



March 14, 2017

To: Local & Federal Legislators

Dear Honorable:

Transportation issues are something almost all elected official in Minnesota have in common. As mayors in the Northern Lights Express passenger rail corridor, we want to thank you for working across the aisle and with all levels of government to provide transportation options for our mutual constituents.

There will be many more discussions in city halls and the capitol about the best ways to invest in transportation. We welcome the vigorous debate of proposals, like restoring intercity passenger rail service on the existing BNSF Railway tracks between Minneapolis and Duluth/Superior with stations also in Coon Rapids, Cambridge and Hinckley, and a potential layover facility in Sandstone.

Voters trust us to work through issues and move the state forward with multi-modal choices that improve safety, mobility and economic opportunity. We're pleased to work in concert with you to build on the transportation investments that already have been made, thanks to collaborative efforts of federal, state and local community leaders.

A fact sheet is enclosed to provide some background on the Northern Lights Express intercity passenger rail proposal. Feel free to contact the Minnesota Department of Transportation for more information. Another local source is the NLX Alliance, a joint powers board of select station cities, counties and interested parties in the corridor. The NLX Alliance can be reached through Bob Manzoline, executive director, at bmanzoline@rrauth.com or 218-744-2653.

Sincerely,

Marlys A. Palmer, Mayor
Cambridge, MN

Jerry Koch, Mayor
Coon Rapids, MN

Emily Larson, Mayor
Duluth, MN

Donald Zeman, Mayor
Hinckley, MN

Betsy Hodges, Mayor
Minneapolis, MN

Phillip Kester, Deputy Mayor
Sandstone, MN

Bruce Hagen, Mayor
Superior, WI

Enc.
cc: Federal delegation

Minneapolis-Duluth/Superior Passenger Rail Alliance

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