribes*		
Northern Cheyenne Tribe*^	Upper Sioux Community		
Oglala Sioux Tribe*^	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe		
Omaha Tribe of Nebraska*	Yankton Sioux Tribe*^		
Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Indians			
* Indicates consulting tribes by formal request and/or participation of some or all meetings, including the TCP Survey ^ Indicates consulting tribes that participated in TCP Survey			

South Rochford Road Environmental Assessment

Public Information Meeting

Agency Coordination

- Cooperating Agencies
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - U.S. Forest Service
 - · Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- Participating Agencies
 - · U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 - · Bureau of Indian Affairs, Great Plans Regional Office
 - · U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region VIII
 - · U.S. Geological Survey
 - South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources
 - South Dakota Department of Tourism
 - South Dakota Division of Emergency Management
 - South Dakota State Historical Preservation Office
 - · City of Hill City
 - · Pennington County Conservation District
 - · Rochford and Hill City Fire Departments



South Rochford Road Environmental Assessment

Public Information Meeting

What is the Project Purpose?

The purpose of this Project is to correct the roadway deficiencies in order for the County to sustain year-round roadway transportation along South Rochford Road and provide linkage of the local and regional transportation system.



South Rochford Road Environmental Assessment

Public Information Meeting

Why is the Project Needed?

- High Maintenance Costs
- Structural Deficiency
- Clear Zones, Horizontal Curves, and Vertical Curves
- Roadway System Linkage
- · Legislative Intent







South Rochford Road Environmental Assessment

Alternatives Screening Process



Does the Alternative meet the Purpose and Need?

- Reduce maintenance costs?
- Correct structural deficiencies?
- Correct roadway deficiencies?
- Provide regional and local transportation link?
- Fulfill the legislative intent?

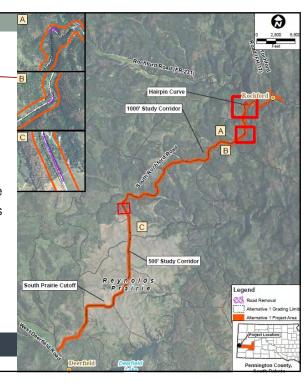


South Rochford Road Environmental Assessment

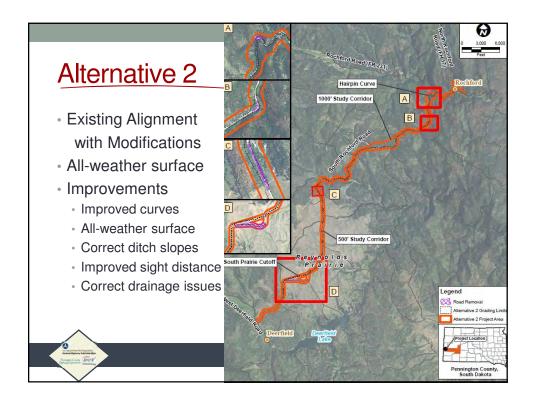
Public Information Meeting

Alternative 1

- Existing Alignment
- Improvements
 - · All-weather surface
 - Correct ditch slopes
 - Improved sight distance
 - Correct drainage issues







Resource Considerations Parks and Recreational **Existing and** Relevant State, Regional **Future Land Uses** and Local Plans **Facilities** Farmland and **Community Character** Relocations and Cohesion **Timberlands Environmental Justice Utilities and Emergency** Traffic, Transportation, and Services Pedestrians and Bicycle **Facilities Facilities Cultural Resources** Section 4(f) Visual/Aesthetics Water Quality and Storm Geology/Paleontology/ Floodplain Water Runoff Soils/Topography Air Quality Noise Hazardous Waste Materials Energy **Natural Communities** Wetlands and Other Waters Threatened and Invasive Species Wildlife and Plant Species **Endangered Species** South Rochford Road Environmental Assessment Public Information Meeting

Section 4(f) Resources

- Required by law to avoid unless no feasible and prudent avoidance alternative exists.
- Identified Section 4(f) in the Project Area
- · Impacts Analyzed



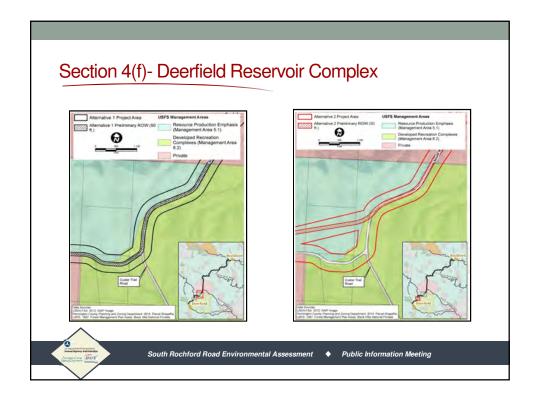
Section 4(f)- Mickelson Trail

- Avoided- No Use
 - · A traffic control plan during construction to allow continuous use of Mickelson Trail would be prepared.
 - Coordination with SDGFP during final design to identify special events concerning Mickelson Trail.





