

Appendix B.  
Cultural Resources

November 1, 2022

Melissa Jenny  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Federal Aviation Administration  
Dakota—Minnesota Airports District Office  
6020 28th Avenue South, Room 102  
Minneapolis, MN 55450

RE: Rochester International Airport Runway 2/20 Construction Project  
Rochester, Olmsted County  
SHPO Number: 2021-0891

Dear Melissa Jenny:

Thank you for continuing consultation on the above referenced project. Information received on October 3, 2022, has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Officer by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. § 306108) and its implementing federal regulations, "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR Part 800).

We last provided comments on this project in a letter dated June 4, 2021, concurring with your agency's determination that no historic properties would be affected by the project as it was proposed at that time.

You have now informed us that the proposed project scope has undergone additional revisions including an adjusted pipeline corridor and staging areas, as well as additional tree removal, land acquisition, and minor wetland impacts. Most of these revisions are located within the boundaries of the previously surveyed areas except for a 2.52 acre portion at the southeastern end of the project area.

We have reviewed the documentation included with your October 3<sup>rd</sup> submission, including the letter report: *Archaeological Assessment of Proposed Changes, Rochester International Airport Runway 2/20 Reconstruction and Extension* (September 29, 2022) as prepared by Mead & Hunt. Based on the information provided, we concur with your agency's finding that **no historic properties will be affected** by the revised project.

As stated previously, although no archaeological resources were identified as a result of the field investigations, we continue to recommend that the Office of the State Archaeologist and the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council be consulted about the 2020 survey findings relative to the reported mound site 21Olaf (see pgs 7, 8 & 15 of the December 2020 survey report by Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center).

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MINNESOTA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

50 Sherburne Avenue ■ Administration Building 203 ■ Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155 ■ 651-201-3287

[mn.gov/admin/shpo](http://mn.gov/admin/shpo) ■ [mnshpo@state.mn.us](mailto:mnshpo@state.mn.us)

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND SERVICE PROVIDER

Implementation of the undertaking in accordance with this finding, as documented, fulfills your agency's responsibilities under Section 106. If the project is not constructed as proposed, including, but not limited to, a situation where design changes to the currently proposed project diverts substantially from what was presented at the time of this review, then your agency will need to reopen Section 106 consultation with our office pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5(d)(1).

If you have any questions regarding our review of this project, please contact Kelly Gragg-Johnson, Environmental Review Program Specialist, at 651-201-3285 or [kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us](mailto:kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us).

Sincerely,



Sarah J. Beimers  
Environmental Review Program Manager



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

Federal Aviation Administration  
Dakota-Minnesota Airports District Office  
Bismarck Office  
2301 University Drive, Building 23B  
Bismarck, ND 58504

Federal Aviation Administration  
Dakota-Minnesota Airports District Office  
Minneapolis Office  
6020 28th Avenue South, Suite 102  
Minneapolis, MN 55450

October 03, 2022

State Historic Preservation Office  
c/o Kelly Gragg-Johnson  
50 Sherburne Ave, Suite 203  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Section 106 Amendment SHPO No. 2021-0891 – Updated Determination of Effect for the Rochester International Airport (RST) Runway 2/20 Reconstruction and Extension Project

Dear Ms. Gragg-Johnson

The SHPO previously concurred with FAA's Section 106 *No Historic Properties Affected* determination for the RST Runway 2/20 Reconstruction and Extension Project on February 26, 2021 and June 04, 2021, as shown on the enclosed correspondence.

The scope for this project, and the associated archaeology area of potential effect (APE), has changed slightly to include an adjusted pipeline corridor and staging areas, as well as additional tree removal, land acquisition, and minor wetland impacts, all of which are within the boundaries of the previously surveyed area except for a small 2.52-acre portion in the southeastern corner of the project site. This is described in more detail in the enclosed letter report from Mead and Hunt entitled "*Archaeological Assessment of Proposed Changes Rochester International Airport Runway 2/20 Reconstruction and Extension*", dated September 29, 2022.

The letter report recommends that no further archaeological fieldwork is warranted for this project since the small area outside the surveyed area has been previously disturbed by plowing, pipeline construction, and roadway construction. Based on the negative field survey results for the original survey area and the previous disturbance, it is highly unlikely this small portion of land would contain intact, archaeological deposits that would be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The APE for Architecture/History that was coordinated for this project is not anticipated to change.

The FAA agrees with the recommendation in the Mead & Hunt report. No additional survey work will be required and the FAA maintains a Section 106 finding of *No Historic Properties Affected* for this project. We respectfully request SHPO concurrence with this updated finding within 30 days of receipt of this letter.

If you have any questions about this project please contact me by email at [Melissa.m.jenny@faa.gov](mailto:Melissa.m.jenny@faa.gov) or by phone at (612) 253-4633.

Sincerely,

Melissa Jenny  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
FAA Dakota-Minnesota Airports District Office

Cc: Kristen Zschomler & Colleen Bosold, Mead & Hunt

Enclosures:

Mead and Hunt letter report dated September 29, 2022, "*Archaeological Assessment of Proposed Changes Rochester International Airport Runway 2/20 Reconstruction and Extension.*"

SHPO correspondence dated February 26, 2021 and June 04, 2021



September 29, 2022

Ms. Melissa Jenny  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
FAA Dakota-Minnesota Airports District Office  
6020 28th Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55450

Subject: Archaeological Assessment of Proposed Changes  
Rochester International Airport Runway 2/20 Reconstruction and Extension

Dear Ms. Jenny:

Rochester International Airport (RST) plans to reconstruct and extend Runway 2/20 to allow RST to maintain uninterrupted operational capability while its primary runway, Runway 13/31, is reconstructed in the early 2030s. In January 2021, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) consulted with the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on the project, which included the following key elements.

- Reconstruction and extension of Runway 2/20 by 1,647 feet to the south, while shortening it by 595 feet on the north end.
- Reconstruction of Taxiway B (Runway 2/20's parallel taxiway), extending it 1,647 feet to the south, 441 feet to the north, and shifting to the west to provide at least a 400-foot separation from the taxiway centerline to runway centerline.
- Pavement of the shoulders on Runway 2/20 and Taxiway B.
- Installation of new navigational aids.
- Removal and relocation of portions of 95th Street SW, 31st Avenue SW, and 90th Street SW/former Trunk Highway 30, along with overhead power utility lines, to accommodate the Runway 2/20 extension and precision approach Runway Protection Zone.
- Relocation of an existing petroleum pipeline that traverses the airport property.
- Acquisition of approximately 25 acres of land.
- Relocation of the airport perimeter fence and road.

Archaeological consultant MVAC surveyed everything within the SHPO-approved archaeological area of potential effect (APE), represented by the blue hatching shown in Figure 1 on the next page. This archaeology APE was defined as the project limits minus the previously disturbed/surveyed areas, which are represented by the pink hatching in Figure 1. The survey was negative for archaeological sites. FAA included the information about the turn lane improvements on 95<sup>th</sup> Street in its consultation with SHPO. While MVAC did not survey the turn lane area, based on their negative findings within the rest of the survey area and the disturbance along 95<sup>th</sup> Street, FAA determined no survey work was needed, and SHPO concurred.

Since that review, the project has been refined to include an adjusted pipeline corridor and staging areas, as well as additional tree removal, land acquisition, and wetland impacts, all of which are within the boundaries of the previously surveyed area except for a small 2.52-acre portion on the southeastern end, as shown circled in red on Figure 1.

Since issuing the FONSI/ROD, the FAA has determined that the proposed action needs to be updated to include the following project components not explicitly considered by the 2021 EA:

- Adjusted southeast tie-in point for the relocated BP pipeline that extends 2.52 acres beyond the project boundary identified in the 2021 EA.
- Increased petroleum pipeline Limits of Disturbance (LOD) from a 50-foot-wide corridor to a 150-foot-wide corridor.
- Construction staging areas for roadway, pipeline, and utilities.
- Revised fee acquisition boundaries for Parcels 29, 30, and 31.
- Wider road easements (from 66 feet to 100 feet or more) needed for 95<sup>th</sup> Street SW and 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW north of 90<sup>th</sup> Street SW due to grading and stormwater requirements.
- Relocated field accesses due to grading and relocated roadways.
- Relocated communication lines along 95<sup>th</sup> Street SW and 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW.
- Additional tree clearing required because of ditch grading and pipeline route.
- Vacation of existing road and pipeline easements on Airport property.
- Fence location assessment in relation to the runway visibility zone (RVZ).

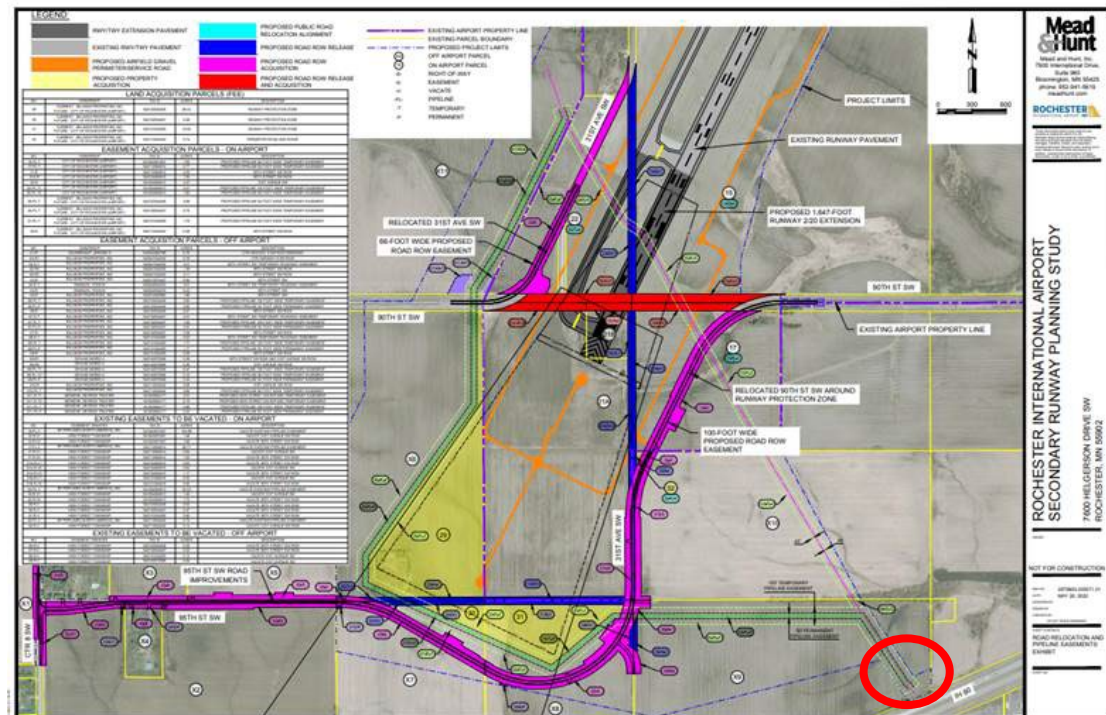
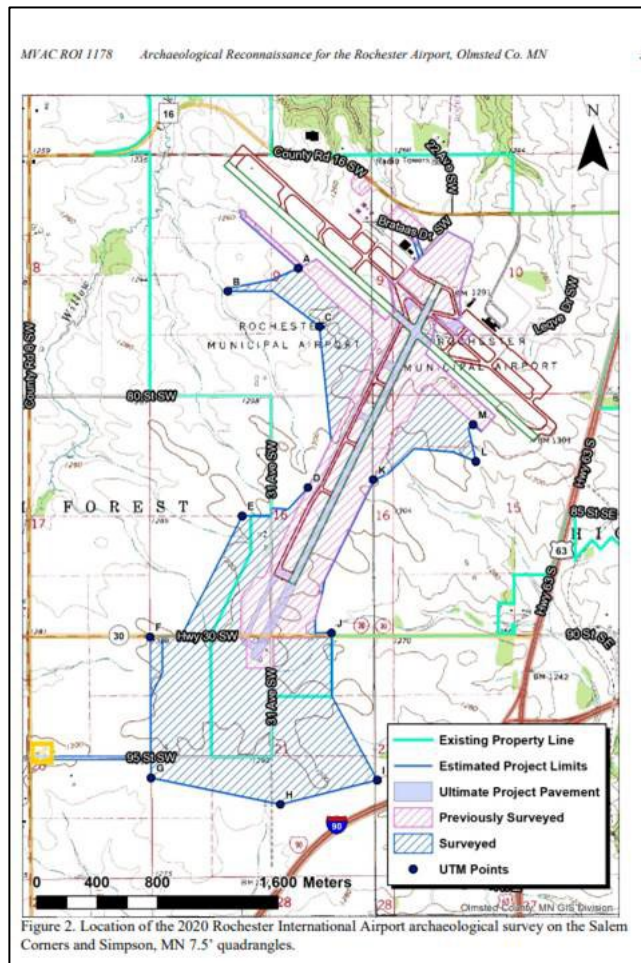


Figure 1. Archaeological survey area from 2020 on left; revised project plans on right with area in red circle which extends beyond the original survey boundary.



It is my recommendation that no further archaeological fieldwork is warranted, since the small area outside the survey area has been previously disturbed by plowing, pipeline construction, and roadway construction. Based on the negative field survey results for the original survey area and the previous disturbance, it is highly unlikely the small portion of land would contain intact, significant archaeological deposits that would be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Prior to the first phase of construction beginning on the project, an unanticipated discovery plan was developed, approved by the FAA, and is currently in place. This Plan seeks to lay out the steps the FAA and the City of Rochester should take in the event of an unanticipated discovery during construction. Upon reviewing this plan within the context of the project modifications, it is my recommendation that the Plan can remain in effect with no revisions needed.

I did note that SHPO's concurrence letter from 2021 included the following advice: "No archaeological resources were identified as a result of the field investigations. However, the Office of the State Archaeologist and the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council should be consulted about the findings relative to the reported mound site 21Olaf." Under Minnesota law, specifically MS 307.08 the Private Cemeteries Act, political subdivisions such as the City of Rochester are responsible for compliance with the statute. This is a separate law unrelated to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the requirements and responsibilities of FAA. As such, I would recommend that the Office of the State Archaeologist and Minnesota Indian Affairs Council be notified of the project and the recorded presence of the reported but yet unverified mound site 21Olaf. According to MS 307.08, even displaced human remains are of concern, so consultation with these two state agencies should occur.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me by phone at 952-641-8839 or e-mail at [kristen.zschomler@meadhunt.com](mailto:kristen.zschomler@meadhunt.com).

