

Date: September 25, 2017

To: EQB Distribution List
Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Negative Declaration Regarding the Need for an Environmental Impact Statement for the I-35W North Corridor Preliminary Design Project (S.P. 6284-172)

On behalf of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Metro District, SRF Consulting Group, Inc. is transmitting this memorandum regarding the Negative Declaration Order for the I-35W North Corridor Preliminary Design Project (S.P. 6284-172). The project proposes pavement rehabilitation on Interstate 35W (I-35W) from County Road C in Roseville to Sunset Avenue in Blaine; construction of MnPASS lanes from County Road C to Lexington Avenue in Blaine; construction of auxiliary lanes on I-35W through the Interstate 694 (I-694) interchange area; construction of auxiliary lanes in the I-35W/Trunk Highway (TH) 10 commons area; and construction of a westbound auxiliary lane on TH 10 from I-35W to 93rd Lane. Other project features include construction of stormwater basins and noise walls.

Under Minnesota Rules, MnDOT is the Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU) for the project. MnDOT described and analyzed the proposed project in a combined Environmental Assessment (EA)/ Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) that was circulated to the EQB Distribution List and others. A Notice of Availability appeared in the EQB *Monitor* on August 29, 2016. A public hearing/open house was held on September 13, 2016 in Blaine and on September 14, 2016 in New Brighton. The comment period closed on September 28, 2016.

MnDOT has undertaken a thorough analysis of the project and its potential impacts. Through its own analysis, coordination with affected agencies, public and community involvement, and comments received, MnDOT has determined that the proposed improvements to I-35W and TH 10, as described in the EA/EAW and in the Findings of Fact and Conclusions, do not have the potential for significant environmental impacts. MnDOT has concluded that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required and has issued a Negative Declaration Order for the project. This decision and determination is supported by the full administrative record of the project, including the Findings of Fact and Conclusions. This concludes the Minnesota state environmental review process for the project.

MnDOT does not intend to circulate paper copies of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions document. The Findings of Fact and Conclusions document and other project related items are available on the project website under the "Documents" tab at:

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i35wroseville/index.html>

Should any readers not have access to the Findings of Fact and Conclusions electronic document, paper copies may be obtained by contacting Rick Dalton, MnDOT Metro District Environmental Coordinator, at 651-234-7677, or via email at richard.dalton@state.mn.us. To request the document in an alternative format, please contact the MnDOT Affirmative Action Office at 651-366-4718 or 1-800-657-3774 (Greater Minnesota); 711 or 1-800-627-3529 (Minnesota Relay). You may also send an e-mail to adarequest.dot@state.mn.us.

Thank you.

For the Minnesota Department of Transportation:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jerome Adams". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Jerome Adams, PE, PMP

Project Manager

Minnesota Department of Transportation

A handwritten date in blue ink that reads "9-26-2017". The date is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Date