



SP 107-090-009 Federal Project No. MN FLAP BLMTN OCA(1)

Route Old Cedar Avenue

From Old Shakopee Road (CSAH 1) To Minnesota River

Proposed Improvement: Reconstruction of the existing road from Old Shakopee Road (CSAH 1) to the existing parking lot and rehabilitation of the parking lot.

Construction of a new off road trail in the right-of-way along Old Cedar Avenue from Old Shakopee Road to Old Cedar Avenue Bridge. Conversion of the existing road to an off road trail from the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge to the Minnesota River.

Construction of trail amenities.

Environmental Document anticipated: **PM** / EA / EIS

Project Manager Name: Julie M. Long, PE
Title: Sr. Civil Engineer, City of Bloomington
Address: 1700 W. 98th Street Bloomington, MN 55431
Phone: 952-563-4865
Email: jlong@BloomingtonMN.gov

This project will impact the following Section 4(f) property.

1. Description of the Section 4(f) Property. This parcel is located in one of the eight units of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge along the Minnesota River. It is in the Long Meadow Lake Unit and is a small part of the larger 11,012 acres that encompass the refuge. This parcel is comprised of woods and wetlands and has natural surfaced trails, a boardwalk and a parking lot for visitors. See attached maps.

Name: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge - Long Meadow Lake Unit:
Old Cedar Ave

Size (acre): 171

Location: Old Cedar Avenue/Long Meadow Lake

Ownership: United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Type of Section 4(f) Property: Wildlife refuge

Function of or Available Activities on the Property: Hiking, bird watching,
Photography

Description and Location of Existing and Planned Facilities:

Old Cedar Avenue is an existing road that starts at Old Shakopee Road, crosses the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge over Long Meadow Lake and connects to what is known in Bloomington as the Minnesota River Road, all within City right-of-way. The



proposed project would reconstruct the existing road from Old Shakopee Road to the FWS parking lot. In conjunction with this road construction, a new off-road trail, known as Nokomis-Minnesota River Trail would be constructed. On the east side of Long Meadow Lake, the existing road will be removed and replaced with an off road trail facility from the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge to the Minnesota River.

The existing parking lot and access to the existing FWS Bluff Trail occurs within the 4(f) parcel. The planned facility includes reconfiguration of the parking lot and connecting to the existing Bluff Trail. The proposed parking lot improvement includes sidewalk that connects the Bluff Trail to the Nokomis-Minnesota River Trail within the City right-of-way. The FWS Hogback Ridge trail also connects to the City right-of-way. Trailhead amenities, like signage, are also proposed on the 4(f) parcel and in City right-of-way.

Access: Vehicular access is from Old Cedar Avenue. Pedestrian access currently is from Hogback Ridge Trail and the Bluff Trail through the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. A separate project is underway that will provide new access from the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge which opens up access from the TH77 pedestrian bridge that serves both pedestrians and bicyclists. As part of this project an off-road trail will be constructed as part of the Nokomis-Minnesota River Trail. When completed, this trail corridor will connect from Lake Nokomis in Minneapolis all the way to Dakota County.

Usage: Annually, the Minnesota Valley Refuge areas receive approximately 140,000 visitors. The Refuge Visitor Services Supervisor says they have no way to know how many visitors a year use the Old Cedar Avenue parking lot and Bluff/Hogback Ridge Trails as they don't use counters, or do surveys, or anything that would give any quantitative results. From anecdotal sources (refuge staff and volunteer trail patrols that are infrequent), it is one of their most heavily used trail heads but the precise numbers of users is unknown.

Relationship to Other Similarly Used Lands in the Vicinity:

Long Meadow Lake Unit-Bass Ponds: 2501 86th Street E.-East trailhead for Hogback Ridge Trail (1.3 miles), parking

Long Meadow Lake Unit - Parker Picnic Area; 10401 Columbus Road - Picnicking and spur trail (1.75 miles) down to Bluff Trail, parking

Long Meadow Lake Unit- Russell A. Sorensen Landing: 11135 Lyndale Ave. - West trailhead for Bluff trail (3.4 miles), parking

The Black Dog Unit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge is located on the other side of the Minnesota River and the Bloomington Ferry Unit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge is located further west from Long Meadow Lake. Both of these units also have trails and parking as well.

