

Date: October 25, 2018

To: EQB Distribution List
Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Negative Declaration Regarding the Need for an Environmental Impact Statement for the TH 212/CSAH 44 Interchange Project (S.P. 1017-108)

On behalf of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Metro District, SRF Consulting Group, Inc. is transmitting this memorandum regarding the Negative Declaration Order for the Trunk Highway (TH) 212/County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 44 Interchange Project (S.P. 1017-108). The project proposes construction of a new interchange at TH 212 and CSAH 44 in Chaska. The existing CSAH 44 bridge over TH 212 will remain in-place. A new multi-use trail bridge will be constructed on the north side of the existing CSAH 44 bridge over TH 212. The project proposes construction of roundabouts at the interchange ramp intersections and reconstruction of CSAH 44 from TH 212 to east of Founders Way as a two-lane, divided roadway. The project also proposes a mill and overlay on CSAH 44 from east of Founders Way to CSAH 61 (Chaska Boulevard). Additional project elements include drainage improvements, stormwater basins, multi-use trails, and sidewalks.

Carver County is the project proposer. Under Minnesota Rules, MnDOT is the Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU) for the project. MnDOT described and analyzed the proposed project in an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) that was circulated to the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) Distribution List and other interested parties. A Notice of Availability appeared in the EQB *Monitor* on August 20, 2018. The comment period closed on September 19, 2018.


MnDOT has undertaken a thorough analysis of the project and its potential impacts. Through its own analysis, coordination with affected agencies, public and community involvement, and comments received, MnDOT has determined that the proposed TH 212/CSAH 44 interchange and improvements to CSAH 44, as described in the EAW and in the Findings of Fact and Conclusions, do not have the potential for significant environmental impacts. MnDOT has concluded that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required and has issued a Negative Declaration Order for the project. This decision and determination is supported by the full administrative record of the project, including the Findings of Fact and Conclusions. This concludes the Minnesota state environmental review process for the project.

MnDOT does not intend to circulate paper copies of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions document. The Findings of Fact and Conclusions document and other project related items are available on the TH 212/CSAH 44 Interchange Project webpage at <https://www.hwy212interchange.com/library/>.

Should any readers not have access to the Findings of Fact and Conclusions electronic document, paper copies may be obtained by contacting Rick Dalton, MnDOT Metro District Environmental Coordinator, at 651-234-7677, or via email at richard.dalton@state.mn.us. To request the document in an alternative format, please contact the MnDOT Affirmative Action Office at 651-366-4718 or 1-800-657-3774 (Greater Minnesota); 711 or 1-800-627-3529 (Minnesota Relay). You may also send an e-mail to adarequest.dot@state.mn.us.

Thank you.


For the Minnesota Department of Transportation:



Diane Langenbach

Project Manager

Minnesota Department of Transportation



Date