

# Minnesota Comprehensive Statewide Freight and Passenger Rail Plan

*presented to*

**Minnesota Rail Plan  
Open Houses**

*presented by*

**Cambridge Systematics, Inc.  
Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.  
TKDA, Inc.**

**April-May, 2009**



# Agenda

- **Introductions and Opening Comments**
  - Welcome, MnDOT District Welcome
  - Dave Christianson, Project Manager, MnDOT
- **Presentation on State Rail Plan, Cambridge Systematics**
  - Outreach Plan, Randy Halvorson
  - Overview of Scope, Marc Cutler/Erika Witzke
  - Inventory Rail System (Task 2), Allan Rutter/Andreas Aeppli
- **Discussion - Randy Halvorson**
  - Full Group
  - Breakout Groups



# Public Outreach

*Randy Halvorson, Facilitator*

# Public Outreach (Task 10)

## Task Objective

**Provide opportunity for stakeholders to contribute to the development of the plan and to stay informed on the study's progress**

## Key Principles

- **Be respectful of previous and underlying political and community issues**
- **Be flexible as plan evolves and any unforeseen issues emerge**

# Public Involvement Plan

- **Develop project specific Public Involvement Plan (PIP) to guide the outreach process to ensure**
  - **Lines of communications are open at all times**
  - **Public and stakeholders are engaged in the planning process**
  - **Consider public and stakeholder input when making decisions**

# Project Committees

## ● Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)

- Regional Railroad Authorities
- Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB)
- Railroads
- Regional Development Commissions (RDCs)
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Metropolitan Council
- State DOTs
- Rail Corridor Coalitions
- Cities and Counties
- Environmental Organizations
- Legislators and Other Elected Officials
- Shippers
- Trade Associations
- Transportation Associations, Ports, Minnesota Trade Associations
- Organized Labor

## ● Freight Technical Advisory Committee (FTAC)

## ● Passenger Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC)

# Public Open House Meetings

- **Two rounds of meetings**
  - April – introduction to project
  - October – preliminary recommendations
- **Locations**
  - St. Cloud
  - Rochester
  - Duluth
  - Minneapolis-St. Paul
  - Red Wing
  - Mankato
  - Moorhead



# Upcoming Meeting Dates

- **PAC Meetings**
  - **May 29**
  - **August 14**
  - **November 13**
- **Freight and Passenger TAC Meetings**
  - **May 28**
  - **August 13**
  - **November 12**



# Outreach Techniques

- **Public Open House Meetings**
- **Stakeholder Group Meetings**
- **Individual Stakeholder Meetings**
- **Press Releases**
- **Web Site Updates**
- **Progress Briefings**
- **Meeting Summaries**



# Overview of Scope

*Marc Cutler/Erika Witzke*

# Study Goals

## Legislatively Mandated

- **Comprehensive look at demand for freight and passenger rail services**
- **Identify infrastructure and other improvements needed to expand rail service**
- **Explore funding options**
- **Recommend policy guidelines for state investment and public/private partnerships**

