

**FINDINGS OF FACT  
AND  
CONCLUSIONS**

for

CSAH 24 Southeast Collector (North Project)  
From TH 19 to CSAH 25  
S.A.P. 025-624-016  
Goodhue County, Minnesota

Proposer & RGU: Goodhue County Public Works Department

November 2015

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## I. ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUND/STATEMENT OF ISSUE

Goodhue County proposes construction of a two-lane roadway for approximately one mile along a new alignment from Trunk Highway (TH) 19 to County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 25 (refer to **Figures 1 and 2** in **Appendix A**).

Goodhue County is the project proposer and the Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU) for this project. An Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) has been prepared for this project in accordance with Minnesota Rules Chapter 4410. The EAW was developed to assess the impacts of the project and other circumstances in order to determine if an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is indicated.

The EAW was filed with the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) and circulated for review and comments to the required EAW distribution list. A “Notice of Availability” was published in the EQB *Monitor* on August 3, 2015. A press release was also provided by Goodhue County to media outlets in the surrounding area.

The EAW was made available for public review at the Goodhue County Public Works office in Red Wing, the Cannon Falls Library, and the Rochester Public Library. The EAW was also available on the County’s website at: <http://www.co.goodhue.mn.us/335/Projects>.

The EAW public comment period was held until September 2, 2015. Four written comments were received during the EAW comment period. All comments received during the EAW comment period were considered in determining the potential for significant environmental impacts. Comments received during the comment period and responses to these comments are provided in **Appendix B**.

Based upon the information in the record, which is composed of the EAW for the proposed project, the issues raised during the public comment period, the responses to the comments, and other supporting documents, Goodhue County makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions.

## II. FINDINGS OF FACT

### A. Existing and Future Conditions

CSAH 20 from CSAH 25 to TH 19/TH 20 in downtown Cannon Falls is a north/south two-lane undivided roadway.<sup>1</sup> Existing traffic volumes (year 2013) on CSAH 20 were 8,800 vehicles per day. Forecast volumes (year 2030) for CSAH 20 are projected to be 25,400 vehicles per day, exceeding the capacity and resulting in congestion and delays.

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<sup>1</sup> CSAH 20 (also known as 4th Street South) runs north-south through downtown Cannon Falls. This roadway was previously called CSAH 24 prior to construction of the CSAH 24 SEC – South Project in 2014.

The CSAH20/TH 19/TH 20 intersection currently operates at an acceptable Level of Service (LOS) C during the a.m. and p.m. peak hours under existing conditions. Under future (2030) No Build conditions, the lack of capacity at the CSAH 20/TH 19/TH 20 intersection will result in poor traffic operations in downtown Cannon Falls during the p.m. peak hour. The CSAH 20/TH 19/TH 20 intersection is projected to operate at an unacceptable LOS F during the p.m. peak hour under the future No Build Alternative. The CSAH 20/CSAH 25 intersection is also projected to operate at unacceptable LOS F under the future No Build Alternative during the a.m. peak hour and the p.m. peak hour.

The intersection of CSAH 20 and TH 19 in downtown Cannon Falls is also deficient for truck traffic turning radii. Modeling has shown that large trucks are unable to make right or left turns at this intersection without encroaching on the lanes of oncoming traffic. Under existing conditions, all four intersection radii are 10 feet. Inadequate turning radii can affect intersection operations as well as safety.

Several previous reports, including the *Goodhue County Transportation Plan* (2004), the *Cannon Falls Transportation Study Report* (2004), and the *Cannon Falls Southeast Collector Feasibility Study* (2008), have identified the need for a new connection between TH 52 and TH 19 as an alternative route that avoids traveling through downtown Cannon Falls. As part of this vision, the TH 52/CSAH 24 interchange was constructed in 2013 and the CSAH 24 SEC – South Project was constructed in 2014 to provide a safe and reliable connection between TH 52 and CSAH 25. The CSAH 24 SEC – North Project is the last segment of new roadway that is required to complete the connection between TH 52 and TH 19.