Applicable Clauses Affecting Ownership: The US Fish and Wildlife staff has indicated that there are no encumbrances on the property when examining the



appraisals and land inspections. Two parcels do have additional notes from the original inspection during the land acquisition process. Tract 31 has a pipeline on it. Tract 42 has a Certificate of Right-of-Way (CROW) for the Meadow Lake Gun Club but the FWS has also purchased the Gun Club rights in a previous Warranty Deed to the United States and therefore the CROW no longer encumbers the property.

Unusual Characteristics Reducing or Enhancing the Value of the Property: The parcel and parking lot are subject to flooding.

LAWCON Section 6(f) (or other Federal Encumbrances) Impacts: Tracts 31 and 42 were acquired in 1986 using Land and Water Conservation Funds (LAWCON) Per a discussion with Joe Hiller of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources these two parcels will not require additional approval from a LAWCON Section 6(f) standpoint. This would only be necessary if one of the grants triggered it or if the City was giving land to FWS. Since neither of these are the case no additional LAWCON Section 6(f) process is required. It is expected that the FWS would use federal funds on their property. (See map)

2. Impacts to the Section 4(f) Property.

There are two types of impact to the Section 4(f) property that are known and there is one potential impact but the effects are unknown at this time. The known impacts are the reconstruction of the FWS parking lot and the temporary occupancy for the Bluff and Hogback Ridge Trails given that the parking lot will be closed for construction. The potential impact is due to archeological resources that have been found in the area of the parking lot. There is a Programmatic Agreement underway and the Section 106 process needs to be completed prior to knowing what the Section 4(f) impact is.

Impacts to the FWS property are the result of the FWS request of the City of Bloomington to include reconstruction of their existing parking lot with the City road and trail project.

Amount of land impacted: 1 acre total

Permanent R/W Acquisition/Easements: 0 acres

Temporary Easements: 1 acre (via Special Use Permit for parking lot construction)

Functions Affected: The trail and parking lot will be closed during parking lot construction. This includes functions like hiking, bird watching or photography. No functions will be permanently eliminated with this project.

Facilities Affected: Parking lot and trail connections to parking lot will be temporarily affected during parking lot construction, but these facilities will be restored as part of the construction project.



3. Coordination with Responsible Official with Jurisdiction Over the Section 4(f) Property: Attached is a letter from the Refuge Manager stating that the proposed action will not adversely affect the activities, features and attributes important to the Fish and Wildlife Service.
4. Considerations.

Impact Avoidance:

Reconstructing a FWS owned and funded parking lot on their land makes a Section 4(f) impact for the parking lot unavoidable.

Temporary trails around the parking lot were explored to minimize the temporary occupancy, however this required filling within the floodplain and impacted the natural environment. In addition, at some point even these temporary trails would need to be closed to safely reconstruct the existing parking lot.

Planning to minimize harm:

The existing parking lot will be rehabilitated in a similar location to where it exists today. There have been discussions to either leave the existing curb in place or move it a foot or two in from the existing curb to minimize the impact to the nearby artifacts or even just milling and overlaying the parking lot. The ultimate decision for the parking lot curb lines will be part of the Section 106 historical review and any necessary Section 4f process for historic properties.

The intent is to leave a portion of the parking lot open to facilitate movement between the Bluff and Hogback Ridge Trail during the adjacent road and trail construction activities. A full closure will be necessary when the parking lot is reconstructed, but this project phasing will reduce the time of the total parking lot closure.

