



Stillwater Lift Bridge Endowment Account

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Prepared by

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Legislative request

This report is issued to comply with Minn. Stat. 165.15, subd. 8, which requires that the commissioner of transportation shall report annually to the chair and ranking minority member of each legislative committee with jurisdiction over transportation on the endowment account. At a minimum, the report must include detailed revenue and expenditure information.

The cost of preparing this report is under \$5,000.

Report on the Stillwater Lift Bridge Endowment Account

Stillwater Lift Bridge Management Plan

The Stillwater Lift Bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and is also a Section 4(f) resource under the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966. In addition, the Stillwater Lift Bridge is one of more than 20 bridges identified by the Minnesota Department of Transportation for long-term preservation as part of the agency's statewide June 2006 [Historic Bridges Management Plan](#) and 2008 [Historic Bridge Section 106 Programmatic Agreement](#).

Its conversion to use as a bicycle/pedestrian crossing as part of the proposed loop trail was documented during development of the St. Croix River Crossing project in letters of agreement between MnDOT and the City of Stillwater and in the [2006 Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement for the St. Croix River Crossing](#). Recommended landscaping and amenities for the St. Croix River Crossing also are documented in the [Visual Quality Manual](#), including recommendations for the Stillwater Lift Bridge as a bicycle/pedestrian facility.

The [Stillwater Lift Bridge Management Plan](#), completed in 2009, describes how the Stillwater Lift Bridge is to be managed during the interim for 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 Management Plan is a key stipulation in the [2006 amended Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement for the St. Croix River Crossing](#).

Stillwater Lift Bridge Conversion

As part of the [MOA](#), 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](#). MnDOT and Wisconsin DOT will jointly cover the cost of the Lift Bridge conversion.

Since 2009, MnDOT has implemented planning activities based on recommendations in the [Stillwater Lift Bridge Management Plan](#). These include developing environmental documents for two Lift Bridge projects: the stabilization (maintenance) project completed in fall 2012 and the conversion project planned following completion of the St. Croix River Crossing project.

Construction of the St. Croix River Crossing project began in May 2013, following President Obama's approval of [Public Law 112-100](#) in March 2012, which authorized the project.

For a complete status of the St. Croix Crossing project, please visit the [project website](#).

Stillwater Lift Bridge Endowment Account

The MOA for the St. Croix River Crossing project stipulated that MnDOT and Wisconsin DOT deposit no less than \$3 million in an endowment fund prior to the opening of the new river crossing. The endowment fund is to cover routine operations and maintenance costs after the Stillwater Lift Bridge is converted to a bicycle/pedestrian facility following construction of the new river crossing.

Accordingly, the Stillwater Lift Bridge endowment account was established in Minn. Stat. 165.15 in 2009.

No revenues have been deposited into the endowment account by MnDOT or Wisconsin DOT, so no revenue or expenditure information exists for the account. However, now that the St. Croix Crossing project has begun, MnDOT and Wisconsin DOT will deposit money into the account over the next several fiscal years.