Annual Project Summary Report  
(March 1, 2010 through February 28, 2011)

This Annual Project 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 Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA) Record of Decision (ROD).

This report describes the actions taken by FHWA, Mn/DOT, WisDOT and other agencies between March 1, 2010 and February 28, 2011 to implement the St. Croix River Crossing Project and the mitigation commitments. This report has been distributed to the signatories of the MOA and MOU’s and members of the Stakeholder Group. This report is also available on the project’s Web site.

Attachments to this report include:
- The St. Croix River Crossing Project layout
- Total Project Cost Estimate, dated February 2011
- Summary of Preferred Alternative Mitigation Items—Implementation Status, dated Feb. 4, 2011
- Status of Cultural Resources Mitigation chart, dated Jan. 5, 2011
- Mn/DOT Suspension Strategies chart, dated Feb. 18, 2011

Major actions either ongoing or completed this past year include the following:

Sierra Club complaint against FHWA and NPS
- Judge Davis’s ruling on March 11, 2010, dropped five of six counts. The one remaining count is against the National Park Service (NPS) for a new evaluation of the project under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.
Sierra Club complaint—Department of Justice appealed May 10, 2010, Sierra Club appealed May 25, 2010
The Sierra Club and Department of Justice appeals of Judge Davis’s March 11, 2010 ruling were dropped on June 29, 2010.

For details on the Sierra Club’s complaint against FHWA and NPS, go to: http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/documents.html

NPS actions due to Sierra Club complaint
- FHWA requested new Section 7(a) from NPS—April 6, 2010
  - New Section 7(a) project visualizations to NPS. Renderings can be found at: http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/photorend.html
- NPS’s new Section 7(a) Determination—Oct. 15, 2010
  - Adverse and direct effect, no approval of project
  - Other federal agencies cannot approve the project
  - Congress must exempt the project from the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act for the project to proceed
  - For details on the NPS new Section 7(a) Determination, go to: http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/documents.html

Schedule
In October, suspension strategies were developed in reaction to the negative Section 7(a) Determination, which disallowed the project to proceed. The Mn/DOT Suspension Strategies identify which project activities made sense to suspend or continue until a logical end point. See attached “stcroix-suspension strategies-2-18-11” chart.

Congress must exempt the project from the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act for the project to proceed.

Mitigation Items
A) Lift Bridge Related:
  - This Endowment Account activity is one of the project’s mitigation items and is described in the Lift Bridge Management Plan at: http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/liftbridge/pdfs/Final%20Stillwater%20Lift%20Bridge%20Management%20Plan%20(March%202009).pdf
- Lift Bridge Conversion Project (planned for 2017):
  - Developed the environmental document (categorical exclusion)
  - Completed a 4(f) Temporary Occupancy letter with the city of Stillwater
  - Work suspended per Mn/DOT Suspension Strategies
- Lift Bridge Stabilization Project (planned for 2012):
  - The environmental document (categorical exclusion) is in development. For details, see: http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/liftbridge/
- The Lift Bridge mitigation item is described in the Amended Section 106 MOA at: http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/pdfs/stcroix-amended106moa5-16-06.pdf

C) Stillwater Cultural Landscape District Illustrative (SCLD) Study—In development with completion expected by summer 2011

D) Shoddy Mill and Warehouse relocation project:
   - Stakeholder coordination
   - Planset development
   - City of Stillwater—cost participation
   - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit application
   - MPCA permit application
   - Advertised Aug. 16, 2010
   - Mn/DOT letting on Sept. 2, 2010
   - Contractor bids were rejected due to lack of qualified contractors
   - Permits are currently on hold pending resolution of federal issues

For details on the Shoddy Mill and Warehouse relocation, go to:

Design Issues
A) Roadway
   Wisconsin: Design Study Report completed in March 2010
   Minnesota: Final Roadway Design related activities:
   - Subsurface Utility Investigation completed in May 2010
   - Layout updated to eliminate the railroad realignment near the Xcel King Plant. The project will not impact the existing railroad track.

B) New River Crossing Bridge
   1.) Refinement of extradosed bridge concept:
      Mn/DOT and WisDOT worked with the consultant team to develop information necessary to refine the conceptual design for the New River Crossing Bridge. As part of the project’s Continued Stakeholder Involvement, the team also worked with a Visual Quality Advisory Committee (VQAC) comprised of the cities of Oak Park Heights, Stillwater and Bayport; Town of St. Joseph, NPS, FHWA and MnSHPO.

      The refinement work included:
      1.) Bridge design criteria
      2.) Lane and bridge shoulder configurations
      3.) Trail configuration
      4.) Three vs. two pier columns
      5.) Lighting for bridge

      Photo renderings of the new river crossing bridge can be found at:
      http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/photorend.html

   2.) Preliminary Design of the New River Crossing Bridge and an update to the Visual Quality Manual began in December 2010

   3.) Load Testing Program
      A bridge foundation load testing program was developed to gather design data for the new river bridge. The program would include constructing and testing, then removing, bridge
foundation elements in the river. Foundation design data would allow for more refined foundation designs and assist contractors in preparing bids with fewer contingencies thereby reducing bridge costs.

