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Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C.
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News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, November 01, 2007

Contact: Nancy Singer

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FHWA 20-07

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters Releases \$123.5 Million in Funding for I-35W Bridge in Minneapolis

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Mary E. Peters today announced that \$123.5 million in emergency relief funding was released to help pay for rebuilding the I-35W bridge that collapsed in August. This brings the total federal transportation investment in the recovery and rebuilding effort to \$183.5 million.

"The President and I continue to provide the federal government's full support and the necessary financial resources to rebuild this bridge," Secretary Peters said.

Secretary Peters added that the Department remains committed to paying the full cost of eligible repairs to rebuild the bridge and will reimburse Minnesota as additional costs are incurred.

On August 2, only hours after the bridge collapse, Secretary Peters was on the bridge site to bring \$5 million in immediate federal relief to restore traffic flow in the area, clear debris and start the repairs. An additional \$50 million followed soon after for bridge-related repair and recovery efforts along with \$5 million in transit assistance.

"We meant it when we said the federal government would continue to do everything possible to get the community up and running again," Secretary Peters added.

The FHWA's emergency relief program provides funds to states for the repair or reconstruction of federal-aid highways damaged by natural disasters or catastrophic events. The program typically works on a reimbursable basis.

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United States Department of Transportation - **Federal Highway Administration**



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

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October 23, 2007

The Honorable Carol Molnau
Lt. Governor
Department of Transportation
MS 100, Transportation Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Re: Approval of Request for ER Funding, I-35W Bridge Collapse, over Mississippi River (Br. #9340), August 1, 2007, MN07-1;
Southeast Minnesota Flooding, August 18-20, 2007

Dear Ms. Molnau:

Reference is made to your letter of October 23, 2007, requesting an additional allocation of ER funds for eligible work associated with the collapse of the I-35W bridge and an allocation of ER funds for the southeastern MN flood event.

Regarding the request for the I-35W Bridge, and in addition to the \$55 million in "quick release" funds received to date, we are approving a request of an additional \$316.7 million in ER funds and a total request of \$371.7 million for this ER event. In developing the total figure for the ER eligible expenses, we have reviewed the finance plan, the construction cost estimate for the new bridge, and the Damage Survey Summary Report inclusive of the DDIR's we've received to date. From Table 2 in the project finance plan, we've developed the following table to acknowledge each of the major categories, Mn/DOT's estimated cost, and our estimate of ER eligibility:

Category	Mn/DOT Estimated Cost (\$ million)	Estimated ER Eligible Cost (\$ million)
Rescue and Recovery	\$19.20	\$17.00
Demolition	\$18.00	\$16.50
Emergency Contracts and Stipends	\$3.00	\$2.50
Traffic Restoration	\$10.00	\$9.00
Post Construction Costs	\$10.00	\$12.50
Reconstruction	\$322.80	\$314.20
Total	\$383.00	\$371.70

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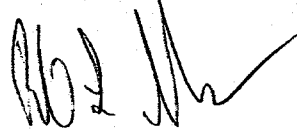
We have forwarded this requested amount to the FHWA Headquarters Office of Program Administration who will make the actual allocation. It is unlikely that Minnesota will receive the remaining \$316.7 million at this time due to the limited amount of available funding to be shared with other ER needs identified across the country.

Should Minnesota receive the additional \$195 million in emergency relief that has been authorized by law, that funding will become available to supplement the total amount requested. If the \$195 million in the awaiting appropriations bill is passed, no more than a total of \$371.7 million will be allocated for this event. However, should actual ER eligible expenses exceed the total of \$371.7 million for this event, you may request additional ER funds.

Regarding the requested amount for the southeastern Minnesota flood event, we have reviewed the Damage Survey Summary Report and the total cost estimate to repair the damage. Because the \$12.23 million figure represents 80% of the total Mn/DOT cost estimate, consistent with the 80/20 split for permanent work, we are supportive of this estimate. We have also forwarded this requested amount to the FHWA Headquarters Office of Program Administration who will make the actual allocation. Again, it is unlikely that Minnesota will receive the full \$12.23 million at this time. As with the bridge, should actual ER eligible expenses exceed \$12.23 million, you may request additional ER funds.