## **B. Project Description**

The proposed project is shown in **Figure 2, Appendix A**. Primary features of the project are described below:

- Construction of a two-lane roadway along new alignment from TH 19 to CSAH 25. The roadway will include a rural drainage design with ditches. Travel lanes will be striped as 12-foot lanes.
- Reconstruction of the existing TH 19/Hardwood Way intersection to provide turn lanes and add the proposed CSAH 24 roadway to the south of TH 19. The TH 19/CSAH 24 intersection will be a side-street stop control intersection (i.e., stop condition on CSAH 24). The TH 19/CSAH 24 intersection will include a half urban drainage design with curb and gutter and a half rural design with ditches.
- Reconstruction of the existing CSAH 24/CSAH 25 intersection to raise the roadway grade on CSAH 25 and add the proposed CSAH 24 roadway to the north of CSAH 25. The CSAH 24/CSAH 25 intersection will include a half urban drainage design with curb and gutter and a half rural design with ditches. Turn lanes will be constructed on CSAH 25. The CSAH 24/CSAH 25 intersection will be a side-street stop control intersection (i.e., stop condition on CSAH 25).

- Grading to accommodate future construction of 10-foot wide bituminous multi-use trail along the west side of proposed CSAH 24.
- Removal of the existing access at Our Savior's Evangelical Lutheran Church and construction of a replacement access to proposed CSAH 24.
- Removal of the existing access to TH 19 for St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church and improvements of existing access to Hardwood Way.

### **C. Corrections to the EAW or Changes in the Project Since the EAW was Published**

- Since publication of the EAW, Goodhue County has coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). The northern long-eared bat was listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in April 2015. The USFWS Interim 4(d) Rule for the northern long-eared bat went into effect on May 4, 2015.<sup>2</sup>

The proposed project is located within the range of the northern long-eared bat. Because the project will require clearing for new roadway right of way that exceeds one acre of forested land that is suitable habitat for the northern long-eared bat, the proposed project will not qualify for the 4(d) Rule exemptions for this non-federal action. Conservation measures to avoid a take with the proposed project include: 1) conducting tree clearing outside of the summer roosting season (April 1 through September 30), or 2) conducting surveys to determine species presence or absence. If a survey is completed and species absence is documented, then this information is provided to the USFWS and the project may proceed. If species presence is documented, then the project must avoid the summer roosting period as noted above. Goodhue County intends to conduct tree clearing activities outside of the summer roosting season (fall 2015/winter 2016 or fall 2016/winter 2017 depending upon rights-of-entry and the right of way process).

- Item 8, Table 5 (Permits and Approvals) of the EAW indicated that a Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required. It is assumed that a Section 404 Permit is not required as part of this project. A Jurisdictional Determination request has been submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It is anticipated that wetlands in the project area will be determined to be isolated and not subject to Section 404 permitting requirements. Therefore, a Section 401 Water Quality Certification is not anticipated (see anticipated permits and approvals in **Table 1**).

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<sup>2</sup> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2015. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Midwest Endangered Species. Northern Long-Eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) accessed 30 September 2015 at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/>.

### III. DECISION REGARDING NEED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

An EIS is not necessary for the proposed project based on the following criteria:

#### A. Type, Extent, and Reversibility of Impacts

Goodhue County finds that the analysis completed for the EAW is adequate to determine whether the project has the potential for significant environmental effects.

The EAW described the type and extent of impacts to the natural and built environment anticipated to result from the proposed project. This document provides corrections, changes, and new information since the EAW was published. The proposed design for the project includes features to mitigate the identified impacts.

Following are the findings regarding potential environmental impacts of the proposed project and the design features included to avoid, minimize, and mitigate these impacts:

##### Farmland

The proposed project will convert approximately 16.8 acres of existing farmland within the project construction limits to transportation use, including a small portion of soils that are considered prime farmland and farmland of statewide importance. Severances of farmland properties have been minimized to the extent possible.

The *City of Cannon Falls Comprehensive Plan (2003)* identifies the southeast area of the City as a growth area with planned commercial, residential, and public land uses. Outside of the city growth zones (i.e., Urban Fringe), the *Goodhue County Zoning Ordinances (2006)*, indicate that the land located to east of the proposed project are considered part of the Agriculture District. The purpose of this district is to maintain and conserve agricultural investments and prime agricultural farmland, but provide a slightly higher density of dwellings. The City of Cannon Falls and Goodhue County, through their land use policies and zoning regulations, can control the intensification of development and protect open space and agricultural land from further development.

