

## Information for File #MVP-2014-01271-SEW

**Applicant:** Minnesota Department of Transportation, District 4, c/o Mr. Paul Munsterteiger

**Corps Contact:** Sarah Wingert, 180 Fifth Street East, Suite 700, St. Paul, MN 55101,  
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**Primary County:** Douglas

**Location:** Sections 1, 12, and 36, Township 127N., Range 38W., and Sections 6-7 and 31, Township 127N., Range 37W.

**Information Complete On:** December 16, 2014

**Posting Expires On:** December 29, 2014

### Authorization Type:

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 above.

### PROJECT INVOLVES:

- 1) *Linear Project:* The project would occur on approximately 1.6 miles of Trunk Highway (TH) 29 roughly between 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue to about 0.29 mile south of County Road (CR) 87, which includes the I-94 interchange.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE:** The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) proposes to make improvements to approximately 1.6 miles of TH 29 located in the City of Alexandria between 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue to about 0.29 mile south of CR 87 for safety and capacity purposes. TH 29 is an important north-south corridor that connects from US 10 in Wadena to US 212 in Montevideo, and connects to I-94 in Alexandria. In the project area, TH 29 is a principal arterial with a 2015 ADT of about 18,500, and it is a four-lane divided highway at the northern project limits to about 900 feet south of the I-94 interchange, where it transitions to a two-lane undivided highway. The 2011 City of Alexandria Transportation Plan indicates that the two-lane section of TH 29 between I-94 and County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 28 will be at capacity in the year 2030, and improvements to capacity are recommended by 2020. This section of TH 29 also has several businesses and connecting roadways with uncontrolled access points and inadequate turn lanes, which presents safety and congestion issues.

The proposed project would expand the two-lane section of TH 29 to a four-lane divided highway section between I-94 and to about 0.15 mile south of CSAH 28. The four-lane highway section would include four 12-foot travel lanes, 10-foot outside shoulders, 1V:4H sideslopes, and

a six-foot wide median. Right and left turn lanes would be added at intersections. The project would also reconfigure TH 29's intersections with CSAH 28 and CR 87. Currently, both these intersections are T-intersections with TH 29, and the CSAH 28 intersection is located about 800 feet south of CR 87. The two intersections would be combined into one four-leg, single-lane roundabout intersection with TH 29 by realigning CSAH 28 to the north, directly opposite from the CR 87 intersection. The roundabout would have right turn bypass lanes at the east and north approaches. The existing CSAH 28 intersection at TH 29 would be closed, and about 1,000 feet of the existing CSAH 28 would be converted to CR 28 Court, a local road that would end in a cul-de-sac and provide access to residential driveways. TH 29 access to the business located on the east side of TH 29 and southeast of the existing CSAH 28 intersection would also be closed and ended in a cul-de-sac ("SE Frontage Road"). The "NE Frontage Road" would be constructed on the east side of TH 29 north of CR 87 to Jackson Parkway SW, ending in a cul-de-sac north of CR 87, and would remove another direct access to a business on the east side of the road. On the west side of TH 29, the "SW Frontage Road" would be constructed from the new CSAH 28 to connect to an existing road serving a few businesses; this road would be extended north as the "SW Frontage Road" and would connect as a four-leg intersection with Jackson Parkway SW. Access at Cross Country Drive would remain open. The project also includes the replacement of two structurally deficient TH -29 bridges that pass over I-94 (#21813 and #21814), and the reconstruction of the four interchange ramps at TH 29 and I-94. Finally, the project includes the construction of three stormwater ponds.

**NAME, AREA AND TYPES OF WATERS (INCLUDING WETLANDS) SUBJECT TO LOSS:** As proposed, the project would result in approximately 1.74 acres of permanent wetland fill impacts, including 1.47 acres of impact to shallow marsh and 0.27 acres of impact to wet meadow wetlands. No streams or lakes would be impacted by the project. The proposed impacts are listed by wetland basin (including wetland types) and source of impact on the attached table labeled "2014-01925-SEW, Table 1 of 1", and are shown on the attached figures labeled "2014-01271-SEW, Figures 2-5 of 5".

**COMPENSATORY MITIGATION:** The applicant proposes to compensate for the adverse wetland impacts that would result from this project by debiting credits from a MnDOT-owned, Corps-approved bank located in Bank Service Area (BSA) 5, which is the BSA where the proposed impacts are located. If Corps-approved, MnDOT-owned credits are available in BSA 5 at the time credits are needed, the applicant proposes to mitigate impacts to wetlands at a 2:1 compensation ratio. If Corps-approved, MnDOT-owned credits are not available in BSA 5 at the time credits are needed, the applicant proposes to mitigate impacts to wetlands at a 2.25:1 ratio.