South Rochford Road Environmental Assessment • Public Information Meeting

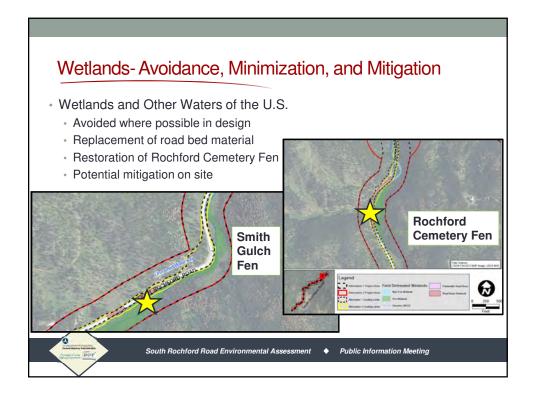


Section 4(f)- Archeological and Historic Sites

- Eligible for National Register of Historic Places
 - Traditional Cultural Properties
 - · Archaeological and Historic Sites
 - Historic Structures
- Adverse Effect
- Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) prepared
- SHPO and ACHP jurisdiction



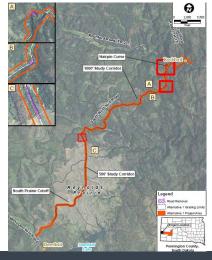
South Rochford Road Environmental Assessment





Recommended Preferred Alternative

- Alternative 1
- Existing Alignment
- Improvements
 - All-weather surface
 - · Correct ditch slopes
 - · Improve sight distance
 - Correct drainage issues





outh Rochford Road Environmental Assessment

Public Information Meetin

Rapid Creek Bridge NEPA Review

- CatEx approved on December 8, 2015
- · Replace existing bridge with a concrete arch
- Construction planned for 2017





South Rochford Road Environmental Assessment

Next Steps in the EA Process

EA Available to Public......March 31, 2016 Public Meeting......April 20, 2016 Comment Period Complete......May 16, 2016 NEPA Decision.....June 2016



Ways to Provide Comments

- Return the comment card either at this meeting or through the mail
- Written letters mailed to:

HDR - South Rochford Road EA 703 Main Street, Suite 200 Rapid City, SD 57701

- · Email comments to:
 - EAComments@southrochfordroad.com
- Website: www.southrochfordroad.com
- · Please provide comments by May 16, 2016



South Rochford Road Environmental Assessment

Public Information Meeting

Public Meeting Boards

WELCOME

Public Meeting

Environmental Asssessment South Rochford Road April 20, 2016



- ✓ Provide an update on the Project
- ✓ Outline the steps forward



- ✓ Share information with agency representatives
- EA available for public review and comment

Why is the Proposed Project Needed?



Improper Conveyance of Drainage



Frost Heaves



Legislature Intent



4/25/2016

Clear Zones, Horizontal Curves, and Vertical Curves

Purpose of the Project

The purpose of this Project is to correct the roadway deficiencies in order for the County to sustain year-round roadway transportation along South Rochford Road and provide linkage of the local and regional transportation system.



South Rochford Road Environmental Assessment

4/25/2016

Does the Alternative meet the Purpose and Need?

PURPOSE and NEED

- Correct roadway deficiencies?
- Sustain year-round transportation?
- Provide regional transportation link?
- Reduce maintenance costs?
- Fulfill the legislative intent?

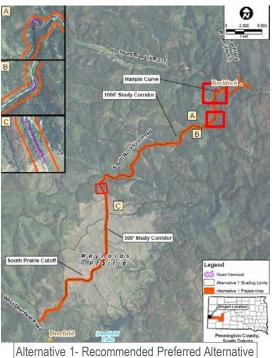


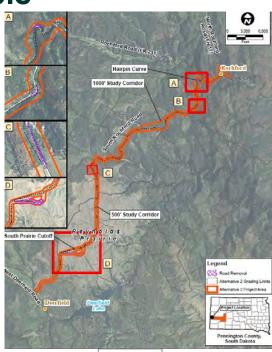
Criteria	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5
Correct Roadway Deficiencies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Sustain Year-Round Transportation	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Provide regional transportation link	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Reduce maintenance costs	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Fulfill the legislative intent	Yes	Yes	No	No	No



South Rochford Road Environmental Assessment •

Alternatives Carried Forward for Further Analysis

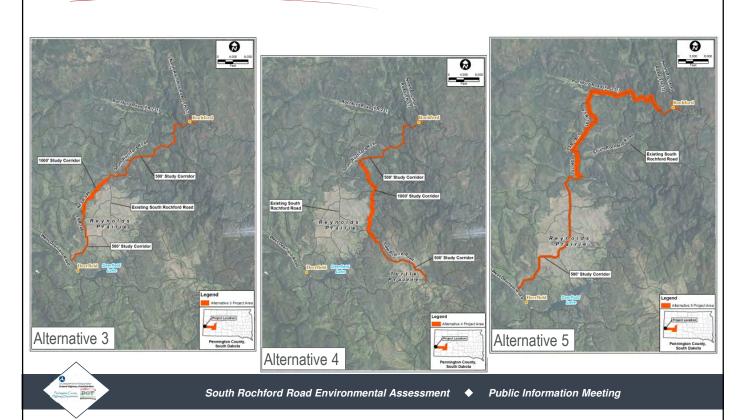




Alternative 2

South Rochford Road Environmental Assessment

Alternatives considered but discarded from further analysis



Steps of the NEPA Process

NI di Cita de la	
Notice of Intent Published	January 30, 2012
Public Input Meeting	March 1, 2012
Tribal Perspectives Meeting	March 15, 2012
Agency Scoping Meeting	April 19, 2012
Public Scoping Meeting	April 19, 2012
Tribal Perspective Meeting	July 19, 2012
Draft Tribal Coordination Plan	March 2013
Landowner Meeting	April 5, 2013
Agency Update	
TCP Survey and Report	Fall 2013 to Spring 2014
Onsite Meeting with Forest Service	May 5, 2014
Public Information Meeting	
Public Steering Committee Meeting	July 22, 2014
Rescission of NOI	December 17, 2015
EA for Public Availability	March 31, 2016
Public Meeting	April 20, 2016
NEPA Decision	June 2016

Comments

Please complete a comment card, contact us through email, or submit a comment through the website at www.southrochfordroad.com

South Rochford Road Environmental Assessment •

Public Information Meeting

4/25/2016

Cultural Resources Analysis in the NEPA Process

Why consider Cultural Resources?