##### Water Quality and Quantity

Due to the proposed construction of a new roadway on a new alignment, the project will produce a net increase of impervious surface, increasing the quantity and rate of runoff and potentially impacting water quality. Planned ditches and stormwater detention ponds in the project area will provide water quality treatment and discharge attenuation.

In accordance with stormwater regulatory requirements, detailed drainage plans and erosion control plans for the project will be submitted as part of the application for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction Stormwater permit, to be obtained from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) prior to construction. A Storm Water Pollution

Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be developed as part of design and implementation of proposed improvements.

### Soils and Erosion

Areas of steep slopes, highly erodible soils, and poor soil conditions have been identified within the project area. Construction activities in these types of areas contribute to soil erosion and sedimentation. The alignment of the proposed roadway was moved to the west to avoid a 50 to 60 foot cliff in order to reduce excavation and minimize the potential for erosion.

Best Management Practices (BMPs), such as inlet protection, ditches, siltation fences or berms, bale checks, sedimentation basins, and temporary seeding will be used as temporary erosion control measures during construction grading. Implementation of BMPs during construction greatly reduces the amount of construction-related sedimentation and helps to control erosion and runoff. In accordance with state and federal regulations, detailed drainage plans and erosion control plans for the project will be submitted as part of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) construction stormwater permitting process. A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that includes erosion control and sediment management practices will be created as part of design and implementation of proposed improvements. Erosion control measures will be in place and maintained throughout the entire construction period. After construction, all disturbed areas would be sodded or seeded, leaving temporary erosion control structures in place until vegetation has been established.

### Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Communities

#### *Plant Communities*

The proposed project will have impacts to a DNR-mapped site of biodiversity significance. This large oak woodland/oak forest extends east of Cannon Falls between CSAH 25 and TH 19. The proposed project will bisect this site and cause fragmentation of this area of contiguous forest. Although the area of biodiversity cannot be completely avoided by the new roadway alignment, the alignment has been shifted westward to minimize impacts to this resource. Additionally, Goodhue County and the City of Cannon Falls can regulate and limit the development of forested areas through land use planning and zoning regulations.

#### *Federal Threatened and Endangered Species*

The proposed project is located within the range of the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). The northern long-eared bat was listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in April 2015. Since publication of the EAW, the County has consulted with the USFWS regarding the proposed project and the northern long-eared bat. The project will require clearing of approximately 6.9 acres of trees. As such, the project does not qualify for an exemption under the USFWS' northern long-eared bat 4(d) Rule for non-federal actions. In order to avoid the possibility of a direct take of the northern long-eared bat, tree clearing will be completed in the fall/winter months outside of the summer roosting season (April 1 to September 30).

### *State Threatened and Endangered Species*

As noted above, the proposed project includes approximately 6.9 acres of tree clearing (primarily Oak – Shagbark Hickory Woodlands). Kitten-tails (*Besseyia bullii*) are a State-listed threatened plant species. Kitten-tails are primarily found in oak savanna communities, although it is also reported to occur in dry prairies and oak woodlands, as well as terraces along the Cannon River. Kitten-tails have been documented in an oak woodland area just over one mile from the proposed project corridor (see DNR correspondence in **Appendix B**).

Given the nearby recorded occurrence and presence of oak woodlands, the DNR has recommended kitten-tails surveys be conducted within the project area. Surveys for kitten-tails will be completed in October 2015 and the results provided to the DNR. If kitten-tails presence is identified, the County will coordinate the takings permit process with DNR staff as necessary.

### **B. Cumulative Potential Effects of Related or Anticipated Future Projects**

As discussed in Item 19 of the EAW, the cumulative potential effect of related or anticipated future transportation and development projects has been considered and the proposed project has low potential for cumulative impacts to the resources directly or indirectly affected by the project. Given laws, rules, and regulations in place, as well as local regulatory requirements and comprehensive planning and zoning laws, substantial adverse cumulative impacts to these resources are not anticipated.

### **C. Extent to Which the Environmental Effects are Subject to Mitigation by Ongoing Public Regulatory Authority**

The mitigation of environmental impacts will be designed and implemented in coordination with regulatory agencies and will be subject to the plan approval and permitting process. Permits and approvals that have been obtained or may be required prior to project construction include those listed in Table 1.

