

February 20, 2025

VIA EMAIL

Molly Westman, Mankato Heritage Preservation Commission
mwestman@mankatomn.gov

Re: S.P. 137-090-007, Mankato Trail Reconstruction
Mankato, Blue Earth County
T108N, R27W, Section 13; T108N, R26W, Sections 7 and 18

Dear Molly:

On behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), I am extending an invitation to the Mankato Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) to participate in the Section 106 process for the Mankato Trail Reconstruction Project, a project sponsored by the City of Mankato (maps attached).

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

This project, as described in the MnDOT Cultural, Noise, and Threatened & Endangered Review Request form dated February 11, 2025 (Review Request), will replace pavement for a segment of the existing Minnesota River Trail between the Trunk Highway 196 and Mulberry Street bridges over the Minnesota River. The trail was constructed as part of the Mankato-North Mankato-Le Hillier Flood Control Project, a 20-year construction project dedicated in 1989. The existing trail has deteriorated because of repeated flood events and its age. It is situated mainly on the river side of the Minnesota River flood wall. The project will remove bituminous asphalt and replace it with concrete within the existing trail alignment. The project has an anticipated maximum depth of impact of six inches. All trail widths, horizontal and vertical alignments, and easements will be maintained within its current dimensions.

Local governments are entitled to participate in the Section 106 process as consulting parties, along with the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (MnSHPO), Indian tribes, and other interested organizations and individuals. Consulting parties can share their views, review pertinent project

information, offer ideas, and consider possible solutions together with the Federal agency and other consulting parties. Consulting parties play an active and important role in determining how potential effects to historic properties will be avoided, minimized, or mitigated during the planning and implementation of a proposed project. For more information, see:

<https://www.achp.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2017-01/CitizenGuide.pdf>.

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

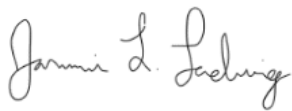
- Historic properties/locally designated properties within the project APE/construction limits, and
- The proposed project APE and project scope.

