

# Minnesota Statewide Freight and Passenger Rail Plan

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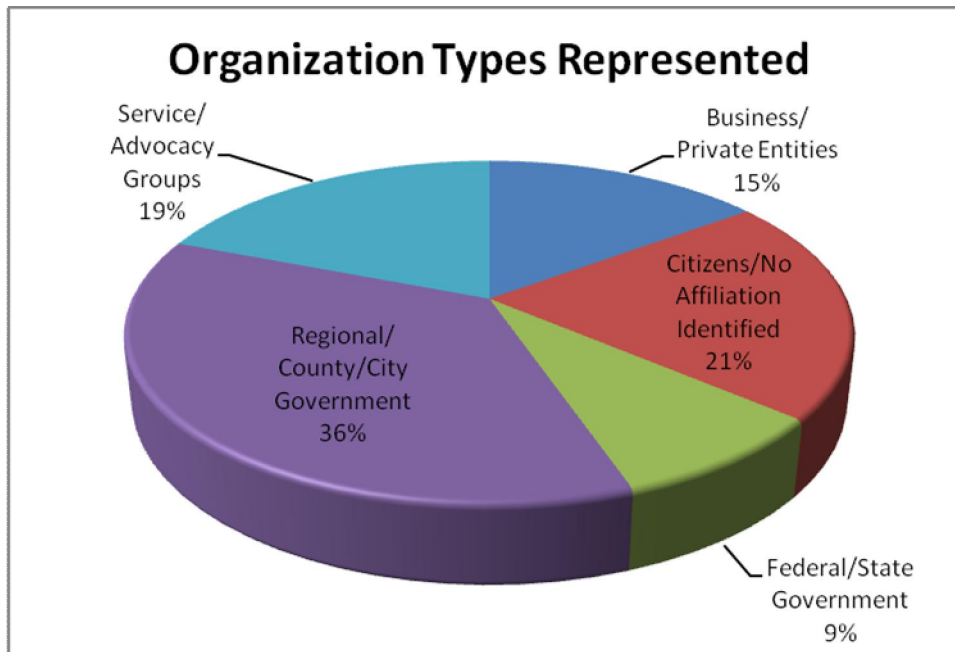
## OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY – RED WING

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

Red Wing Main Library – Foot Room

5:00PM – 7:00 PM

**TOTAL NUMBER SIGNED IN: 47**



**WRITTEN COMMENTS SUBMITTED: 4**

**SUMMARY OF COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:** *(as summarized by staff)*

- How is it envisioned folks are going to get to the train stations - walk, drive?
- How many tracks are proposed in the future system? Will it be a multi-track system?
- Rochester would like to have a connection - how will they connect to the system, via Light Rail?
- The Midwest High Speed Rail project already has key stops named - Madison, LaCrosse, Winona - what are the chances Red Wing will continue to be a stop on the line?
- How will people with disabilities be served?
- There is funding for chair lifts advertised in the stimulus package going to Red Wing - what is this?
- Will high speed rail be routed through Eau Claire instead of along the existing route?
- What is the difference between speeds of passenger rail, high speed rail, and freight rail?
- When will project awards be made?

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- Does Minnesota have a Rail Czar?
- Who will get priority in shared corridors - Amtrak (passenger trains) or freight trains?
- How consultant soliciting freight projections for the next 15-20 years? How will the freight community be involved in this plan?
- What is status of rail line through SD to Wyoming (Powder River Basin)?
- Have the Class I railroads been cooperative? Passenger service should not diminish freight activity, but enhance freight.
- Has Amtrak considered discontinuing service on the Empire Builder?
- How many trains/day go through Red Wing?
- How will bus service be integrated with passenger rail?
- Will St. Paul Union Depot once again be a hub for trains?
- How are political considerations included in the plan?
- Gas prices - how influence the plan and passenger train success?
- Are there Federal dollars available for a second train to Chicago?

## **MAIN THEMES:**

- Consider Red Wing as a stop for Midwest High Speed Rail.
- Passenger rail and freight rail activities should be balanced.