

Information for File # 2011-01256-MMJ; Old Cedar Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation Project

Applicant: City of Bloomington

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Primary County: Hennepin

Location: Section 13, T. 27 N, R. 24 W.

Information Complete On: 12/29/2014

Posting Expires On: 1/09/2014

Authorization Type: LOP-05-MN

This application is being reviewed in accordance with the practices for documenting Corps jurisdiction under Sections 9 & 10 of the Rivers and Harbor Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act identified in Regulatory Guidance Letter 07-01. We have made a preliminary determination that the aquatic resources that would be impacted by the proposed project are regulated by the Corps of Engineers under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Our jurisdictional review and final jurisdictional determination could result in modifications to the scope of the project's regulated waterbody/wetland impacts and compensatory mitigation requirements identified below. An approved jurisdictional determination may be made prior to reaching a permit decision, which would be posted on the St. Paul District web page at <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/>.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE: The Old Cedar Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation Project would involve repairing the existing debilitated crossing over Long Meadow Lake for use as a pedestrian/bicycle crossing. The existing bridge crossing has been closed since 2002 due to structural deficiencies. The rehabilitation project would restore a local and regionally important trail connection across Long Meadow Lake and the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (the Refuge). The crossing would be repaired while maintaining the historic character-defining features of the bridge as much as possible. The reconstructed bridge would provide a minimum 10-foot pathway with 2-foot shoulders. All wetland impacts associated with the repair project would be temporary in nature, and would include the installation of a temporary structural crossing and the construction of temporary access roads to facilitate equipment access to the bridge. Primary construction staging would take place at the bridge's west approach with a secondary staging area located at the east approach.

Work on the bridge superstructure would include:

- Replacement of the existing timber deck with a cast-in-place concrete deck;
- Restoring members with impact damage to their original geometry using heat straightening techniques;
- Repairing deteriorated truss members and gusset plates where possible, and replacing if required;
- Replacement of existing transverse floor beams;

- Replacement of existing longitudinal stringers;
- Replacement of all lower lateral bracing members and connection plates;
- Replacement of all bearing assemblies;
- Replacement of bridge railing;
- Painting all structural steel components.

Work on the bridge substructure would include:

- Reconstructing backwall and endwalls at abutment piers;
- Regrading slopes at abutments;
- Reconstructing the upper portions of piers 2-4.

NAME, AREA AND TYPES OF WATERS (INCLUDING WETLANDS) SUBJECT TO LOSS: The proposed project would result in the temporary discharge of fill material into just below 1.0 acre of shallow marsh type wetland. Temporary wetland impacts would result from placement of minor fills at the existing bridge approaches (including buried riprap), construction of coffer dams around the existing bridge piers, temporary shoring structures, and construction of an access facility to perform bridge rehabilitation work. Temporary impacts associated with the access facility would include pile installation; size and spacing of the piling would be determined by the contractor based on their means and methods of construction. Impacts would be limited to the areas depicted on the attached figures. Construction would occur over 2 growing seasons, and temporary fills would remain in place for up to approximately 15 months. This extended project timeline makes the project ineligible for authorization under our general permit (GP-003), which allows temporary fills to remain in place no longer than 180 days, requiring review of the project under our Letter of Permission Procedures (MN-LOP-05), which involves completion of this internet posting as a request for agency review and comments on the project.

All temporary structures and fills would be removed at completion of the project. Restoration of the impacted vegetative community would occur by seeding the area with a native seed mix determined in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

The No Build Alternative was considered but was dismissed because it would leave the deficient structure in place and closed for use as it is today. No repairs or maintenance would be conducted, which would result in further deterioration of the structure. The no-build alternative does not meet the purpose and need for the project; to restore a pedestrian and non-motorized vehicle trail connection across Long Meadow Lake and the Refuge.

