

From: [Tkachuk, Tyler](#)
To: [Von Holdt, Crystal L - DNR](#)
Cc: [Cunningham, Brian J - DNR](#); [Allness, Michele M - DNR \(Shelly\)](#); [Jim Schumacher](#); [Isaac Schrock](#); [Neeve, Kyle](#); [Larson, Zachary](#)
Subject: Requesting more info: Epic's West Road state application - Response
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:25:19 AM
Attachments: [West Road Temporary Crossings XS 240411.pdf](#)
[West Road Temporary Crossings 240411.pdf](#)
[Alternative 3.2 West Road Additional Restoration 240411.pdf](#)
[WDNR Responses Permit 240411.pdf](#)

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Good morning Crystal,

This email is the teams response to your previous two emails with questions regarding the C. of Verona - West Road IP application. The PDFs include new exhibits as well as a question/response PDF combining previous questions from the WDNR.

If you have any further questions or need additional clarification, please reach out.

Thank you!

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1. PROPOSED TEMPORARY CROSSING DETAILS: Please provide additional clarifying details regarding the temporary stream crossing. The temporary crossing was mentioned in the narrative, but I was unable to locate detailed plan information about the type, duration, location, and number of temporary crossings. Please provide details for an overview of all temporary crossings, each crossing location and design (top view, cross section view, longitudinal view), description of the length of time the crossing will be in place, and the removal (and stream restoration) details.

Two new exhibits were created to display the temporary crossings in plan view as well as in cross section view.

1. [West Road_Temporary Crossings_240409.pdf](#)
2. [West Road_Temporary Crossings XS_240409.pdf](#)

Timber mats will be used as a temporary causeway within the wetland areas. The roadway (bridge) crossing will take approximately 18 months to construct. The main channel of the existing Sugar River will remain open as cranes will be on either side of the existing Sugar River. The western fork (oxbow) of the Sugar River will be filled in with permanent impacts.

2. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT: The proposed plans include cutting and handling of sod mats during winter. The department has concerns that the cut sod mats may freeze and become brittle, reducing the survival rate and success of sod mats for bank stabilization. Also, the overall seeding plan indicated seeding to be completed during winter. Placing the seed outside the growing season is not uncommon but since the seed will not germinate and establish vegetative cover in time for spring runoff (when site stabilization is needed), the stabilization plan will need to include secondary practices to stabilize the disturbed areas while seed is still germinating.
 - a. Are there additional details you can provide about the sod mats that can be provided to address the concern with the survival of sod mats as bank stabilization practices?
 - b. Please update the erosion control and revegetation plans to make sure there are intermediate practices such as erosion blanket or a similar construction site erosion control practice found online at [Storm water construction technical standards | STORM WATER TECHNICAL STANDARDS, MODELS AND BMPS | Wisconsin DNR](#).

In regards in the wet versus in the dry construction, we were not planning to connect flows until the following year to allow vegetative cover to establish. It was anticipated to wait one year prior to connecting flows.

In relation to concerns of sod mats being adversely affected by frost/freezing, the mats can be placed inside one week of rough excavation of the channel and placement of root wads without too much concern on our end. Native plant nurseries regularly store flats of plugs on the ground, uncovered, in winter with limited mortality. One week of storage could be the cutoff between harvesting and placement over toe-wood. In discussion with WDNR on April 9, 2024, the WDNR Fisheries Specialist was comfortable with this approach.

3. STREAM HABITAT STRUCTURES: The narrative indicates LUNKERS are proposed for in-stream aquatic habitat. Some in-stream habitat features are challenging to install with flow present in the channel while other types of habitat features are much easier to install with flow present. For LUNKERS, it is often very difficult to install this structure in dry (no flow) conditions. Having flow present helps you set the structure at the right elevation with the water's surface elevation.

- a. We encourage you to consider updating the plan to install LUNKERS in the newly restored stream after the flow has been routed to the new channel. Please provide updated plans incorporating the adjusted sequence for installing LUNKERS after flow is routed to the new channel.

We collected reference reach data during base flow conditions and have a good understanding of the relationship between low flow elevations in the typical cross sections; and, therefore, where to position the tops of lunkers, etc. to avoid rotting. Also, we fully expect "base flow elevation" conditions to immediately become established on excavation of the new channel for final field adjustments given the depth to groundwater noted on-site.

4. WETLANDS - BALANCING NET LOSS: In reviewing the thorough alternatives analysis and supporting delineation information, the Department sees a possible opportunity for wetland enhancement of approximately 7 acres along the river valley. The enhancement of an existing farmed wet meadow will help reduce the gap a little more to reach a balance closer to "no net loss".
 - a. The farmed wet meadow (approx. 7 ac in size) located on the east bank and is at the location where the Southern Utility Crossing is proposed. If Epic is willing to stop farming (mowing) and establish native wetland vegetation in the field (approximately 7 acres), the overall permanent wetland impacts are better balanced with a 7-ac wetland restoration that returns a farmed, degraded wetland to a natural community with wetland functions and values.
 - b. Please provide details on how Epic will work to re-establish a native wet meadow community in place of the farmed field.

The project will incorporate the 6.56 acres of farmed wet meadow as requested. A new exhibit was created to show this new area (Additional Restoration) and the addition of a new non-wetland restoration area (upland buffer) that is 3.53 acres. Please see exhibit [Alternative 3.2_West Road_Additional Restoration.pdf](#). The project will monitor the wetland plants for up to 2 years after construction is complete. Native wetland seed mix will be added to these areas.

5. WETLANDS - MITIGATION: The Department is evaluating the submitted mitigation information (the purchase of mitigation credits for impacts to wetlands from the proposed Alternative 3.2. When a final mitigation calculation is available, I'll provide you with the next steps for you to complete the mitigation credit purchase.

Sounds good.

6. OTHER PERMITS REQUIRED: A friendly reminder of the other permits, approvals, permissions, etc. that are required to be obtained before construction begins. The items below are not an all-inclusive list but rather are a few specific reminders:
 - a. Notice of Intent (NOI) for construction site WPDES state-coverage is required which will include review of storm water management treatment practices.

The NOI is anticipated to be submitted around 90% plans.

- b. Please clarify the timing of the pending wetland and waterway permit application process and Epic's local floodplain permitting process. Is Epic seeking the local floodplain permitting concurrently with this permit application process or waiting until after the waterway/wetland permit decision is finalized before pursuing the floodplain permit?

Epic is waiting until after the waterway/wetland permit decision is finalized before pursuing the floodplain permit. Preliminary floodplain analysis has been completed.

- c. DNR's Real Estate Program to obtain land rights for any temporary and permanent impacts to the Military Ridge State Trail. It is also likely impacts will require a land conversion related to Federal LAWCON encumbrance. Please reach out to real estate staff (Kaylin Helm: Kaylin.helm@wisconsin.gov) when you have determined the final crossing locations and impacts.

Sounds good.

- d. There may be other permits required in the future when private utilities are proposed to be installed within the Southern Utility Crossing location. The proposed utility work for this permit process is to authorize the wetland disturbance to lay the conduit that would hold utility lines in the future.

Correct.

Additional Email questions:

