



St. Croix
CROSSING

St. Croix Crossing Bike/Pedestrian Loop Trail Public Informational Meeting

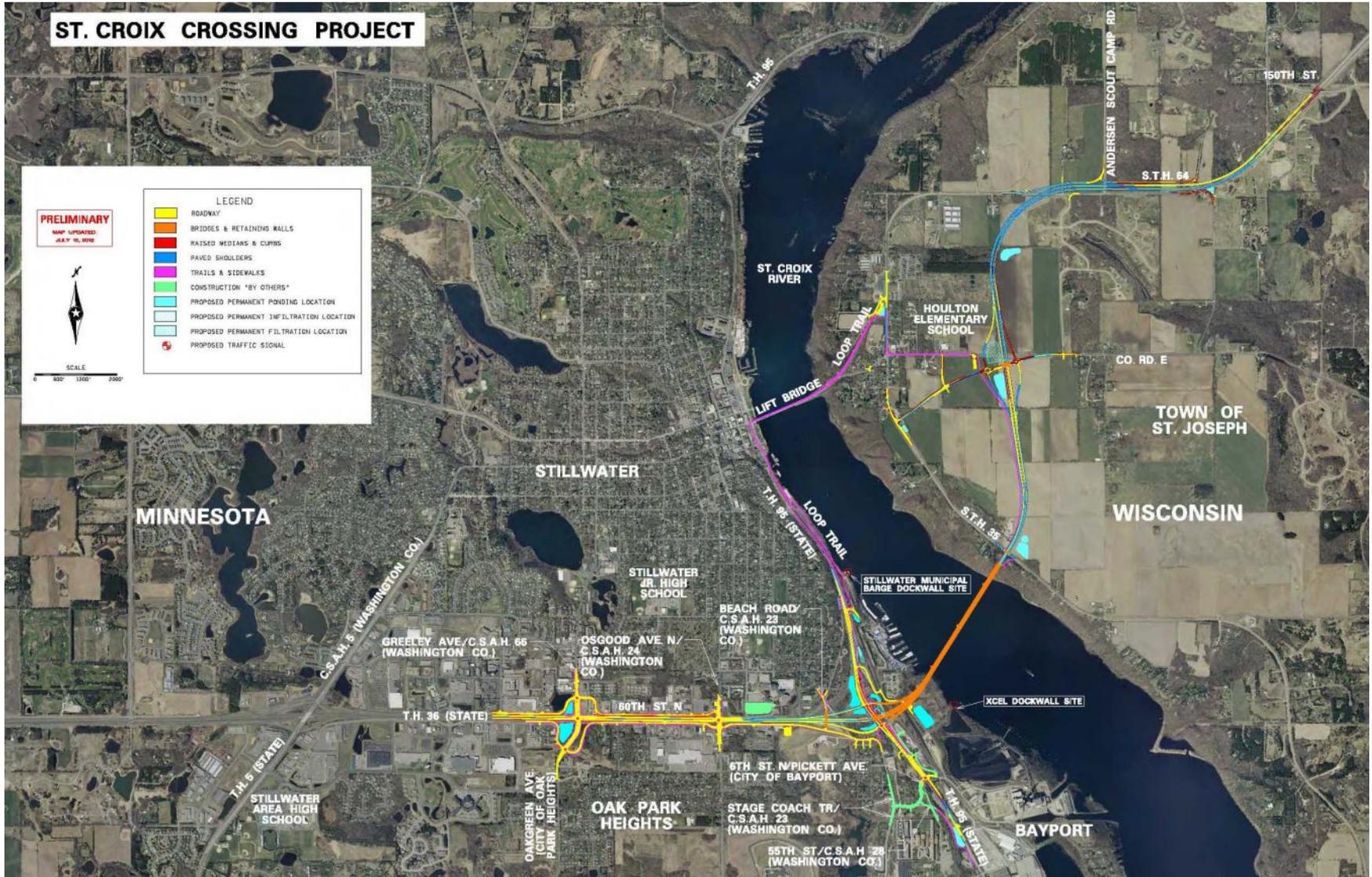
Beth Cunningham, PE – WisDOT

September 29, 2015





Preferred Alternative Package — New River Crossing Location, Design and Mitigation Package





Preferred Alternative Package — Mitigation Package

- Standard Practice
- Riverway Impacts
- Growth Management
- Historic Properties
- Visual Enhancements

**TABLE 15-2
ST. CROIX RIVER CROSSING PROJECT
SUMMARY OF PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE MITIGATION ITEMS**

