HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Erhardt and Others

Subject: Restrictions on Dan Patch Commuter Rail Line

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Prohibits the department of transportation from undertaking capital improvements for the Dan Patch commuter rail line between Northfield and Minneapolis unless the department has first acquired, or made a good-faith offer to purchase, each parcel of residential property within 100 feet of the railroad right-of-way.

Requires all construction, reconstruction, and upgrading of railroad track for the Dan Patch line to comply with federal regulations governing new railroad track construction.

Prohibits the department from constructing or improving rail track in the Dan Patch corridor until:

(1)the legally-required public hearing has been held on the physical design component of the advanced corridor plan;
(2)the physical design component for the corridor has been submitted to each city, county, and town as required by law;
(3)each city and town in the corridor has approved the part of the physical design component within its borders.

Provides that failure to disapprove the physical design component within 45 days of the hearing constitutes approval. Prohibits approval from being withdrawn once it has been given.