

## **DRAFT PHOTO COMMENTS FROM MAY 25 DESIGN WORKSHOP**

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### **Buck Malick—St. Croix County, WI Board of Supervisors**

- Protect wide-open vistas of rural landscape.
- Used photos of Willow River State Park to show desirable river landscape character.
- Waterways should be heavily vegetated and natural.
- Wooden split rail fence along road with fields behind is nice character.
- Likes beauty of wooded areas with intimate clearings.

### **Mary McComber—City of Oak Park Heights, MN**

- Wisconsin views are great. Minnesota's side is ugly with industry.
- Appreciates the history of the Log Cabin and Overlook, and wants improvements.
- Dislikes power line corridor S. of 36, as only parking or parks can be below. Bury it?
- 36 has sea of parking, with overly large lots.
- Shoddy Mill buildings *and site* should be preserved. If moved, it loses relevance.
- Joseph's Restaurant is town icon and best pie in the area.
- Likes the historical components, but also likes the new commercial developments on 36.
- Sunnyside Marina knew of the bridge when it developed. It will look ugly from the bridge.
- Worries that vibrations of rock strata during construction will damage structures nearby.
- Preserve the Buckhorn bar sign in Wisconsin.

### **Sue Fitzgerald—City of Stillwater, MN**

- Bridge shouldn't say "stay away from Stillwater".
- Highway 35E in St. Paul should be a model for 36.
- New and old can fit together side by side.
- The old bridge can become a civic venue for art fairs, etc.
- Stillwater is a small town in a lush landscape.
- New interventions should be driven by the character of the river.
- History should be echoed, but not replicated.
- Structures come out of the land's contours.
- The bridge should provide for river contemplation, perhaps with belvederes or viewing platforms.

### **Howard LaVenture—Town of St. Joseph, WI**

- Minimize impact to the Kruesel Farm
- Keep long vistas in WI, and don't slice up the four farms.
- Protect the wooded land, especially virgin woods by Scout Camp.
- Owners of homes that are being taken cannot be compensated for their irreplaceable views.
- Will miss convenient access to Stillwater.
- Wants Kolliner Park to be accessible and restored for use.
- Use landscaping to obscure views of ugly parking lots.
- Do the least possible damage.
- Worries about economic development ruining the Wisconsin side.

### **Howard Lieberman—Stillwater Heritage Preservation Commission**

- Icons for Stillwater are the Lift Bridge, Grain Tower, and historic buildings.
- Stillwater is: picturesque, access to water, pedestrian friendly, exposed rock, building scale.
- Stone and water.
- Complexity and lots of people.

- The bridge should be accessible, friendly and interesting—like Stillwater.
- The river is an important amenity, with an active shoreline.
- Stone walls—both man-made and natural—are important for history, geology, and texture.
- Stillwater is a juxtaposition of times and styles.
- Don't destroy the rural setting, and keep the corridor green.

#### **Roger Tomten—Friends of the St. Croix**

- Narrow roads with trees near the edges *slow traffic*, and keep people safe.
- Roads should be “smaller, slower, and lower”.
- Favors taller bridge towers, if piers in water could be fewer.
- Long vistas of rural land are great.
- Dislikes cobra head lighting.
- Wants entry statements on south side of Stillwater, and on 36.
- Brick covered bridge is simply a “decorated” standard bridge, not what they want here.
- Improve pedestrian safety when crossing 36.
- Pervious paving would be great.
- Wants trees near road edges.

#### **Bill Berndt—Western Wisconsin Realtors Association**

- Appreciates grace in modern design that functions, such as boat design.
- Area has lots of recreation value and high wealth.
- Lift bridge is too industrial in quality to be beautiful.
- Likes openness of rural views.
- Appreciates river towns that have protected their charm.
- Likes the wild aesthetic of the river valley where it is undeveloped.
- Key landscape character is exposed stone with mixed deciduous and conifer trees.
- Likes the views showing big skies and long horizons.
- Appreciates opportunities for interpretation.
- Likes how the Stillwater area combines people within nature.
- Bayfield marina is attractive.
- Thinks local homeowners prefer more natural, wilder landscapes around their homes.

