



**In the Matter of the Route Permit
Application for a 345 kV Transmission
Line from Fargo to St. Cloud**

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
SCOPING DECISION AMENDMENT
PUC Docket No. ET2, E002/TL 09-1056**

A number of additional route options were requested by Applicants in their June 29, 2010, filing. The request asks the Director of the Office of Energy Security to amend his scope in the above matter to include review of these options in the Environmental Impact Statement.

According to Minn. Rule 7850.2500 subp 2, “Once the (Director) has determined the scope of the environmental impact statement, the scope must not be changed except upon decision by the (Director) that substantial changes have been made in the project or substantial new information has arisen significantly affecting the potential environmental effects of the project or the availability of reasonable alternatives.”

The routing concerns presented by the Applicants represent substantial changes in the project that are not adequately addressed with the original route options. In order to properly analyze the human and environmental effects of these changes on potential route decisions, the Scoping Decision Document is herein amended to include the following:

NEW ROUTE AREAS TO BE ANALYZED IN THE EIS

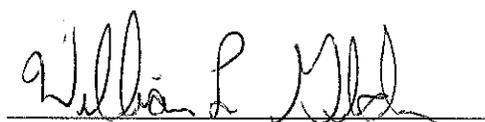
The table below provides a title and summary of the new route areas to be analyzed in the EIS.

Area Referenced	Reason for Alternative
Alternate Red River Crossing (Maps 1 and 2)	This alternative has been added to avoid areas targeted for development as a result of the anticipated United States Army Corps of Engineers flood-control diversion channel project.
Alexandria Switching Station Area Expansion (Map 3)	Preliminary design work indicates that the switching station will likely need to be expanded to the east to provide adequate space for the new equipment.
Route E Route Width Expansion (Map 4)	An expansion area is being considered to explore opportunities for flexibility in this area to address development concerns.
Quarry Substation—Route D Connector (Map 5)	This alternative is designed to shorten the segment by approximately 2 miles and keep the Fargo—St. Cloud and St. Cloud—Monticello 345 kV lines separated, avoiding a potential “in and out” along the same north/south route south of the Quarry Substation.

