



85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198
main: 651.296.4026 tty: 651.296.2860 fax: 651.297.7891
www.commerce.state.mn.us

September 20, 2010

Dear Government Official,

The Minnesota Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security issued its Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) scoping report on August 6 for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV transmission line project. During the OES public scoping period in spring 2010, 211 comments were received from the public and local government officials. In response, the OES will study 46 route alternatives and 12 route alignments in addition to the routes presented in the Route Permit application filed by the CapX2020 utilities on January 19, 2010.

The OES is now notifying landowners on the additional routes with the enclosed letter and map booklet.

The EIS will examine land use and environmental issues associated with the routes proposed by CapX2020 as well as the additional OES route alternatives and alignments. Public meetings on the draft EIS will be scheduled for spring 2011.

Information about the project and the route permitting process is available on the OES website at <http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=25053> and on the eDockets website at <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/Efiling/search.jsp> (enter the docket year "09" and number "1448").

If you have questions or if you would like further information, please contact:

<i>Matt Langan, state permit manager</i>	<i>Ray Kirsch, public advisor</i>
(651) 296-2096	(651) 296-7588
matthew.langan@state.mn.us	raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us

Thank you.



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September 17, 2010

Dear Landowner,

You are receiving this letter because your property may be directly or indirectly affected by route alternatives for the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line project. The route alternatives are being evaluated in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that is being prepared by the Minnesota Office of Energy Security, Energy Facilities Permitting Unit (EFP).

This letter provides you with information on the transmission line project, the route permitting process, and future opportunities to participate in the process. We encourage you to familiarize yourself with the proposed project, sign up for the project mailing list, and participate in the route permitting process.

Project

Xcel Energy filed a Route Permit application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on January 19, 2010 to construct a new 345 kV high voltage transmission line between a new substation near Hampton, Minnesota, and the proposed North Rochester Substation between Zumbrota and Pine Island, and on to cross the Mississippi River near Alma, Wisconsin. A new 161 kV line is proposed between the North Rochester Substation and the existing Northern Hills Substation in northwest Rochester. The 345 kV portion of the project will be approximately 125 miles while the 161 kV portion will be 15-18 miles, depending on the final route chosen. Landowners along these routes were notified at the time of application.

Process

The Route Permit application is subject to environmental review in accordance with Minn. Rules 7850.1700 to 7850.2700. The first step in the review process is developing the scope of the EIS for the project. The scoping process, which has already been completed, has two primary purposes: (1) to identify issues that are important to people and communities along the proposed routes for study in the EIS and (2) to solicit suggestions for route alternatives beyond those proposed by the applicants to study in the EIS.

Six public information and scoping meetings were held May 4-6, 2010 to gather public input on the proposed project and routes. At these meetings, the public had the opportunity to propose route alternatives for consideration in the EIS. Comments were also accepted through letters and emails through May 20, 2010. A number of these route alternatives have been included in the scope. Also, two advisory task forces comprised of local government officials and non-government entities met over the course of the scoping period. The task forces recommended route alternatives that have also been included in the scope of the EIS.

Property records indicate you are located near or own property on one or more of these new route alternatives. The new route alternatives are described in the August 6, 2010 EIS scoping decision at <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25731> (scroll down to the File Register and “Scoping Decision Document”). Maps of the new route alternatives, as well as the applicant’s proposed routes, are attached to this mailing.

Participation

A draft EIS is currently being prepared by EFP staff. The draft EIS will evaluate the potential environmental, economic, social and human impacts for all of the route alternatives. The draft EIS is scheduled to be issued in February 2011. Once issued, EFP staff will hold public meetings to gather comments and questions on the document. Comments and responses will be incorporated into the final EIS.

In addition to these public meetings, there will be public hearings conducted along the proposed routes in 2011. An administrative law judge (ALJ) from the Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings will preside over the hearings. Anyone may speak at the public hearings, present evidence, ask questions of the applicants and EFP staff, and submit comments on the proposed project. The ALJ will make a recommendation on the Route Permit application to the Commission. The Commission’s decision on the Route Permit application is expected in late summer 2011.

Information about the project and the route permitting process is available on the EFP website at <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25731> and on the eDockets website at <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the docket year “09” and number “1448”).

Notice of public meetings and public hearings will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register their names on the EFP project mailing list. To add your name to the project mailing list, contact the project manager or public advisor, or register at: <http://www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/#MailingLists>.

Please note, if you do not register to be on the EFP project mailing list you will not receive correspondence regarding this project after this notice. Registration is voluntary and may be done at any time.

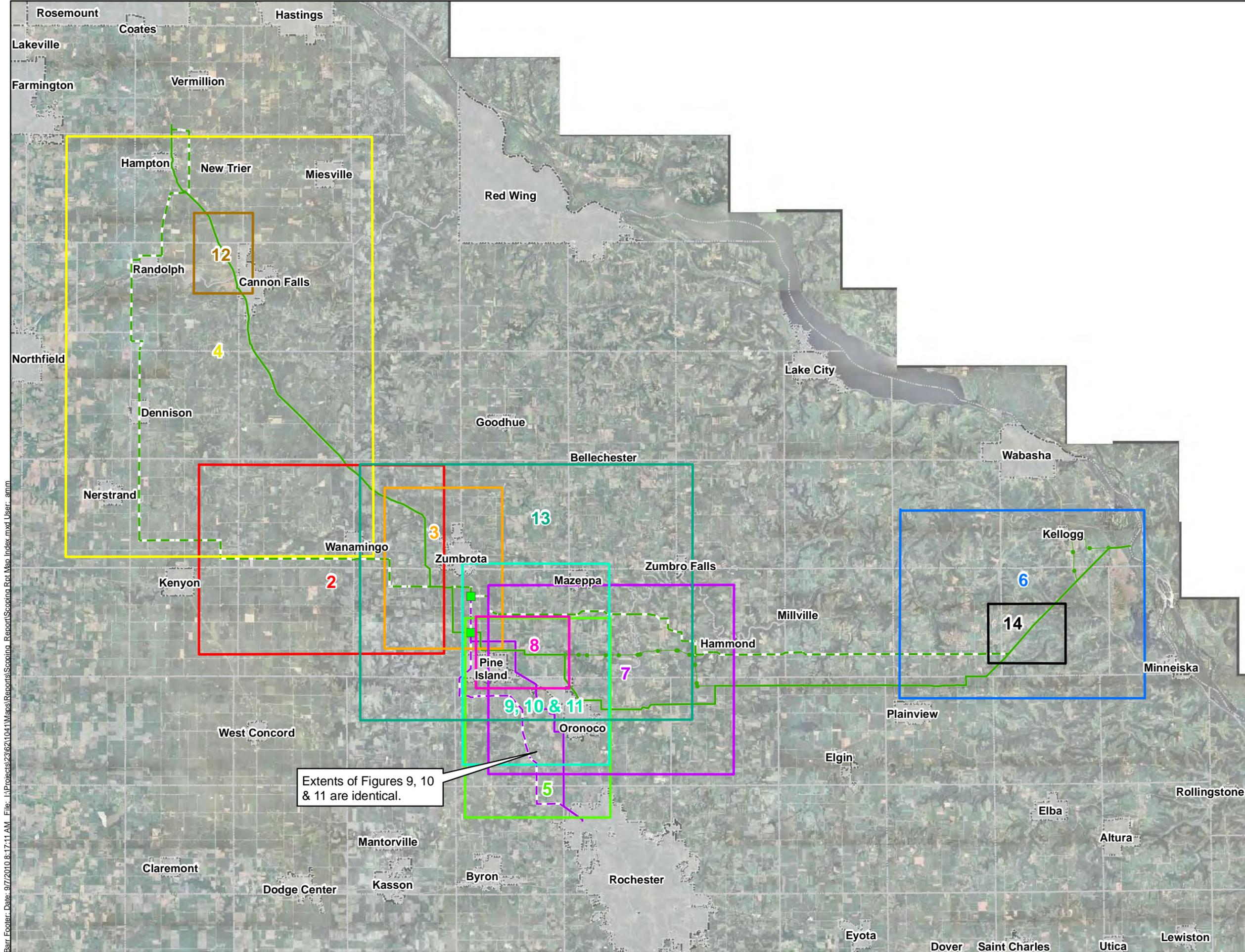
If you have questions or if you would like further information, please contact:

<i>Matt Langan, state permit manager</i>	<i>Ray Kirsch, public advisor</i>
(651) 296-2096	(651) 296-7588
matthew.langan@state.mn.us	raymond.kirsch@state.mn.us

Other contact information: Toll-Free Tel: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Service, 800-627-3529, ask for DOC.

