



EI. 17862

CG

Department of Tourism and State Development

September 2, 2009

Ms. Catherine L. Glidden
Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington DC 20423-0001

SECTION 106 PROJECT CONSULTATION – IDENTIFICATION/EVALUATION

Project: 080515042F – Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern Railroad Corporation; Final Historic District Treatment Plan for the Winona & Saint Peter/Dakota Central Railroad Historic District; STB Finance Docket No. 33407

Location: Multiple Counties
(STB)

Dear Ms. Glidden:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced project pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). On August 26, 2009, the South Dakota Office of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) received your correspondence and the report entitled "Final Historic District Treatment Plan for the Winona & Saint Peter/Dakota Central Railroad Historic District," prepared by HDR Engineering. The SHPO has reviewed the information submitted and offers the following comments.

- Page 3-22 notes that the district between Ft. Pierre and Wall may cease to exist due to the proposed realignment and reconstruction. The SHPO questions whether this statement is true and encourages the STB to reevaluate whether this portion of the district may retain integrity.
- Table 5-2 on page 5-2 and 5-3 outlines the properties that have been selected for recordation.
 - How were these properties selected? Was SHPO input solicited? Are these the only structures proposed for recordation?
 - The SHPO needs to know where these properties are located by descriptions other than mileposts (e.g. 10 miles west of Huron, South Dakota). Milepost markers do not provide enough information for SHPO to determine where these properties are located or how many are in the South Dakota portion of the project. Please provide a map that shows where these structures are located along the DM&E line or additional geographical information on the locations (e.g. 10 miles west of Huron, South Dakota).

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- What percentage of structures to be recorded is located in South Dakota versus the percentage of structures to be recorded in Minnesota?
- Page 5-5 to 5-6 discusses a proposal for DM&E to "assist in the renovation of this building [C&NW Combination Depot in De Smet, South Dakota] in consultation with the South Dakota SHPO. The funds would be administered by the DM&E with oversight by the South Dakota SHPO to ensure that funded work is implemented in a historically sensitive manner." Please provide additional information on what this arrangement will entail. Will the SHPO review project plans prior to projects being undertaken? Will the SHPO consult directly with the Depot caretakers or with DM&E and/or STB? How long will SHPO have to review projects? What level of information must be provided to SHPO for review?
- As requested in our letter of July 8, 2008, how have STB and DM&E taken into account historic properties that are not directly impacted by the project but may be affected by visual, atmospheric, or audible elements [see 36 CFR 800.5(a)(2)(v)]? Examples include listed properties such as the Brookings Commercial Historic District (Brookings), the Ingalls House (De Smet), or the Pyle House (Huron). The only historic properties considered in the report are those directly affected by the project, such as bridges on the railroad line; historic properties outside the area of direct effects do not appear to have been considered.
- The charts in Appendix C include the milepost but no other location identifiers.
 - At what milepost does the South Dakota section start?
 - Please provide a map that shows where these structures are located along the DM&E line or additional geographical information on the locations (e.g. 10 miles west of Huron, South Dakota)
 - Why are some items highlighted in yellow while others with the same action are not?

Thank you for the opportunity to review this report. Should you require additional information, please contact Kate Nelson at (605) 773-6005. Your concern for the non-renewable cultural heritage of our state is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jay D. Vogt
State Historic Preservation Officer



Kate Nelson
Restoration Specialist