

Memo

To: EQB Distribution List and Interested Parties

From: Andrew Lutaya, PE
Project Manager

Date: June 8, 2026

RE: Negative Declaration Regarding the Need for an Environmental Impact Statement for the I-494: Airport to Highway 169 Project, Hennepin County, MN (S.P. 2785-465)

The proposed Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Project is in Hennepin County, Minnesota, within the cities of Bloomington, Edina and Richfield and the unorganized territory of Fort Snelling. Work will take place from West Buh Lake Rd and 24th Ave on I-494; from 76th St to 86th St on I-35W; and on the Highway (Hwy) 77 bridges over I-494.

The project will:

- Add E-ZPass lanes on I-484 from Hwy 169 to Hwy 100, and from I-35W to Hwy 77.
- Reconstruct existing interchanges at Hwy 77 over I-494 and 82nd St over I-35W.
- Replace pavement on I-494 and I-35W.
- Replace traffic signals at France Ave and I-494, and 82nd St over I-35W.
- Construct a new bridge at southbound I-35W to 82nd St.
- Replace the railroad (RR) bridge east of Lyndale Ave and make repairs to some bridges on I-494.

The Project also includes improvements to frontage roads, sidewalks, trails, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), noise barriers, drainage, and retaining walls.

Under Minnesota rules, MnDOT is the Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU) for this Project. A Federal Hybrid Environmental Assessment Re-evaluation and State Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) were prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Minnesota Rules Chapter 4410, respectively. The EAW was filed with the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) and circulated for review. A "Notice of Availability" was published in the EQB Monitor on April 14, 2026 and comments were received through May 16, 2026.

As the RGU for the Project, MnDOT has undertaken a thorough analysis of the Project and its impacts. Through its own analysis, coordination with affected agencies, public and community involvement, and comment letters received, MnDOT has determined that the proposed improvements as described in the EAW and the Findings of Fact and Conclusions (FOFC) do not have the potential for significant environmental impacts. MnDOT has concluded that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required and has issued a Negative Declaration Order for the Project. This decision is supported by the full administrative record of the Project, including the FOFC document.

The Negative Declaration concludes the Minnesota state environmental review process. MnDOT does not intend to circulate paper copies of the FOFC document or the Negative Declaration Order. These documents are

available on the project website at www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i494edina-richfield/eaw. For those without access to electronic documents, paper copies can be obtained by contacting Andrew Lutaya, Project Manager, Minnesota Department of Transportation, Metro District, 1500 County Road B2, Roseville, MN 55113; or Andrew.Lutaya@state.mn.us.