

**Combined Notice
Finding of No Significant Impact and
Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds
State of Minnesota**

December 30, 2025

City of Hackensack
208 1st Street N.
Hackensack, MN 56452
218-675-6400

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:

The purpose of this notice is to identify two separate but related actions to be taken by the City of Hackensack (*hereinafter referred to as the Grantee*).

One, the Grantee has made a Finding of No Significant Impact on project activities (see the Finding of No Significant Impact, below) and two, they propose to request the Business and Community Development Division, Small Cities Development Program, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED BCD), to release Federal funds (see Notice of Intent to request Release of Funds, below) under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (PL 98-181) for the following project:

This project will replace the aged and deteriorated pedestrian facilities and installation of sidewalks along Whipple Avenue, Lake Avenue, Murray Avenue, and 3rd Street. New ADA-compliant pedestrian sidewalks and crossings will be installed. This project will also install new lighting, signage, and tree planting along portions of corridor to improve accessibility, safety, and walkability to the City's community center, assisted living facility, baseball field, ice skating rink, and dog park. The project will utilize an awarded SCDP grant amount of \$600,000.

Finding of No Significant Impact

It has been determined such request for release of funds will not constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and the Grantee has decided not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (PL 91-190).

The reasons not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement are as follows:

Airport Hazards: According to the MNDOT Airport Influence Map, the City of Hackensack is not situated within an Airport Influence Area. The nearest airport is the Backus Municipal Airport located approximately 4.7 miles to the south of the City. The closest military airport is located at Camp Ripley, approximately 45 miles south of Hackensack. The project area is not within a Runway Potential Zone/Clear Zone (RPZ/CZ) or an Accident Potential Zone (APZ).

Coastal Barrier Resources: The project is not located in a Coastal Barrier Resource Service (CBRS) area and has no impact on the CBRS area. The nearest CBRS area is MN-01 located near Duluth and about 115 miles east of Hackensack.

Flood Insurance: This project does not involve mortgage insurance, refinance, acquisition, repairs, rehabilitation, or construction of a structure, mobile home, or insurable personal property. This project does not require flood insurance or is excepted from flood insurance. The City of Hackensack is not listed on the FEMA Communities Participating in the National Flood Program, but Cass County is on the list.

Clean Air: The project is not located within a non-attainment area. Air quality currently in the area is considered "Good" with a PM_{2.5}=7. Construction from the project has potential to create minor dust issues. The contract specification will require minimal dust and air impacts.

Coastal Zone Management: The project is not located within a Coastal Zone Management (CZM) area. The only CZM area in Minnesota is located along the coast of Lake Superior in northern Minnesota approximately 120 miles east of Hackensack.

Contamination and Toxic Substances: A review of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) What's in My Neighborhood database and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) NEPAAssist tool identified several known or potential contamination sites within the City of Hackensack and near the project area. Six EPA-identified hazardous waste sites are located in proximity to the proposed project area. All project activities will occur within existing road right-of-way and ground disturbance will be done in previously disturbed areas. Therefore, no impacts to known contamination sites are anticipated.

In the event that contaminated soil, groundwater, or hazardous materials are encountered during construction, work will cease in the affected area, and appropriate measures will be implemented in accordance with MPCA and EPA regulations. The contractor will be responsible for the proper handling, characterization, and disposal of any hazardous materials in compliance with all applicable federal and state requirements.

Endangered Species: The IPaC identified five species that have the potential to be in the project area; Canada lynx (threatened), gray wolf (threatened), northern long-eared bat (endangered), monarch butterfly (proposed threatened), and the suckley's cuckoo (proposed endangered). The IPaC also listed the potential for twelve migratory birds to be present; the bald eagle, black tern, chimney swift, common tern, evening grosbeak, golden-winged warbler, lesser yellowlegs, long-eared owl, olive-sided flycatcher, pectoral sandpiper, veery, and the wood thrush. Dkey determinations were completed for the Canada lynx, gray wolf, monarch butterfly, and northern long-eared bat, and all resulted in a "no effect" finding. Construction is anticipated to occur in previously disturbed areas. The project will have no effect on the federally listed species due to the nature of the construction. There are no designated critical habitat areas, refuge lands, or fish hatcheries within the vicinity of the project.

Explosive and Flammable Hazards: The MPCA What's in My Neighborhood website identified areas near the project area that contain above or below ground storage tanks. One underground storage tank site was identified near the project area. All of the storage tanks at this site have been removed and there are no remaining underground storage tanks. All work will occur within existing public rights-of-way and previously disturbed areas, reducing the potential for encountering unknown fuel storage systems or flammable materials. Standard construction safety practices and applicable state and federal regulations will be followed to minimize any risk related to fuel handling during construction activities. The project is not expected to pose or encounter any explosive or flammable hazards.