Mitigation:

As part of the road and parking lot reconstruction, an area for buses to turn around has been included as it is anticipated that groups may be bussed over from the Wildlife Refuge Headquarters to this site as well throughout the year. The disturbed paths will be replaced and project limits were coordinated with FWS so that work would not have to be removed and replaced with the separate FWS area projects. The disturbed areas will be restored with native landscaping.

Enhancement:

The parking lot will be rehabilitated as part of the project as will new trail connections. The entrance to the parking lot will be one driveway instead of the current split driveway that FWS has indicated causes some confusion with some patrons. Walkways will be constructed adjacent to the new parking lot so that pedestrians will no longer have to walk through the parking lot to access the Bluff or Hogback Ridge Trails or to walk from one trail to the other if the hiker was



STATE AID FOR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION
 De MINIMIS PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION REQUEST
 For parks, recreation areas, wildlife or waterfowl refuges

Rev. July 2010

Page 5 of 5

making a larger loop. Signs will be erected to explain the history of the area and trail location.

Recommended:

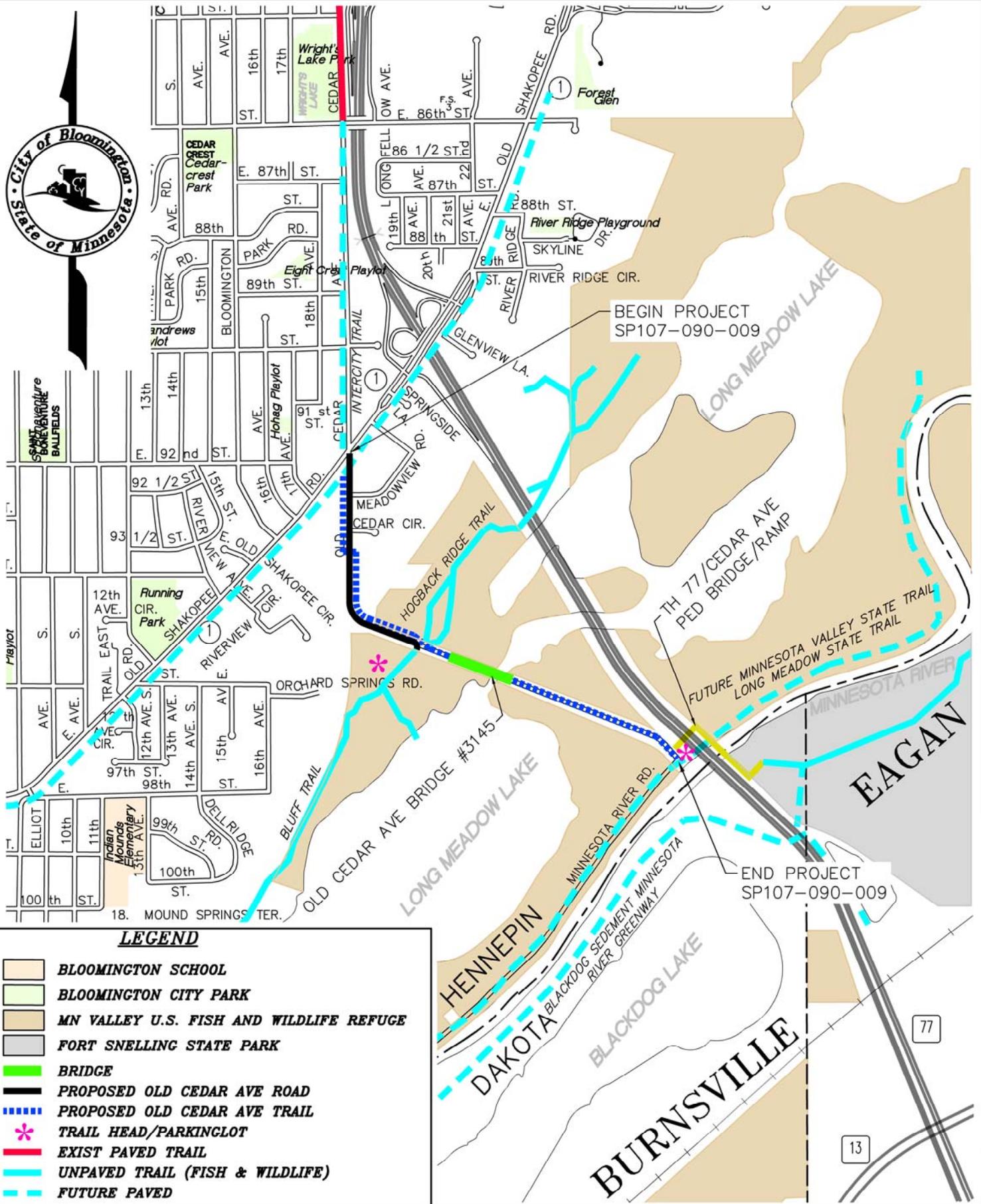
Local Agency Engineer Shelly Pedersen Date 3-25-16