Cultural resources include physical assets such as archeological resources and historic structures, as well as oral traditions and interpretations. For this Project, cultural resources were considered by the lead agencies to comply with all regulations, including Section 106. Section 106 requires agencies to take into account the effects of their Projects on cultural resources.

Which cultural resources were considered?

Traditional Cultural Properties are considered to be properties that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) based on their association with the cultural practices or beliefs of a community, rather than the property type. A Traditional Cultural Properties Survey was conducted by the Tribes. The survey focused on sites important to the Tribes, as well as Pe' Sla, a site of Tribal significance. Pe' Sla is a sacred place to the Tribes as a part of their creation story.

Archaeology and Historic includes the discovery of artifacts, biofacts, and structures that are vital to understanding the past human activities in the area. Understanding the archeological resources are important to understanding the Project's effects on the area's culture.

What mitigation and commitments were incorporated into the Project?

The preliminary design for Alternative 1 was updated by reducing the roadway width by four feet, from 32 feet to 28 feet wide, which resulted in the avoidance of 11 cultural sites, all of which are eligible for listing in the NRHP. Stipulations were developed as part of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that includes the commitments to mitigation measures for this Project. All stipulations in the MOA will be carried out if Alternative 1 is selected as the preferred alternative.

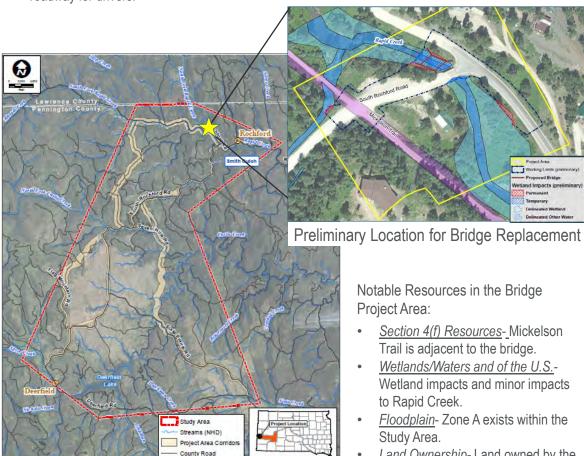


South Rochford Road Environmental Assessment

Focusing on the Reconstruction of the Rapid Creek Bridge

Investigating the Need to Expedite Reconstruction of Rapid Creek Bridge

- A Categorical Exclusion (CatEx) was completed to allow the bridge to be replaced as soon as possible.
- The two build alternatives being evaluated in this EA cross Rapid Creek in the same location. Therefore construction of the bridge will not influence the final NEPA decision regarding South Rochford Road.
- The CatEx allows Pennington County to replace the bridge at an expedited schedule to ensure a safe roadway for drivers.



Notable Resources in the Bridge

- Section 4(f) Resources- Mickelson Trail is adjacent to the bridge.
- Wetlands/Waters and of the U.S.-Wetland impacts and minor impacts
- Land Ownership-Land owned by the US Forest Service within the Study Area.



South Rochford Road Environmental Assessment

Section 4(f) Resources

What is Section 4(f)?

Section 4(f) stipulates that FHWA and other DOT agencies cannot approve the use of land from Section 4(f) properties which are:

- · publicly owned parks,
- recreational areas,
- · wildlife and waterfowl refuges, or
- public and private historical sites

If impacted, FHWA and DOT agencies must show during the alternative analysis that:

- No other feasible alternative is available for the Project
- The Project includes all possible planning to minimize all harm to the Section 4(f) property.

Section 4(f) Properties in the Project Areas

Mickelson Trail

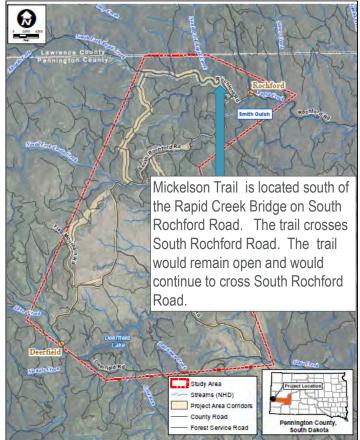
The George S. Mickelson Trail is a packed gravel trail that is 109 miles long, which starts northeast of Deadwood and extends south to Edgemont. The trail can be used by cyclists, pedestrians, cross country skiers, and horseback riders.

Forest Service Management Area 8.2

Considered by the Forest Service to be developed recreational complex, and is utilized for recreational uses and open to the public.

Cultural Resources

These sites will include significant historical properties that are on or eligible for the NRHP.





South Rochford Road Environmental Assessment

Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures

Community Character and Cohesion

- Rumble Strips- The County would install rumble strips to provide advanced warning to vehicles prior to entering Rochford. These warning devices would be installed east and west of Rochford on Rochford Road and just north of town on North Rochford Road. To minimize the noise impacts as a result of the rumble strips, the rumble strips would be placed outside the Rochford community. The distance would be determined through coordination between Rochford and the County.
- Gateways or Entry Treatments- Gateways or entry treatments are proposed in conjunction with rumble strips. A sign noting that traffic was entering the limits of Rochford and/or painted pavement markings would alert drivers to reduce their speed. The entry treatment could be a sign or signage to alert drivers of the presence of pedestrians within the roadway.