Mitigation Item	Estimated Proposed Mitigation Package (1)	Agency Responsible (2)	Implementation Schedule (3)	Contract Agreement
Standard Practice Mitigation Items (see Section 15.4.1.1 of this SFPEIS)				
Wild and riparian	Applicable	WisDOT, WisDOT, FHWA	During construction	Construction contract
Use of erosion control measures (erosion control blankets)	Applicable	WisDOT, WisDOT, FHWA	During construction	Construction contract
Use of erosion control blankets	Applicable	WisDOT, WisDOT, FHWA	During construction	Construction contract
Use of erosion control blankets	Applicable	WisDOT, WisDOT, FHWA	During construction	Construction contract
Riverway Impacts - Preferred Alternative Mitigation Measures (see Section 15.4.1.2 of this SFPEIS)				
Removal of steel bridge including bridge, and existing utility	\$1,100,000	WisDOT, WisDOT, FHWA	During construction	MOU between WisDOT and UIC
Mitigation for changes to hydrology				
Land protection by WDFW and/or local government through purchase, transfer or easement	\$4,500,000	WADNR, St. Croix County	Prior to construction	Final purchase agreements between WisDOT, WADNR and St. Croix County
Shaded restoration - removal of blacktop signs, partial restoration of Wisconsin approach, removal of pavement from east end of bridge to 5TH St and portions of US 52	\$60,000	WisDOT, WisDOT, FHWA	During construction	Construction contract
Removal of Tuna Terminal building (including solid waste removal)	\$100,000	WisDOT, WisDOT, FHWA	Prior to construction	Construction contract
Nature Park removal of non-historic elements to allow reversion to "natural state"	\$5,000	WisDOT, WisDOT, FHWA and WDFW	During construction	Construction contract
Riverway interpretation (shields for interpretation of natural/cultural resources)	\$300,000	NPS, WADNR, WDFW - consultation with WDFW	After construction	Final Permit Agreement with WisDOT and NPS (final agency)
Public boat access (feasibility study, environmental study and staff augmentation by WisDOT)	\$1,200,000	WADNR	After construction	Interagency Agreement with WisDOT and WADNR
Completion of loop trail system including grading of the municipal garage facility property	\$2,000,000	WisDOT, WisDOT, FHWA (construction of trail)	During construction	Construction contract - ownership and maintenance agreement yet to be determined
Recreation, education, and Riverway restoration	\$250,000	NPS	During construction	Final Permit Agreement with WisDOT and NPS
Easement on excess property owned by WisDOT (Blackburn Estate, closed trail area, east of 5TH St) - Estimated total value = \$460,000 (3)	\$0	WisDOT, WisDOT, FHWA	After construction	Property deed
Spill response plan	\$100,000	NPS	During construction	Final Permit Agreement with WisDOT and NPS
Growth Management Mitigation Items (see Section 15.4.1.3 of this SFPEIS)				
Land management fund				
Local government planning/consult support	\$2,700,000	WADNR, St. Croix County, UW-River Falls	180 days after start of decision (DOE) as stipulated in Growth Management MOU	Final permit agreements between WisDOT, WADNR, St. Croix County, and UW-River Falls
Grassland protection program				
Trail feasibility study		DOT staff support only	After record of decision (ROD); prior to construction	Interagency agreement between WisDOT and Metropolitan Council
Water quality monitoring of underpass (MOT) - water quality permitting		WisDOT	Prior to construction	WisDOT MOU with MPCA and St. Croix River Team Members
Historic Resources Impacts - Preferred Alternative Mitigation Measures (refer to Attachment Section 15B SFPEIS in Appendix G of this SFPEIS)				
Design and construction review - SHPO Review of all final designs affecting NRHP properties	Included in design	SHPO	Prior to and during construction	Section 106 Attached MOA
LR Bridge				
