

5.0 APPENDIX A: AGENCY AND PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- Comments from the Metropolitan Council, dated May 30, 2018
- Comments from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, dated May 30, 2018
- Comments from the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District, dated May 24, 2018
- Public Comments from the May 24, 2018 Open House
- Summary of Public Involvement

May 30, 2018

Mr. Rick Dalton
Environmental Coordinator
MnDOT - Metro District
1600 W. County Road B2
Roseville, MN 55113

RE: **I-694/I-494/I-94 Improvements Project
Environmental Assessment Worksheet**
Cities of Oakdale and Woodbury, Washington County
Metropolitan Council Review File No. 21939-1
Metropolitan Council Districts 11 & 12

Dear Mr. Dalton:

The Metropolitan Council received the environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) for the Interstate 94 pavement improvements, bridge replacement, auxiliary lane addition and interchange ramp improvements on April 30, 2018. Council staff has conducted a review of this EAW to determine its adequacy and accuracy in addressing regional concerns and the potential for significant environmental impact. Staff have concluded that the EAW is complete and accurate and EIS is not necessary.

Council staff offer the following comments for your consideration and inclusion in the final Response to Comments document.

Wastewater (Roger Janzig, 651-602-1119)

A The project may have an impact on multiple Metropolitan Council Interceptors in multiple locations. To assess the potential impacts to our interceptor system, prior to initiating any proposed project, preliminary plans should be sent to Scott Dentz, Interceptor Engineering Manager (651-602-4503) at the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services for review and comment.

Project Comments (Russ Owen, 651-602-1724)

B The cover letter includes "and reconfiguration of ramps to eastbound I-94." It was our understanding that this work was removed from the project.

C The image with item 5 does not appear to match the project, page 6 of the pdf, labeled page 2. The image specifically shows eastbound split, which was also thought to have been removed from project. The image also does not show an added auxiliary lane southbound I-494 from I-94 to Tamarack.

D For clarification, Council staff also recommend that at least one of the 12 construction plan maps (Appendix A Figures 6-1 through 6-12) include a legend to indicate what the color coding indicates. The blue cross-hatched areas on Figures A-6-5, -6 and -8 should also be explained or included in a legend for clarity.

A. Design Staff will coordinate with the Met Council Interceptor Engineering Manager as design progresses to assess potential impacts to the interceptor system.

B. That is correct. The previously proposed Collector-Distributor to eastbound I-94 was removed from the project.

C. The conceptual stick figure depicting the extent of the project area has been updated. See Appendix B.

D. The mapbook of construction plan maps with a legend that clearly shows color coding as it relates to proposed road improvements has been updated. See Appendix B.

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This concludes the Council's review of the EAW. The Council will not take formal action on the EAW at this time. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Russ Owen, Principal Reviewer, at 651-602-1724.

Sincerely,

LisaBeth Barajas, Manager
Local Planning Assistance

CC: Tod Sherman, Development Reviews Coordinator, MnDOT - Metro Division
Sandy Rummel, Metropolitan Council Member, District 11
Harry Melander, Metropolitan Council Member, District 12
Russ Owen, Principal Reviewer
Corrin Wendell, Sector Representative
Raya Esmaeili, Reviews Coordinator



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May 30, 2018

Rick Dalton
Environmental Coordinator
Minnesota Department of Transportation, Metro District
1500 West County Road B2
Roseville, MN 55113

Re: I-694/494/94 Interchange Improvements Environmental Assessment Worksheet

Dear Rick Dalton:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the I-694/494/94 Interchange Improvements project (Project) located in Oakdale and Woodbury, Washington County, Minnesota. The Project consists of improvements to three interchanges, including bridge and loop replacements. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) staff has reviewed the EAW and have no comments at this time.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this Project. Please provide the notice of decision on the need for an Environmental Impact Statement. Please be aware that this letter does not constitute approval by the MPCA of any or all elements of the Project for the purpose of pending or future permit action(s) by the MPCA. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the Project proposer to secure any required permits and to comply with any requisite permit conditions. If you have any questions concerning our review of this EAW, please contact me by email at Karen.kromar@state.mn.us or by telephone at 651-757-2508.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Karen Kromar'.

Karen Kromar
Project Manager
Environmental Review Unit
Resource Management and Assistance Division

KK:bt

cc: Dan Card, MPCA, St. Paul
Teresa McDill, MPCA, St. Paul

From: [Nicole Soderholm](#)
To: [Dalton, Richard \(DOT\)](#)
Subject: SP-8286-81 EAW comments
Date: Thursday, May 24, 2018 1:26:17 PM

Hi Rick,

Some general comments on watershed rules as they may apply to this project. I don't have any comments on the EAW itself.

