



At-A-Glance

Where will you go when NLX passenger rail service is launched?
Help make it a reality!

The President and Congress are making infrastructure a priority and passenger rail is key. Federal dollars are available, but many projects are competing.

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

NLX is a proposed intercity passenger rail service that will operate between Minneapolis and Duluth, MN on 152 miles of existing BNSF Railway track.

- Four round trips per day
- Maximum speed of 90 mph
- Travel time of about 2.5 hours
- Connections to MSP airport and Midwest rail network

BENEFIT COST ANALYSIS SHOW NLX IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

MN Department of Transportation studies show a return of between \$1.10 and \$1.69 for every \$1 dollar invested. Project benefits include economic development and a better quality of life through improved mobility, increased choice in transportation options, increased safety, and environmental sustainability.

NLX will create jobs, including 3,000 construction jobs and additional jobs when it opens. It also will transport our workforce to jobs.

Minnesota has committed 20% in anticipation of a federal match of 80%. The cost for final design and construction in FY2026 dollars is \$592.3 million and includes:

- Mainline track and signal improvements, new sidings and passing tracks will allow NLX and freight trains to run efficiently and safely.
- Upgrading or rehabilitating several bridges along the route that are current chokepoints for freight.
- Expanding the Target Field Station, renovating the Duluth Depot waiting room, and constructing new stations in Coon Rapids, Cambridge, Hinckley, and Superior, WI. Only a minimal amount of new right-of-way is required for station development.
- \$76 million of the project cost will go towards making 166 grade crossings safer including new flashing lights, gates, median barriers, pedestrian gates, and improvements to roadway approaches where necessary.

Numbers could change depending on economic factors and timing.



“As a traveling nurse and mother of two children – I travel to Minneapolis from Duluth four to six times a week. The benefits of having the Northern Lights Express would be endless both personally and economically.” Kasey B.

State Funded Federal Action Needed

The Minnesota Legislature has appropriated the local match for final design and construction. Federal funds are needed to move the project forward.

Please support the MN Dept. of Transportation’s application for federal funding through the Federal Railroad Administration.

Join us in thanking the FRA and our congressional delegation for the \$500,000 Corridor ID program grant received in December 2023 to help prepare the project for additional federal funding.

Enlist NLX passenger rail to help reach the state goal of reducing vehicle miles traveled 20% by 2050 while boosting the economy and offering transportation choices.

Thank you for your support!

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Stats were last updated for 2017/18 submissions to FRA.

CONNECTIONS, CHOICES AND DESIGN FOR ALL— DRIVING PRINCIPLES OF NLX

The NLX Alliance, a joint powers board of government entities along the route, is concerned about ensuring that veterans can access healthcare and other needed services.

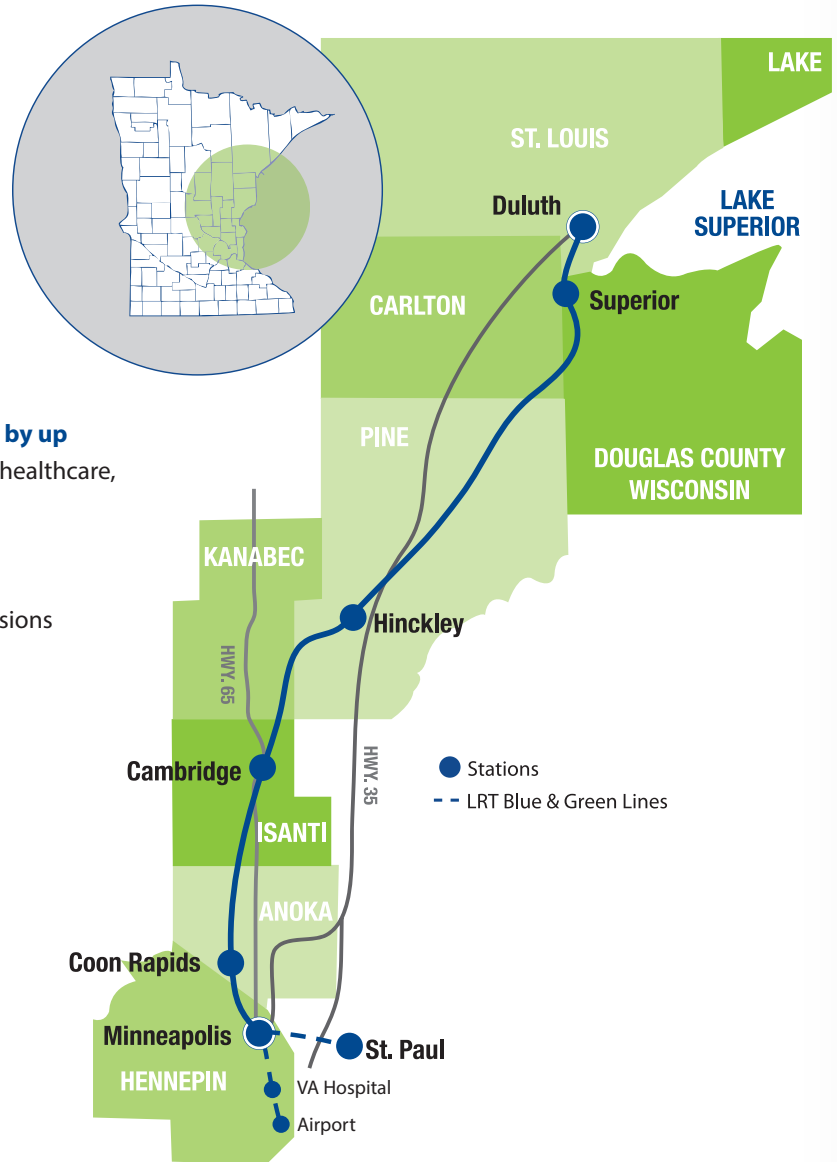
NLX will provide a reliable alternative for 60,000 veterans in the NLX corridor who may need the VA clinic or hospital.

NLX is a choice that is reliable, convenient, and accessible to all Minnesotans.

NLX Corridor Map

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS OVER 40 YEARS

- Grade crossing improvements will **reduce crashes by up to 130**, saving heartache and millions of dollars in healthcare, death benefits and auto repairs.
- Over **\$375 million growth** in tax revenues.
- **\$400 million growth** in tourism.
- Environmental sustainability benefits include emissions **savings and CO2 reductions of \$50 million.**



Duluth area college students are no strangers to 35W and the challenges of driving between Duluth and the Twin Cities.

“As a student without a car who normally lives in Andover, the only way up and down is 35W. Very inconvenient, and I’m sure many UMD students would agree.” Aidan. Roughly 40% of UMD students are from the Twin Cities.