



— FORT MEADE MEDICAL CENTER
113 Comanche Road, Fort Meade, SD 57741-1099
— HOT SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER
500 North 5th Street, Hot Springs, SD 57747-1497

February 13, 2015

Jerry Derr, Commission Assistant/HR Director
Meade County Commissioners
1300 Sherman Street, Suite 212
Sturgis, SD 57785

Mr. Derr,

The VA Black Hills Health Care System (VA BHHCS) is in receipt of your request for comments regarding the community improvement road project to be known as “Fort Meade Way” connecting Highways 34, 79 and I-90 via Exit 37. It is our understanding that this project has been approved by the Meade County Commission.

Our health care center serves Veterans from throughout the Black Hills. When needed, our primary referral center for Veterans requiring a higher level of care is Rapid City Regional Hospital, requiring ambulances to travel from the Fort Meade VA Medical Center into Rapid City. VA BHHCS employs approximately 700 staff at its Fort Meade medical center, the majority of who live in Sturgis, Rapid City and other areas to the east of the medical center. The majority of the Veterans served by our medical center also travel to the medical center from the east to receive their care.

VA BHHCS continues to support the construction of this road as an additional access route to alleviate the impact of limited or no accessibility through the S-curves on Highway 34 between Sturgis and Fort Meade. These impacts include weather obstructions, flooding, vehicle accidents and extraordinary traffic congestion during the Sturgis Rally.

Please contact C.B. Alexander, Associate Director, or me at 605-720-7170. Thank you for your inquiry.

STEPHEN R. DISTASIO, FACHE
Director