

NORTHERN LIGHTS EXPRESS PASSENGER RAIL

Minnesota House Capital Investment Committee

Andrew Johnson, Minneapolis City Council

Francis Loetterle, PhD, AICP, MNDOT

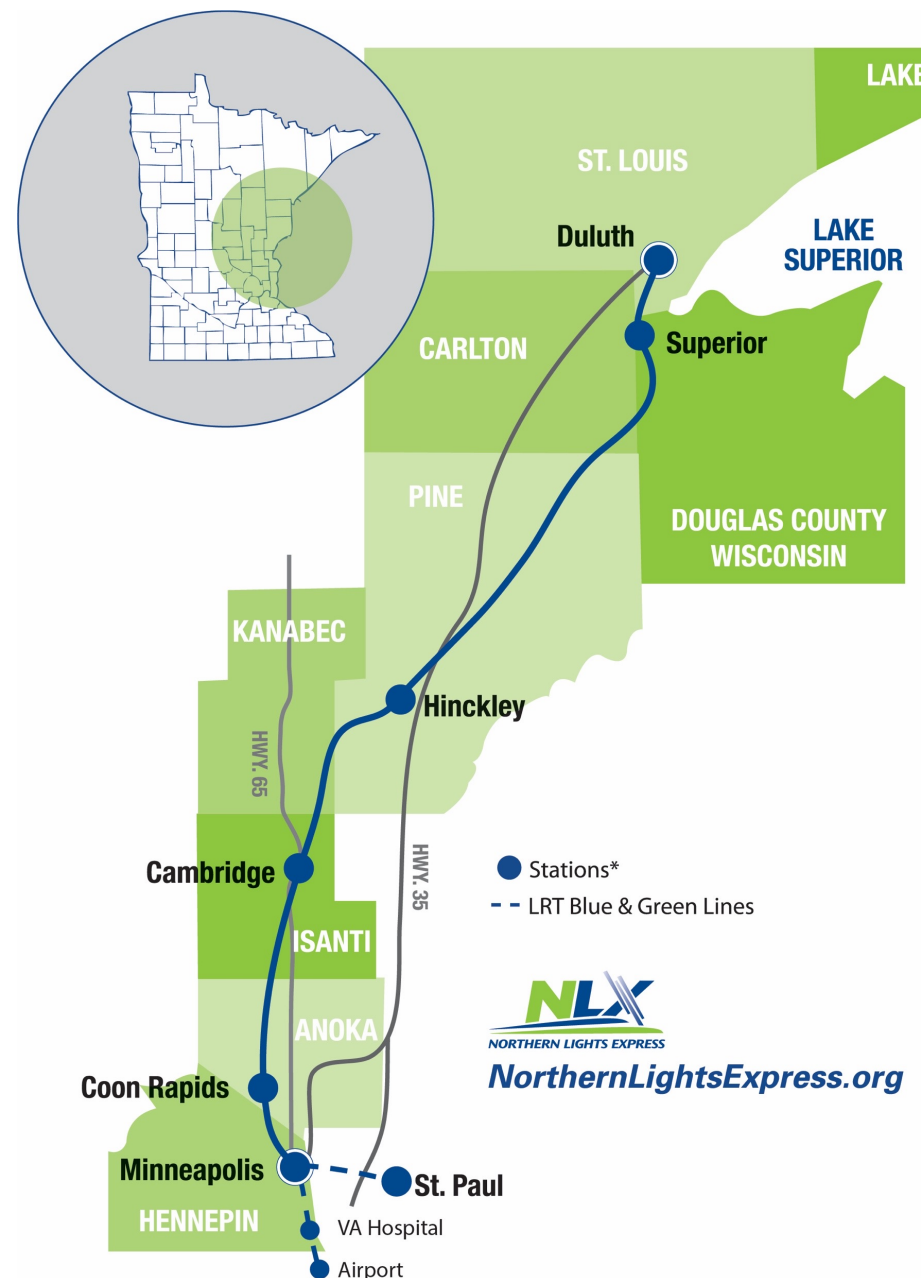
NLX Passenger Rail Alliance





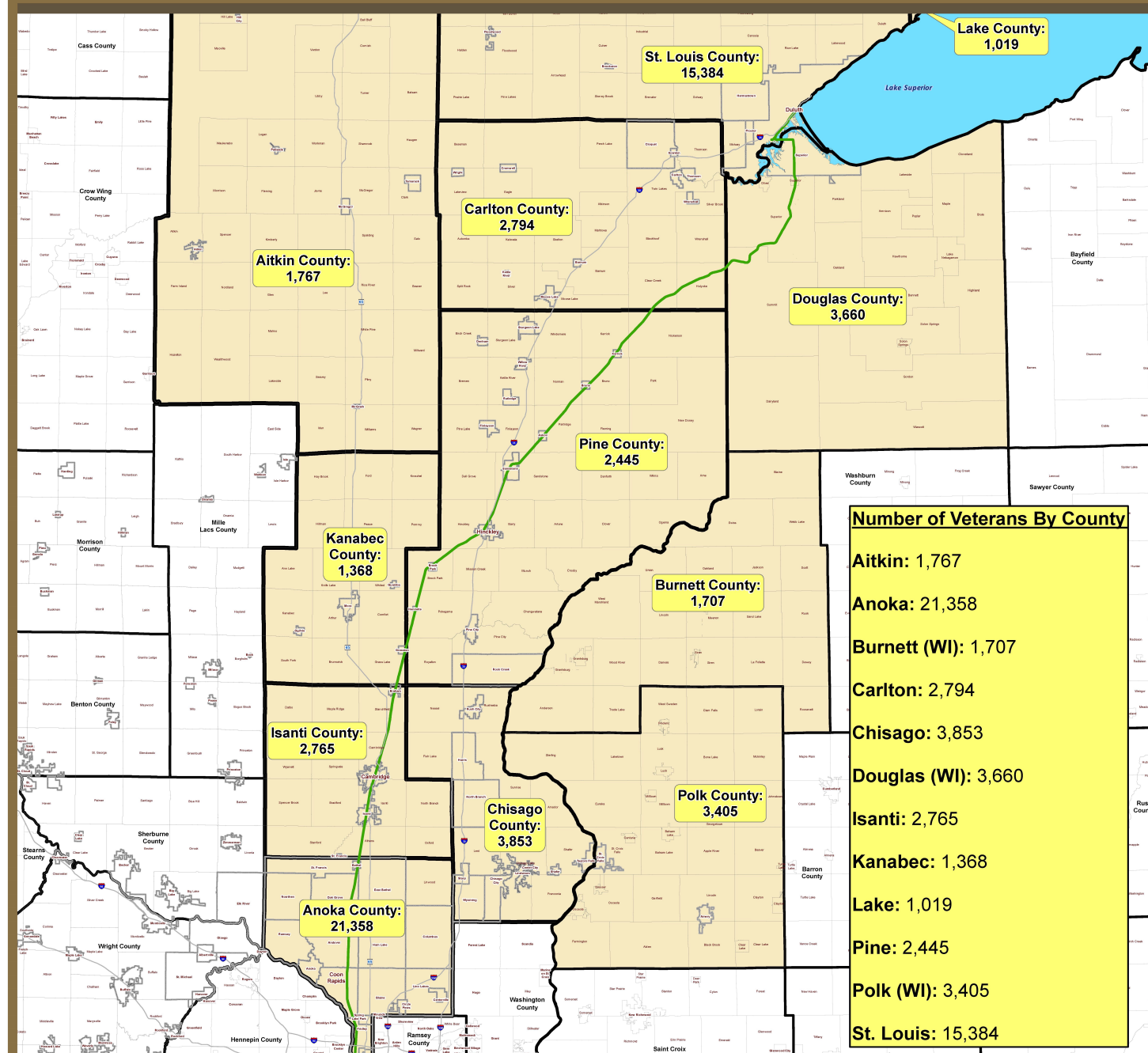
NLX FAST FACTS

- Operate between **Target Field Station** in Minneapolis and the **Depot** in Duluth
- Stations in **Coon Rapids, Cambridge, Hinckley, and Superior**
- Uses **152 miles** of existing BNSF Railway track
- **4 round trips** per day operating at **90 mph max**
- Travel time between ends will be **just over 2 hours**
- Up to **1 million annual rides** by 2040
- One-way trip fare about **\$30**



Northern Lights Express (NLX)

Number of Veterans By County



NLX Will Connect Veterans with Health Care!

