

West Metro Corridor Project Update July 2008

The Environmental Assessment for the West Metro Corridor Project has been signed and a Finding of No Significant Impact has been approved. What does this mean? It means that Stearns County and the City of St. Cloud can now move forward with final project design and the right of way acquisition process. In the next few weeks residents along the affected roadways will likely be contacted by any of a number of firms hired and individuals hired by Stearns County.

Rinke Noonan has been hired to negotiate and acquire the necessary right of way for the project. Igor Lenzner is the main contact for Rinke Noonan. Julie Kalahar of Cyphers Appraisal and Mike Amo have been hired to perform independent appraisals on all of the affected properties. WSB & Associates will be performing the roadway design and survey work. Erickson Engineering will be designing the two bridges for the project.

The current schedule includes all appraisal work being complete by the end of September 2008. The actual right of way acquisition and negotiation will begin as soon as appraisals are received and reviewed. After roadway and bridge design is complete and construction plans are approved by the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the county will advertise for bids on the north/south segment of the project (County Road 134 and CSAH 138/54th Avenue). It is currently anticipated that this will occur in summer 2009. The construction on the east/west segment of the project (Veterans Drive/CSAH 4) is expected to begin in 2010. Please note that the above schedule is subject to change. The Stearns County web site will be updated as necessary at www.co.stearns.mn.us/686.htm. Questions or comments may be directed to Mitch Anderson or Jodi Teich at highway@co.stearns.mn.us, or (320) 255-6180.