District State Aid Engineer Dick Date 3/25/16

State Aid Engineer Dymthe Rosell Date 3/28/16

Preliminary Approval conditioned on results of public notice & comment period:

FHWA Engineer Abigail Ginsberg  ABIGAIL GINSBERG
 2016.03.28 12:42:25 -05'00' Date _____



**OLD CEDAR AVENUE ROAD,
TRAIL AND TRAIL HEAD**



**CITY OF
BLOOMINGTON
MINNESOTA**

1700 W 98TH ST.
BLOOMINGTON MN 55431
PHONE (952) 563-8700

**ENGINEERING DIVISION
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
PROJECT MAP**

Old Cedar Avenue Area Tract numbers





IN REPLY REFER TO

FWS/MNV

United States Department of the Interior

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
3815 American Blvd E.
Bloomington, MN 55425

January 20, 2016

Julie M. Long, Sr. Civil Engineer
City of Bloomington
1700 W. 98th Street
Bloomington, Minnesota 55431

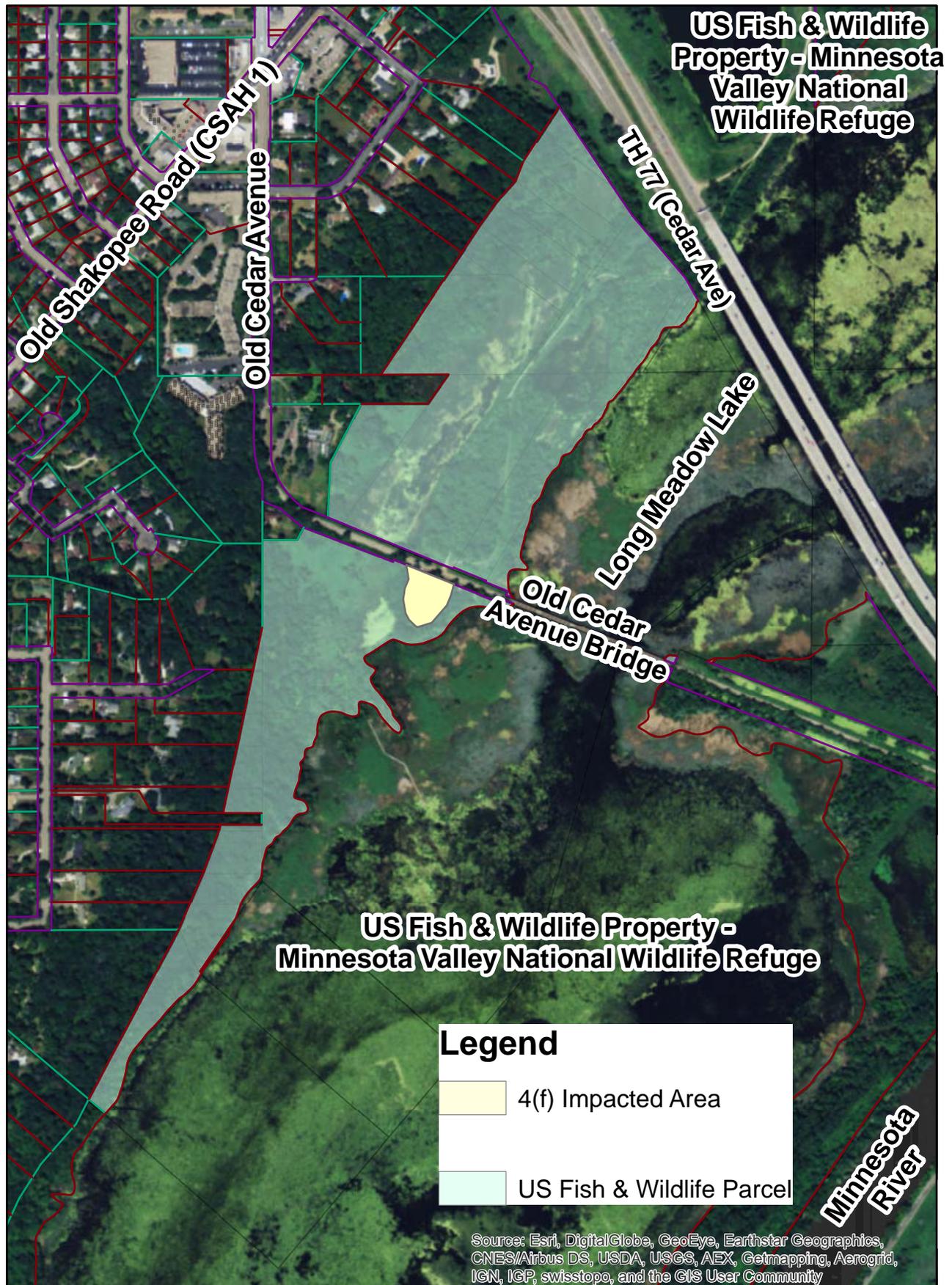
Dear Ms. Long:

