

# DSMIC NLX Update

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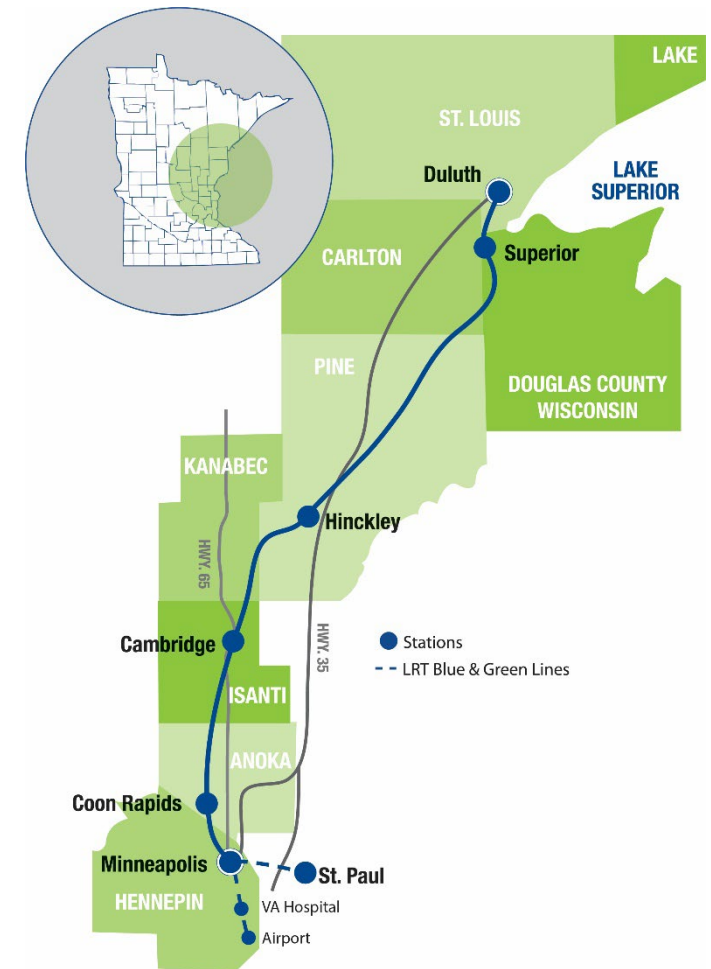
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- **Northern Lights Express (NLX)**

- Minneapolis to Duluth/Superior – 4 daily roundtrips
- 2.5-hour travel time – competitive with driving
- Capital improvements
  - Track upgrades and new and extended sidings
  - Upgrade signals
  - Grade crossing improvements
  - New and expanded stations
- *\$194.7 million State funding provides matching dollars to seek federal funding for*
  - Final design and construction
  - Purchase locomotives and cars – NLX and TCMC



- **Corridor Identification and Development Program (Corridor ID)**
  - NLX was accepted into the program in December 2023
  - New Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) program
    - Funds project development work
    - Goal is to create a ***“prioritized pipeline”*** of projects that are ready for capital funding
  - ***FRA will prioritize projects in the Corridor ID program for capital funding under other grant programs***

