

**DATE:** January 10, 2020  
**TO:** Minnesota Environmental Quality Board Distribution List  
**FROM:** Jake Rezac (Dakota County)  
**SUBJECT:** County State Aid Highway 70 Expansion Project  
Environmental Assessment/Environmental Assessment Worksheet

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Enclosed please find the Environmental Assessment (EA)/Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 70 Expansion Project. The proposed project will expand CSAH 70 from Kenrick Avenue/Kensington Boulevard to CSAH 23 (Cedar Avenue), to a four-lane divided highway. Improvements include two traffic lanes in each direction with a center median, the addition of turn lanes, access modifications, and a trail on both sides of CSAH 70. The total project length is approximately four miles.

Construction is planned to begin in May 2020 and the project will be constructed over two years. 220<sup>th</sup> Street extension and eastbound lanes of CSAH 70 are anticipated to be constructed first. The westbound lanes of CSAH 70 are anticipated to be constructed during the second construction season.

This EA was prepared as a part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and state environmental review process to fulfill requirements of both 42 USC § 4332 and Minnesota Statutes Chapter 116D. At the federal level, the EA is used to provide sufficient environmental documentation to determine the need for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or that a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is appropriate.

This document also serves as an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW). Minnesota Rules, part 4410.1300 allows the EA to take the place of the EAW form, provided that the EA addresses each of the environmental effects identified in the EAW form. This EA includes each of the environmental effects identified in the EAW form. It is used to provide sufficient environmental documentation to determine the need for a state EIS or that a Negative Declaration is appropriate.

Dakota County is the proposer and Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU) for this project. Preparation of an EAW is considered mandatory under Minnesota Rules, part 4410.4300, subpart 22, item B.

This document is made available for public review and comment in accordance with the requirements of 23 CFR 771.119(d) and Minnesota Rules, part 4410.1500 through 4410.1600.

Copies of the EA/EAW are being distributed to agencies on the current Minnesota Environmental Quality Board distribution list and other interested parties. The EA/EAW can be accessed electronically on the project website at <https://clients.bolton-menk.com/csa70>. It will also be available in hard copy at the following locations:

- Dakota County Western Service Center – 14955 Galaxie Avenue Apple Valley, MN 55124
- Heritage Library – 20085 Heritage Drive, Lakeville, MN 55044
- Dakota County Library Farmington – 508 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Farmington, MN 55024

A public hearing on the EA/EAW will be held on February 4, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at the Administration Center (Boardroom on Third Floor) located at 1590 Highway 55, Hastings, MN 55033. Verbal and written comments will be recorded.

Written comments on the EA/EAW will be accepted through February 13, 2020 and should be directed to:

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Project Manager  
14955 Galaxie Avenue  
Apple Valley, MN 55124  
[Jacob.Rezac@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:Jacob.Rezac@co.dakota.mn.us)

Enclosure: CSAH 70 Expansion project Environmental Assessment/Environmental Assessment Worksheet  
(December 2019)