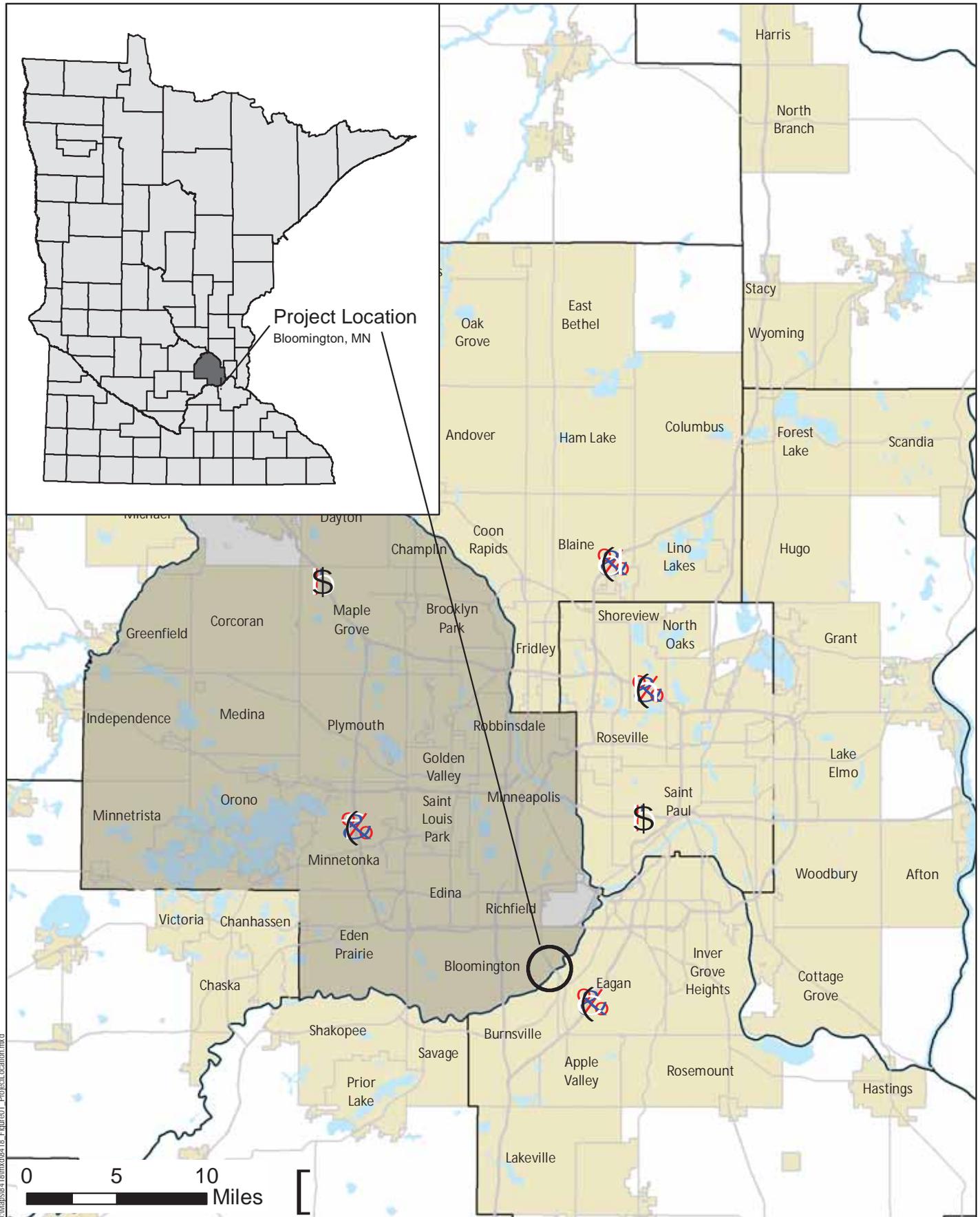
A bridge replacement alternative was considered that would involve removing the existing structure and replacing it, along the existing alignment, with an 870-foot long new bridge. The City of Bloomington initially developed this alternative as the most cost-effective way to achieve the crossing over Long Meadow Lake because it would result in a structure with a longer life span and less long term maintenance. However, the existing Old Cedar Avenue Bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), acting as the lead federal agency for the project, determined that removing the historic bridge would adversely affect the historic structure and that bridge rehabilitation was a practicable and preferred alternative for this project.

A bridge replacement on an adjacent alignment 85 feet to the west was also considered. This alternative would leave the old bridge intact and would involve constructing a new bridge in a new location to meet the project purpose of restoring a trail crossing across the lake. However, this alternative was also dismissed because the existing structure would eventually still require removal to address safety and flood hazard concerns, again resulting in adverse affect to the historic structure, and because a new crossing would increase impacts to the Refuge.