Erosion Control

- A**
- Biodegradable netting is preferred for erosion blanket
 - Redundant perimeter control if within 50' of water resources per NPDES requirements

Flood Control

- B**
- Proposed peak discharge rates must not exceed existing
 - Use Atlas 14 rainfall depths
 - NRCS MSE3 rainfall distributions
 - No net fill below the District's modeled floodplain elevations (info has been provided to Mark Bushinski of MnDOT Water Resources)

Water Quality

- C**
- Volume reduction: 1.1" off new and reconstructed impervious

Wetlands

- D**
- MnDOT is most likely the WCA LGU
 - Wetlands: RWMWD Board of Mangers have a 'no net loss' of wetlands policy
 - The District does not regulate all freeway ditches: refer to NWI and District's wetland map (available on website)

Administrative

- E**
- RWMWD grading permit application deadlines with associated board meeting dates available on website

Hope this helps.

Thanks,

Nicole Soderholm
Permit Coordinator | Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
2665 Noel Dr | Little Canada, MN 55117 | Direct: 651-792-7976
www.rwmwd.org

A. Erosion control per Watershed District comments will be specified on plan sheets and monitored for compliance during construction.

B. Flood Control per Watershed District comment is incorporated into design and will be monitored for compliance during construction.

C. Water quality and volume reduction per Watershed District comments are incorporated into design and will be monitored for compliance during construction.

D. Wetlands within the project area have been delineated with Level 1 methods sufficient for the pre-permitting phase of the project. They will be delineated with Level 2 methods during the permitting phase. The proposed design has incorporated sequencing, i.e. impact avoidance, impact minimization, and impact mitigation. Proposed wetland impacts are relatively small and will be mitigated at an appropriate mitigation ratio according to relevant issued permits prior to the start of construction.

E. MnDOT staff will keep apprised of relevant Watershed District permit application deadlines and board meeting dates.

COMMENT CARD

DATE: 5/24/18

NAME: Nancy Volkman

ADDRESS: 522 Holley Lane N
Oakdale

PHONE 651-260-8680

E-MAIL NKVolkman1@gmail.com

Comments:

Sounds like a very good start. Thank you for addressing this issue!

COMMENT CARD

DATE: 5/24/18

NAME: B Glosne

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Comments:

Very friendly and knowledgeable people - full explanations with take away paper info —

Summary of Public Involvement

The electronic EAW for this project was sent to the EQB on April 23, 2018 for publication on April 30, 2018. The public comments period began April 30, 2018 and ended on May 30, 2018. The public open house was held on Thursday, May 24, 2018 from 4:00 – 6:00PM at the Woodbury City Hall. Public comments were solicited with comment cards at the open house. The News Release for this project was sent out to local media outlets on May 3, 2018.

Copies of the Environmental Assessment have been available for public viewing on the project website since publication in the EQB on April 30, 2018. The project web-site is found at the following link: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i94-494-694/documents.html>

Copies of the EAW have been made available at the following public locations:

- R.H. Stafford Public Library, 8595 Central Park Place, Woodbury, MN 55125
- Oakdale Public Library, 1010 Heron Avenue North, Oakdale, MN 55128
- Sun Ray Public Library (Saint Paul Public Library), 2105 Wilson Avenue, St Paul, MN 55119
- Minneapolis Central Library, Technical & Science Division, Government Documents, 2nd Floor, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis
- MnDOT Library, 395 John Ireland Boulevard, St. Paul
- MnDOT Metro District Water's Edge Building Lobby, 1500 W. County Road B2, Roseville

The proposed project was discussed with staff from the City of Woodbury, City of Oakdale, City of Maplewood and Washington County throughout the planning process, summarized as follows:

- **City of Woodbury;** January 24, 2018; Council Letter No. 18-27, offering support for the I-94. I-494, I-694 interchange improvements
- **Washington County, City of Woodbury and City of Oakdale staff;** February 1, 2018; Woodbury City Hall; MnDOT staff provided updates on proposed I-694/ I-494/ I-94 roadway improvement
- **City of Oakdale;** February 27, 2018; Regular Meeting No. 2018 – 04; Motion made to approve the following consensus motions – “Waive reading and adopt Resolution No. 2018-18, Supporting Washington County in submitting an application for funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation through the 2018 Corridors of Commerce Solicitation for the Improvements to the I-94, I-494 and I-694 interchange.”
- **Washington County;** March 20, 2018; Official Proceedings of the County Board, Washington County, Minnesota; Resolution of Support for Project Recommendations to the Minnesota Department of Transportation for the 2018 Corridors of Commerce Program - specifically referring to the I-694/ I-494/ I-94 proposed improvements.
- **Elected City, County, & State Officials;** March 26, 2018;—project overview, Senator Wiger
- **Washington County, City of Woodbury and City of Oakdale staff meeting;** May 7, 2018 – Woodbury City Hall; discussed updates to the proposed roadway improvement
- **Maplewood City Council Work Session;** June 11, 2018; MnDOT staff provided updates on the proposed roadway improvement