Sources: Signs by Benchmark (Right) and Black Hills and Badlands (Top)





Section 4(f) Resources

- Mickelson Trail-
 - Vehicle access maintained by phasing construction.
 - o A traffic control plan during construction
 - Coordination with SDGFP during final design
- Forest Service Management Area 8.2-
 - Construction of the Project would be phased.
 - Access to Custer Trail Campground maintained with phased construction.
- Archeological and Historic Sites-
 - Reduced roadway width from 32 feet wide to 28 feet wide
 - Stipulations and commitments identified in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)



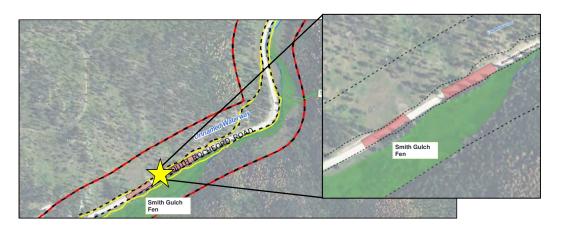
South Rochford Road Environmental Assessment

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Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures

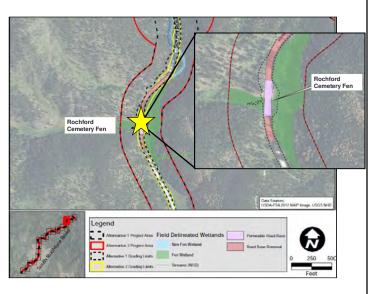
Wetlands and Other Waters of the U.S.

- Replacement of the Rochford Cemetery Fen culvert crossing with a permeable base roadway layer
- During final design, a mitigation plan would be completed and included in the Section 404 permit application that would be coordinated with USACE.



Permeable Road Base

- Both build alternatives would include the replacement of the Rochford Cemetery Fen culvert crossing with a permeable base roadway layer
- A design memo was completed that analyzes options for final design of the Rochford Cemetery Fen crossing and identified that a permeable base layer would reduce impacts to fens caused by the current roadway by improving groundwater movement under the roadway.





South Rochford Road Environmental Assessment

Written Comment Cards, Letters, and Emails

Alternative 1 includes design improvements starting approximately at the intersection of South Rochford Road and Rochford Road, to the southern terminus, approximately one mile north of the intersection of South Rochford Road and West Deerfield Road. This alternative includes all-weather surfacing of the existing South Rochford Road, with horizontal and vertical curve changes mainly within the existing ROW along with improvements to drainage in select locations. Where possible, the ditch slopes would be constructed to a 4 to 1 horizontal to vertical ratio to flatten the current slope. This is the Recommended Preferred Alternative, however, the Joint Lead Agencies will determine the Preferred Alternative after public comment on the EA.

COMMENTS:

Alternative 2 would provide minor alignment adjustments within the existing ROW similar to Alternative 1. However, more substantial alignment shifts requiring ROW were considered as described in the EA, including the shortening of South Rochford Road by improving a horizontal curve at the south end of Reynolds Prairie.

Name: BRYAN HARUET

Street Address: P.O. BOXI7

City: CUSTR State: Stp Zip Code: 5773

Email: Wharvb@swk.net

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Organization You Represent (If any): _

Provide us with any comments you have on:

- Alternatives selected for detailed study
- Mitigation and avoidance measures
- Recommended Preferred Alternative

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highwas sup sad will be sis unply.	pool asse		
126 126 S 604 Cod	7		

Please attach additional pages as needed.

Brisbois, Jessica

From: Margaret Hustad-Perrin <perrindavid1@icloud.com>

Sent: Sunday, May 01, 2016 7:46 AM

To: EAcomments@southrochfordroad.com

Subject: Support of the option chosen

We support the option chosen through the EA process as it will make the road safer and solve a major dust problem we experience constantly. We have a home along the right of way and wish to see the project move forward as soon as possible.

David Perrin and Margaret Hustad-Perrin 22904 South Rochford Road Hill City, SD. 57745

Sent from my iPad

May 3, 2016 22732 S Rochford Rd Hill City, SD 57745

Alice Whitebird

SD DOT

700 E Broadway

Pierre, SD 57501

Ms Whitebird,

As you can tell from my return address, I live on South Rochford Road and therefore, has some legitimacy to back my comments.

This road has been in existence for over 100 years and minor changes now must certainly have minimal impacts at this point.

Paving the existing road will only help in all aspects; dust reduction, maintenance costs reduction, improved surface providing a better ride and less vehicle destruction.

I am, therefore, backing Plan 1.

Thank you,

John L. Hopkins

Received
SDDOT Environmental
MAY 6, 20K

Alternative 1 includes design improvements starting approximately at the intersection of South Rochford Road and Rochford Road, to the southern terminus, approximately one mile north of the intersection of South Rochford Road and West Deerfield Road. This alternative includes all-weather surfacing of the existing South Rochford Road, with horizontal and vertical curve changes mainly within the existing ROW along with improvements to drainage in select locations. Where possible, the ditch slopes would be constructed to a 4 to 1 horizontal to vertical ratio to flatten the current slope. This is the Recommended Preferred Alternative, however, the Joint Lead Agencies will determine the Preferred Alternative after public comment on the EA.

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Street Address:		
City	State:	Zip Code:
:		

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Provide us with any comments you have on:

- Alternatives selected for detailed study
- Mitigation and avoidance measures
- Recommended Preferred Alternative



Please attach additional pages as needed.