**TABLE 1  
PERMITS AND APPROVALS**

<b>Unit of Government</b>	<b>Type of Application</b>	<b>Action Required or Status</b>
<b>Federal</b>		
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Jurisdictional Determination	Determination
<b>State</b>		
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction Stormwater Permit	Permit
Review by Board of Soil and Water Resources	Wetland Conservation Act (Boundary Approval)	Approved
<b>Local</b>		
Goodhue County/MnDOT	Geometric Layout	Approval/Review
Goodhue County/MnDOT	Construction Plans	Approval/Review
Goodhue County	EIS Need Decision (State environmental review process)	Declaration Order
Goodhue County and City of Cannon Falls	Stormwater Management	Coordination

**D. Extent to Which Environmental Effects can be Anticipated and Controlled as a Result of Other Environmental Studies**

Goodhue County has extensive experience in roadway construction. Many similar projects have been designed and constructed throughout the county. No problem is anticipated which the staff of Goodhue County have not encountered and successfully solved many times in similar projects in or near the project area. Goodhue County finds that the environmental effects of the project can be anticipated and controlled as a result of assessment of potential issues during environmental review, and experience in addressing similar issues on previous projects.

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

1. All requirements for environmental review of the proposed project have been met.
2. The EAW and the permit development processes related to the project have generated information which is adequate to determine whether the project has the potential for significant environmental effects.
3. Areas where potential environmental effects have been identified will be addressed during the final design of the project. Mitigation will be provided where impacts are expected to result from project construction, operation, or maintenance. Mitigative measures are incorporated into project design, and have been or will be coordinated with state and federal agencies during the permit process.
4. Based on the criteria in Minnesota Rules part 4410.1700, the project does not have the potential for significant environmental effects.
5. An Environmental Impact Statement is not required for the proposed CSAH 25 Southeast Collector (North Project).

For Goodhue County (RGU):

