

June 3, 2025

VIA E-MAIL

Mathias Hughey, Northfield Heritage Preservation Commission
Mathias.Hughey@northfieldmn.gov

Re: S.P. 6603-28
Trunk Highway (TH) 19 Reconstruction
Webster, Bridgewater and Greenvale Townships and Northfield
Rice and Dakota Counties
T111N R20W Sections 1 and 2
T112N R20W Sections 27–36
T112N R21W Sections 25 and 36

Dear Mathias:

On behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), I am extending an invitation to the Northfield Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) to participate in the Section 106 process for the Trunk Highway (TH) 19 Reconstruction Project, a project sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) (maps attached).

The project is federally funded by FHWA and may require a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit and must comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 USC 300108) and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800. Section 106 requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties that are listed in, or are eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places. The Minnesota Department of Transportation Cultural Resources Unit (MnDOT CRU) is acting on behalf of the FHWA in carrying out certain aspects of the Section 106 process for this project under the terms of the *Programmatic Agreement Among the Federal Highway Administration, the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; the Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District; and the Minnesota Department of Transportation; Regarding Implementation of the Federal-Aid Highway Program in Minnesota* (Statewide PA).

This project, as described in the MnDOT *Early Notification Memo* (ENM; dated November 27, 2024), is located on TH 19 from I-35 west of Northfield to TH 3 in Northfield. It includes a reconstruction/regrade of TH 19 to a three-lane section from just east of Armstrong Road (just west of the western post entrance) to the UP Railroad in Northfield. From I-35 to just east of Armstrong Road and from the UP Railroad to TH 3, a mill and overlay will take place. If grant funding is acquired, the reconstruction will be from Decker Avenue to TH 3, and there will be a roundabout implemented at the Armstrong Road intersection. Culvert and catch basin work will be included with this project. Lighting improvements and new lighting are anticipated with this project. ADA improvements include curb ramp replacements, sidewalk construction and reconstruction, cross slope correction, etc. Snow trap locations along the project corridor will be addressed.

The city of Northfield has also received a grant to construct a new bike path along the north side of TH 19 from Armstrong Road to Decker Avenue in conjunction with this project.

Local governments are entitled to participate in the Section 106 process as consulting parties, along with the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (MnSHPO), Indian tribes, and other interested organizations and individuals. Consulting parties can share their views, review pertinent project information, offer ideas, and consider possible solutions together with the Federal agency and other consulting parties. Consulting parties play an active and important role in determining how potential effects to historic properties will be avoided, minimized, or mitigated during the planning and implementation of a proposed project. For more information, see: <https://www.achp.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2017-01/CitizenGuide.pdf>.

We would welcome the involvement of the HPC in Section 106 consultation for the project. Specifically, we are requesting input on the following:

- Historic properties/locally designated properties within the project APE/construction limits, and
- The proposed project APE and project scope.

If the HPC would like to participate in consultation, please let us know of your interest in writing **within 30 days of your receipt of this letter**. If you would like to request a meeting to discuss the undertaking, please indicate this in your response. *Please note that we may not be able to consider comments provided to us after this 30-day review period.*

If the HPC opts to serve as a Section 106 consulting party, you will be copied on MnDOT CRU's project findings letter, at which point the HPC will have an opportunity to provide comment on the project finding within the regulatory timeframe.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, require additional information on the historic properties or potential effects, or would like to schedule a meeting to discuss the project.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Atwood Hatzenbuehler
Historian, MnDOT Cultural Resources Unit
Stephanie.Atwood@state.mn.us
Office Cell: (612) 263-5188

ENCLOSURES:

- Area of Potential Effects (APE) map

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Rice and Dakota Counties

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CC: Mark Trogstad-Isaacson, MnDOT District 6 (Mark.Trogstad-Isaacson@state.mn.us)
MnDOT Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS)

STATE PROJECT: 6603-28

Resurface Highway 19 from I-35 to Hwy 3

R.P. 169+00.335 to R.P. 176+00.202

