



Hennepin County Transportation Department

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October 16, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

SUBJECT: NEGATIVE DECLARATION REGARDING THE NEED FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR CSAH 81 IN THE CITIES OF ROBBINSDALE, CRYSTAL, BROOKLYN PARK, OSSEO, AND MAPLE GROVE, HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA

The proposed project will reconstruct the 7.5-mile segment of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 81 from 47th Avenue North in the City of Robbinsdale to CSAH 30 in the City of Maple Grove, resulting ultimately in a six-lane divided urban roadway. The project also passes through the Cities of Crystal, Brooklyn Park, and Osseo. To improve the safety and operations along the roadway, changes will be made to existing access. Major intersections will also be reconstructed. Construction is proposed to occur in segments as funding becomes available. Construction of Segment One (47th Avenue North in Robbinsdale to CSAH 10/Bass Lake Road in Crystal) is anticipated to begin in 2010.

The proposed action was described and analyzed in an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) that was circulated to the EQB distribution list. A "Notice of Availability" appeared in the EQB *Monitor* on July 28, 2008 and a press release was provided to the Sun Post-Brooklyn Park, Sun Post-Crystal/Robbinsdale, and the Osseo Maple Grove Press on July 21, 2008 for publication the week of July 28, 2008. The comment period closed on August 27, 2008.

As the Responsible Governmental Unit for the project, Hennepin County has undertaken a thorough analysis of the project and its impacts. Through its own analysis, coordination with affected agencies, public and community involvement, and comment letters received, Hennepin County has determined the project does not have the potential for significant environmental impacts. Hennepin County concluded that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required, and determined that a Negative Declaration is ordered. The attached Findings of Fact and Conclusions support the record of this decision and determination. The Negative Declaration concludes the Minnesota state environmental review process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig M. Twinem".

Craig M. Twinem, P.E.
Design Division Engineer