WisDOT continue ownership, maintenance and operation of LR Bridge	--	WisDOT	Ongoing	Section 106 Attached MOA
Establish advisory LR Bridge Advisory Committee	--	WisDOT, WisDOT, FHWA	During construction	Section 106 Attached MOA
Perform condition assessment, develop operations and maintenance manual	--	WisDOT	During construction	Section 106 Attached MOA
Develop LR Bridge Management Plan	--	WisDOT, WisDOT, FHWA	During construction	Section 106 Attached MOA
Landmark endorsement fund for operation and maintenance	\$3,000,000	WisDOT, WisDOT, FHWA	Prior to construction	Section 106 Attached MOA
Capital improvements with consent on to pedestrian/bicycle facility	Funding committed to under Statewide Historic Bridge Management Plan	WisDOT, FHWA	Prior to construction	Section 106 Attached MOA
Egg Cabin Restaurant - parking lot design and construction	\$250,000	WisDOT, WisDOT, FHWA	During construction	Grant agreement between WisDOT and OFH for construction
Bergheim Shanty Mill and Warehouse - Potential items include additional documentation, move or demolition of Shanty Mill and Warehouse	\$200,000 (moving cost estimate)	WisDOT, WisDOT	Prior to construction	Section 106 Attached MOA
St. Croix Overlook-South				
Review Checklist as directed in Riverside Railroad on August 2005	\$650,000	WisDOT, WisDOT, FHWA	During construction	Construction contract
Develop management plan for maintenance and rehabilitation	--	WisDOT	Prior to construction	Section 106 Attached MOA
WisDOT retain ownership of site	--	WisDOT	During construction	Construction contract
Historic Commercial Historic District				
Enhanced signage from new bridge and roadways to downtown Hill water	Included in signage package	WisDOT, WisDOT, FHWA	During construction	Construction contract
Construction communication plan	Included in construction costs	WisDOT, WisDOT, FHWA	During construction	Construction contract
Control parking on Chestnut and Main Streets	Included in construction costs	WisDOT, WisDOT, FHWA	After construction	Section 106 Attached MOA
Provide parking lot at old 5TH St and loop trail in Wisconsin	Included in loop trail costs	WisDOT, WisDOT, FHWA	During construction	Construction contract
Hillwater Cultural Landscape District				
Complete and distribute illustrated study of Cultural Landscape District	\$50,000	WisDOT, WisDOT, FHWA, and SHPO	Prior to construction	Section 106 Attached MOA
South Main Archaeological District				
Protect and stabilize Hersey and Ives Archaeological Site prior to use for staging	Included in construction costs	WisDOT, WisDOT, FHWA	During construction	Construction contract
Avoid and minimize effects to historic resources in design of loop trail	Included in design	WisDOT, WisDOT, FHWA	During construction	Section 106 Attached MOA
Revised Permit				
Construction of barn based on concept presented in Visual Quality Manual	Included in construction costs	WisDOT, WisDOT, FHWA	During construction	Section 106 Attached MOA
Historical Engineer of Historic Places (NHP) Commitment				
Egg Cabin, Bergheim Shanty Mill and Warehouse, St. Croix Overlook-South, South Main Archaeological District, Thelen Farmstead, Kretsch Farmstead	\$20,000	WisDOT, WisDOT	Prior to construction	Section 106 Attached MOA
LR Bridge publication (distributed based on LR Bridge)	\$50,000	WisDOT, WisDOT	Prior to construction	Section 106 Attached MOA
Develop field guide to Hillwater Cultural Landscape District (includes St. Croix Overlook-South)	\$10,000	WisDOT	During construction	Section 106 Attached MOA
Visual Enhancements (see Section 15.4.4 of this SFPEIS)				
Visual enhancement implementation of the Visual Quality Manual - increase overall aesthetic value	Included in construction costs	WisDOT, WisDOT, FHWA	During construction	Construction contract
MITIGATION TOTAL FOR PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE				
\$16,582,000				