NOTE: A Federal Review of the project is also being conducted. In the coming weeks, you will be receiving a letter from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Utilities Service (RUS). The RUS’ letter will notify you that the new routes developed in the Minnesota scoping process are being incorporated into the scope of the Federal Environmental Impact Statement as well.

cc: Affected local government units



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- Figure 14

Applicant's 345 kV

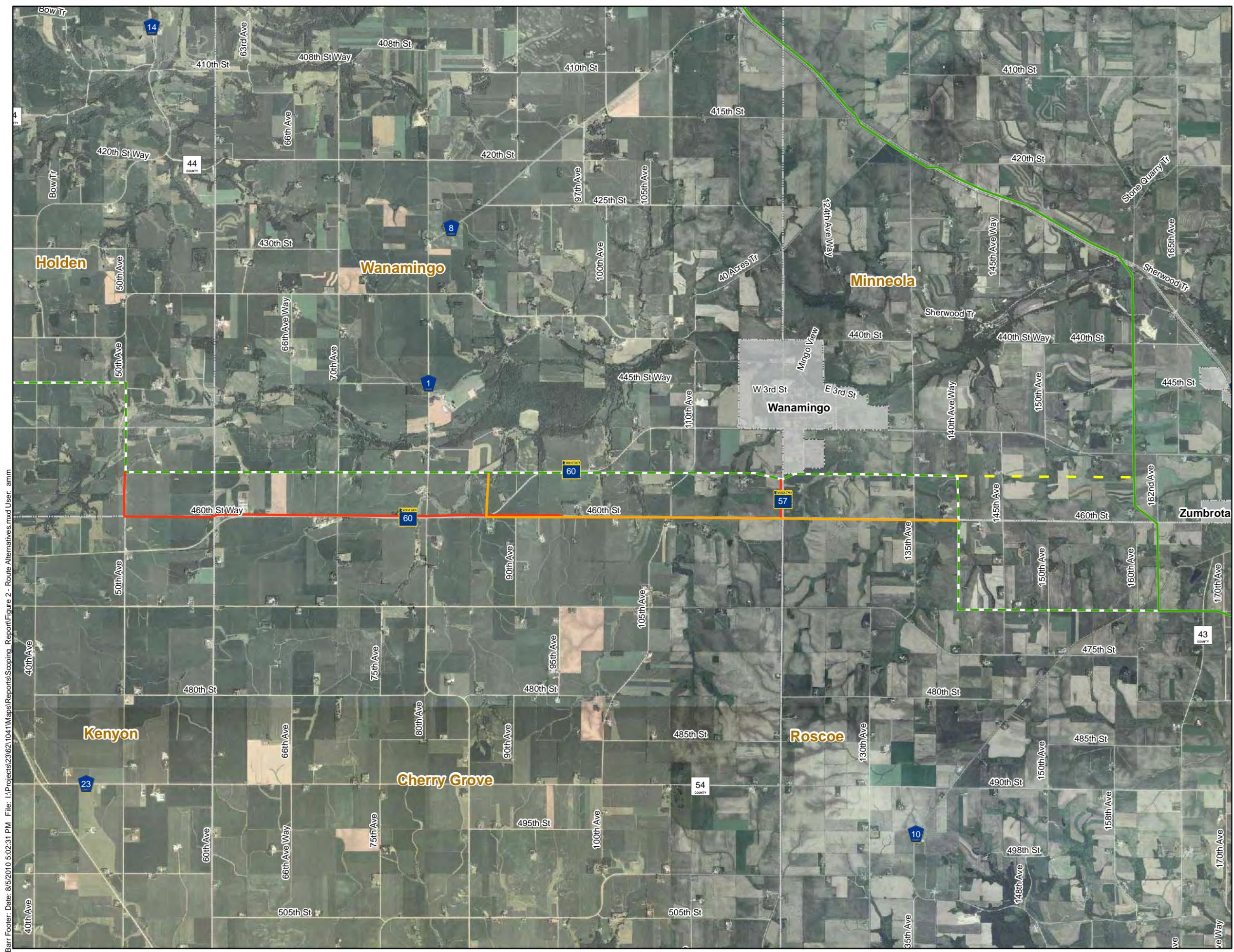
- Preferred/Both
- Alternative
- Dam Option

Applicant's 161kV

- Preferred/Both
- Alternative
- Proposed Substation Locations
- Townships
- Municipality



Extents of Figures 9, 10 & 11 are identical.



Applicant's 345 kV

- Preferred/Both
- - - Alternative
- Dam Option

Applicant's 161kV

- Preferred/Both
- - - Alternative
- Proposed Substation Locations

Route Alternatives

- 1A-001
- 1A-004
- - - 1B-003
- Townships
- Municipality

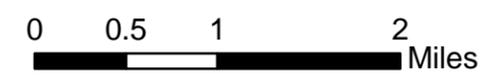
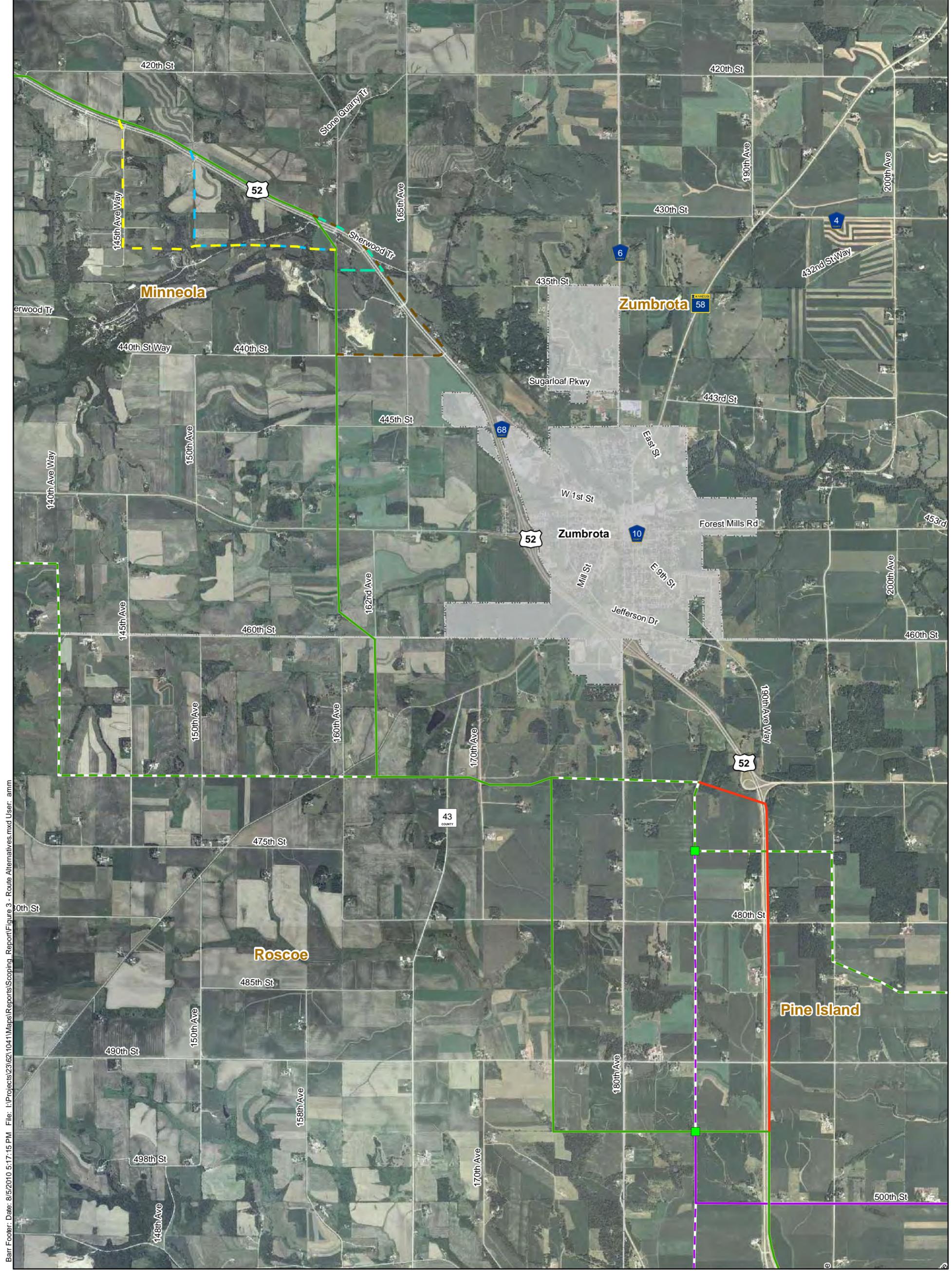


Figure 2

Route Alternatives Map 1 of 10
 CapX2020
 Hampton - Rochester - LaCrosse
 345 kV Transmission Project



Barr Footer: Date: 8/5/2010 5:17:15 PM File: I:\Projects\23\621041\Maps\Reports\Scoping_Report\Figure 3 - Route Alternatives.mxd User: ammm

- | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| Applicant's 345 kV | | ■ Proposed Substation Locations | Route Alternatives | |
| — Preferred/Both | Townships | — 1B-001 | - - - 1P-004 | |
| - - - Alternative | Municipality | - - - 1P-005 | - - - 1P-006 | |
| ● Dam Option | | - - - 1P-007 | | |
| Applicant's 161kV | | | | |
| — Preferred/Both | | | | |
| - - - Alternative | | | | |

