



January 27, 2014

Mr. Derrell Turner  
Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
380 Jackson Street, Suite 500  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

In reply refer to: **FONSI Recommendation and request for final Section 4(f) *de minimis* finding for Minnesota State Project: S.P. 8503-46 Winona Bridge Project, Trunk Highway 43, from 4<sup>th</sup> Street to the north end of Latch Island, City of Winona, Winona County, Minnesota**

Dear Mr. Turner:

Enclosed are the required supporting documents for the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to recommend a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the above-referenced project. The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project was prepared and circulated for public comment on September 30, 2013. An open house public hearing was held on October 17, 2013 at the Winona Armory. A court reporter was present at the public meeting, but no one in attendance utilized the reporter to make oral statements. The comment period remained open through October 30, 2013. Federal Agency comments were accepted through November 15, 2013 due to a federal government shutdown that lasted from October 1 through October 16, 2013. The proposed project is described in detail in the EA and summarized in the attached Findings of Fact and Conclusions document.

Documents submitted in support of the FONSI are included in the attached Findings prepared as part of the Minnesota state environmental review process. The Findings includes documentation of the following:

- A copy of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions, and Order (Findings) prepared as part of the Minnesota state environmental review process;
- Comments received on the Project and the EA, and MnDOT responses to timely and substantive comments;
- The signed Programmatic Agreement between FHWA, SHPO and MnDOT regarding the Winona Bridge;
- A Certificate of Compliance with Title 23, Section 128, of U.S. Code;
- A photocopy of an Affidavit of Publication from newspapers of general circulation in the project area;

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Having completed the Environmental Assessment and the public involvement and review processes as described above, MnDOT has determined that the proposed action does not have the potential to cause significant environmental impacts. In accordance with 23 CFR 771.119 (g), a FONSI is hereby recommended for the proposed action.

In addition, since no public or agency comments were received regarding the FHWA's preliminary Section 4(f) *de minimis* finding during the EA comment period, MnDOT also requests that FHWA issue a final *de minimis* finding regarding impacts to the Waterfront Trail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn P. Clarkowski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "C".

Lynn P. Clarkowski, P.E.  
Chief Environmental Officer  
Director, Office of Environmental Stewardship

Enclosures: Hard copy Findings of Fact and Conclusions Document

cc: Phil Forst, FHWA  
Abigail Ginsberg, FHWA  
Terry Ward, MnDOT District 6  
Debra Moynihan, MnDOT OES