



Minnesota Department of Transportation

395 John Ireland Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55155

April 7, 2016

Ms. Arlene Kocher
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
380 Jackson Street, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

In reply refer to: FONSI Recommendation for Minnesota State Project: S.P. 2515-21 and
Wisconsin State Project: 7210-00-76 and 7210-00-78
**US 63 River Bridge and Approach Roadways Project Environmental Assessment and
Final 4(f) Evaluation for the Arlington Avenue Bridge**

Dear Ms. Kocher:

Enclosed are the required supporting documents for the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) to recommend a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the above-referenced project. The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project was prepared and circulated for public comment on June 22, 2015. An open house public hearing was held on July 8, 2015 in the city of Red Wing, Minnesota. The comment period remained open through July 22, 2015. The proposed project is described in detail in the EA and summarized in the attached Findings of Fact and Conclusions (Findings) document.

Documents submitted in support of the FONSI are included in the attached Findings prepared as part of the Minnesota state environmental review process. The Findings includes documentation of the following:

- Final Section 4(f) Evaluation for the Bridge 9103 with a signed Programmatic Agreement between FHWA, MnSHPO, WisSHPO, WisDOT, and MnDOT;
- Comments received on the Project and the EA, and MnDOT responses to timely and substantive comments;
- A Certificate of Compliance with Title 23, Section 128, of U.S. Code;
- A photocopy of an Affidavit of Publication from newspapers of general circulation in the project area;
- An Open House Public Hearing was held on July 8, 2015. The hearing transcripts and verbal comments provided to a court reporter are included in the Findings.

Having completed the Environmental Assessment and the public involvement and review processes as described above, MnDOT and WisDOT staff has determined that the proposed action does not have the potential to cause significant environmental impacts. In accordance with 23 CFR 771.119 (g), a FONSI is hereby recommended for the proposed action.

An Equal Opportunity Employer



Ms. Arlene Kocher
April 7, 2016
Page 2

Sincerely,



Lynn P. Clarkowski, P.E.
Chief Environmental Officer,
Director, Office of Environmental Stewardship
Minnesota Department of Transportation



Mohamad Hayek, P.E.
Project Manager
Wisconsin Department of Transportation Northwest Region

Enclosures: Findings of Fact and Conclusions with attachments

cc: Abbi Ginsberg, Area Engineer, FHWA
Chad Hanson, Project Manager, MnDOT District 6

An Equal Opportunity Employer

