

***BOARD of COMMISSIONERS
RICE COUNTY, MINNESOTA***

RESOLUTION #19-029

**POSTPONING THE DECISION ON THE NEED FOR AN EIS FOR THE
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET PREPARED FOR
WOLF CREEK AUTOBAHN DEVELOPMENT, RICE COUNTY,
MINNESOTA**

WHEREAS, Rice County is the Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU) for the proposed Wolf Creek Autobahn Development project in Forest Township, Rice County, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) has been prepared for the proposed project in accordance with the Environmental Review Program of the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) MN Rules Chapter 4410; and

WHEREAS, the County Board passed a resolution on March 26, 2019 declaring the EAW be prepared for the proposed project (Resolution 19-012); and

WHEREAS, on July 22, 2019, a notice of availability and summary of the Wolf Creek Autobahn Development EAW was published in the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) Monitor; and

WHEREAS, a press release containing notice of availability of the EAW for public review was released on July 17th within the project area within five working days of the EAW distribution; and

WHEREAS, copies of the EAW were distributed to people/agencies listed on the Environmental Quality Board Distribution List and made available to interested persons and provided to all requests as required; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held at the Planning Commission meeting August 8, 2019 during the 30-day comment period to provide additional information and to hear comments regarding the EAW prepared for the project; and

WHEREAS, comments from seventy-six (76) parties were received by August 21, 2019, within the 30-day comment period as required; and

WHEREAS, County staff and consultants are in the process of considering, evaluating, and writing a Response to Comments document;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minnesota Rule 4410.1700, subp.2a, the Rice County Board of

Commissioners determines that based upon review and analysis of the substantial comments received, that information necessary for a reasoned determination about the potential for, or significance of, one or more possible environmental impacts is lacking, including additional noise analysis data, but that such data could be reasonably obtained with some additional time to gather further data and finalize the response to comments;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rice County Board of Commissioners hereby postpones the decision on the need for an EIS, for an additional 30 days beyond the time specified for a decision in Minnesota Rule 4410.1700, subp.2(A), or such other period of time as agreed upon by the County and proposer, in order to obtain the additional information, including additional noise analysis data.

This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and without publication.

Dated this 10th day of September 2019.

COMMISSIONERS

RICE COUNTY BOARD OF


Galen Malecha, Chairperson

ATTEST:



Sara Folsted, County Administrator