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is in agreement with the city of Bloomington's DeMinimis Preliminary Determination Request for SP 107-090-009 Federal Project Number MN FLAP BLMTN OCA (1). The review of this project included an evaluation of the impacts under Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation Act of 1966. The city of Bloomington has coordinated with the Service to develop appropriate mitigation and enhancement for the 4(f) impacts and incorporated recommendations from the Service to minimize impacts to the property. The Service has also requested that the permanent Right of Way easement be increased to allow between 15-20 feet around the proposed structures to facilitate maintenance and upkeep of the facilities by the city of Bloomington. The Service agrees that the proposed action will likely not adversely affect the activities, features and attributes that are important to the management of our Trust resources.

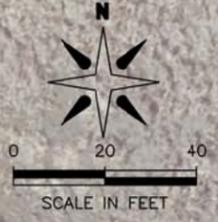
Sincerely,

Tim Bodeen
Refuge Manager

Section 4(f) Impacts to US Fish & Wildlife Parcel



Drawing name: H:\PROJECTS\2015\203 OCAB Trailhead Construction\Cad Files\ROW Acquisition 20' squared.dwg --- Printed: Mar 03, 2016 --- 6:28pm



TEMP. CONST. EASEMENT AREAS		
LOCATION	AREA S.F.	AREA ACRE
TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT	42,920 S.F.	0.99 ACRE

REVISIONS	
DATE	DESCRIPTION

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN WAS PREPARED BY ME OR UNDER MY DIRECT SUPERVISION AND THAT I AM A FULLY LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA.

LIC. #
DATE

DRAWN: SLHA
 CHECKED: XXX
 APPROVED: XXX

SHEET: #### OF ####

TEMPORARY CONST. EASEMENT
 PARKING LOT

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON MINNESOTA
 ENGINEERING DIVISION
 PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
 ###
 1700 W 80TH ST
 BLOOMINGTON MN 55431
 PHONE (952) 863-8700
 ###

SCHEDULE X
 NON-PARTICIPATING