



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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St. Croix River Crossing 2003 Amended Scoping Documents Released

The Minnesota Departments of Transportation (Mn/DOT) today released the 2003 Amended Scoping Document and the 2003 Amended draft Scoping Decision Document for public review and comment. These documents include information on the St. Croix River Crossing alternatives currently under discussion.

Copies of the 2003 Amended Scoping Document and 2003 Amended draft Scoping decision documents are available at the following locations: the Bayport Public Library (Bayport), the Carleton A. Friday Memorial Library (New Richmond), the Hudson Area Joint Library (Hudson), St. Joseph Town Hall (St. Joseph), the Somerset Public Library (Somerset), the Stillwater Public Library (Stillwater), the Washington County Government Center Library (Stillwater), Mn/DOT Library (395 John Ireland Boulevard, St. Paul), the Environmental Conservation Library (Minneapolis), and the Wis/DOT Planning Library (Madison). Copies of the 2003 Amended Scoping Document and 2003 Amended draft Scoping Decision Document are also available in CD-ROM format upon request from Mn/DOT. The SD/DSDD document is available for review in PDF format on the project web site:

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/documents.html>

The public comment period for the 2003 Amended Scoping Documents extends from November 10, 2003 through December 10, 2003. Following the public comment period, Mn/DOT and Wis/DOT will issue a 2003 Amended Scoping Decision Document.

To develop a stakeholder resolution process, the St. Croix River Crossing Project resumed in June 2003. The stakeholder group has focused on identifying alternatives and issues to be addressed in a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the project. Those potential alternatives are summarized in the 2003 Amended Scoping Document and 2003 Amended draft Scoping Decision Document.

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To notify residents and businesses of the availability of the documents at local libraries and of the comment period, Mn/DOT and Wis/DOT mailed newsletters to residents and businesses in Washington County, Minnesota and St. Croix County, Wisconsin.

The newsletter also notified residents and businesses of the two Public Comment Scoping Meetings that will provide an opportunity to gather public input regarding the alternatives. The first meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 2, from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Houlton Elementary School, 70 County Road E, Houlton, Wisconsin. The second meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 3, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Washington County Government Center, 14949 62nd Street North, Stillwater, Minnesota.

The meetings will feature preliminary layouts for the alternatives, including proposed improvements to Minnesota Highways 36 and 95 and Wisconsin Highways 64 and 35, as well as information on the on-going stakeholder problem solving process; tentative schedules and descriptions of environmental studies to be completed.

The meetings will provide identical information and no formal presentation will be made. Representatives of Wis/DOT, Mn/DOT and the project consultant, SRF Consulting, will be available to answer questions about the project.

Community members are encouraged to attend the meetings to learn more about the proposed alternatives and provide their official public input regarding the number of alternatives and items to be studied in the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

If you require any special accommodations call Wis/DOT (TDD) at 715/836-6578 or Mn/DOT at 651/582-1176.

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