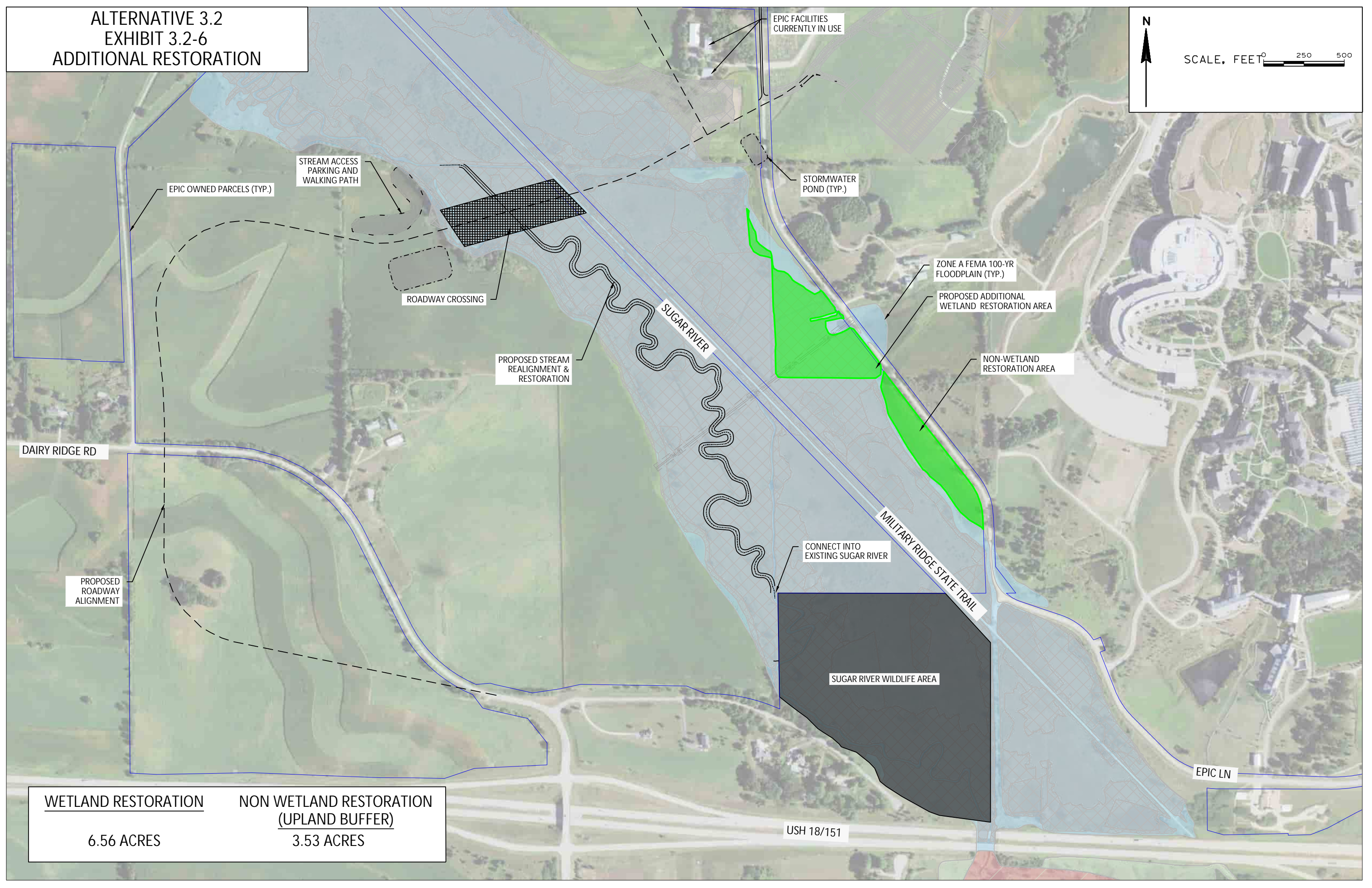
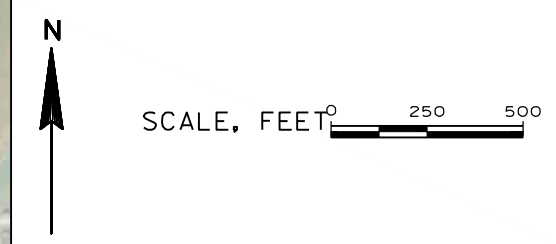
1. What type of watermain is to be placed in the Southern Utility Crossing? Is this to be used for wastewater or drinking water as a "watermain" utility?
 - a. Ductile Iron and/or High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipe. It is to be used for drinking water as a watermain utility for the City of Verona.
2. What is the timing and duration for all proposed temporary impacts for the Southern Crossing utility? For the roadway (bridge) crossing?
 - a. The Southern Crossing for utilities will be approximately 3 months in duration, however, it will be done right before the stream restoration to avoid duplication of wetland impacts. The roadway (bridge) crossing will be approximately 18 months in duration.
3. Within the various wetland disturbance footprints drawn on the plan sheets, where are the specific limits of temporary wetland impacts? Please also clarify the type of activity for each temporary impact – for example, is the temporary impact at a given location due to timber mats? Ground disturbance from equipment operation? Excavating and backfilling?

The Southern Crossing is all temporary wetland impacts. These impacts would be for excavating and backfilling a casing pipe to facilitate watermain and sanitary sewer forcemain in the future, which may include timber mats depending on construction methods.

The other temporary wetland impacts are around the roadway (bridge) crossing and is for excavating and backfilling of the watermain and ground disturbance from equipment operation using timber matting.

