



Sitka Tribe of Alaska

Tribal Government for Sitka, Alaska

August 12, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Sitka Tribe of Alaska Letter of Support for Funding the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska's Action Plan grant for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Sitka Tribe of Alaska (STA) is a federally recognized Tribe in Sitka, Alaska. STA has over 4,400 enrolled tribal citizens, many of whom reside within the City and Borough of Sitka (CBS). STA and the City and Borough of Sitka (CBS) have an established working relationship, in 1998 a formally signed a negotiated memorandum of understanding has become a foundation for both our Tribe and the municipal government to work together. One example, in the spirit of the MOU, STA was successful in its application for a 2009 Indian Reservation Roads' High Priority Project (HPP) to assist the CBS in its Indian River Road Improvement Project. This project included a bus turnaround/pullout and parking lot on land owned by CBS.

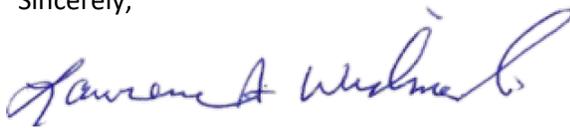
In continuation of the MOU between STA and CBS, STA is writing to express support for the application submitted by CBS to the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program. Sitka would greatly benefit from improved roadway safety by significantly reducing or eliminating serious injuries through a community wide safety action plan development focused on all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation users, motorists, personal conveyance and micro mobility users, and commercial vehicle operators.

CBS has made great strides toward development of an action plan, plans that have included extensive community involvement including the completion of a Comprehensive Plan that includes the objective of Adopt and Implement a Sitka Complete Streets Policy and a Short-term Tourism Plan. CBS is in process of a comprehensive traffic study, and continues efforts to innovative technologies and strategies, participates with STA for the public transit system, and continues efforts to maintain the Walk Friendly Community and Bike Friendly Community status.

STA manages and operates the public transit fixed-route system in Sitka offering three routes that operate Monday through Friday, which CBS contributes \$25K of matching funds annually and In-Kind match funds for the value of a few bus stops. The system includes an accessibility service to provide transportation for the general public, with funds from both the 5311 and Tribal Transit from the Federal Transit Administration.

It is STA's understanding, and appreciation, that CBS would include inclusive and representative processes in public meetings and outreach to all during the development of the Action Plan. CBS would greatly benefit from an assessment of all current policies, plans and guidelines to identify opportunities to improve transportation safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lawrence A. Widmark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "W".

Lawrence Widmark
Chairman

CC: Honorable Steven Eisenbeisz, Mayor
City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska

