



Project Update - Lac qui Parle Bridge

March 2016

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 area, which includes the Lac qui Parle Bridge, has been designated as an 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: MnDOT hired WSB & Associates to facilitate four working sessions with members of the Milan community. 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. The Milan Task Force made the recommendation to move forward with a bridge replacement project. MnDOT would like to thank members of the task force for all their hard work.

Project Status: District 8 has accepted the recommendation of the task force and MnDOT has made the decision to pursue replacement of the bridge. There are still several steps that need to be completed and a timeline has not been determined. MnDOT will continue to send updates as they become available.

For more information on the project or process please contact Gene East, Project Manager at 320-214-6331 or visit www.dot.state.mn.us/d8.