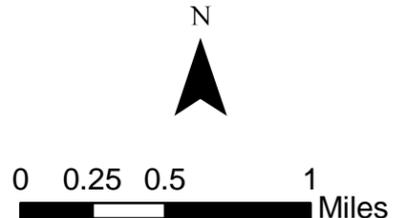
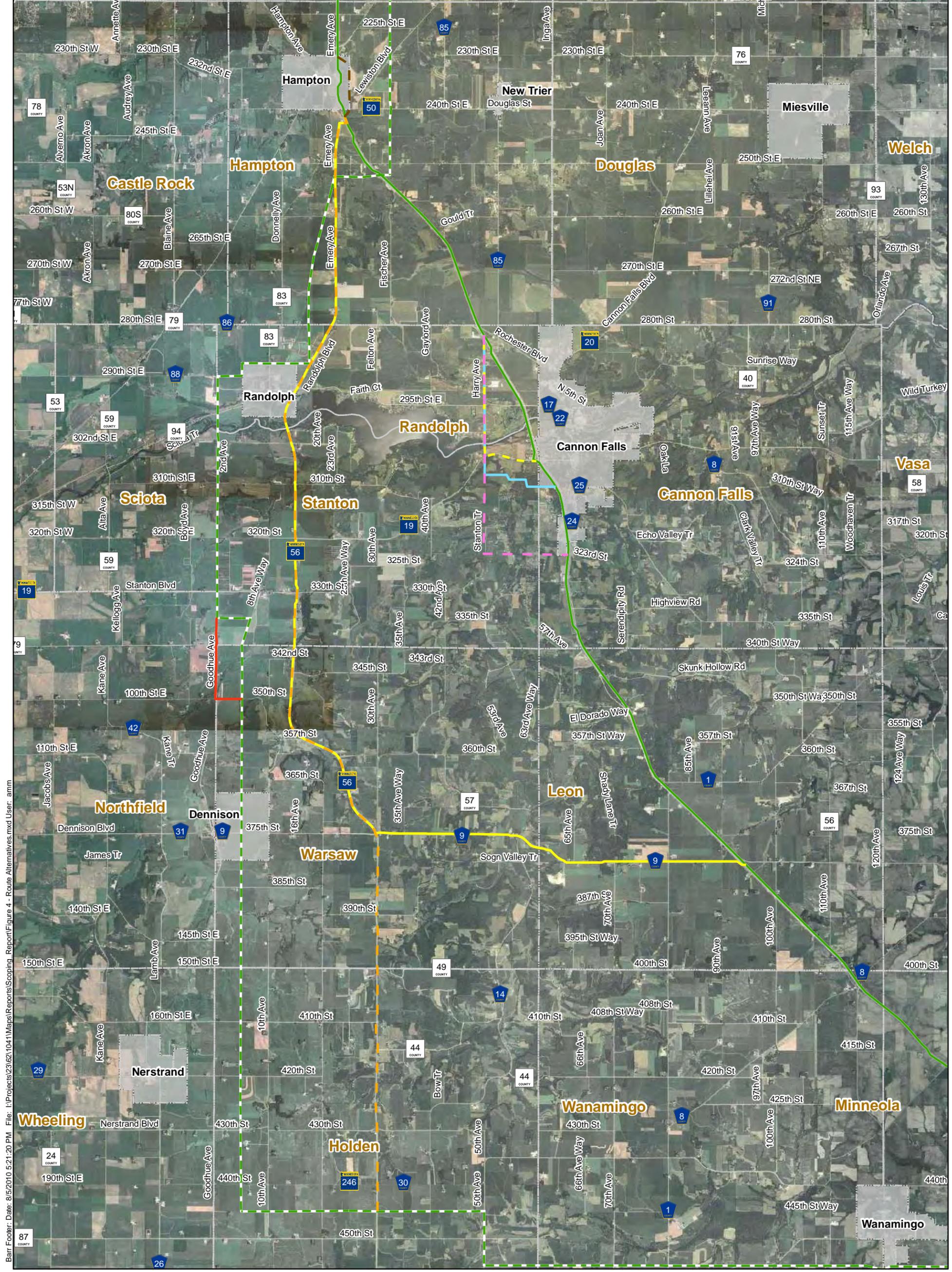


Figure 3
 Route Alternatives Map 2 of 10
 CapX2020
 Hampton - Rochester - LaCrosse
 345 kV Transmission Project

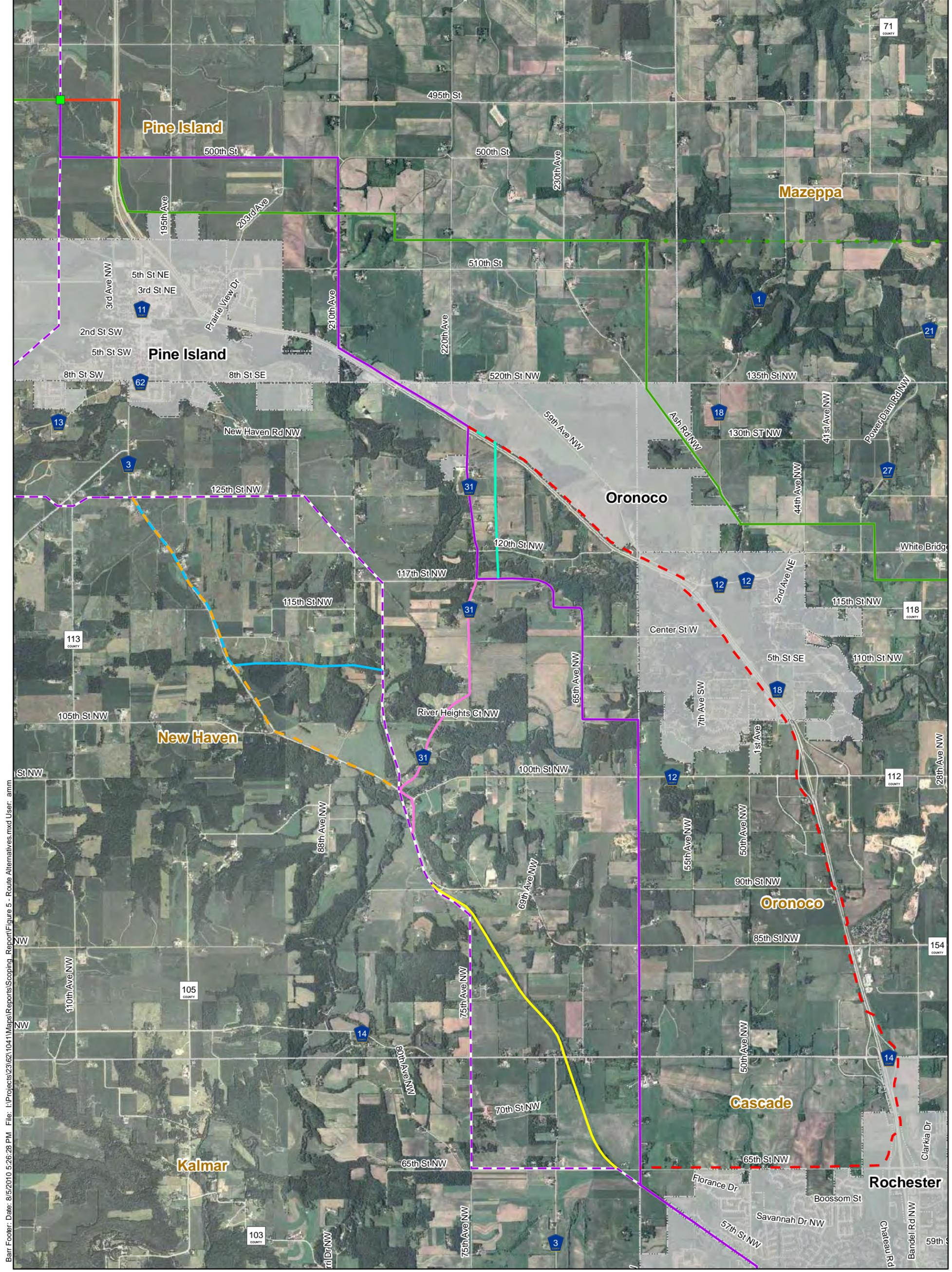


Bart Footer: Date: 8/5/2010 5:21:20 PM File: I:\Projects\23\62\104\1\Map\Reports\Scoping_Report\Figure 4 - Route Alternatives.mxd User: ammm

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|--|---------------------------|----------|
| Applicant's 345 kV | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Proposed Substation Locations ▭ Townships ▭ Municipality | Route Alternatives | |
| — Preferred/Both | — Alternative | | — 1A-003 | — 1B-005 |
| — Dam Option | | — 1P-001 | — 1P-002 | |
| Applicant's 161kV | | — 1P-003 | — 1P-008 | |
| — Preferred/Both | | — 1P-009 | | |
| — Alternative | | | | |



Figure 4
 Route Alternatives Map 3 of 10
 CapX2020
 Hampton - Rochester - LaCrosse
 345 kV Transmission Project



Barr Footer: Date: 8/5/2010 5:26:28 PM File: I:\Projects\231621041\Map\Reports\Scoping_Report\Figure 5 - Route Alternatives.mxd User: ammm

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Applicant's 345 kV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Preferred/Both - - - Alternative ●—● Dam Option <p>Applicant's 161kV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Preferred/Both - - - Alternative | <p>Proposed Substation Locations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <p>Townships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Municipality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> | <p>Route Alternatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — 2A-001 — 2A-002 — 2A-003 — 2B-001 — 2P-001 - - - 2P-002 — 2C3-008 |
|---|--|---|