The number of Veterans in the corridor approaches 50,000!
NLX makes for easier access to the Minneapolis VA Hospital.

Seniors, students, tourists – all commuters want reliable, cost-effective transportation options.

Number of Veterans By County

Aitkin:	1,767
Anoka:	21,358
Burnett (WI):	1,707
Carlton:	2,794
Chisago:	3,853
Douglas (WI):	3,660
Isanti:	2,765
Kanabec:	1,368
Lake:	1,019
Pine:	2,445
Polk (WI):	3,405
St. Louis:	15,384

Higher Ed Supports NLX!

“This service will have an overall positive impact on the quality of life by supporting rural communities and fostering new growth.”

Joe Mulford, President

Pine Technical & Community College

Dec. 28, 2021



PROJECT BENEFITS

Safety

Environmental Sustainability

Economic Competitiveness

Quality of Life



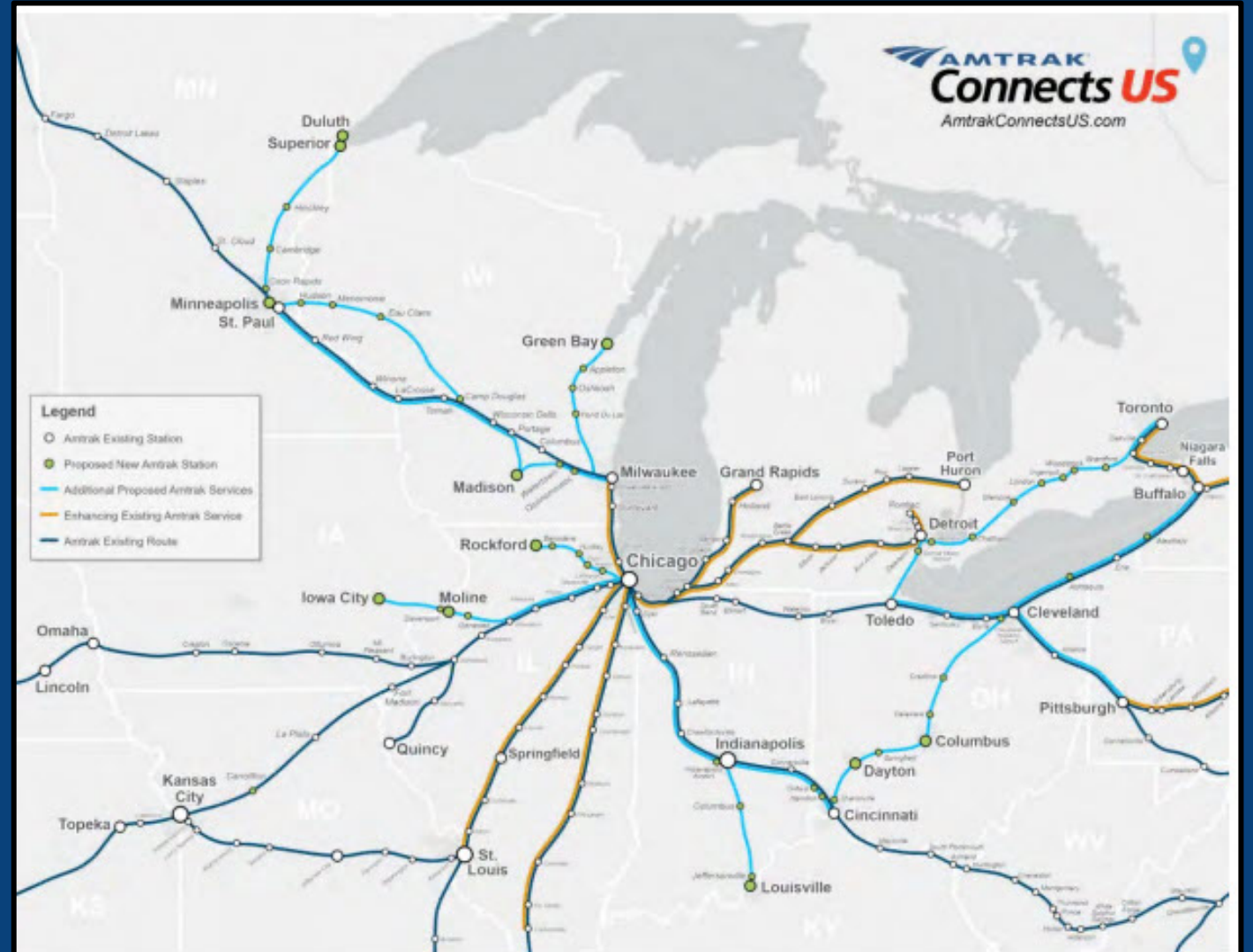
- Up to 3,000 good paying jobs during construction.
- \$150 million in increased property values.
- \$400+ million increased tourism revenue; 200+ tourism jobs.

