



NORTHERN LIGHTS EXPRESS

Minneapolis--Duluth/Superior Passenger Rail Alliance

Northern Lights Express Open House

July 2010

NLX – an exciting travel alternative on the way

Travel between Minneapolis and Duluth will never be quite the same thanks to proposed Northern Lights Express High Speed Passenger Rail service. Covering the 155-mile distance in a little over 2 hours NLX will provide a convenient and comfortable option for business, personal and recreational travel. Efficient boarding, larger seats, group table seating, internet access and ability to use cell phones and electronic devices throughout the trip offer advantages over travel by air. Dining options, ability to walk around and stretch your legs during the trip, and ride comfort provide a more relaxed option than driving. With eight departures a day and expected fares in the \$20-60 range with significant family, senior and frequent-rider discounts, travel by NLX will be an affordable, efficient and comfortable way to go.

Access to many popular destinations

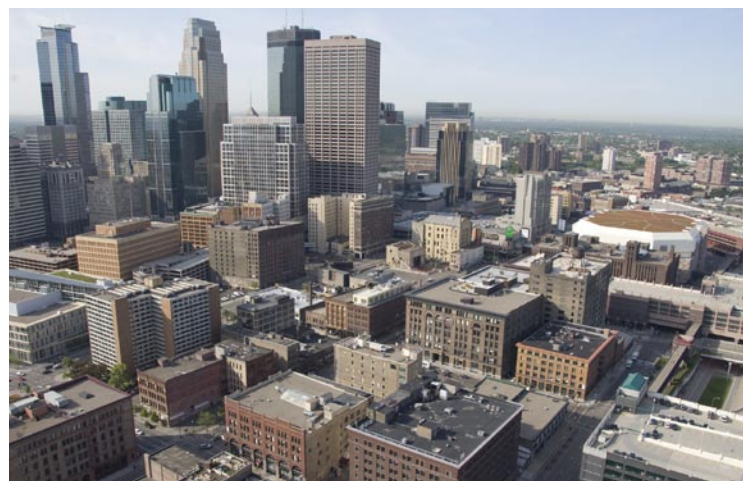


NLX terminal stations in Minneapolis and Duluth will be conveniently located near parking, key destinations and transit. The Minneapolis terminal station is planned to be sited at The Interchange – a “multi-modal” (car, bus, LRT, rail, and bike) facility in downtown Minneapolis at Target Field. NLX travelers will arrive less than a block away from the Target Field entrance and within easy walking distance to Target Center, the Hennepin

Avenue Theater District, and the many hotels, restaurants, and offices of downtown Minneapolis. Travelers boarding NLX at The Interchange will find abundant parking at nearby ramps.



Connections can be made to existing and planned LRT and Commuter Rail service at The Interchange as well. Through connections to the Northstar Commuter rail system, travelers will have access to stations in Fridley, Coon Rapids, Anoka, Elk River, Big Lake, and ultimately St. Cloud. Connections to Hiawatha LRT provide easy access to several major destinations including the VA Hospital, the Mall of America and the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport. Central Corridor LRT, beginning construction in Fall 2010, will provide access to the University of Minnesota, the State Capitol and downtown St. Paul. Many additional LRT and commuter rail services, currently under study, will provide access throughout the Twin Cities.



The Duluth terminal station is planned for the St. Louis County Heritage and Arts Center (The Depot), a restored 1892 train depot. Located in downtown Duluth, this location is within walking distance of the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center, the Duluth Civic Center, and the popular tourist destinations of Canal Park and the Lakewalk on Lake Superior. The Depot also serves as the terminal for the North Shore Scenic Railroad, a recreational train service envisioned to provide regular transportation services to the City



of Two Harbors in the future. Bus transit services will provide access to the University of Duluth and Duluth International Airport.

NLX will also serve communities and destinations along the route. The communities of Superior and Hinckley are in the process of considering station locations to provide convenient access for residents and visitors.

On a grander scale, planning for high speed passenger rail service is currently under study from Chicago to the Twin Cities serving both the Union Depot in St. Paul and The Interchange in Minneapolis. When realized, this service will provide high speed passenger rail through connections from Duluth to Madison, Milwaukee, Chicago, and many other destinations throughout the United States.

Growing support for NLX

A recent survey conducted by the NLX Alliance found that the majority of corridor residents are familiar with and support development of NLX High Speed Passenger Rail. The majority also stated that they, or someone in their household, would likely ride NLX. Key destinations cited included recreation and entertainment facilities, Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport, shopping, visiting friends and family, and the Grand Casino Hinckley. To find out more information and become an NLX supporter, visit the NLX website at www.NorthernLightsExpress.org.

Project progress

NLX is gaining political and financial momentum and continues to secure funding needed to complete project studies and move toward construction.

The NLX Alliance and the Minnesota and Wisconsin DOTs continue to work with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to secure preliminary planning approvals to ensure project success. A Corridor Assessment Report is currently under review by the FRA, setting the stage for completion of environmental documents under both state and federal requirements. Consultation with state and federal permitting agencies is underway to identify critical resources and project concerns.

Your feedback is critical to project success!

Public information meetings are being held throughout the corridor this summer to update residents and supporters about project progress and to seek out project questions or concerns. For those unable to attend these meetings, information can be found at the project website, www.NorthernLightsExpress.org, or from NLX Alliance Executive Director Bob Manzoline at 218-254-2575. We welcome your feedback via email, letter or phone call.