*A Strategic Overview  
to help guide  
Development of Individual Rail Projects*

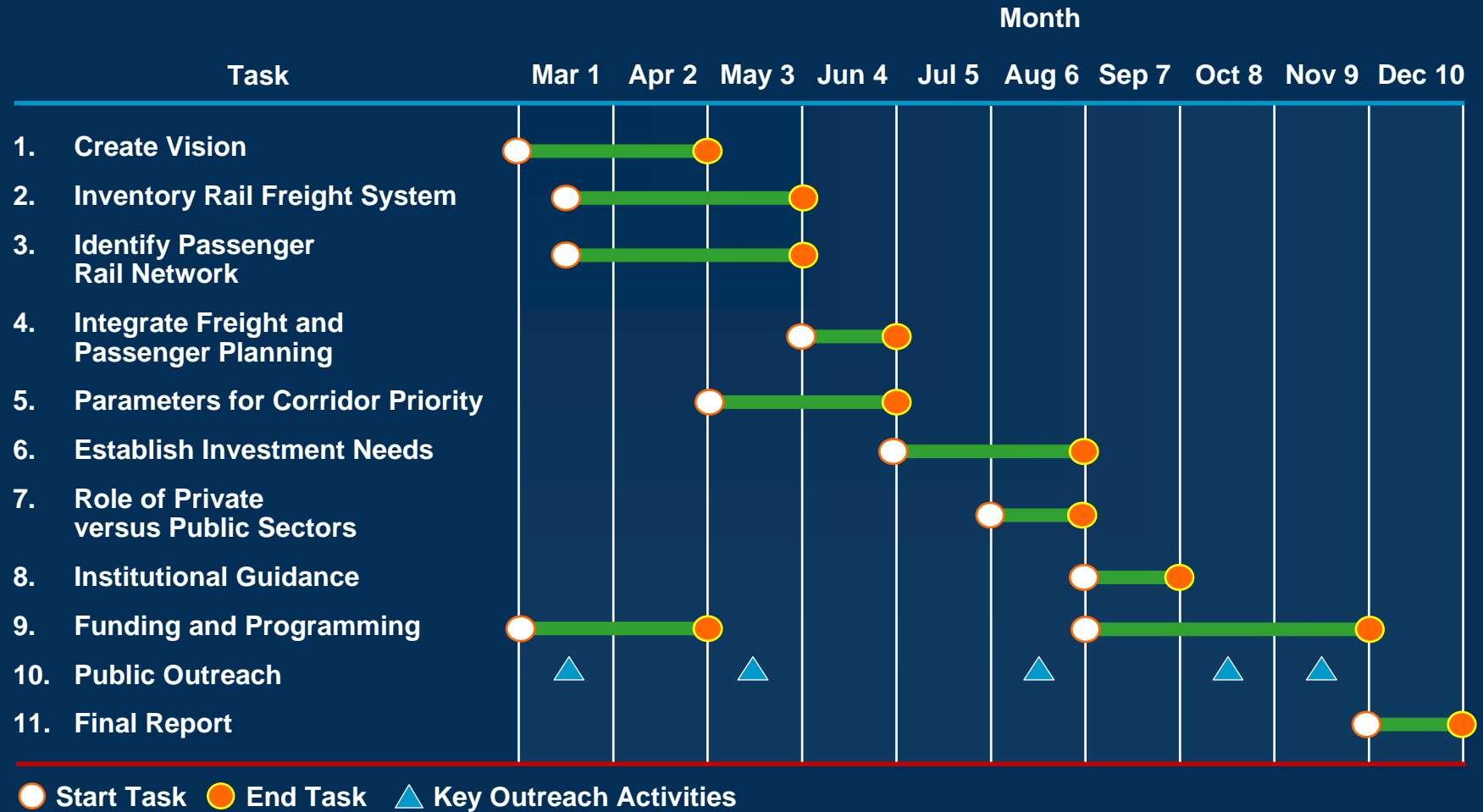
# Federal Funding Opportunities

- **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Economic Stimulus)**
  - \$8 billion in capital assistance for the combined categories of Intercity Passenger Rail Service and High Speed Rail Corridors, authorized under Section 501 of PRIIA
  - Rail investments are eligible under other grant programs
- **FY 2009 Appropriations**
  - \$90 million in matching funds available to states
- **Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA)**
  - \$3.7 billion authorized for HSR, intercity and congestion
- **Authorization of national Surface Transportation Programs (SAFETEA-LU)**
- **Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF)**

# Project Phases

<b>Project Phase</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Task</b>
<b>Phase I</b>	<b>Rail Vision</b>	<b>Task 1</b>
<b>Phase II</b>	<b>Inventory Freight System and Passenger Rail Plans</b>	<b>Tasks 2 and 3</b>
<b>Phase III</b>	<b>Integration of passenger and freight planning, and development of performance criteria</b>	<b>Tasks 4 and 5</b>
<b>Phase IV</b>	<b>Plan Development – Needs, Institutional Arrangements, Programs, Financing</b>	<b>Tasks 6-9</b>
<b>Continuous Public Outreach</b>		<b>Task 10</b>
<b>Final Report</b>		<b>Task 11</b>

