



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

**AUG 30 2016**

In Reply Refer To:  
HCR-20  
DOT # 2016-0139

**(b) (6)**

**Subject:** Closure of Complaint DOT# 2016-0139

Dear **(b) (6)**

This letter is to provide you with an update on the status of your complaint, which was received by the Federal Highway Administration Office of Civil Rights (FHWA) on February 23, 2016 and the FHWA accepted on April 11, 2016. In your complaint, you alleged the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) violated Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), the Title VI regulations implemented by the United States Department of Transportation in 49 C.F.R. Part 21, and the FHWA's Title VI regulations in 23 C.F.R. Part 200. Specifically, you alleged the MnDOT violated Title VI in its deferment and failure to maintain a 1.5 mile portion of MN 55, thereby discriminating against urban poor, people of color, and disabled people. In addition, you alleged that MnDOT failed to adequately engage the public and address expressed concerns from the affected minority communities.

After careful consideration, the FHWA has concluded it will administratively close this complaint because FHWA has been unable to make contact with you to discuss your complaint and cannot proceed further. The FHWA attempted to contact you by phone and email in June and July, 2016, but did not receive responses to its requests for an interview. In the meantime, the FHWA will continue to monitor and engage with the MnDOT closely to ensure compliance with Title VI and other federal laws.

Please note that you may refile your complaint with the FHWA based on prior or new allegations and the FHWA will assess it based on the material received.

If you have any questions about this complaint or the FHWA's complaint procedures, please contact Kevin Resler at 202-366-2925 or [kevin.resler@dot.gov](mailto:kevin.resler@dot.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Irene Rieo", written over a horizontal line.

Irene Rieo  
Acting Associate Administrator  
Office of Civil Rights

cc: Arlene Kocher, Division Administrator, FHWA MN Division Office  
David Scott, Assistant Division Administrator, FHWA MN Division Office  
Mary Walker-Johnson, Civil Rights Specialist, FHWA MN Division Office