

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 25, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are writing to express our strong support for the National Park Service's (NPS) submission to the 2023 Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects (NSFLTP) grant program for the reconstruction of the Norris to Golden Gate, Phase 3 portion of the Grand Loop Road in Yellowstone National Park. This \$46 million project will modernize and reconstruct the very difficult and challenging 0.7-mile Golden Gate portion of the Norris to Golden Gate roadway segment. The NPS has already committed over \$11 million in its transportation funding to match this grant application.

Established as America's first national park in 1872, Yellowstone National Park continues to attract millions of people from all over the world each year. Visitors have a range of opportunities to experience its unique geothermal wonders, free-roaming wildlife, inspiring views, cultural heritage, and spectacular wilderness character. The Yellowstone Grand Loop and Entrance Roads provide access to these nationally significant recreation opportunities and are part of a regional transportation network connecting southwestern Montana, northwestern Wyoming, and southeastern Idaho. Phase 3 of the Norris to Golden Gate segment is the most complex segment as it includes the magnificent Golden Gate area where the road descends through a cliff providing breathtaking views of the rocks, Rustic Falls, and the changing scenery below. Improvements to this segment will ensure long-term, safe access to popular tourist destinations within Yellowstone in addition to small rural communities located near the park.

While Yellowstone has made major improvements to the Grand Loop Road in recent years, reconstruction and rehabilitation work is far from complete. Road surfaces in Yellowstone are generally deteriorated due to the aging pavement and poor drainage, widths are not adequate for today's travel, and the lack of shoulders provides no safety recovery zone. The original design and construction of Yellowstone roads and bridges do not meet modern standards for vehicular traffic or safety. Some segments of the road have not seen significant repairs since the 1930s. Meanwhile, recent increases in visitation, particularly among tour buses, have further compounded the strain on the park's road system. The Norris to Golden Gate segment including the critical Golden Gate portion is a top priority and remains key to maintaining the Grand Loop Road system.

If awarded, this project will use grant funds to reconstruct the most critical section of the roadway, separate pedestrians from vehicular traffic, and upgrade vehicle pullouts and parking areas that are critical facilities for the enjoyment of Yellowstone National Park. Completing this work through an NSFLTP grant award will contribute to the economic growth of nearby Western communities and support regional, national, and international tourism across Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho. Further, funding for this project will also ensure public access and safety to one of the world's most renowned and spectacular landscapes.

As the Wyoming delegation representing America's oldest national park, we urge your favorable consideration of the NPS' submission to the 2023 NSFLTP grant program so that necessary work can be completed to modernize and reconstruct 0.7 miles of the Norris to Golden Gate roadway segment.

Sincerely,



John Barrasso, M.D.  
United States Senator



Cynthia M. Lummis  
United States Senator



Harriet M. Hageman  
Member of Congress