Annual Project Summary Report  
(March 1, 2011 through February 29, 2012)

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, 2011 and February 29, 2012 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, interests and members of the Stakeholder Group. This report is also available on the project’s Web site.

Schedule
In October 2010, MnDOT and WisDOT, in reaction to the National Park Service’s negative Section 7(a) Determination, reviewed all project activities to identify which activities should be suspended and which ones to continue with until a logical end point. Since 2010, Congressional actions have occurred. If Congressional and Presidential approval of the project occurs shortly, construction is expected to begin in 2014 and take about 3-years to complete.
Major actions either ongoing or completed this past year include the following:

- **Congressional issues:**
  o MN Congresswoman Bachmann, with co-sponsors, introduced legislation H.R.850 in the House of Representatives of the 112th Congress “to facilitate a proposed project in the Lower St. Croix Wild and Scenic River”.
    - Language in HR850 is now the same as S.1134.
    - Congressional Budget Office issued a cost estimate for H.R.850 on October 18th. Cost estimate can be found at: [http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/124xx/doc12494/hr850.pdf](http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/124xx/doc12494/hr850.pdf)
    - WI Governor Walker sent a letter to Representative Boehner on 1-24-12 requesting a U.S. House of Representatives vote on H.R.850.
    - MN Governor Dayton sent a letter to Congresswoman Bachmann on 2-21-12 requesting a U.S. House vote on H.R.850 or similar by March 15, 2012.
    - A House floor vote of 339-80 passed S1134 on 3/1/12.
  o MN Senator Klobuchar, with co-sponsors, introduced legislation S.1134 in the Senate of the 112th Congress on 5/26/11 to “authorize the St. Croix River Crossing Project with appropriate mitigation measures to promote river values”.
    - S.1134 hearing before the Energy and Natural Resource’s Subcommittee on National Parks was held on July 28th. Archived hearing, with testimonies, can be viewed at: [http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearings&Hearing_ID=25225ac9-cf7a-bef3-6c59-aa036a0b8d03](http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearings&Hearing_ID=25225ac9-cf7a-bef3-6c59-aa036a0b8d03)
    - Senate passed S.1134 on a unanimous vote 100-0 on January 23, 2012.

- As of 3/1/12, a Presidential vote is pending on the bill.

**Mitigation Items**
A) Lift Bridge Related:
- Lift Bridge—Endowment Account’s Annual Report, dated December 2011 can be viewed at: [http://www.dot.state.mn.us/govrel/reports.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/govrel/reports.html)
- 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](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/liftbridge/pdfs/Final%20Stillwater%20Lift%20Bridge%20Management%20Plan%20(March%202009).pdf)
● Lift Bridge Stabilization Project (planned for fall 2012):
  - The environmental document (categorical exclusion) was completed in June 2011. Permits and issues have been coordinated/requested from agencies. An Open House was held on February 22\textsuperscript{nd} for this project, additional Open Houses are being planned for later this summer. 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

B) Stillwater Cultural Landscape District Illustrative (SCLD) Study—Completed and distributed in January 2012. The study can be viewed at http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/documents.html

C) Shoddy Mill and Warehouse relocation project:
  ● Plan set updated from 2010 attempt to relocate, plan to put relocation project out for bid again after congressional approval of the bridge.
  ● City of Stillwater—cost participation
  ● Advertisement for bids pending:
    ○ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit application
    ○ MPCA permit application

For details on the Shoddy Mill and Warehouse relocation, go to: http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/documents_mill.html

E) South Main Archeological District – Hersey Bean Stabilization Study - began developing consultant scope of services for study.

**Design Issues**

A) Roadway:
   i. Wisconsin: Acceleration lane added between relocated County Road E and the new river bridge; round-a-bouts added at interchange ramp terminals
   ii. Minnesota: Ongoing Utility Coordination with utility owners

B) New River Crossing Bridge:

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

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

a. Planset redevelopment of 2010 design work, completed in 2011
b. MnDNR and WisDNR ongoing coordination for the project.
c. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit is on hold pending Congressional/Presidential approval of the entire project.
d. Letting date is subject to Corp of Engineers permitting but desirably the load test project will occur in 2012.