Sincerely,

MEAD & HUNT, Inc.



Kristen Zschomler

RPA-Registered Archaeologist and Senior Cultural Resources Specialist

June 4, 2021

Mr. Josh Fitzpatrick  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Federal Aviation Administration  
Dakota –Minnesota Airports District Office  
6020 28th Avenue South, Room 102  
Minneapolis, MN 55450

RE: Rochester International Airport Runway 2/20 Construction Project  
Rochester, Olmsted County  
SHPO Number: 2021-0891

Dear Mr. Fitzpatrick:

Thank you for continuing consultation on the above project. Information received on May 6, 2021 has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Officer by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and implementing federal regulations at 36 CFR 800.

We previously provided comments on this project in a letter dated February 26, 2021 concurring with your agency's determination that no historic properties would be affected by the project as it was proposed at that time.

You have now informed us that the project scope has changed slightly and that the local road authority has revised the project design to include turn lanes at the intersection of the relocated 95<sup>th</sup> Street and County Road 8.

Based on information that is available to us at this time, we concur with your agency's finding that **no historic properties will be affected** by the revised project.

Implementation of the undertaking in accordance with this finding, as documented, fulfills your agency's responsibilities under Section 106. If the project is not constructed as proposed, including, but not limited to, a situation where design changes to the currently proposed project diverts substantially from what was presented at the time of this review, then your agency will need to reopen Section 106 consultation with our office pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5(d)(1).

If you have any questions regarding our review of this project, please contact Kelly Gragg-Johnson, Environmental Review Specialist, at [kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us](mailto:kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us).

Sincerely,



Sarah J. Beimers  
Environmental Review Program Manager

February 26, 2021

Mr. Josh Fitzpatrick  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Federal Aviation Administration  
Dakota –Minnesota Airports District Office  
6020 28th Avenue South, Room 102  
Minneapolis, MN 55450

RE: Rochester International Airport Runway 2/20 Construction Project  
Rochester, Olmsted County  
SHPO Number: 2021-0891

Dear Mr. Fitzpatrick:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above project. Information received on January 29, 2021 has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Officer by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and implementing federal regulations at 36 CFR 800.

**Define Undertaking and Area of Potential Effect**

According to your submittal, the Rochester International Airport plans to reconstruct and extend Runway 2/20. The overall project will include: reconstruction and extension of Runway 2/20; reconstruction of Taxiway B; pavement of the shoulders on Runway 2/20 and Taxiway B; installation of new navigational aids; removal and relocation of portions of 95<sup>th</sup> Street SW, 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW and 90<sup>th</sup> Street SW/former Trunk Highway 30; relocation of an existing petroleum pipeline; acquisition of approximately 25 acres of land; and relocation of the airport perimeter fence and road.

We have completed our review of your correspondence dated January 29, 2021 along with the documentation provided in regards to your agency's determination of the area of potential effect (APE) for the Federal undertaking. We agree that this APE determination is generally appropriate to take into account the potential direct and indirect effects of the proposed undertaking as we currently understand it. As the project's scope of work is further defined, or if it is significantly altered from the current scope, additional consultation with our office may be necessary in order to revise the current APE.

**Identification of Historic Properties**

**History/Architecture Properties**

We have reviewed the submitted report titled *Phase I Reconnaissance Survey Report, Rochester International Airport, FAA AIP 3-27-084-040-2020* (January 2021) and prepared by Mead & Hunt and our comments are provided below.

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MINNESOTA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

50 Sherburne Avenue ■ Administration Building 203 ■ Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155 ■ 651-201-3287

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Because this was a reconnaissance level survey, and the four (4) properties inventoried for this project (OL-SWC-00031, OL-SWC-00032, OL-SWC-00033, and OL-SWC-00034) have not been sufficiently evaluated to conclude that they are not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), we do not agree with the consultant's recommendations. Rather, based on the information provided, we have determined that no intensive survey of these properties is warranted.

Although not mentioned in the Phase I survey report, the Rochester International Airport (OL-HFT-013) is also located within the APE for this project. This property was determined *not eligible* for listing in the NRHP during a previous Section 106 review. Also located within the APE for this project is a segment of former Trunk Highway 30 (XX-ROD-027). Our records indicate that the current full extent highway alignments, individual highway segments, and former highway alignments of Trunk Highway 30 (90<sup>th</sup> Street SW) are *not eligible* for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A or Criterion C within the historic Trunk Highway contexts from 1921-1954 or 1955-1970.

### **Archaeological Resources**

We have reviewed the submitted reports titled *Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Rochester Airport, Olmsted County, Minnesota* (July 31, 2019) and *Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey for Proposed Expansion of the Rochester International Airport, Olmsted County, Minnesota* (December 2020) as prepared by Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center. Our comments are provided below.

No archaeological resources were identified as a result of the field investigations. However, the Office of the State Archaeologist and the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council should be consulted about the findings relative to the reported mound site 21Olaf (see pgs 7, 8 & 15 of the 2020 survey report).

### **Finding of Effect**

Based on information that is available to us at this time, we concur with your agency's finding that **no historic properties will be affected** by the project as it is currently proposed.

Implementation of the undertaking in accordance with this finding, as documented, fulfills your agency's responsibilities under Section 106. If the project is not constructed as proposed, including, but not limited to, a situation where design changes to the currently proposed project diverts substantially from what was presented at the time of this review, then your agency will need to reopen Section 106 consultation with our office pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5(d)(1).

If you have any questions regarding our review of this project, please contact Kelly Gragg-Johnson, Environmental Review Specialist, at [kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us](mailto:kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us).

Sincerely,



Sarah J. Beimers  
Environmental Review Program Manager

## Laura Morland

---

**From:** Fitzpatrick, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Fitzpatrick@faa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 10:41 AM  
**To:** GraggJohnson, Kelly (ADM); MNSHPO@state.mn.us  
**Subject:** Section 106 Amendment: SHPO No. 20201-0891 - Documentation of Section 106 Finding for Runway 2/20 Extension Project at Rochester International Airport  
**Attachments:** 2021-0891.pdf; 106 Amendment Exhibit CTH 8 Turn Bypass Lanes.pdf; Intersection Location and Previous Archeological Surveys.pdf; Updated APE to include Road realignment.pdf; 201221A\_RST Phase I Report.pdf; ROI 1178 2020 Rochester Airport 01.11.2021.pdf; R-C\_Form\_SIMPLE\_1\_tcm36-327668.pdf

Good Morning, Kelly:

Per the attached SHPO concurrence letter (SHPO# 2021-0891) for the Rochester International Airport runway extension project, we have found out through additional design and coordination with the local road authority that they are asking for turn lanes to be incorporated at the intersection of the relocated 95<sup>th</sup> street and County Road 8 and I am adding this amendment to the previous Section 106 finding below. That said, I did not ask for any additional archeology survey. No cultural resources were recovered during the 500 acre 2020 survey of the nearby airport property and properties south of the airport, therefore I felt the potential was low to find cultural resources in this additional project area. Moreover, the additional ground for the turn lanes has either been disturbed through creation of the initial road prism, ditching, and row cropping. Our previous Phase I historic properties survey included the adjacent properties to the turn lanes at 4104 95th Street SW and 4301 95th Street SW and were determined to be not eligible for the NRHP, therefore the additional turn lanes would not impact historic properties. Please see the attached Phase I survey for reference.

Based on the above information, the FAA still maintains a Section 106 finding of No Historic Properties Affected for this project and respectfully requests SHPO concurrence with this updated finding within 30 days of receipt.

I have also attached the previous archeology survey, additional APE map, intersection location map, SHPO form and updated project exhibit for your reference.

Please confirm receipt of the attachments as the files are quite large.

Thank you,

Josh Fitzpatrick  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
FAA Dakota Minnesota Airports District Office  
(612) 253-4639  
Joshua.fitzpatrick@faa.gov

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**From:** GraggJohnson, Kelly (ADM) <kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 26, 2021 12:47 PM  
**To:** Fitzpatrick, Joshua (FAA) <Joshua.Fitzpatrick@faa.gov>  
**Subject:** SHPO No. 20201-0891 - Documentation of Section 106 Finding for Runway 2/20 Extension Project at Rochester International Airport

Hi Josh – Here is the SHPO comment letter for this project.

Best,

Kelly



**Kelly Gragg-Johnson | Environmental Review Specialist**  
50 Sherburne Avenue, Suite 203  
Saint Paul, MN 55155  
(651) 201-3285  
[kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us](mailto:kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us)

Given the Governor's implementation of [Stay Safe MN](#), SHPO staff will continue to work remotely and be available via [phone and email](#), and the SHPO office will be closed to visitors and unable to accommodate in-person research and deliveries. Mail is being delivered to the office via USPS, FedEx and UPS, however, staff have limited weekly access to sort and process mail. Our office will continue to take file search requests via [DataRequestSHPO@state.mn.us](mailto:DataRequestSHPO@state.mn.us). Check [SHPO's webpage](#) for the latest updates and we thank you for your continued patience.



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**From:** Fitzpatrick, Joshua (FAA) <[Joshua.Fitzpatrick@faa.gov](mailto:Joshua.Fitzpatrick@faa.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2021 11:58 AM

**To:** MN\_MNIT\_MNSHPO <[MNSHPO@state.mn.us](mailto:MNSHPO@state.mn.us)>; GraggJohnson, Kelly (ADM) <[kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us](mailto:kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us)>

**Subject:** Documentation of Section 106 Finding for Runway 2/20 Extension Project at Rochester International Airport

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Hi Kelly:

How are you? Things are pretty good this way. I'm hoping we can submit still 106 findings via email. That said, I have provided a section 106 finding below for a Runway Extension project at the Rochester International Airport. The FAA respectfully requests that the SHPO review and if appropriate provide written concurrence with this Section 106 finding within 30 days of receipt. Please confirm receipt in case the files are too large for your email to accept.

## 1. DESCRIPTION OF THE UNDERTAKING

Rochester International Airport (RST) plans to reconstruct and extend Runway 2/20 to allow RST to maintain uninterrupted operational capability while its primary runway, Runway 13/31, is reconstructed in the early 2030s. Phases of the project will begin and occur through the 2020s. Due to the intersection of the two runways requiring reconstruction, this extension is necessary to provide adequate runway length for RST's critical users to maintain operations during the intersection reconstruction. Project activities will focus on bringing the runway and

associated taxiways up to current Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) design standards. The proposed project will also involve the relocation of three adjacent roads: 95th Street SW, 31st Avenue SW, and 90th Street SW/former Trunk Highway 30. The overall project activities include:

- Reconstruction and extension of Runway 2/20 by 1,647 feet to the south, while shortening it by 595 feet on the north end.
- Reconstruction of Taxiway B (Runway 2/20's parallel taxiway), extending it 1,647 feet to the south, 441 feet to the north, and shifting to the west to provide at least a 400-foot separation from the taxiway centerline to runway centerline.
- Pavement of the shoulders on Runway 2/20 and Taxiway B.
- Installation of new navigational aids.
- Removal and relocation of portions of 95th Street SW, 31st Avenue SW, and 90th Street SW/former Trunk Highway 30, along with overhead power utility lines, to accommodate the Runway 2/20 extension and precision approach Runway Protection Zone.
- Relocation of an existing petroleum pipeline that traverses airport property.
- Acquisition of approximately 25 acres of land.
- Relocation of the airport perimeter fence and road.

An overview map of the project activities is presented in Figure 1 of the enclosed RST Phase I (Reconnaissance Survey) Report (Appendix A).

On December 9, 2020, an invitation to consult for the project under 36 CFR 800.3 was emailed to the Flandreau Santee Sioux, Upper & Lower Sioux Indian Communities, Prairie Island Indian Community, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, and Santee Sioux Nation. To date, only the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) has replied requesting they be continually apprised of the project.

## **2. AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT**

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is the area within which an undertaking may affect a historic property, either directly or indirectly.

The APE for architecture/history was defined to include areas of proposed work within the RST property limits, and first-tier properties adjacent to proposed project activities where roads are being improved or relocated. The first-tier properties that have been included are adjacent to proposed street realignment and improvement areas along 95th Street SW, 31st Avenue SW, and 90th Street SW/former Trunk Highway 30. The APE encompasses direct and indirect effects, such as those areas affected by ground disturbance activities for runway, taxiway, fence, and road construction and relocation, as well as the pipeline relocation. The APE is illustrated on the map in Appendix A of the enclosed RST Phase I (Reconnaissance Survey) Report.

The APE archaeology was defined as the project limits minus the previously disturbed/surveyed areas.

## **3. EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

The Phase I architecture/history investigation consisted of a review of previously inventoried properties located within the APE, as well as a field survey to identify and document properties that are 45 years of age or older located within the APE. Mead & Hunt conducted Phase I fieldwork on October 15, 2020 and identified four historic-age properties in the APE, which are defined as constructed prior to 1976. Minnesota Architecture/History Inventory Forms for the four properties are included in Appendix B of the enclosed RST Phase I (Reconnaissance Survey) Report. The four surveyed properties are recommended not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) and no further work is required.

Between October 2020 and November 2020, the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center (MVAC) at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse conducted an archaeological reconnaissance survey. No cultural resources

were recovered. Although one previously reported archaeological site slightly overlaps the project area, no artifacts were found related to this site and it is believed that the site is located well outside of the project area. Based on the archaeological investigations, MVAC recommended that the proposed expansion and safety improvements for the airport proceed as planned.

In October 2019, MVAC also completed a Phase I archaeological investigation of approximately 125 acres of potential disturbance associated with runway 2/20 partial reconstruction and shoulder construction as well as approximately 20 acres for a contractor staging area. Shovel testing recovered no cultural material, and identified all project areas as having been previously disturbed or consisting of wetland soils with a low probability of containing cultural material. No further archaeological investigations were recommended. SHPO concurrence of No Historic Properties Affected was achieved for the Runway 2/20 partial reconstruction and shoulder construction and staging area project on August, 13, 2019. The SHPO concurrence letter (Number 2019-2188) is attached in Appendix D.

For further details about the Phase I Architecture/History Survey and 2020 Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey, and 2019 Archeological Survey completed please refer to Appendices A, B, and C respectively.

