



Minnesota Department of Transportation

Metropolitan District

Waters Edge Building
1500 County Road B2 West
Roseville, MN 55113

September 6, 2012

Anne Hurlburt
City Administrator
City of Scandia
14727 209th St North
Scandia, MN 55073

SUBJECT: Zavoral Mining, MnDOT Review #EIS12-001A
East of TH 95 at TH 97 Intersection
Scandia, Washington County
Control Section: 8210

Dear Ms. Hurlburt:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the “Responses to Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)” for Zavoral Mining. MnDOT's review of this document does not constitute approval of a regional traffic analysis and is not a specific approval for access or new roadway improvements.

MnDOT would like to comment on the “**Response to Comment 10**” from the City of Scandia found on Page 57:

Response to Comment 10: The City of Scandia’s Comprehensive Plan and policies recommend that transportation systems address the current and future needs of pedestrians and bicyclists as well as vehicles. Based on its goals to address the needs of all system users, the City completed its Comprehensive Trail Plan in 2011. The Trail Plan includes the existing trail on TH 95 and a future trail on TH 97 as important components of the City wide trail system.

The City is disappointed that MnDOT’s comments do not support the needs of pedestrians and bicycles for a safe trail on TH 95 that would be an important link in the trail system in this area, particularly since MnDOT has adopted a number of policy statements and goals to support multi modal transportation systems and “Complete Streets” in recent years.

The City would include a mitigation recommendation in the DEIS that Tiller be required to replace the existing trail in the southeast quadrant of the TH 95/97 Intersection, to address the needs for safe transportation routes that meet the current and future needs of all users in the area.

Like the City, MnDOT is supportive of a multi-modal approach to transportation planning. MnDOT also would have been supportive of reconfiguring the existing trail on the east side of MN 95 rather than removing it, provided the City takes routine maintenance responsibility. The City did not agree. Requiring the local unit of government to accept routine maintenance of trail facilities in Trunk Highway right of way like this is a consistent approach applied statewide and is detailed in MnDOT's Policy and Procedures for Cooperative Construction Projects with Local Units of Government (<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/stateaid/ProjDeliv/agreements/information/ds11.pdf>).

MnDOT is supportive of the City's efforts to improve and maintain the trail through the funding mechanisms they see fit. For questions regarding these comments, contact Marc Briese, Area Engineer, at 651-234-7715.

If you have any additional questions regarding this follow up letter, please call me at 651-234-7789.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Molly McCartney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Molly McCartney
Sr. Transportation Planner

CC:

Steve Channer, Right-of-Way
Bryce Fossand, Water Resources
Buck Craig, Permits
Chad Erickson, Traffic
Marc Briese, Area Engineer
Nancy Jacobson, Design
Peter Wasko, Noise Abatement/Air Quality
Gina Mitteco, Planning
Tod Sherman, Planning
Ann Braden, Metropolitan Council