



June 16, 2025

The Honorable Sean Duffy  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Pathways to Safety: Action Planning for Alaska's Rural Communities to the Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program

Dear Secretary Duffy,

On behalf of the Petersburg Borough, I write to express our strong support for the Pathways to Safety: Action Planning for Alaska's Rural Communities as a candidate for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Program. This initiative will support a collaborative approach to safety planning across 15 rural Alaskan communities.

The project will identify crash and fatality data sources, develop methodologies for analyzing safety metrics related to small-population and remote areas, identify common crash causes between communities, promote coordination across jurisdictional boundaries, and propose context-sensitive solutions to significantly reduce or eliminate roadway fatalities and serious injuries involving various road users. A comprehensive safety action plan will be developed for each community.

This project is critically important for Petersburg and other small, remote Alaskan communities like ours, as we face unique roadway safety challenges due to limited, often unpaved road networks, harsh weather, and extended periods of low light, all of which contribute to higher crash risks and longer emergency response times. By analyzing crash data specific to small populations, this initiative will enable us to implement context-sensitive solutions directly tailored to Petersburg's needs, such as improved signage for wildlife, better maintenance for gravel roads, or targeted public awareness campaigns for winter driving conditions.

The project aligns directly with the shared goal of reducing traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries in our communities. The project demonstrates a commitment to advancing safe, equitable, and sustainable transportation systems, and we believe this initiative will have a measurable impact on the safety and well-being of all road users.

The Petersburg Borough is committed to the success of this project and commits to a local match of up to \$9,300 in support of the project.

Thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

Donna Marsh  
Vice Mayor  
Petersburg Borough