Bermed trail crossings were also considered on different alignments, but were eliminated due to constructability issues and because berm construction would increase adverse impacts to the Refuge and adjacent wetlands.

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION: The applicant has not proposed compensatory mitigation. All wetland impacts associated with this project would be temporary in nature, and all temporarily impacted wetland areas would be restored back to pre-construction contours and condition after completion of the project.

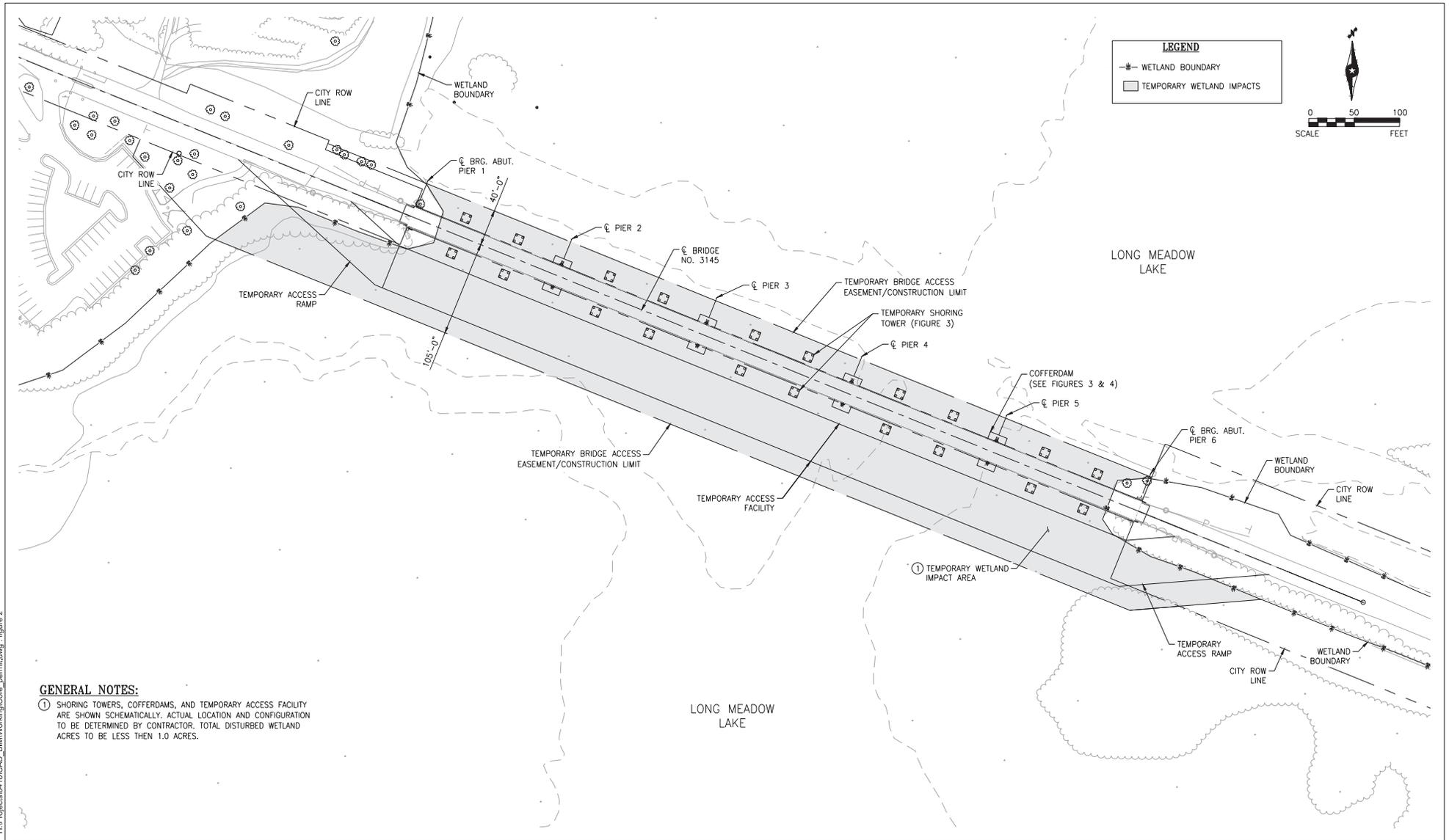
Drawings: See attached.