#### **4. BASIS FOR FINDING**

Completion of the Phase I Architecture/History Survey and Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey did not identify any National Register-eligible or -listed resources. If any construction activity results in the advertent discovery of a cultural resource, construction will halt until the SHPO and the FAA are notified.

The FAA has therefore determined that a finding of *No Historic Properties Affected* is appropriate for this project.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix A: Phase I (Reconnaissance Survey) Report

Appendix B: 2020 Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey for Proposed Expansion of the Rochester International Airport, Olmsted County, Minnesota

Appendix C: 2019 Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Rochester Airport, Olmsted County, Minnesota.

Appendix D: 2019 SHPO concurrence

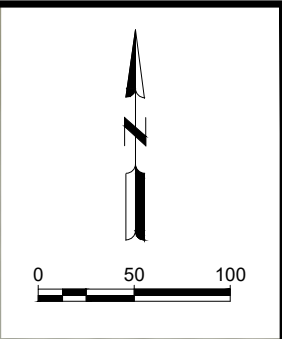
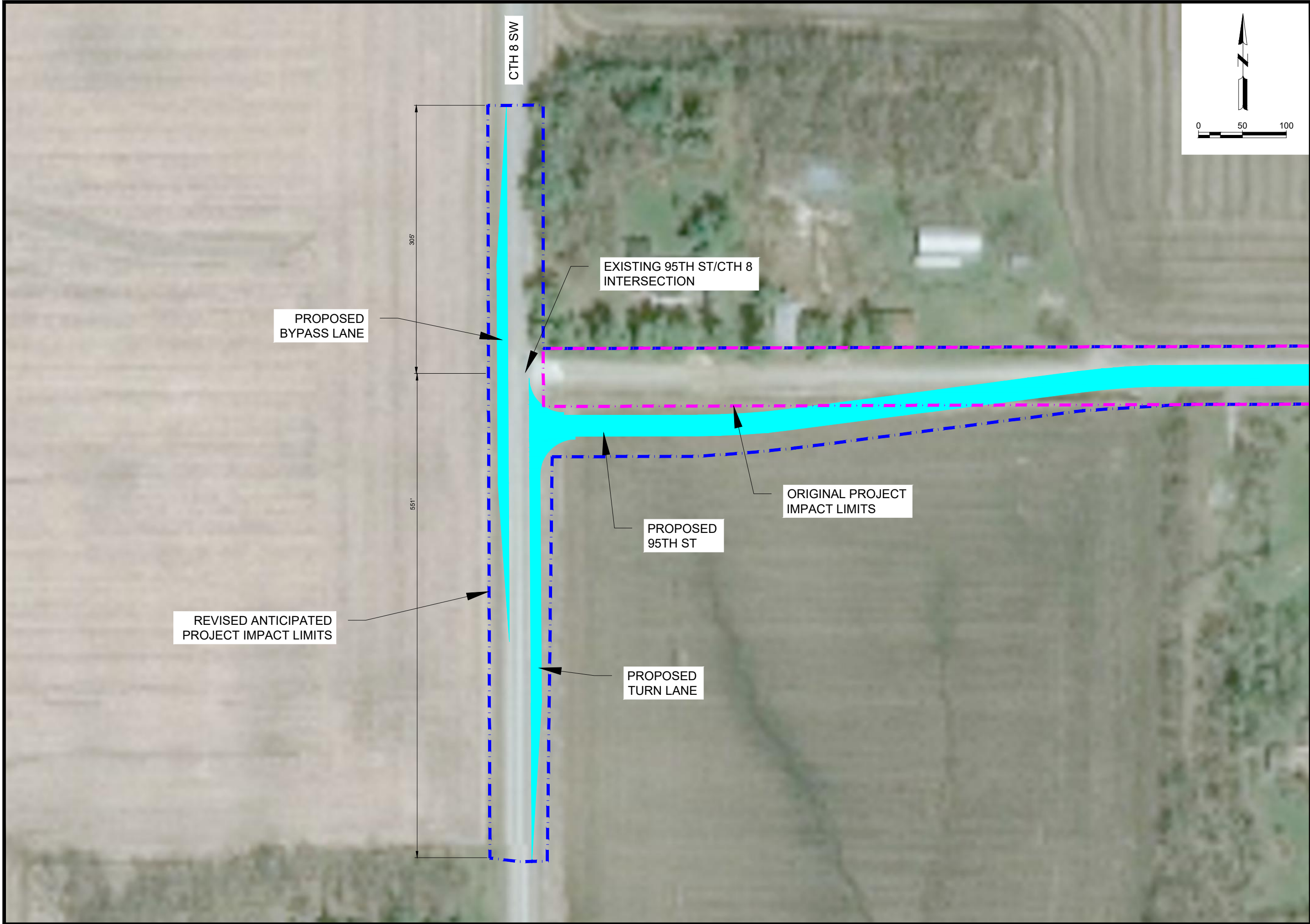
If you have any questions please reach out.

Thank you and stay safe!

Josh Fitzpatrick  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
FAA Dakota Minnesota Airports District Office  
(612) 253-4639  
[Joshua.fitzpatrick@faa.gov](mailto:Joshua.fitzpatrick@faa.gov)



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**Mead & Hunt**  
Mead and Hunt, Inc.  
7900 International Drive,  
Suite 980  
Bloomington, MN 55425  
phone: 952-941-5619  
meadhunt.com



These documents shall not be used for any purpose or project for which it is not intended. Mead & Hunt shall be indemnified by the client and held harmless from all claims, damages, liabilities, losses, and expenses, including attorney's fees and costs, arising out of such misuse or reuse of the documents. In addition, unauthorized reproduction of these documents, in part or as a whole, is prohibited.

**ROCHESTER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
RUNWAY 2/20 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

7600 HELGERSON DRIVE SW  
ROCHESTER, MN 55902

ISSUED

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

M&H NO.: 2879900-191391.01  
DATE: APRIL 26, 2021  
DESIGNED BY:  
DRAWN BY:  
CHECKED BY:  
DO NOT SCALE DRAWINGS

SHEET CONTENTS

SHEET NO.



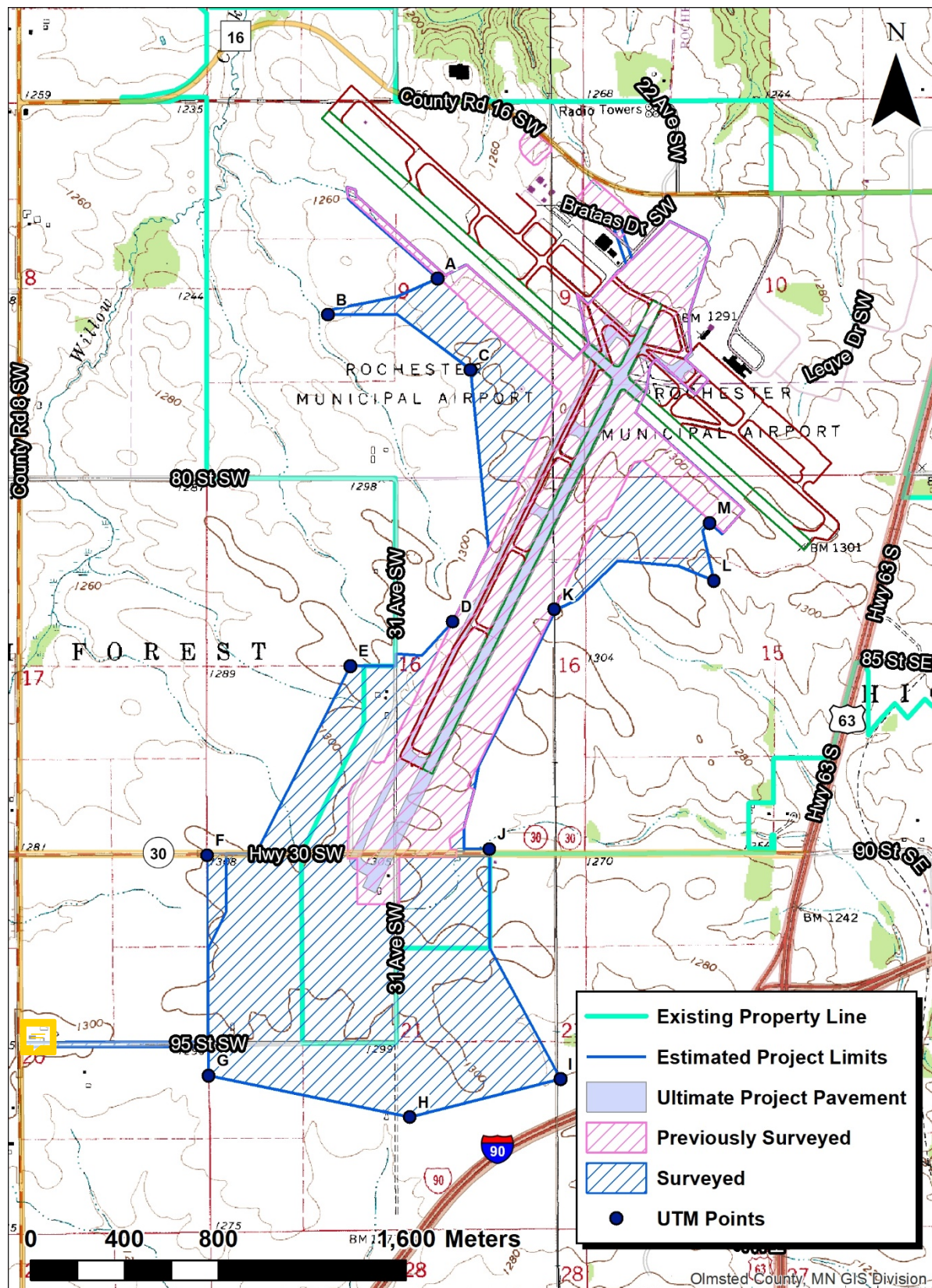


Figure 2. Location of the 2020 Rochester International Airport archaeological survey on the Salem Corners and Simpson, MN 7.5' quadrangles.

Please mail the completed form and required material to:

State Historic Preservation Office  
203 Administration Building  
50 Sherburne Ave  
St. Paul, MN 55155



## Request for Project Review by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

This is a new submittal

This is additional information relating to SHPO Project #: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

### I. GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Address (or Location): \_\_\_\_\_

City / Township (circle one): \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Description: Township \_\_\_\_\_ Range \_\_\_\_\_ E/W (circle one) Section \_\_\_\_\_ Quarter-section \_\_\_\_\_

### II. PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

Project Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### III. FEDERAL AND/OR STATE INVOLVEMENT

Federal Agency (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

(Agency providing funds, licenses, or permits)

Permit or Project Reference #: \_\_\_\_\_

State Agency (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

(Agency providing funds, licenses, or permits)

Permit or Project Reference #: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Agency (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

(Continued on Reverse Side)

Please refer to the [Instructions for Completing the Request for Project Review Form](#). Submit one *Request for Project Review* form for each project. Project submittals will not be accepted via fax or e-mail. For questions regarding the SHPO review process, please [visit our website](#) or contact Kelly Gragg-Johnson, Environmental Review Specialist, at 651-201-3285 or [kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us](mailto:kelly.graggjohnson@state.mn.us).

## IV. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BOUNDARIES

### A) REQUIRED FOR ALL PROJECTS

Write a detailed description of the proposed project. (See attached.)

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Attach a map of project location, with project area(s) clearly marked. Road names must be included and legible.

### B) Architecture

Are there any buildings or structures within the project area?      Yes    No

If **No**, continue to the Archaeology section below. If **Yes**, submit all of the following information:

List all buildings and structures within the project area and the year they were built. (See attached.)

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Photographs of **each** building and structure located within the project area, along with a photo key. Include streetscape images, if applicable. All photographs must be clear, crisp, focused, and taken at ground level. Aerial photos are insufficient.

List known historic buildings or structures located within the project area (i.e., individual properties or districts which are listed in the National Register or which meet the criteria for listing in the National Register). (See attached.)

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### C) Archaeology

Does the proposed undertaking involve ground-disturbing activity?      Yes    No

If **No**, this form is complete. If **Yes**, submit all of the following information:

Attach the relevant portion of a 1:24000-scale USGS topographic map (photocopied or computer generated) **with the project boundary marked**.

Description of current and previous land use and disturbances: (See attached.)

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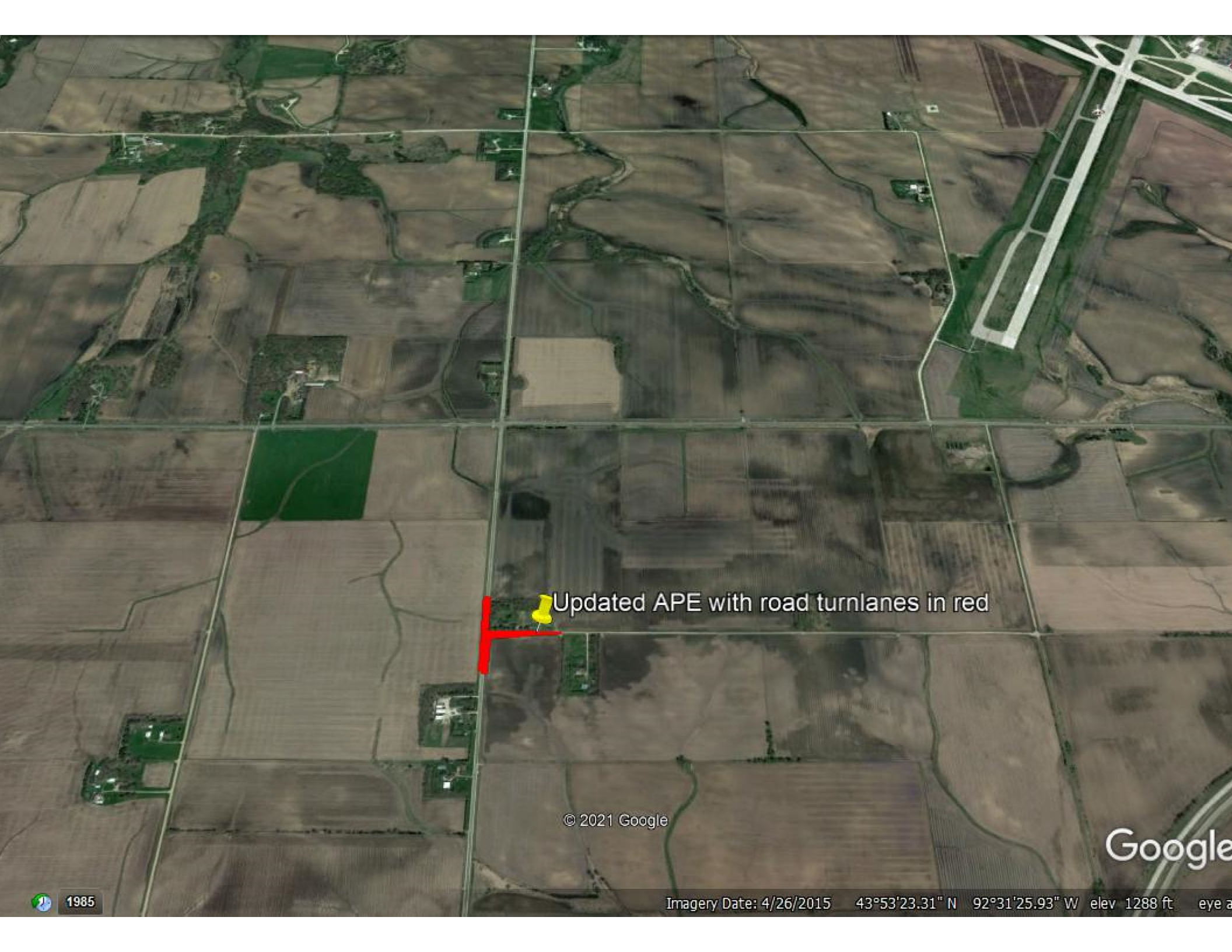
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Any available information concerning known or suspected archaeological resources within the project area. (See attached.)