# Schedule





# Vision

# Vision for Rail in Minnesota (Task 1)

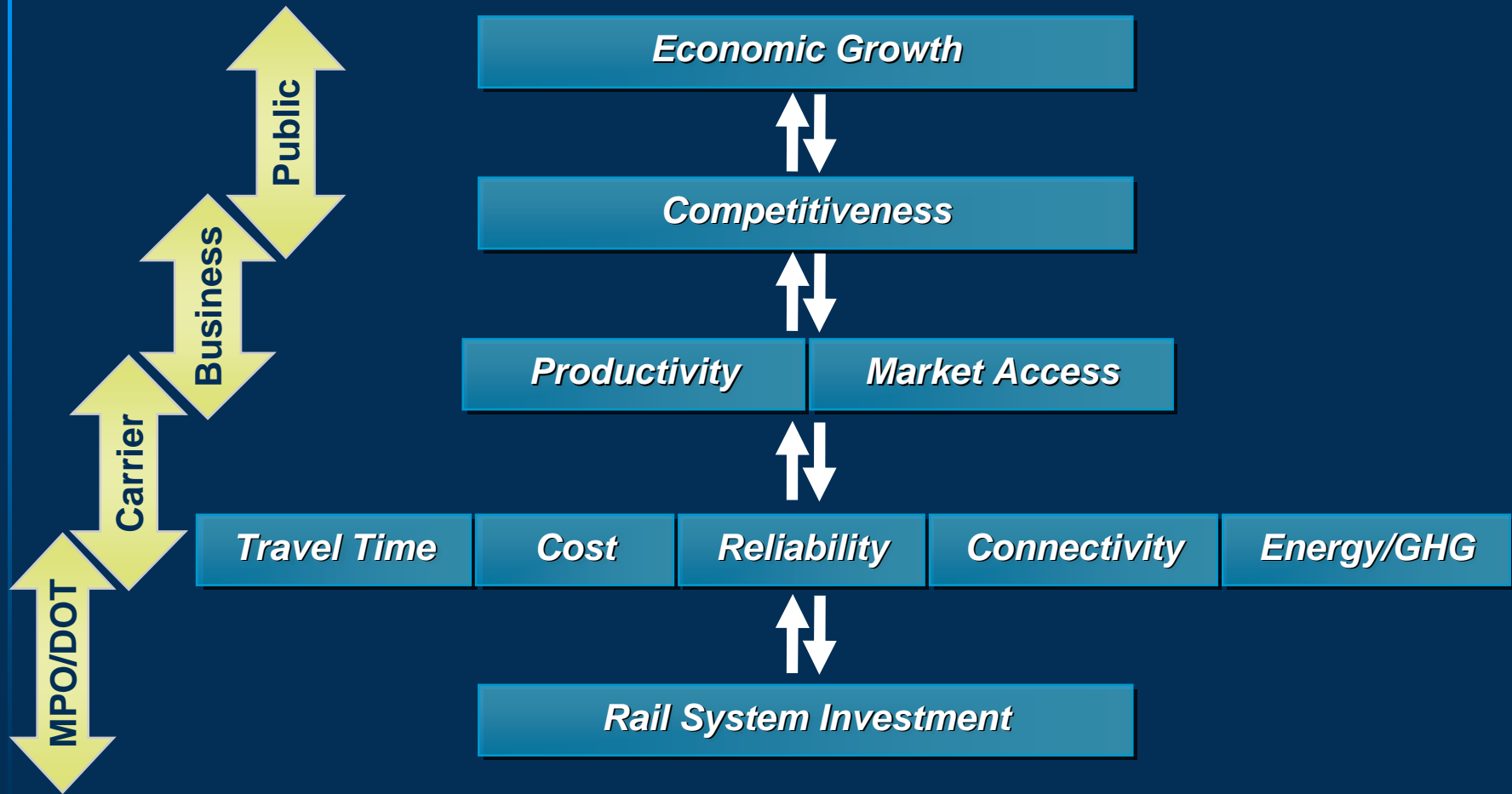
## Task Objective

Develop a **vision for freight and passenger rail in Minnesota** as part of the State's overall transportation network

