



Project Update - Lac qui Parle Bridge

December 2015

Background: The Hwy 40 causeway and Lac qui Parle Bridge was built from 1934-1941 as part of the Lac qui Parle Flood Control Project. The flood control project was part of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) which employed millions of unemployed people to carry out public works projects. The district, which includes the Lac qui Parle Bridge, has been designated as a historic district.

Project Summary: Originally, the Lac qui Parle Bridge was identified by MnDOT District 8 to be replaced. There were concerns regarding replacing a historic bridge so District 8 made the decision to change the replacement to a rehabilitation in order to help preserve the number of historic bridges in Minnesota. Members of the Milan community expressed concern regarding the decision to rehabilitate the bridge. In response to community concerns, MnDOT held a public meeting in May of 2015. After this meeting, District 8 made the decision to delay the bidding of the project until August of 2015. It became apparent to MnDOT that further community work needed to be done before a decision could be made therefore the bidding was further postponed to the spring of 2016. In addition to delaying the bidding of the project, MnDOT hired an independent party to gain further feedback from the community.

Milan Task Force: WSB & Associates facilitated four working sessions with members of the Milan community. The task force was comprised of community members that volunteered their time as well as other partners (MnDOT, DNR, Chippewa County, Upper Minnesota Valley RDC, etc.). Task force members committed to four, two-hour meetings to be held in November 2015. Task force meetings were focused on assessing concerns and developing reasonable solutions. The goal of the task force was to develop a recommendation (rehabilitate or replace) on the project to MnDOT District 8. Non-task force members and the public also had the opportunity to participate in each meeting.

Project Status: The Milan Task Force made the recommendation to move forward with a bridge replacement project. This recommendation has been given to MnDOT. MnDOT takes the recommendation from the task force seriously and will take it under consideration. A decision will be made and communicated by the spring of 2016. **MnDOT would like to thank members of the task force for all their hard work.**

For more information on the project or process please visit www.dot.state.mn.us/d8

