

## ***Welcome to a St. Croix River Crossing Open House!***

*Wednesday, July 15, 5:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m., Stillwater High School, Stillwater, Minnesota*

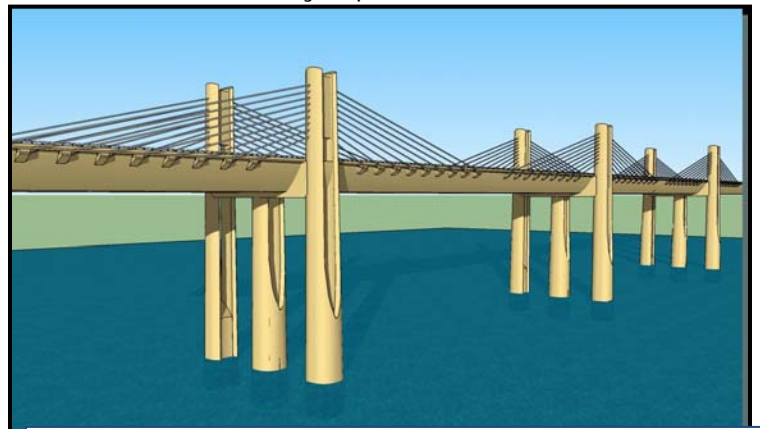
*Thursday, July 16, 5:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m., Somerset High School, Somerset, Wisconsin*

The public is invited to attend an open house to hear ‘the latest’ on the St. Croix River Crossing project. Minnesota Department of Transportation, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and consultant experts will be available to describe design options and answer questions. Public comment will also be welcome at this open house.

### **What is Status of the St. Croix River Crossing Project?**

The Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Transportation are continuing to advance the engineering design of the St. Croix River Crossing. To assist them, the departments hired Parsons Brinckerhoff with sub-consultant Sumitomo Mitsui of Japan to conduct the next phase of design. Both firms bring international bridge design experience to the project with Sumitomo Mitsui having considerable experience in both the design and construction of the proposed extradosed bridge type adopted by the stakeholders in 2007 and summarized in the project’s Visual Quality Manual. The project team is undertaking a number of important tasks. These include:

- Verifying the structural sufficiency and feasibility of the conceptual bridge design documented in the Visual Quality Manual.
- Evaluating a number of options related to the sizes of structural members with the goal of reducing cost while maintaining the overall appearance in accordance with the Visual Quality Manual.
- Evaluating the constructability of the current design and recommending appropriate refinements.
- Evaluating the design and making refinements to enhance safety, operations and maintenance over the life of the structure.
- Coordination of these efforts with appropriate agencies, stakeholders and the general public
- Finally, the team is tasked with preparing technical documents that will be used by Minnesota Department of Transportation to prepare for the final design and construction of the bridge.



Progress image of current proposed bridge design

Assisting the project team in this effort is a Visual Quality Advisory Committee. This committee is comprised of representatives from local governments, state and federal agencies. As a part of the tasks outlined above the Visual Quality Advisory Committee will meet with the project team at key points during the process to provide input and comment on the design as it progresses. To learn more about the Visual Quality Advisory Committee, and to see who serves on this Committee, go to <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/>