Wayne & Sally Ortman

PO Box 157 Canistota SD 57012

sallyo@unitelsd.com

April 28, 2016

South Rochford Road Project

Since the 1st meeting in the Hill City Senior Citizens building 2008, over ½ of the attendees have moved away, seem uninterested as they think the project will never happen, or have died. We know this compounds the issue as many have not anticipated the results of tests and possible options based on those tests and now they speak up. We do appreciate the work done and await, with so much anticipation, the road work to start (especially the bridge as we were in on the initial plans and gave land so we hope to be included in the final plans for the road and ditch work. When the huge flood occurred, it was the road that left us in a mess, not Rapid Creek. We were told that about half of the existing road would belong to us (in exchange for the bridge land.) and we anxiously await the time we can complete our landscaping and live without the dust.

Rumble strips for Rochford....PLEASE NO...... everyone in the area chose the location to enjoy the peace and quiet that comes with Hills living......No one would appreciate that racket and we know that signage is the answer without the noise.

We hope the slow progress will have the road and bridge projects completed while we can enjoy it.

We would like you to thank Cheryl Chapman for the professional way she handled the meeting.

Sincerely,

Wayne & Sally Ortman

Wayne Ostman Sally Ostman



Brisbois, Jessica

From: BlueMail@bluehost.com

Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 9:46 PM

To: EAComments@southrochfordroad.com

Subject: Message from BlueMail

Your BlueMail form has been completed, following are the results:

Field ValueFirstName Lisa
LastName Sabers

Organization

Address 5136 Pinedale Hts. Drive

AptSuite

City Rapid City

State SD Zip 57702

Email <u>lsabers@rushmore.com</u>

Phone 605719912

Issues from the people are not really discussed, comment cards do not allow the people involved to obtain face to face answers to their questions... Why if a chip seal is being considered wasn't this covered in the EA? I don't believe the need to reduce the maintenance cost for present

roadway accurately is represented in the EA. The damage through Ice Box Canyon was due to a

Comment unpredictable high amount of rain in short time. This section of road will always have the frost

heaves, curves ect. whether it is paved or not. Will county sand or use chemicals on new surface in the winter months on icy areas? How will this effect the environment (fens, wildlife, plants)? This is not covered in the EA. Could improvements for drainage be done without making the road an

all weather surface?

Submit Submit

From: Sue

To: <u>EAComments@southrochfordroad.com</u>

Subject: Rochford Road Comment

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2016 10:10:58 PM

My apologies for not being able to attend the meeting on 4/20 but I am still in Illinois completing the course to become an EMT for the Rochford Volunteer Department. I have spoken to some of the attendees and wanted to offer my comments. The S Rochford Rd project has been a long and arduous journey. However, I think the process has been very in depth and has evaluated all the alternatives and researched all the impacts. As someone who lives in Rochford and owns property on South Rochford Road, I fully support the paving of the road. The road is in terrible condition and no amount of "band-aiding" will provide a long term solution. Sue Schwaneke

PS I tried to submit the comment from the website, but it wouldn't go through.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Brisbois, Jessica

From: Margaret Hustad-Perrin <perrindavid1@icloud.com>

Sent: Saturday, May 14, 2016 7:51 AM

To: EAcomments@southrochfordroad.com

Subject: Support of alternative #1

I support the selection of alternative #1 as a landowner who will be directly impacted. I request adoption of that alternative with construction to begin as soon as possible.

Dave Perrin 22904 South Rochford Road Hill City, SD 57745

Sent from my iPad

From: Brent Cox

To: <u>EAComments@southrochfordroad.com</u>

Subject: Road reconstruction

Date: Sunday, April 10, 2016 9:47:02 AM

If the cost of maintenance of this ten miles is 80,000 a year and you're proposing a nine million cost to rebuild, then the 80 thousand a year cost would cover 112 years of maintenance and this does not include the fact that you will still have to maintain the road. Our Federal government is so deep in debt now why would this Conservative county spend this federal money for this little used road. It seems to be a great waste of taxpayers' money. The locals refuse to pay taxes on their roads and bridges, as indicated in their refusal on the wheel tax, but they certainly don't seem to mind the rest of the American taxpayer shelling out this 9 million on their behalf. Perhaps we need a referendum to stop this rebuild. Although I doubt that any county resident would vote to stop it as only 1 330 millionth of the cost would be assessed to them. This road should remain the same as it has provided service over the last century. Time to stop wasting taxpayer's money just because it comes from the Feds.

Also I have driven that road for the last 50 years and appriciate the fact the it is not a straightened paved road. The fact that it is not paved makes it a special drive that will be lost if you complete this project. Sometimes it is better to make a drive just a little more difficult and remote. What you plan to do here is to spend taxpayers money to turn this into just another motorcyle route for the rally tourists.

Please leave this road just as it is. This drive makes that portion of our Black Hills special.

Brent Cox

Sturgis.

From: <u>Carol A. Pitts</u>

To: EAComments@southrochfordroad.com; Barber, Marion (FHWA); Alice.Whitebird@sd.state.us;

Rebecca.Baker@hdrinc.com; Jessica.Brisbois@hdrinc.com; Jody.Page@hdrinc.com; mkenner@louisberger.com

Cc: <u>pitts@brookings.net</u>

Subject: South Rochfor Road Comments Concerning Environmental Assessment/Proposed roadway imrovements.

Date: Sunday, May 15, 2016 12:16:08 PM

Attachments: South Rochford Road Project August 2014 letter resubmitted May 15.2016.docx

DATE: 15 May 2016

TO: SDDOT and FHWA: South Rochford Road

FROM: Carol A. Pitts, 11660, 11668, 11664 and 11666 Rochford Road, Rochford SD.

And, mailing address: 1018 5th St., Brookings SD 57006 . Phone number 605 695 5770 and email at pitts@brookings.net.

RE: Comments, by this writer, on Proposed roadway improvements on South Rochford Road due by May 16, 2016 per HDR postcard notification received by this writer for the 20 April 2016 Public meeting.

