



Stillwater Lift Bridge Endowment Account

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Report to the Minnesota Legislature as required by Minn. Stat. § 165.15, Subd. 8.

In accordance with Minn. Stat. § 3.197, the estimated cost of preparing this report is \$1,000.

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Stillwater Lift Bridge Management Plan

The Stillwater Lift Bridge management plan is a key stipulation in the 2006 amended Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement-Stipulation III for the St. Croix Crossing project. In addition, the Stillwater Lift Bridge is one of 24 bridges identified by the Minnesota Department of Transportation for long-term preservation as part of the agency's statewide 2006 historic bridges management plan and 2008 historic bridge Section 106 programmatic agreement.

The Stillwater Lift Bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is also a Section 4(f) resource under the USDOT Act of 1966. Its conversion to use as a pedestrian/bicycle crossing as part of the proposed loop trail is documented in letters of agreement between MnDOT and the city of Stillwater and in the 2006 supplemental final environmental impact statement found at www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/docs/sfeis.html.

The recommended landscaping and amenities for the St. Croix Crossing project are also documented in the visual quality manual found at www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/vismannual.html, including recommendations for using the Stillwater Lift Bridge as a bicycle/pedestrian crossing.

To complete stipulations agreed upon in these various agreements, MnDOT's Bridge Office, Cultural Resources Unit and Metro District, a consultant team and the Stillwater Lift Bridge Advisory Committee completed a condition assessment and a bridge operations and maintenance manual for the Stillwater Lift Bridge and its concourse. The approved operations and maintenance manual aided in developing the Stillwater Lift Bridge management plan.

The management plan, completed in 2009, describes how the Stillwater Lift Bridge is to be managed during its interim vehicular use and after its conversion to pedestrian/bicycle use. It also establishes the priorities for a repair project in order to allow the Stillwater Lift Bridge to function with the proposed loop trail. The Stillwater Lift Bridge management plan can be found at www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/liftbridge/.

Timing of the Stillwater Lift Bridge Conversion Project

As part of the MOA and statewide historic bridge management plan, MnDOT commits to completing a conversion project for the Stillwater Lift Bridge within one year of opening the new bridge as described in the 2006 supplemental final EIS for the St. Croix River crossing project. MnDOT and Wisconsin DOT will cover the cost of the conversion project, up to \$7 million.



The Stillwater Lift Bridge

Past, present and planned future use as a pedestrian/bicycle facility



Stillwater Lift Bridge Endowment Account

The MOA for the St. Croix Crossing project requires MnDOT and WisDOT to establish a \$3 million endowment account for the Stillwater Lift Bridge. The fund will cover routine operations and maintenance costs after the Stillwater Lift Bridge is converted to a pedestrian/bicycle facility following construction of the new river crossing.

In order to establish a Stillwater Lift Bridge endowment account, in 2009 the Minnesota Legislature passed, and the governor signed into law, House File 1309, which established the account in Minn. Stat. § 165.15.

Recent Related Activities

Since passage of this legislation in 2009, MnDOT has implemented activities based on recommendations in the Stillwater Lift Bridge management plan. Work includes a stabilization (maintenance) project undertaken in the fall of 2012, and developing environmental documents for the conversion project planned following completion of the St. Croix Crossing project.

Crews completed the Stillwater Lift Bridge stabilization (maintenance) project in December 2012. This project was necessary to safely maintain vehicular traffic on the



lift bridge and included steel and concrete repairs, electrical system updates and mechanical repairs. For details on this project, visit www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/liftbridge/.

On Oct. 15, 2010, the National Park Service issued a new Wild and Scenic Rivers Act evaluation and determination. That evaluation and determination indicated that the National Park Service did not approve the St. Croix Crossing project and that other federal agencies could not assist in the project. In order to exempt the project from the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the U.S. Senate passed S. 1134 on January 23, 2012. The U.S. House of Representatives passed it on March 1, 2012. President Barack Obama signed the bill into law as [Public Law 112-100](#) on March 14, 2012, allowing the St. Croix Crossing project to proceed.

For further information on the status of the St. Croix Crossing project, visit the project website at www.dot.state.mn.us/stcroixcrossing/.

To date, no revenues have been deposited into the Stillwater Lift Bridge endowment account by MnDOT or WisDOT, so revenue and expenditure information on the account does not yet exist. However, now that the St. Croix Crossing project has begun, MnDOT has programmed \$1.5 million to be deposited into the account in fiscal year 2013 and \$2.4 million in fiscal year 2014. WisDOT will deposit \$1.5 million into the account in fiscal year 2015.