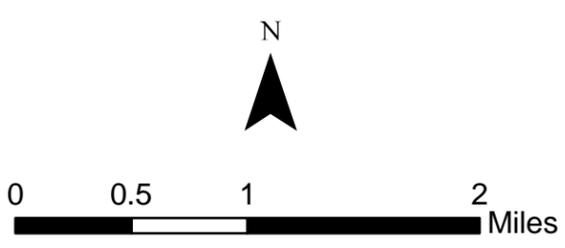
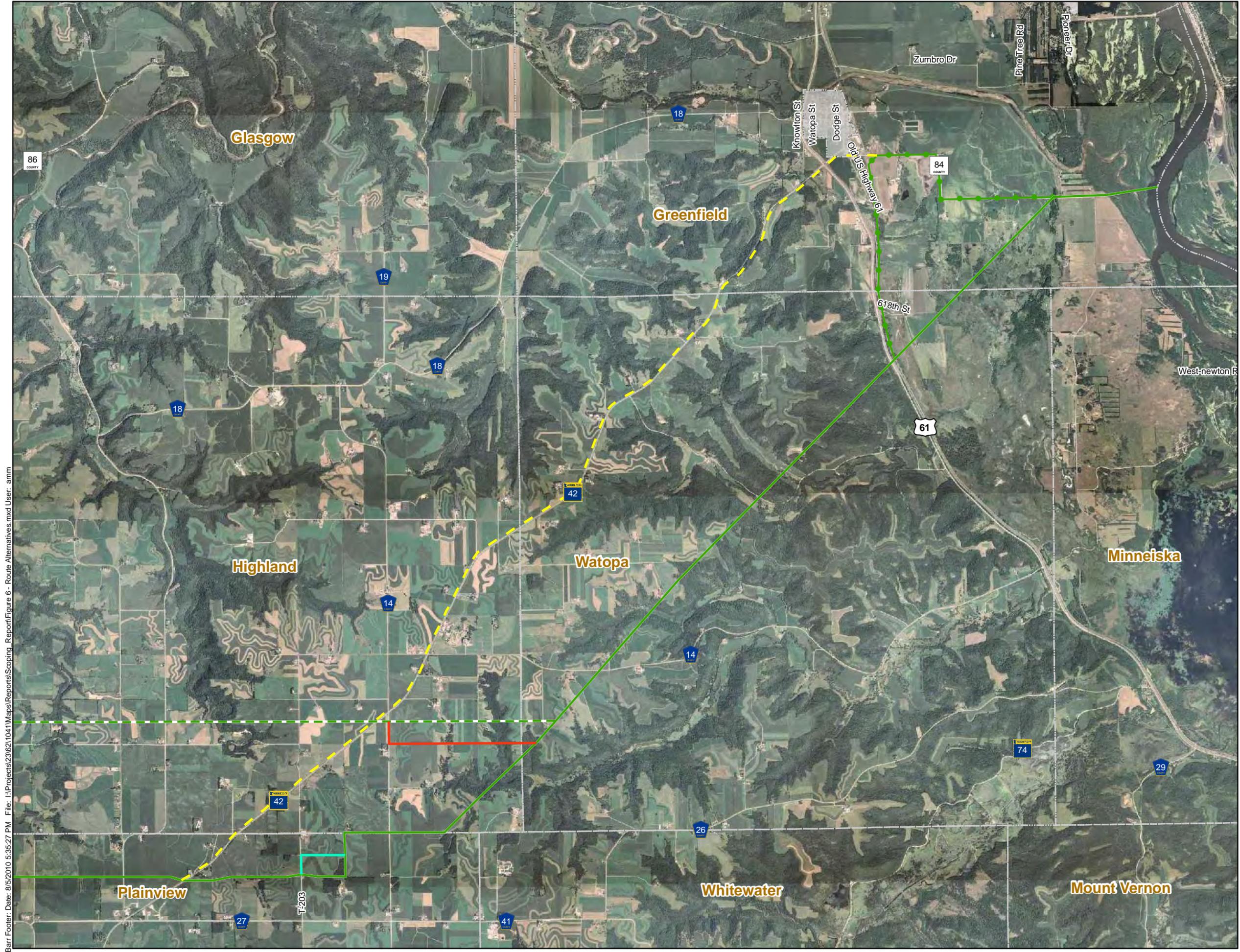


Figure 5
 Route Alternatives Map 4 of 10
 CapX2020
 Hampton - Rochester - LaCrosse
 345 kV Transmission Project



Applicant's 345 kV

- Preferred/Both
- - - Alternative
- Option

Applicant's 161kV

- Preferred/Both
- - - Alternative

■ Proposed Substation Locations

Route Alternative

- 3A-001
- - - 3B-003
- 3P-004

□ Townships

▭ Municipality

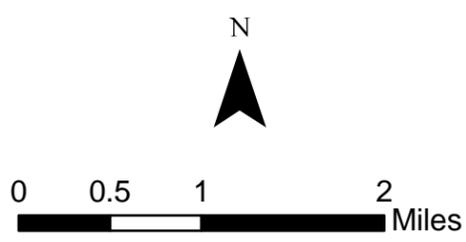
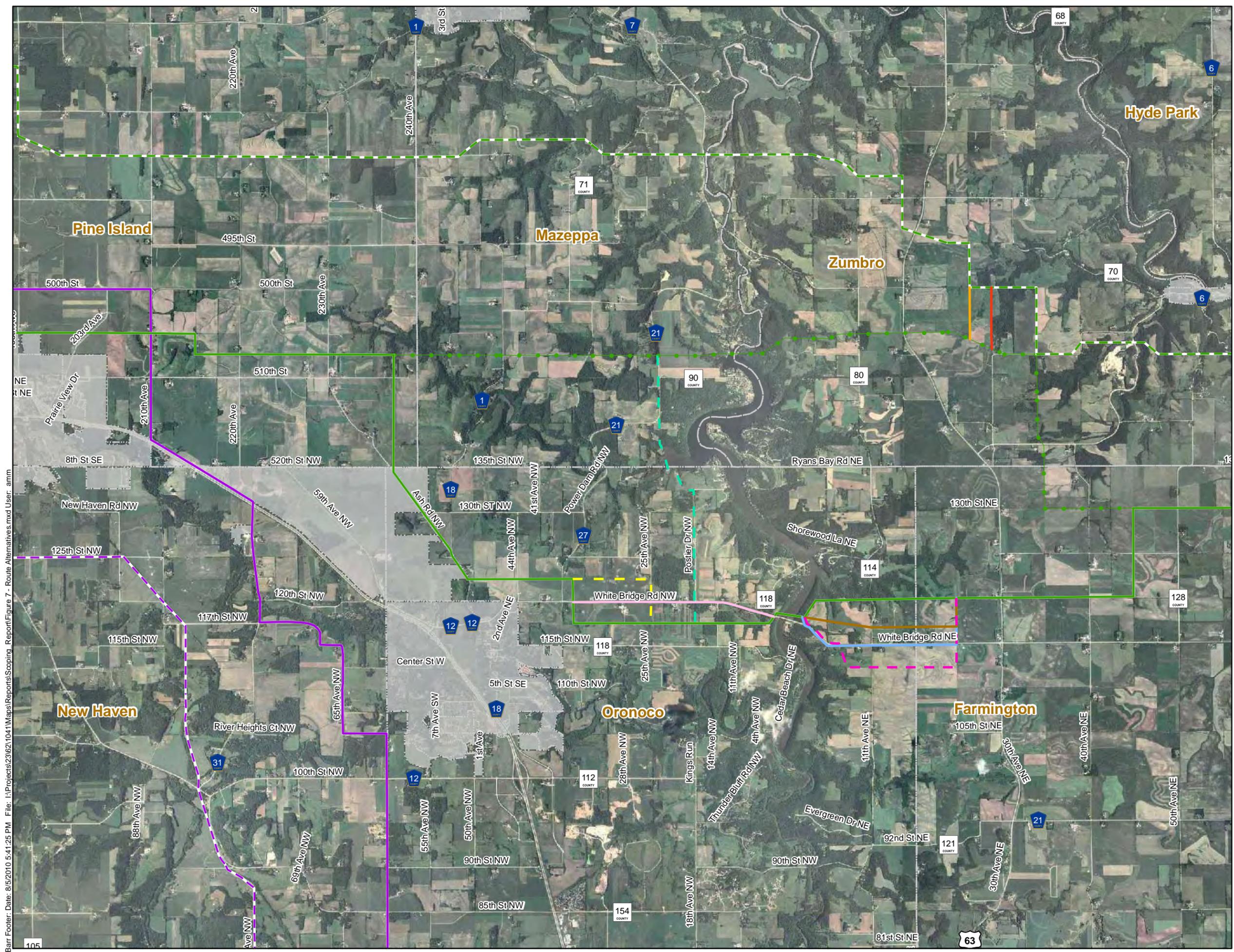


Figure 6
 Route Alternatives Map 5 of 10
 CapX2020
 Hampton - Rochester - LaCrosse
 345 kV Transmission Project

Barr Footer: Date: 8/5/2010 5:35:27 PM File: I:\Projects\231621041\Maps\Reports\Scoping_Report\Figure 6 - Route Alternatives.mxd User: ammm