I also attended the Public meeting on 20 April and provided verbal comments about the project for public record.

ATTACHMENT: This writer's written comments submitted August 2014 also in response to request for comments. I would like this letter re-submitted as it is still current for my comments.

I respectfully submit these following comments as well as the verbal comments from the 20 April 2016 meeting, verbal comments from the previous 2 Public meetings attended and the above attached letter from August 2014:

I have reviewed the South Rochford Road Project Number EM-BRF 6403(06), PCH OOCL dated February 2016. In the report I find subjective data on roadway maintenance and limited specific data on actual costs in relation to miles and cars using the roadway in comparison to other gravel roads. Section 1.2 is limited in the reasons for:

- 1. the "need to reduce the County's roadway maintenance costs". All counties must prioritize funding and be specific in why one road is chosen over other priorities. The recent experiments in mag water on gravel roads into Rochford have shown that it can be effective. There haven't been any specific fact sheets showing the cost of the proposed improvements and then the long term maintenance of that type of road. If an actual, current cost, specific cost fact sheet shows substantiated savings above quality maintenance of the current gravel road, then that is a good thing.
- 2. the" need to correct geometric deficiencies along the roadway" has indicated the road is unsafe in certain spots. I am not sure this is totally substantiated but if it is, it should also include the approach to the Rochford Bridge which is noted during public meetings to be a dangerous hill during the winter. I didn't hear at the meetings that this area of the road would be directly impacted by the south Rochford road improvements. Again, if it is, then that is a good thing, too.

3. the "need to provide roadway system linkage".....I have not seen any documented reasons by elected public officials in response to public outcry to have a paved road for South Rochford Road, with all the expenses, etc. therein, to provide for a linkage road.

A Side Bar on page 1-1 of the 1.1 Section indicates "provide full disclosure of impacts". I do believe the data presented has done much in providing environmental impacts that may occur next to the road construction BUT it has done absolutely nothing to disclose the impacts that happen past the Rapid Creek Bridge where the actual construction project ends. These impacts will be felt by the local property owners as a potential increase in cars (which is apparently the purpose of the project) flows into Rochford, a tiny unincorporated hamlet in Pennington Co. Rochford has no elected officials and is represented by the Pennington County Commission. It is important that all county commissioners become fully aware of all the ramifications for such a tiny, historical component of the Black Hills. The only item that has been offered as a 'help' to this tiny, hoping to be preserved, ghost town, is "rumble strips" to alert the children and adults of the community to oncoming lumber trucks, cars, other vehicles and to alert the vehicle driver of 'something' coming up. This is a ludicrous and unacceptable way to approach the safety for the Rochford community members of proposed increased traffic. And, actually, even currently, the speed limit should be decreased to protect those walking on the Rochford Road.....the Reason any and all of us walk on the Rochford road is that there is no other alternative. If there are more cars, there will be more walking on the road because people will stop to enjoy the pristine beauty of the area.....hence a public safety domino effect......(a potential way to slow down traffic even now is to use one of the flashing lights that alerts a motorist to how fast they are going in relation to the speed limit. The speed limit should be 15 miles/hour as drivers round the curve from the bridge into Rochford due to the road also being the sidewalk).

There have been comments made by the county highway dept and some others noted in this process that paving of South Rochford Road is important to motorcyclists and this, when really listened to, is a VERY subjective statement. Motorcyclists that I have specifically visited with and also observed anytime during the summer and also during the Rally, have no problem with knowing that South Rochford Road is gravel. Motorcyclists that take it serious, know how to drive the roads. And, long term motorcyclists are adamant about maintaining the integrity of the Rochford area. The real issue is the remoteness of the Rochford area for any assistance with accidents and this won't change with paving a road. It is this exact remoteness that is so vital to those that visit and love the Rochford area. It brings people to the area who appreciate the beauty of the HIlls, which in itself is a very 'quiet' tourist area and wishes to remain in this realm. But, again, if the road is paved...It MUST include a Rochford community plan Made By Rochford Property Owners, Community Members and the County Commissioners, as our elected representatives.

On other notes:

Section 1.4.1.2.....I don't necessarily know a lot about frost heaves, although as a previous county commissioner myself, I do know that paved roads may also have issues and would encourage that to be very much considered if the road is paved. Any pot hole can be dangerous.

Section 1.4.4.....last paragraph appears to indicate that the current road is not an all weather road. It does appear to me that the gravel road coming into Rochford from Rapid City is gravel and is all

winter/weather long.

Section 2.2.1....It is noted that an FHWA project requires "Be usable and be a reasonable expenditure of public funds even if no additional transportation improvements in the area are made". It could be a stretch to call this a reasonable use of federal funds given the dollar amount and that upkeep of the road may entail as much county funding as the gravel road?

Again, if paving South Rochford road is proven as a good idea with documented cost facts (gravel maintenance vs. paved maintenance including cost of building the road) and documented not with just the currently noted narratives, then that may be a good thing.....BUT, lets be sure there is a plan for the unintended consequences that will Absolutely happen for the Rochford Community.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. And, thank you to everyone who has worked on this Environmental Assessment and Evaluation over the past several years.

Best regards,

Carol

Carol A. Pitts,

Property owner and year round cabin/home owner....

and speaking for my family of 4 children, 6 grandchildren 3 great grandchildren and my 6 siblings who have property ownership and ties to Rochford for over 70 years. As a family we became a part of the Rochford community in the 1940s when my grandfather bought our first Rochford cabin property. He and several other local Rochford citizens were instrumental in the 1970s in assisting Rochford to become a townsite and several locals to have deeded property.

