



# **I-35W Solutions Alliance I 35/Northfield Passenger Rail Corridor**

**Presented by**

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**We all have a stake in A  B**



# 2010 State Rail Plan

## Key Accomplishments

### Developed:

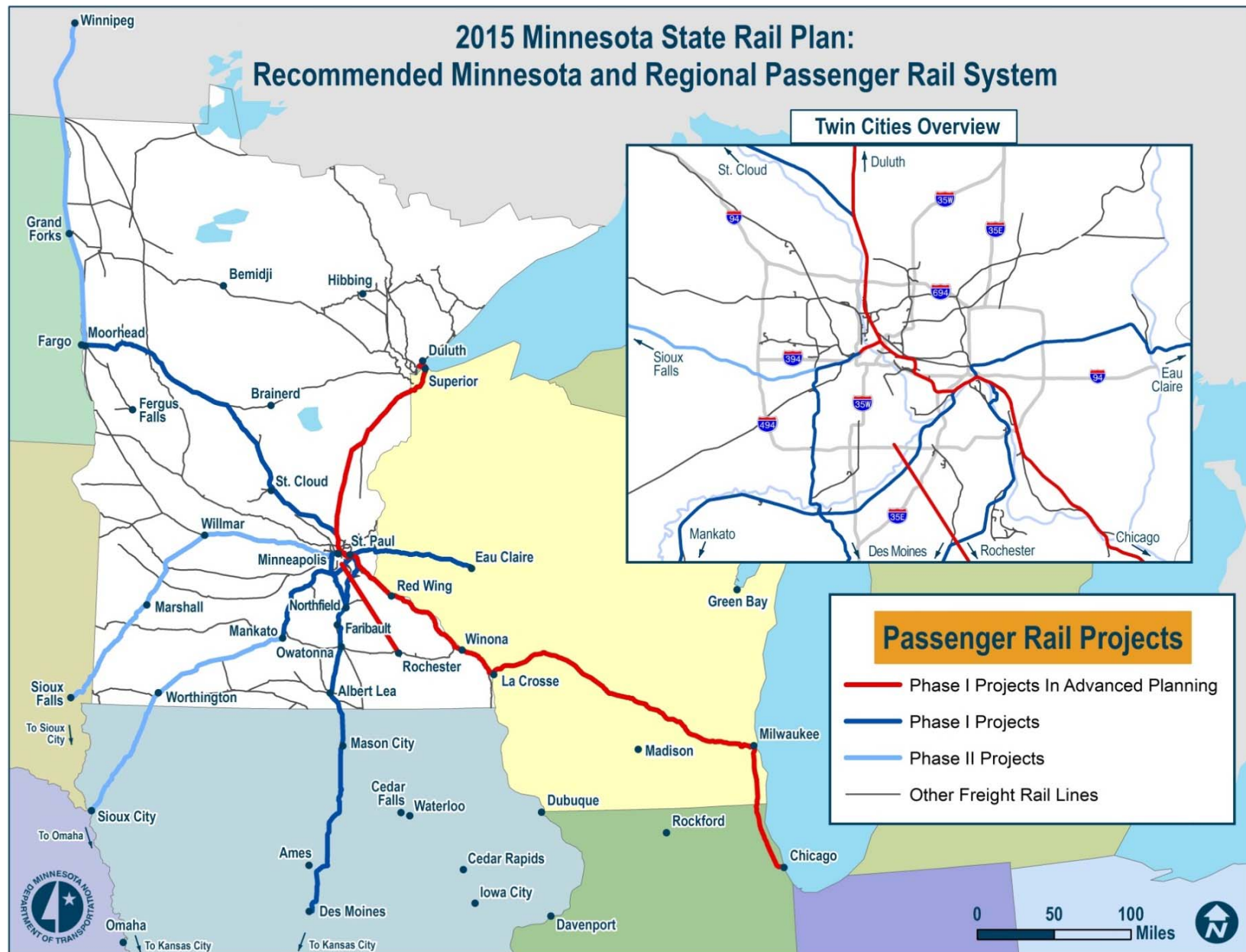
- ▶ Vision Statements
- ▶ System inventory
- ▶ Potential future statewide passenger rail system
- ▶ Priority corridors & investment needs
- ▶ Public and private sector roles



# 2015 State Rail Plan Update

- ▶ 2010 Rail Plan (legislatively mandated)
- ▶ New federal rail plan guidance issued in 2013
- ▶ Federally required 5 year update cycle
- ▶ State Rail Plan required for discretionary federal funding eligibility (passenger rail, TIGER, etc.)





# Phase I Corridors in Advanced Planning

- ▶ Through the phased prioritization developed as a part of the 2010 State Rail Plan, four corridors advanced into planning activities:
  - A second frequency on the Amtrak Empire Builder between the Twin Cities and Chicago
  - Up to 110 mph service Milwaukee to Twin Cities segment of the Chicago to Twin Cities corridor
  - Twin Cities to Rochester
  - Twin Cities to Duluth





# Additional Corridors

Phase I corridors that have not advanced into formal planning

- ▶ Twin Cities to St. Cloud / Moorhead
- ▶ Twin Cities to Eau Claire
- ▶ Twin Cities Mankato
- ▶ I35 Corridor – Twin Cities to Albert Lea

Phase II corridors (post 2030)

- ▶ Twin Cities to Sioux Falls via Willmar
- ▶ Fargo/Moorhead to Winnipeg
- ▶ Mankato to Sioux City
- ▶ Albert Lea to Des Moines



# I-35 Corridor to Albert Lea

As identified in the 2015 plan

- ▶ This corridor is proposed for standard (79 mph) passenger rail service with up to four round trips per day.
- ▶ The corridor includes segments from downtown Minneapolis and/or downtown St. Paul to Northfield, Northfield to Albert Lea and Albert Lea to Des Moines.
- ▶ The Iowa State Rail Plan envisions this route to continue on to Kansas City and other rail connections.

NOTE: No further detailed assessment or assumptions on alignments and service has occurred.



# Corridor Development Process

- ▶ Feasibility study
- ▶ Alternatives analysis
- ▶ Environmental review and approval
- ▶ Preliminary engineering/ service planning
- ▶ Final design
- ▶ Construction





# Corridor Status

- ▶ Some grassroots interest in the project
  - Inclusion in the 2015 SRP
- ▶ Discussion of the creation of a corridor coalition
  - Funding for initial feasibility study
  - Advocacy for project funding
- ▶ No formal request for work to begin
  - Lack of local and state funding
- ▶ Limited state resources
  - Prioritize work to projects under development



# Thank you



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