



Minnesota Department of Transportation

Metro District - 1500 W. County Road B-2
Roseville, MN 55113-3174

August 15, 2016

EQB Monitor Distribution List and Interested Parties

RE: Negative Declaration Regarding the Need for an Environmental Impact Statement for the Interstate 35W and Lake Street Improvement Project, Minneapolis, Minnesota (SP 2782-327)

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has identified improvements to the I-35W corridor in Minneapolis between 42nd Street and downtown Minneapolis, where I-35W will be reconstructed. Project features include: constructing a Lake Street multimodal transit station; constructing a pedestrian/bicycle connection between the Midtown Greenway and the transit station; replacing existing roadway pavement and numerous bridges; completing MnPASS lanes; constructing a new southbound exit to Lake Street, constructing a new northbound exit to 28th Street; constructing stormwater treatment areas; and constructing/replacing noise walls.

Under Minnesota rules, MnDOT is the responsible governmental unit (RGU) for this project. MnDOT and Hennepin County described and analyzed the proposed actions in an Environmental Assessment/Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EA/EAW) that was circulated to the EAW Distribution List, and others. A Notice of Availability appeared in the Minnesota EQB Monitor on March 28, 2016. Two identical public hearings were held in Minneapolis on April 5 and 19, 2016. The comment period closed on April 27, 2016.

As the RGU for work on the Minnesota trunk highway system, MnDOT has undertaken a thorough analysis of the project and its impacts. Through its own analysis, coordination with affected agencies, public and community involvement, and comment letters and emails received, MnDOT has determined that the proposed improvements to I-35W, as described in the EA/EAW and in the Findings of Fact and Conclusions, do not have the potential for significant environmental impacts. MnDOT has concluded that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required and has issued a Negative Declaration Order for the project. This decision and determination is supported by the full administrative record of the project, including the Findings of Fact and Conclusions. The Negative Declaration concludes the Minnesota state environmental review process for this project.

MnDOT does not intend to circulate paper copies of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions document. This item and others are available on the MnDOT project website under the "Documents" tab at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i35wminneapolis/documents> and the County project website at www.35lake.com/ea.

Should any readers not have access to the Findings of Fact and Conclusions electronic document, paper copies may be obtained by contacting Rick Dalton, MnDOT Metro District Environmental Coordinator, at 651-234-7677, or via email at Richard.dalton@state.mn.us.

For the Minnesota Department of Transportation:

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8-15-16
Date

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