P.S.....when will the South Rochford Road new bridge over Rapid Creek be accomplished? It had been pulled out of the South Rochford Road project so it could be completed by 2016. It now appears to not be on the radar for this year? Is there another Steering Committee meeting planned?.......Thank you, Carol

South Rochford Road:

Comments from Carol A. Pitts

As a long term member of the Rochford community via all season visits, a granddaughter of Roy Armstrong who bought our original Rochford family/hunting cabin in ~1945 and who later assisted in Rochford becoming a town site, and as a current property owner on 4 contiguous lots on the west edge of the Rochford that are highly impacted by drive by traffic, I respectively submit my comments about the South Rochford Road (SRR) project. Admittedly, I am not only a Rochford landowner but also a former Brookings County Commission, a school board member and a legislator from District 7 and, in trying to review all aspects of this project, I try to keep the importance of public policy and future improvements in my comments. It is not always easy to gather adequate data and questions/concerns from the public about public projects. I do sincerely appreciate the opportunity this project provides to send you my concerns and challenges with the Rochford Road Project.

General comments:

- 1. I have not seen or heard any input from city leaders in Hill City or Deadwood/
 Lead at the 2 public meetings I have attended nor read their comments, as yet, in
 the project and meetings notes. In visiting with residents and visitors around and
 in Rochford, no one has indicated a desire for Rochford to be a thoroughfare
 for/from Hill City/Deerfield to Lead/Deadwood. It is inappropriate for Rochford,
 a long term and well respected ghost town, to be changed forever by using it as a
 thoroughfare for more traffic. There are already paved roads to these larger towns
 and Rochford businesses have not indicated any desire for economic outside of
 existing business already available in the unincorporated townsite. Once travelers
 reach Rochford from SRR, there is still another gravel road that goes to Rapid
 City. A 'loop' as such for the Sturgis Rally, if that is an acceptable reason for a
 multi million dollar road, still puts Rochford at a very major risk of losing its
 historic roots as the ghost town that it is. It is this quiet unincorporated, ghost
 town 'flavor of Rochford' that visitors from the Michelson Trail, families,
 tourists, bikers, etc. so enjoy.
- 2. I have not seen current, substantiated costs of maintaining South Rochford Road as a well maintained gravel road. I have always found it important to have current, substantiated, costs and suggest the project obtain current and auditable costs from the county, with independent DOT assistance, that provide costs to maintain South Rochford road in the way that the county used to maintain it. From comments at the public meetings, it appears SSR maintenance was downgraded at about the same time that this project came on the radar. Rightfully so, it appears that the residents of the SRR area favor much improved dust control of this gravel road. This is a reaction that we all have. It has been

noted at the public meetings that dust control was better in the past when the county maintained the road adequately for dust. It is unclear why this didn't continue.

3. I have been at 2 public meetings. Sometimes it appears that building the paved road is the only thing being considered and not considering the no build option or comparing costs of the 2 build alternatives to how the road was maintained prior to the SRR project. The costs of patrolling, upkeep of the paved road, frost heaves of a paved road, impact on Rochford and other costs could be part of the discussion and graphed along side the costs of excellent maintenance of a gravel road.

Dust and the upgrading of the curves that are a winter problem near the Rochford bridge are the 2 problems that I have heard at the meetings and in talking with Rochford area residents.

- 4. The area of the SRR project that I have heard area landowners discuss at meetings and in person as a big problem is: wintertime and the curves just before the Rochford bridge. And, in listening at the meetings, I am not convinced that either build alternative adequately addresses this verbalized concern by landowners in the area. It appears an adequate solution to this winter time problem is largely in the hands of the county and outside of this project.
- 5. There hasn't been any discussion at public meetings and no qualitative or quantitative studies on what increased traffic, if this road increases traffic, will do to the unincorporated Rochford town site or the impact upon the safety of the residents therein.

The Rochford town site effect is listed as a component of the project and has not been adequately or measurably addressed. I would suggest much more research on the short and long term effects to Rochford and that it become an important, researchable topic.

- 6. I visited with a Rochford Road area rancher in mid August as he was driving by my cabin and stopped to visit. He very much noted to me that he is not in favor of the paving of the road, nor did he think many in Hill City were in favor either. But, he would like to see the road maintenance back to what it used to be.
- 7. The traffic/road safety of my family including 4 grown children, 6 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren, as well as extended family and friends is a very big concern for me in the family cabins. There are no sidewalks, guard rails, etc. as cars drive around from the SRR bridge into Rochford. The landscape of the area has not allowed for this nor am I asking to have the landscape changed in any way. A fact is that all my family property is directly alongside the road and family members, friends and members of the Rochford community walk along the road on a daily basis and several times during the day. It is currently and can be an even bigger safety risk with traffic, much less with more traffic. And,

widening the road, adding sidewalks and all the 'usual' ways of improving safety are very limited given Rapid Creek on one side and my extended property lines on the other side of the existing roadway.

8. Historically, there is much to be lost in the rock wall along the Rochford creek side and along 2 of my cabins. These rock walls have been there for approximately 100 years to the best of my estimation. The result of the SRR project can only negatively impact these walls.

At this time, we have not had any information on how the county would re-do the road through Rochford. My suggestion would be to have that plan discussed fully as part of the SRR plan so that we know upfront how the road will change through Rochford. I haven't seen any information being presented from the bridge, which is where it is noted that the project 'ends', to the Rochford church and to the Lawrence Co. line. I do believe that this should be discussed as part of the studies of the SRR project.

I do want to thank all those who are in the midst of studying the SRR project alternatives and thank them for the opportunity to submit my personal thoughts on the project. I do hope that the outcomes of the SRR studies serve the people of the SRR area well and take us into the future in the best way possible.