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Updated APE with road turnlanes in red

© 2021 Google

Google



1985

Imagery Date: 4/26/2015 43°53'23.31" N 92°31'25.93" W elev 1288 ft eye a

**From:** [Jenny, Melissa M \(FAA\)](#)  
**To:** [DianneD@SWO-NSN.GOV](mailto:DianneD@SWO-NSN.GOV)  
**Subject:** Notice of federal undertaking and request for comments under 36 CFR 800 - Rochester International Airport (RST) - Notice of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment and Public Hearing for Runway 2/20 Extension Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 12:36:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [RST Unanticipated Discovery Plan State and Federal Final 08-21 \(002\).pdf](#)

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Good afternoon,

This email is to notify you that a Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Rochester International Airport (RST) Runway 2/20 Extension Project is available for review. The Draft SEA document can be viewed on the project webpage here: <https://FlyRST.com/EA>. The comment period for the Draft SEA closes at 5:00 p.m. CST on February 26, 2023.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is requesting the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Community THPO to review this proposal and identify any concerns that you may have about it's potential to impact historic properties, including those of traditional religious and cultural importance.

The FAA previously coordinated this project with you on December 9, 2020, January 29, 2021, and October 5, 2022. See emails below.

Here are some recent project updates:

In July 2021, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued a Finding of No Significant Impact/Record of Decision (FONSI/ROD) for the proposed Runway 2/20 Project – Uninterrupted Service Environmental Assessment. Since issuing the 2021 EA FONSI/ROD, the FAA has determined that the approved action needs to be updated to include project components not explicitly considered by the 2021 EA. Those components are evaluated in this Supplemental EA. Comments will be accepted either electronically or hardcopy until February 26, 2023. Below is the notification that was published in the local paper that provides information on how the Draft Supplemental EA documents can be accessed for review and how to submit comments. Additionally, it provides information on the virtual public hearing that will be held on February 15, 2023.

The FAA determined that a NHPA Section 106 finding of *No Historic Properties Affected* was appropriate for the original project approved in 2021, and has determined that this finding is still appropriate for the updated project described in the draft SEA at the link below. The attached *Unanticipated Discovery Plan* will be in place during project construction.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the project and please submit any comments that you have on this proposal by February 26, 2023.

Thank you,

Melissa Jenny (she/her)  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
FAA Dakota-Minnesota Airports District Office

**CITY OF ROCHESTER / ROCHESTER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

**NOTICE OF DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
AVAILABILITY & PUBLIC HEARING  
FOR  
ROCHESTER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
RUNWAY 2/20 PROJECT – UNINTERRUPTED SERVICE**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Rochester will hold a public hearing on February 15, 2023, via a virtual Zoom meeting, to receive testimony relative to the draft federal Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Rochester International Airport (RST) Runway 2/20 Project – Uninterrupted Service. The virtual public hearing will also be aired at the Airport for anyone unable to access the meeting virtually and wishing to attend in person. There will be a presentation beginning at 6:00 p.m. CST, including an opportunity for the public to ask questions, with the public hearing to follow. There is no set end time for the public hearing. The hearing will conclude once all who wish to give public testimony have had the opportunity to do so.

The City, as the Airport Sponsor, intends to undertake a project reconstructing portions of and extending Runway 2/20 along with associated airfield improvements to maintain access for current users during periods when Runway 13/31 is unavailable. In July 2021, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued a Finding of No Significant Impact/Record of Decision (FONSI/ROD) for the proposed Runway 2/20 Project – Uninterrupted Service Environmental Assessment (EA). The FONSI/ROD provided a review of the proposed action, mitigation, and the basis for the FAA's finding. The approved project included moving a petroleum pipeline, overhead power lines, and portions of 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW, 90<sup>th</sup> Street SW (former Trunk Highway 30), and 95<sup>th</sup> Street SW and acquiring land to accommodate the Runway 2/20 extension. Since issuing the 2021 EA FONSI/ROD, the FAA has determined that the approved action needs to be updated to include project components not explicitly considered by the 2021 EA. These include modifications to the petroleum pipeline alignment and limits of disturbance, construction staging areas, revised land acquisition boundaries, updated road easements, modifications to communication line relocations, additional tree clearing, relocated field accesses, and additional on-airport runway lights and access roads.

In accordance with its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the FAA requires the City to complete an SEA. During the SEA process, the City and its airport consultant evaluated the environmental, economic, and social effects of the proposed supplemental project components. The supplemental project components include an additional .08 acres of temporary wetland impacts.

The results of the analysis are published in the Draft SEA document, which can be viewed on the project webpage, <https://FlyRST.com/EA>, beginning January 14, or at the RST Airport Administration office at 7600 Helgerson Dr. SW, Rochester, MN 55902. In-person



viewing is by appointment only; please call 507-282-2328 ext. 6 to schedule. The Airport Administration office is ADA accessible. The public comment period for the Draft SEA closes at 5:00 p.m. CST on February 26, 2023.

To attend the virtual public hearing, the public is encouraged to register in advance and receive the Zoom meeting link by visiting the RST EA webpage at <https://FlyRST.com/EA>. Alternately, the public can participate by phone (audio only) or the Zoom website by using the phone number or link along with the meeting ID and passcode listed below:

Phone: 312-626-6799  
[www.zoom.us/join](https://www.zoom.us/join)  
Meeting ID: 862 3038 3573  
Passcode/Participant ID: 024853

RST will also air the virtual public hearing at the Airport for those unable to access the meeting virtually. Those wishing to attend in person should RSVP to the RST Airport Administration office at 507-282-2328 ext. 6 no later than 4:00 p.m. CST on Monday, February 13, 2023. The purpose of the public hearing is to address the supplemental proposed action's potential economic, social, and environmental effects. All interested persons are invited to attend and to present concise, relevant oral and written statements concerning the economic, social, and environmental effects of the supplemental project components.

Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. CST on February 26, 2023. Written comments can be submitted via email to [colleen.bosold@meadhunt.com](mailto:colleen.bosold@meadhunt.com) or mailed to:

Rochester International Airport SEA Comments  
c/o Colleen Bosold, Mead & Hunt  
7900 International Drive, Suite 980  
Bloomington, MN 55425

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

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**From:** Jenny, Melissa M (FAA)

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 5, 2022 2:41 PM

**To:** DianneD@SWO-NSN.GOV

**Subject:** Notice of federal undertaking and request for comments under 36 CFR 800 for Rochester International Airport Runway 2/20 Project Update

Dear Ms. Desrosiers:

I am a new Environmental Protection Specialist working in the FAA's Dakota-Minnesota Airports District Office. I'm based out of our Minneapolis Office, but I work closely with Sheri Lares in our Bismark office who you may have worked with while reviewing previous FAA airport projects. I look



forward to working with you on the project described below and future projects in MN that may be of interest to the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Community.

We previously coordinated the Rochester International Airport (RST) 2/20 Runway Reconstruction and Extension project with you in December 2020 & January 2021, as described in the emails below.

The FAA made a Sec. 106 *No Historic Properties Affected* determination for this project, which was finalized at the completion of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) determination on July 09, 2021.

We're reinitiating coordination for this project with you now because the project scope has changed slightly as described below.

The scope for this project, and the associated archaeology area of potential effect (APE), has changed slightly to include an adjusted pipeline corridor and staging areas, as well as additional tree removal, land acquisition, and minor wetland impacts, all of which are within the boundaries of the previously surveyed area except for a small 2.52-acre portion in the southeastern corner of the project site. This is described in more detail in the attached letter report from Mead and Hunt entitled "*Archaeological Assessment of Proposed Changes Rochester International Airport Runway 2/20 Reconstruction and Extension*", dated September 29, 2022. The letter report recommends that no further archaeological fieldwork is warranted for this project since the small area outside the surveyed area has been previously disturbed. Based on the negative field survey results for the original survey area and the previous disturbance, it is highly unlikely this small portion of land would contain intact, archaeological deposits that would be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The FAA agrees with the recommendation in the Mead & Hunt report. No additional survey work will be required and the FAA maintains a Section 106 finding of *No Historic Properties Affected* for this project.

We respectfully request your comments regarding this updated finding within 30 days of receipt of this email.

If you have any questions about the project please contact me by email at [Melissa.m.jenny@faa.gov](mailto:Melissa.m.jenny@faa.gov) or by phone at (612) 253-4633.

Thank you,

Melissa Jenny (she/her)  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
FAA Dakota-Minnesota Airports District Office  
(612) 253-4633  
[Melissa.m.jenny@faa.gov](mailto:Melissa.m.jenny@faa.gov)

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**From:** Fitzpatrick, Joshua (FAA)

**Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2021 2:35 PM

**To:** Dianne Desrosiers <[DianneD@SWO-NSN.GOV](mailto:DianneD@SWO-NSN.GOV)>; Dianne Desrosiers - Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate ([dyandancer@yahoo.com](mailto:dyandancer@yahoo.com)) <[dyandancer@yahoo.com](mailto:dyandancer@yahoo.com)>

**Subject:** Notice of federal undertaking and request for comments under 36 CFR 800 for Rochester International Airport Runway 2/20 Federal EA/State EAW

Ms. Desrosiers,

Attached are two Cultural Resources Surveys completed for the Rochester International Airport project. Between October 2020 and November 2020, the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center (MVAC) at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse conducted an archaeological reconnaissance survey. No cultural resources were recovered. Although one previously reported archaeological site slightly overlaps the project area, no artifacts were found related to this site and it is believed that the site is located well outside of the project area.

In October 2019, MVAC also completed a Phase I archaeological investigation of approximately 125 acres of potential disturbance associated with runway 2/20 partial reconstruction and shoulder construction as well as approximately 20 acres for a contractor staging area. Shovel testing recovered no cultural material, and identified all project areas as having been previously disturbed or consisting of wetland soils with a low probability of containing cultural material. No further archaeological investigations were recommended.

Both surveys are attached for your review. If possible, please let me know if you have any comments on the attached surveys within 30 days of receipt of this email and please confirm receipt of the email as the files are quite large.

Also, per the emails below, I would like to know if the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Sioux would like to have a monitor potentially during construction. If so, we would work with a number of Sioux Tribes in NE, MN and SD to determine what that effort would look like.

-All the best to you,

Josh Fitzpatrick  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
FAA Dakota Minnesota Airports District Office  
(612) 253-4639  
[Joshua.fitzpatrick@faa.gov](mailto:Joshua.fitzpatrick@faa.gov)

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**From:** Dianne Desrosiers <[DianneD@SWO-NSN.GOV](mailto:DianneD@SWO-NSN.GOV)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 22, 2020 3:31 PM

**To:** Fitzpatrick, Joshua (FAA) <[Joshua.Fitzpatrick@faa.gov](mailto:Joshua.Fitzpatrick@faa.gov)>; Dianne Desrosiers - Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate ([dyandancer@yahoo.com](mailto:dyandancer@yahoo.com)) <[dyandancer@yahoo.com](mailto:dyandancer@yahoo.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Notice of federal undertaking and request for comments under 36 CFR 800 for Rochester International Airport Runway 2/20 Federal EA/State EAW

Good afternoon,

We have been out of the office although I come in periodically to check messages etc. Please keep

us apprised of the project. Thank you.

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**From:** Fitzpatrick, Joshua (FAA) [<mailto:Joshua.Fitzpatrick@faa.gov>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 11:45 AM

**To:** Dianne Desrosiers <[DianneD@SWO-NSN.GOV](mailto:DianneD@SWO-NSN.GOV)>; Dianne Desrosiers - Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate ([dyandancer@yahoo.com](mailto:dyandancer@yahoo.com)) <[dyandancer@yahoo.com](mailto:dyandancer@yahoo.com)>

**Subject:** Notice of federal undertaking and request for comments under 36 CFR 800 for Rochester International Airport Runway 2/20 Federal EA/State EAW

Dear Ms. Desrosiers,

The Rochester International Airport (RST), in cooperation with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB), will be preparing a joint Federal Environmental Assessment (EA) / State Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for improvements at the Airport in Rochester, Minnesota. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Minnesota Environmental Policy (MEPA), the joint EA/EAW will evaluate the potential physical, environmental, and social impacts of the proposed action. The need to implement the following proposed improvements was identified in the Airport's ongoing Master Plan:

- Reconstruct Runway 2/20, extend Runway 2 by 1,647 feet, and shorten Runway 20 by 595 feet for an ultimate length of 8,354 feet
- Reconstruct and extend Taxiway B by 1,647 feet to the south and 441 feet to the north to at least 400-foot separation from Runway 2/20 centerline resulting in a full-length parallel taxiway
- Install paved shoulders on Runway 2/20 and Taxiway B
- Relocate existing petroleum pipeline outside of the Runway Safety Area and off existing and future airport property (includes property easements)
- Remove and relocate portions of 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW and 90<sup>th</sup> Street SW to accommodate the Runway 2 extension and precision approach Runway Protection Zone
- Relocate overhead power utility lines in conjunction with anticipated road relocations
- Acquire approximately 25 acres of property
- Modify airport perimeter road and fencing
- Install new navigational aids
- Complete various airfield improvements to bring Runway 2/20 and associated taxiways up to current FAA design standards

The enclosed Exhibit 1 shows the proposed preliminary planning level improvements. The FAA would be pleased to receive any comments your tribe wishes to share regarding this undertaking and any potential impacts to historic properties and/or archaeological sites. To ensure your comments are considered during this early phase of project development, the FAA requests a response within 30 days of receipt of this email. Your comments will assist project engineers to avoid, minimize or mitigate effects on natural and cultural resources.

