

# Minnesota Statewide Rail Plan

## OPEN HOUSE ROUND 1 SUMMARY – SAINT PAUL, MN

A public open house for the Minnesota Statewide Rail Plan was held in Saint Paul, MN on Monday, November 10, 2014 from 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM at the State Office Building. Materials available included Rail Plan display boards, a Rail Plan presentation, a Freight Plan station, comment forms, and project handouts. The open house directly followed a standing Passenger Rail Forum meeting concerning passenger rail improvements throughout Minnesota. The purpose of the open house was to introduce content and educate attendees on the MN Statewide Rail Plan and provide opportunities for participants to influence Plan development.



### Open House participation included:

- 13 attendees signed-in
- 1 attendee filled out comment forms

### Comments

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Participants were asked to provide comments on Minnesota's rail improvement needs, passenger rail planning, and any other feedback. The following summarizes participant responses.

- **Rail Improvements:** Railroad workers in attendance emphasized the importance of multimodal connections between rail and road. Respondents requested that the Freight Rail Economic Development Study be incorporated into the Minnesota State Rail Plan to advance recommendations from that report. Other suggestions included contacting farmer groups for stakeholder input and characterizing congestion issues at Hoffman junction as the number of trains traveling daily instead of the percentage of the nation's train traffic.
- **Passenger Rail:** Multiple respondents cited the importance of the East Metro Rail Capacity study and its guidance in benefiting both passenger and freight rail. In addition, many supported passenger rail service and the importance of paying attention to Baaken oil shipment congestion.
- **General:** Other comments received included compliments on the public engagement process and a question regarding data presented at the open house. The project team is in the process of updating data for the 2015 plan. Figures provided at the open house include both numbers from the 2010 plan and new data that has become available since then.