May 16, 2016

Marion Barber Environmental Engineer Federal Highway Administration South Dakota Division 116 East Dakota Ave, Suite A Pierre, SD 57501

VIA EMAIL

Re: Tribal Commentary on the Draft Historic Property Monitoring for Discoveries and Treatment Plan for South Rochford Road

Dear Ms. Barber:

On behalf of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe that co-own and jointly manage Pe Sla as a sacred site, we submit these comments in response to the correspondence dated March 29, 2016, which requested commentary on the Draft Monitoring for Discovery and Treatment Plan for South Rochford Road ("Draft Plan").

Background Information

The Rosebud Sioux Tribe, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe ("the Tribes") co-own and jointly manage approximately 2,022 acres of land known as Pe Sla as a traditional sacred site of the Lakota, Nakota, Dakota Oyate. The 2,022-acre property is legally described as follows:

T. 1 N., R. 2 E., Black Hills Meridian, Pennington County, South Dakota,

Section 12, E½

Section 13, N½NE¼; and

T. 1 N., R. 3 E., Black Hills Meridian, Pennington County, South Dakota,

Section 4, SW1/4SW1/4

Section 5, SW1/4, W1/2SE1/4, and the S1/2SE1/4SE1/4

Section 7, Government Lots 1, 2, 3, E½W½, NE¼, N½SE¼, including Lot A in the SE¼NW¼ and also in the SW¼NE¼ as shown on the plat filed in Plat Book 3,

Page 40; that portion of the SE¹/₄SE¹/₄ lying east of the county road (commonly referred to as S. Rochford Road)
Section 8, N¹/₂, N¹/₂S¹/₂, SE¹/₄SW¹/₄, and S¹/₂SE¹/₄; SW¹/₄SW¹/₄
Section 9, W¹/₂NW¹/₄ and NW¹/₄SW¹/₄, containing 2,022.66 acres, more or less.

The Tribes, along with the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, jointly own and co-manage an additional 437 acres of land of Pe Sla land legally described as follows:

T.1N., R.3E., Black Hills Meridian, Pennington County, South Dakota, Section 6, Lots 6 and 7; NE1/4SW1/4; SE1/4SW1/4; SE1/4, LESS ROW consisting of approximately 321.99 acres. HES #236 LESS Lot A and ROW consisting of approximately 111.90 acres, Lot A of HES #236 consisting of approximately 3.68 acres, Township 1 North, Range 3 East of the Black Hills Meridian, Pennington County, South Dakota. Also known as the Reynolds Ranch & Home site consisting of approximately 437.57 acres, house, and improvements.

With this background in mind, we submit the following comments related to the Draft Plan on behalf of the Tribes.

Much of the South Rochford Road project runs directly through the above described properties. For this reason, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe has provided extensive input related to the construction corridor and experts affiliated with the Rosebud Tribal Historic Preservation Office helped identify archeological sites and TCPs within the project area.

We believe that the TCPs on and near Pe Sla are very important and significant because they reflect the culture, traditions and history of the Lakota, Nakota, Dakota Oyate in this area. Accordingly, we urge you to do everything possible to protect and preserve Tribal Traditional Cultural Properties on and near Pe Sla. Under your plan, we understand that you and the State of South Dakota Historic Preservation Office will consult with the Tribal Historic Preservation Offices concerning the possible disturbance of TCPs. The main concern is the potential for inadvertent discoveries wherever there is any sub-surface disturbance and the THPOs should be the first to be notified.

On March 10, 2016, the Department of the Interior issued its decision to take the first referenced 2,022 acres of land at Pe Sla into Indian trust status. The State of South Dakota has appealed that decision, yet based on the state's initial comment, we believe that there is a strong possibility that the United States will take the land into trust prior to completion of construction on the road. If so, we believe that the Rosebud Sioux Tribe Historic Preservation Office should have the lead on the protection of TCPs at Pe Sla, and that your Environmental Plan should be modified to reflect the lead role of the Rosebud THPO in the area. The Rosebud THPO can then be counted upon to coordinate with the SHPO and the other THPOs regarding the Tribal Cultural Properties in the area.

As to the work on the road, we believe that the less intrusive approach of simply upgrading the road along the existing right of way is the preferred approach over straightening, widening and fully paving the road. Under your plan, we understand that it is the less intrusive method that you are planning to follow. We are in the process of reintroducing buffalo to Pe Sla, so we recommend that the project include warning signs for buffalo and buffalo grates at the entrances and exits to the main areas of the property including the ranch house site.

As part of the BIA Land Into Trust process, we consulted extensively with Pennington County and entered into a Right-of-Way agreement with the County concerning cooperative use of South Rochford Road through Pe Sla. We intend to honor our agreement and so we will be consulting with Pennington County if the project goes forward.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. Please do not he sitate to call upon us if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Charlie Vig, Chairman

Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

Rosebud Sioux Tribe

Brandon Sazwe, Chairman

Crow Creek Sioux Tribe

Dave Archambault II, Chairman

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

From: Barber, Marion (FHWA)
To: Barber, Marion (FHWA)

Subject: FW: Rochford Road Proposed Roadway Improvements - Environmental Assessment

Date: Tuesday, June 28, 2016 10:38:00 AM

From: Fischer/Sivage [mailto:bcbbi@gwtc.net]

Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2016 8:58 AM

To: Kenner, Mary A. < mkenner@louisberger.com >

Subject: Rochford Road Proposed Roadway Improvements - Environmental Assessment

As Rochford road residents, we were unable to attend the April meeting. We were told the project is dead. Is that true?

Thank you, to bad. It was a good safe healthy project.

Charlotte Fischer/Bonnie Sivage