(1) Funding for mitigation to be provided by the project, through the transportation agreement (FHWA, WisDOT, WisDOT).
 (2) Agency responsible for implementation of the mitigation item.
 (3) Implementation schedule details provided in Section 15.4.1 of this SFPEIS.
 (4) Costs associated with this item are included in construction costs and not in the mitigation total for the Preferred Alternative.
 (5) Estimate of excess right of way available for roads is \$6.6 acres. At \$10,000 acre difference in site value between developed and undeveloped land, amount of lost revenue for Preferred Alternative = \$66,000.



Preferred Alternative Package — Mitigation Package, Loop Trail Specific

- RIVERWAY IMPACTS

- Kolliner Park: Removal of non-historic elements to allow reversion to “natural state”
- Completion of Loop Trail system including grading of the municipal barge facility

- HISTORIC PROPERTIES

- Stillwater Commercial Historic District: Provide parking lot at old STH 35/64 and Loop Trail in Wisconsin

- VISUAL ENHANCEMENTS

- Visual Enhancements: Implementation of the Visual Quality Manual

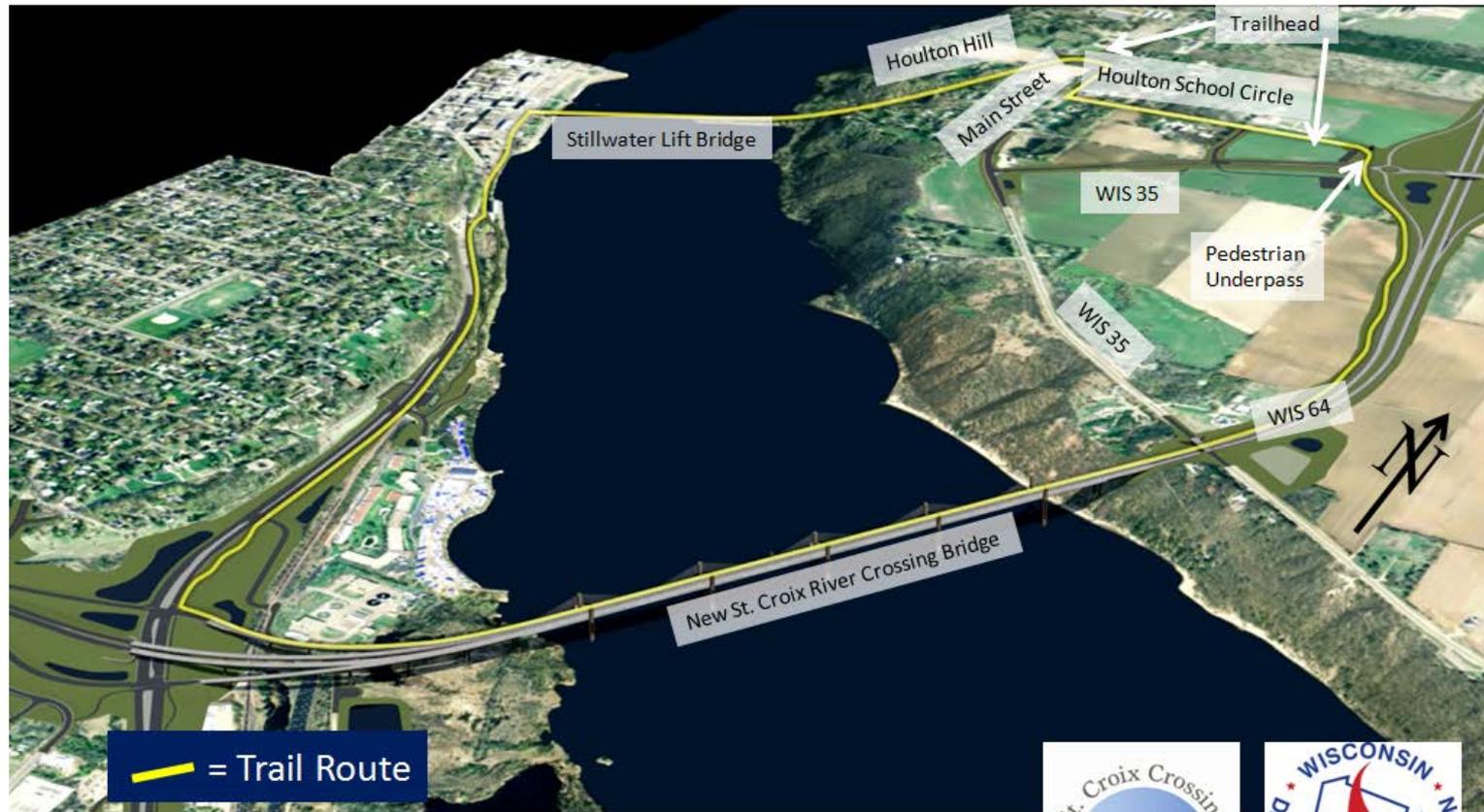


Design Team and Partnering Governmental Agencies

- **WisDOT – Lead Agency**
 - Tim Mason, Project Supervisor
 - Beth Cunningham, Project Manager
 - Teresa Davis, Project Designer
- **St. Croix County – Maintaining agency**
- **Town of St. Joseph – Maintaining agency**
- **City of Stillwater – Abutting landowner**
- **MnDOT – Lead Agency**
- **FHWA – Approving Agency**

