



Annual Project Summary Report

(March 1, 2008 through February 28, 2009)

This 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 FHWA's Record of Decision (ROD).

This summary report describes the actions taken by FHWA, Mn/DOT, WisDOT and other agencies during the prior year to implement the project and the mitigation commitments. This report will be distributed to the signatories of the MOA & MOU's and members of the Stakeholder Group. The report will also be available on the project's website.

Implementation status of the 2006 SFEIS's mitigation package is found on the attached chart "Summary of Preferred Alternative Mitigation Items - Implementation Status"

A timetable of actions completed this past year is shown below:

March – November 2008:

Mn/DOT and WisDOT continued to work with the Stillwater Lift Bridge Advisory Committee (SLBAC) to develop the Lift Bridge Management Plan and a bridge repair plan that would convert the Lift Bridge to a bicycle/pedestrian facility. For SLBAC meeting agendas, go to <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/liftbridge/public.html>

An Open House was held for the Lift Bridge Management Plan and Repair Project in March.

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/news/08/03/05-stillwateropenhouse.html>

This activity is one of the project's mitigation items and the Lift Bridge Management Plan and Repair Project website can be found at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/liftbridge/index.html> This 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>

(Questions about this issue, contact Kristen Zschomler at 651-366-3633, Jim Lilly at 651-747-2127 or Todd Clarkowski at 651-234-7714.)

June 2008:

Based on the passage of HF2800, Chapter 152, by the Minnesota legislature, Mn/DOT announced the project's revised construction funding dates. Funding for the Minnesota portion of the project is available for construction in July of 2013. For details, go to: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/status.html> (Questions about the funding of the Minnesota portion of the project, contact Adam Josephson at 651-234-7719 or Todd Clarkowski at 651-234-7714)

March - June 2008:

Ongoing City of Oak Park Heights Complaint against State of Minnesota (Mn/DOT) regarding Municipal Consent Law:

Complaint filed by Oak Park Heights on 10/10/06, contending that the former, pre-2001, Minnesota Statute be utilized instead of the current statute as Mn/DOT used with Stillwater and Bayport. The City argued that the former statute should be followed because consent was first submitted in 1995 under the former statute. Washington County District Judge William Ekstrom issued Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order (Court file CO-06-6815, dated 10/18/07) siding with the City that the former, pre-2001 statute should be followed.

For details on the City of Oak Park Heights Complaint against the State of Minnesota (Mn/DOT) regarding Municipal Consent Law, go to <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/status.html>

This includes information concerning:

- a) Municipal Consent and Letting Status – Mn/DOT 6/30/08

(Questions about the City of Oak Park Heights Complaint, contact Adam Josephson at 651-234-7719 or Todd Clarkowski at 651-234-7714)

March – June 2008:

The Transit Feasibility Study, started in August 2006 was completed in June of 2008. This study is one of the project mitigation items described in Chapter 15 of the SFEIS at:

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

The completed study, along with background information, can be found at:
<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/documents2b.html>

(Questions about this study, contact Victoria Nill at 651-234-7658 or Jennifer Conover at 651-234-7711)

June 2008:

Request for jurisdictional determination of wetlands from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by Mn/DOT and WisDOT.

(Questions about the Corps of Engineers' permitting process, contact Katie Heinz at 651-234-7532 or Troy Stapleman at 715-836-3911.)

July 2008:

Oak Park Heights data practices request for project information was completed. (Questions about the data practices request, contact Mary McFarland at 651-234-7506)

August 2008:

The Right of Way acquisition process began in Minnesota for the 4 residential and 1 commercial "total take" parcels identified in Chapter 5 of the SFEIS at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/docs/sfeis.html> . (Questions about the right of way acquisition in Minnesota, contact Steve Channer at 651-234-7558)

August 2008:

Shoddy Mill and Warehouse relocation planning. The initiation of the right of way acquisition process lead to implementing this mitigation item. This is one of the project's mitigation items and is described in the Amended Section 106 MOA at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/pdfs/stcroix-amended106moa5-16-06.pdf>

The Shoddy Mill and Warehouse is planned to be relocated to the former Terra Terminal site. Coordination meetings with the City of Stillwater, National Park Service (NPS), Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (MnSHPO) and Mn/DOT are ongoing with a goal of relocation in the summer of 2010.

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

(Questions about the Shoddy Mill and Warehouse relocation, contact Monty Hamri at 651-234-7631 or Todd Clarkowski at 651-234-7714)

September 2008:

Millroad Inn Restaurant – building removal. The Millroad Inn property was purchased as part of the 1995 project and the restaurant then leased back to the former owner. The owner decided not to renew the lease so the building was removed. (Questions about the right of way acquisition in Minnesota, contact Steve Channer at 651-234-7558)

November 2008:

Cost Risk Assessment and Value Engineering (CRAVE) workshop sponsored by Mn/DOT. The CRAVE team of Mn/DOT, WisDOT, FHWA and a consultant team completed the primary objectives of the workshop, including:

- Identified improvement opportunities
- Identified high risk areas in delivering this project
- Quantified and developed response strategies for high risk areas that could affect schedule and/or budget.
- Conducted a thorough review and analysis of the key project issues and conceptual design using a multidisciplinary, cross-functional team.
- Applied the principles and practices of the Value Engineering job plan.

