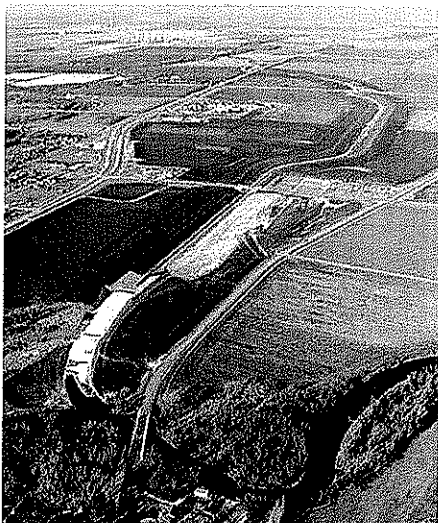




**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Flood Risk Management: Red River of the North, Breckenridge, Minnesota



Stage 1 diversion channel – inlet near city of Breckenridge, 11th Street Bridge over the Ottertail River, looking north.

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Location/Description

Breckenridge is in Wilkin County in western Minnesota, approximately 200 miles northwest of the Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, metropolitan area. The Red River of the North and the Bois de Sioux River bound the city on the west. The Otter Tail River flows from the east, bisecting the city. Wahpeton, North Dakota, lies west across the Red River from Breckenridge.

The devastating flood of 1997 in the Red River basin generated a strong determination by all levels of government to implement permanent flood risk management projects for urban communities along the Red River of the North.

Background

Section 205 of the 1948 Flood Control Act, as amended, authorizes construction of small projects for flood risk management; Federal cost is limited to \$7 million. The project at Breckenridge was started under this authority; however, the Federal portion of the estimated costs significantly exceeded the Federal limit. The project

was transitioned to a specifically authorized project in 2001.

A 2001 Corps feasibility study recommended a high-flow diversion channel north of the Otter Tail River to the Red River and two separable permanent levee reaches that would protect all of Breckenridge. Congress authorized the project in 2001. The project cooperation agreement was executed in August 2002. The Office of Management and Budget cleared the report in April 2007. The project was reauthorized at a higher cost in the 2010 Energy and Water Appropriation Act.

Status

The project is divided into three stages: Stage 1 - the diversion channel, and Stages 2a and 2b - the levee work in the city. The diversion channel was completed in June 2005; it is operational and was used for the first time in summer 2005. During the 2006 and 2009 floods, the diversion channel prevented \$26 million and \$46 million in damages, respectively.

Construction on Stages 2b1 and 2b2 started in 2009. Stage 2b3 construction will begin in spring 2010 and Stage 2a will be ready for a construction start in 2010 pending Federal funding.

Authority

The Water Resource Development Act of 2000, as amended

Fiscal

Project design and construction costs are to be shared with the non-Federal sponsor. Operation and maintenance costs are the responsibility of the non-Federal sponsor. The State of Minnesota is assisting the city in cost sharing project construction funding.

Estimated Federal cost	\$25,000,000
Estimated non-Federal cost	\$14,360,000
Total estimated cost	\$39,360,000
Fiscal year 2010 Federal funding	\$5,000,000
Total Federal funding to date	\$24,593,000