A new exhibit combining roadway crossing and utility impacts was created displaying total temporary impacts and total permanent impacts for Alternative 3.2 (Alternative 3.2_West Road_Overall Impacts.pdf).

ALTERNATIVE 3.2
EXHIBIT 3.2-6
ADDITIONAL RESTORATION



WETLAND RESTORATION	NON WETLAND RESTORATION (UPLAND BUFFER)
6.56 ACRES	3.53 ACRES



PROJECT

WEST ROAD

CTH G TO COUNTRY VIEW ROAD
20XX-XXX
VERONA, WISCONSIN

CLIENT

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J/R	DATE	DESCRIPTION

KEY PLAN

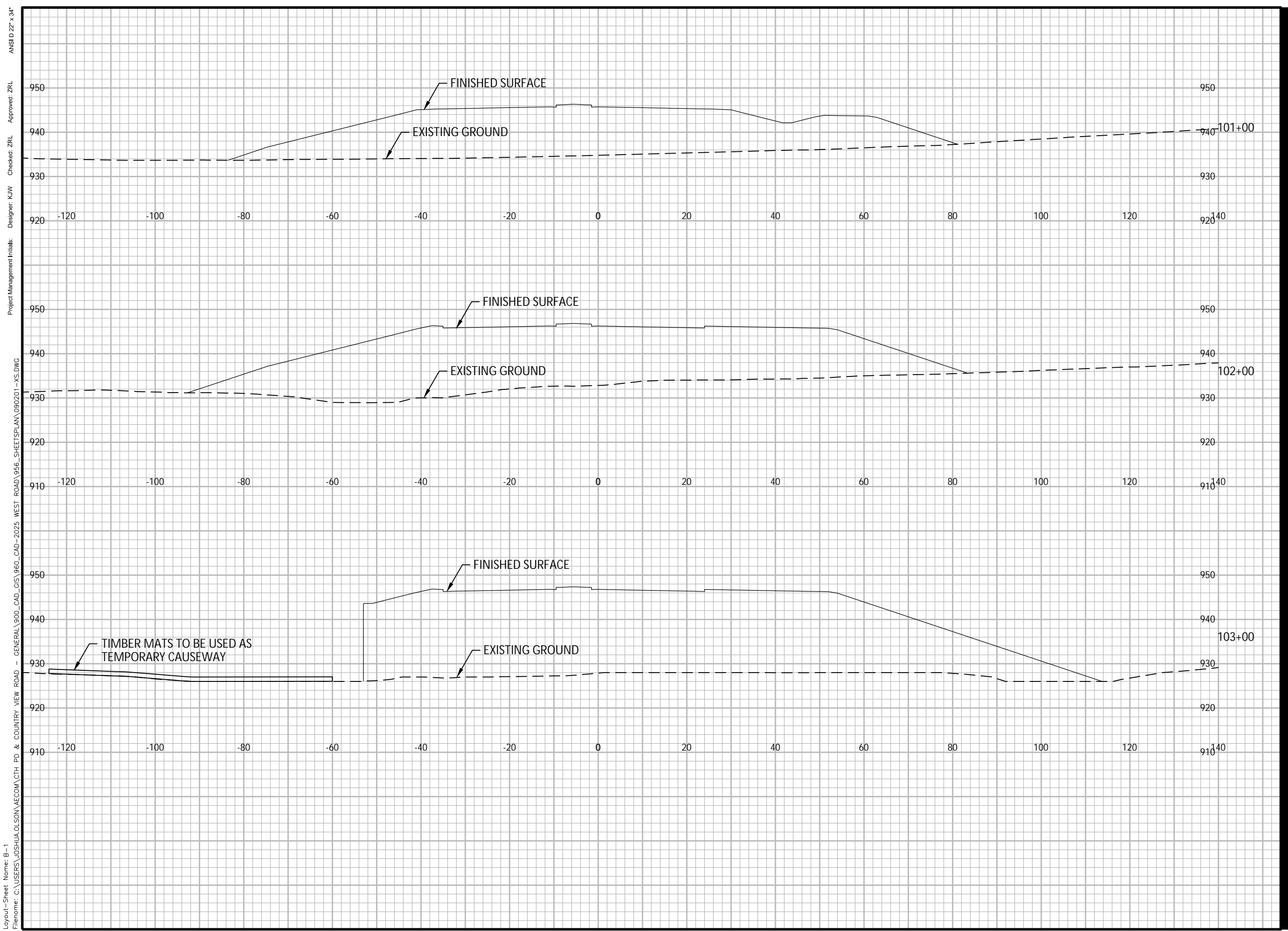
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SHEET TITLE

