

St. Croix River Crossing Project: Revised Construction Dates - June 2008

On June 16, 2008, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) released a new Draft Statewide Bridge Program at a joint hearing of the Minnesota State House and Senate Transportation Committee. This bridge program is a response to recently enacted transportation legislation in Minnesota, commonly referred to as HF 2800. HF 2800 requires Mn/DOT to specifically address bridges statewide that are classified by statute as Tier 1 and Tier 2 bridges by June 30th, 2018.

The Stillwater Lift Bridge, connecting Minnesota TH 36 with Wisconsin STH 64, is classified as a Tier 1 Bridge because of its existing structural condition. The Lift Bridge is also a priority because it is a fracture critical design. Construction of the long planned St. Croix River Crossing Project will enable Mn/DOT to fulfill the requirements of the HF 2800 in relation to addressing the condition of the Lift Bridge.

The Draft Statewide Bridge Program released identifies construction of the Minnesota portion of the new St. Croix River Crossing Project starting in 2013. This date is a change from Mn/DOT's previous plan that identified the new crossing being constructed on or after 2024. Construction of the new crossing is expected to take three years to complete.

This new bridge program was developed by Mn/DOT, in response to Minnesota's new transportation funding and requirements. The St. Croix River Crossing Project, along with other border bridges in the program, is obviously a shared responsibility with Wisconsin. Recognizing that Wisconsin has a role in Minnesota's ability to deliver this project, it should be noted that the new construction date is a starting point of our discussions with our Wisconsin partner. The 2013 construction start date is preliminary at this time; however it does demonstrate Mn/DOT's ability to fund Minnesota's share of the new river crossing in this time frame. The timing of the construction of the St Croix River Crossing Project may change depending on a number of factors; including the availability of funding from Wisconsin.

The Draft Statewide Bridge Program marks the beginning of Mn/DOT's outreach about the program. Additional information about the new bridge program can be found at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/financing/bridges/index.html>.