

## Department of Transportation

### Office of the Secretary

700 E Broadway Avenue

Pierre, South Dakota 57501-2586 605/773-3265

FAX: 605/773-3921

April 27, 2009

The Honorable Stephanie Herseth Sandlin  
South Dakota Congressional Representative  
331 Cannon House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Herseth Sandlin:

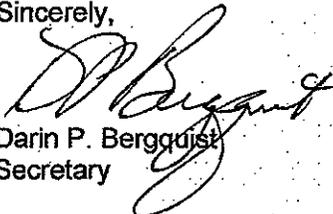
**I fully support development and deployment of the South Dakota Statewide Intelligent Rural Traffic Operations Management System.** Although this project is not in our STIP, deploying this technology through web-based video cameras, cell phones and other media enjoys strong citizen support and ever increasing usage by travelers. If this project is funded, it will be fully vetted in our STIP process.

Rural traffic operations are becoming increasingly important in South Dakota and in the northern plains region of the nation. Commercial and passenger traffic on Interstate highways and other major routes depend upon safe and reliable travel, but unavoidable conditions—especially major winter storms, other natural disasters, and significant traffic incidents—can interrupt traffic flow. When these situations arise, the Department of Transportation must emphasize efficient traffic management and provide timely, accurate information to travelers.

South Dakota has led development and adoption of Intelligent Transportation Systems technology among rural plains states, thanks in large part to previous high priority projects. However, South Dakota does not yet have a central traffic management capability, unlike most of our neighboring states. While this has been appropriate to past needs, this situation will not serve the immediate and future needs of our state and region.

I respectfully request your support of this project as well because it is economically and environmentally beneficial for our state's citizens and the commercial carriers and tourists who visit South Dakota.

Sincerely,



Darin P. Bergquist  
Secretary

Attachment