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Minnesota Passenger Rail Projects Update

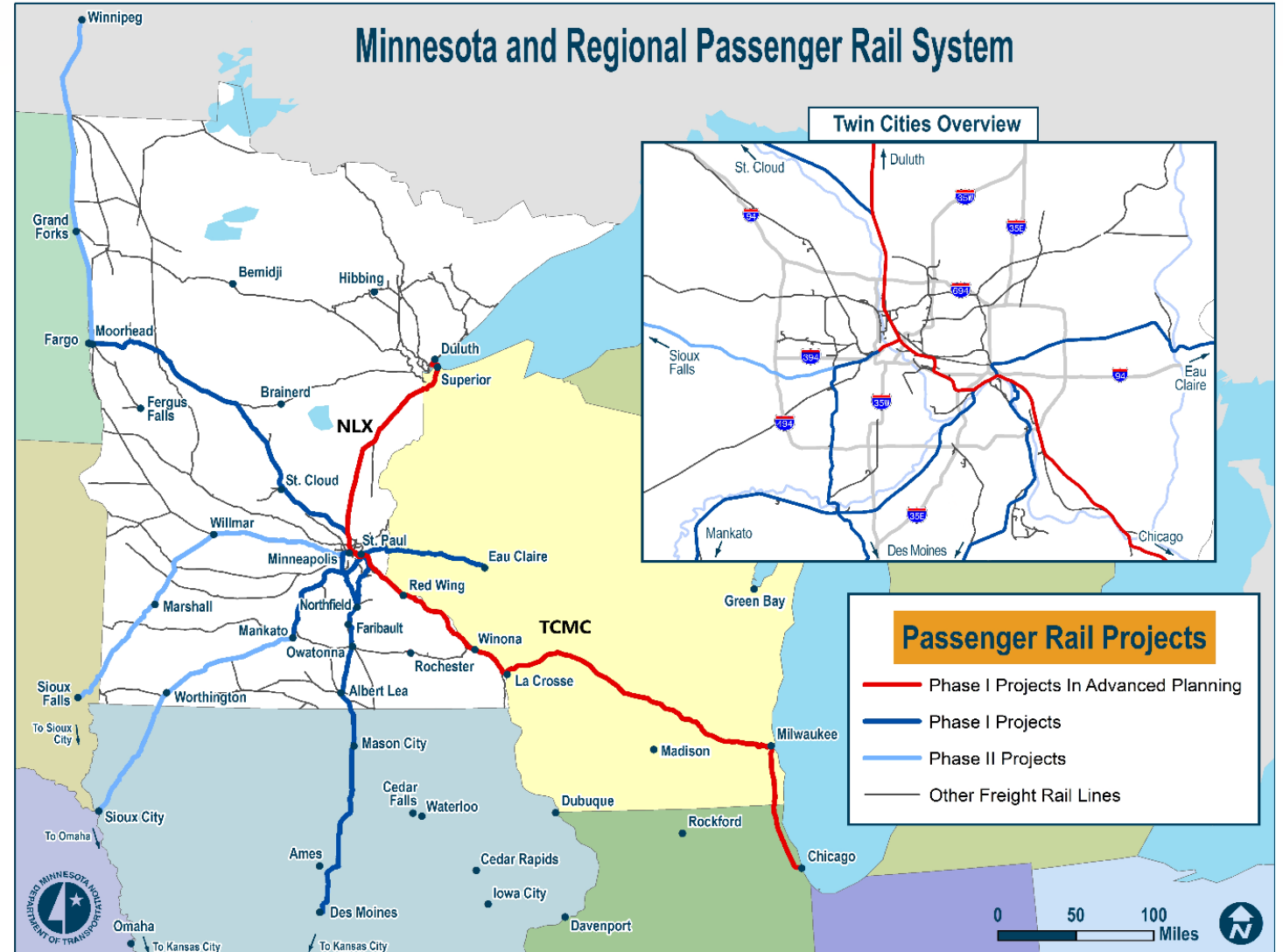
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Minnesota Passenger Rail System