#### **Tom Bradley—National Park Service, St. Croix National Scenic Riverway**

- Road should not intervene with the landscape—avoid grade cuts, wide shoulders, tree-less free zone areas.
- Restore access to Kolliner Park, which is a currently a wasted, but potentially great asset.
- Protect farms and prevent housing sprawl.
- Retain the rustic signage “Wisconsin Welcomes You” on the loop trail.
- Hates the sprawl on 36.
- Character of Stillwater and St. Joseph are distinct and different. Any new intervention should celebrate and respect these differences.
- Appreciates clean water still found in natural areas nearby.
- Stillwater is a vibrant town that succeeds because it is richly contrasted with nature.

#### **Nick Schaff—WI Department of Natural Resources**

- Avoid linear commercial developments that surround I-94 bridge in Hudson.
- Avoid cluttered, over-size signs on bridge.
- Make piers parallel to the river flow to reduce their appearance and clutter.
- Piers should be small, slim, and light.
- Cobra lighting is ugly.
- Slopes at bridge approaches should have varied topography and shadows to add character.

## **DRAFT SUMMARY OF COMMENTS, PER DISTRICT AREA**

### **MN Highway 36**

- Strip development is ugly, and destroys landscape character.
- Pedestrian crossings are unsafe..
- Scale is destroyed by sea of parking.
- Lacks entry statement.
- Only Josephs Restaurant and the Log Cabin are unique.
- Model after I-35E in St. Paul.
- Do not use cobra head light fixtures.

### **Bridge Crossing**

- Should be friendly, accessible, and interesting.
- Should have slim, small, light piers.
- Forget “invisibility”—make it beautiful.
- Provide pedestrian overlooks.
- Amenities should not just be color choices, lights and decorations.
- Minimize disruption to landscape.
- Do not use cobra head light fixtures.

### **WI Highway 64**

- Long vistas of rural land are critical.
- Avoid commercialization clutter.
- Protect wooded areas and farms from sprawl.
- Keep lane widths narrow with narrow shoulders.
- Minimize grading that interrupts flow of landscape.
- Stillwater is no longer easily accessible.
- Split rail fences are appropriate character.
- Do not use cobra head light fixtures.
- Vary the slopes at overpass embankments to be less rigid.

### **Highway 95**

- Stillwater needs entry statement.
- Mitigate ugly industrial uses along 95 with lots of vegetation.
- Reflect outcroppings of stone and scenic, forested character.
- Keep lane widths narrow, with narrow shoulders, and forested edges.
- Keep road curving gently, to maximize scenic views.

### **Loop Trail**

- Kolliner Park should be accessible and restored.
- Maintain rustic signage “Wisconsin Welcomes You”.
- Maximize long views of rural land and river vistas.
- Bike trail should have followed 35, not 64.
- The old bridge has great potential for civic events, interpretation, and alternative trails.
- Relate to mix of old and new in Stillwater, and make trail pedestrian friendly.
- Relate to outcroppings of stone and built stone walls, and brick.
- Keep it green and natural.
- Look for interpretation opportunities.
- Do not use cobra head light fixtures.

### **Mitigations**

- If Shoddy Mill is moved, it will no longer be historic.

## **DRAFT KEY WORD SUMMARIES, PER DISTRICT AREA**

### **MN highway 36**

- Characterless
- Unsafe for pedestrians
- No entrance statement

### **WI Highway 64**

- Pastoral
- Rural
- Natural

### **Bridge Crossing**

- Graceful
- Interesting
- Friendly
- Amenity

### **Highway 95**

- Scenic
- Natural
- Stone outcroppings
- Entrance to Stillwater

### **Loop Trail**

- Scenic
- Historic
- Interpretive
- Friendly

### **Mitigations**

- Save in place