Farmlands Protection: The Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) does not apply due to the proposed project being within the City limits of Hackensack. Project construction will not convert any agricultural land to a non-agricultural use.

Floodplain Management: The City of Hackensack is located in an unmapped area for FEMA-designated floodplains, and no regulated floodplain zones have been identified within the project limits. Additionally, no local sources identified the project area to be in a floodplain. Because the project lies outside any mapped flood-risk areas, it is not anticipated to have impacts on floodplains.

Historic Preservation: A review of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) identified no historic properties within the City of Hackensack or the surrounding area. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) provided a comment letter on November 4, 2025, concurring with a finding

of No Historic Properties Affected for the proposed project.

A tribal consultation letter was sent to the identified tribes on October 10, 2025, using contact information obtained through the Tribal Directory Assessment Tool (TDAT). One response was received from the Fond du Lac Tribal Historic Preservation Office on October 20, 2025. Their response provided background information on the project area and indicated that it is unlikely any historic properties will be affected. If any human remains are encountered all work should cease and contact the proper parties. Their response also requested confirmation regarding whether any geotechnical investigations have been conducted and what measures are being taken to ensure that no disturbance or excavation will occur into intact soils or cultural layers beneath the roadway. Additional confirmation was provided to the Fond du Lac THPO stating no geotechnical investigations have been conducted and extra care will be taken to ensure that no disturbance or excavation will occur into intact soils or cultural layers beneath the roadway. No additional comments were received from the Fond du Lac THPO.

Noise Abatement and Control: The project will generate normal construction noise and will be temporary during construction. It is not anticipated that the project will drastically increase the noise to the area. However, if the level of noise that is created by the project exceeds the thresholds allowed by law or becomes a health hazard, steps will be taken to mitigate the noise levels.

Sole Source Aquifer: There are no Sole Source Aquifers (SSA) located within the project area. The only SSA in Minnesota is located approximately 50 miles southwest of the project, near Mille Lacs Lake.

Wetlands Protection: Project construction will occur within previously disturbed roadway corridors. While roadside wetlands and ditches may be present in the project area the project will be designed to completely avoid these features. All work will remain within existing impervious areas or will tie into the existing ground at the top of the ditch inslope, ensuring no direct or indirect wetland impacts. As a result, the project is not anticipated to affect any wetlands.

Wild and Scenic Rivers: According to the MNDNR, the U.S. National Park Service, and the Nationwide Rivers Inventory the project area is not near any state or federally protected Wild and Scenic Rivers, study rivers, or Nationwide Rivers.

An Environmental Review Record respecting this project has been made by the Grantee that documents the environmental review of the project and fully sets forth the reasons why such statement is not required. The Environmental Review Record is on file and is available for public examination and copying, upon request, at Hackensack City Offices between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. An Environmental Review Record respecting this project has been made by the Grantee that documents the environmental review of the project and fully sets forth the reasons why such statement is not required. The Environmental Review Record is on file and is available for public examination and copying, upon request, at City Hall, 208 1st Street N., Hackensack, MN 56452 between the hours of 8 AM and 4:30 PM.

Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds

On or about January 15, 2026, the Grantee will request the Business and Community Development Division, Small Cities Development Program, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED BCD), to release Federal funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (PL 98-181) for the project described above.

Public Comments

All interested agencies, groups and persons disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the Grantee to Hackensack City Hall, 208 1st Street N., Hackensack, MN 56452 on or before January 14, 2026. All comments received will be considered and the Grantee

will not request the release of federal funds or take any administrative action on this project before the date specified in the preceding sentence.

In addition, pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, comments on the identification and treatment of historic properties in the project area are welcome.

Environmental Certification

The Grantee will undertake the project described above with Block Grant funds from DEED under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The Grantee is certifying to DEED that Nate George, in his official capacity as Mayor, consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision making and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that upon its approval, the Grantee may use Block Grant funds and DEED and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will have satisfied their responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Objections to State Release of Funds

DEED BCD will accept objections to its approval of the release of funds and acceptance of the certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request, whichever is later, only for one of the following reasons: (a) that the certification was not in fact executed by the Chief Executive Officer or other officer of the Grantee approved by BCD; (b) that the Grantee's ERR for the project indicates omission of a required decision, finding or step applicable to the project in the environmental review process; (c) the Grantee or its agents have incurred costs not authorized at 24 CFR Part 58.22 before approval of a release of funds by BCD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 24 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedure (24 CFR Part 58.76) and may be addressed to Manager, Small Cities Development Program, Business and Community Development Division, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, Great Northern Building, 180 East 5th Street, Suite 1200, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1351. Potential objectors should contact DEED BCD at 651-259-7449 to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Bill Kennedy, Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Kennedy", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

(10/2024)