

St. Croix River Crossing Update

June 2010

This St Croix River update will be sent periodically to businesses and residents interested in the St. Croix River Crossing project. Because of the magnitude and complexity of this project being developed between Minnesota and Wisconsin there has been, and will continue to be, numerous issues associated with it. It is important to put these issues into context and understand that they are being addressed and resolved. Most importantly, they have not affected the budget or schedule of the project, which is anticipated to begin in July 2013.

The St. Croix River Crossing Project has drawn some media attention recently for a number of reasons:

1. The judge's ruling on the Sierra Club lawsuit
2. Load Testing Project in the St. Croix River
3. Relocation of the Shoddy Mill and Warehouse

A **lawsuit** resulted in Federal Court declaring that the National Park Service (NPS) did not fully explain its approval of the project after their initial opposition to it in 1996. This issue is currently being addressed by the NPS. The case has been appealed to the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis and all of the parties (Sierra Club, U.S. Dept. of Interior, U.S. Dept. of Transportation, National Parks Service, Federal Highway Administration, Minnesota Department of Transportation, and Wisconsin Department of Transportation) will be briefing the matter this summer.

~**The Load Testing Project in the St. Croix River** was scheduled for spring 2010 to document riverbed stability and provide foundation information to Mn/DOT and Wis DOT bridge designers. The permits for the project were obtained from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Wis/DNR and Mn /DNR in January 2010, and Mn/DOT had established a low-bidder on the project, a local company, Carl Bolander and Sons. However, prior to awarding the contract to start the load-testing project, the Mn/DNR permit was contested. A hearing is scheduled for later this summer. The load testing project is on hold until the permit and the federal legal issues are satisfied.

~One of the mitigation items associated with the St. Croix project includes moving the **Shoddy Mill and Warehouse** currently located adjacent to the riverbank of the St. Croix. These buildings will be moved to a site in nearby Stillwater to clear the right of way for the new St. Croix River Crossing bridge. The new site to where the buildings are being moved is known as the Stillwater Municipal Barge Facility Property and is being developed as a city park. While the relocation of buildings listed on the National Register is discouraged, the parties involved agreed that relocation is preferable to demolishing the structures. The new setting was chosen because it is similar to the old setting. The future use of the buildings has not been determined by the City of Stillwater at this point. However,

its use as a rest stop on the adjacent bike and pedestrian path is being explored. Shown below are before and after images of the Shoddy Mill Warehouse buildings.



Moritz Bergstein owned and operated a salvage business and as one of the early environmentalists he recycled waste paper, rags, scrap metal, and wood shavings. He built a machine that tore up the rags and employed several women to fabricate mattresses. Later, Moritz entered into a partnership with his brother, Ignatz, to form a mattress making firm. There were few Jewish settlers in Minnesota in its pioneer days, so the story of the Bergsteins provides insight into early Jewish life in Minnesota. The Bergsteins emigrated from Europe in 1880, during a time when many Jews were emigrating from eastern Europe, but Moritz was born in Germany and his wife Bertha was born in Bohemia. While many Jewish immigrants dealt in used goods and recycled materials, the Bergsteins were atypical because they lived in a town distant from other Jews, engaged in light manufacturing, owned property soon after they moved to Minnesota, and hired non-Jewish workers.



This is an image of how the buildings may be incorporated into the new park that is part of the trail system for the St. Croix River Crossing Project:

If you are interested in receiving the St. Croix River Crossing Updates

please send your e-mail address to: mary.mcfarland@state.mn.us

More information about the project is available at:

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