Annual Project Summary Report

(March 1, 2009 through February 28, 2010)

This summary report for the St. Croix River Crossing Project is developed in accordance with the Amended Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), the Riverway Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the 2006 Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement (SFEIS) and the FHWA's Record of Decision (ROD).

This summary report describes the actions taken by FHWA, Mn/DOT, WisDOT and other agencies during the prior year to implement the project and the mitigation commitments. This report has been distributed to the signatories of the MOA & MOU's and members of the Stakeholder Group. The report will also be available on the project's website.

Implementation status of the 2006 SFEIS's mitigation package is found on the attached chart "Summary of Preferred Alternative Mitigation Items - Implementation Status"

A timetable of actions completed this past year include the following:

March 2009 – May 2009 Lift Bridge Endowment Account:

Mn/DOT worked with the Minnesota legislature thru multiple house and senate committee hearings to establish the new Lift Bridge Endowment Account as defined by Minnesota Statute 165.15. Details of the Statute can be found at http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/liftbridge/index.html

This Endowment Account activity is one of the project's mitigation items and is described in the Lift Bridge Management Plan at

http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/liftbridge/pdfs/Final%20Stillwater%20Lift%20Bridge%20Management%20Plan%20(March%202009).pdf The Lift Bridge Management Plan was completed in March 2009.

The entire Lift Bridge mitigation item is described in the Amended Section 106 MOA at http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/pdfs/stcroix-amended106moa5-16-06.pdf

(Questions about this issue, contact Kristen Zschomler at 651-366-3633, Jim Lilly at 651-747-2127 or Todd Clarkowski at 651-234-7714.)

March 2009 – February 2010 Refinement of Extradosed Bridge Concept (ongoing):

New River Crossing Bridge – refinement of extradosed bridge concept. Mn/DOT and WisDOT continued to work with the consultant team to develop information necessary to write a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the potential procurement of Design-Build services for the New River Bridge. As part of the project's Continued Stakeholder Involvement, the team also worked with a Visual Quality Advisory Committee (VQAC) comprised of the Cities of Oak Park Heights, Stillwater, and Bayport; Town of St. Joseph, NPS, FHWA and MnSHPO.

The refinement work included:

1) Bridge design criteria
2) Lane and bridge shoulder configurations
3) Trail configuration
4) 3 vs. 2 pier columns
5) Lighting for bridge

Public informational meetings were held on July 15th and 16th and again on November 4th and 5th to gather additional public input. Handouts and display information can be found at: http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/public.html

A Design/Construction Contractor's Industry Forum was held on October 25th to provide project information and gather additional input. Forum video and presentations are available at: http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/public.html

A bridge foundation load testing program is being implemented to gather design data for the new river bridge. Details on this load testing program can be found at http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/status.html This program would include constructing, and then removing, bridge foundation elements in the river. Foundation design data would then be gathered which would allow for more refined future foundation designs. This bridge foundation load testing program results will also assist contractors in preparing bids with fewer contingencies by reducing cost risk thus reducing project costs and will help to prove the proposed foundations can be efficiently constructed in river.

- Load Testing Program for the bridge foundations was advertised by MnDOT in December. Work was planned for March – June 2010.

- Agency Permits/Approvals from MnDNR, WisDNR and Corp of Engineers for the load testing program were issued on or before January 22.
- Contested Case Hearing on MnDNR permit was requested by Oak Park Height's Mayor in February, thereby suspending the MnDNR permit until completion of hearing process for the load testing program.
- Current status of this load testing program can be found at http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/status.html

(Questions about this issue, contact Joe Campbell at 651-366-4489 or Bill Dreher at 608-266-8489 or Todd Clarkowski at 651-234-7714.)

March 2009 - February 2010 Right of Way (ongoing):

In Minnesota:

The Right of Way acquisition process continued in Minnesota for the 4 residential and 1 commercial "total take" parcels identified in Chapter 5 of the SFEIS at http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/docs/sfeis.html .

Appraisals occurred in March, with 1 commercial and 3 residential properties acquired as of November. Negotiations continue with the one remaining "total take" vacant lot parcel owner.

Initial title searches and mapping have begun for the partial acquisitions.

(Questions about the right of way acquisition in Minnesota, contact Steve Channer at 651-234-7558)

In Wisconsin:

The Right of Way acquisition process began in Wisconsin for the 2 residential and 1 vacant "total take" parcels identified in Chapter 5 of the SFEIS at http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/docs/sfeis.html .

Appraisals occurred in December 2009 with offers being made in January 2010 and acquisition scheduled to be completed by November 2010 on the residential parcels. The offer for the vacant "total take" was withdrawn in February 2010 but the acquisition process will be re-initiated when funding allows.

(Questions about the right of way acquisition in Minnesota, contact Paul Conlin at 715-833-5364)

March 2009 – February 2010 Shoddy Mill and Warehouse relocation project planning (ongoing):

Shoddy Mill and Warehouse relocation project is one of the project's mitigation items and is described in the Amended Section 106 MOA at http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/pdfs/stcroix-amended106moa5-16-06.pdf

The Shoddy Mill and Warehouse is planned to be relocated to the former Terra Terminal site in Stillwater. Coordination meetings with the City of Stillwater, National Park Service (NPS), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (Mn/DNR), Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (MnSHPO) and Mn/DOT are ongoing with a goal of relocation in the fall of 2010. MnDOT is planning a letting date in July 2010 for this relocation project.