Projected benefits exceed initial capital and annual operating costs.

There will be a positive return on investment to the state and local communities.

“The work The Alliance has done to date makes **Twin Cities-Duluth** one of the most **‘shovel-ready’** projects in the nation, capped by receipt in 2018 of your Finding of No Significant Impact.”

Joe McHugh, Vice President
Amtrak, Jan. 25, 2019



NLX—Making Connections!

Business Supports NLX!

North 65 Chamber of Commerce

Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce

Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce

Minneapolis Regional Chamber

Minneapolis Downtown Council

Duluth Greater Downtown Council

GPS::45::93

East Central Regional Development Council

Labor Supports NLX!

Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and
Trainmen (BLET)

Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation
(SMART TD)

Minnesota State Building and Construction
Trade Council

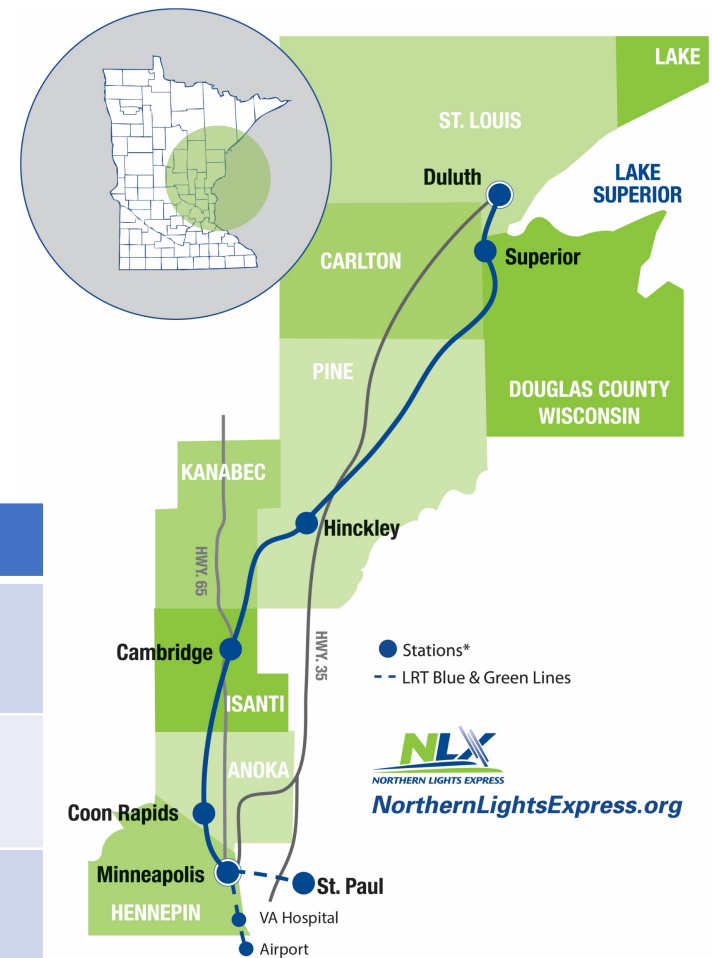
Duluth Building and Construction Trade Council

Int'l Brotherhood of Electrical Workers MN State
Council (IBEW)



Funding Request

Item	State Funds	Federal Funds	Total
Crossing & bridge improvements	\$20 m	\$80 m	\$100 m
Track & signal improvements	\$50 m	\$200 m	\$250 m
Train stations & facilities	\$15 m	\$60 m	\$75 m
Totals:	\$85 million	\$340 million	\$425 million



Item costs are preliminary and based on the environmental assessment completed by MnDOT in 2017.



Now is the time...

- Support Minnesota's legislative request for \$85 million as match toward 80% federal funding.
 - HF2681/SF2827 (Bonding)
 - HF2682/SF2826 (Cash Appropriation)