St. Croix Crossing Bike/Pedestrian Loop Trail Layout

St. Croix Crossing Bike/Pedestrian Loop Trail



Source: MNDOT Metro
District Visualization Office



St. Croix Crossing Bike/Pedestrian Loop Trail Layout

St. Croix Crossing Bike/Pedestrian Loop Trail



Photo Credit: Mike Demulling
New Richmond Airport Manager



St. Croix Crossing Bike/Pedestrian Loop Trail Layout

St. Croix Crossing WIS 35/Main Street Interchange



Photo Credit: Mike Demulling
New Richmond Airport Manager

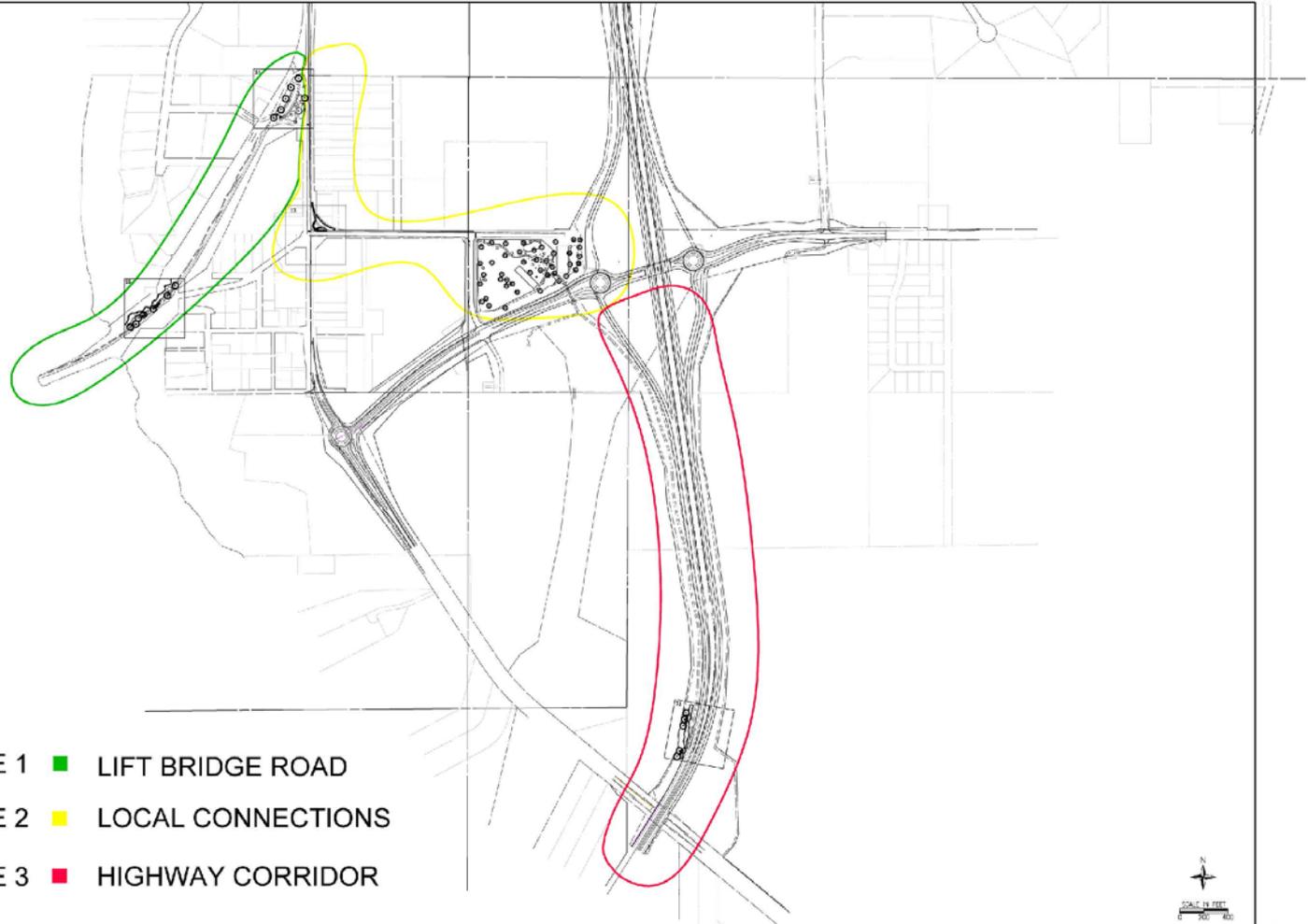


St. Croix Crossing Bike/Pedestrian Loop Trail Layout

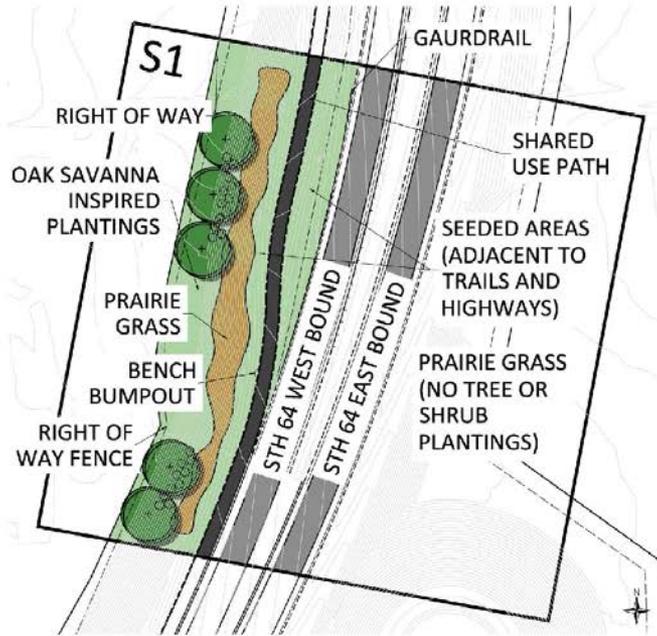
St. Croix Crossing Bike/Pedestrian Loop Trail