Applicant's 345 kV

- Preferred/Both
- - - Alternative
- - ● Dam Option

Applicant's 161kV

- Preferred/Both
- - - Alternative

■ Proposed Substation Locations

Route Alternatives

- 3A-003
- 3A-004
- - - 3P-005
- 3P-006
- - - 3P-007
- - - 3P-009
- 3P-010
- 3P-011

Townships

Municipality

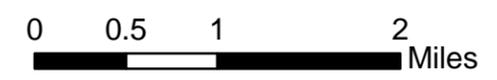
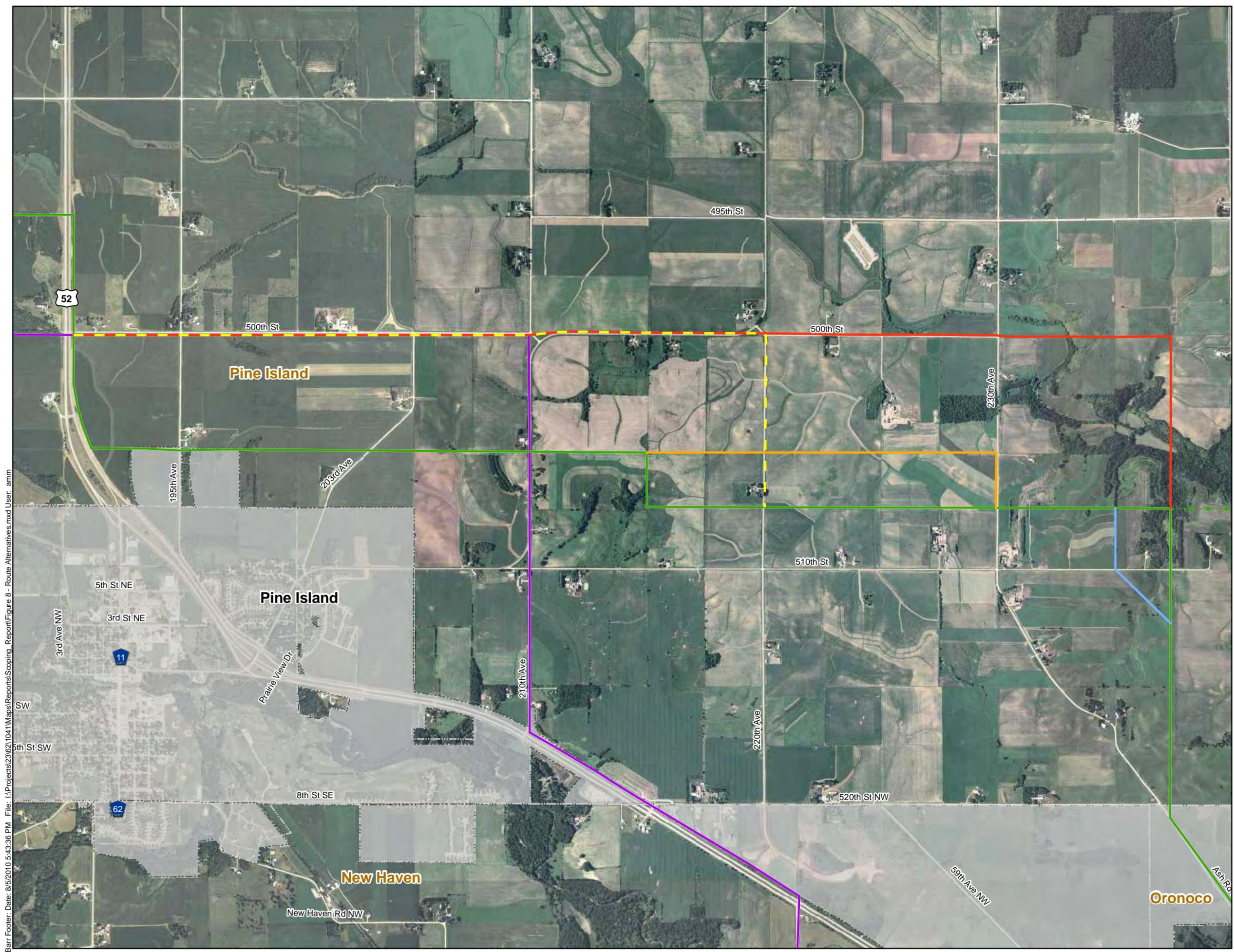


Figure 7

Route Alternatives Map 6 of 10
 CapX2020
 Hampton - Rochester - LaCrosse
 345 kV Transmission Project

Barr Footer: Date: 8/5/2010 5:41:25 PM File: I:\Projects\231621041\Maps\Reports\Scoping_Report\Figure 7 - Route Alternatives.mxd User: ammm



Applicant's 345 kV

- Preferred/Both
- - - Alternative
- Dam Option

Applicant's 161kV

- Preferred/Both
- - - Alternative
- Proposed Substation Locations

Route Alternatives

- 3P-001
- 3P-002
- - - 3P-003
- 3P-008

- Townships
- Municipality

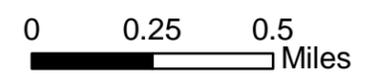
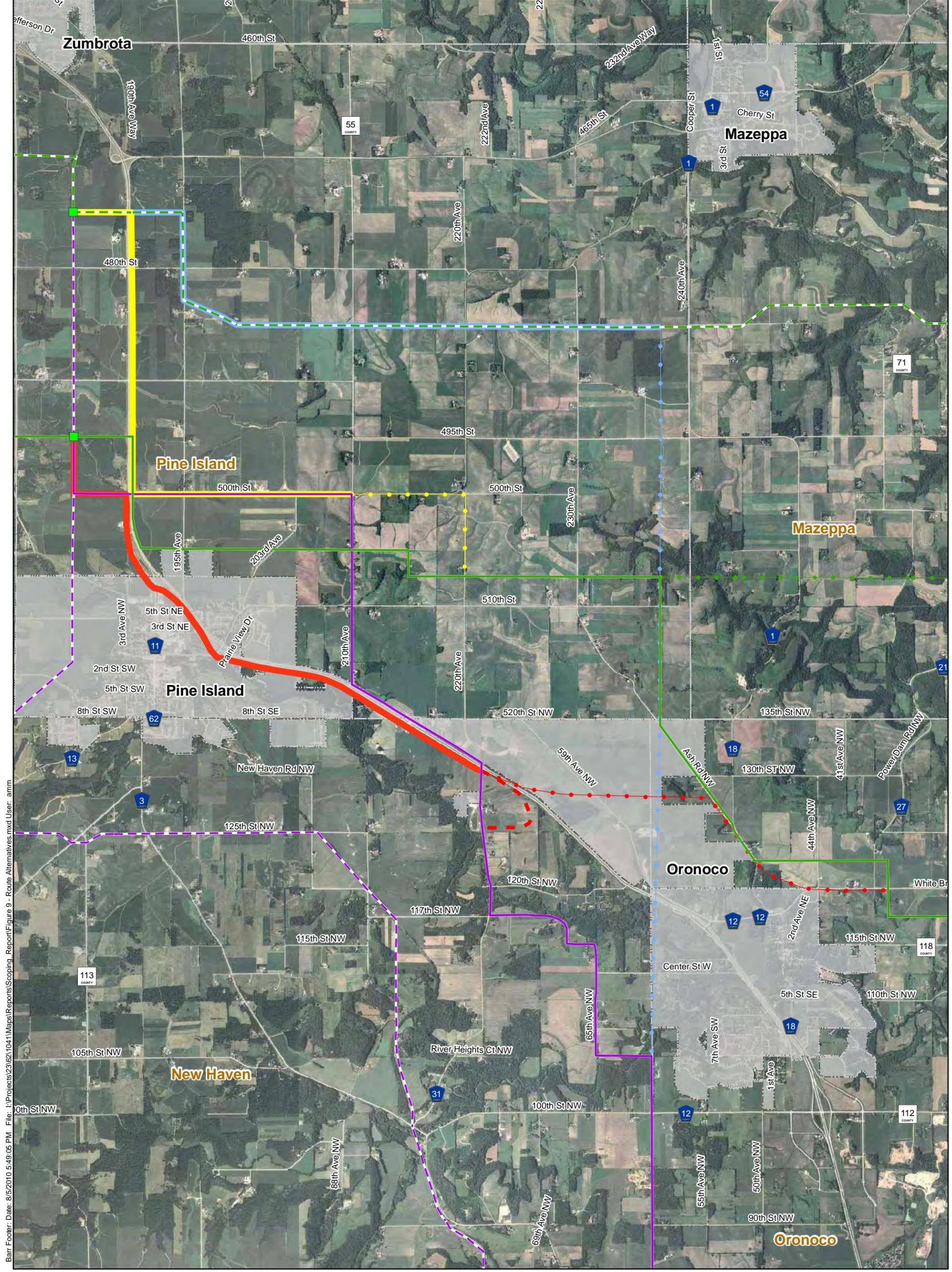


Figure 8

Route Alternatives Map 7 of 10
 CapX2020
 Hampton - Rochester - LaCrosse
 345 kV Transmission Project