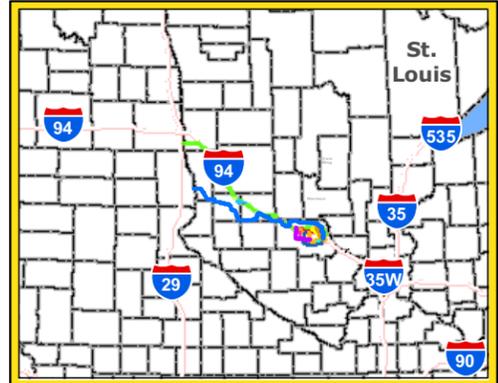
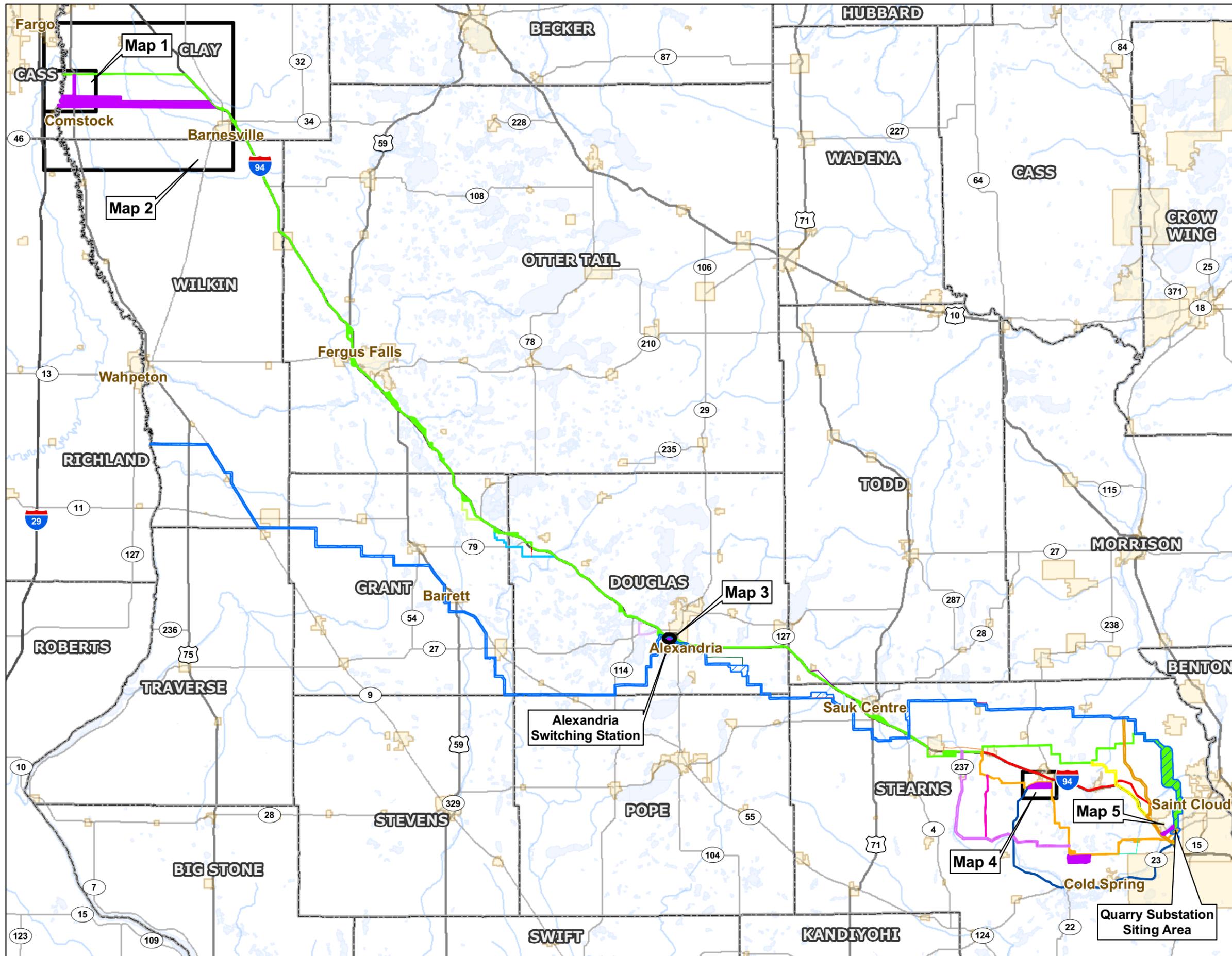
The analysis will include the resources identified in Section V of the scoping decision document. To provide a robust analysis, the EIS will consider the allocation of resources within each given route and route option with respect to reasonable transmission line rights of way within each route. In some cases, these rights of way will primarily consist of the centerline of the proposed route, while in other cases the rights of way will be influenced by the presence of pre-existing infrastructure within the route, such as roadways and transmission lines. This approach will result in an informed decision on the potential for the route alternatives to provide the ability to construct and operate a transmission line that avoids or minimizes social, economic, and environmental impacts.

Signed this 15th day of July, 2010

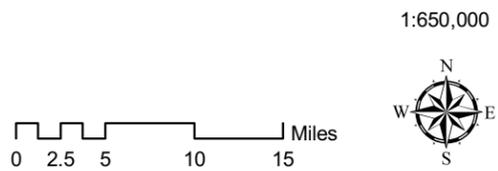
STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OFFICE OF ENERGY SECURITY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William P. Glahn", is written over a horizontal line.