(Questions about the CRAVE workshop, contact Adam Josephson at 651-234-7719 or Todd Clarkowski at 651-234-7714)

January and February 2009:

Open Houses were held for the Stillwater Lift Bridge Management Plan and Repair Project in January and February. For more information, go to:
<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/liftbridge/public.html>

Final reports of the Lift Bridge Management Plan and Repair Project are anticipated to be completed in March of 2009.

(Questions about this issue, contact Kristen Zschomler at 651-366-3633, Jim Lilly at 651-747-2127 or Todd Clarkowski at 651-234-7714.)

March 2008 – February 2009:

Ongoing Sierra Club complaint against FHWA and NPS. The complaint is primarily challenging Section 4(f) (parks and historic properties) and Section 7(a) (Wild and Scenic River) issues.

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>

This includes information concerning the following:

- a) Memorandum of Law and Order – 5/15/08
 - b) Order allowing intervention of Mn/DOT and WisDOT – 7/8/08
 - c) Administrative Records provided to US District Court – October 2008
 - d) Motion for Summary Judgment – anticipated in March 2009
- (Questions about this Sierra Club complaint, contact Cheryl Martin at 651-291-6120)

March 2008 – February 2009:

FHWA, Mn/DOT and WisDOT continued to develop a Project Management Plan (PMP) according to:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/programadmin/mega/pmpguide.cfm> Mn/DOT and WisDOT have now signed the PMP and are awaiting signatures from the FHWA Minnesota and Wisconsin Division Offices.

(Questions on the PMP, contact Cheryl Martin at 651-291-6120)

March 2008 – February 2009:

Lift Bridge Animation and Loop Trail Animations. Based on the SFEIS, the Visual Quality Manual, and recommendations from the Visual Quality Advisory Committee (VQAC) and SLBAC; the animations were updated and CD's are anticipated to be distributed in the spring of 2009.

The Lift Bridge and Loop Trail Animations can be found at:

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

(Questions on the Loop Trail Animation, contact Marv Hondl at 651-234-7634 or Todd Clarkowski at 651- 234-7714)

March 2008 – February 2009:

New River Crossing Bridge – refinement of concept. Mn/DOT and WisDOT hired a consultant team to develop information necessary to write a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the potential procurement of Design-Build services for the New River Bridge. Details of this process can be found at: http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/doc_ad.html The consultant team will work 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 VQAC is part of the project's continued Stakeholder involvement. The refinement work is anticipated to take about a year to complete. (Questions about this issue, contact Amber Blanchard at 651-366-4529 or Bill Dreher at 608-266-8489.)

February 2009

Mitigation Item Completion. The Louis C. and Augusta Kriesel Farmstead and John Nicholas and Hermina Thelen House were listed on the National Register of Historic Places and Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places.
(Questions about this issue, contact Bob Newbery at 608-266-0369.)

Next Steps for the upcoming year: Timetable for implementation is being determined by FHWA, Mn/DOT and WisDOT

- 1) Resolve Sierra Club's legal complaint issues.
- 2) Continued Stakeholder Involvement:
<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/stakeholder.html>
 - VQAC
 - Permitting Agencies
- 3) Mitigation Package Related:
 - a) Lift Bridge Management Plan and Repair Project with the SLBAC, endowment fund
 - b) Relocation of Shoddy Mill and Warehouse
 - c) Continued planning and implementing of additional critical path type of items
 - d) Continued work on defining funding and specific timing of other mitigation items
- 4) Design Related:
 - a) New River Crossing Bridge – concept refinement
 - b) Permitting coordination with Federal, State and Local agencies
 - c) Final Roadway Design activities for the Minnesota and Wisconsin approaches
 - d) Right of Way acquisition
- 5) Communications Related:

Continue with news releases, website updates, formal and informal communications to keep interested parties informed about the project.
- 6) Funding Related:
 - a) Financial Strategies Planning (FHWA lead agency) & Annual Financial Plan Development
 - b) Project Management Plan execution and implementation
 - c) Project Cost Estimate, considering construction cost indices, risk and inflation (see attached “2013 Project Cost Estimate”).
- 7) Project Management: schedules, resources, cost estimates, deliverables, etc.

Project Team Contact info:

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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: Project Layout – Preferred Alternative - on Aerial Photo, dated 4/24/06
Summary of Preferred Alternative Mitigation Items – Implementation Status, dated 2/23/09
2013 Project Cost Estimate One-Pager, dated February 2009

Filename: P:/myfiles/stcroixrivercrossing/stcroix-annual report for march 2009.doc