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Barr Footer: Date: 8/5/2010 5:49:05 PM File: I:\Projects\23\62\104\1\Maps\Reports\Scoping_Report\Figure 9 - Route Alternatives.mxd User: ammm

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|---|--|
| <p>Applicant's 345 kV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Preferred/Both — Alternative ● Dam Option <p>Applicant's 161kV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Preferred/Both — Alternative | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Proposed Substation Locations Townships Municipality <p>2C3-001</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Segments 2 and 3 Combined — Segment 2 Only ● Segment 3 Only <p>2C3-003</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Segments 2 and 3 Combined — Segment 2 Only <p>2C3-006</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Segments 2 and 3 Combined — Segment 3 Only |
|---|--|

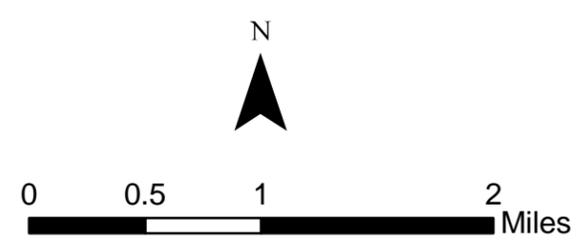
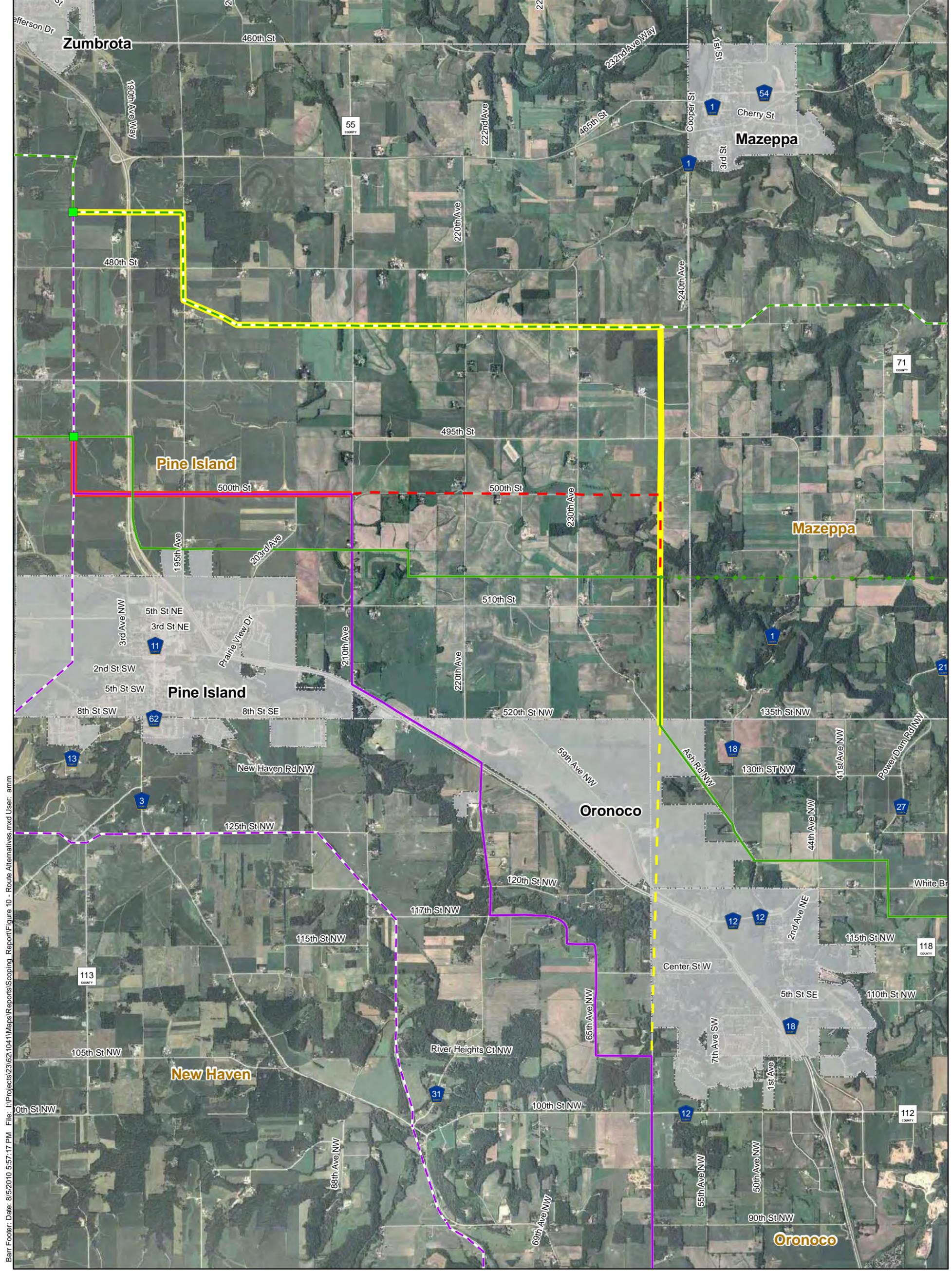


Figure 9
 Route Alternatives Map 8 of 10
 CapX2020
 Hampton - Rochester - LaCrosse
 345 kV Transmission Project



Barr Footer: Date: 8/5/2010 5:57:17 PM File: I:\Projects\231621041\Maps\Reports\Scoping_Report\Figure 10 - Route Alternatives.mxd User: amm

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|---|
| Applicant's 345 kV | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Preferred/Both - - - Alternative ● - - - Dam Option | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Proposed Substation Locations Townships Municipality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Segments 2 and 3 Combined - - - Segment 2 Only |
| Applicant's 161kV | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Preferred/Both - - - Alternative | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Segments 2 and 3 Combined - - - Segment 3 Only | |

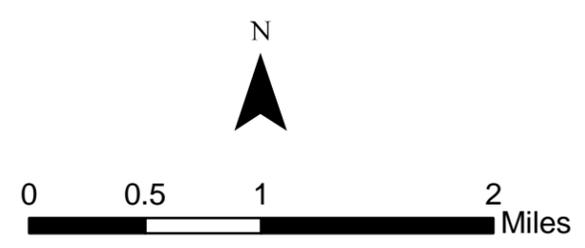
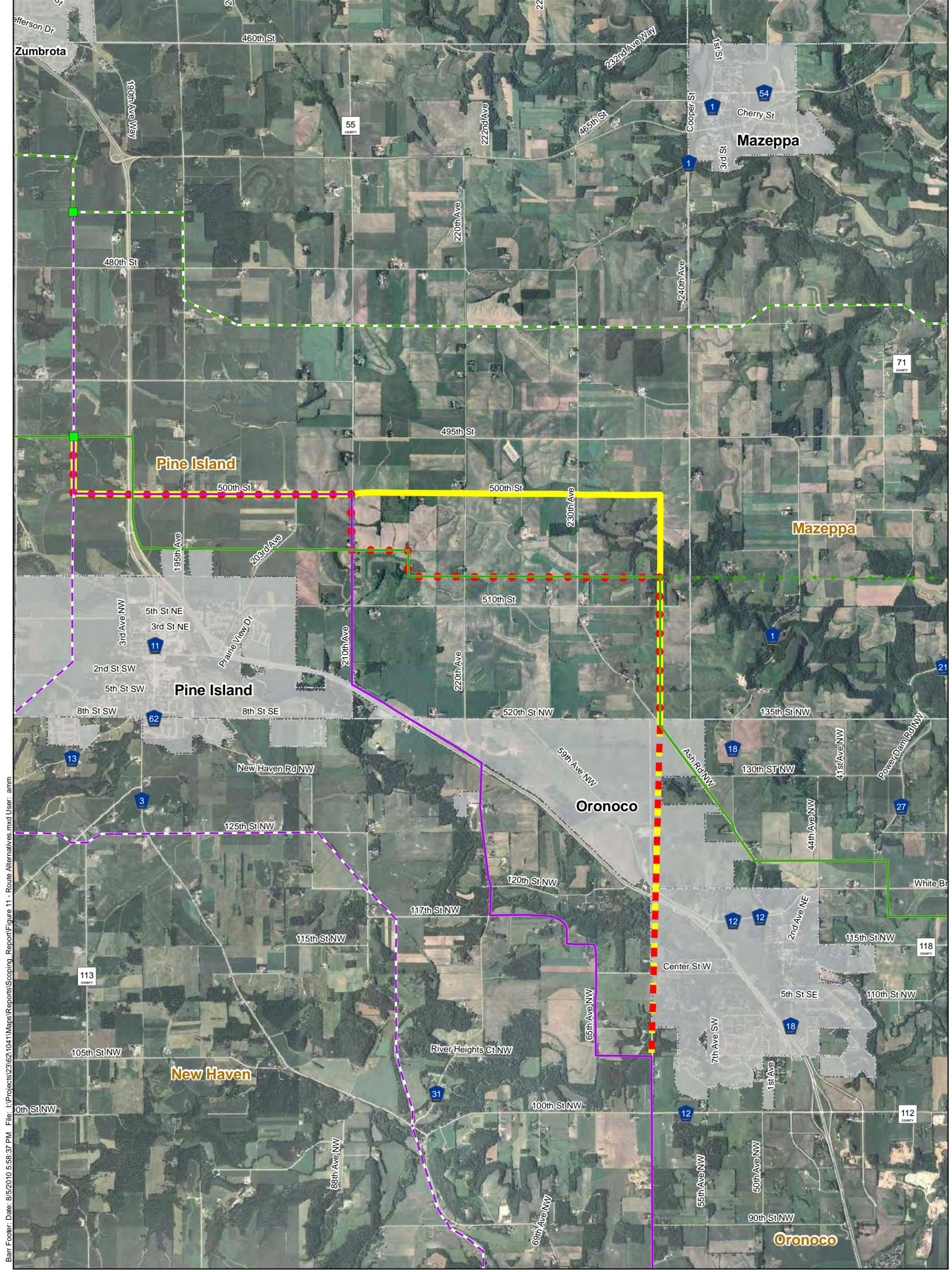


