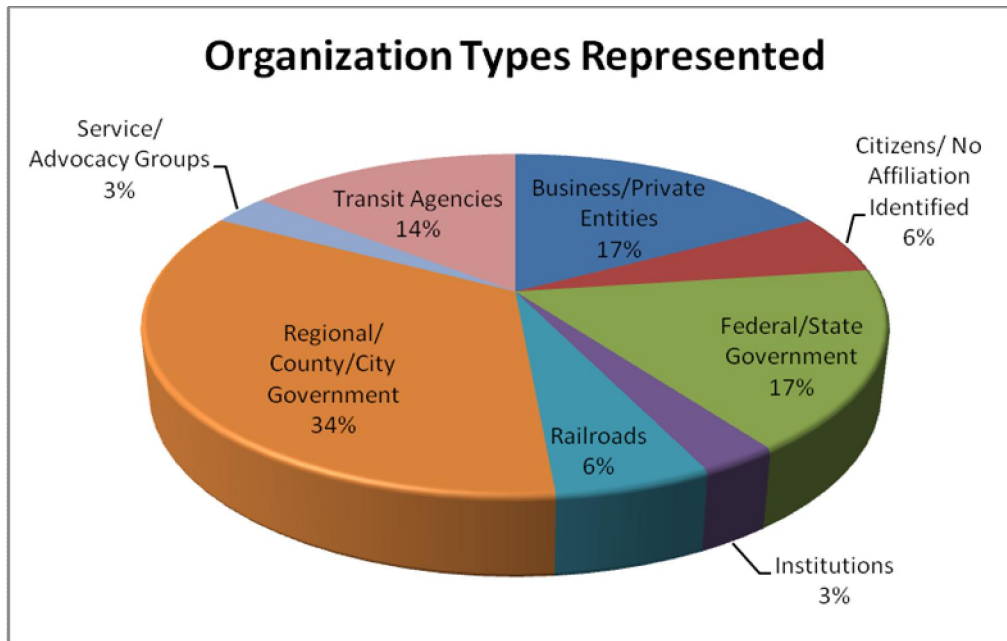


Minnesota Statewide Freight and Passenger Rail Plan

OPEN HOUSE SUMMARY – ST. CLOUD

Tuesday, April 21, 2009
Mn/DOT Office and Training Center
5:00PM – 7:00 PM

TOTAL NUMBER SIGNED IN: 34



WRITTEN COMMENTS RECEIVED: 3

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

- Is there any money for freight rail investment?
- Concerns regarding affordability of passenger rail and how it will affect the existing freight system.
- Northstar Phase II Extension should be a priority.
- Are freight and passenger rail always in competition, or can passenger rail improvements sometimes help freight?
- What is the timeframe of the plan, and will it include short-, mid-, and long-term priorities? Will it consider necessary improvements to the existing rail system?
- Will the plan discuss financial implications of federal vs. state/local funding?
- We should have a system operated by the state to minimize equipment, facility, and maintenance costs.

MAIN THEMES:

- Carefully consider the relationship between freight and passenger rail.
- Extend Northstar commuter rail to St. Cloud.
- Plan should consider improvement priorities and timeframes, as well as different funding scenarios.