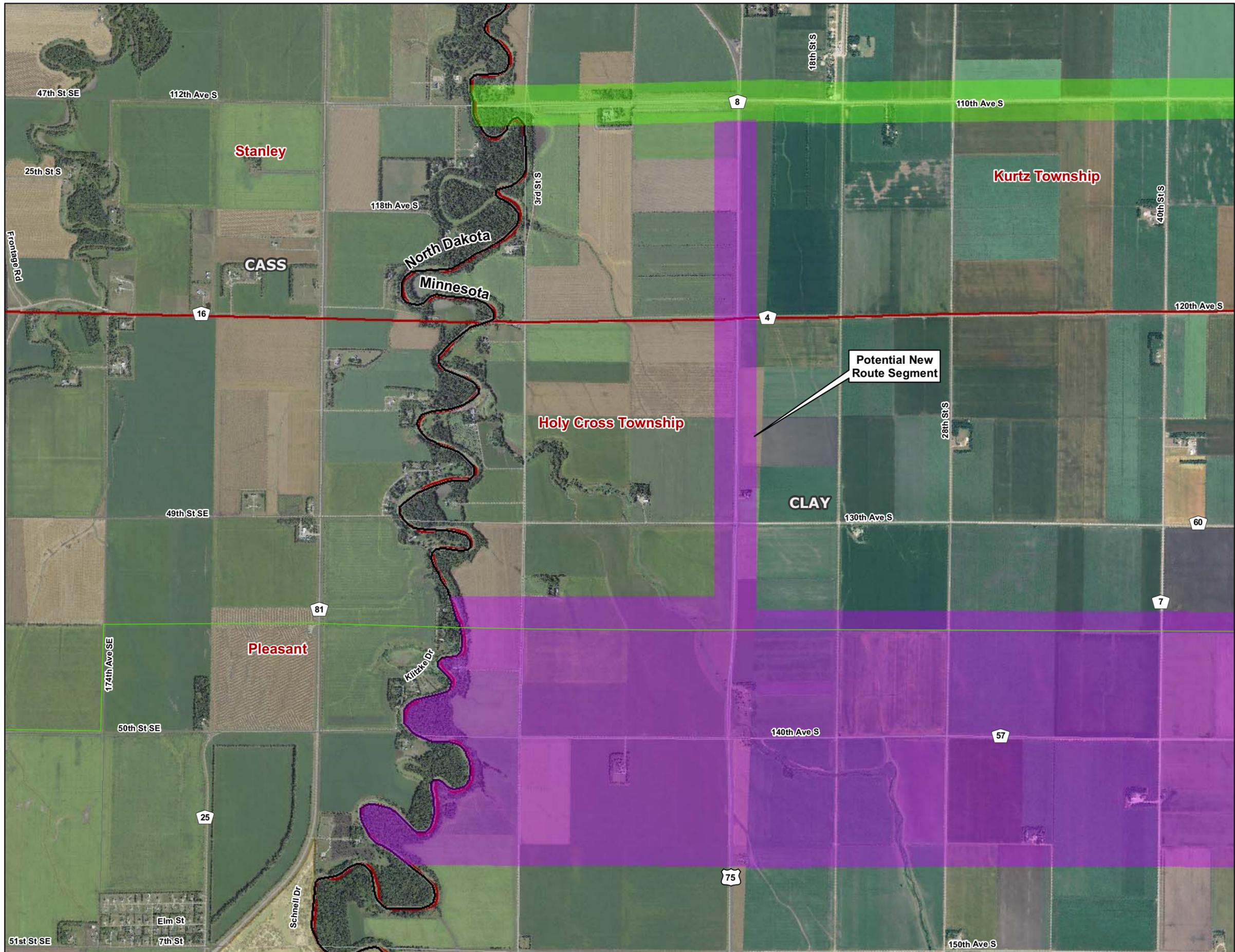
William Glahn, Director



- Legend**
- Potential Additional Route Widening Area or Route Segment
 - Applicant Proposed Routes**
 - Applicant Preferred Route
 - Route A
 - Route E
 - Option 1
 - Option 2b
 - Option 3
 - Option 6
 - Advisory Task Force (ATF) Identified Routes**
 - Route B
 - Route C
 - Route D
 - Route F
 - Route G
 - Route H
 - Municipal Boundary

