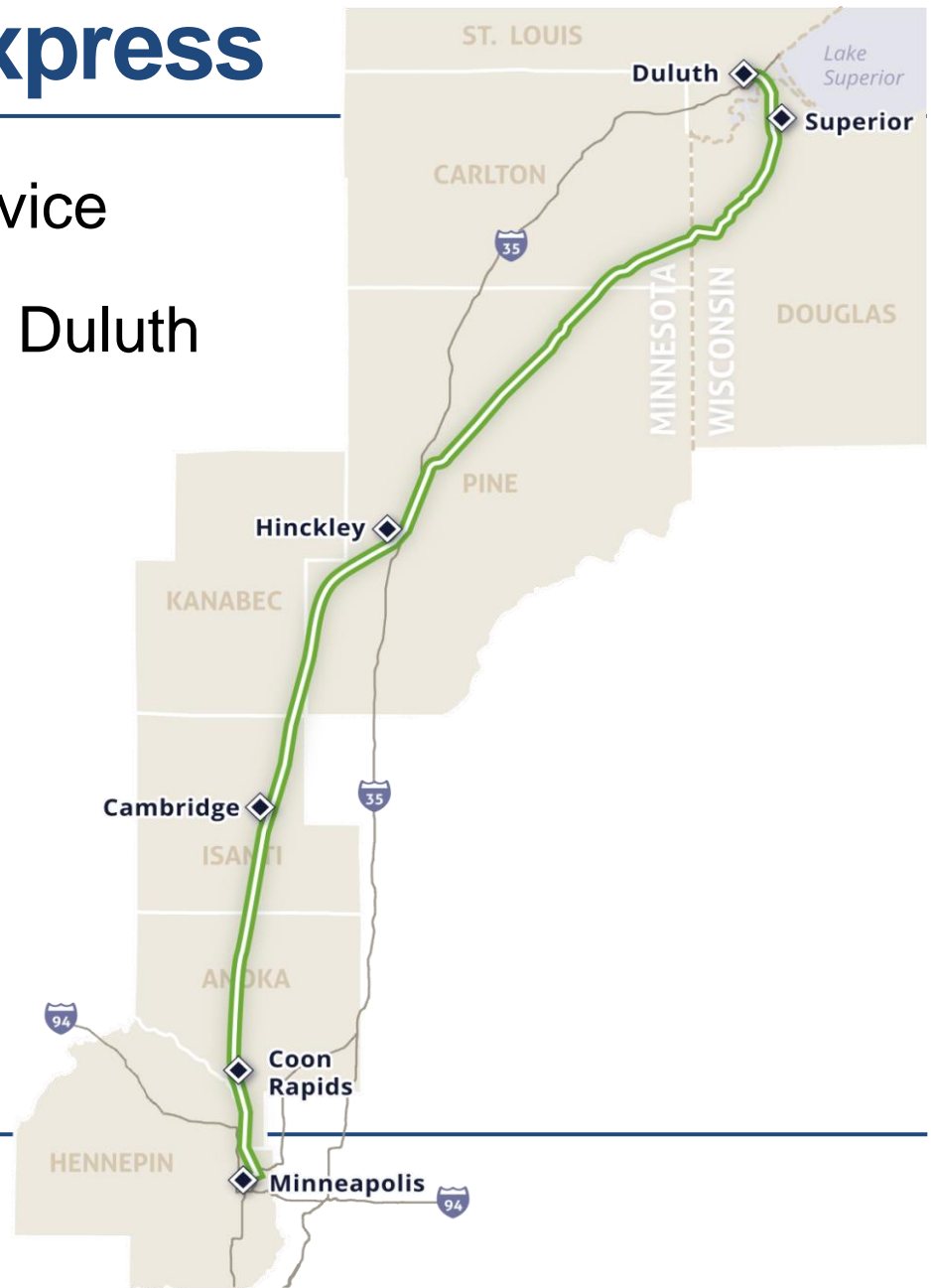


NORTHERN LIGHTS EXPRESS

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June 10, 2015

Northern Lights Express

- Intercity passenger rail service
- Connects Minneapolis and Duluth
 - Coon Rapids
 - Cambridge
 - Hinckley
 - Superior
- 150 miles
- Existing BNSF tracks



NLX Operating Plan

- Maximum Speed
 - 90-110 mph
- 4-8 round trips per day
- Next Generation rail equipment



NLX Study Process

- 2009 Feasibility Study
- Alternatives analysis studies complete in 2012
- Tier 1 EA completed
 - FONSI – 2013
- Current phase of project
 - PE
 - NEPA – Tier 2 EA



NLX Management

- MnDOT
 - FRA
 - WisDOT
- St Louis and Lake County Regional Rail Authority
- Minneapolis Duluth/Superior Passenger Rail Alliance



CURRENT EFFORT



Current Effort – Complete Service Plan

- Operating plan
 - Maximum speed
 - Round Trips
- Capital Cost
 - Stations and facilities
 - Track improvements
 - Equipment
- Operating Cost
- Ridership
- Revenue
- Benefit-cost analysis
- Economic impact
- Service Plan to be released by August 2015

NEXT STEPS



Next Steps

- July 2015 - Finalize Service Plan
- August 2015 – Initiate Tier 2 EA analysis
- August/September 2015 – Prepare analysis of alternative operating plans
 - Direct access to Hinckley casino
 - Extension of service to St. Paul Union Depot
- Fall/Winter 2015/16 – Complete Preliminary Engineering
- Spring/summer 2016 – Complete Environmental Assessment and public hearing