



News Release

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For Immediate Release

NLX Alliance pleased, encouraged by Governor's bonding proposal

Members of the NLX Alliance are pleased Gov. Walz included an NLX passenger rail placeholder of \$16.1 million in his bonding bill proposal released today. The funds would be used for rail corridor safety infrastructure and capacity improvements between Minneapolis and Duluth, such as improving rail grade crossings. Projects would improve existing freight rail corridors and potential future passenger rail corridors.

This is a step toward accessing some of the \$1.2 billion federal infrastructure bill, which requires a local match.

The NLX Alliance, made up of cities, counties and others along the corridor, has ramped up advocacy efforts to pursue a 20% local match from the State Legislature. A \$16.1 million commitment from the State of Minnesota will potentially leverage \$80 million in federal funds.

"We applaud the Governor, and legislators on both sides of the aisle, who are focused on bringing in federal money from the \$1.2 billion Infrastructure bill," said Jason Serck, chair of the NLX Alliance and director of planning, economic, development, and port for the City of Superior, Wisconsin.

"Amtrak has called NLX one of the most shovel-ready projects in the country," Serck said. "Other projects around the country are competing against us for the money. Local support is essential and that's why it's so encouraging to have the Governor's support. We can do this, for our commuters, veterans, seniors, students, tourists, and more."

Serck says \$16.1 million is the start. Approximately \$80 million in state funds will be needed to leverage the federal funds that will put the project into construction. About 3,000 construction jobs will be created. Roughly \$76 million will be invested in safety improvements at the 166 railroad crossings on the 152 miles of existing track. The movement of freight will improve immediately, helping the economy.

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,

Minneapolis-Duluth/Superior Passenger Rail Alliance

Administrative Agency: St. Louis & Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority
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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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Editor's Note: See page 25 for \$16.1 million to the rail corridor:

<https://mn.gov/mmb-stat/documents/budget/capital-budget/final-capital-budget/2022/summary-listing-of-governors-recommendations-by-entity-and-project.pdf>

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