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

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

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

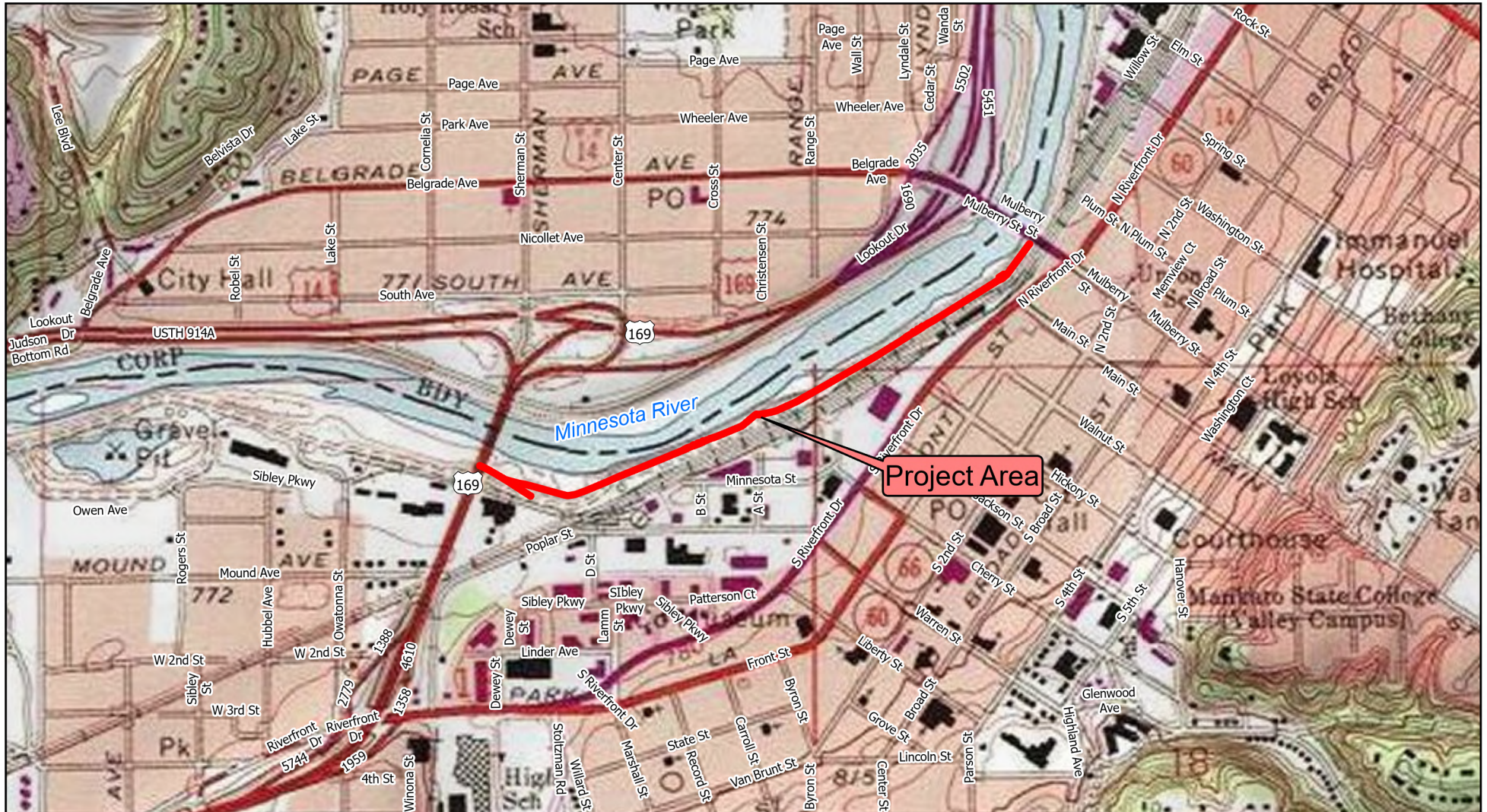
Sincerely,



Jammi Ladwig, Archaeologist
MnDOT Cultural Resources Unit
Telephone: 612-427-8063
Email: jammi.ladwig@state.mn.us

Encl. Area of Potential Effects (APE) Map

CC: Ted McCaslin, HR Green (tmccaslin@hrgreen.com)
Alec Pietz, City of Mankato (apietz@mankatomn.gov)
CRIS (Administrative Record)