Project Location

Old Cedar Avenue Bridge over Long Meadow Lake
City of Bloomington
Hennepin County

Figure 1



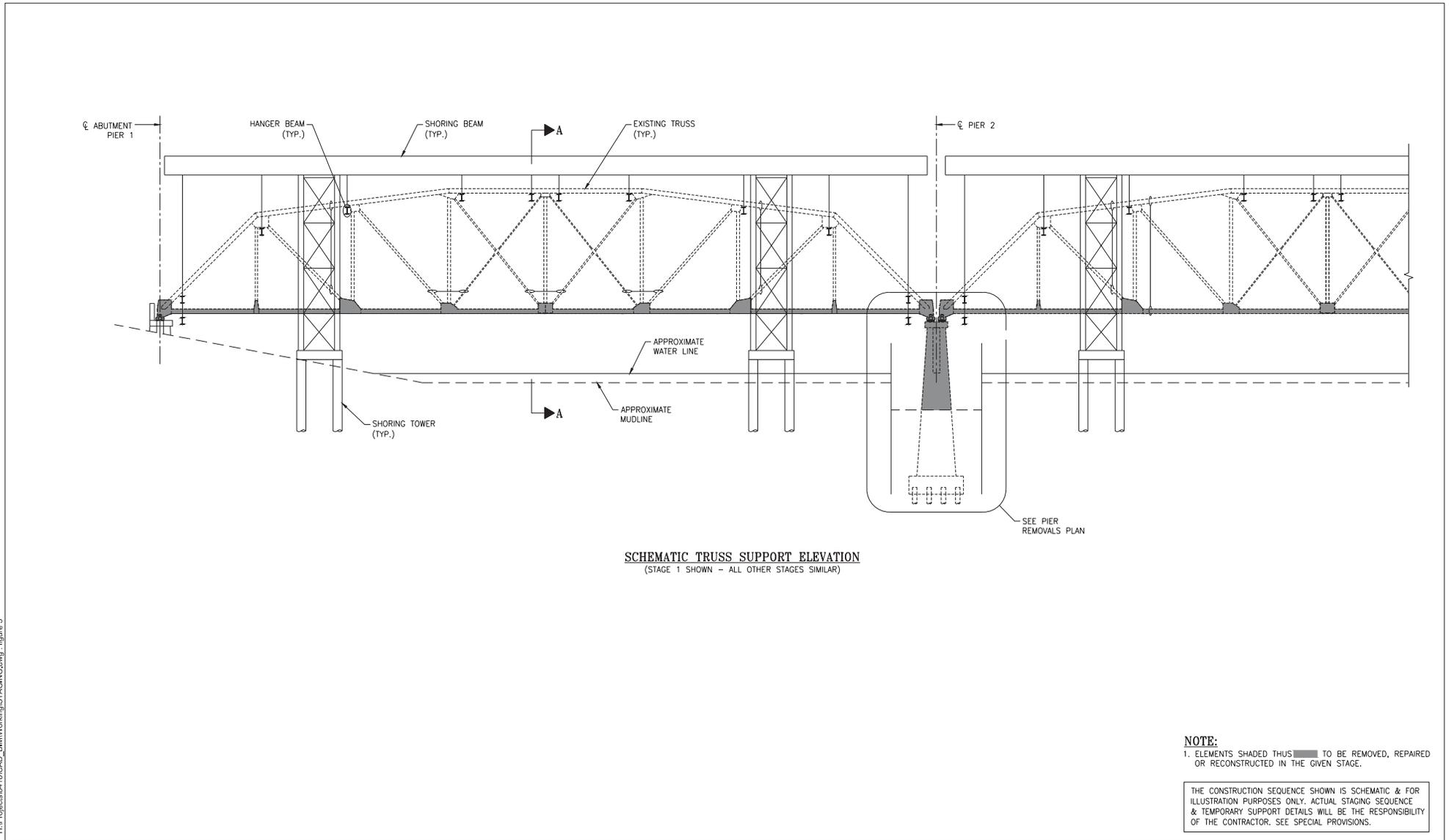
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Old Cedar Avenue Bridge over Long Meadow Lake
 Temporary Wetland Impacts and Staging Details
 Bloomington, MN