For details on the Shoddy Mill and Warehouse relocation, go to: http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/documents_mill.html

(Questions about the Shoddy Mill and Warehouse relocation, contact Monty Hamri at 651-234-7631, Todd Clarkowski at 651-234-7714 or Jackie Sluss at 651-366-3624)

March 2009 – February 2010 Final Roadway Design (ongoing):

Final Roadway Design related activities continued:

-Geometrics, Design Memorandum/Study Reports in April
-Cost Estimate updates
-Utility Coordination – Subsurface Utility Engineering began in July
-Project Management Plan (PMP) updates
-Cost Risk Assessment and Value Engineering (CRAVE) workshop recommendations begin to be implemented.

March 2009 – February 2010 Sierra Club complaint (ongoing):

Ongoing Sierra Club complaint against FHWA and NPS. The complaint is primarily challenging Section 4(f) (parks and historic properties) and Section 7(a) (Wild and Scenic River) issues.

For details on the Sierra Club's Complaint against FHWA and NPS, go to http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/documents.html

This includes information concerning the following:

a) Memorandum of Law and Order – 5/15/08
b) Order allowing intervention of Mn/DOT and WisDOT – 7/8/08
c) Administrative Records provided to US District Court – October 2008
d) Motion for Summary Judgment Hearing – 9/14/09
    - Awaiting judge's ruling
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(Questions about this Sierra Club complaint, contact Romeo Garcia 651-291-6125)

March 2009 – January 2010 Wetland coordination (ongoing):

Wetland coordination with Corp of Engineers continued:

-Wetland delineations/TEP

-Determination of isolated basins

(Questions about the wetland issues/coordination, contact Beth Neuendorf at 651-234-7520, Katie Heinz 651-234-7532 or Troy Stapelmann at 715-836-3911)

May 2009 – February 2010 TIGER Grant Program :

The American Recovery and Investment Act of 2009 was passed by the U.S. Congress in February 2009. The Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant Program was part of that Act. http://www.dot.gov/recovery/ost/faqs.htm

Mn/DOT and WisDOT began drafting the TIGER application for the St.Croix River Crossing Project in May.

Mn/DOT submitted the project's application on Sept. 15. http://www.dot.state.mn.us/federalrecovery/index.html Project schedule was then accelerated due to possible TIGER Grant funding. Mitigation item implementation, right of way acquisition and design activities were accelerated in both states to meet the potential TIGER funding schedule.

TIGER Grant – selection of successful candidates were announced on February 17. http://www.dot.gov/recovery/ost/ The St. Croix River Crossing Project was not one of the selected projects for TIGER Grant funding. The project schedule is now back to the original schedule for a letting of July 2013.

(Questions about this TIGER Grant issue, contact Jon Chiglo at 651-366-4826.)

July 2009 – February 2010 Design-Build process of the new river bridge (ongoing):

"Design-Build" and "Design-Bid-Build" construction options are both still being considered for the river bridge portion of the project.

Work began with Mn/DOT and WisDOT preparing the new river crossing bridge's Design-Build: Request of Qualifications and the Request for Proposals.

(Questions about this D-B:RFQ&RFP issue, contact Amber Blanchard at 651-366-4529 or Bill Dreher at 608-266-8489.)

August 2009 – February 2010 R/R and Xcel's King Plant (ongoing):

Mn/DOT coordinated project related issues with the Union Pacific Railroad for a railroad agreement and Xcel's King Plant's existing MOU found at http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/pdfs/sfeis2006/Full%20Chapters/Appendices/StCroixSFEIS_AppendixK.pdf

(Questions about the R/R or Xcel's King Plant, contact Monty Hamri at 651-234-7631, or Todd Clarkowski at 651-234-7714)

September 2009 – February 2010 Mitigation Items (ongoing):

Due to the TIGER accelerated schedule, additional critical path mitigation items were implemented.

- 1) Stillwater Cultural Landscape District (SCLD) Illustrative Study – consultant hiring process, agreement execution and consultant start up.
- 2) Scenic Overlook Management Plan – consultant hiring process, agreement execution and consultant start up.
  These mitigation items are described in the Amended Section 106 MOA at http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/pdfs/stcroix-amended106moa5-16-06.pdf

(Questions about the SCLD Study or Scenic Overlook Mgt Plan, contact Jackie Sluss at 651-366-3624, or Todd Clarkowski at 651-234-7714)

- 3) Growth Management Fund – initiated agency coordination meetings to develop the appropriate agreements.
  This mitigation item is described in the Growth Management MOU at: http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/pdfs/sfeis2006/Full%20Chapters/Appendices/StCroixSFEIS_AppendixI.pdf