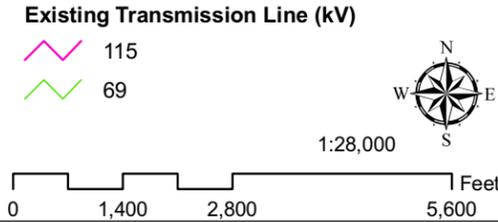


Fargo to St. Cloud Potential Additional Route Widening Areas or Route Segments

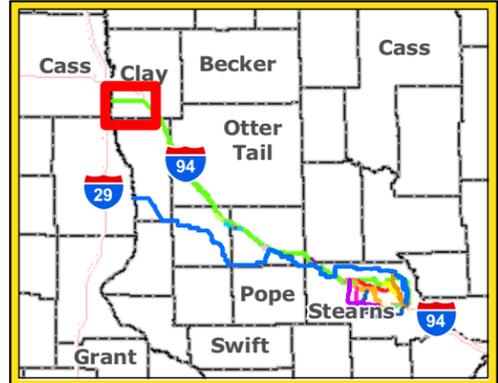
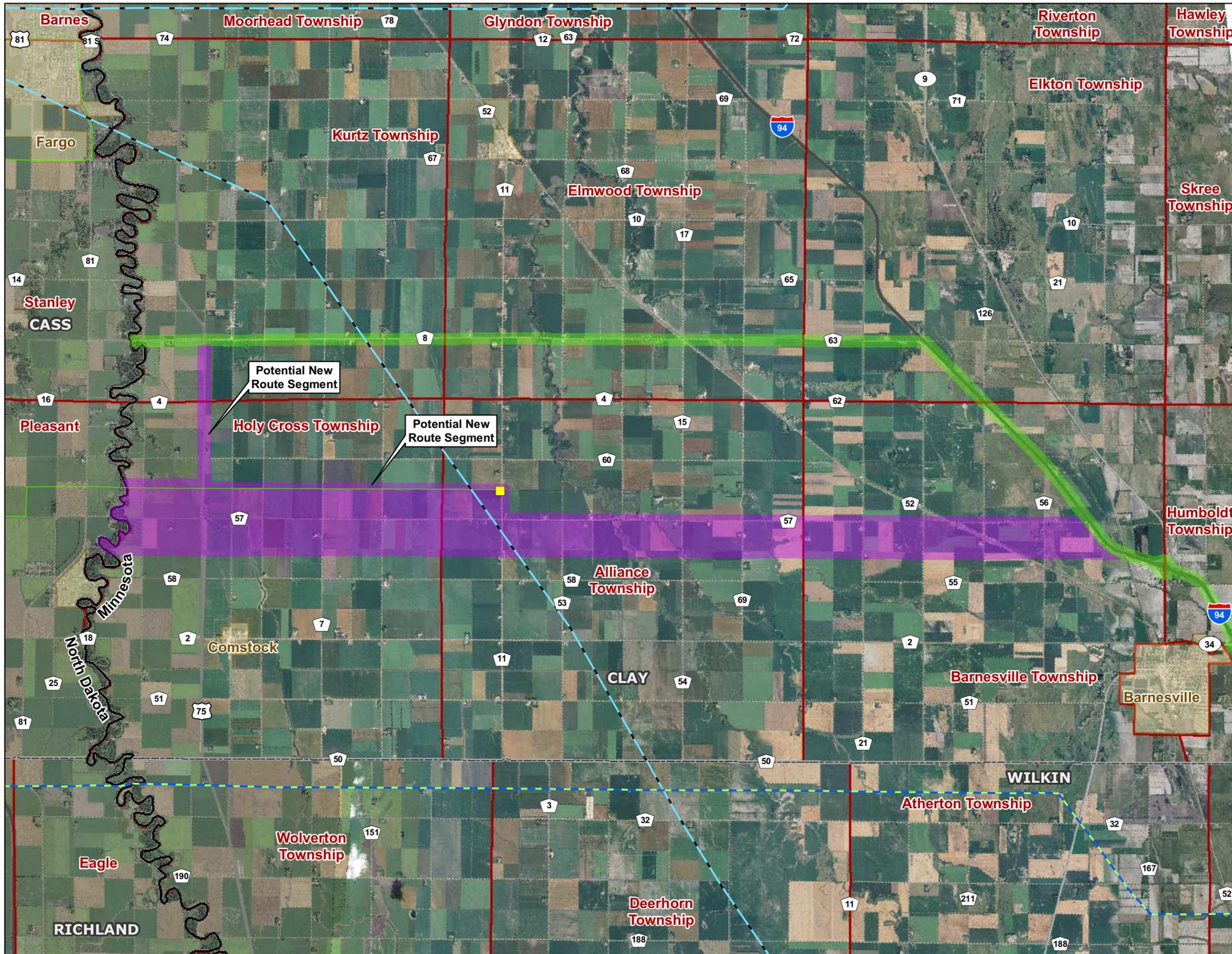


