



News Release

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For Immediate Release

NLX Funding Bills Introduced in Minnesota House, Senate *Rep. Mary Murphy, Sen. Jerry Newton Introduce Funding to Leverage Significant Federal Rail Investment in Intercity Passenger Rail Project*

(*St. Paul, MN*) – Representative Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown) on the first day of the 2022 Minnesota legislative session introduced House File 2681 and House File 2682, providing for \$85 million dollars in state funding for the Northern Lights Express (NLX) intercity passenger rail project, connecting Minneapolis and Duluth.

“Now is the time to build the Northern Lights Express,” said Representative Murphy. “The state of Minnesota’s investment in this project will bring up to \$320 million in federal rail funding to the project. We can connect veterans, students, commuters and others from Duluth, Hinckley and Cambridge with the rest of the United States of America and the world!”

H.F. 2681 provides for \$85 million dollars in state appropriation bonds, while H.F. 2682 is a cash transportation appropriation from the state general fund. H.F. 2681 is being referred to the House Capital Investment Committee. H.F. 2682 is being referred to the House Transportation Finance Division.

In 2020, the Minnesota Legislature awarded \$3 million dollars to the NLX project toward repair or improvements to the Grassy Point Bridge, connecting Duluth, Minnesota and Superior, Wisconsin.

A \$85 million investment from the State of Minnesota 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, and expand stations at Target Field in Minneapolis and the Duluth Depot, plus build stations in Coon Rapids, Cambridge, Hinckley, and Superior.

Senator Jerry Newton (DFL-Coon Rapids) has agreed to introduce the companion bills in the Minnesota Senate.

“I am excited to author the NLX bonding bill in the Minnesota State Senate,” said Senator Newton. “Using existing rail lines, NLX will have a stop in Coon Rapids that will improve commercial activity in our geographic area while simultaneously providing additional, reliable rail service for employees and for local residents to work and enjoy recreation in the Twin Cities.”

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.

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



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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