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

12/1/2015  
Date

County Board Chair  
Title

# APPENDICES

# Appendix A

## Figures



**Area Location**

CSAH 24 Southeast Collector (North Project)  
 Goodhue County, MN

**Figure 1**

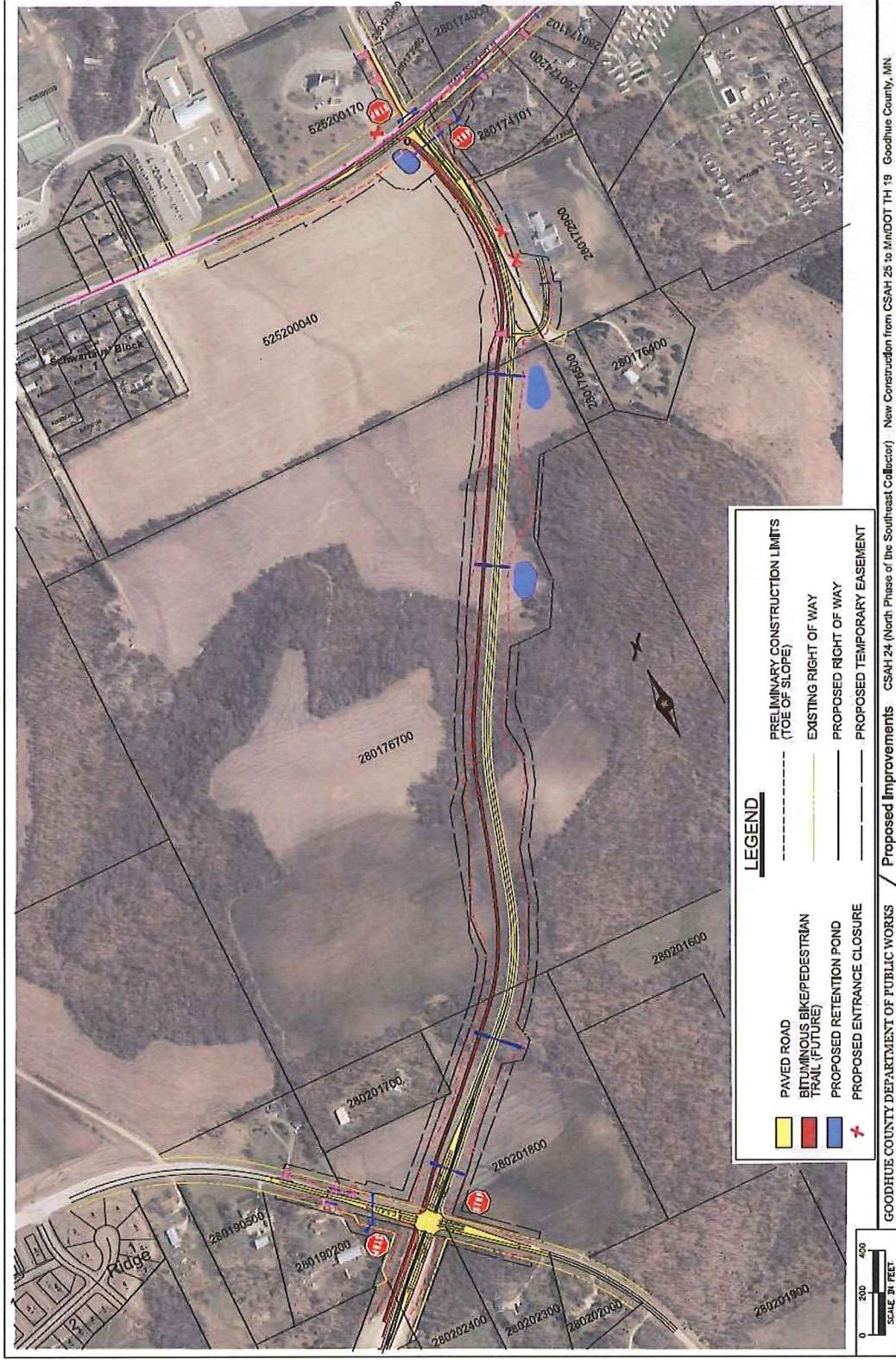


Figure 2

Proposed Improvements  
 CSAH 24 SE Collector (North Project)  
 Goodhue County, MN

# **Appendix B**

## **Comments and Responses**

## COMMENT

Brett Danner

From: Isakson, Greg <greg.isakson@co.goodhue.mn.us>  
Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2015 10:12 AM  
To: Marty, Dale; Greenwood, Jess  
Subject: FW: CSAH 24 SOUTHEAST COLLECTOR - NORTH PROJECT EAW - DNR comments  
Attachments: Wildlife Friendly Erosion Control(acc).pdf; DNR Best Practices Erosion Control and Mesh Netting.pdf; 2015 Rare Plant Guidance.pdf; 2015 Rare Species Survey Proposals and Reports.pdf; Curb+gutter from DNR BMP Manual-Chapter 1.pdf; Seed Mixes from DNR BMP Manual-Chapter 1.pdf

Additional comments on the EAW

Greg Danner, P.E.

From: Haworth, Brooke (DNR) [mailto:Brooke.Haworth@state.mn.us]  
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2015 6:47 PM  
To: Isakson, Greg  
Subject: CSAH 24 SOUTHEAST COLLECTOR - NORTH PROJECT EAW - DNR comments

Mr. Isakson,

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has reviewed the CSAH 24 SEC – North Project EAW. We offer the following comments for your consideration.

### Item 13. Fish, wildlife, plant communities, and sensitive ecological resources (rare features)

- The Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) surveyed this area in 1991. At that time, the MBS Site of Moderate Biodiversity Significance contained two types of oak forest in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project:
  1. Southern Dry-Mesic Oak Forest (MH637), a native plant community that has a conservation status rank of S3 (vulnerable to extirpation) or S4 (uncommon but not rare) depending on whether it would be further classified as a Red Oak – White Oak Forest (MH637a; S3) or a Red Oak – White Oak – (Sugar Maple) Forest (MH637b; S4).
  2. Oak – Shagbark Hickory Woodland (FD638a), a rare native plant community that has a conservation status rank of S3 (vulnerable to extirpation).

The original alignment would impact both of these native plant communities. The west alignment and the recommended alignment for the most part only impact Oak – Shagbark Hickory Woodland and would cause less fragmentation of the forest.