## Key Issues

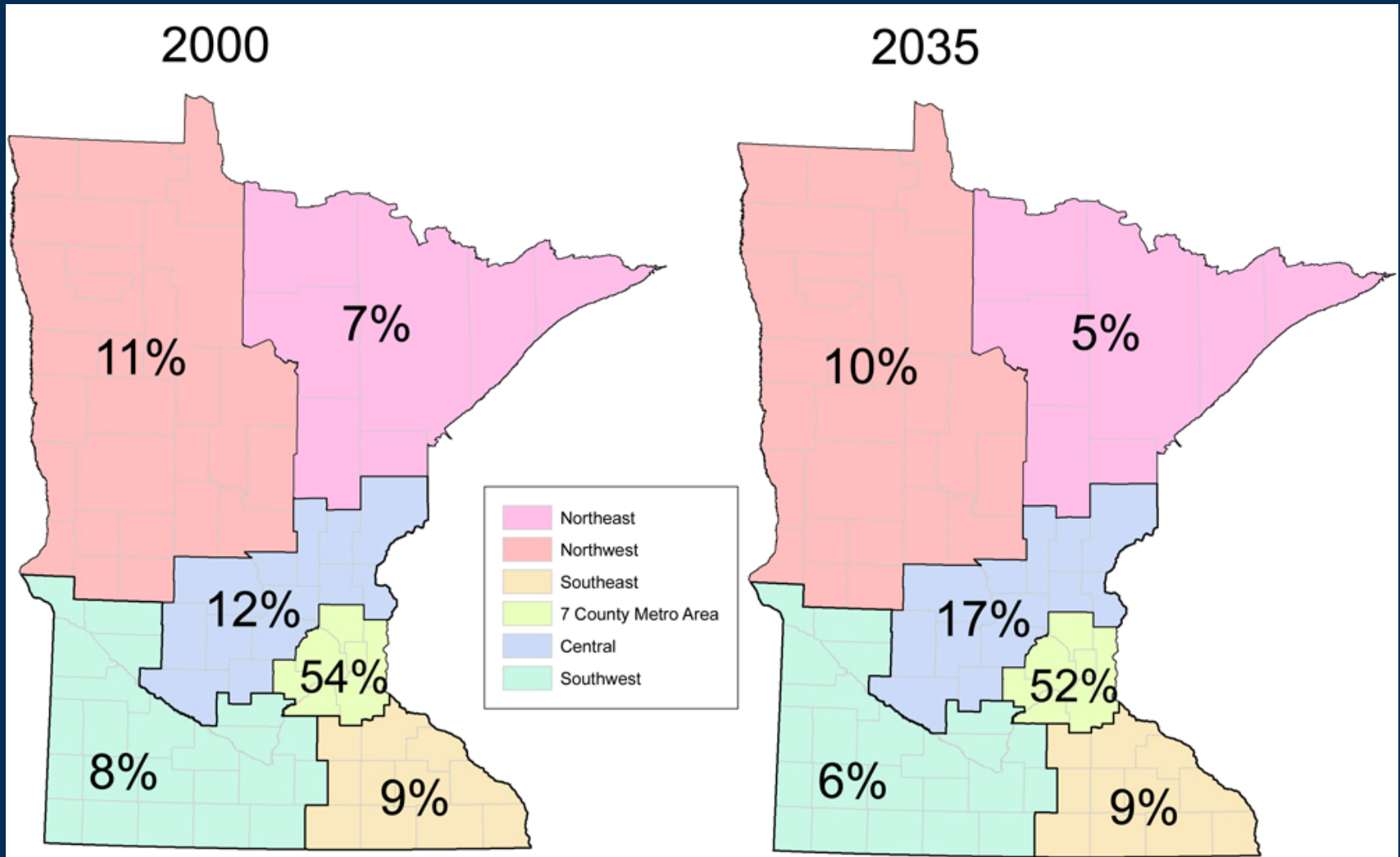
- **Meeting** business, community, and economic needs (short- and long-term)
- **Balancing** the rail program with environmental, energy, greenhouse gas, development, land use, social, and fiscal programs
- **Allocating** public and private benefits, costs, and risks
- **Adjusting** as the system evolves

