

FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION APPROPRIATION REQUEST
SKYLINE DRIVE
City of Rapid City
Rapid City, South Dakota
May 21, 2007

REQUEST

The City of Rapid City, South Dakota hereby requests to be considered for a funding earmark of \$4,500,000 under the Transportation Re-appropriation Bill or whatever appropriation may be befitting. This funding earmark is for the reconstruction of Skyline Drive in Rapid City.

BACKGROUND

Skyline Drive, a National Scenic Byway, is an important scenic drive traversing the hogback ridge that forms the outer ridge of the Black Hills. The 3.3 mile long Skyline Drive provides panoramic views of the ridge itself, the Historic Downtown, the West Boulevard Historic District, Canyon Lake, Dark Canyon, Memorial Park, the western edge of the Badlands, and Harney Peak (highest point east of the Rocky Mountains). Skyline Drive provides a dynamic introduction to Rapid City and the Black Hills to thousands of visitor's each tourist season.

In 1933, an application was made to the State Civil Works Board to construct a skyline drive. With local support, the roadway and natural stone retaining walls were constructed by the Works Progress Administration.

PROBLEM

In 1937, construction of the road and natural stone retaining wall was made possible through federal funding. No major reconstruction work has occurred since that time.

The road surface and retaining walls are aged and show significant wear and deterioration. The road surface requires reconstruction and the retaining walls need to be restored as being historically significant. The City of Rapid City has not been able to unilaterally assume this project due to the high cost. The guardrails are in such condition that they do not provide the required safety standards necessary to protect the motoring public.

The attached photos provide a clear picture of the roadway. The location and the need to retain the historical perspective of the section of road make for a costly reconstruction. The road is a series of curves on very steep terrain making construction difficult.

OBJECTIVE

The funding will be used for reconstruction and restoration of the road surface and natural stone retaining walls along the 3.3 mile length of Skyline Drive. This road is designated as a National Scenic Byway and serves thousands of visitors each year.

COST AND SCHEDULE

The probable estimated cost to reconstruct and restore Skyline Drive is \$4,500,000. The City will use the funding for construction and will remain responsible for the development of plans and specifications and for administrative costs. Work on this project will begin as soon as the funding is committed.