Other environmental studies conducted for this undertaking include, but are not limited to cultural resource surveys, contaminated material investigations, soil testing, wetlands surveys, and potential endangered species surveys.

If your tribe wishes to become a consulting party under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act or would like to receive or share additional information regarding this

undertaking, please respond to this email .

You are also invited to attend an Agency and Stakeholder Coordination Meeting for the joint EA/EAW. The purpose of this meeting is to provide project background information and solicit comments to assist in developing the EA/EAW. To comply with COVID-19 in-person meeting restrictions, the meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, December 15, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m., on the Zoom virtual meeting platform.

If you cannot attend the meeting, please provide your comments for consideration in future planning and evaluation of this project back to me. Please [RSVP](#) for the meeting via phone or email by Friday, December 11, 2020, and a separate meeting invitation will be sent to you with instructions for joining the meeting.

Please share this invitation internally if there is another contact from your Tribe who would be interested in attending the meeting or providing feedback in your place.

Sincerely,

Josh Fitzpatrick  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
FAA Dakota-Minnesota Airport District Office  
[Joshua.Fitzpatrick@faa.gov](mailto:Joshua.Fitzpatrick@faa.gov)  
(612) 253-4639

**From:** [Jenny, Melissa M \(FAA\)](#)  
**To:** [ssn.thpo@gmail.com](mailto:ssn.thpo@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Notice of federal undertaking and request for comments under 36 CFR 800 - Rochester International Airport (RST) - Notice of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment and Public Hearing for Runway 2/20 Extension Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 12:44:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [RST Unanticipated Discovery Plan State and Federal Final 08-21 \(002\).pdf](#)

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Good afternoon,

This email is to notify you that a Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Rochester International Airport (RST) Runway 2/20 Extension Project is available for review. The Draft SEA document can be viewed on the project webpage here: <https://FlyRST.com/EA>. The comment period for the Draft SEA closes at 5:00 p.m. CST on February 26, 2023.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is requesting the Santee Sioux Nation THPO to review this proposal and identify any concerns that you may have about its potential to impact historic properties, including those of traditional religious and cultural importance.

The FAA previously coordinated this project with you on December 9, 2020 and October 5, 2022. See emails below.

Here are some recent project updates:

In July 2021, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued a Finding of No Significant Impact/Record of Decision (FONSI/ROD) for the proposed Runway 2/20 Project – Uninterrupted Service Environmental Assessment. Since issuing the 2021 EA FONSI/ROD, the FAA has determined that the approved action needs to be updated to include project components not explicitly considered by the 2021 EA. Those components are evaluated in this Supplemental EA. Comments will be accepted either electronically or hardcopy until February 26, 2023. Below is the notification that was published in the local paper that provides information on how the Draft Supplemental EA documents can be accessed for review and how to submit comments. Additionally, it provides information on the virtual public hearing that will be held on February 15, 2023.

The FAA determined that a NHPA Section 106 finding of *No Historic Properties Affected* was appropriate for the original project approved in 2021, and has determined that this finding is still appropriate for the updated project described in the draft SEA at the link below. The attached *Unanticipated Discovery Plan* will be in place during project construction.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the project and please submit any comments that you have on this proposal by February 26, 2023.

Thank you,

Melissa Jenny (she/her)  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
FAA Dakota-Minnesota Airports District Office

**CITY OF ROCHESTER / ROCHESTER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**  
**NOTICE OF DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**  
**AVAILABILITY & PUBLIC HEARING**  
**FOR**  
**ROCHESTER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**  
**RUNWAY 2/20 PROJECT – UNINTERRUPTED SERVICE**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Rochester will hold a public hearing on February 15, 2023, via a virtual Zoom meeting, to receive testimony relative to the draft federal Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Rochester International Airport (RST) Runway 2/20 Project – Uninterrupted Service. The virtual public hearing will also be aired at the Airport for anyone unable to access the meeting virtually and wishing to attend in person. There will be a presentation beginning at 6:00 p.m. CST, including an opportunity for the public to ask questions, with the public hearing to follow. There is no set end time for the public hearing. The hearing will conclude once all who wish to give public testimony have had the opportunity to do so.

The City, as the Airport Sponsor, intends to undertake a project reconstructing portions of and extending Runway 2/20 along with associated airfield improvements to maintain access for current users during periods when Runway 13/31 is unavailable. In July 2021, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued a Finding of No Significant Impact/Record of Decision (FONSI/ROD) for the proposed Runway 2/20 Project – Uninterrupted Service Environmental Assessment (EA). The FONSI/ROD provided a review of the proposed action, mitigation, and the basis for the FAA's finding. The approved project included moving a petroleum pipeline, overhead power lines, and portions of 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW, 90<sup>th</sup> Street SW (former Trunk Highway 30), and 95<sup>th</sup> Street SW and acquiring land to accommodate the Runway 2/20 extension. Since issuing the 2021 EA FONSI/ROD, the FAA has determined that the approved action needs to be updated to include project components not explicitly considered by the 2021 EA. These include modifications to the petroleum pipeline alignment and limits of disturbance, construction staging areas, revised land acquisition boundaries, updated road easements, modifications to communication line relocations, additional tree clearing, relocated field accesses, and additional on-airport runway lights and access roads.

In accordance with its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the FAA requires the City to complete an SEA. During the SEA process, the City and its airport consultant evaluated the environmental, economic, and social effects of the proposed supplemental project components. The supplemental project components include an additional .08 acres of temporary wetland impacts.

The results of the analysis are published in the Draft SEA document, which can be viewed on the project webpage, <https://FlyRST.com/EA>, beginning January 14, or at the RST Airport Administration office at 7600 Helgerson Dr. SW, Rochester, MN 55902. In-person

viewing is by appointment only; please call 507-282-2328 ext. 6 to schedule. The Airport Administration office is ADA accessible. The public comment period for the Draft SEA closes at 5:00 p.m. CST on February 26, 2023.

To attend the virtual public hearing, the public is encouraged to register in advance and receive the Zoom meeting link by visiting the RST EA webpage at <https://FlyRST.com/EA>. Alternately, the public can participate by phone (audio only) or the Zoom website by using the phone number or link along with the meeting ID and passcode listed below:

Phone: 312-626-6799  
[www.zoom.us/join](https://www.zoom.us/join)  
Meeting ID: 862 3038 3573  
Passcode/Participant ID: 024853

RST will also air the virtual public hearing at the Airport for those unable to access the meeting virtually. Those wishing to attend in person should RSVP to the RST Airport Administration office at 507-282-2328 ext. 6 no later than 4:00 p.m. CST on Monday, February 13, 2023. The purpose of the public hearing is to address the supplemental proposed action's potential economic, social, and environmental effects. All interested persons are invited to attend and to present concise, relevant oral and written statements concerning the economic, social, and environmental effects of the supplemental project components.

Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. CST on February 26, 2023. Written comments can be submitted via email to [colleen.bosold@meadhunt.com](mailto:colleen.bosold@meadhunt.com) or mailed to:

Rochester International Airport SEA Comments  
c/o Colleen Bosold, Mead & Hunt  
7900 International Drive, Suite 980  
Bloomington, MN 55425

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

---

**From:** Jenny, Melissa M (FAA)

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 5, 2022 2:31 PM

**To:** [ssn.thpo@gmail.com](mailto:ssn.thpo@gmail.com)

**Subject:** Notice of federal undertaking and request for comments under 36 CFR 800 for Rochester International Airport Runway 2/20 Project Update

Dear Ms. Frazier:

I am a new Environmental Protection Specialist working in the FAA's Dakota-Minnesota Airports District Office. I'm based out of our Minneapolis Office, but I work closely with Sheri Lares in our Bismark office who you may have worked with while reviewing previous FAA airport projects. I look

forward to working with you on the project described below and future projects in MN that may be of interest to the Santee Sioux Nation.

We previously coordinated the Rochester International Airport (RST) 2/20 Runway Reconstruction and Extension project with you in December 2020, as described in the email below.

The FAA made a Sec. 106 *No Historic Properties Affected* determination for this project, which was finalized at the completion of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) determination on July 09, 2021.

We're reinitiating coordination for this project with you now because the project scope has changed slightly as described below.

The scope for this project, and the associated archaeology area of potential effect (APE), has changed slightly to include an adjusted pipeline corridor and staging areas, as well as additional tree removal, land acquisition, and minor wetland impacts, all of which are within the boundaries of the previously surveyed area except for a small 2.52-acre portion in the southeastern corner of the project site. This is described in more detail in the attached letter report from Mead and Hunt entitled "*Archaeological Assessment of Proposed Changes Rochester International Airport Runway 2/20 Reconstruction and Extension*", dated September 29, 2022. The letter report recommends that no further archaeological fieldwork is warranted for this project since the small area outside the surveyed area has been previously disturbed. Based on the negative field survey results for the original survey area and the previous disturbance, it is highly unlikely this small portion of land would contain intact, archaeological deposits that would be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The FAA agrees with the recommendation in the Mead & Hunt report. No additional survey work will be required and the FAA maintains a Section 106 finding of *No Historic Properties Affected* for this project.

We respectfully request your comments regarding this updated finding within 30 days of receipt of this email.

If you have any questions about the project please contact me by email at [Melissa.m.jenny@faa.gov](mailto:Melissa.m.jenny@faa.gov) or by phone at (612) 253-4633.

Thank you,

Melissa Jenny (she/her)  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
FAA Dakota-Minnesota Airports District Office  
(612) 253-4633  
[Melissa.m.jenny@faa.gov](mailto:Melissa.m.jenny@faa.gov)

---



**From:** Fitzpatrick, Joshua (FAA)

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 11:47 AM

**To:** [pegasixx@yahoo.com](mailto:pegasixx@yahoo.com)

**Subject:** Notice of federal undertaking and request for comments under 36 CFR 800 for Rochester International Airport Runway 2/20 Federal EA/State EAW

Dear Mr. Whipple,

The Rochester International Airport (RST), in cooperation with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB), will be preparing a joint Federal Environmental Assessment (EA) / State Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for improvements at the Airport in Rochester, Minnesota. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Minnesota Environmental Policy (MEPA), the joint EA/EAW will evaluate the potential physical, environmental, and social impacts of the proposed action. The need to implement the following proposed improvements was identified in the Airport's ongoing Master Plan:

- Reconstruct Runway 2/20, extend Runway 2 by 1,647 feet, and shorten Runway 20 by 595 feet for an ultimate length of 8,354 feet
- Reconstruct and extend Taxiway B by 1,647 feet to the south and 441 feet to the north to at least 400-foot separation from Runway 2/20 centerline resulting in a full-length parallel taxiway
- Install paved shoulders on Runway 2/20 and Taxiway B
- Relocate existing petroleum pipeline outside of the Runway Safety Area and off existing and future airport property (includes property easements)
- Remove and relocate portions of 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW and 90<sup>th</sup> Street SW to accommodate the Runway 2 extension and precision approach Runway Protection Zone
- Relocate overhead power utility lines in conjunction with anticipated road relocations
- Acquire approximately 25 acres of property
- Modify airport perimeter road and fencing
- Install new navigational aids
- Complete various airfield improvements to bring Runway 2/20 and associated taxiways up to current FAA design standards

The enclosed Exhibit 1 shows the proposed preliminary planning level improvements. The FAA would be pleased to receive any comments your tribe wishes to share regarding this undertaking and any potential impacts to historic properties and/or archaeological sites. To ensure your comments are considered during this early phase of project development, the FAA requests a response within 30 days of receipt of this email. Your comments will assist project engineers to avoid, minimize or mitigate effects on natural and cultural resources.

Other environmental studies conducted for this undertaking include, but are not limited to cultural resource surveys, contaminated material investigations, soil testing, wetlands surveys, and potential endangered species surveys.

If your tribe wishes to become a consulting party under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act or would like to receive or share additional information regarding this undertaking, please respond to this email .

You are also invited to attend an Agency and Stakeholder Coordination Meeting for the joint

EA/EAW. The purpose of this meeting is to provide project background information and solicit comments to assist in developing the EA/EAW. To comply with COVID-19 in-person meeting restrictions, the meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, December 15, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m., on the Zoom virtual meeting platform.

If you cannot attend the meeting, please provide your comments for consideration in future planning and evaluation of this project back to me. Please [RSVP](#) for the meeting via phone or email by Friday, December 11, 2020, and a separate meeting invitation will be sent to you with instructions for joining the meeting.

Please share this invitation internally if there is another contact from your Tribe who would be interested in attending the meeting or providing feedback in your place.

Sincerely,

Josh Fitzpatrick  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
FAA Dakota-Minnesota Airport District Office  
[Joshua.Fitzpatrick@faa.gov](mailto:Joshua.Fitzpatrick@faa.gov)  
(612) 253-4639

**From:** [Jenny, Melissa M \(FAA\)](#)  
**To:** [samanthao@uppersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov](mailto:samanthao@uppersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov)  
**Subject:** Notice of federal undertaking and request for comments under 36 CFR 800 - Rochester International Airport (RST) - Notice of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment and Public Hearing for Runway 2/20 Extension Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 12:50:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [RST Unanticipated Discovery Plan State and Federal Final 08-21 \(002\).pdf](#)

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Good afternoon,

This email is to notify you that a Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Rochester International Airport (RST) Runway 2/20 Extension Project is available for review. The Draft SEA document can be viewed on the project webpage here: <https://FlyRST.com/EA>. The comment period for the Draft SEA closes at 5:00 p.m. CST on February 26, 2023.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is requesting the Upper Sioux Community THPO to review this proposal and identify any concerns that you may have about its potential to impact historic properties, including those of traditional religious and cultural importance.