- As noted, kitten-tails (*Besseyia bullii*), a state-listed threatened plant, has been documented in the surrounding area. Most recently, this species was documented in 2000 in a woodland just over a mile from the proposed project. This species is primarily found in oak savanna communities, though it also occurs in dry prairies and fire-dependent oak woodlands including Oak – Shagbark Hickory Woodlands (FD638a). Given the nearby occurrences of this state-protected plant and the identification of potential habitat within the project footprint, I recommend that a qualified surveyor (see attached list) conduct a botanical survey for this species within any suitable habitat in the project footprint prior to any construction activities. The purpose of this survey would be to reduce the likelihood of an inadvertent takings of this species and, if needed, to inform the takings permit process.

Before any survey work is initiated, the surveyor should submit a survey proposal for DNR review (see attached documents). Project planning should take into account that the botanical survey needs to be conducted during the

## RESPONSE

**A:** The recommended alignment for the proposed project was identified because it minimizes right of way impacts, minimizes impacts to native plant communities (primarily Oak – Shagbark Hickory Woodland) and avoids an adjacent area of poor soils that presents a hindrance to roadway constructability.

**B:** The County has coordinated with DNR staff regarding kitten-tails (*Besseyia bullii*). Kitten-tails surveys will be completed in October 2015 as recommended and the results provided to the DNR.

## COMMENT

appropriate time of the year, which may be limited (the best time to identify kitten-tails is when it flowers in late April to late May, but the spike and basal leaves remain visible through October). Please visit the DNR Rare Species Guide at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rsg/index.html> for more information on the biology, phenology, habitat use, and conservation measures of this rare plant.

- C • Given the known occurrences of the eastern hognose snake (*Heterodon platirhinos*), a Species in Greatest Conservation Need as identified in Minnesota's State Wildlife Action Plan (<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/gwcs/index.html>), the DNR recommends that the use of erosion control mesh, if any, be limited to wildlife-friendly materials (see enclosed fact sheet).

- D • The northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), a state-listed species of special concern, can be found throughout Minnesota. During the winter this species hibernates in caves and mines, and during the active season (approximately April-October) it roosts underneath bark, in cavities, or in crevices of both live and dead trees. Activities that may impact this species include, but are not limited to, wind farm operation, any disturbance to hibernacula, and destruction/degradation of habitat (including tree removal during the active season). The proposed project includes 11.8 acres of tree removal.

Effective May 4, 2015, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) listed the northern long-eared bat as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and implemented an Interim 4(d) rule. If you believe that your project may adversely affect ("take") the northern long-eared bat, you should determine whether the "take" is exempt under the interim 4(d) rule or whether you need a Federal permit. To make this determination, please refer to the USFWS Key to the Interim 4(d) Rule available at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleib/interim4dRuleKeyWEB.html>. Please note that the NHIS does not contain any known occurrences of northern long-eared bat roosts or hibernacula within an approximate one-mile radius of the proposed project.

- E • With forest and field habitat on both sides of this new highway corridor, increased wildlife roadway mortality can be expected. The rural road design noted in the document will help to minimize traffic-wildlife collisions for small wildlife. Intersections where urban curb and gutter are installed will pose a problem, as curb designs and stormwater grates trap small wildlife on roadways. Options are available for curb and grate designs that help move wildlife through and off of roadways (see attachment). Contact DNR nongame staff (Chris E. Smith, Regional Nongame Specialist, [Christopher.e.smith@state.mn.us](mailto:Christopher.e.smith@state.mn.us)) if you would like more information regarding wildlife-friendly roadway design.

- F • Temporarily exposed soil at the work site will be vulnerable to the establishment of invasive plants. Bare soils are best protected by the expedient establishment of new vegetation. The DNR strongly encourages seeding roadsides and new ditches with native prairie seed mixes appropriate to the area. This vegetation would serve the additional function of providing food and habitat for butterflies and other native pollinators. Please see attached guidance regarding native seed mixes.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this document. Please contact me with any questions.

*Brooke Haworth*

Environmental Assessment Ecologist, Central Region  
MNDNR Division of Ecological and Water Resources  
1200 Warner Road, St. Paul, MN 55106  
Phone: 651-259-5755  
Email: [Brooke.haworth@state.mn.us](mailto:Brooke.haworth@state.mn.us)

## RESPONSE

C: The use of erosion control mesh will be limited to natural netting types to minimize potential impacts to the eastern hognose snake (*Heterodon platirhinos*).