# Rail Transportation Investments Can Be Used to Shape the Minnesota Economy and Drive Development



# Population Growth Is Concentrated

## Central Minnesota Accounting for Larger Share of Population



# Rail Vision Scenarios *(Framework)*

Rail Scenarios	Development Futures	
	Twin Cities-centered	Multi-centered
Near-Term	Passenger Corridors ... Freight Corridors...	Passenger Corridors ... Freight Corridors...
Mid-Term	Passenger Corridors ... Freight Corridors...	Passenger Corridors ... Freight Corridors...
Longer-Term	Passenger Corridors ... Freight Corridors...	Passenger Corridors ... Freight Corridors...



# Freight Rail System

# Freight Rail System Inventory and Assessment (Task 2)

## Task Objective

**Describe Minnesota's present rail system, who it serves today, and how it will accommodate Minnesota's future goods movement needs**

## Key Issues

- **What are the existing conditions, system usage and institutional structure?**
- **What freight markets are currently served?**
- **How well does Minnesota's rail system meet current and future logistics needs?**
- **What is the impact of public sector initiatives and regulations?**



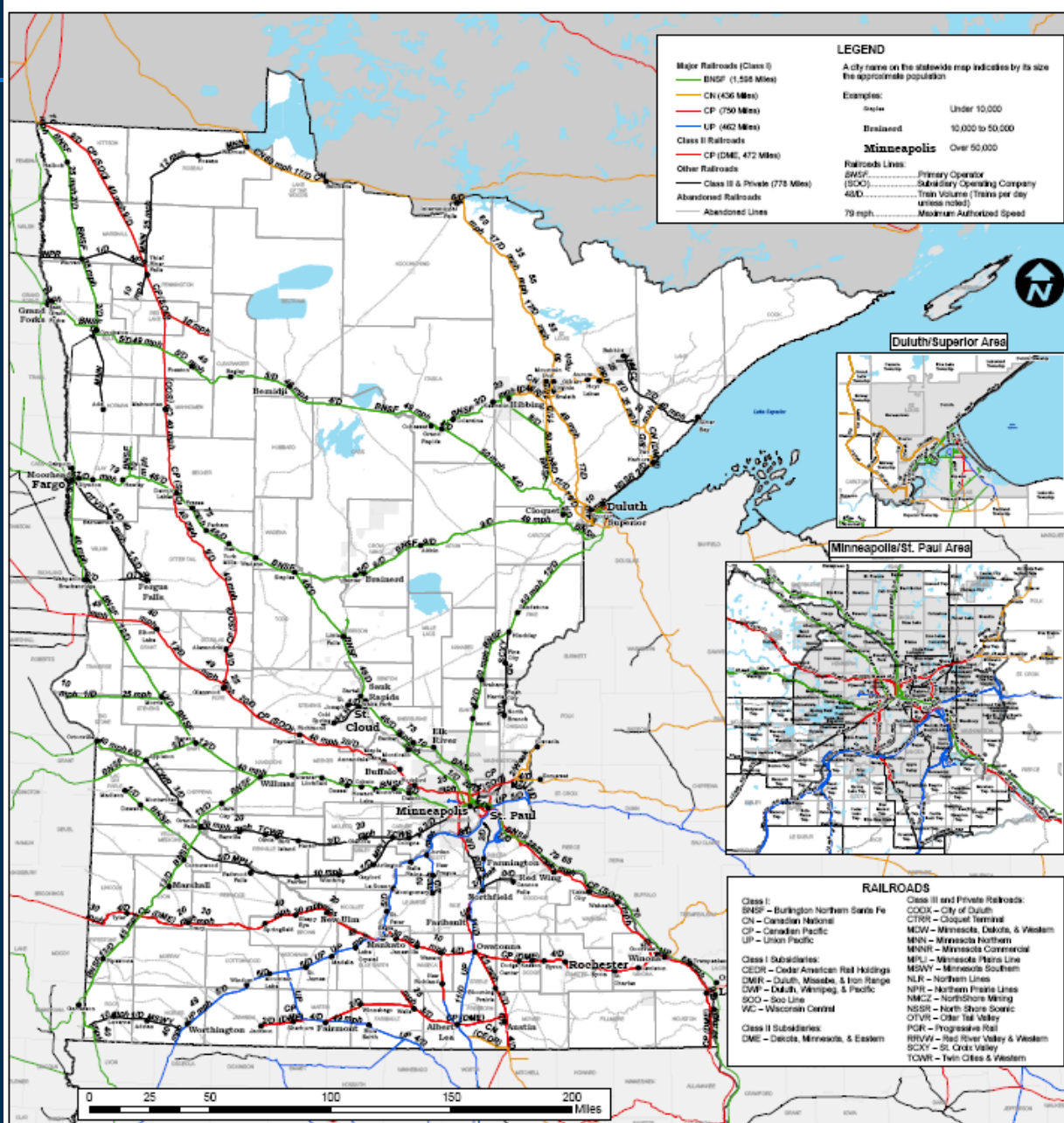
# MINNESOTA FREIGHT RAILROAD MAP

Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations

April, 2009

## Freight Rail

- 4 Class I Railroads
- 16 Short Line Railroads
- 4,500 Public Grade Crossings
- 8<sup>th</sup> Highest Rail Miles in Nation



# 2007 Minnesota Freight Rail Statistics

- Railroads in Minnesota carried 3,593,532 carloads of freight in 2007
- Railroads move a ton of freight an average of 436 miles on one gallon of fuel
- A single freight train can take 280 or more trucks off of Minnesota's highways
- Top Originating Commodities = Iron Ore, Intermodal, Food Products, Gravel and Chemicals
- Top Terminating Commodities = Iron Ore, Coal, Intermodal, Grain, and Chemicals



# Passenger Rail System

# Passenger Rail System Inventory and Forecasts (Task 3)

## Task Objective

**Synthesize information from existing studies to identify corridors and rail lines most likely to support effective passenger rail service**

## Key Issues

- **Compile previous and ongoing reports on other relevant planning efforts**
- **Inventory physical characteristics on rail lines in likely passenger corridors**
- **Synthesize demand-related forecasts to evaluate corridors**

