Combined Notice of

**Finding of No Significant Impact and**

### Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds

# State of Minnesota

**Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) Program**

Date of posting: April 12, 2022

Responsibility Entity:

City of Madison

404 6th Avenue North
Madison, MN 56256

Phone: 320-598-7373

Preparer:

Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission

323 West Schlieman Avenue

Appleton, MN 56208

Phone: 320-289-1981

**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 **Madison**(hereinafter referred to as the Grantee).

One, the Grantee has made a Finding of No Significant Impact on project activities described below and two, the Grantee intends to request the Business and Community Development Division, Small Cities Development Program, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED BCD) to release Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) (PL166-136) for the following projects.

Pursuant to HUD CPD Notice 20-07 “Guidance on conducting environmental reviews pursuant to 24 CFR Part 58 for activities undertaken in response to the public health emergency as a result of COVID-19” this notice combines the public comment and objection periods into one 18-day comment period. CARES Act funding is needed on an emergency basis as projects funded with CARES Act funds are designed to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the Presidentially declared coronavirus health emergency.

**Madison Fiber to the Premise Broadband Project**

This notice is for a reevaluation of an Environmental Assessment that was originally completed in November of 2021 for the following project and new information on the project resulted in a reevaluation of the previous review. The City of Madison is looking to increase broadband capacity to its 1,400 residents by creating a fiber to the premise network that will provide symmetrical service within the city.

The project will install broadband infrastructure main fiber lines to residential and non-residential properties including nursing homes. The project will be restricted to within the city limits of Madison. This will involve excavation to install broadband fiber lines in previously disturbed and potentially undisturbed ground. The project may include restoration of excavated areas/repair of roadways, hook-ups etc. The areas that will be impacted by the project include easements, roadways, yards etc.

The project is covered under an expedited review because there continues to be an emergency need for citizens to get broadband coverage. Current internet service providers from cable, satellite and wireless are to not able to meet the demand from the residents, business community or key institutions like the school and healthcare facility.

**Finding of No Significant Impact**

The Grantee has determined that the Madison Fiber to Premise Broadband project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (PL 91-190) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record on file at323 W Schlieman Ave, Appleton MN 56208 and may be examined or copied between the hours of 8 am and 4:30 pm*.*

An Environmental Impact Statement was found to not be required due to determining Airport Hazards, Coastal Barrier Resources, Flood Insurance, Clean Air, Coastal Zone Management, Explosives and Flammable Hazards, Farmlands Protection, Noise Abatement and Control, Sole Source Aquifers, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Environmental Justice, Contamination and Toxic Substances, Endangered Species, Floodplain Management, Historic Preservation, and Wetlands Protection would not have adverse impacts on the human environment.

**Request for Release of Funds**

Pursuant HUD CPD Notice 20-07 “Guidance on conducting environmental reviews pursuant to 24 CFR Part 58 for activities undertaken in response to the public health emergency as a result of COVID-19” this notice combines the public comment and objection periods into one 18-day comment period. As a result, on or about the day this notice is released the Grantee will submit a request to DEED BCD for the release of CDBG-CV funds authorized by the CARES Act (PL 166-136) for the projects described above.

**Public Comments**

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the Environmental Review Record for consideration by the Grantee to the City of Madison, 404 6th Avenue North, Madison, MN 56256 or via email to madison@ci.madison.mn.us. Comments must also be submitted to DEED BCD at Irene.Dassier@state.mn.us. Written comments received at the Grantee’s physical address will be scanned and emailed to DEED BCD. All comments received by April 30th, 2022, will be considered by the Grantee and DEED BCD prior to authorizing the request for release of funds. Comments should specify which notice they are addressing.

**Environmental Certification**

The Grantee is certifying to DEED BCD that **Greg Thole**, in **his** official capacity as **Mayor**, consents 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. DEED BCD’s approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the Grantee to use Program funds.

**Objections to State Release of Funds**

DEED BCD will accept objections to the release of funds and acceptance of the certification for a period of **18 days** following the date this notice was released or its actual receipt of the request, whichever is later, only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not in fact executed by the Chief Executive Officer of the Grantee; (b) that the Grantee omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grantee recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized y 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by DEED BCD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 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 emailed to Irene.Dassier@state.mn.us.  Potential objectors should contact this email address as well to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Greg Thole, Mayor

Certifying Officer for the City of Madison

c/o The City of Madison

404 6th Avenue North
Madison, MN 56256