D: Goodhue County staff have consulted with USFWS regarding the northern long-eared bat. The proposed project is located within the northern long-eared bat's habitat range, and does not qualify for 4(d) Rule exemptions. Tree clearing activities for the project will occur outside of the summer roosting season (April 1 to September 30).

E: The proposed design includes a sloped curb design in sections where there is no ditch proposed between the roadway and future trail (S524 curb and gutter; see proposed typical sections in Appendix A of the EAW).

F: As noted in Item 13.b of the EAW, all disturbed areas will be re-vegetated with a native seed mix suitable to the local environment to minimize the potential spread of invasive plant species.

## COMMENT



Minnesota  
Historical Society

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

August 28, 2015

RECEIVED

SEP 01 2015

Goodhue County  
Public Works

Using the Power of History to Transform Lives  
PRESERVING • BUILDING • CONNECTING

Jess Greenwood  
Project Manager  
Goodhue County Public Works  
2140 Pioneer Road  
PO box 404  
Red Wing, MN 55066-0404

RE: EAW - CSAH 24 Southeast Collector (North Project) from TH 19 to CSAH 25  
TL12 R17 S17, 20  
Cannon Falls Twp., Goodhue County  
SAP Number: 025-624-016  
SHPO Number: 2015-2749

Dear Jess Greenwood:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the above project. It has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the Minnesota Historical Society by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act and the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act.

Based on our review of the project information, we conclude that there are no properties listed in the National or State Registers of Historic Places, and no known or suspected archaeological properties in the area that will be affected by this project.

Please note that this comment letter does not address the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36CFR800, Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for the protection of historic properties. If this project is considered for federal assistance, or requires a federal permit or license, it should be submitted to our office by the responsible federal agency.

Please contact our Compliance Section at (651) 259-3455 if you have any questions regarding our review of this project.

Sincerely,

*SARAH J. BEIMERS*

Sarah J. Beimers, Manager  
Government Programs and Compliance

## RESPONSE

A: The County appreciates the State Historic Preservation Office's review of the CSAH 24 Southeast Collector - North Environmental Assessment Worksheet.

B: The proposed project has not received federal assistance and will not require a federal permit.

## COMMENT



Minnesota Department of Transportation  
District 6, Rochester/Ovaloma  
2900 46<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Rochester, MN 55901-5648

September 1, 2015

Jess Greenwood, Project Manager  
Goodhue County Public Works  
2140 Pioneer Road, P.O. Box 404  
Red Wing, MN 55066-0404

Office: 507-286-7552  
Fax: 507-286-7279  
mark.schoenfelder@state.mn.us

RECEIVED

SEP 03 2015

Goodhue County  
Public Works

RE: EAW for the CSAH 24 Southeast Collector – North Project in Cannon Falls  
MN 19 CS 2503

Dear Mr. Greenwood:

Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) District 6 Planning has reviewed the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the CSAH 24 Southeast Collector – North Project in Cannon Falls.

In regards to state transportation systems, MnDOT finds that:

- The EAW is accurate and complete, and that there are potential state transportation system impacts that may warrant further investigation before the project is commenced.
- There is no need for an Environmental Impact Statement.

The following item(s) warrants further investigation regarding potential state transportation system impacts before the project is commenced:

A

18.a.5 There is general discussion on availability of Transit. In regards to other alternative transportation modes, the proposed layout depicts a future multi-use trail. Given proximity to elementary school, church, future residential development, describe plans for future trail crossing of highway to access destinations.

B

18.c While there is no discussion regarding the proposed CSAH 24 connection with State Highway 19, MnDOT District 6 has been working with Goodhue County through plan review on specific improvements required to make this connection. Improvements include, but are not limited to, turn lane construction and access closure.

Thank you for providing MnDOT the opportunity to comment. If there are any questions, you may contact me or Tracy Schnell, Transportation Planner at 507-286-7599.