**DRAWINGS:** See attached figures labeled "2014-01271-SEW, Tables 1-1 of 1 and Figures 1-5 of 5".

2014-01271-SEW, Table 1 of 1: Proposed Wetland Impacts

Wetland ID	Permanent Fill Impacts (acre)	Impact Source	Wetland Type
Wetland 3	0.19	roadway expansion to four-lane roadway	wet meadow
Wetland 4	1.35	roadway expansion to four-lane roadway, and connection of SW Frontage Road to Jackson Parkway SE	shallow marsh
Wetland 5	0.003	construction of CR 28 Court	shallow marsh
Wetland 10	0.05	construction of right turn lane to Cross Country Drive	shallow marsh
Wetland 11	0.08	roadway expansion to four-lane roadway and profile grade correction to improve sight distance on roadway	wet meadow
Wetland 12	0.07	construction of Pond 2	shallow marsh
TOTAL	1.74		

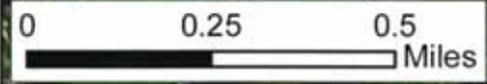
2014-01271-SEW,  
Figure 1 of 5:  
Project Location



Project  
Construction Limits



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	<p>3535 VADNAIS CENTER DR. ST. PAUL, MN 55110 PHONE: (651) 490-2000 FAX: (888) 908-8106 TF: (800) 335-2055 www.sehinc.com</p>	<p>Project: MNT04 120260 Print Date: 4/3/2014 Map by: stolcer Projection: MN Douglas Co. (ft) Source: SEHinc., Douglas Co. Background: USGS 24k Topo</p>	<p><b>SITE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH</b> MN29 / I-94 INTERCHANGE Alexandria, Minnesota</p>	<p>Figure 2</p>
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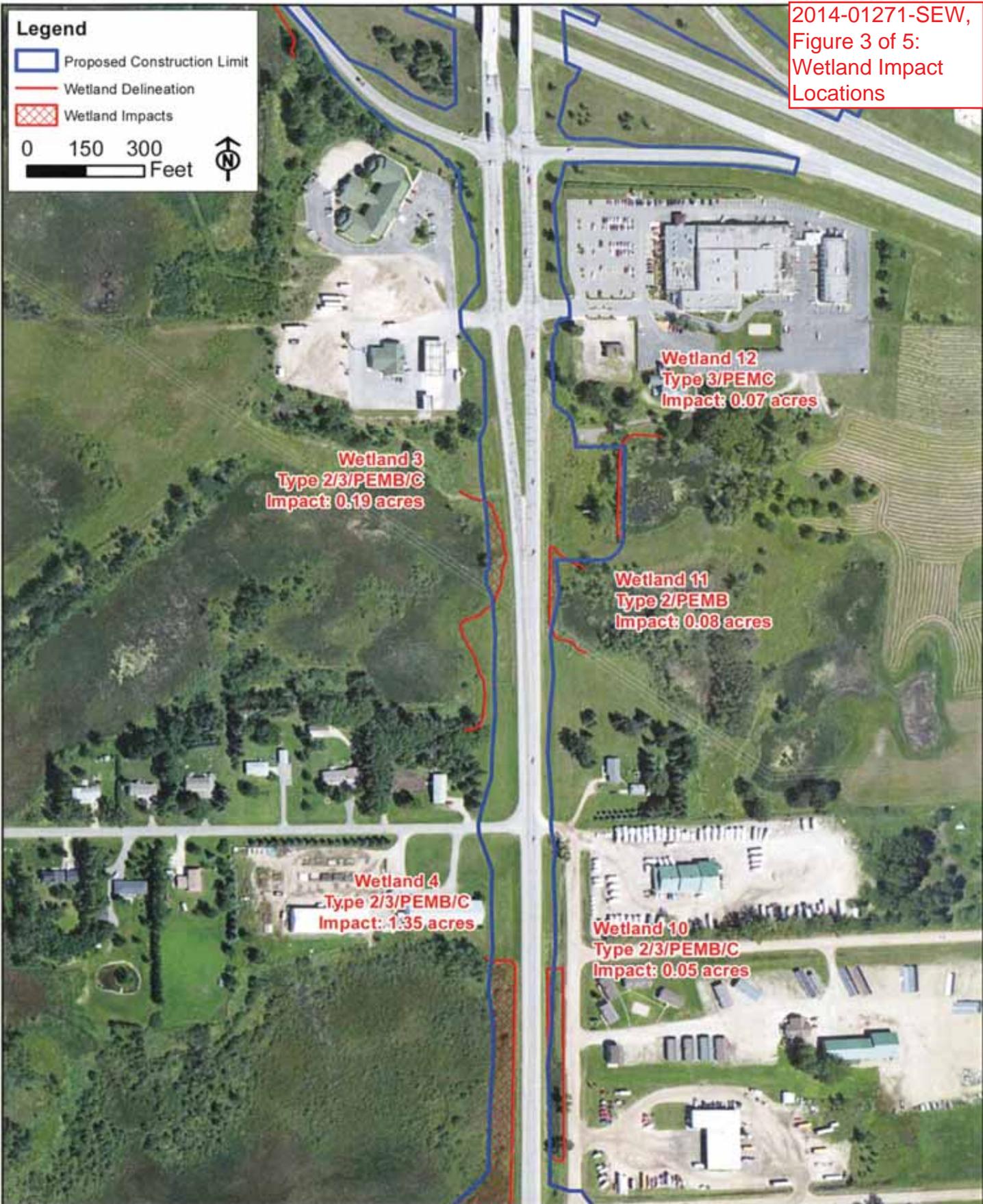
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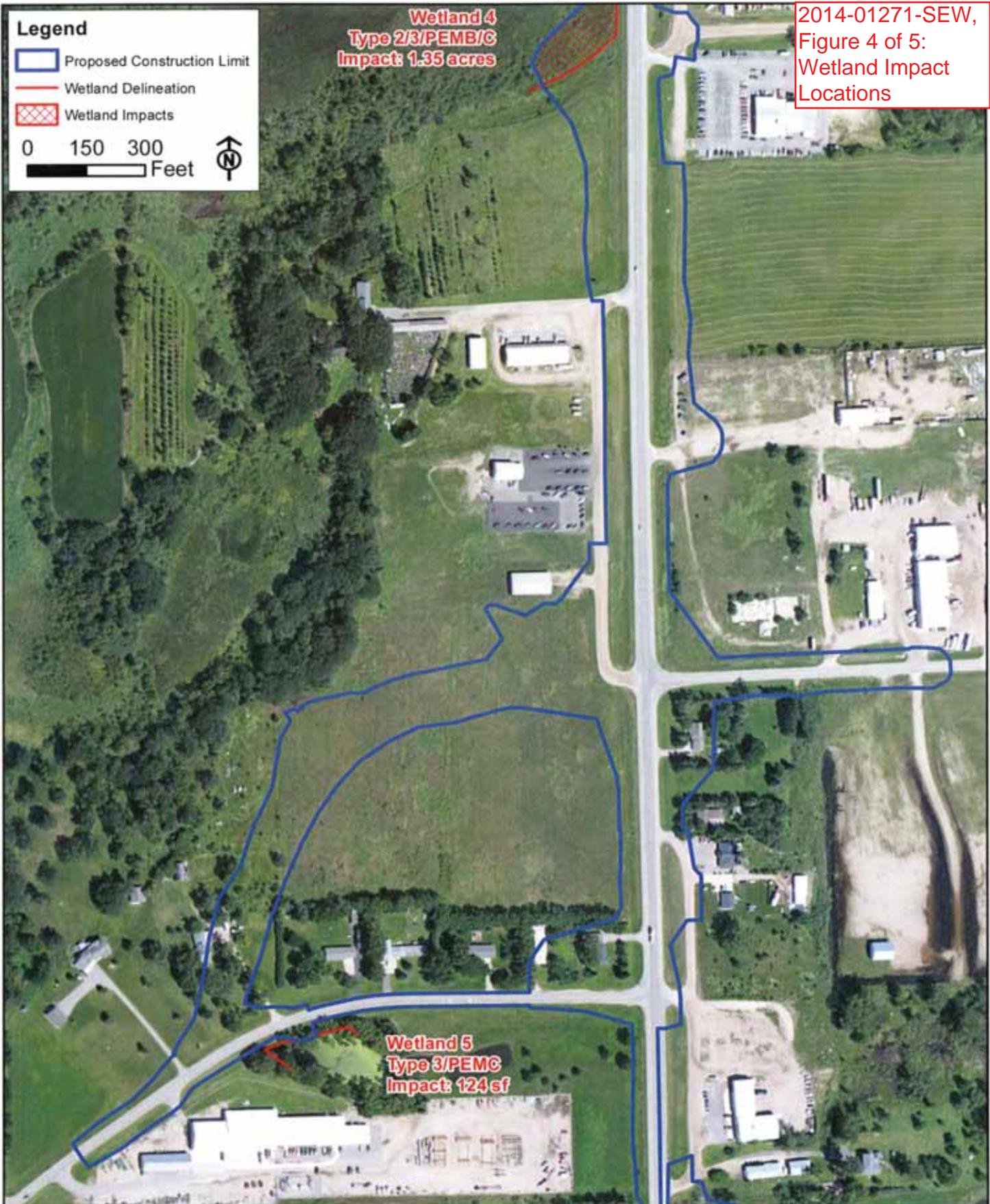
	<p>3535 VADNAIS CENTER DR. ST. PAUL, MN 55110 PHONE: (651) 490-2000 FAX: (888) 908-8166 TF: (800) 325-2055 www.sehinc.com</p>	<p>Project: MNT04 120260 Print Date: 9/17/2014 Map by: btolcer Projection: MN Douglas Co. (ft) Source: SEHinc., Douglas Co Background: USGS 24k Topo</p>	<p><b>PROPOSED WETLAND IMPACTS</b> MN29 / I-94 INTERCHANGE Alexandria, Minnesota</p>	<p>Figure 6 - 1</p>
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