Project Area

Legend

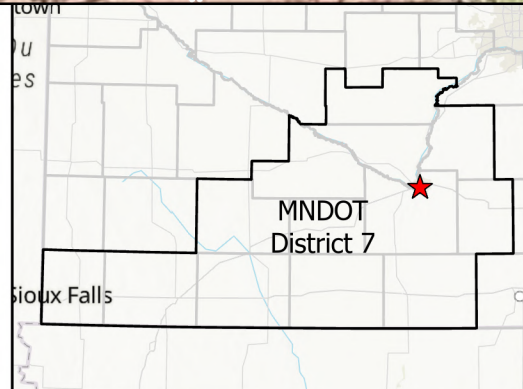
 Project Limits

Figure 1

Project Location

Mankato Trail Reconstruction

City of Mankato
Blue Earth County, MN



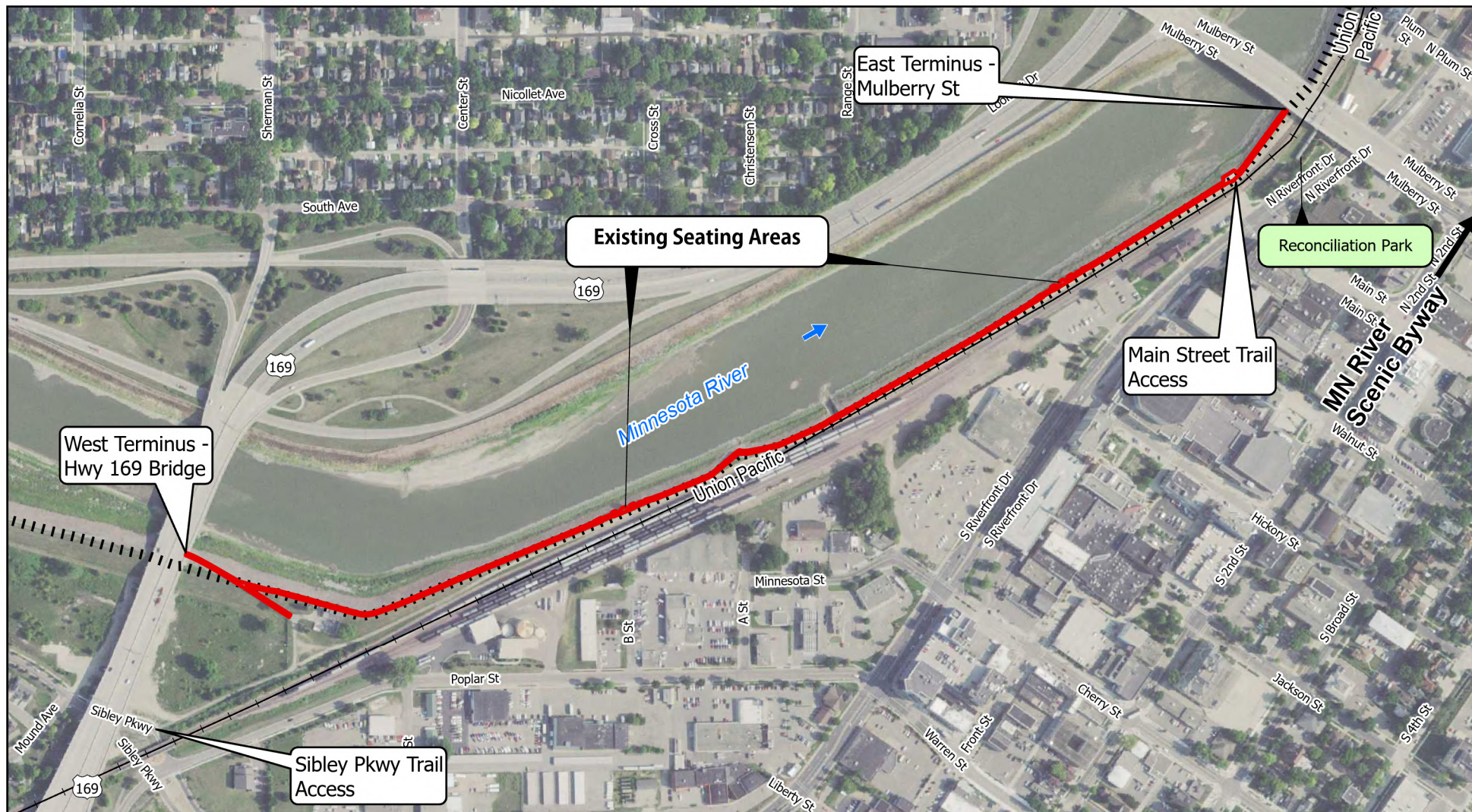
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Feet



Date Printed:
2/5/2025

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1 inch equals 1,000 feet



Legend

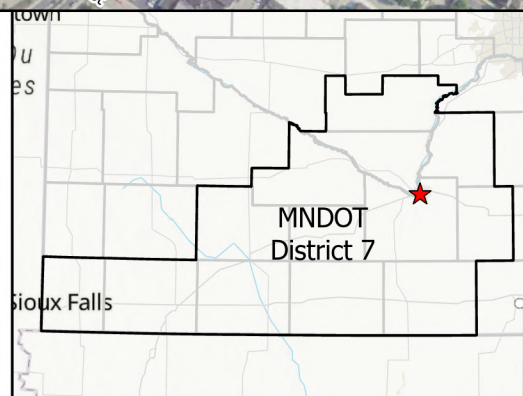
- Project Limits
- Rail Lines
- Levee
- ➔ Flow Direction

Figure 2

Project Resources

Mankato Trail Reconstruction

City of Mankato
Blue Earth County, MN



0 250 500



Feet



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1 inch equals 500 feet