



Minnesota Department of Transportation

395 John Ireland Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Memo

TO: Minnesota Environmental Quality Board Distribution List

FROM: Frank Pafko, Director, Office of Environmental Stewardship
Minnesota Department of Transportation *Frank Pafko*

DATE: May 12, 2011

SUBJECT: MN&S Freight Rail Study Environmental Assessment Worksheet - Notice of Availability

The enclosed Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the MN&S Freight Rail Study in St. Louis Park and Minneapolis, MN is provided for your review.

The Proposed Action consists of required track improvements to the existing Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) Bass Lake Spur, CP MN&S Spur, and the BNSF Railway (BNSF) Wayzata Subdivision in the city of St. Louis Park to accommodate the proposed relocation of the Twin Cities and Western (TC&W) freight rail traffic currently operating in the Kenilworth Corridor in Minneapolis. A portion of the proposed BNSF siding extends into the city of Minneapolis. The project is proposed by Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) is acting as the Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU).

Copies of the EAW are being distributed to agencies on the current Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (MnEQB) list, among others. Availability of the document has also been announced via email to members of the Project Management Team (PMT), and will be noticed in local newspapers.

Copies of the EAW which documents the purpose and need of the Proposed Action, along with the anticipated social, economic and environmental impacts and mitigation measures, are available for public review beginning May 16, 2011, at the following locations:

Project website – <http://mnsrailstudy.org>
City of St. Louis Park Public Library - 3240 Library Lane
St. Louis Park City Hall – 5005 Minnetonka Boulevard
Hennepin County Public Library – 300 Nicollet Mall

The comment period will begin on **May 16, 2011**. Comments will be accepted through **June 15, 2011** and should be addressed to:

Frank Pafko
Director, Office of Environmental Stewardship
Minnesota Department of Transportation
395 John Ireland Boulevard, MS 620
St. Paul, MN 55155-1899
frank.pafko@state.mn.us

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To afford an opportunity for all interested persons, agencies and groups to be informed about the contents of the EAW, the RGU will host an open house on June 8, 2011 from 4:00 – 7:00 pm at St. Louis Park Recreation Center, Banquet Room, 3700 Monterey Drive, St. Louis Park.

The EAW can be made available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling the Minnesota Relay Service at (800) 627-3529.

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