We will notify you immediately when we receive word on the ER allocation for these two events.

Sincerely yours,

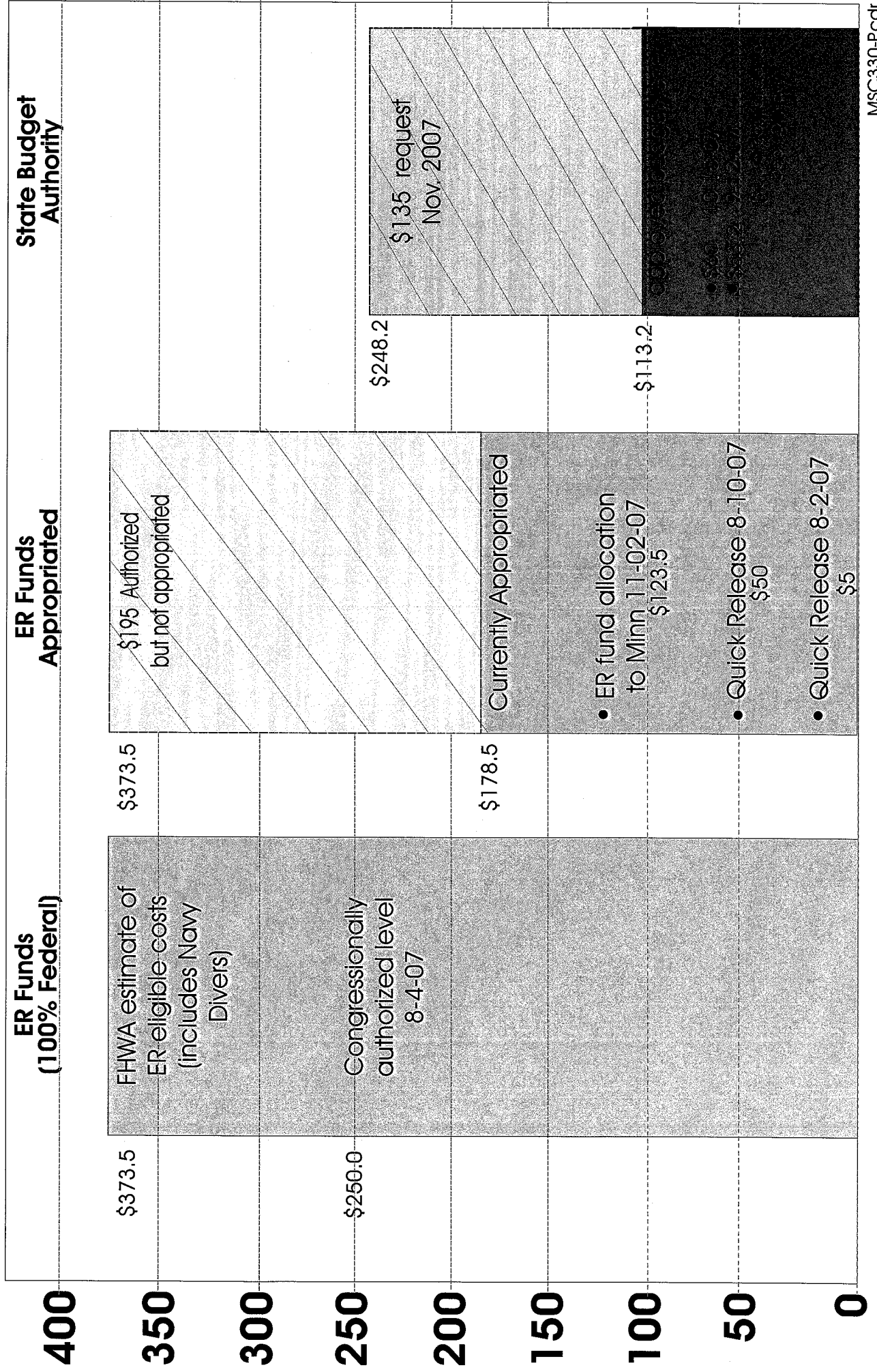
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robin L. Schroeder', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robin L. Schroeder
Assistant Division Administrator