Legend

- Potential Additional Route Segment
- Potential Additional Route Widening Area
- Quarry Site 1
- Quarry Site 2
- Quarry Site 4
- Applicant Proposed Routes**
- Applicant Preferred Route
- Route A
- Route E
- Advisory Task Force (ATF) Identified Routes**
- Route B
- Route C
- Route D
- Municipal Boundary
- Township Boundary
- Section Line
- Existing Substation

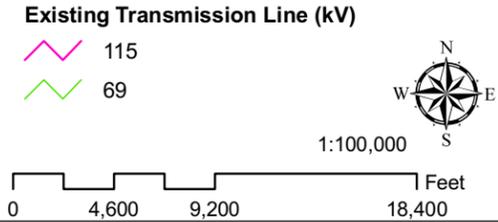


**Fargo to St. Cloud
Potential Additional Route
Widening Areas or
Route Segments**

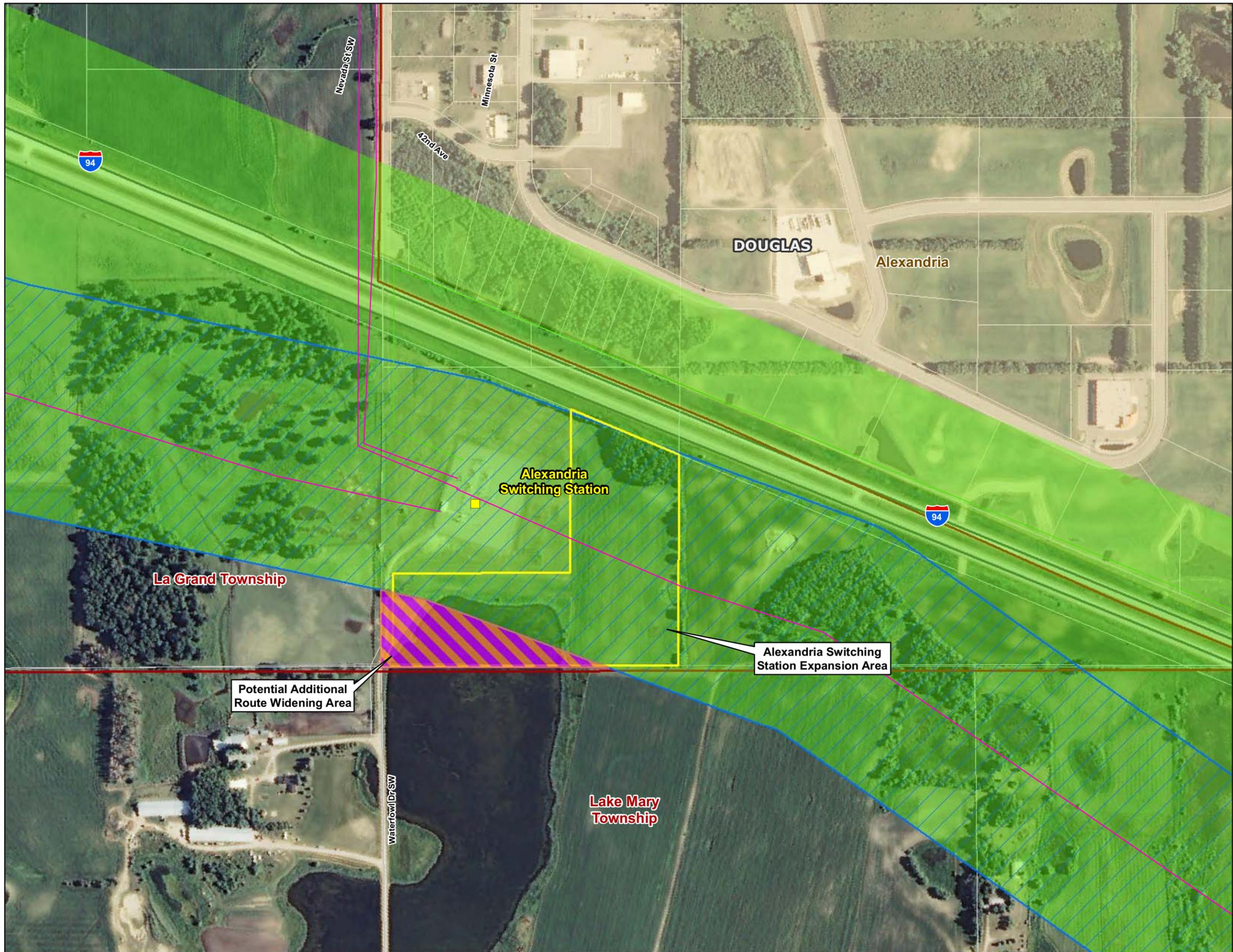


Legend

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- Potential Additional Route Widening Area
- Quarry Site 1
- Quarry Site 2
- Quarry Site 3
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- Applicant Proposed Routes**
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- Route B
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- Route D
- Municipal Boundary
- Township Boundary
- Section Line
- Existing Substation