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XS-B-1



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 Designer: K/W
 Checker: Z/L
 Approved: Z/L
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2023-XXX

SHEET TITLE

SHEET NUMBER

XS-B-2

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Approved: ZRL

Checked: ZRL

Designer: K/W

Project Management Initials:

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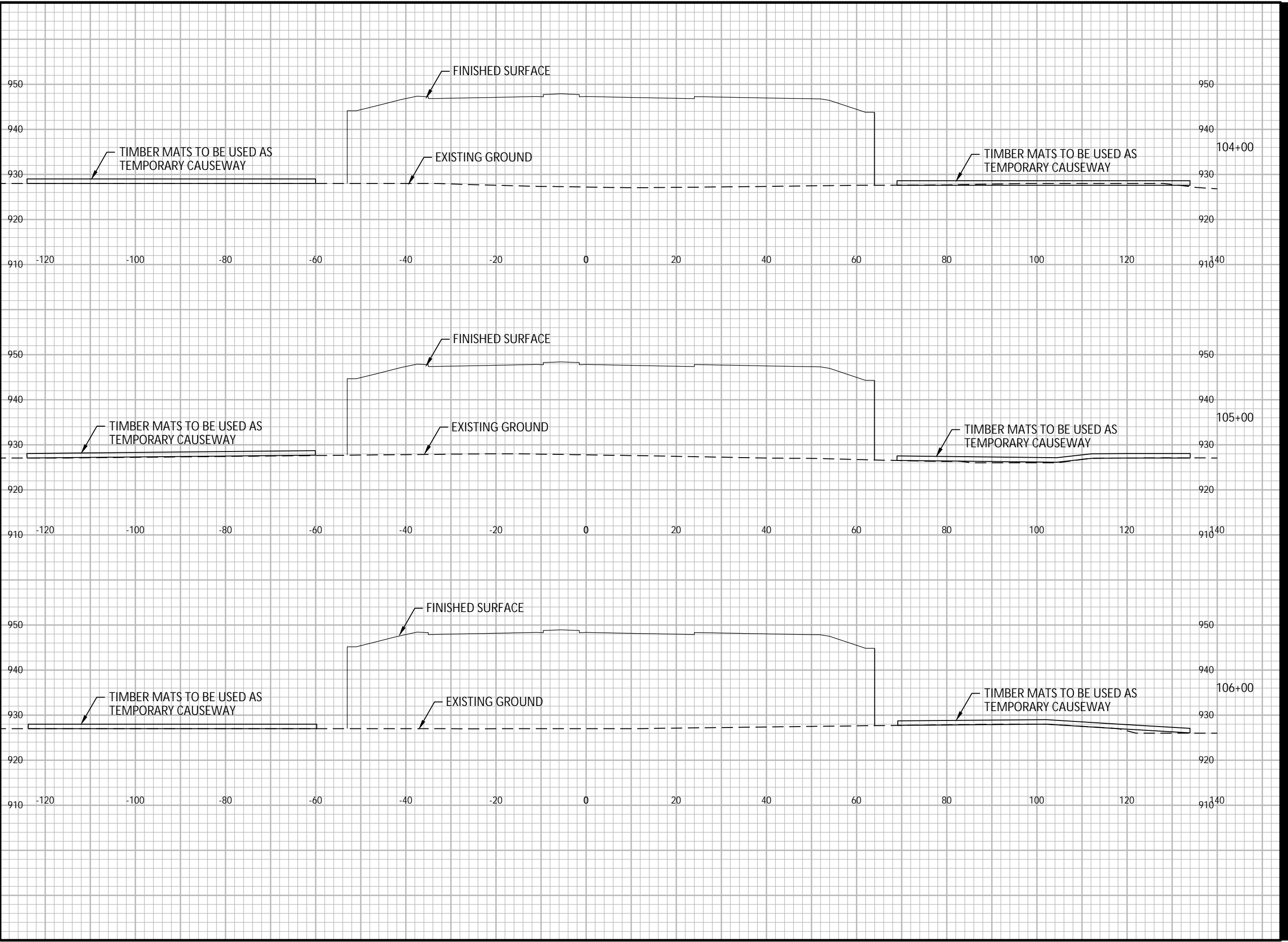
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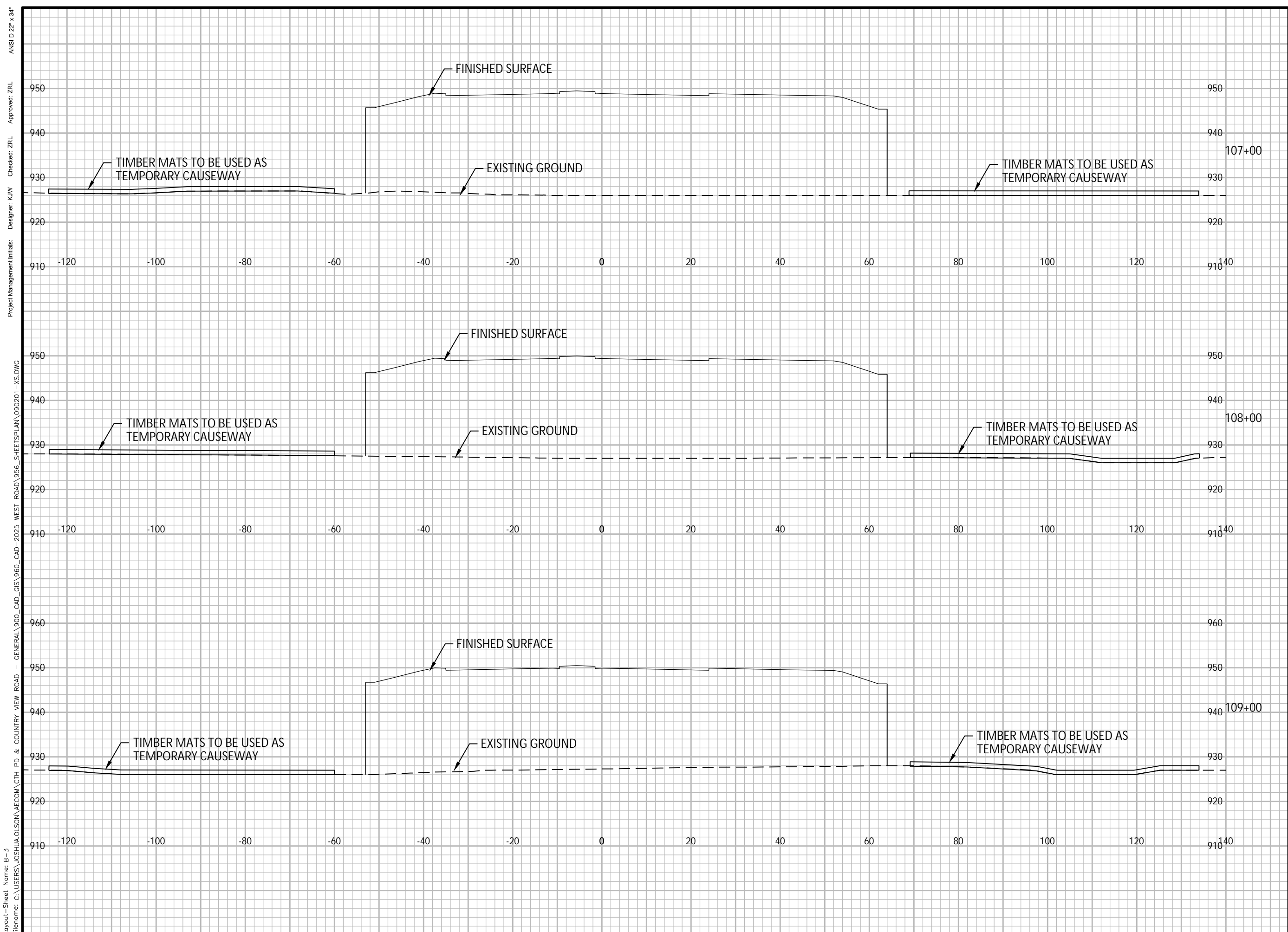
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SHEET TITLE

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XS-B-3



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