# Corridor ID Steps

## Step 1

- *Scoping*
- FRA funds 100% up to \$500K

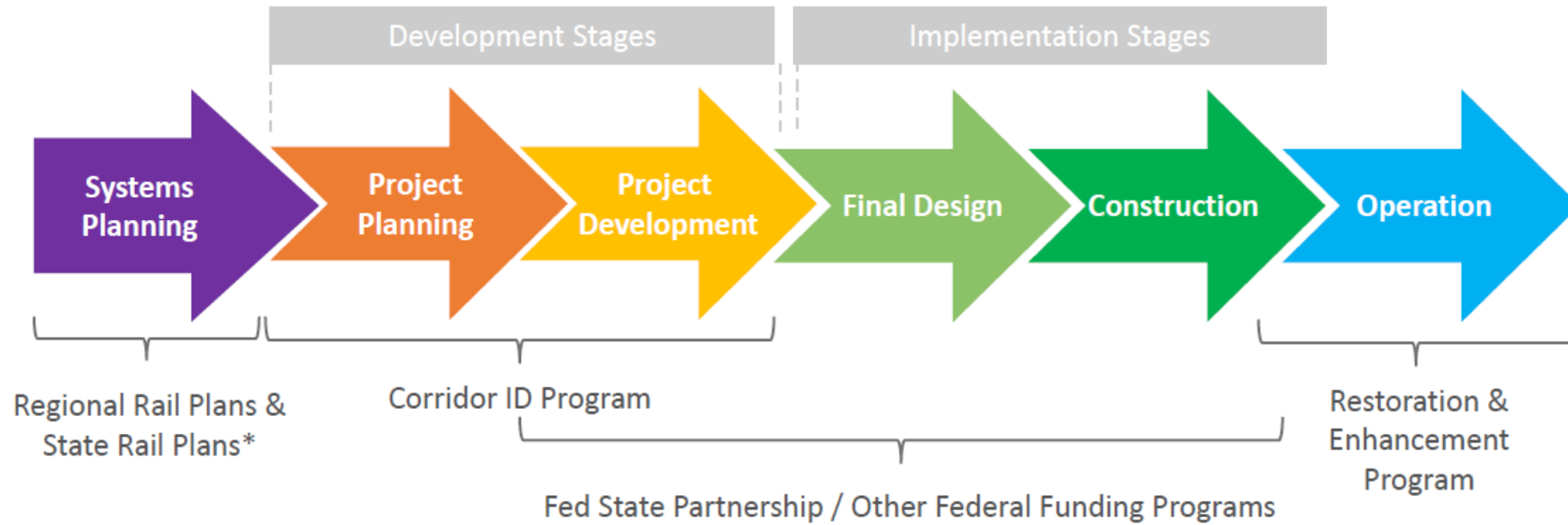
## Step 2

- *Service Development Planning (SDP)*
- FRA funds 90%

## Step 3

- *Preliminary Engineering*
- *NEPA*
- FRA funds 80%

# Moving NLX Forward



\*Regional Rail Planning and State Rail Plans may be funded through other FRA funding programs.

Source: FRA

# Complimentary Projects

- **Hinkley Corridor Grade Crossing Elimination and Improvement Study**
  - Same corridor as NLX
  - \$600,000 study – partially funded by a Federal Railroad Administration grant
  - Planning study to identify opportunities to define and implement a multi-year, multi-phase program to
    - Identify improvements to increase safety of motorists and pedestrians
    - Eliminate trespassing
  - Focus is on freight, with an eye towards passenger rail
  - Study timeline mid-2024 through 2025
    - Grant agreement is in process

# Complimentary Projects

- **Moving Greater Minnesota Forward Program**
  - First innovative mobility incubator in the United States
  - Focus – rural, tribal and small urban areas (less than 200,000)
  - East Central Regional Development Commission is a partner
    - Collaborating to look at mobility hubs for different transit providers to connect riders
      - Includes NLX stations
    - Seeking assistance from local transportation partners to develop a regional needs assessment and feasibility study for hubs







# Wisconsin Corridor ID Selections

## WisDOT Sponsored Corridors

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Milwaukee to Chicago Hiawatha Service Corridor Expansion | Increase frequencies from 7 to 10 daily round trips                        |
| 2. Twin Cities–Milwaukee–Chicago – Second Round Trip        | Add a second daily frequency to state supported route                      |
| 3. Milwaukee–Madison–Eau Claire–Twin Cities                 | Establish new passenger rail service between Milwaukee and the Twin Cities |
| 4. Milwaukee to Green Bay Hiawatha Service Extension        | Extend Hiawatha service from Milwaukee to Green Bay                        |

## Other Sponsored Corridors

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| A. Eau Claire to Twin Cities                                | Establish new passenger rail service between Eau Claire and Twin Cities |
| B. Northern Lights Express – Minneapolis to Duluth/Superior | MnDOT application for new passenger rail service                        |

# Thanks!

**For more information:** <http://dot.state.mn.us/nlx>

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