St. Croix Crossing Bike/Pedestrian Loop Trail Landscaping



St. Croix Crossing Bike/Pedestrian Loop Trail Landscaping



SCHEMATIC PLAN 1
SCALE: 1" = 50'

SYMBOLS LEGEND

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|---|
| EXISTING TREES |  | SHRUBS |  |
| PROPOSED TREES |  | SEEDED AREA |  |
| OVERSTORY |  | NOTE: EXACT PLANT TYPES TO BE DETERMINED LATER | |
| UNDERSTORY / ACQUIL HILL |  | | |

VISUAL QUALITY MANUAL SUGGESTED PLANTINGS FOR SAVANNA CONCEPT

SHADE TREES



BUR OAK



NORTHERN PIN OAK



SWAMP WHITE OAK

SMALL TREES



HAWTHORN



QUAKING ASPEN



PAPER BIRCH

SHRUBS



CHOCHECHERRY



SERVICEBERRY



NANNYBERRY VIBURNUM

GRASSES AND FORBES



LITTLE BLUE STEM



BUTTERFLY WEED

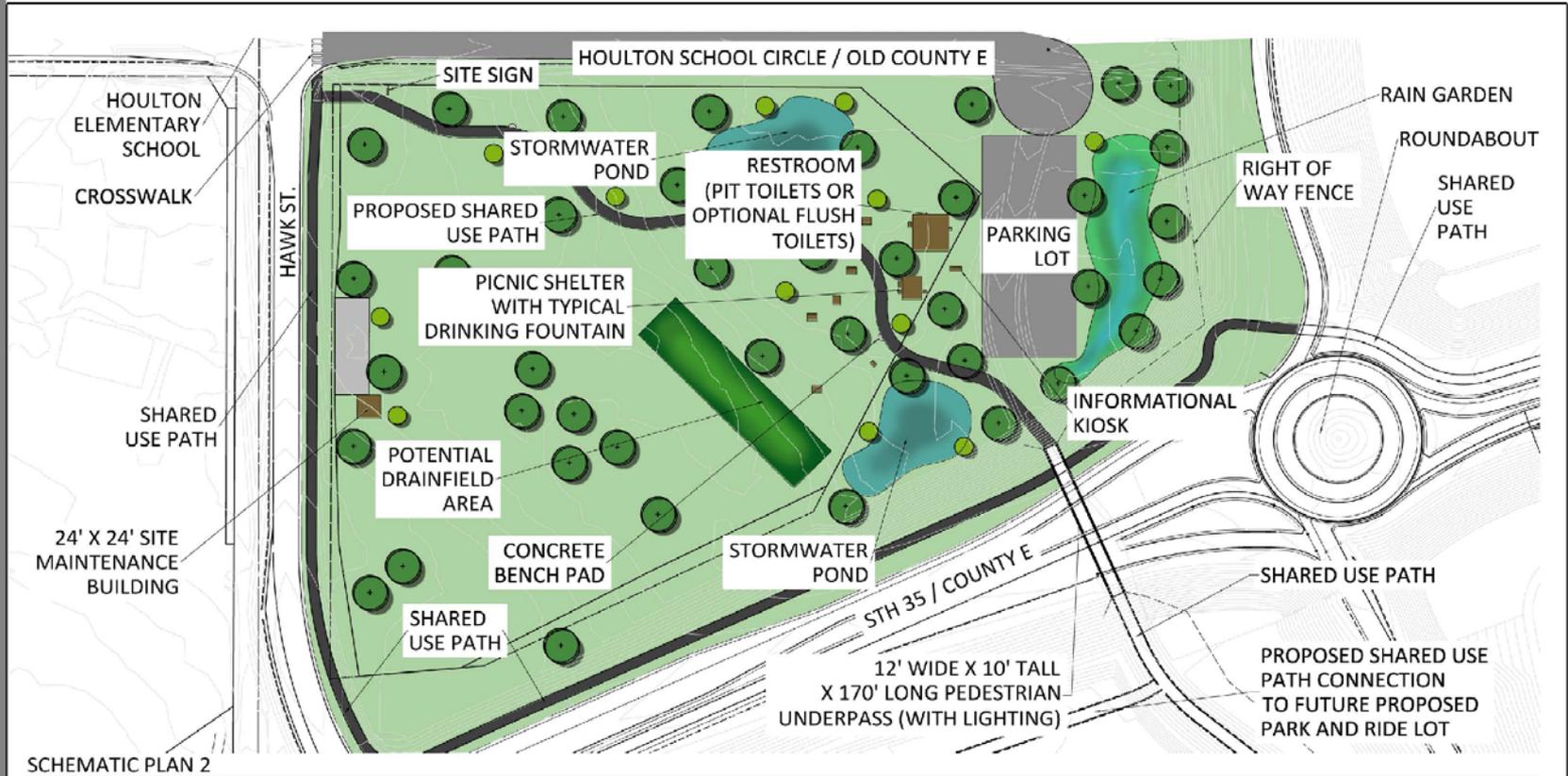


WLD LUPINE



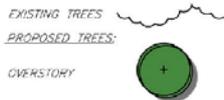
PRAIRIE DROPSEED

St. Croix Crossing Bike/Pedestrian Loop Trail Landscaping



SCHEMATIC PLAN 2
SCALE: 1" = 50'

SYMBOLS LEGEND



NOTE: EXACT PLANT TYPES TO BE DETERMINED LATER





St. Croix County Agreement / Amenities

Terms and Conditions:

Initial Construction of the Loop Trail will include, at State expense as part of the improvement project, the trailhead and limited amenities to include:

- Small Shelter
- Signage/Kiosk