JMSW/seh

cc: Lisa Freese, Mn/DOT
Abby McKenzie, Mn/DOT
Bob Hofstad, Mn/DOT
1 RF
DMS – “MN 2007 ER I-35W Bridge Collapse, approval of request for ER Funds”

FEDERAL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDING FOR I-35W BRIDGE (\$ MILLIONS)



I-35W Bridge Collapse Emergency Relief Status

Description	DDIR 1 Submitted to FHWA Mn Division	Number of DDIRs	Amount Submitted to FHWA Mn Division (thousands of dollars)	FHWA Authorization	ER Authorization Amount (thousands of dollars)	Federal ER Reimbursement Received 4 (thousands of dollars)	Comments
Navy Salvage Divers	na	na	\$1,763	08/27/07	\$1,763	\$1,763	Direct ER Fund transfer from US DOT to US Navy
Local Traffic Restoration							
Minneapolis	08/31/07	17	\$11,448				Contingent on additional justification and determination of eligibility (FHWA letter 09/12/07)
Saint Paul	08/31/07	2	\$162				Contingent on additional justification and determination of eligibility (FHWA letter 09/12/07)
Hennepin County	08/31/07	1	\$160				Contingent on additional justification and determination of eligibility (FHWA letter 09/12/07)
Mn/DOT Traffic Restoration							
Projects 1, 2, 3, 10, 15, 20, 23, & 39	10/03/07	8	\$4,207	11/02/07	\$3,004		FHWA approved DDIRs for TR Projects 1, 2, 10, 15 & 23 11/01/07
Projects 5, 6, 7, 22, 31, 34, & 35	10/11/07	7	\$4,109				
Right-of-Way for Projects 23	09/19/07	1	\$20				Contingent on approval of associated Traffic Restoration project
Mn/DOT Debris Removal							
Demolition Contract	10/05/07	1	\$10,089	10/25/07	\$10,089	\$5,107	FHWA approved Demolition Contract DDIR 10/25/07
Agreements, Site Security & Other Demo		1	\$638				Split Demolition Contract and Agreements, Site Security & Other Demo into separate DDIRs 10/25/07
- Site Security (Local Forces)			\$1,405				approval of Agreements, Site Security & Other Demo DDIR contingent on additional justification
- Site Security (State Forces)			\$352				
Mn/DOT New Bridge							
RFP and Stipends	08/23/07	1	\$3,500	08/23/07			Contingent on determination of eligibility of 7 consultant agreements
Right-of-Way	09/13/07	1	\$14,544 ²	09/17/07			Contingent on additional justification and determination of eligibility (FHWA letter 09/24/07)
Design-Build Contract	09/13/07	1	\$233,763 ³	09/17/07	\$194,587	\$18,528	FHWA line item approved \$194.6 m of \$233.8 m requested in DDIR 10/25/07
- Utilities			\$9,770				
- Construction Engineering			\$18,551				
- Incentives			\$20,000				
- Contam, Env Mit, Conting, Mat & Equip			\$16,008				
Railroad Agreement	09/13/07	1	\$1,512	10/01/07			Contingent on additional justification and determination of eligibility (FHWA email 09/28/07)
Subtotal Local Current		20	\$11,770				
Subtotal Mn/DOT Current		22	\$338,469		\$207,680	\$23,635	
Subtotal Local + Mn/DOT Current + Navy		42	\$352,002		\$209,443	\$25,398	
Local Post Opening Work							
Minneapolis	08/31/07	8	\$42,419				Restoration of detours etc. Will not be considered until after new bridge opens
Hennepin County	08/31/07	13	\$397				
Ramsey County	08/31/07	8	\$240				
Mn/DOT Post Opening Work	tbd	tbd	tbd				No DDIRs submitted to date
Subtotal Post Opening Work		29	\$43,056				
Total		71	\$395,058		\$209,443	\$25,398	

- Notes:
1. DDIR = Detailed Damage Inspection Report. See FHWA Emergency Relief Manual at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/reports/term/index.cfm>
 2. Amended 10/09/07 to reflect latest estimates.
 3. Amended 10/09/07 to reflect actual best value design-build contract amount.
 4. Federal Emergency Relief Reimbursement Received for Mn/DOT or Local ER eligible expense incurred.