



CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701-2724

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January 27, 2005

Mr. Todd Seaman
Region Engineer, SD DOT
PO Box 1970
Rapid City, SD 57709-1970

Dear Todd:

The City Council of Rapid City recently adopted, by unanimous vote, a resolution requesting that city representatives meet with the SD Department of Transportation to carefully consider the exit and other informational signage on I-90 once the Southeast Connector is completed. As you know, many Rapid City businesses have expressed great concern that westbound visitors coming to our community will, in effect, get almost to Rapid City, then be encouraged, even if it is unintentional, to turn left onto the SE Connector for what might become known the "fastest route to Mt. Rushmore" or a "bypass" around Rapid City. Obviously we want to avoid these possibilities since they would have a tremendously detrimental impact on Rapid City's economy, which, as you know, depends heavily on visitor spending at our hotels and motels, restaurants, gas stations, attractions and retail businesses.

I suggest a small Task Force be formed, consisting of the Mayor and 2 or 3 Council members, representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, Convention & Visitors Bureau, United Downtown Association and Rapid City area DOT leadership. I am confident we can arrive at appropriate solutions that will fulfill DOT's legal signage requirements while protecting and even enhancing our vital local economy.

Please let me know your thoughts, and if you agree, we can set up a Task Force meeting at everyone's convenience for the near future.

Sincerely,

Jim Shaw



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**JANUARY 17, 2005**

Alderman Kooiker reported he and Mayor Shaw had attended a meeting of the Hospitality Association where the local businesses discussed their concerns about Exit 61 being designated as the corridor to Mount Rushmore. Kooiker suggested a solution was to contact the South Dakota Department of Transportation asking them to consider signage that would indicate Exit 61 to Exit 57 as exits to Mount Rushmore. Kooiker asked that Mayor Shaw send a letter to the SDDOT asking their consideration of such a signage request. Kooiker moved, second by French to ask the Mayor to send a letter to the South Dakota Department of Transportation indicating signage along Interstate 90 be designated as routes to Mount Rushmore, beginning with Exit 61 to Exit 57. Motion carried.