Figure 10
 Route Alternatives Map 9 of 10
 CapX2020
 Hampton - Rochester - LaCrosse
 345 kV Transmission Project



Barr Footer: Date: 8/5/2010 5:58:37 PM File: I:\Projects\23162\1041\Maps\Reports\Scoping_Report\Figure 11 - Route Alternatives.mxd User: amm

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| Applicant's 345 kV | ■ Proposed Substation Locations | 2C3-002 |
| — Preferred/Both | Townships | ● Segments 2 and 3 Combined |
| - - - Alternative | Municipality | ■ Segment 2 Only |
| - · - · - Dam Option | | 2C3-007 |
| Applicant's 161kV | | — Segments 2 and 3 Combined |
| — Preferred/Both | | ■ Segment 2 Only |
| - - - Alternative | | |

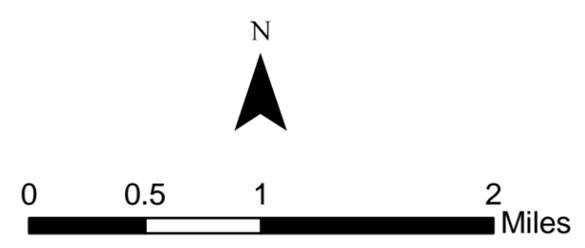
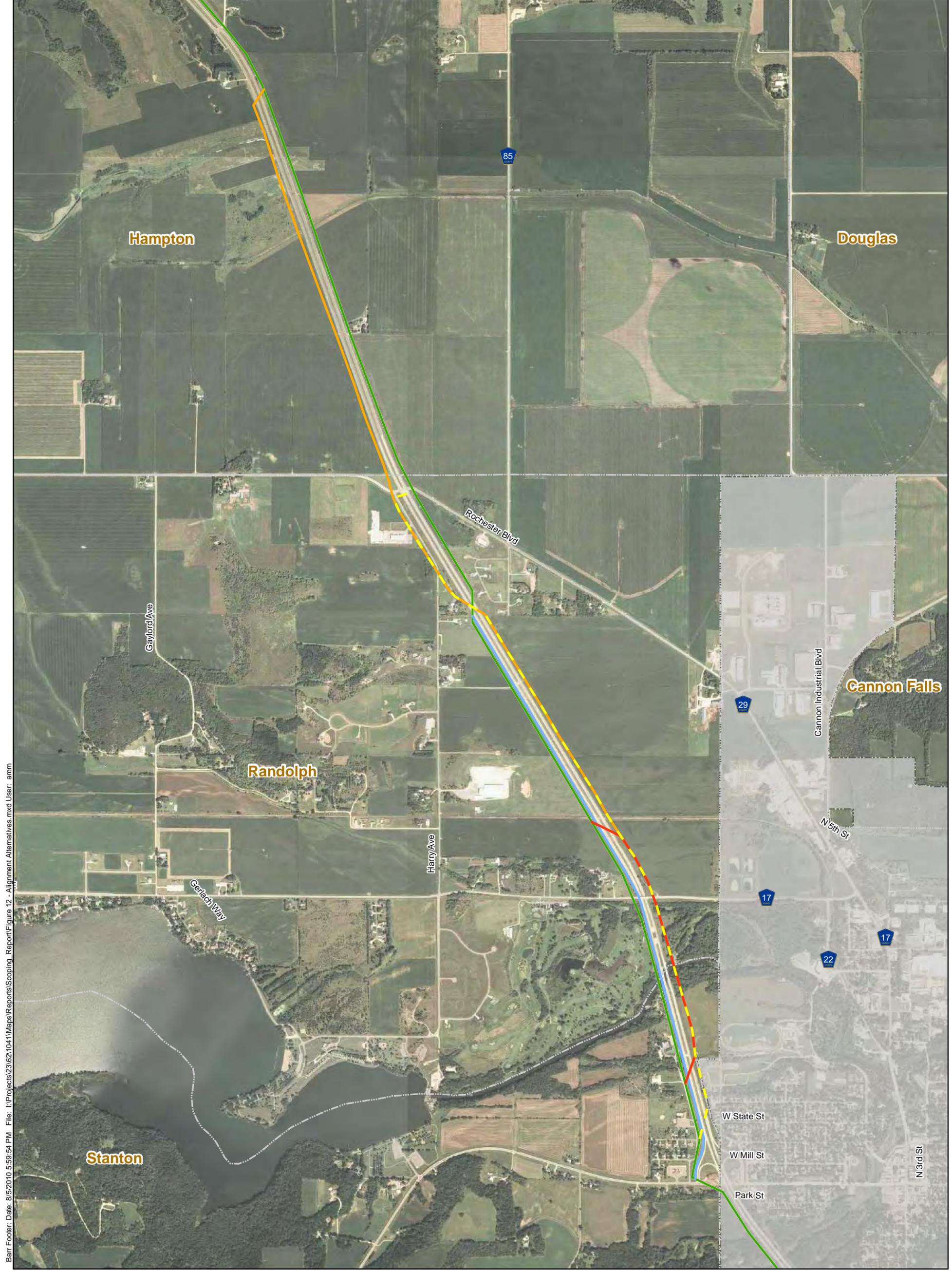


Figure 11
 Route Alternatives Map 10 of 10
 CapX2020
 Hampton - Rochester - LaCrosse
 345 kV Transmission Project



Barr Footer: Date: 8/5/2010 5:59:54 PM File: I:\Projects\23162\1041\Maps\Reports\Scoping_Report\Figure 12 - Alignment Alternatives.mxd User: ammm

- | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| Applicant's 345 kV | | ■ Proposed Substation Locations | Alignment Alternatives | |
| — Preferred/Both | Townships | — Alignment Alt. 1 | — Alignment Alt. 2 | |
| - - - Alternative | Municipality | — Alignment Alt. 3 | — Alignment Alt. 4 | |
| ● Dam Option | | | | |
| Applicant's 161kV | | | | |
| — Preferred/Both | | | | |
| - - - Alternative | | | | |

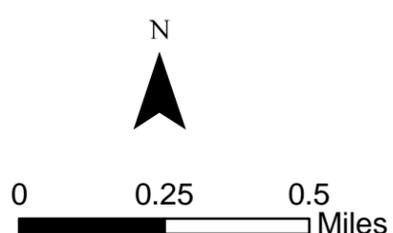
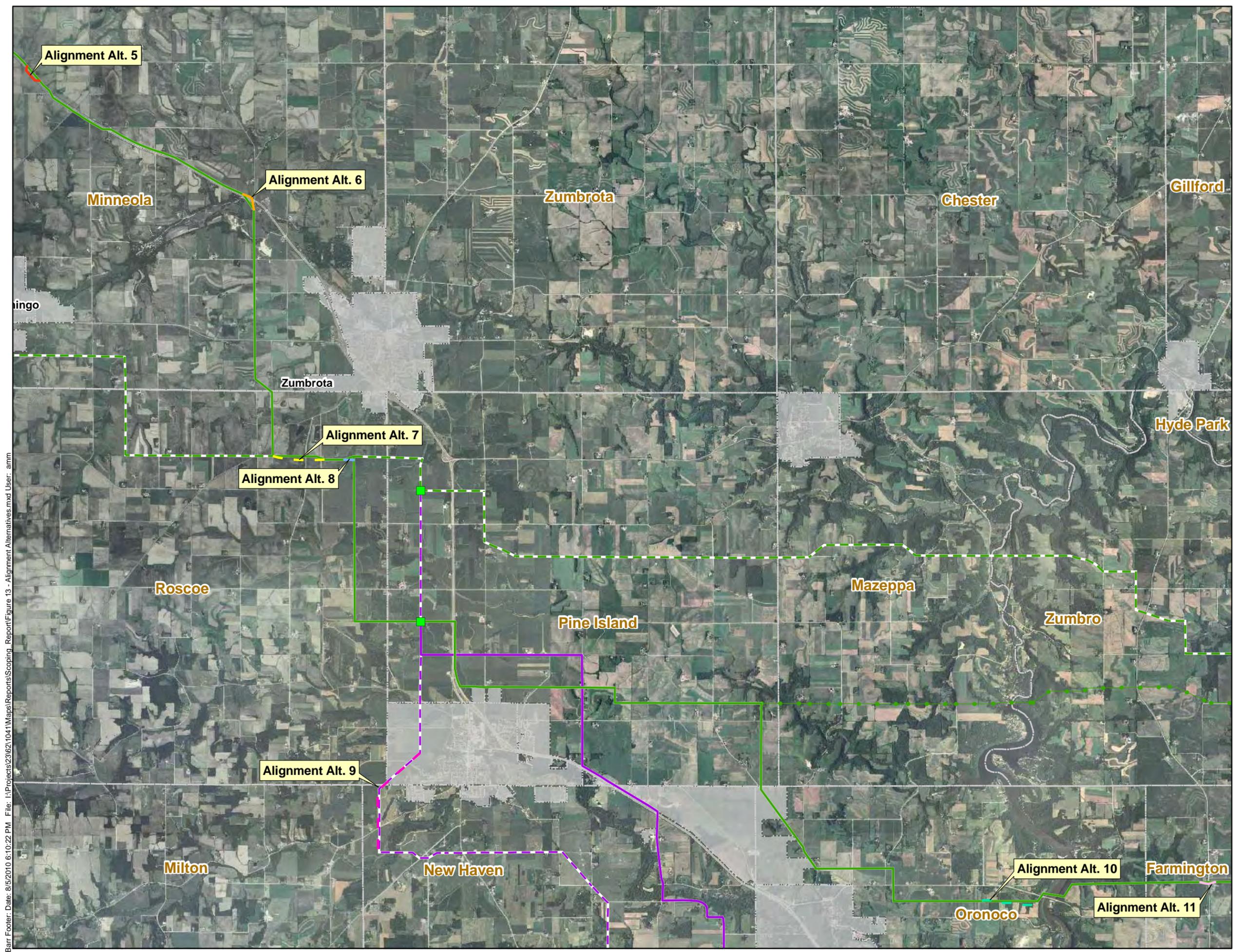


