



Minnesota Department of Transportation

Metro District - 1500 W. County Road B-2
Roseville, MN 55113-3174

March 24, 2016

EQB Monitor Distribution List and Interested Parties

RE: Environmental Assessment for Proposed Improvement Project on Interstate 35W from 42nd Street to Downtown Minneapolis, in Hennepin County, in the City of Minneapolis, Minnesota (SP 2782-327)

To Whom It May Concern:

Hennepin County and the Minnesota Department of Transportation are proposing a project in the City of Minneapolis to reconstruct I-35W from 42nd Street into downtown Minneapolis. The scope includes: construction of a Lake Street multimodal transit station; a pedestrian/bicycle connection between the Midtown Greenway and the transit station; replacement of existing roadway pavement and numerous bridges; completion of MnPASS lanes; a new southbound exit to Lake Street, a new northbound exit to 28th Street; stormwater treatment areas; and construction/replacement of noise walls.

This project includes minor acquisition/use of land from Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park. The park is located on Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board right-of-way. This use is subject to the U. S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (49 U.S.C. 303) and 23 U.S.C. 138. Section 4(f) of the Act defines procedures required for addressing impacts to recreational and other public lands that would result from federally-funded transportation projects. In addition, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) Act of 2005, Section 6009, allows for determinations that certain uses of Section 4(f) land will have no adverse effect (de minimis) on the protected resource. Section 6009(a) requires that a public notice and opportunity for review and comment be provided for projects that are determined to have de minimis impact. In consultation with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, the Minnesota Department of Transportation proposes a finding of de minimis impact to this park. After an evaluation of the impacts of an action upon Section 4(f) resources, a finding can be made.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) describes the proposed project, impacts, and mitigation. The EA includes documentation on the Section 106 findings regarding historic properties, as well as a Draft Programmatic Agreement which outlines the future design review process. The EA document also includes information on the Section 4(f) impacts and the preliminary de minimis finding, i.e., that adverse impacts to the park would not result from the proposed project. Any comments received regarding this issue during the public comment period will be taken by the Federal Highway Administration in making its final de minimis determination.

The EA is available for public review during the public comment period, March 28, 2016, through April 27, 2016. The EA can be viewed on the MnDOT project website

(www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i35wminneapolis/) or the County project website

(www.35lake.com/ea). Paper copies of the EA are available at the following locations during regular business hours:

- Franklin Library, 1314 E. Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55404;
- Walker Library, 2880 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55408;
- Hosmer Library, 347 E. 36th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55408;
- Minneapolis Central Library, Technical & Science Division, Government Docs., 2nd Floor, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401-1992;
- Hennepin County Law Library, 300 South 6th Street (C-tower), Minneapolis, MN 55487;
- MnDOT Library, 395 John Ireland Boulevard, St. Paul, MN 55155;

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- MnDOT Metro District Water's Edge Building Lobby, 1500 W. County Rd B2, Roseville, MN 55113; and
- Minneapolis Public Works, 350 South 5th Street, RM 203 City Hall, Minneapolis, MN 55415.

To request this document in an alternative format, please contact Ken Rodgers in the Affirmative Action Office at 651-366-4718 or call 1-800-657-3774 (Greater Minnesota). For Minnesota Relay, call 711 or 1-800-627-3529. You may also send an e-mail to ken.rodgers@state.mn.us or to ADArequest.dot@state.mn.us (Please make your request at least one week in advance).

Copies of the EA are being distributed to agencies on the current Minnesota EQB list and to other interested parties. The comment period will begin on March 28, 2016. Written comments will be accepted through April 27, 2016, and can be submitted to the contact person listed below.

Project Proposers: Hennepin County and Minnesota Department of Transportation – Metro District

RGU: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Contact Person for Comments on EA:

Rick Dalton, Environmental Coordinator
 Minnesota Department of Transportation, Metro District
 1500 W. County Road B2, Roseville, MN 55113
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Contact Persons for Questions about Proposed Project:

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Two identical public hearing/open house meetings to review and comment on the EA have been scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, 2016 and Tuesday, April 19, 2016 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Colin Powell Center, 2924 4th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55408. Written and oral comments will be accepted during the hearing as part of the public record. To request an ASL or foreign language interpreter for the public hearing, or other reasonable accommodation, call Janet Miller at 651-366-4720 or 1-800-657-3774 (Greater Minnesota); 711 or 1-800-627-3529 (Minnesota Relay). You may also send an e-mail to: janet.rae.miller@state.mn.us (Please make requests at least one week in advance).

Sincerely,

Scott Pedersen
 MnDOT Project Manager

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment