

## PUBLIC NOTICE and OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) proposes to replace both Bridge #9008 (over Mill Creek) and Bridge #9009 (over North Branch of the Root River) which are approaching the end of their useful service life, MnDOT is currently in the design phase of the bridge replacements in Chatfield, MN. Bridge #9008 will be replaced with Bridge #55082, a wider bridge with extended shoulders and sidewalks on both sides to accommodate bikes and pedestrians. MnDOT has also designed an adequate bench to accommodate a future potential trail under the bridge.

Along with the replacement of Bridge #9008, the proposed work involves modifying the stream alignment on essentially the same alignment for a short segment of Mill Creek (identified as a Trout Stream) to avoid further bank erosion and minimize the potential scouring of the new bridge piers and abutment foundations. This proposed work would be located within the Mill Creek Aquatic Management Area (AMA). The Mill Creek AMA extends throughout the channel re-alignment construction limits of this project. Mill Creek in this area is designated as an AMA for the purpose of angling access and is managed by DNR Fisheries.

In accordance with 23 CFR 774.5, MnDOT is soliciting comments on the effects this project would have on the AMA at Mill Creek. The total size of AMA subunits affected is 13.47 acres, of which approximately 1.27 acres of the AMA are within MnDOT construction limits. The project involves approximately 0.27 acre of permanent acquisition. This is in the form of fee acquisition for an existing TH 30 right of way easement located on Mill Creek just beneath existing Bridge #9008. The current use of the area will not change with the permanent acquisition. Approximately 0.38 acre of temporary easement will also be needed, this is an area that is only affected during construction and for a brief period thereafter.

The channel realignment will not affect the Mill Creek AMA's functions and activities. Once project construction has finished, access to the AMA will return to previous existing conditions.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has made a preliminary determination that the proposed action at Mill Creek is a Section 4(f) *de minimis* action in accordance with 23 CFR 774.5, conditioned on public review and comment. A *de minimis* finding may be made when uses of Section 4(f) land will have no adverse effect on the protected resources.

Information on this impact and avoidance, minimization, mitigation or enhancement measures is available at the following website <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d6/projects/hwy30-chatfield/index.html> or at the following locations:

Chatfield City Hall  
21 SE Second Street  
**Chatfield, MN**

Comments must be submitted on or before **April 5, 2022** to Jacob Gasper, MnDOT Project Manager, 2900 48th Street NW Rochester, MN 55901-5848; 507-286-7693; [Jacob.gasper@state.mn.us](mailto:Jacob.gasper@state.mn.us).

Comments will become part of the official record and will be considered when making future project related decisions.