# VISION *for* HIGH-SPEED RAIL *in* AMERICA

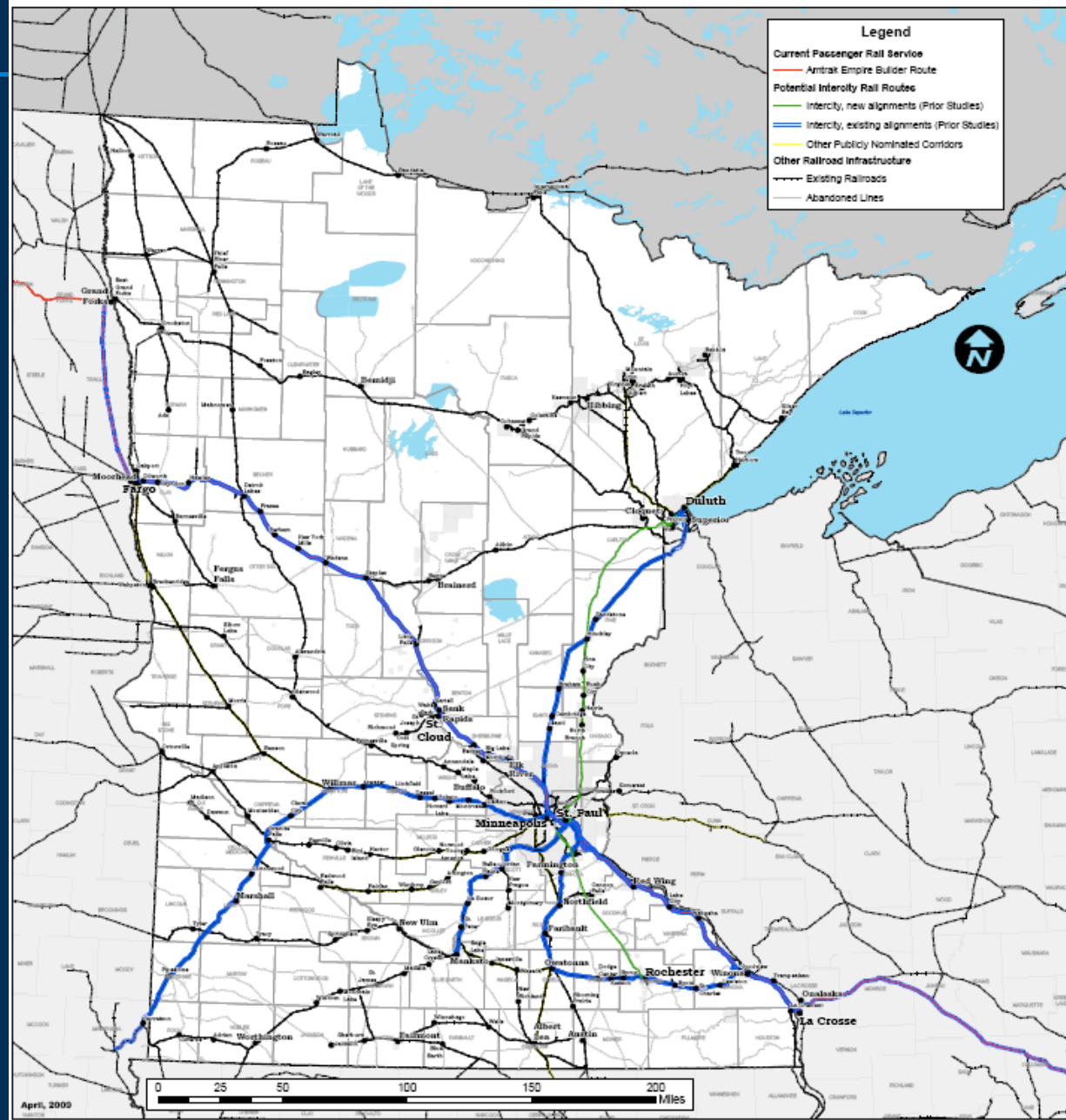




# Passenger Rail

- Existing Service
- Daily Amtrak Service between Chicago and Seattle/Portland
- Northstar service to start in 2009

## MINNESOTA POTENTIAL PASSENGER RAIL NETWORK





# Context for Passenger Rail Evaluation

## ● Midwest

- Connect to Midwest Regional Rail Initiative (MWRRI)
- Understand alternative modes like scheduled intercity bus and airline service

## ● State

- Prepare for new Federal funding (stimulus, PRIIA, and beyond)
- Examine intrastate connections to major cities (beyond MWRRI)

## ● Local

- Connect to/complement Twin Cities transit (commuter, light rail)
- Address challenges of existing Twin Cities rail infrastructure

# Intercity Passenger Rail Service in Other Corridors

Intercity Passenger Rail Corridor	Major City, Metro Population	Urban Area, City Population
Chicago-Quincy, IL	Chicago, 9.7 million	Quincy, 40,300
Chicago-Carbondale, IL	Chicago, 9.7 million	Carbondale, 26,300
Philadelphia-Harrisburg, PA	Philadelphia, 5.8 million	Harrisburg, 47,200
Boston, MA-Portland, ME	Boston, 4.5 million	Portland, 64,249
Twin Cities-Rochester, MN	Twin Cities, 3.2 million	Rochester, 100,800
Twin Cities-Duluth, MN	Twin Cities, 3.2 million	Duluth, 86,918



# Discussion

*Randy Halvorson, Facilitator*