- A Contested Case Hearing on the MnDNR permit was requested by the Oak Park Height’s mayor in February 2010, thereby suspending the MnDNR permit until completion of the hearing process for the load testing program.
- Load Testing Program—contested case mediation—April 20, 2010
- Load Testing Program—contested case discovery phase in June 2010
- A Contested Case Hearing was set for August 2010; the mayor of Oak Park Heights withdrew his permit objection on the day of the hearing which ended the case.
- MnDNR re-issued the permit in August 2010.
- A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit was requested in August 2010.
- Permits are currently on hold pending resolution of federal issues.

Details on this load testing program can be found at:  
http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/status.html

**Right of Way Issues**
- A demolition contract for three Minnesota residential properties was advertised on Aug. 27, 2010 and the properties were removed in October 2010.
- Property was acquired in Minnesota between Highway 95 and the river.
- A demolition contract for Minnesota residential property for asbestos/regulated waste abatement was issued in June 2010.

**Permitting Issues**
Water Quality Management Advisory Committee (WQMAC) meetings—for details see:  
http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/wqmac.html

The WQMAC’s purpose is to provide a coordinated process for water quality permits and considerations under the multi-jurisdictional environment of this project. The WQMAC has met several times this year, but meetings are currently suspended pending the resolution of the federal issues.

**Communications/Business Liaison Issues**
A) Business Group/Citizen Meetings
   1.) Engineering Expo in Mahtomedi
   2.) White Bear Lake Rotary Club
   3.) I-94 Gateway Corridor Commission
   4.) Business Liaison—project update distributed via E-Update found on:  
      http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/status.html

B) Highway 36 Business Group meeting held on Sept. 23, 2010—coordinated project related issues
   1.) Mn/DOT identified a Business Liaison for the project to address Minnesota Statute 160.165  
      found at https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=160.165. The purpose of the Business Liaison is to involve businesses in the project development process, keep businesses informed regarding project issues and help businesses understand a project and its potential
impacts. Beth Petrowske is the project’s Business Liaison. She can be reached at 651-234-7508.

2.) Press interviews related to the new Section 7(a) Determination and project development activities


**Other Project Issues**

A) Total Project Cost Estimate revisions—for the new river bridge and approaches. See attached Total Project Cost Estimate, dated February 2011.

B) Innovative Financing Feasibility Study—consultant study to address MN Legislation: Chapter 351–S.F. No. 2540, Sec. 71—Report on Financing of Bridge Construction—Feasibility Study of Value Capture Options/PPP/Tolling—for study details see: [http://www.dot.state.mn.us/govrel/reports.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/govrel/reports.html)

For questions about the study, contact Brad Larson at 651-366-4821

C) Animations
   Animations and scripts continue to be revised for the new river bridge, with its two pier columns, trail location and lighting. Animations can be found at: [http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/visualanim.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/visualanim.html)

D) Annual Report

E) The Coalition for St. Croix River Crossing
   - **Purpose:** The Coalition for St. Croix River Crossing was organized exclusively for charitable, scientific and education purposes:
     - To educate fellow citizens about the benefits of building the new St. Croix River Crossing
     - To organize community support for the project in both Minnesota and Wisconsin
     - To communicate support for a new St. Croix River Crossing to federal and state representatives

   - **Membership:** The Coalition for St. Croix River Crossing includes supporters from the following groups: city governments, county governments, chambers of commerce, unincorporated governments, businesses, organizations and residents.

   - **Committee Structure:**
     - Executive Committee: Co-chairs: Ken Harycki and John Soderberg
     - River Crossing Committee

For questions on The Coalition for St. Croix River Crossing, contact co-chairs Ken Harycki at 651-430-8800 or John Soderberg at 715-246-6901.
Next Steps for the Upcoming Year
Timetable for implementation will be determined by FHWA, Mn/DOT and WisDOT

1.) Mn/DOT Suspension Strategies implemented for project activities. See attached “stcroix-suspension strategies-2-18-11” chart.
   ● See attached “Status of Cultural Resources Mitigation” chart Jan. 5, 2011
2.) Communications-Related:
   a) Continue with news releases, Web site updates, formal and informal communications
   b) Business Liaison-related activities
   c) E-Updates
   d) Animation update-related activities
3.) Project Management: Manage schedules, resources, cost estimates, deliverables, reporting, etc. developed within the framework of the project’s organizational chart including regular meetings of functional groups, Project Staff Team, Oversight Committee and Executive Team.
4.) Continued Stakeholder Involvement

Project Team Contact information

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