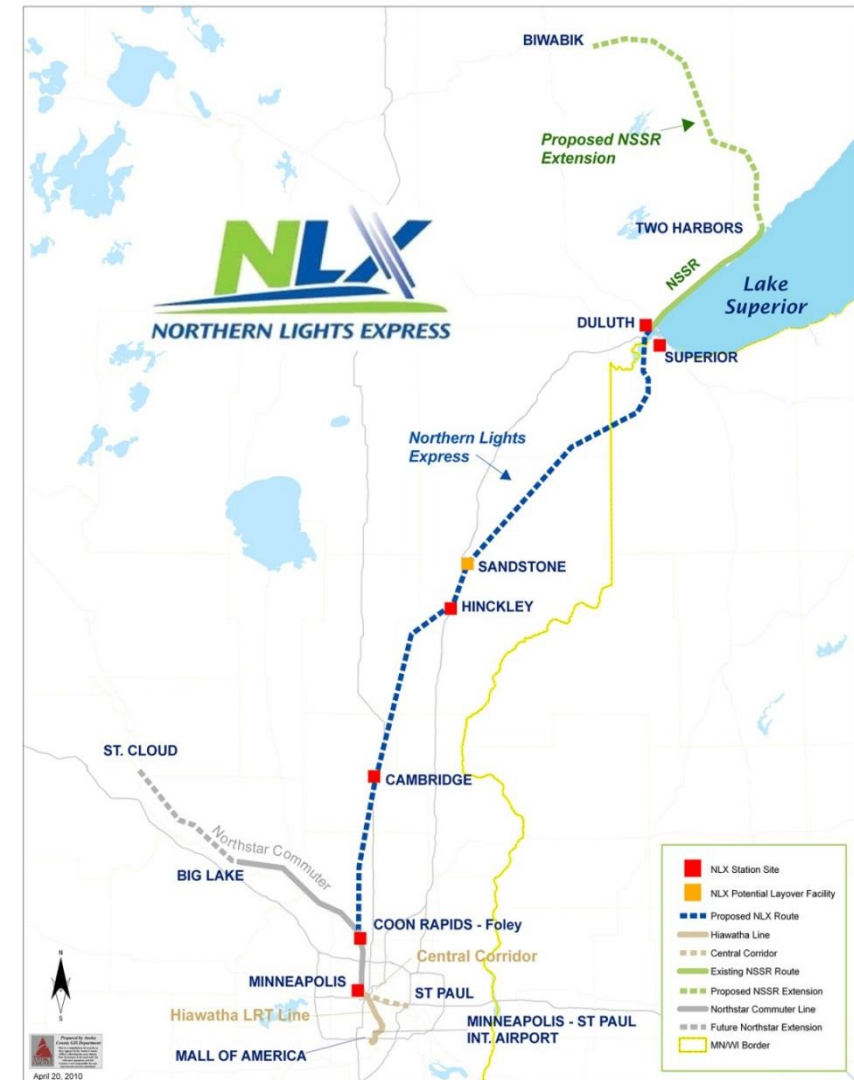
Projects Under Development Identified in the State Rail Plan:

- Northern Lights Express
 - Minneapolis to Duluth
- Twin Cities Milwaukee Chicago
 - St Paul to Chicago Second Train
- Emerging Corridors
 - Other regional connections



Northern Lights Express –NLX Features

- Re-establish intercity passenger rail service in the corridor
- 4 round trips daily
- Top travel speed of 90 mph, 2.5hr. travel time
- Connects Minneapolis and Duluth
 - Coon Rapids, Cambridge, Hinckley, Superior
- 700,000 annual ridership first year
- Uses 150 miles of existing BNSF tracks



NLX- Capital Improvements

Proposed Capital Improvements

- Upgrading safety measures at grade crossings
- Adding track and platforms at Target Field Station in Minneapolis and The Depot in Duluth
- Upgrading existing sidings to allow passenger trains to move around freight trains
- Upgrading the rail track to allow for higher train speed
- Constructing stations in Coon Rapids, Cambridge and Hinckley, MN, and in Superior, WI.



NLX Project Funding

Funding Received to Date:

- Feasibility study, service planning, environmental work

• Fed. Railroad Admin.	\$ 6,600,000 (52.7%)
• Minnesota	\$ 4,975,000 (39.8%)
• St. Louis County	\$ <u>940,000</u> (7.5%)
Total	\$12,515,000

- Grassy Point Bridge: 2020 State Bonding \$3,000,000

Funding Needs:

Total construction funding gap of \$500m to \$600m (2018 estimate)



Twin Cities Milwaukee- Chicago (TCMC) Features

- Adds an additional trip to existing Empire Builder Chicago-Seattle/Portland route
 - Over 124,000 new riders annually Chicago-Twin Cities
 - Majority of ridership is regional travel within the 400 mile corridor
 - Utilize existing stations with complementary travel times to the Empire Builder schedule
 - Reduced travel time



TCMC - Project Benefits

- Create jobs and generate economic growth in corridor communities
- Provide safe, reliable affordable alternative to driving or flying
- Increase access to tourism, colleges, events and communities along the corridor
- Improve travel time
- Increase freight rail capacity and reliability
- Improve safety



TCMC - Project Status

- Capital cost estimate of \$53m (June 2020)
 - Construction only - \$40.7m MN, \$12.3 WI
- Consolidated Infrastructure and Safety Improvement (CRISI) grant award \$31.8m
- Restoration & Enhancement Grant-\$12.6m
- Next Steps:
 - Environmental approval (April, 2021)
 - Develop state & federal agreements
 - Final design, construction
 - Implement service



TCMC - Minnesota Capital Improvements

Winona - \$ 19.3m

- Extend Tower CK siding
- Update existing siding and platform improvements at Amtrak Winona Depot

Mississippi River Bridge, River Junction -\$20.8m

- Convert yard track to a main track
- Upgrade river bridge switch

Midway Maintenance Facility \$540k

- Design work for potential light maintenance facility at the former Amtrak St. Paul station

TCMC – Project Funding

- **Funding Received to Date** (All State and Local)

- **Feasibility study, project development and environmental work**

• Minnesota	\$149,000
• Wisconsin	\$655,000
• Ramsey County Rail Authority	\$300,000
• La Crosse Area Planning Committee	<u>\$ 85,000</u>

TOTAL \$1,189,000

- **CRISI Grant:** FRA \$31.8m; WI \$6.2m; Amtrak \$5m; **MN \$10m** \$53,000,000

Construction funding

- **R & E Grant:** 3yr. operating assistance grant (80% 1st yr.; 60% 2nd yr. 40% 3rd yr.) \$12,600,000

Funding gap of \$10m for CRISI match

Thank you

Dan Krom

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