



Annual Project Summary Report

(March 2006 through February 2007)

This summary report for the St. Croix River Crossing Project is developed in accordance with the Amended Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), the Riverway Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the 2006 Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement (SFEIS) and the FHWA's Record of Decision (ROD).

This summary report describes the actions taken by FHWA, Mn/DOT, WisDOT and other agencies during the prior year to implement the project and the mitigation commitments. This report will be distributed to the signatories of the MOA & MOU's and members of the Stakeholder Group. The report will also be available on the project's website.

Implementation status of the 2006 SFEIS's mitigation package is found on the attached chart "Status of Mitigation Related Consultant Agreements/Contractors".

A timetable of actions completed this past year is shown below:

March – June 2006:

- a) Completion of project's geometric layouts, local utility coordination and cost participation with Minnesota cities.
- b) Completion of Riverway, Growth Management and Water Quality MOU's and Amended Section 106 MOA. These documents can be found at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/documents.html>
- c) Newsletter and other communications released for the upcoming 2006 SFEIS.
- d) Completion and release of the 2006 SFEIS. This document can be found at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/docs/sfeis.html>

July 2006:

- a) Final Stakeholder Group meeting held July 17th.
- b) 30 Day comment period ended for the SFEIS.

August 2006:

- a) Transit Feasibility Study started and is expected to take approximately 18 months to complete. This study is one of the project mitigation items described in Chapter 15 of the SFEIS at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/docs/sfeis.html> . (Questions about this study, contact Nick Thompson at 651-582-1406 or Jennifer Conover at 651-582-1722)
- b) City of Oak Park Heights commenced legal action in a Declaratory Judgment Determination seeking legal review of Minnesota's municipal consent law to determine which municipal consent process (pre or post-2001) should be used for this project. (Questions about this issue, contact Nick Thompson at 651-582-1406)

September 2006:

- a) Terra Terminal Building Removal: Mn/DOT began implementing this mitigation item by coordinating and hiring consultants/contractor to address the site's regulated wastes and contamination to enable the building to be removed. This is one of the project's mitigation items described in Chapter 15 of the SFEIS at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/docs/sfeis.html> . This is the first stage of implementing this mitigation item and involves contamination cleanup and the building's roof and wall removal. The adjacent hopper is also being removed with the first stage. The second stage includes removing the floor slab, regrading the site, and preparing the new foundations for the Shoddy Mill and Warehouse so that these buildings can be relocated to the site. The timing of the second stage will be tied to the construction of the new Hwy 36/95 interchange. (Questions about the Terra Terminal Building Removal, contact Todd Clarkowski at 651-582-1169)

October 2006:

- a) Mn/DOT requested Municipal Consent from the City of Stillwater. Stillwater held a public hearing during a council meeting and provided their municipal consent via a unanimous council vote in support of the Project Layout and Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Stillwater and Mn/DOT. (Questions on this issue, contact Todd Clarkowski at 651-582-1169)

November - December 2006:

- a) FHWA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for the project on November 13th indicating the selection of the preferred alternative and explaining the basis for the project decision. The ROD can be found at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/documents.html> (Questions on the ROD, contact Cheryl Martin at 651-291-6120)
- b) Mn/DOT issued an Adequacy Determination for the project indicating that the process and results were appropriate. The Adequacy Determination can be

found at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/documents.html>
(Questions on this issue, contact Todd Clarkowski at 651-582-1169)

January 2007:

- a) Mn/DOT requested Municipal Consent from the City of Bayport. Bayport held a public hearing during a council meeting and provided their municipal consent through a unanimous council vote in support of the Project Layout and Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Bayport and Mn/DOT. (Questions on this issue, contact Todd Clarkowski at 651-582-1169)
- b) The Visual Quality Review Committee (VQRC), FHWA, Mn/DOT and WisDOT completed the project's Visual Quality Manual (VQM) and animations for the preferred alternative package as described in the 2006 SFEIS. A Open House was held to share this information with the public. The Visual Quality Manual can be found at:
<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/vqpp.html> and the animation can be found at:
<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/visualanim.html>
(Questions on the VQM or animation, contact Adam Josephson at 651-582-1115)

