



Minnesota Department of Transportation
395 John Ireland Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Via Email Only

May 6, 2016

The Honorable Tim Kelly, Chair
House Transportation Policy & Finance Committee
559 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Frank Hornstein, DFL Co-Lead
House Transportation Policy & Finance Committee
243 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Ron Erhardt, DFL Co-Lead
House Transportation Policy & Finance Committee
245 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd

The Honorable Scott Dibble, Chair
Senate Transportation and Public Safety Committee
2107 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue West
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable John C. Pederson
Ranking Minority Member
Senate Transportation and Public Safety Committee
27 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Design-Build Projects – Benson ADA and I-35W Minnesota River Bridge

Dear Legislators:

[Minnesota Statutes 161.3412, subdivision 3\(b\)](#) requires the Commissioner of Transportation to notify the chairs of the Senate and House of Representatives committees with jurisdiction over transportation policy and transportation finance each time the commissioner decides to use the Design-Build method for procurement and explain why the method was chosen.

MnDOT decided to use the Design-Build delivery method to design and construct the roughly \$1.5 million Americans with Disabilities Act upgrade project on state highways 29, 12, and 9 in the town of Benson. The project will update all ADA facilities on these routes in Benson to current standards prior to a subsequent mill and overlay project. The Design-Build delivery method was selected for the project to attract quality ADA Design-Build teams, which will encourage better designer-contractor communication and achieve better ADA compliance for less effort. This project is planned to be let in November 2016 and constructed during the 2017* construction season.

**Correction: In the letter released on May 6, 2016, it stated the Benson project would be constructed in 2016; however, the correct construction year of the Benson project is in the 2017 construction season. (5-13-16)*

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MnDOT decided to use the Design-Build delivery method to design and construct the estimated \$140 million replacement of the I-35W Minnesota River Bridge between Bloomington and Burnsville. The project involves a major bridge replacement along with significant grading, paving, and other highway work. Design-Build was selected primarily to make certain that construction is completed on-time with minimal cost overruns. This project is planned to be let in late 2017 or 2018 and constructed beginning the following construction season, should funding allow.

Please feel free to call the following programmatic and/or project contacts if you have questions:

Design-Build Program Manager: [Peter Davich](#), 651-366-4233

Benson ADA Project Manager: [Justin Knopf](#), 218-846-7968

I-35W Minnesota River Bridge Project Manager: [Scott Pedersen](#), 651-234-7726

Sincerely,



Susan M. Mulvihill, P.E.
Deputy Commissioner/Chief Engineer

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