



**RAPID CITY AREA
METROPOLITAN
PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

*300 Sixth Street
Rapid City, SD 57702
605-394-4120*

February 10, 2025

Office of the Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: City of Rapid City Chapel Lane Bridge Grant Program Application

Dear Grant Review Team:

At its February 20, 2025, meeting, the Executive Policy Committee of the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Organization approved a motion to support the City of Rapid City's Grant Application to replace the bridge on Chapel Lane.

The bridge on Chapel Lane provides the sole access point for Chapel Valley, a neighborhood of 500-plus households. This bridge is 50 years old and has met the end of its useful life. Improving and ensuring the resiliency of the bridge is critical. Should this structure fail, or even be closed temporarily, the economic impact and potential life safety impacts would be significant. As the only access point, this bridge provides the only emergency route in and out of Chapel Valley. During a catastrophic emergency, such as a wildfire or flood, this bridge must be resilient to withstand the event and allow safe passage for those leaving and entering the neighborhood.

The Executive Policy Committee, with a recommendation from the Technical and Citizens Committee, encouraged support of this application. This support is driven by the goal of continuing to expand opportunities for MPO member agencies the chance to provide a safe transportation system within the Rapid City Area Metropolitan Planning Area.

Sincerely,

Mayor Larry Larson, Chairperson
Executive Policy Committee