



News Release

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For Immediate Release

New leadership elected to NLX Alliance Board

Minneapolis Councilman Andrew Johnson was elected chair of the Minneapolis/Duluth-Superior Passenger Rail Alliance (NLX Alliance) Jan. 26 at a board meeting in Sandstone, MN. Superior, Wisconsin Mayor Jim Paine was elected vice chair.

“This is the year we can get NLX done,” Johnson said. “I’m excited to work on securing support from the Legislature.”

The Alliance is advocating for \$85 million in state funding in the 2022 Minnesota legislative session. Funds would be a match to a potential 80% federal contribution to make safety improvements along the tracks, enhance reliability of the rails for freight and passengers, expand stations at Target Field in Minneapolis and Duluth, and build stations in Coon Rapids, Cambridge, Hinckley, and Superior.

On the Minneapolis City Council, Johnson chairs two related committees, intergovernmental relations and public works and infrastructure. From Johnson’s perspective, NLX is a priority for the city and the state.

NLX passenger rail is proposed to run four round trips per day between Target Field in Minneapolis and the Depot in Duluth, with stops at Coon Rapids, Cambridge, Hinckley, and Superior. If funding is secured, people will start riding in about three years. To learn more, go to NorthernLightsExpress.org.

About the NLX Alliance

The Minneapolis-Duluth/Superior Passenger Rail Alliance (NLX Alliance) was formed in 2007 to pursue the return of rail service to the corridor. Today, the NLX Alliance represents cities, counties, the Band of Ojibwe, and interested groups along 152 miles of existing BNSF Railway track. The NLX Alliance works with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the project lead, to advocate for a data-driven process that will deliver fast, safe and efficient service between Minneapolis and Duluth with stops in Coon Rapids, Cambridge, Hinckley, and Superior. Learn more at NorthernLightsExpress.org.

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Cutline: The NLX Alliance at their January board meeting in Sandstone elected Minneapolis City Councilman Andrew Johnson chair for 2022. Pictured with him are Pine County Commissioner Terry Lovgren and Shena Matrious, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Government Affairs.

Minneapolis-Duluth/Superior Passenger Rail Alliance

Administrative Agency: St. Louis & Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority
Executive Director: Bob Manzoline, 111 Station 44 Road, Eveleth, MN 55734
Phone: (218) 744-1388 * Toll free: (877) 637-2241



Also attached are headshots of Councilman Johnson and Mayor Paine.



Johnson



Paine

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