The FAA previously coordinated this project with you on December 9, 2020 and October 5, 2022. See emails below.

Here are some recent project updates:

In July 2021, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued a Finding of No Significant Impact/Record of Decision (FONSI/ROD) for the proposed Runway 2/20 Project – Uninterrupted Service Environmental Assessment. Since issuing the 2021 EA FONSI/ROD, the FAA has determined that the approved action needs to be updated to include project components not explicitly considered by the 2021 EA. Those components are evaluated in this Supplemental EA. Comments will be accepted either electronically or hardcopy until February 26, 2023. Below is the notification that was published in the local paper that provides information on how the Draft Supplemental EA documents can be accessed for review and how to submit comments. Additionally, it provides information on the virtual public hearing that will be held on February 15, 2023.

The FAA determined that a NHPA Section 106 finding of *No Historic Properties Affected* was appropriate for the original project approved in 2021, and has determined that this finding is still appropriate for the updated project described in the draft SEA at the link above/below. The attached *Unanticipated Discovery Plan* will be in place during project construction.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the project and please submit any comments that you have on this proposal by February 26, 2023.

Thank you,

Melissa Jenny (she/her)  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
FAA Dakota-Minnesota Airports District Office

(612) 253-4633

[Melissa.m.jenny@faa.gov](mailto:Melissa.m.jenny@faa.gov)

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**CITY OF ROCHESTER / ROCHESTER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**  
**NOTICE OF DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**  
**AVAILABILITY & PUBLIC HEARING**  
**FOR**  
**ROCHESTER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**  
**RUNWAY 2/20 PROJECT – UNINTERRUPTED SERVICE**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Rochester will hold a public hearing on February 15, 2023, via a virtual Zoom meeting, to receive testimony relative to the draft federal Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Rochester International Airport (RST) Runway 2/20 Project – Uninterrupted Service. The virtual public hearing will also be aired at the Airport for anyone unable to access the meeting virtually and wishing to attend in person. There will be a presentation beginning at 6:00 p.m. CST, including an opportunity for the public to ask questions, with the public hearing to follow. There is no set end time for the public hearing. The hearing will conclude once all who wish to give public testimony have had the opportunity to do so.

The City, as the Airport Sponsor, intends to undertake a project reconstructing portions of and extending Runway 2/20 along with associated airfield improvements to maintain access for current users during periods when Runway 13/31 is unavailable. In July 2021, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued a Finding of No Significant Impact/Record of Decision (FONSI/ROD) for the proposed Runway 2/20 Project – Uninterrupted Service Environmental Assessment (EA). The FONSI/ROD provided a review of the proposed action, mitigation, and the basis for the FAA's finding. The approved project included moving a petroleum pipeline, overhead power lines, and portions of 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW, 90<sup>th</sup> Street SW (former Trunk Highway 30), and 95<sup>th</sup> Street SW and acquiring land to accommodate the Runway 2/20 extension. Since issuing the 2021 EA FONSI/ROD, the FAA has determined that the approved action needs to be updated to include project components not explicitly considered by the 2021 EA. These include modifications to the petroleum pipeline alignment and limits of disturbance, construction staging areas, revised land acquisition boundaries, updated road easements, modifications to communication line relocations, additional tree clearing, relocated field accesses, and additional on-airport runway lights and access roads.

In accordance with its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the FAA requires the City to complete an SEA. During the SEA process, the City and its airport consultant evaluated the environmental, economic, and social effects of the proposed supplemental project components. The supplemental project components include an additional .08 acres of temporary wetland impacts.

The results of the analysis are published in the Draft SEA document, which can be viewed on the project webpage, <https://FlyRST.com/EA>, beginning January 14, or at the RST Airport Administration office at 7600 Helgerson Dr. SW, Rochester, MN 55902. In-person viewing is by appointment only; please call 507-282-2328 ext. 6 to schedule. The Airport

Administration office is ADA accessible. The public comment period for the Draft SEA closes at 5:00 p.m. CST on February 26, 2023.

To attend the virtual public hearing, the public is encouraged to register in advance and receive the Zoom meeting link by visiting the RST EA webpage at <https://FlyRST.com/EA>. Alternately, the public can participate by phone (audio only) or the Zoom website by using the phone number or link along with the meeting ID and passcode listed below:

Phone: 312-626-6799  
[www.zoom.us/join](https://www.zoom.us/join)  
Meeting ID: 862 3038 3573  
Passcode/Participant ID: 024853

RST will also air the virtual public hearing at the Airport for those unable to access the meeting virtually. Those wishing to attend in person should RSVP to the RST Airport Administration office at 507-282-2328 ext. 6 no later than 4:00 p.m. CST on Monday, February 13, 2023. The purpose of the public hearing is to address the supplemental proposed action's potential economic, social, and environmental effects. All interested persons are invited to attend and to present concise, relevant oral and written statements concerning the economic, social, and environmental effects of the supplemental project components.

Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. CST on February 26, 2023. Written comments can be submitted via email to [colleen.bosold@meadhunt.com](mailto:colleen.bosold@meadhunt.com) or mailed to:

Rochester International Airport SEA Comments  
c/o Colleen Bosold, Mead & Hunt  
7900 International Drive, Suite 980  
Bloomington, MN 55425

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

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**From:** Jenny, Melissa M (FAA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 5, 2022 1:49 PM  
**To:** samanthao@uppersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov  
**Subject:** Notice of federal undertaking and request for comments under 36 CFR 800 for Rochester International Airport Runway 2/20 Project Update

Dear Ms. Odegard:

I am a new Environmental Protection Specialist working in the FAA's Dakota-Minnesota Airports District Office. I'm based out of our Minneapolis Office, but I work closely with Sheri Lares in our Bismark office who you may have worked with while reviewing previous FAA airport projects. I look forward to working with you on the project described below and future projects in MN that may be of interest to the Upper Sioux Community.

We previously coordinated the Rochester International Airport (RST) 2/20 Runway Reconstruction and Extension project with you in December 2020, as described in the email below.

The FAA made a Sec. 106 *No Historic Properties Affected* determination for this project, which was finalized at the completion of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) determination on July 09, 2021.

We're reinitiating coordination for this project with you now because the project scope has changed slightly as described below.

The scope for this project, and the associated archaeology area of potential effect (APE), has changed slightly to include an adjusted pipeline corridor and staging areas, as well as additional tree removal, land acquisition, and minor wetland impacts, all of which are within the boundaries of the previously surveyed area except for a small 2.52-acre portion in the southeastern corner of the project site. This is described in more detail in the attached letter report from Mead and Hunt entitled "*Archaeological Assessment of Proposed Changes Rochester International Airport Runway 2/20 Reconstruction and Extension*", dated September 29, 2022. The letter report recommends that no further archaeological fieldwork is warranted for this project since the small area outside the surveyed area has been previously disturbed. Based on the negative field survey results for the original survey area and the previous disturbance, it is highly unlikely this small portion of land would contain intact, archaeological deposits that would be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The FAA agrees with the recommendation in the Mead & Hunt report. No additional survey work will be required and the FAA maintains a Section 106 finding of *No Historic Properties Affected* for this project.

We respectfully request your comments regarding this updated finding within 30 days of receipt of this email.

If you have any questions about the project please contact me by email at [Melissa.m.jenny@faa.gov](mailto:Melissa.m.jenny@faa.gov) or by phone at (612) 253-4633.

Thank you,

Melissa Jenny (she/her)  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
FAA Dakota-Minnesota Airports District Office  
(612) 253-4633  
[Melissa.m.jenny@faa.gov](mailto:Melissa.m.jenny@faa.gov)

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**From:** Fitzpatrick, Joshua (FAA)

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 11:44 AM

**To:** Samantha Odegard <[samanthao@uppersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov](mailto:samanthao@uppersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov)>

**Subject:** Notice of federal undertaking and request for comments under 36 CFR 800 for Rochester International Airport Runway 2/20 Federal EA/State EAW

Dear Ms. Odegard,

The Rochester International Airport (RST), in cooperation with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB), will be preparing a joint Federal Environmental Assessment (EA) / State Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for improvements at the Airport in Rochester, Minnesota. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Minnesota Environmental Policy (MEPA), the joint EA/EAW will evaluate the potential physical, environmental, and social impacts of the proposed action. The need to implement the following proposed improvements was identified in the Airport's ongoing Master Plan:

- Reconstruct Runway 2/20, extend Runway 2 by 1,647 feet, and shorten Runway 20 by 595 feet for an ultimate length of 8,354 feet
- Reconstruct and extend Taxiway B by 1,647 feet to the south and 441 feet to the north to at least 400-foot separation from Runway 2/20 centerline resulting in a full-length parallel taxiway
- Install paved shoulders on Runway 2/20 and Taxiway B
- Relocate existing petroleum pipeline outside of the Runway Safety Area and off existing and future airport property (includes property easements)
- Remove and relocate portions of 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW and 90<sup>th</sup> Street SW to accommodate the Runway 2 extension and precision approach Runway Protection Zone
- Relocate overhead power utility lines in conjunction with anticipated road relocations
- Acquire approximately 25 acres of property
- Modify airport perimeter road and fencing
- Install new navigational aids
- Complete various airfield improvements to bring Runway 2/20 and associated taxiways up to current FAA design standards

The enclosed Exhibit 1 shows the proposed preliminary planning level improvements. The FAA would be pleased to receive any comments your tribe wishes to share regarding this undertaking and any potential impacts to historic properties and/or archaeological sites. To ensure your comments are considered during this early phase of project development, the FAA requests a response within 30 days of receipt of this email. Your comments will assist project engineers to avoid, minimize or mitigate effects on natural and cultural resources.

Other environmental studies conducted for this undertaking include, but are not limited to cultural resource surveys, contaminated material investigations, soil testing, wetlands surveys, and potential endangered species surveys.

If your tribe wishes to become a consulting party under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act or would like to receive or share additional information regarding this undertaking, please respond to this email .

You are also invited to attend an Agency and Stakeholder Coordination Meeting for the joint EA/EAW. The purpose of this meeting is to provide project background information and solicit comments to assist in developing the EA/EAW. To comply with COVID-19 in-person meeting restrictions, the meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, December 15, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m., on the Zoom virtual meeting platform.

If you cannot attend the meeting, please provide your comments for consideration in future planning and evaluation of this project back to me. Please [RSVP](#) for the meeting via phone or email by Friday, December 11, 2020, and a separate meeting invitation will be sent to you with instructions for joining the meeting.

Please share this invitation internally if there is another contact from your Tribe who would be interested in attending the meeting or providing feedback in your place.

Sincerely,

Josh Fitzpatrick  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
FAA Dakota-Minnesota Airport District Office  
[Joshua.Fitzpatrick@faa.gov](mailto:Joshua.Fitzpatrick@faa.gov)  
(612) 253-4639



**From:** [Jenny, Melissa M \(FAA\)](#)  
**To:** ["Noah.White@piic.org"](mailto:Noah.White@piic.org)  
**Subject:** Notice of federal undertaking and request for comments under 36 CFR 800 - Rochester International Airport (RST) - Notice of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment and Public Hearing for Runway 2/20 Extension Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 12:57:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [RST Unanticipated Discovery Plan State and Federal Final 08-21 \(002\).pdf](#)

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Good afternoon,

This email is to notify you that a Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Rochester International Airport (RST) Runway 2/20 Extension Project is available for review. The Draft SEA document can be viewed on the project webpage here: <https://FlyRST.com/EA>. The comment period for the Draft SEA closes at 5:00 p.m. CST on February 26, 2023.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is requesting the Prairie Island Indian Community THPO to review this proposal and identify any concerns that you may have about it's potential to impact historic properties, including those of traditional religious and cultural importance.

The FAA previously coordinated this project with you on December 9, 2020 and October 5, 2022. See emails below.

Here are some recent project updates:

In July 2021, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued a Finding of No Significant Impact/Record of Decision (FONSI/ROD) for the proposed Runway 2/20 Project – Uninterrupted Service Environmental Assessment. Since issuing the 2021 EA FONSI/ROD, the FAA has determined that the approved action needs to be updated to include project components not explicitly considered by the 2021 EA. Those components are evaluated in this Supplemental EA. Comments will be accepted either electronically or hardcopy until February 26, 2023. Below is the notification that was published in the local paper that provides information on how the Draft Supplemental EA documents can be accessed for review and how to submit comments. Additionally, it provides information on the virtual public hearing that will be held on February 15, 2023.

The FAA determined that a NHPA Section 106 finding of *No Historic Properties Affected* was appropriate for the original project approved in 2021, and has determined that this finding is still appropriate for the updated project described in the draft SEA at the link above/below. The attached *Unanticipated Discovery Plan* will be in place during project construction.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the project and please submit any comments that you have on this proposal by February 26, 2023.

Thank you,

Melissa Jenny (she/her)  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
FAA Dakota-Minnesota Airports District Office

(612) 253-4633

[Melissa.m.jenny@faa.gov](mailto:Melissa.m.jenny@faa.gov)

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## **CITY OF ROCHESTER / ROCHESTER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

### **NOTICE OF DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AVAILABILITY & PUBLIC HEARING FOR ROCHESTER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT RUNWAY 2/20 PROJECT – UNINTERRUPTED SERVICE**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Rochester will hold a public hearing on February 15, 2023, via a virtual Zoom meeting, to receive testimony relative to the draft federal Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Rochester International Airport (RST) Runway 2/20 Project – Uninterrupted Service. The virtual public hearing will also be aired at the Airport for anyone unable to access the meeting virtually and wishing to attend in person. There will be a presentation beginning at 6:00 p.m. CST, including an opportunity for the public to ask questions, with the public hearing to follow. There is no set end time for the public hearing. The hearing will conclude once all who wish to give public testimony have had the opportunity to do so.

The City, as the Airport Sponsor, intends to undertake a project reconstructing portions of and extending Runway 2/20 along with associated airfield improvements to maintain access for current users during periods when Runway 13/31 is unavailable. In July 2021, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued a Finding of No Significant Impact/Record of Decision (FONSI/ROD) for the proposed Runway 2/20 Project – Uninterrupted Service Environmental Assessment (EA). The FONSI/ROD provided a review of the proposed action, mitigation, and the basis for the FAA's finding. The approved project included moving a petroleum pipeline, overhead power lines, and portions of 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW, 90<sup>th</sup> Street SW (former Trunk Highway 30), and 95<sup>th</sup> Street SW and acquiring land to accommodate the Runway 2/20 extension. Since issuing the 2021 EA FONSI/ROD, the FAA has determined that the approved action needs to be updated to include project components not explicitly considered by the 2021 EA. These include modifications to the petroleum pipeline alignment and limits of disturbance, construction staging areas, revised land acquisition boundaries, updated road easements, modifications to communication line relocations, additional tree clearing, relocated field accesses, and additional on-airport runway lights and access roads.

