



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Minnesota Division

April 21, 2016

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Charles A. Zelle
Commissioner of Transportation
Department of Transportation
MS 120, Transportation Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Re: Finding of No Significant Impact
Minnesota State Project Number 2515-21
US 63 River Bridge and Approach Roadways Project
In the City of Red Wing, MN (Goodhue County)
And Hager City, WI (Pierce County)

Dear Mr. Zelle:

Enclosed is a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) as requested by Lynn Clarkowski and Mohamad Hayek's letter of April 7, 2016. The proposed project consists primary of replace the existing river bridge, existing bridge approaches, approach roadways, lighting, and signalization. The project area extends from approximately 0.2 miles north of the existing river bridge approach and 825th Street intersection in the Town of Trenton, WI, to approximately 0.25 miles east of the existing US 61 overpass in the City of Red Wing, MN. This Finding concludes that the project will not significantly impact the human environment.

A Notice of Availability of the FONSI must be sent to Federal, State, and local government agencies that are likely to have an interest in the undertaking and to the State intergovernmental review contacts. It is encouraged that agencies, which commented on the Environmental Assessment (or requested to be informed) are advised on the project decision, the disposition of their comments and provided a copy of the FONSI.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (651) 291-6110 or phil.forst@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

Philip Forst
Environmental Specialist

Enclosure

PJF

cc: 1 MnDOT - Gage, e-copy w/enclosure, Brian.Gage@state.mn.us
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

MINNESOTA DIVISION

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT & SECTION 4(f) DETERMINATION

Minnesota State Project Number 2515-21

US 63 River Bridge and Approach Roadways Project

In the City of Red Wing, MN, and Hager City, WI

Goodhue County, MN and Pierce County, WI

The proposed project will address the existing Mississippi River Bridge and the accompanying bridge approaches in Red Wing, Minnesota and Hager City, Wisconsin. This project area extends from approximately 0.2 miles to the north of the existing river bridge approach and 825th Street intersection in the Town of Trenton, Wisconsin to approximately 0.25 mile east of the existing US 61 overpass in the City of Red Wing, Minnesota.

The project encompasses three components: the river bridge, the Wisconsin approach to the river bridge, and the Minnesota approach to the river bridge. The existing Bridge 9040 or Eisenhower Bridge (hereafter called "the river bridge") will be replaced by a new steel box girder structure located immediately upstream of the existing river crossing. The Minnesota approach to the river bridge will be constructed as a buttonhook intersection with a slip ramp, requiring the replacement of the existing Bridge 9103 (hereafter called "the US 61 overpass"). The Wisconsin approach to the river bridge will be constructed as a jughandle intersection at 825th Street, providing a four-legged intersection with a median on US 63.

The Federal Highway Administration has determined that the proposed improvements, as described in the Environmental Assessment (EA) will have no significant impacts on the human or natural environment. This FONSI is based on the EA which has been independently evaluated by the FHWA and determined to adequately and accurately discuss the need, environmental issues, and impact of the proposed project and appropriate mitigation measures.

The issuance of this FONSI also constitutes FHWA determination that there is not a feasible and prudent alternative to the use of Bridge 9103. This determination is based on the content of the EA and process using the *Programmatic Section 4(f) Evaluation for FHWA Projects that Necessitate the Use of Historic Bridges*. The NEPA process has incorporated all possible planning to minimize harm resulting from the use of Bridge 9103.

The EA provides sufficient evidence and analysis that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required. The FHWA takes full responsibility for the accuracy, scope and content of the EA for the subject project.


FHWA

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William Lohr, P.E.

Field Operations Team Leader

Federal Highway Administration – Minnesota Division