- Picnic Tables (4-6)
- Recycling and Trash receptacles (2-4)
- Benches (1-2)
- Landscaping
- Electricity
- Well/Water/Drinking Fountain
- Parking Areas (2) with 30-40 stalls
- Restroom (Pit vault toilet)
- County Sanitary Permit
- Facilities along trail: Historic Interpretive Signage (12), recycling and trash receptacles (2-3), and benches (2-3)



Involvement Opportunities

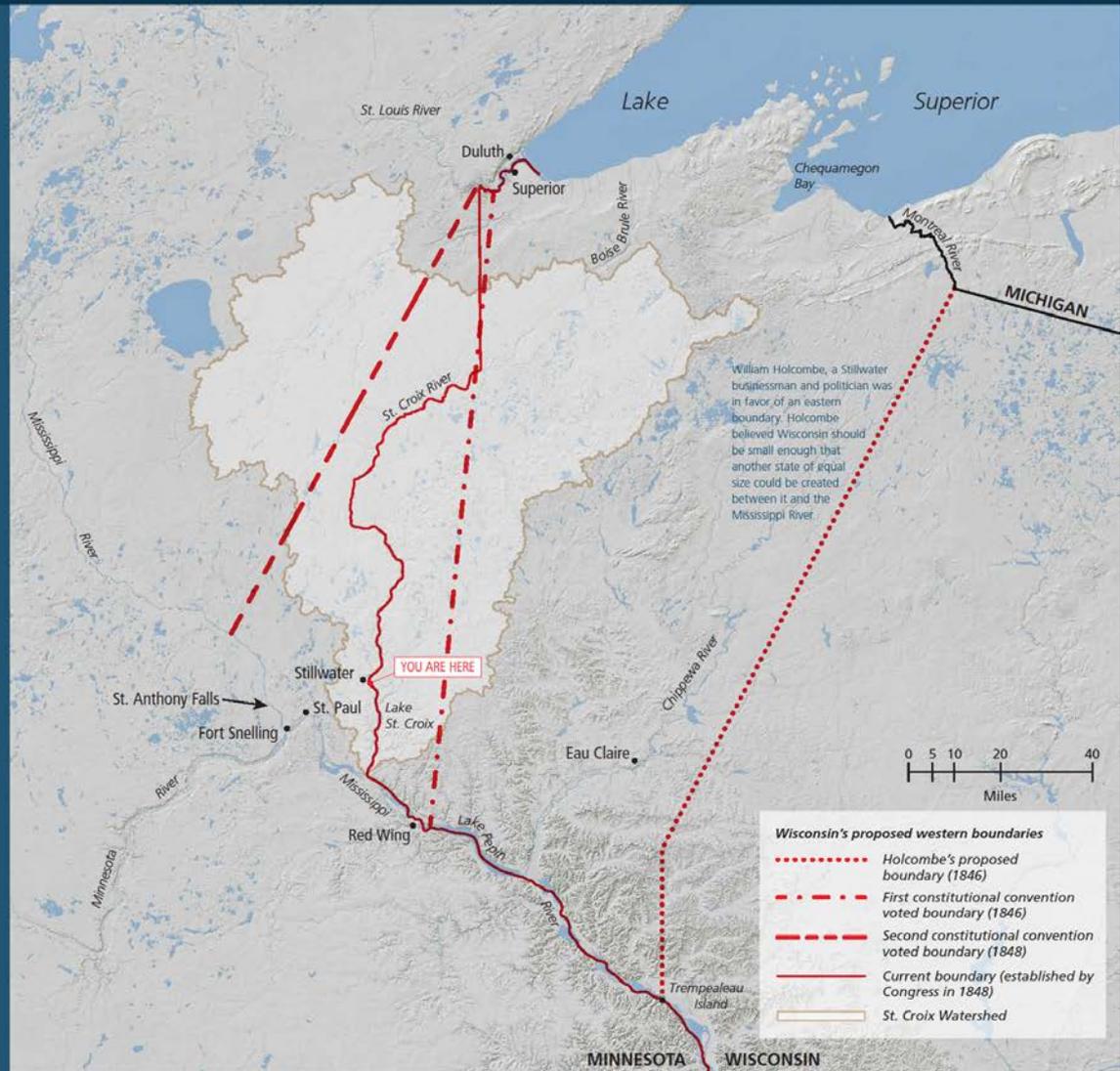
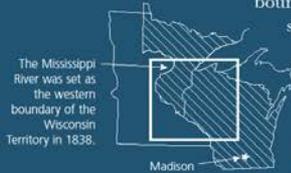
- St. Croix County will be the governing agency that you will work with to implement most of these involvement opportunities:
- Interpretive panel layout/educational information
- Rain gardens
- Pollinator habitat area in the main trailhead location
- Educational planting in the main trailhead location
- Potential location for Art Benches
- Donate a tree - St. Croix County will provide a list of species options
- Adopt-a-Trail – provide trash clean-up, trail sweeping, etc.
- Sponsor a bench, tree, rain garden, prairie restoration grouping, etc.
- Adopt-a-Highway for the local roads running adjacent to or perpendicular to the Loop Trail.
- Provide the water bottle filler at the trailhead restroom
- Provide a bicycle aid station
- Create “Wish List” for park