In accordance with its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the FAA requires the City to complete an SEA. During the SEA process, the City and its airport consultant evaluated the environmental, economic, and social effects of the proposed supplemental project components. The supplemental project components include an additional .08 acres of temporary wetland impacts.

The results of the analysis are published in the Draft SEA document, which can be viewed on the project webpage, <https://FlyRST.com/EA>, beginning January 14, or at the RST Airport Administration office at 7600 Helgerson Dr. SW, Rochester, MN 55902. In-person viewing is by appointment only; please call 507-282-2328 ext. 6 to schedule. The Airport

Administration office is ADA accessible. The public comment period for the Draft SEA closes at 5:00 p.m. CST on February 26, 2023.

To attend the virtual public hearing, the public is encouraged to register in advance and receive the Zoom meeting link by visiting the RST EA webpage at <https://FlyRST.com/EA>. Alternately, the public can participate by phone (audio only) or the Zoom website by using the phone number or link along with the meeting ID and passcode listed below:

Phone: 312-626-6799  
[www.zoom.us/join](https://www.zoom.us/join)  
Meeting ID: 862 3038 3573  
Passcode/Participant ID: 024853

RST will also air the virtual public hearing at the Airport for those unable to access the meeting virtually. Those wishing to attend in person should RSVP to the RST Airport Administration office at 507-282-2328 ext. 6 no later than 4:00 p.m. CST on Monday, February 13, 2023. The purpose of the public hearing is to address the supplemental proposed action's potential economic, social, and environmental effects. All interested persons are invited to attend and to present concise, relevant oral and written statements concerning the economic, social, and environmental effects of the supplemental project components.

Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. CST on February 26, 2023. Written comments can be submitted via email to [colleen.bosold@meadhunt.com](mailto:colleen.bosold@meadhunt.com) or mailed to:

Rochester International Airport SEA Comments  
c/o Colleen Bosold, Mead & Hunt  
7900 International Drive, Suite 980  
Bloomington, MN 55425

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

---

**From:** Jenny, Melissa M (FAA)

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 5, 2022 1:44 PM

**To:** Noah.White@piic.org

**Subject:** Notice of federal undertaking and request for comments under 36 CFR 800 for Rochester International Airport Runway 2/20 Project Update

Dear Mr. White,

I am a new Environmental Protection Specialist working in the FAA's Dakota-Minnesota Airports District Office. I'm based out of our Minneapolis Office but I work closely with Sheri Lares in our Bismark office who you may have worked with while reviewing previous FAA airport projects. I look forward to working with you on the project described below and future projects in MN that may be

of interest to the Prairie Island Indian Community.

We previously coordinated the Rochester International Airport (RST) 2/20 Runway Reconstruction and Extension project with you in December 2020, as described in the email below.

The FAA made a Sec. 106 *No Historic Properties Affected* determination for this project, which was finalized at the completion of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) determination on July 09, 2021.

We're reinitiating coordination for this project with you now because the project scope has changed slightly as described below.

The scope for this project, and the associated archaeology area of potential effect (APE), has changed slightly to include an adjusted pipeline corridor and staging areas, as well as additional tree removal, land acquisition, and minor wetland impacts, all of which are within the boundaries of the previously surveyed area except for a small 2.52-acre portion in the southeastern corner of the project site. This is described in more detail in the attached letter report from Mead and Hunt entitled "*Archaeological Assessment of Proposed Changes Rochester International Airport Runway 2/20 Reconstruction and Extension*", dated September 29, 2022. The letter report recommends that no further archaeological fieldwork is warranted for this project since the small area outside the surveyed area has been previously disturbed. Based on the negative field survey results for the original survey area and the previous disturbance, it is highly unlikely this small portion of land would contain intact, archaeological deposits that would be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The FAA agrees with the recommendation in the Mead & Hunt report. No additional survey work will be required and the FAA maintains a Section 106 finding of *No Historic Properties Affected* for this project.

We respectfully request your comments regarding this updated finding within 30 days of receipt of this email.

If you have any questions about the project please contact me by email at [Melissa.m.jenny@faa.gov](mailto:Melissa.m.jenny@faa.gov) or by phone at (612) 253-4633.

Thank you,

Melissa Jenny (she/her)  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
FAA Dakota-Minnesota Airports District Office  
(612) 253-4633  
[Melissa.m.jenny@faa.gov](mailto:Melissa.m.jenny@faa.gov)

---

**From:** Fitzpatrick, Joshua (FAA)

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 11:43 AM

**To:** Noah White <[Noah.White@piic.org](mailto:Noah.White@piic.org)>

**Subject:** Notice of federal undertaking and request for comments under 36 CFR 800 for Rochester International Airport Runway 2/20 Federal EA/State EAW

Dear Mr. White,

The Rochester International Airport (RST), in cooperation with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB), will be preparing a joint Federal Environmental Assessment (EA) / State Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for improvements at the Airport in Rochester, Minnesota. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Minnesota Environmental Policy (MEPA), the joint EA/EAW will evaluate the potential physical, environmental, and social impacts of the proposed action. The need to implement the following proposed improvements was identified in the Airport's ongoing Master Plan:

- Reconstruct Runway 2/20, extend Runway 2 by 1,647 feet, and shorten Runway 20 by 595 feet for an ultimate length of 8,354 feet
- Reconstruct and extend Taxiway B by 1,647 feet to the south and 441 feet to the north to at least 400-foot separation from Runway 2/20 centerline resulting in a full-length parallel taxiway
- Install paved shoulders on Runway 2/20 and Taxiway B
- Relocate existing petroleum pipeline outside of the Runway Safety Area and off existing and future airport property (includes property easements)
- Remove and relocate portions of 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW and 90<sup>th</sup> Street SW to accommodate the Runway 2 extension and precision approach Runway Protection Zone
- Relocate overhead power utility lines in conjunction with anticipated road relocations
- Acquire approximately 25 acres of property
- Modify airport perimeter road and fencing
- Install new navigational aids
- Complete various airfield improvements to bring Runway 2/20 and associated taxiways up to current FAA design standards

The enclosed Exhibit 1 shows the proposed preliminary planning level improvements. The FAA would be pleased to receive any comments your tribe wishes to share regarding this undertaking and any potential impacts to historic properties and/or archaeological sites. To ensure your comments are considered during this early phase of project development, the FAA requests a response within 30 days of receipt of this email. Your comments will assist project engineers to avoid, minimize or mitigate effects on natural and cultural resources.

Other environmental studies conducted for this undertaking include, but are not limited to cultural resource surveys, contaminated material investigations, soil testing, wetlands surveys, and potential endangered species surveys.

If your tribe wishes to become a consulting party under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act or would like to receive or share additional information regarding this undertaking, please respond to this email .

You are also invited to attend an Agency and Stakeholder Coordination Meeting for the joint EA/EAW. The purpose of this meeting is to provide project background information and solicit comments to assist in developing the EA/EAW. To comply with COVID-19 in-person meeting restrictions, the meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, December 15, from 9:00 to

10:30 a.m., on the Zoom virtual meeting platform.

If you cannot attend the meeting, please provide your comments for consideration in future planning and evaluation of this project back to me. Please [RSVP](#) for the meeting via phone or email by Friday, December 11, 2020, and a separate meeting invitation will be sent to you with instructions for joining the meeting.

Please share this invitation internally if there is another contact from your Tribe who would be interested in attending the meeting or providing feedback in your place.

Sincerely,

Josh Fitzpatrick  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
FAA Dakota-Minnesota Airport District Office  
[Joshua.Fitzpatrick@faa.gov](mailto:Joshua.Fitzpatrick@faa.gov)  
(612) 253-4639

**From:** [Jenny, Melissa M \(FAA\)](#)  
**To:** ["cheyanne.stjohn@lowersioux.com"](mailto:cheyanne.stjohn@lowersioux.com)  
**Subject:** Notice of federal undertaking and request for comments under 36 CFR 800 - Rochester International Airport (RST) - Notice of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment and Public Hearing for Runway 2/20 Extension Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 1:00:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [RST Unanticipated Discovery Plan State and Federal Final 08-21 \(002\).pdf](#)

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Good afternoon,

This email is to notify you that a Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Rochester International Airport (RST) Runway 2/20 Extension Project is available for review. The Draft SEA document can be viewed on the project webpage here: <https://FlyRST.com/EA>. The comment period for the Draft SEA closes at 5:00 p.m. CST on February 26, 2023.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is requesting the Lower Sioux Community THPO to review this proposal and identify any concerns that you may have about its potential to impact historic properties, including those of traditional religious and cultural importance.

The FAA previously coordinated this project with you on December 9, 2020 and October 5, 2022. See emails below.

Here are some recent project updates:

In July 2021, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued a Finding of No Significant Impact/Record of Decision (FONSI/ROD) for the proposed Runway 2/20 Project – Uninterrupted Service Environmental Assessment. Since issuing the 2021 EA FONSI/ROD, the FAA has determined that the approved action needs to be updated to include project components not explicitly considered by the 2021 EA. Those components are evaluated in this Supplemental EA. Comments will be accepted either electronically or hardcopy until February 26, 2023. Below is the notification that was published in the local paper that provides information on how the Draft Supplemental EA documents can be accessed for review and how to submit comments. Additionally, it provides information on the virtual public hearing that will be held on February 15, 2023.

The FAA determined that a NHPA Section 106 finding of *No Historic Properties Affected* was appropriate for the original project approved in 2021, and has determined that this finding is still appropriate for the updated project described in the draft SEA at the link above/below. The attached *Unanticipated Discovery Plan* will be in place during project construction.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the project and please submit any comments that you have on this proposal by February 26, 2023.

Thank you,

Melissa Jenny (she/her)  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
FAA Dakota-Minnesota Airports District Office

(612) 253-4633

[Melissa.m.jenny@faa.gov](mailto:Melissa.m.jenny@faa.gov)

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**CITY OF ROCHESTER / ROCHESTER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**  
**NOTICE OF DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**  
**AVAILABILITY & PUBLIC HEARING**  
**FOR**  
**ROCHESTER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**  
**RUNWAY 2/20 PROJECT – UNINTERRUPTED SERVICE**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Rochester will hold a public hearing on February 15, 2023, via a virtual Zoom meeting, to receive testimony relative to the draft federal Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Rochester International Airport (RST) Runway 2/20 Project – Uninterrupted Service. The virtual public hearing will also be aired at the Airport for anyone unable to access the meeting virtually and wishing to attend in person. There will be a presentation beginning at 6:00 p.m. CST, including an opportunity for the public to ask questions, with the public hearing to follow. There is no set end time for the public hearing. The hearing will conclude once all who wish to give public testimony have had the opportunity to do so.

The City, as the Airport Sponsor, intends to undertake a project reconstructing portions of and extending Runway 2/20 along with associated airfield improvements to maintain access for current users during periods when Runway 13/31 is unavailable. In July 2021, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued a Finding of No Significant Impact/Record of Decision (FONSI/ROD) for the proposed Runway 2/20 Project – Uninterrupted Service Environmental Assessment (EA). The FONSI/ROD provided a review of the proposed action, mitigation, and the basis for the FAA's finding. The approved project included moving a petroleum pipeline, overhead power lines, and portions of 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW, 90<sup>th</sup> Street SW (former Trunk Highway 30), and 95<sup>th</sup> Street SW and acquiring land to accommodate the Runway 2/20 extension. Since issuing the 2021 EA FONSI/ROD, the FAA has determined that the approved action needs to be updated to include project components not explicitly considered by the 2021 EA. These include modifications to the petroleum pipeline alignment and limits of disturbance, construction staging areas, revised land acquisition boundaries, updated road easements, modifications to communication line relocations, additional tree clearing, relocated field accesses, and additional on-airport runway lights and access roads.

In accordance with its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the FAA requires the City to complete an SEA. During the SEA process, the City and its airport consultant evaluated the environmental, economic, and social effects of the proposed supplemental project components. The supplemental project components include an additional .08 acres of temporary wetland impacts.

The results of the analysis are published in the Draft SEA document, which can be viewed on the project webpage, <https://FlyRST.com/EA>, beginning January 14, or at the RST Airport Administration office at 7600 Helgerson Dr. SW, Rochester, MN 55902. In-person viewing is by appointment only; please call 507-282-2328 ext. 6 to schedule. The Airport



Administration office is ADA accessible. The public comment period for the Draft SEA closes at 5:00 p.m. CST on February 26, 2023.

To attend the virtual public hearing, the public is encouraged to register in advance and receive the Zoom meeting link by visiting the RST EA webpage at <https://FlyRST.com/EA>. Alternately, the public can participate by phone (audio only) or the Zoom website by using the phone number or link along with the meeting ID and passcode listed below:

Phone: 312-626-6799  
[www.zoom.us/join](https://www.zoom.us/join)  
Meeting ID: 862 3038 3573  
Passcode/Participant ID: 024853

RST will also air the virtual public hearing at the Airport for those unable to access the meeting virtually. Those wishing to attend in person should RSVP to the RST Airport Administration office at 507-282-2328 ext. 6 no later than 4:00 p.m. CST on Monday, February 13, 2023. The purpose of the public hearing is to address the supplemental proposed action's potential economic, social, and environmental effects. All interested persons are invited to attend and to present concise, relevant oral and written statements concerning the economic, social, and environmental effects of the supplemental project components.

Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. CST on February 26, 2023. Written comments can be submitted via email to [colleen.bosold@meadhunt.com](mailto:colleen.bosold@meadhunt.com) or mailed to:

Rochester International Airport SEA Comments  
c/o Colleen Bosold, Mead & Hunt  
7900 International Drive, Suite 980  
Bloomington, MN 55425

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

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**From:** Jenny, Melissa M (FAA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 5, 2022 1:39 PM  
**To:** cheyanne.stjohn@lowersioux.com  
**Subject:** Notice of federal undertaking and request for comments under 36 CFR 800 for Rochester International Airport Runway 2/20 Project Update

Dear Ms. St. John,

I am a new Environmental Protection Specialist working in the FAA's Dakota-Minnesota Airports District Office. I'm based out of our Minneapolis Office but I work closely with Sheri Lares in our Bismark office, who you may have worked with while reviewing previous FAA airport projects. I look forward to working with you on the project described below and future projects in MN that may be of interest of the Lower Sioux Community.