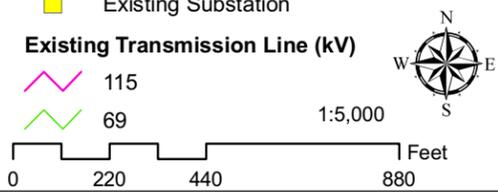


Fargo to St. Cloud Potential Additional Route Widening Areas or Route Segments

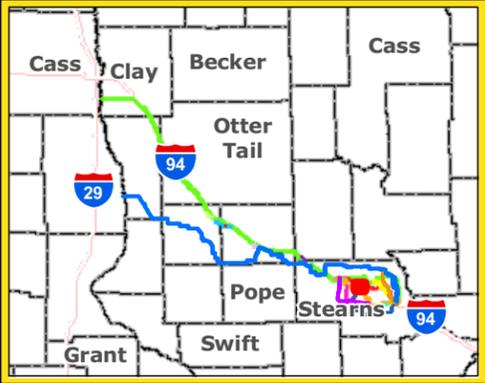
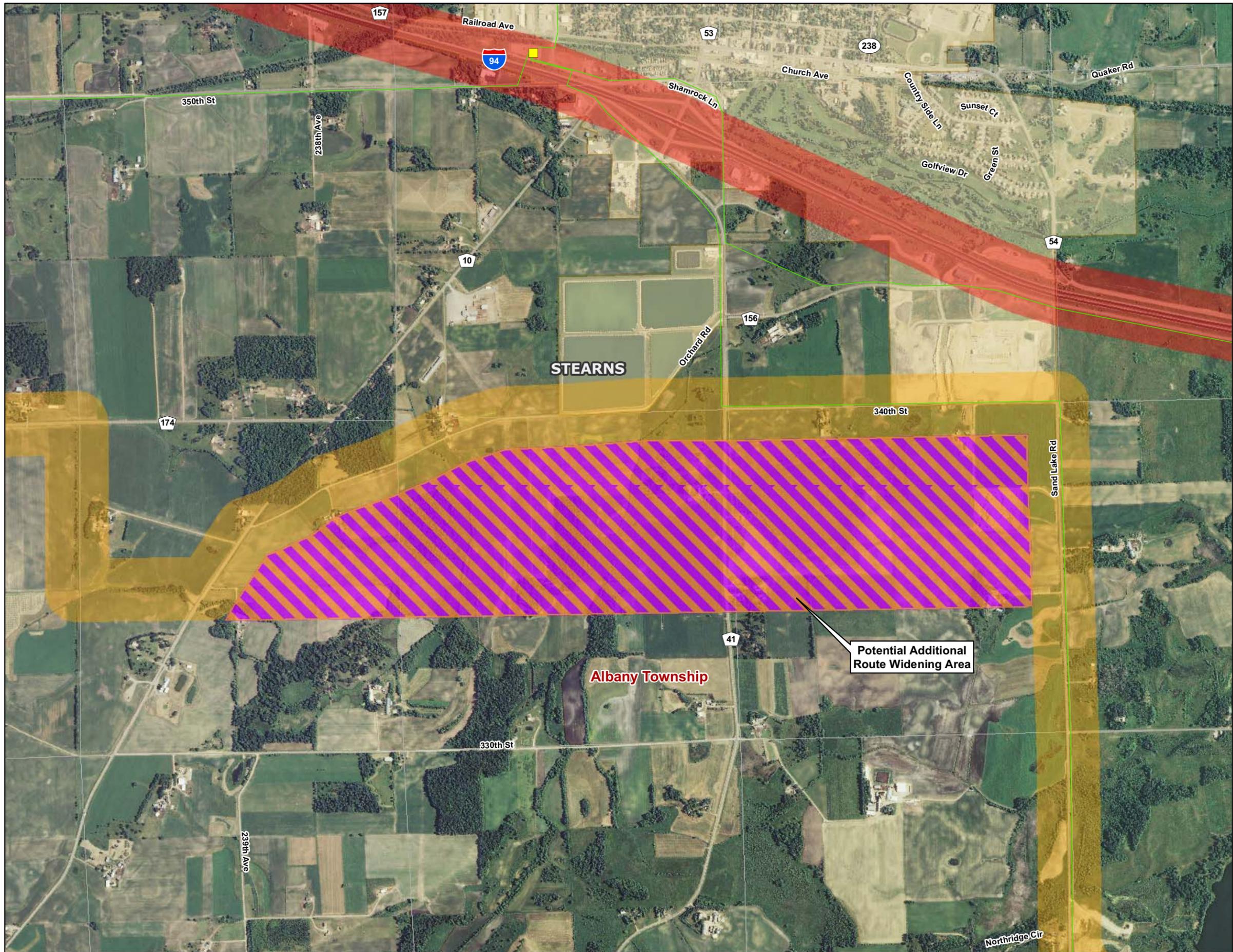


Legend

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- Potential Additional Route Widening Area
- Alexandria Switching Station Expansion Area
- Quarry Site 1
- Quarry Site 2
- Quarry Site 4
- Applicant Proposed Routes**
- Applicant Preferred Route
- Route A
- Route E
- Advisory Task Force (ATF) Identified Routes**
- Route B
- Route C
- Route D
- Municipal Boundary
- Township Boundary
- Section Line
- Existing Substation
- Existing Transmission Line (kV)**
- 115
- 69

