



March 8, 2022

To: Chair, Rep. Fue Lee
House Capital Investment Committee
485 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Ranking Member, Rep. Dean Urdahl
House Capital Investment Committee
485 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

From: All Aboard Minnesota
P.O. Box 4212
St. Paul, MN 55104
www.allaboardmn.org

Dear Chair Lee and Ranking Member Urdahl,

We are writing on behalf of our members, associates, and supporters **to ask that you support funding for HF 3160 and include it in the committee's Bonding Bill.**

All Aboard Minnesota is a non-profit citizen advocacy group that represents more than ***2,500 members, friends and supporters throughout the state*** that actively seek more rail passenger service statewide as a needed transportation option and which will economically benefit the communities served and the state.

A total of **\$26 Million** is requested to accomplish the following in this biennium:

- ❖ **Enable MnDOT to study extending the 2nd train frequency between the Twin Cities and Chicago to Fargo/Moorhead.**
 - Projected ridership on a daytime schedule in this corridor estimated to be 100,000 new riders per year
 - Will serve and connect many greater Minnesota communities such as St. Cloud, Little Falls, Detroit Lakes, and Wadena to the Twin Cities
 - Provides freer connectivity of people between urban and rural areas, generating a positive return on investment for the communities served and the state
 - BNSF Railway has invested at least an estimated \$325M in this route since 2015, which has reduced the state's portion of the investment needed for more passenger rail service
- ❖ **New MnDOT service study for passenger service between the Twin Cities, Northfield, Owatonna, to Des Moines, and Kansas City.**
 - Projected ridership on this corridor estimated to be over 190,000 riders per year
 - Directly connects Minnesotans to Amtrak trains serving St. Louis, Denver, Phoenix, Los Angeles, and San Francisco without connecting through Chicago first, drastically reducing travel times
 - Connection of metropolitan areas like Des Moines, Kansas City, and Omaha and many rural communities in between to Minnesota, providing freer flow of people and greater economic impact
 - Union Pacific Railroad has invested an estimated \$300M recently in this line, which means the line is better prepared to provide passenger service than ever before and will reduce the state's investment cost
- ❖ **Allow MnDOT to study a dedicated passenger main line between downtown St. Paul and Minneapolis to enhance capacity for these two routes and Northern Lights Express, and a maintenance facility.**

Why is it important to fund HF 3160?

- ❖ Provides the backbone of a statewide public transportation network benefitting college students, families with children, seniors, disabled, and those who can't drive or fly, as a mobility option. Provides "all weather" transportation especially in treacherous winter conditions
- ❖ Provides economic stimulus, jobs, local investment, tourism, and a positive return on investment for Minnesota
- ❖ Utilizes public-private partnerships with freight railroads and Amtrak, minimizing capital expense and operating costs using existing infrastructure. Investment in passenger rail benefits freight operations, speeding goods and services. Both UP and BNSF have invested hundreds of millions in their infrastructure
- ❖ Connects Minnesota to rural communities and metropolitan areas like Fargo/Moorhead, Des Moines, Kansas City, and Denver, further benefiting our economy
- ❖ Provides economic competitiveness with other states in the upper Midwest such as Wisconsin, Illinois, and Michigan which have made significant investments in passenger rail

Minnesota deserves a multi-modal, all-weather transportation network that serves all of its citizens with the options they need. Highways and airways can no longer do this alone. The Minnesota legislature needs to act and provide funding for more passenger trains. Our economic vitality is at stake.

More information can be found on our site: www.allaboardmn.org. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Best Regards,

Board of Directors
All Aboard Minnesota
612-781-2894