Figure 12
 Alignment Alternatives Map 1 of 3
 CapX2020
 Hampton - Rochester - LaCrosse
 345 kV Transmission Project



Applicant's 345 kV

- Preferred/Both
- - - Alternative
- Dam Option

Applicant's 161kV

- Preferred/Both
- - - Alternative
- Proposed Substation Locations

Alignment Alternatives

- Alignment Alt. 5
- Alignment Alt. 6
- - - Alignment Alt. 7
- Alignment Alt. 8
- - - Alignment Alt. 9
- - - Alignment Alt. 10
- Alignment Alt. 11
- Townships
- Municipality

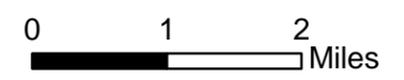


Figure 13

Alignment Alternatives Map 2 of 3
 CapX2020
 Hampton - Rochester - LaCrosse
 345 kV Transmission Project

Bar Footer: Date: 8/5/2010 6:10:22 PM File: I:\Projects\231621041\Maps\Reports\Scoping_Report\Figure 13 - Alignment Alternatives.mxd User: amm



Applicant's 345 kV

- Preferred/Both
- - - Alternative
- - - - Dam Option

Applicant's 161kV

- Preferred/Both
- - - Alternative
- Proposed Substation Locations

Alignment Alternatives

- Alignment Alt. 12
- Townships
- Municipality

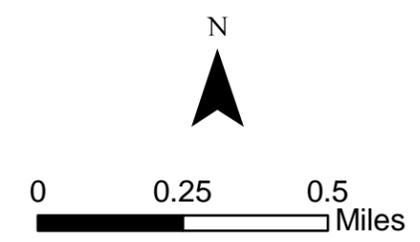


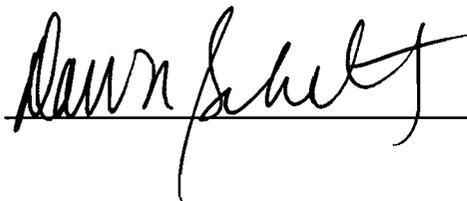
Figure 14
Alignment Alternatives Map 3 of 3
CapX2020
Hampton - Rochester - LaCrosse
345 kV Transmission Project

AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING

I, Dawn Schultz, hereby certify that on September 23, 2010, I deposited in the U.S. mail at Eau Claire, Wisconsin, a copy of the following mailing notice (copy attached) addressed to all persons on the attached service lists.

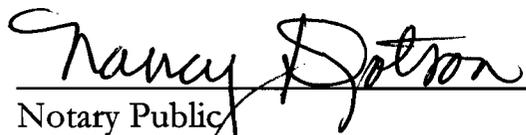
NOTICE OF ROUTE ALTERNATIVES BEING EVALUATED IN THE EIS, AND INFORMATION ON THE TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT, THE ROUTE PERMITTING PROCESS, AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS.

Dated this 23rd day of September, 2010.



Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 23rd day of September, 2010.





Notary Public

NANCY J. DOTSON
NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF WISCONSIN
My commission expires April 13, 2014

FIRST	LAST	COMPANY	ADDRESS1	ADDRESS2	CITY	STATE	ZIP
Sharon	Schumache	Clerk	Highland Township	58121 County Road 4	Plainview	MN	55964
Lisa	Mohler	Clerk	Mazeppa Township	40266 608th Street	Zumbro Fa	MN	55991
Edwin	Jostock	Clerk	Zumbro Township	34051 574th St	Rochester	MN	55906
Joseph	Vroman	Clerk/ Tr	Cascade Township	411 Lowry Court NW	Rochester	MN	55901
Terrence	Gehrens	Clerk	Kalmar Township	PO Box 837	Byron	MN	55920
Jeff	Eastman	Clerk	New Haven Township	6950 100th Street NW	Pine Isla	MN	55936
Sandy	Jessen	Deputy Ci	City of Oronoco	City Hall, 115 2nd St	Oronoco	MN	55960
George	Derscheid	Clerk	Kenyon Township	159 510th Street	Kenyon	MN	55946
Kathleen	Miller	City Admi	City of Cannon Falls	City Hall, 918 River	Cannon Fa	MN	55009
Deborah	Stark	Clerk	Cannon Falls Township	30715 Woodhaven Trl	Cannon Fa	MN	55009
Abraham G.	Algadi	City Admi	City of Pine Island	250 S. Main St., P.O.	Pine Isla	MN	55963
David	Arndt	Clerk	Pine Island Township	21196 510th St	Pine Isla	MN	55963
Michael	Boulton	City Admi	City of Wanamingo	301 Main Street, PO B	Wanamingo	MN	55983
Melissa	Peteler	Clerk	Minneola Township	42400 145th Avenue Wa	Zumbrota	MN	55992
Geri	Baumgartn	Clerk	Randolph Township	PO Box 142	Randolph	MN	55065
Jessica	Page	Clerk	Wanamingo Township	45655 110th Ave	Wanamingo	MN	55983
Brad	Anderson	Clerk	Leon Township	10679 375th Street	Cannon Fa	MN	55009
Dan	Quam	Clerk	Cherry Grove Township	9118 County 12 Blvd.	Kenyon	MN	55946
Barbara	St. John	Clerk	Holden Township	44866 40th Ave	Kenyon	MN	55946
Jimmilee	Miller	Clerk	Warsaw Township	1661 385th Street	Dennison	MN	55018
Sheila	Ekstrom	Clerk	City of Randolph	P.O. Box 173	Randolph	MN	55065
Eunice	Schiller	Clerk	Hampton Township	22885 Goodwin Avenue	Hampton	MN	55031
Marjorie	Randolph	Clerk	Northfield Township	11731 90th Street East	Northfield	MN	55057
Mary	Schultz	Clerk	City of Hampton	P.O. Box 128	Hampton	MN	55031
Steven	Kirch	Clerk	Roscoe Township	14959 Co Road 12	Zumbrota	MN	55992
Judy	Haglund	Clerk	Oronoco Township	12335 25th Avenue NW	Oronoco	MN	55960
David	Schwanke	Clerk	Farmington Township	6902 Highway 247 NE	Elgin	MN	55932
Virginia	Kronebusc	Clerk	Plainview Township	21512 County Road 25	Plainview	MN	55964
Susan	Harris	City Cler	City of Kellogg	350 E Belvidere Ave #	Kellogg	MN	55945
Nancy	Johnson	Clerk	Greenfield Township	15446 North County Ro	Wabasha	MN	55981
Jerry	Grabowski	Clerk	Watopa Township	58384 170th Avenue	Kellogg	MN	55945
Mary	Scheide	Clerk to the Board	Dakota County	1590 Highway 55	Hastings	MN	55033-2372
Kurt	Chatfield	Principal Planner	Dakota County	14955 Galaxie Avenue	Apple Valley	MN	55124-4519
Scott	Arneson	County Administrator/ Clerk	Goodhue County	509 W. 5th Street	Red Wing	MN	55066
David	Johnson	County Administrator/ Clerk	Wabasha County	625 Jefferson Avenue	Wabasha	MN	55981
Richard	Devlin	County Administrator	Olmsted County	151 SE 4th Street	Rochester	MN	55904
Gary	Weiers	Rice County Administrator	Rice County	Government Services Building, 320 NW 3rd St.	Faribault	MN	55021
Julie	Runkel	Director, Planning & Zoning	Rice County	Government Services Building, 320 NW 3rd Street	Faribault	MN	55021