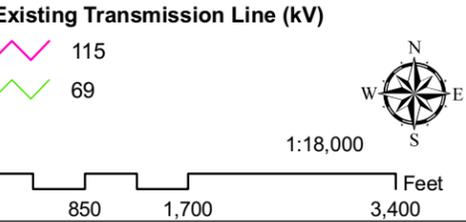


**Fargo to St. Cloud
Potential Additional Route
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Route Segments**

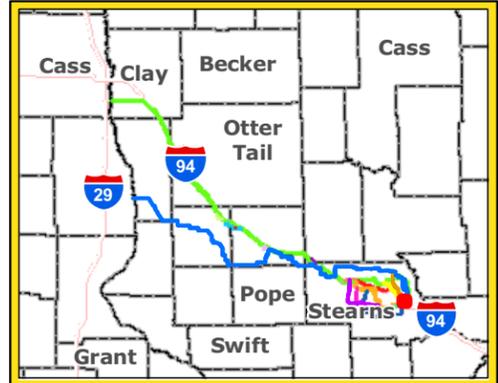
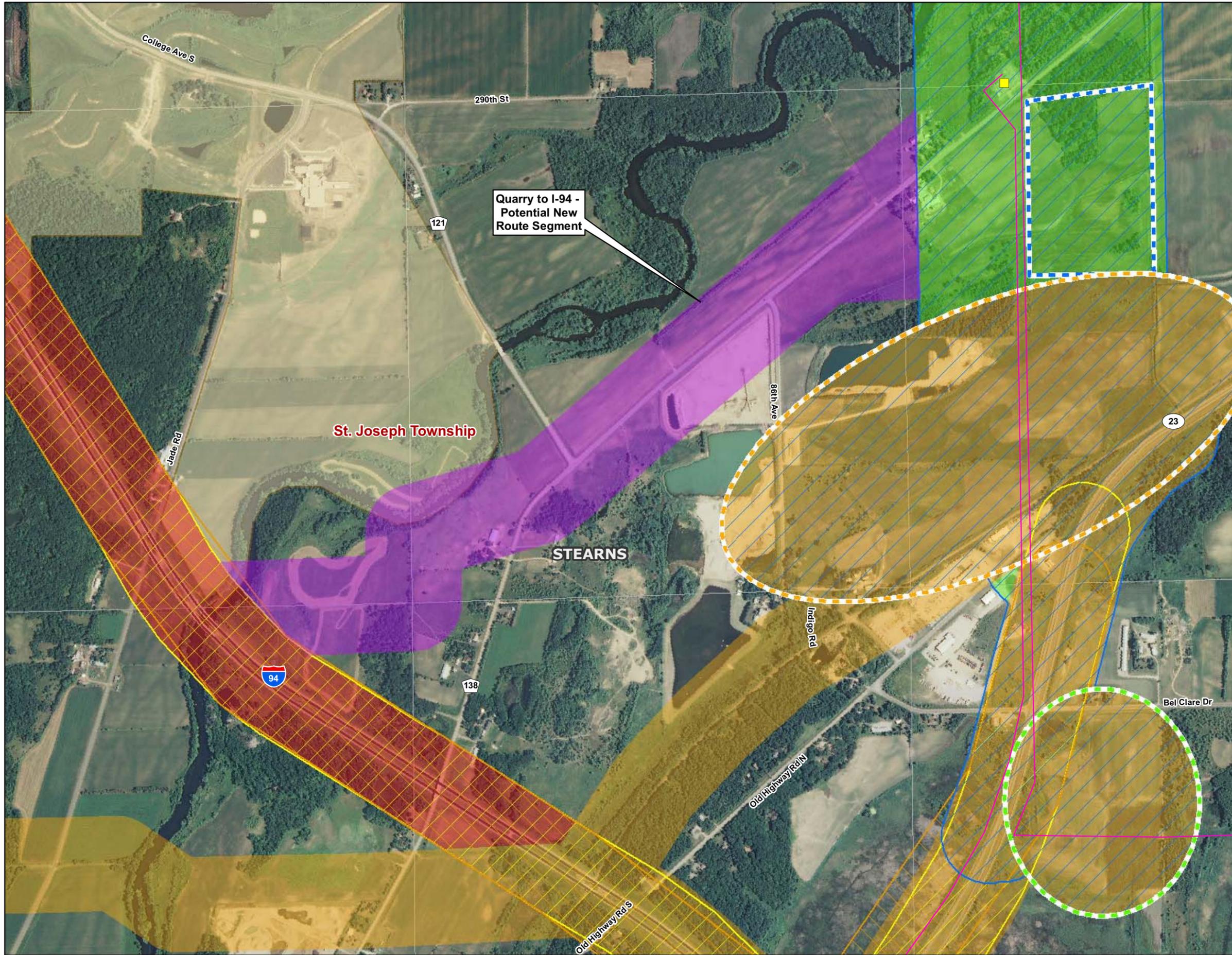


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- Township Boundary
- Section Line
- Existing Substation

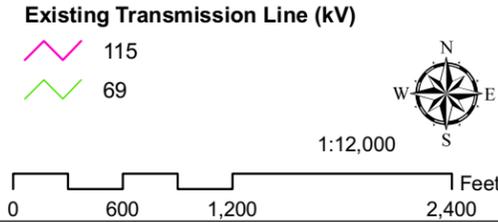


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