



Office of Environmental Stewardship

Mail Stop 620
395 John Ireland Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55155-1800

Office Tel: (651) 366-4294

May 23, 2018

Re: S.P. 060-601-059, Bridge 5767 Replacement and CSAH 1 Reconstruction
Polk County, MN and Traill County, ND
T147N, R49W, Sections 19, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 30

Dear Tribal Representative:

Polk County, Minnesota is proposing to replace Bridge 5767 and reconstruct CSAH 1 from Bridge 5767 to Neilsville, Minnesota with federal funds administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). This undertaking is subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, and under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Section 106 of the NHPA requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties (i.e., those properties eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places). This process involves efforts to identify historic properties potentially affected by the undertaking, assess its effects and seek ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate any adverse effects on historic properties. On behalf of the FHWA, which has designated its Section 106 responsibilities to the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Cultural Resources Unit (CRU), we are now initiating review to determine the possible effects of the undertaking (if any) on historic properties. In accordance with 36 CFR 800.2(c) of the NHPA and as per the terms of the Programmatic Agreement between the Tribe and the FHWA, we are contacting you to see if you know of any historic properties of religious or historic significance in the area, and to see if you would like to participate in the Section 106 process for this project (i.e., to be a consulting party).

The proposed project is to replace Polk County Bridge 5767/Traill County Bridge 49-120-10.0 that spans the Red River of the North between Polk County, Minnesota and Traill County, North Dakota. Along with constructing the bridge, Polk County will be reconstructing approximately 1000 feet of Traill County Road 17 and 2.0 miles of Polk County CSAH 1 to the west limits of Neilsville, MN. The reconstruction will be done to strengthen and fix the riding surface of the roadways. The existing roads alignments will not be changed. All work will stay within the existing right-of-way except at the new bridge location where additional right-of-way may be required for bank sloping.

The proposed 7-span continuous steel beam bridge will be constructed at the existing bridge location. It will consist of 6-piers and have a length of 857 feet with a roadway width of 32 feet. One pier will be located in the center of the channel. Banks within the vicinity of the bridge will be resloped to provide stability. All excavations and fill activities will extend approximately 50

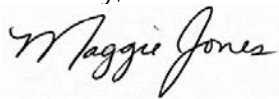
feet each way of centerline within the new bridge location. Demolition of the old bridge will occur prior the construction of the proposed structure.

Our office has defined the area of potential effect (APE) for the project as the proposed construction limits. The APE is defined as the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist. Once the APE was established, we examined the SHPO database for the list of previously recorded resources in the area. Based on these queries, there were no previously recorded archaeological resources within the APE, or adjacent to it. Based on the project activities, our office conducted an archaeological survey for the project area where one precontact site (21PL109) was identified. Site 21PL109 is a large multicomponent Archaic, Woodland, and Northeastern Plains Village period habitation along the Red River. The site was evaluated as eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion D. We have enclosed the survey report and eligibility determination to this letter.

We would appreciate any comments you may have about historic, cultural, and archaeological resources within the project area and other concerns regarding this project. Our planning schedule is such that we must initiate work on our environmental and historic preservation studies, so we hope to hear from you within **30 days** of receipt of this letter. If you indicate that you are not aware of any historic properties with religious or cultural significance and that you do not wish to comment on the project, or if our office does not receive a response within 30 days, we will conclude that you do not wish to be a consulting party for this project and no further project information will be forwarded.

Thank you for your attention to this request. We look forward to working with you on this project.

Sincerely,



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Cultural Resources Unit
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Enclosures: Archaeological survey report

cc: Floyd Azure, Chairman, Fort Peck Tribes (hard copy)
Amy Burnette, THPO, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (email and hard copy)
Faron Jackson, Sr., Chairman, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (hard copy)
Kristina Quaempts, Section 106 Coordinator, Northern Cheyenne Tribe (email)
Roger Trudell, Chairman, Santee Sioux Nation (email)
Duane Whipple, THPO Office, Santee Sioux Nation (email)
Bruce Nadeau, THPO, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa (email)
Kevin Jensvold, Chairman, Upper Sioux Community (email)
Samantha Odegard, THPO Coordinator, Upper Sioux Community (email)
Darin Carlstrom, Polk County (email)
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MnDOT CRU Project File