Sincerely,

Mark Schoenfelder  
Planning Director

CC: Jeff Vlaminck, Greg Paulson, Tracy Schnell, Greg Pates, Terry Condon, Debra Moynihan,  
File

## RESPONSE

**A:** As proposed, CSAH 24 has been designed to accommodate a future 10-foot wide multi-use trail along the west side of the roadway. This trail will be graded but not constructed until future development warrants it. Consistent with the Goodhue Transportation Plan (2004-2025) and Canon Falls Comprehensive Plan (2003), the future multi-use trail would improve connectivity of the existing trail system. At the time that development in the area justifies construction of the trail, the County will closely coordinate with MnDOT to develop a suitable connection of the proposed trail to notable community destinations, such as the elementary school and church.

**B:** The existing TH 19/Hardwood Way intersection will be reconstructed to provide turn lanes, add the proposed CSAH 24 roadway south of TH 19, and provide side-street stop control on CSAH 24. Additionally, improvements to existing access points at the TH 19/Hardwood Way intersection will be implemented. Access from Our Savior's Evangelical Lutheran Church to Hardwood Way will be removed and replaced with access to the proposed CSAH 24. Access to TH 19 for St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church will be removed and improvements will be made to the church's existing access to Hardwood Way.

COMMENT



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

520 Lafayette Road North | St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4194 | 651-296-6300  
800-657-3864 | 651-292-5332 TTY | www.pca.state.mn.us | Equal Opportunity Employer

September 1, 2015

*FILE*

Mr. Greg Isakson, Public Works Director  
Goodhue County  
2140 Pioneer Trail, P.O. Box 404  
Red Wing, MN 55066-0404

Re: CSAH 24 Southeast Collector (SEC) - North Environmental Assessment Worksheet

Dear Mr. Isakson:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the CSAH 24 Southeast Collector (SEC) project (Project) located in Goodhue County, Minnesota. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) staff has reviewed the EAW and have no comments at this time.

A

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 at 651-757-2482.

B

Sincerely,

Kevin Kain  
Planner Principal  
Environmental Review Unit  
Resource Management and Assistance Division

KK:bt

cc: Dan Card, MPCA, St. Paul

RESPONSE

A: The County appreciates the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's review of the CSAH 24 Southeast Collector – North Environmental Assessment Worksheet.

B: The County will secure all necessary permits prior to construction.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
GOODHUE COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

Date: 01 Dec 2015

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WHEREAS, Goodhue County is proposing to construct a two-lane roadway for approximately one mile along a new alignment from Trunk Highway (TH) 19 to County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 25; and

WHEREAS, an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) has been prepared as part of the state environmental review process for the proposed CSAH 24 Southeast Collector (SEC) North Project to fulfill requirements of Minnesota Statute (M.S.) 116D. Pursuant to the Minnesota Review Program Rule 4410.4300, Subpart 22.A, Goodhue County is the Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU) for the project; and

WHEREAS, the EAW has been made available for public and agency review and comment. A notice of availability of the EAW was published in the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) *Monitor* on August 3, 2015 and a press release announcing the availability of EAW was distributed by the Department of Public Works. The EAW was distributed to the EQB distribution list and made available for review on the County website. The 30-day review period expired on September 2, 2015, and all comments and recommendations received by interested parties have been considered; and

WHEREAS, the Goodhue County Board of Commissioners has reviewed the CSAH 24 SEC North Project EAW; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the proposed project does not present a potential for environmental impacts of such significance that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be required;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOODHUE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, that it should and hereby does make a Negative Declaration on the need for an EIS for the proposed CSAH 24 SEC North Project, based on the documents completed for this project – the EAW dated July 2015 and the Findings of Fact and Conclusions dated November 2015.

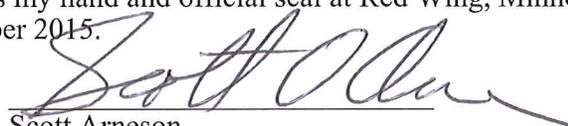
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State of Minnesota  
County of Goodhue

Allen	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Majerus	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rechtzigel	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anderson	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seifert	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

I, Scott Arneson, duly appointed, qualified and County Administrator of the County of Goodhue, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of a resolution with the original minutes of the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners, Goodhue County, Minnesota at their session held on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of December 2015, now on file in my office, and have found the same to be a true and correct copy thereof.

Witness my hand and official seal at Red Wing, Minnesota, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of December 2015.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Arneson  
County Administrator