Job # 8418
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Figure 2



SCHEMATIC TRUSS SUPPORT ELEVATION
 (STAGE 1 SHOWN - ALL OTHER STAGES SIMILAR)

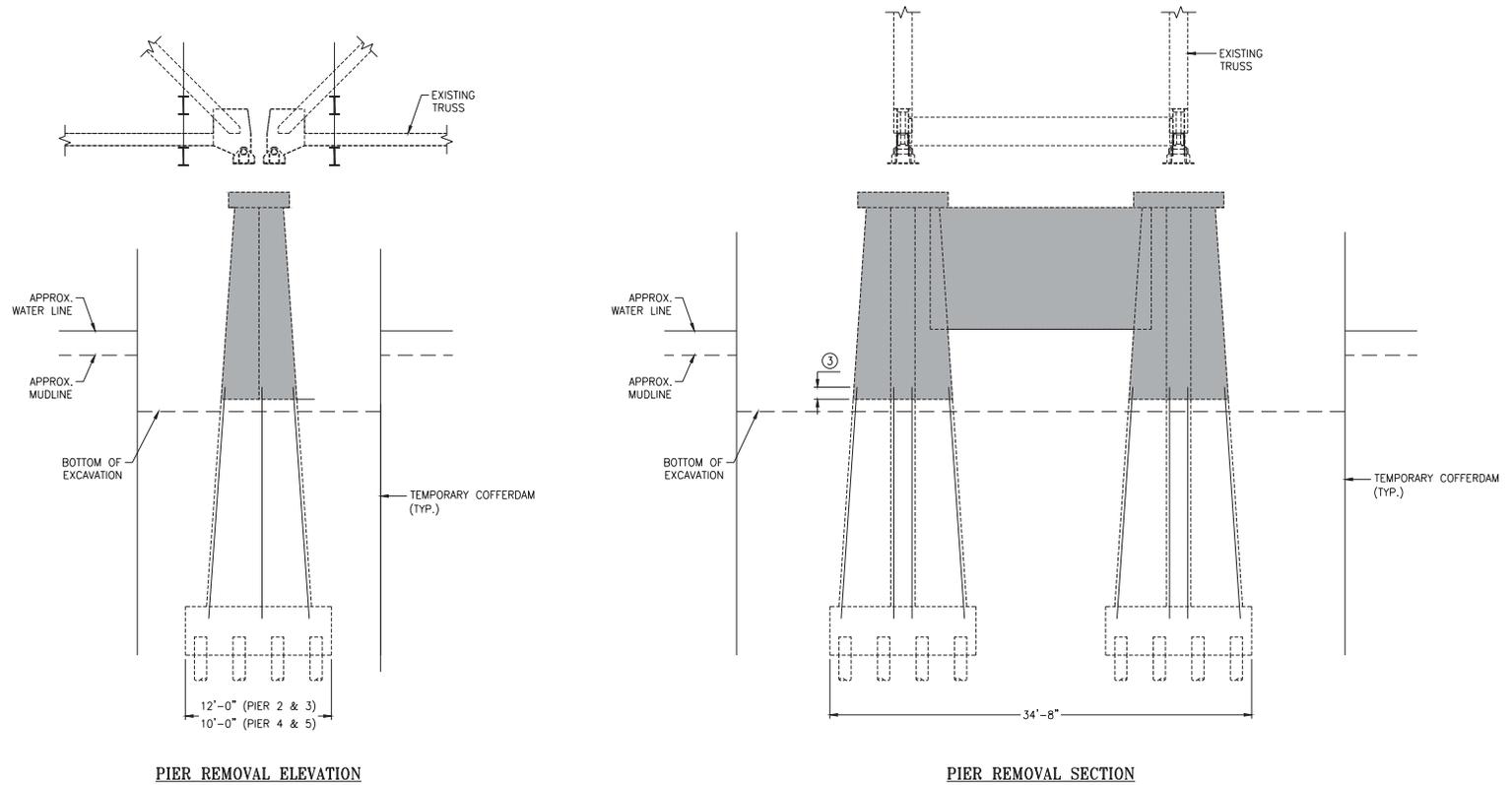
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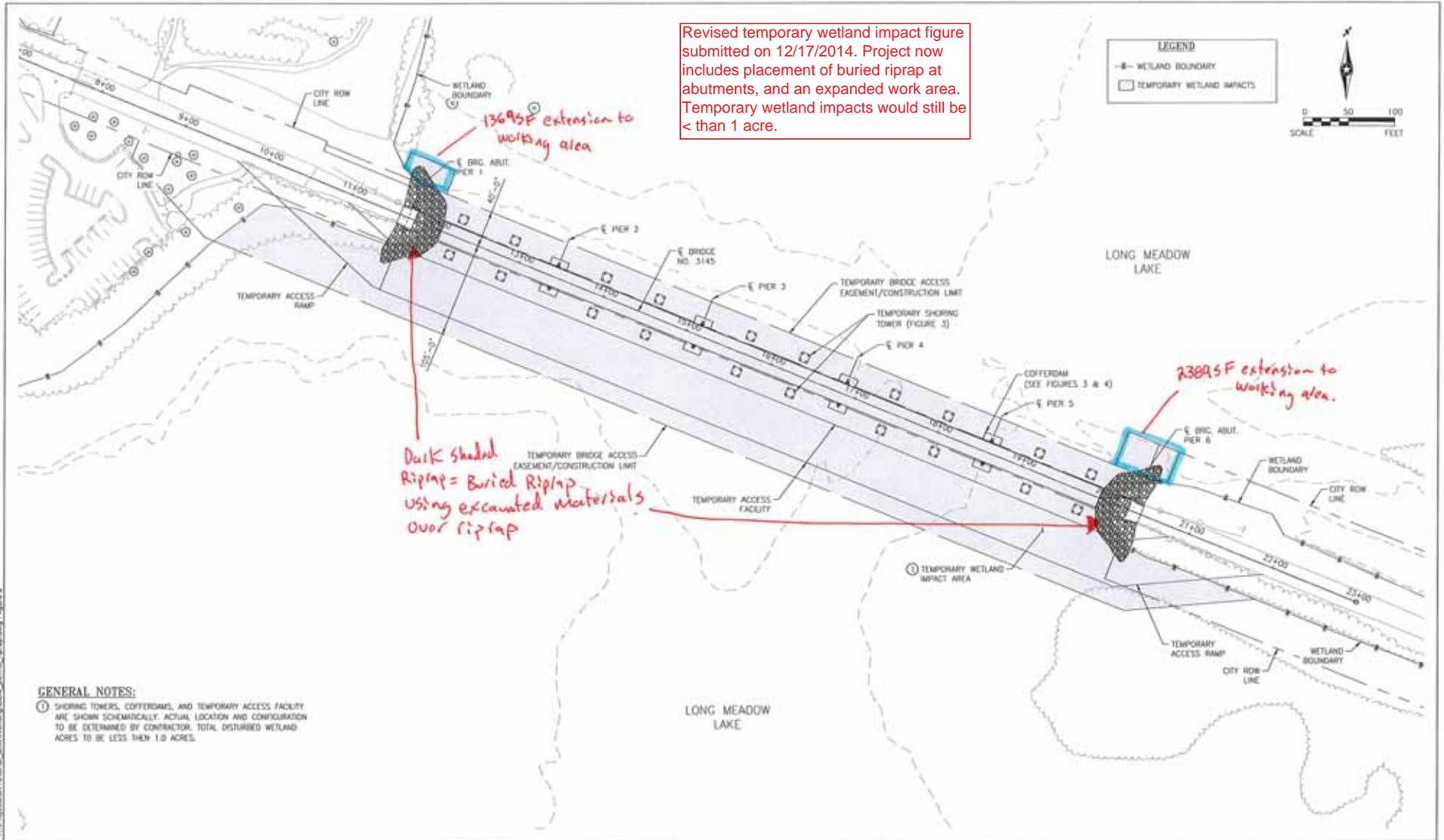
Old Cedar Avenue Bridge over Long Meadow Lake
 Temporary Wetland Impacts and Staging Details
 Bloomington, MN

Job # 8418
 9/29/2014 - 11:06AM

Figure 3



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Revised temporary wetland impact figure submitted on 12/17/2014. Project now includes placement of buried riprap at abutments, and an expanded work area. Temporary wetland impacts would still be < than 1 acre.

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Old Cedar Avenue Bridge over Long Meadow Lake

Temporary Wetland Impacts and Staging Details
Bloomington, MN

Figure 2

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