

Welcome

Agenda

- Why We're Here
- What We've Heard
- What's New
 - Federal Guidance
 - Trends
 - Safety
 - Priorities and projects
 - Funding Methods
- What's Next



Why We're Here

Purpose of Today's Meeting

- To share what's new in the 2015 State Rail Plan
- Present comments heard at first round of outreach
- Explain how public feedback will be addressed



What We've Heard

Open House Round 1

October – December 2014

262 attendees

47 written comments

33 online comments

9 letters and resolutions

10 cities



What We've Heard

Open House Round 1

Themes:

- Concern for rail safety
- Need to address congestion
- Impacts of Bakken oil boom
- Interest in passenger rail
- Need to improve Amtrak reliability



What We've Heard

Stakeholder Meetings

- 3 Class I Railroads
- Several Class III Railroads
- Railroad Organizations
- Statewide Industry Associations

Common Trends

- Rail volumes increasing
- Rail-related employment significantly increased
- Most important topic is now rail safety

Common Concerns

- Financial burden of Positive Train Control mandates & MN Rail Safety Bill actions
- Rail-related funding from public sector
- Capacity constraints & access to markets

What We've Heard

Online Comments

Key Themes:

- Rail congestion
- Rail impacts
 - Noise, traffic and vibration
- Amtrak delays
- Passenger rail

Letters & Resolutions:

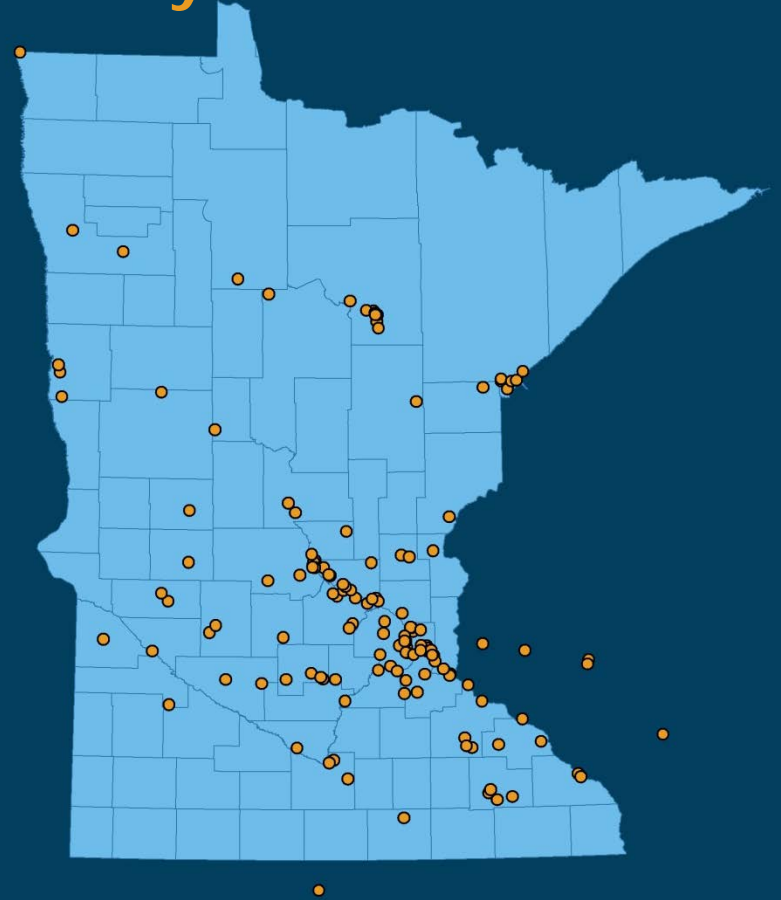
- All Aboard MN
- MN Cities: Farmington, Lonsdale, Northfield, Rosemount, Savage
- Northfield Economic Development Authority
- Freeborn County
- MN Farm Bureau

The project continues to receive letters from additional stakeholder groups

What We've Heard

MetroQuest Survey

- 600 participants
- 208 investment needs identified
- Rail safety is top concern
- Most noted Corridors:
 - BNSF: MSP to St. Cloud
 - BNSF: Bemidji to Duluth
 - St. Paul's Hoffman Jct.
 - Various others



What's New

2015 Plan Update

Comply with
Federal
Guidance



Investigate
funding methods

Complete February 2015

Address new
trends

Continue to
promote safety

Update priorities
& project list

What's New

Federal Guidance

Plan Contents:

- Chapter 1: Role of Rail in Statewide Transportation
- Chapter 2: The State's Existing Rail System
- Chapter 3: Proposed Passenger Rail Improvements and Investments
- Chapter 4: Proposed Freight Rail Improvements and Investments
- Chapter 5: The State's Rail Service and Investment Program
- Chapter 6: Coordination and Review

What's New

New Trends

- Trade and economic development
- Congestion mitigation and traffic operations
- Safety and security
- Energy and the environment
- Land use and community impacts



What's New

Safety

The plan includes an increased emphasis on rail safety in response to stakeholder and public engagement.

- Includes findings of MnDOT grade crossing study
- Rail safety improvements incorporated into project list



What's New

Priorities and Project List

Project List

- 150 projects totaling \$6.1 billion
- Sourced from 2010 State Rail Plan, TIGER applications
- Organized by areas of impact
 - System capacity
 - System preservation
 - Efficiency and reliability
 - International trade
 - Cost-effective investments
 - Environment and community
 - Safety and security
 - Economic development

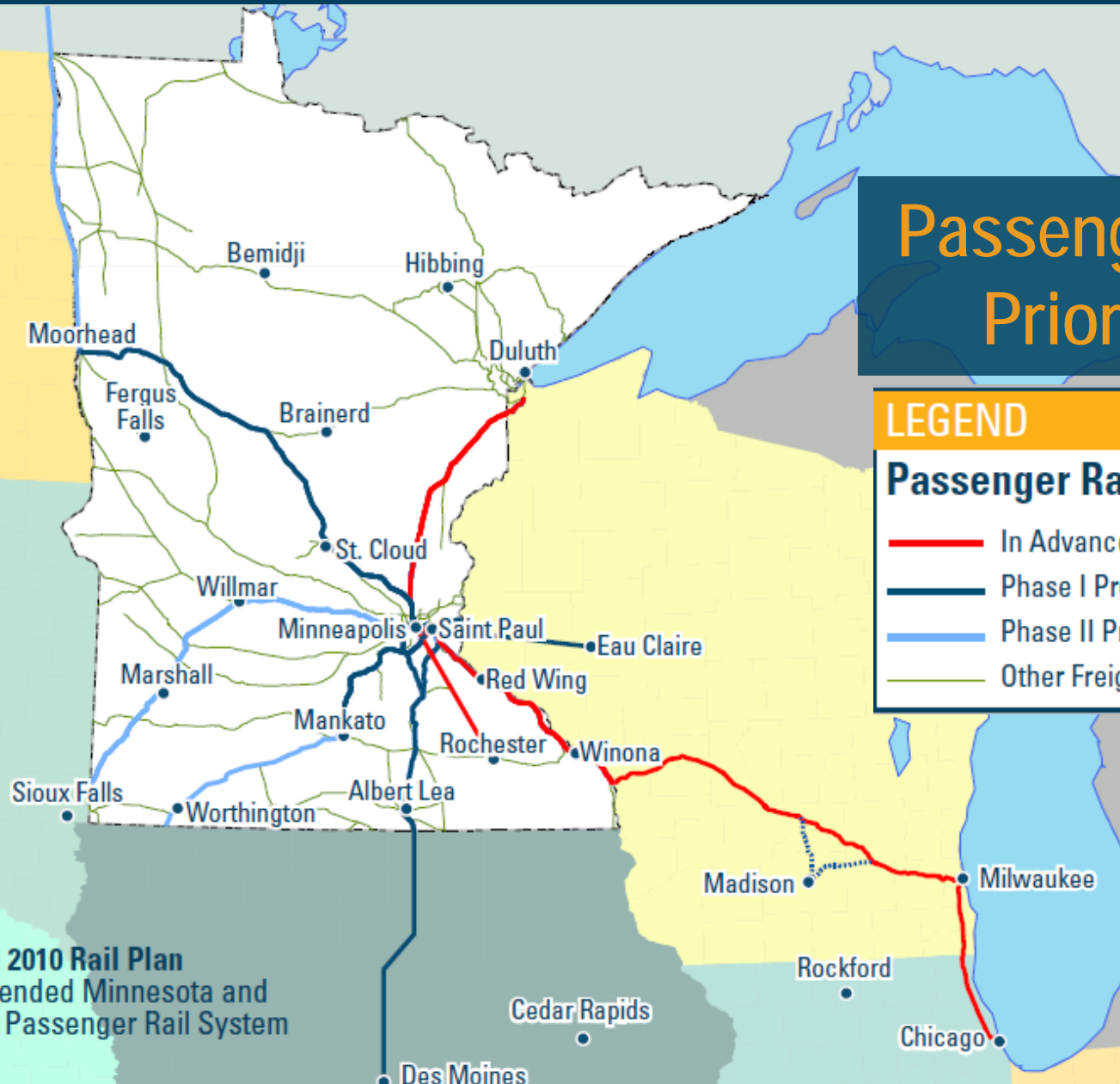
What's New

Passenger Rail Priorities

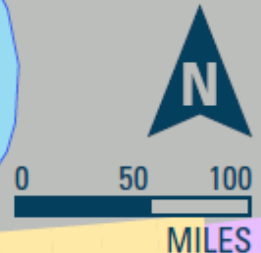
LEGEND

Passenger Rail Projects

- In Advanced Planning
- Phase I Projects
- Phase II Projects
- Other Freight Rail Lines



Modified 2010 Rail Plan
Recommended Minnesota and
Regional Passenger Rail System



What's New

Funding Methods

- **Federal**

- TIGER Grants
- CMAQ Program

- **State**

- No dedicated sources now
- Possible MSRI expansion
- 2015 Transportation Bill?

- **Local**

- County RR Commissions
- RRA general funds, tax levies

- **Private**

- Freight company revenues
 - Companies might be able to cover ~74% of improvement costs on existing rail lines

What's New

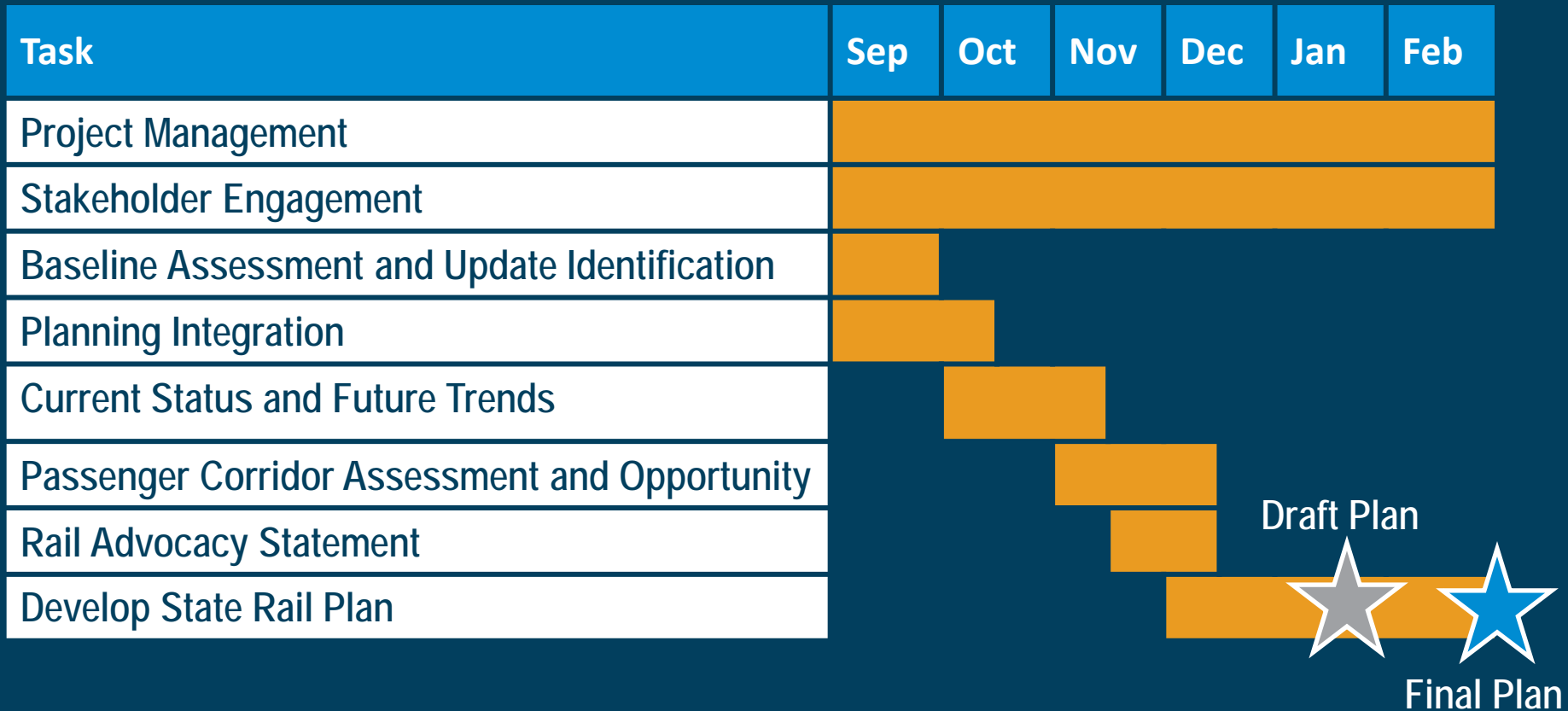
Minnesota GO

- Aligns with statewide transportation vision
- Follows planning framework established in Minnesota's Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan



What's Next

Schedule



What's Next

How to Learn More and Provide Feedback

- Attend open houses
- Project website
 - www.dot.state.mn.us/planning/railplan
- Provide feedback
 - Fill out a comment form



Minnesota
A Collaborative Vision
for Transportation



Questions & Answers

www.dot.state.mn.us/planning/railplan