**Right of Way Issues**
- Minnesota and Wisconsin property acquisition activities were put on hold after the NPS negative decision; those activities will be restarted after the federal exemption is approved.

**Communications/Business Liaison Issues**

A. Business Group/Citizen Meetings, Presentations and Tours:

i. Project tours were conducted for the following groups; Stillwater Heritage Preservation Commission, Scenic Byways Mobile Workshop, Greater Stillwater Chamber of Commerce, City Council workshops, Environmental Coordinators Workshops, All Communicators, Border Bridges, Water Resources Committee, Association of General Contractors, etc.

B. Diagonal Bridge Concept:

i. A diagonal bridge concept was proposed again by the three-architect group in 2011. The concept was first proposed and reviewed in 1999 and then again during the stakeholder process. It was rejected due to it having more environmental and historical impacts than the selected alternative.

ii. MnDOT’s review of the Diagonal Bridge Concept (August 30, 2011)
   a. [PDF (76 KB)]
   b. [Word Document]

iii. MnDOT’s review of the updated Diagonal Bridge Concept (December 5, 2011)
   a. [Word Document]
   b. [HTML Document]
   c. [2011 Protected Resources and Natural Resources] (PDF, 1.78 MB)
   d. [Important Legislation] (PDF, 555 KB)

C. A Mn/DOT Business Liaison has been assigned to this project. The purpose of the Business Liaison is to better engage businesses in the project development process and keep businesses informed regarding project issues while helping businesses understand the project and its potential impacts. Kevin Walker is the project’s Business Liaison, he can be reached at 651-234-7509 or Kevin.Walker@state.mn.us
D. Project Web sites updates:
   ii. Lift Bridge Project at http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/liftbridge/

Other Project Issues
A) The “Total Project Cost Estimate” was revised, see attached Total Project Cost Estimate, dated February 2012. The Total Project Cost Estimate (TPCE) identifies not only the construction costs for roadway and bridges, but also includes Right of Way, Mitigation, Contingency/Risk and Engineering and previously incurred expenses. Costs are inflated out to a mid-point in the project’s construction (year 2015) except for previously incurred expenses which reflect current dollars

Construction Cost Subtotal:
   TH36 – Oakgreen/Greeley Intersection $13.2M
   Minnesota Approach $61M
   River Bridge $293.2M
   Wisconsin Approach $38M

Subtotal: $405.4M

C) Animations
   Animations and scripts were revised and distributed for the new river bridge and Loop Trail. The revised animations reflect the two pier column design, revisions to the trail and lighting on the bridge. Animations can be found at:
   http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/visualanim.html

D) Annual Reporting
   Annual Project Summary Report distributed and is at:
   http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/documents.html

E) 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.

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. Load Testing Program
2. Permit Agency Coordination
3. Environmental updates
4. Right of Way acquisition
5. Project Management Plan
6. Project Financial Plan
7. Design Related:
   a. Roadways – re-initiate design plan development, continue utility coordination processes
   b. New River Bridge- finalize preliminary design, begin design plan development
8. Mitigation Related:
   -See attached “Summary of Preferred Alternative Mitigation Items—Implementation Status”, dated 2-6-12: complete implementation of “Before” construction items.
9. Communications-Related:
   a. Continue providing project information as requested and through news releases, web site updates and other formal and informal communications
   b. Business Liaison-related activities
   c. Press interviews
   d. Project presentations/tours
   e. E-Updates
10. Project Management -- Manage program 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 in accordance with the Project Management Plan.
11. Continued Stakeholder Involvement with groups such as the Water Quality Management Advisory Committee (WQMAC)
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/

Attachments to this report include:

- The St. Croix River Crossing Project layout, dated December 2011
- Total Project Cost Estimate, dated February 2012
- Summary of Preferred Alternative Mitigation Items—Implementation Status, dated February 6, 2012