



5-23-1951

Letter from Thomas MacDonald to Senator Langer Regarding Road from Lost Bridge to Dickenson, May 23, 1951

Thomas MacDonald
US Department of Commerce Bureau of Public Roads

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS
WASHINGTON 25

IN YOUR REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE NO. H-1.1

May 23, 1951

Honorable William Langer

United States Senate

Dear Senator Langer:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of May 11, 1951, and attached telegram of May 9, from Dr. D. B. Ditzlaugh, and newspaper clipping relative to the improvement of a road between Dickinson via Killdeer to a bridge across the Little Missouri River, about 15 miles north of Killdeer.

State Highway 22, between Dickinson and Killdeer, is included in the Federal-aid highway system approved for North Dakota. The State has included in its postwar program of improvements involving Federal-aid funds two projects on this highway. Project F-266(5), consisting of 8.8 miles of grading, drainage structures and gravel surfacing between Killdeer and Manning, was completed in July 1949. Approval of the State's request for the programming of Project F-266(6) was given on May 9, 1951. This proposed improvement, which extends south from Manning 12.7 miles, consists of grading, drainage structures and service gravel, and may be advanced to the construction stage as soon as the State submits satisfactory plans to our field office with assurance the necessary right-of-way has been acquired or right of entry obtained.

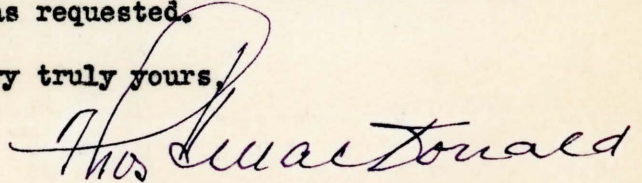
The section of State Highway 22, extending 11.7 miles northwesterly from Killdeer to a point nine miles north and four miles west of Killdeer, is included in the Federal-aid secondary system approved for North Dakota. The State has not included in its current program, involving Federal-aid funds, any projects on this highway. The road extending northeasterly from the above-described northern terminus of the Federal-aid secondary route to the bridge over the Little Missouri River, mentioned by Dr. Ditzlaugh, and the road extending directly north from Killdeer to the bridge are not included in the Federal-aid highway or secondary systems and, therefore, are not eligible for improvement with Federal-aid funds.

As you know, the State, in cooperation with the local road authorities, selects for our approval the routes for inclusion in the Federal-aid secondary system and initiates improvements involving Federal-aid funds. Under the circumstances, it would be appropriate

for Dr. Ditzlaugh, and others interested in this matter, to contact the North Dakota State Highway Department at Bismarck.

We are forwarding copies of this correspondence to our field office, having jurisdiction in North Dakota, for its information in considering any proposal by the State, and are returning Dr. Ditzlaugh's telegram and the newspaper clipping as requested.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Thomas Stuart Toward". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Commissioner of Public Roads

Enclosures

May 23, 1951

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United States Senate

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Very truly yours,

THOS. H. MACDONALD

Commissioner of Public Roads

Enclosures

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WESTERN UNION

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W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

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MA 487

M.FGA757 NL PD=KILLDEER NDAK 9=

PLEASE RETURN TO
SENATOR LANGER

SEN WM LANGER=

1951 MAY 9 PM 8 01

WASHDC=

BRIDGE IS LOCATED ON SECTION 34-148-95 FIFTEEN AND ONE HALF
 MILES DIRECTLY NORTH OF KILLDEER ROAD PLANS OF INDIAN
 ENGINEER CALLS FOR ROAD TO BE BUILT THROUGH RESERVATION TO
 CONNECT WITH NORTH END OF BRIDGE IF ROAD WILL BE BUILT FROM
 SOUTH END OF BRIDGE THROUGH KILLDEER TO DICKINSON, ROAD
 DESIRED THEREFORE IS FROM LOST BRIDGE TO DICKINSON
 APPRECIATE ANYTHING YOU CAN DO TO GET FEDERAL ROAD FROM
 BRIDGE TO DICKINSON. I AM KILLDEER ROAD CHAIRMAN LOUIS
 JOEGER DICKINSON ROAD CHAIRMAN=

DR D B DITZLAUGH=.

Friday Morning, May 4, 1951

Ask Road To 'Lost Bridge'

Killdeer, N. D. -(U.P.)- City residents said they plan to ask the state highway department to build a road they need to make use of an almost forgotten bridge across the Little Missouri river.

The 19-year-old steel bridge will be the easternmost span across the Little Missouri after the Garrison dam project is completed and backs up water in the tributary. It is about 15 miles directly north of Killdeer. However, residents of Dickinson and here complained that the bridge does nobody any good as long as there aren't any roads leading to it.

Dr. D. B. Fitzlaugh said a meeting is scheduled in Dickinson May 11 to discuss a campaign to route a state highway across the bridge.

The bridge in question has only a trail across some barren pasture land leading up to it on each side of the river. Fitzlaugh said it's used by so few people that it has been named the "lost bridge" in the community.

He said the federal government is expected to build a road north of the bridge after large numbers of Fort Berthold Indians move to another section of their reservation. He said his group wants the state to build a black-topped highway from here north to the bridge to connect with the proposed federal road.