- 4) Bluffland Protection – initiated agency coordination meetings to develop the appropriate agreements.
  This mitigation item is described in the Riverway MOU found at http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/pdfs/sfeis2006/Full%20Chapters/Appendices/StCroixSFEIS_AppendixH.pdf

(Questions about the Growth Mgt fund or Bluffland Protection agreements, contact Jon Solberg at 651-234-7729, or Todd Clarkowski at 651-234-7714)

September 2009 – February 2010 Financial Plan (ongoing):

FHWA, Mn/DOT and WisDOT began to develop the project's initial Financial Plan (FP) according to:
http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/programadmin/mega/pmpguide.cfm

(Questions on the FP, contact April Crocket at 651-366-3735 or Romeo Garcia at 651-291-6125)

October 2009 – February 2010 Permitting (ongoing):

Mn/DOT and WisDOT began gathering data and coordinating information necessary for the permitting of the construction of the project by the federal, state and local agencies.

(Questions about the permitting of the project, contact Wesley Saunders-Pearce at 651-336-3638, Paul Conlin at 715-833-5364 or Todd Clarkowski at 651-234-7714)

November 2009 – February 2010 Continued Stakeholder/Public Involvement (ongoing):

Mn/DOT coordinated project related issues with the Sunnyside Marina and Condominium Complex residents.

(Questions about the resident mtg, contact Mary McFarland-Brooks at 651-234-7506, or Todd Clarkowski at 651-234-7714)

MnDOT initiated the Water Quality Management Advisory Committee (WQMAC) as defined in the Water Quality Management MOU at http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/pdfs/sfeis2006/Full%20Chapters/Appendices/StCroixSFEIS_AppendixJ.pdf . Invitation letters for this Continued Stakeholder Involvement effort were sent out on November 16th. First meeting of WQMAC was held on February 24.

(Questions about the WQMAC, contact Wesley Saunders-Pearce at 651-336-3638, Beth Neuendorf at 651-234-7520 or Todd Clarkowski at 651-234-7714)

December 2009 – February 2010 Business Liaison (ongoing):

MnDOT identified a Business Liaison for the project to address the newly created Minnesota Statute 160.165 found at https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=160.165 The purpose of the Business Liaison is to involve businesses more in the project development process, keep businesses informed regarding project issues, and help businesses understand a project and its potential impacts. Mary McFarland-Brooks has been identified as the project's Business Liaison.

(Questions about the business liaison, contact Mary McFarland-Brooks at 651-234-7506, or Todd Clarkowski at 651-234-7714)

January 2010 – February 2010 Animations (ongoing):

New River Bridge/Roadway Approach Animation and Loop Trail Animation. Based on the SFEIS, the Visual Quality Manual, and recommendations from the Visual Quality Advisory Committee (VQAC); the animations are being updated and CD's are anticipated to be distributed summer 2010.

(Questions on the New River Bridge/Roadway Approach Animation and Loop Trail Animation, contact Marv Hondl at 651-234-7634 or Todd Clarkowski at 651- 234-7714)

February 2010 TIGER Grant announcement:

TIGER Grant announcement of successful candidates at http://www.dot.gov/recovery/ost/ did not include the St. Croix River Crossing Project so the project schedule was brought back to the original schedule for a letting of July 2013, with on-going project development activities continuing as previously described.

Next Steps for the upcoming year: **Timetable for implementation will be determined by FHWA, Mn/DOT and WisDOT**

1) Resolve Sierra Club's legal complaint issues.

2) Continued Stakeholder/Public Involvement:
http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/stakeholder.html
- WQMAC
- Permitting Agencies

3) Mitigation Package Related:
a) Lift Bridge Management Plan and Repair Project-environmental documentation
b) Relocation of Shoddy Mill and Warehouse buildings
c) Stillwater Cultural Landscape District Study
d) Scenic Overlook Management Plan
e) Growth Management Fund agreements
f) Bluffland Protection agreements
c) Continued planning and implementing of additional critical path type of items
d) Continued work on defining funding and specific timing of other mitigation items

4) Design Related:
a) New River Crossing Bridge – concept refinement, load testing implementation
b) Determination if "Design-Build" or "Design-Bid-Build" should be pursued as the preferred construction delivery option for the river bridge.
c) Permitting coordination with Federal, State and Local agencies
d) Final Roadway Design activities for the Minnesota and Wisconsin approaches
e) Right of Way acquisition in both states

5) Communications Related:
a) Continue with news releases, website updates, formal and informal communications to keep interested parties informed about the project.
b) Business Liaison related activities

6) Funding Related:
a) Financial Strategies Planning (FHWA lead agency) & initial Financial Plan development
b) Project Management Plan – amendment and implementation

7) Project Management: schedules, resources, cost estimates, deliverables, reporting, etc. developed within framework of project's organizational chart including regular meetings of functional groups, Project Staff Team, Oversight Committee and Executive Team.

Project Team Contact info:

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Project specific information, including the current project status, can be found at http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/

Attachments: Project Layout – Preferred Alternative - on Aerial Photo
Summary of Preferred Alternative Mitigation Items – Implementation Status, dated 2-23-10