



Hennepin County Transportation Department

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TO: Interested Persons, Agencies, and Organizations

FROM: Jason Staebell, P.E.
Hennepin County Transportation Department

DATE: October 8, 2014

RE: Hennepin County State Aid Highway 61/Flying Cloud Drive Reconstruction Project -
Negative Declaration Regarding Need for an Environmental Impact Statement

The proposed project includes the reconstruction of approximately 3.65 miles of CSAH 61/Flying Cloud Drive from Charlson Road in Eden Prairie to the Highway 61/101 “Wye” intersection in Chanhassen. The proposed transportation improvements include the reconstruction of this highway segment as an urban three lane section with curb and gutter, a continuous center left turn lane, and right turn lanes at key intersection. The project also features a multi-use trail to be added along the north side of the road. Several drainage and water quality management features are proposed to collect and treat runoff from the highway and trail.

Under Minnesota rules, Hennepin County is the Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU) for this project. The proposed action was described and analyzed in an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) circulated to the EAW Distribution List and others. A Notice of Availability appeared in the EQB Monitor on May 26, 2014. The EAW comment period closed June 25, 2014.

A thorough analysis of the project and its potential impacts was completed by Hennepin County, in cooperation with Carver County, and the cities of Eden Prairie and Chanhassen. Through its own analysis, coordination with affected agencies, public involvement, and comments received, Hennepin County has determined that the proposed Highway 61/Flying Cloud Drive Reconstruction Project as described in the EAW and the Findings of Fact and Conclusion (FOF&C) does not have the potential for significant environmental impact. The Hennepin County Transportation Department has concluded that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required, and as a result 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 FOF&C. The Negative Declaration concludes the Minnesota state environmental review process. Construction of the proposed project improvements is planned to begin in late 2015 or spring 2016.

Enclosed please find a copy of the FOF&C document. An electronic copy and other project items are available on the project website at: <http://www.hennepin.us/residents/transportation/flying-cloud-dr>

Any project related comments or concerns should be directed to: Jason Staebell, Hennepin County Project Manager, e-mail at: jason.staebell@hennepin.us, or phone: 612.596.0371.