

T Transportation Committee
Meeting date: August 27, 2012,
For the Council Meeting of September 12, 2012

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date: August 20, 2012
Subject: Controlled Access Approval for St. Croix River Crossing Project (S.P. 8214-114) in Washington County. Review #21015
District(s), Member(s): District 12, Harry Melander
Policy/Legal Reference: Mn. Statute 473.166
Staff Prepared/Presented: Arlene McCarthy, Director, MTS 651-602-1754
Amy Vennewitz, Deputy director, Finance and Planning, MTS, 651-602-1508
Connie Kozlak, Manager, Transportation Planning and Programming 651-602-1720
Ann Braden, Senior Transportation Planner, MTS, 651-602-1705
Division/Department: Metropolitan Transportation Services

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve a request by MnDOT to reconstruct TH 36/95 in Minnesota and provide a new St. Croix River Crossing, conditional upon any significant changes in the design of the proposed project being subject to further review and approval by the Metropolitan Council prior to construction.

Background

Minnesota state law (MS. 473.166) requires that the Council approve any controlled access highway in the metropolitan area before construction or right-of-way acquisition begins. This is to ensure that proposed highway projects are consistent with regional policies and plans.

The current project location and design is consistent with that of the 2006 Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement (SFEIS). As shown on the attached figure, this project will construct a four-lane bridge across the St. Croix River, south of the existing 81-year old Stillwater Lift Bridge. The project also includes at-grade signalized intersections for the MN TH 36 roadway approach with pulled back frontage roads, a new interchange between TH 36 and TH 95 in Minnesota, trails and walks throughout the area and new roadways in Wisconsin. The Lift Bridge will be converted to a pedestrian/bicycle facility.

Construction of the new bridge is expected to begin in 2013 and will take about three years to complete. The approach roadways will also be built during this period. The project is in the 2012-2015 TIP.

Rationale

The design of the project best meets the need to provide safe and efficient mobility while considering the environmental, economic, social and historic resource concerns present within the project area. The project is consistent with the regional Transportation Policy Plan.

Funding

MnDOT is the lead agency on this project and is coordinating and sharing costs with WisDOT. The estimated project cost is between \$571 million to \$676 million. The cost of the Wisconsin and Minnesota approach roads will be paid for by the respective states.


Known Support / Opposition

After nearly two decades of challenges, extensive public participation, a special stakeholder facilitation process, amendments to the original environmental documents, and development of a \$16.5 million mitigation package, the bridge received Congressional approval that was signed by the President in March 2012.

ST. CROIX RIVER CROSSING PROJECT











PRELIMINARY
APPROXIMATE 2011

N



SCALE
 0 400 1200 2000

LEGEND

-  ROADWAY
-  AGGREGATE ROADWAY & SHOULDERS
-  BRIDGES & RETAINING WALLS
-  RAISED MEDIANS & CURBS
-  PAVED SHOULDERS
-  TRAILS & SIDEWALKS
-  CONSTRUCTION "BY OTHERS"
-  PROPOSED PERMANENT PONDING LOCATION
-  PROPOSED TEMPORARY PONDING LOCATION
-  PROPOSED TEMPORARY PONDING LOCATION (IF WARRANTED) OR ROUNDABOUT (WISCONSIN ONLY)

D:\1\PROJECTS\INCLUDES\01_001\14_417676.dwg, last modified: 11/16/2010 10:55:32 AM, User: JDS/10/11/14_417676.dwg