## What is the Project Team Currently Discussing?

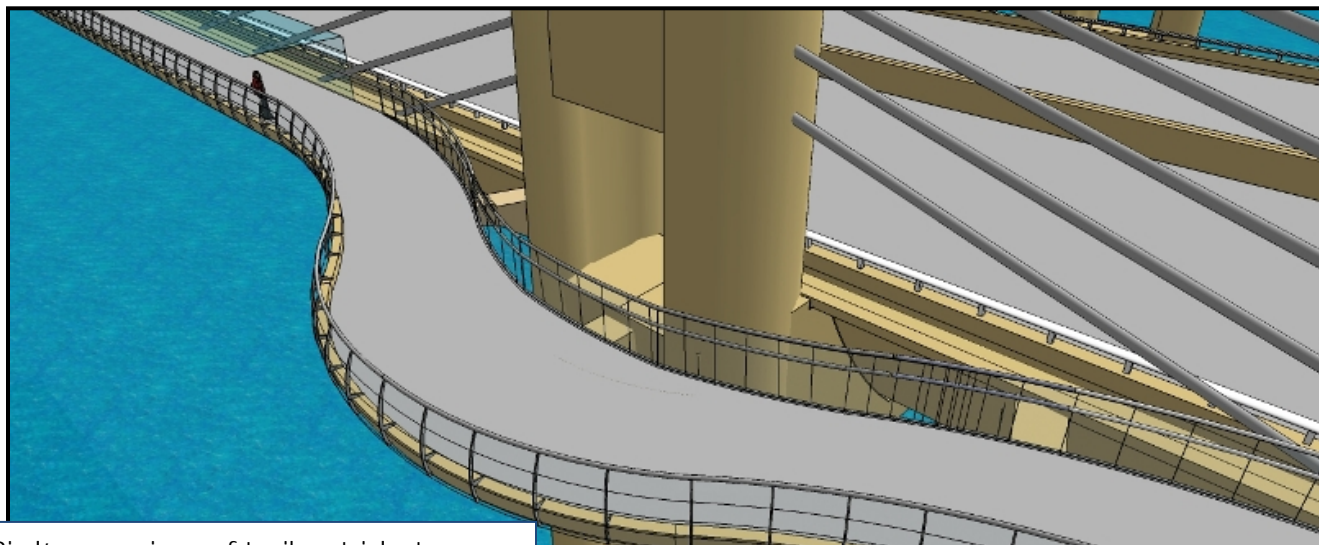
While there are a number of items under consideration, one that has surfaced for discussion and input is the **location of the loop trail** on the proposed bridge. Currently there are two options being considered:

1) the “Outboard” concept as portrayed in the Visual Quality Manual.

This option locates the trail on the outside of the roadway deck and cable towers along the north side of the bridge. This requires special construction of cantilever brackets to support the walkway off of the main structure as well as additional railings to separate bicycles and pedestrian traffic from the cables.



Outboard option places loop trail outside towers



Bird's eye view of trail outside towers



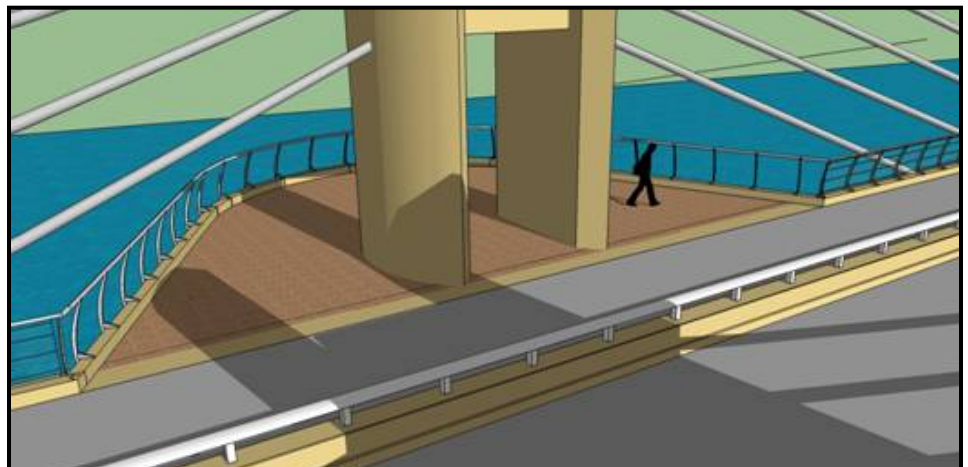
Inboard option places loop trail inside towers

2) the "Inboard" concept. This option locates the trail adjacent to the roadway inside the cable towers.

In a recent meeting of the Visual Quality Committee the following observations were made about this option.

As compared to the Outboard option the Inboard configuration:

- separates higher speed through bicycle traffic from those wishing to use the bridge as a recreation and viewing platform
- will be easier to provide for public safety and emergency response
- appears to have simpler operation and maintenance requirements
- is more easily constructed and potentially more economical and;
- eliminates conflicts between trail users and the bridge cables.



Optional observation platform separates trail use and viewing areas.

Public open houses will be held again in the fall to communicate about the progress of the project.

Additional information about the project is available from Amber Blanchard, (651) 366-4529, Todd Clarkowski, (651) 234-7714 at the Minnesota Department of Transportation and Paul Conlin, (715) 833-5364 at the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. Information regarding the St. Croix River Crossing is also available at the project website: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/>