February 2007:

- a) Mn/DOT hired consultants for nominating the following Minnesota historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places: South Main Archeological District (includes Hersey Bean site), Bergstein Shoddy Mill & Warehouse, Log Cabin (a.k.a. Club Tara), and Stillwater Overlook-South. Nominations of these sites are one of the project mitigation items. The project's mitigation items are described in Chapter 15 of the SFEIS at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/docs/sfeis.html>. (Questions about the nominations, contact Todd Clarkowski at 651-582-1169 or Jackie Sluss at 651-366-3624)
- b) WisDOT has initiated hiring a consultant for nominating the Wisconsin historic properties (Nicholas Thelen Farmstead and Louis Kriesel Farmstead) to the National Register of Historic Places. Nominations of these sites are one of the project mitigation items. The project's mitigation items are described in Chapter 15 of the SFEIS at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/docs/sfeis.html> (Questions about the nominations, contact Terry Pederson at 715-836-2857 or Bob Newbery at 608-266-0369)
- c) Mn/DOT has initiated hiring consultants (facilitator, historian and bridge engineer) to work with the Stillwater Lift Bridge Advisory Committee (SLBAC) for the Lift Bridge Management Plan and Repair Project. Establishment of the SLBAC is anticipated to take place in April/May of 2007. This activity is one of the project mitigation items and can be found at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/liftbridge/index.html> and as described in the Amended in the Section 106 MOA at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/pdfs/stcroix-amended106moa5-16-06.pdf> (Questions about this issue, contact Todd Clarkowski at 651-582-1169, Jim Lilly at 651-747-2127 or Kristen Zschomler at 651-366-3633)

Next Steps for the upcoming year: Timetable for implementation is being determined by FHWA, Mn/DOT and WisDOT

- 1) Resolve Oak Park Height's municipal consent legal process issue.
- 2) Continued Stakeholder Involvement:
<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/stakeholder.html>
- SLBAC establishment anticipated in April/May.
- 3) Mitigation Package Related:
 - a) Continued planning and implementing additional critical path mitigation items
 - b) Continued work on defining funding and timing of other mitigation items
- 4) Design Related:
 - a) Preliminary Bridge Design activities for the Extradosed River bridge
 - b) Permitting coordination with Federal, State and Local agencies
 - c) Final Roadway Design activities for the Minnesota and Wisconsin approaches
- 5) Funding Related:
 - a) Financial Strategies Planning (FHWA lead agency)
 - b) FHWA Project Management Workshop and Team establishment (FHWA lead)
- 6) Communications Related:
Continue with news releases, website updates, formal and informal communications to keep interested parties informed about the project.

Project Team Contact info:

FHWA: Cheryl Martin 651-291-6120 Cheryl.Martin@fhwa.dot.gov
Romeo Garcia 651-291-6125 Romeo.Garcia@fhwa.dot.gov

Mn/DOT: Nick Thompson 651-582-1406 Nick.Thompson@dot.state.mn.us
Todd Clarkowski 651-582-1169 Todd.Clarkowski@dot.state.mn.us
Adam Josephson 651-582-1115 Adam.Josephson@dot.state.mn.us
Monty Hamri 651-582-1606 Monty.Hamri@dot.state.mn.us
Mary McFarland 651/582-1176 Mary.McFarland@dot.state.mn.us

WisDOT: Tom Beekman 715-836-4628 thomas.beekman@dot.state.wi.us
Terry Pederson 715-836-2857 terry.pederson@dot.state.wi.us
Brent Pickard 715-836-4623 brent.pickard@dot.state.wi.us

Project specific information, including the current project status, can be found at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/>

Attachments: Project Layout – Preferred Alternative - on Aerial Photo
Status of Mitigation Related Consultant Agreements/Contractors Chart, dated 2/26/07