We previously coordinated the Rochester International Airport (RST) 2/20 Runway Reconstruction and Extension project with you in December 2020, as described in the email below.

The FAA made a Sec. 106 *No Historic Properties Affected* determination for this project, which was finalized at the completion of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) determination on July 09, 2021.

We're reinitiating coordination for this project with you now because the project scope has changed slightly as described below.

The scope for this project, and the associated archaeology area of potential effect (APE), has changed slightly to include an adjusted pipeline corridor and staging areas, as well as additional tree removal, land acquisition, and minor wetland impacts, all of which are within the boundaries of the previously surveyed area except for a small 2.52-acre portion in the southeastern corner of the project site. This is described in more detail in the attached letter report from Mead and Hunt entitled "*Archaeological Assessment of Proposed Changes Rochester International Airport Runway 2/20 Reconstruction and Extension*", dated September 29, 2022. The letter report recommends that no further archaeological fieldwork is warranted for this project since the small area outside the surveyed area has been previously disturbed. Based on the negative field survey results for the original survey area and the previous disturbance, it is highly unlikely this small portion of land would contain intact, archaeological deposits that would be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The FAA agrees with the recommendation in the Mead & Hunt report. No additional survey work will be required and the FAA maintains a Section 106 finding of *No Historic Properties Affected* for this project.

We respectfully request your comments regarding this updated finding within 30 days of receipt of this email.

If you have any questions about the project please contact me by email at [Melissa.m.jenny@faa.gov](mailto:Melissa.m.jenny@faa.gov) or by phone at (612) 253-4633.

Thank you,

Melissa Jenny (she/her)  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
FAA Dakota-Minnesota Airports District Office  
(612) 253-4633  
[Melissa.m.jenny@faa.gov](mailto:Melissa.m.jenny@faa.gov)

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**From:** Fitzpatrick, Joshua (FAA)

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 11:41 AM

**To:** Cheyanne St. John <[cheyanne.stjohn@lowersioux.com](mailto:cheyanne.stjohn@lowersioux.com)>

**Subject:** Notice of federal undertaking and request for comments under 36 CFR 800 for Rochester International Airport Runway 2/20 Federal EA/State EAW

Dear Ms. St. John,

The Rochester International Airport (RST), in cooperation with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB), will be preparing a joint Federal Environmental Assessment (EA) / State Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for improvements at the Airport in Rochester, Minnesota. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Minnesota Environmental Policy (MEPA), the joint EA/EAW will evaluate the potential physical, environmental, and social impacts of the proposed action. The need to implement the following proposed improvements was identified in the Airport's ongoing Master Plan:

- Reconstruct Runway 2/20, extend Runway 2 by 1,647 feet, and shorten Runway 20 by 595 feet for an ultimate length of 8,354 feet
- Reconstruct and extend Taxiway B by 1,647 feet to the south and 441 feet to the north to at least 400-foot separation from Runway 2/20 centerline resulting in a full-length parallel taxiway
- Install paved shoulders on Runway 2/20 and Taxiway B
- Relocate existing petroleum pipeline outside of the Runway Safety Area and off existing and future airport property (includes property easements)
- Remove and relocate portions of 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW and 90<sup>th</sup> Street SW to accommodate the Runway 2 extension and precision approach Runway Protection Zone
- Relocate overhead power utility lines in conjunction with anticipated road relocations
- Acquire approximately 25 acres of property
- Modify airport perimeter road and fencing
- Install new navigational aids
- Complete various airfield improvements to bring Runway 2/20 and associated taxiways up to current FAA design standards

The enclosed Exhibit 1 shows the proposed preliminary planning level improvements. The FAA would be pleased to receive any comments your tribe wishes to share regarding this undertaking and any potential impacts to historic properties and/or archaeological sites. To ensure your comments are considered during this early phase of project development, the FAA requests a response within 30 days of receipt of this email. Your comments will assist project engineers to avoid, minimize or mitigate effects on natural and cultural resources.

Other environmental studies conducted for this undertaking include, but are not limited to cultural resource surveys, contaminated material investigations, soil testing, wetlands surveys, and potential endangered species surveys.

If your tribe wishes to become a consulting party under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act or would like to receive or share additional information regarding this undertaking, please respond to this email .

You are also invited to attend an Agency and Stakeholder Coordination Meeting for the joint EA/EAW. The purpose of this meeting is to provide project background information and solicit comments to assist in developing the EA/EAW. To comply with COVID-19 in-person meeting restrictions, the meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, December 15, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m., on the Zoom virtual meeting platform.

If you cannot attend the meeting, please provide your comments for consideration in future planning and evaluation of this project back to me. Please [RSVP](#) for the meeting via phone or email by Friday, December 11, 2020, and a separate meeting invitation will be sent to you with instructions for joining the meeting.

Please share this invitation internally if there is another contact from your Tribe who would be interested in attending the meeting or providing feedback in your place.

Sincerely,

Josh Fitzpatrick  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
FAA Dakota-Minnesota Airport District Office  
[Joshua.Fitzpatrick@faa.gov](mailto:Joshua.Fitzpatrick@faa.gov)  
(612) 253-4639

**From:** [Jenny, Melissa M \(FAA\)](#)  
**To:** ["garrie.killsahundred@fsst.org"](mailto:garrie.killsahundred@fsst.org)  
**Subject:** Notice of federal undertaking and request for comments under 36 CFR 800 - Rochester International Airport (RST) - Notice of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment and Public Hearing for Runway 2/20  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 1:04:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [RST Unanticipated Discovery Plan State and Federal Final 08-21 \(002\).pdf](#)

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Good afternoon,

This email is to notify you that a Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Rochester International Airport (RST) Runway 2/20 Extension Project is available for review. The Draft SEA document can be viewed on the project webpage here: <https://FlyRST.com/EA>. The comment period for the Draft SEA closes at 5:00 p.m. CST on February 26, 2023.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is requesting the Flandreau Santee Sioux THPO to review this proposal and identify any concerns that you may have about its potential to impact historic properties, including those of traditional religious and cultural importance.

The FAA previously coordinated this project with you on December 9, 2020 and October 5, 2022. See emails below.

Here are some recent project updates:

In July 2021, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued a Finding of No Significant Impact/Record of Decision (FONSI/ROD) for the proposed Runway 2/20 Project – Uninterrupted Service Environmental Assessment. Since issuing the 2021 EA FONSI/ROD, the FAA has determined that the approved action needs to be updated to include project components not explicitly considered by the 2021 EA. Those components are evaluated in this Supplemental EA. Comments will be accepted either electronically or hardcopy until February 26, 2023. Below is the notification that was published in the local paper that provides information on how the Draft Supplemental EA documents can be accessed for review and how to submit comments. Additionally, it provides information on the virtual public hearing that will be held on February 15, 2023.

The FAA determined that a NHPA Section 106 finding of *No Historic Properties Affected* was appropriate for the original project approved in 2021, and has determined that this finding is still appropriate for the updated project described in the draft SEA at the link above/below. The attached Unanticipated Discovery Plan will be in place during project construction.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the project and please submit any comments that you have on this proposal by February 26, 2023.

Thank you,

Melissa Jenny (she/her)  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
FAA Dakota-Minnesota Airports District Office  
(612) 253-4633

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**RUNWAY 2/20 PROJECT – UNINTERRUPTED SERVICE**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Rochester will hold a public hearing on February 15, 2023, via a virtual Zoom meeting, to receive testimony relative to the draft federal Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Rochester International Airport (RST) Runway 2/20 Project – Uninterrupted Service. The virtual public hearing will also be aired at the Airport for anyone unable to access the meeting virtually and wishing to attend in person. There will be a presentation beginning at 6:00 p.m. CST, including an opportunity for the public to ask questions, with the public hearing to follow. There is no set end time for the public hearing. The hearing will conclude once all who wish to give public testimony have had the opportunity to do so.

The City, as the Airport Sponsor, intends to undertake a project reconstructing portions of and extending Runway 2/20 along with associated airfield improvements to maintain access for current users during periods when Runway 13/31 is unavailable. In July 2021, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued a Finding of No Significant Impact/Record of Decision (FONSI/ROD) for the proposed Runway 2/20 Project – Uninterrupted Service Environmental Assessment (EA). The FONSI/ROD provided a review of the proposed action, mitigation, and the basis for the FAA's finding. The approved project included moving a petroleum pipeline, overhead power lines, and portions of 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW, 90<sup>th</sup> Street SW (former Trunk Highway 30), and 95<sup>th</sup> Street SW and acquiring land to accommodate the Runway 2/20 extension. Since issuing the 2021 EA FONSI/ROD, the FAA has determined that the approved action needs to be updated to include project components not explicitly considered by the 2021 EA. These include modifications to the petroleum pipeline alignment and limits of disturbance, construction staging areas, revised land acquisition boundaries, updated road easements, modifications to communication line relocations, additional tree clearing, relocated field accesses, and additional on-airport runway lights and access roads.

In accordance with its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the FAA requires the City to complete an SEA. During the SEA process, the City and its airport consultant evaluated the environmental, economic, and social effects of the proposed supplemental project components. The supplemental project components include an additional .08 acres of temporary wetland impacts.

The results of the analysis are published in the Draft SEA document, which can be viewed on the project webpage, <https://FlyRST.com/EA>, beginning January 14, or at the RST Airport Administration office at 7600 Helgerson Dr. SW, Rochester, MN 55902. In-person viewing is by appointment only; please call 507-282-2328 ext. 6 to schedule. The Airport Administration office is ADA accessible. The public comment period for the Draft SEA

closes at 5:00 p.m. CST on February 26, 2023.

To attend the virtual public hearing, the public is encouraged to register in advance and receive the Zoom meeting link by visiting the RST EA webpage at <https://FlyRST.com/EA>. Alternately, the public can participate by phone (audio only) or the Zoom website by using the phone number or link along with the meeting ID and passcode listed below:

Phone: 312-626-6799  
[www.zoom.us/join](https://www.zoom.us/join)  
Meeting ID: 862 3038 3573  
Passcode/Participant ID: 024853

RST will also air the virtual public hearing at the Airport for those unable to access the meeting virtually. Those wishing to attend in person should RSVP to the RST Airport Administration office at 507-282-2328 ext. 6 no later than 4:00 p.m. CST on Monday, February 13, 2023. The purpose of the public hearing is to address the supplemental proposed action's potential economic, social, and environmental effects. All interested persons are invited to attend and to present concise, relevant oral and written statements concerning the economic, social, and environmental effects of the supplemental project components.

Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. CST on February 26, 2023. Written comments can be submitted via email to [colleen.bosold@meadhunt.com](mailto:colleen.bosold@meadhunt.com) or mailed to:

Rochester International Airport SEA Comments  
c/o Colleen Bosold, Mead & Hunt  
7900 International Drive, Suite 980  
Bloomington, MN 55425

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

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**From:** Jenny, Melissa M (FAA)

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 5, 2022 1:27 PM

**To:** garrie.killsahundred@fsst.org

**Subject:** Notice of federal undertaking and request for comments under 36 CFR 800 for Rochester International Airport Runway 2/20 Project Update

Dear Mr. Killsahundred:

I am a new Environmental Protection Specialist working in the FAA's Dakota-Minnesota Airports District Office. I'm based out of our Minneapolis Office, but I work closely with Sheri Lares in our Bismark office who you may have worked with while reviewing previous FAA airport projects. I look forward to working with you on the project described below and future projects in MN that may be of interest of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe.

We previously coordinated the Rochester International Airport (RST) 2/20 Runway Reconstruction and Extension project with you in December 2020, as described in the email below.

The FAA made a Sec. 106 No Historic Properties Affected determination for this project, which was finalized at the completion of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) determination on July 09, 2021.

We're reinitiating coordination for this project with you now because the project scope has changed slightly as described below.

The scope for this project, and the associated archaeology area of potential effect (APE), has changed slightly to include an adjusted pipeline corridor and staging areas, as well as additional tree removal, land acquisition, and minor wetland impacts, all of which are within the boundaries of the previously surveyed area except for a small 2.52-acre portion in the southeastern corner of the project site. This is described in more detail in the attached letter report from Mead and Hunt entitled "*Archaeological Assessment of Proposed Changes Rochester International Airport Runway 2/20 Reconstruction and Extension*", dated September 29, 2022. The letter report recommends that no further archaeological fieldwork is warranted for this project since the small area outside the surveyed area has been previously disturbed. Based on the negative field survey results for the original survey area and the previous disturbance, it is highly unlikely this small portion of land would contain intact, archaeological deposits that would be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The FAA agrees with the recommendation in the Mead & Hunt report. No additional survey work will be required and the FAA maintains a Section 106 finding of *No Historic Properties Affected* for this project.

We respectfully request your comments regarding this updated finding within 30 days of receipt of this email.

If you have any questions about the project please contact me by email at [Melissa.m.jenny@faa.gov](mailto:Melissa.m.jenny@faa.gov) or by phone at (612) 253-4633.

Thank you,

Melissa Jenny (she/her)  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
FAA Dakota-Minnesota Airports District Office  
(612) 253-4633  
[Melissa.m.jenny@faa.gov](mailto:Melissa.m.jenny@faa.gov)

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**From:** Fitzpatrick, Joshua (FAA)

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 11:39 AM

**To:** Garrie Killsahundred, Flandreau Santee Sioux THPO ([garrie.killsahundred@fsst.org](mailto:garrie.killsahundred@fsst.org))



[<garrie.killsahundred@fsst.org>](mailto:garrie.killsahundred@fsst.org)

**Subject:** Notice of federal undertaking and request for comments under 36 CFR 800 for Rochester International Airport Runway 2/20 Federal EA/State EAW

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10:30 a.m., on the Zoom virtual meeting platform.

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Sincerely,

Josh Fitzpatrick  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
FAA Dakota-Minnesota Airport District Office  
[Joshua.Fitzpatrick@faa.gov](mailto:Joshua.Fitzpatrick@faa.gov)  
(612) 253-4639