Where's the State Boundary?

Before Wisconsin became a state in 1848, controversy surrounded the location of its northwestern boundary. Interests in the St. Croix Valley wanted to be excluded from the new state. They anticipated having greater influence in a separate state with its capital in Stillwater, than one with the government in Madison. Anti-slavery forces in Washington also wanted to limit the size of Wisconsin to leave room to create another free state from what originally had been the Northwest Territory.

However, out of state pride and the desire to lay claim to the natural resources of the St. Croix Valley, most Wisconsinites favored a more-western boundary, some as far as the Mississippi, where the boundary of the Wisconsin Territory had been set in 1838.

When it finally came time to admit Wisconsin as the 30th state, Congress compromised. Wisconsin's northwest boundary would run directly south from the first rapids on the St. Louis River, ten miles west of Superior, to the St. Croix River, and then follow that river to its junction with the Mississippi. The St. Croix Valley, therefore, was divided between the new Wisconsin and the future Minnesota. Look for the boundary marker on the bridge sidewalk a few feet to your left.





Comments Received

- St. Croix Bike and Pedestrian Trail Coalition comments
- Town of St. Joseph comments
- Houlton Elementary School comments
 - Frequently Asked Questions handout addresses each comment that was received. Several comments were similar, responses were lumped together.
 - Several of the comments were able to be accommodated.
 - Some of the comments/requests are not feasible within the scope of this project.



Next Steps

- Send in additional comments to WisDOT by October 30th, 2015
- WisDOT will address the comments by November 30th, 2015
- WisDOT will review and evaluate additional comments and implement where feasible.
- WisDOT will continue to work with County, Town, and City of Stillwater in preliminary design phase
- Final design will begin in February 2016. Final design will include detailing plans of the decisions made during preliminary design phase.
- WisDOT will hold another meeting in February outlining final layout



Construction Schedule

- New date for bridge opening expected by end of December, 2015
- Safety and high construction standards is utmost priority
- Construction of the Loop Trail is currently scheduled for 2017
- Delay in bridge opening will likely have impact to completion of Loop Trail
 - Construction on Houlton Hill cannot begin until traffic is on new facility
 - Delay could result in final completion of the Loop Trail in 2018
- Project communication team will continue to update the public as these dates are released.