Who is on the project team?

- MnDOT
- OCRRA
- Consultant Team
  - Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
  - Richardson, Richter and Associates, Inc.
  - TranSystems
What is the study called?

- “Southeastern Minnesota Freight Rail Capacity Study”
  - Public name given to the study
- “Southern Rail Corridor Feasibility Study and Alternatives Analysis”
  - Official name given to the study
Why are we here today?

- **Step 1**
  - To establish the purpose of the project
    - What are the fundamental reasons for initiating a rail improvement project in the Rochester area
  - To outline the needs for the project
- **Step 2**
  - To identify specific areas of concern that will help drive the development of the Universe of Alternatives
Why are we studying it now?

- Congressionally-directed funds under the 2010 Rail Line Relocation and Improvement Program
- Utilize a community-driven process to advance the study of promising alternatives
- MnDOT and OCRRA will be in consultation with the FRA to determine next steps, if any
### Who is contributing to the study?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Actors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project Management Team (PMT)</strong></td>
<td>MnDOT, OCRRA, FRA, Consultant Team</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Review materials, consider TAC/PAC feedback, manage budget/schedule</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)</strong></td>
<td>MnDOT, OCRRA, DCRRA, Rochester-Olmsted Council of Governments, Olmsted County, Dodge County, City of Rochester, CP/DM&amp;E, Mayo Clinic, and Citizens Against Rochester’s Bypass</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Review technical material, provide technical input</em></td>
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<td><strong>Project Advisory Committee (PAC)</strong></td>
<td>Selected members of the public</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Provide input on community issues, voice public opinion, promote participation</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Public</strong></td>
<td>All interested citizens</td>
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<td><em>Provide feedback at open houses</em></td>
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**PROJECT BACKGROUND**

- **1998**: DM&E application filed to extend rail line 281 miles into the Powder River Basin (PRB)
- **2002**: Extension reapproved
- **2006**: Environmental Impact Statement Completed
- **2009**: Independent Mayo Clinic Study
- **2012**: Federal funding approved for Feasibility and Alternatives Analysis (AA) Study

- **1998**: Extension reapproved
- **2002**: Environmental Impact Statement Completed
- **2006**: Extension approved with mitigation
- **2009**: Court challenge
- **2012**: Supplemental EIS required

**Feasibility Study & AA**
How is this study different?

The study will:

- Articulate a clear Purpose and Need statement for the proposed action
- Engage stakeholders and members of the public throughout the process
- Develop a plan that evaluates short and long term freight rail needs in Olmsted and Dodge Counties
What is the purpose of the project?

For public input:
The purpose of the proposed action is to provide the future infrastructure required to serve the current and long term rail demand while addressing public health, safety, and accessibility issues within the project area.
Why is the project needed?

For public input:
Four primary factors contribute to the need for the project:

- Projected increase in freight traffic on the existing DM&E line
- Potential capacity issues with future passenger rail traffic along existing DM&E corridor
- Accessibility considerations at existing grade crossings with increased rail activity
- Public health, safety, and environmental considerations relative to increased rail activity
What are the goals of the project?

For public input:

There are four primary goals of the project:

- Provide sufficient rail capacity through the project area
- Maintain acceptable traffic conditions at grade crossings within the project area
- Provide appropriate accessibility for emergency response vehicles within the project area
- Address health and safety issues relative to increased rail activity within the project area
What will come after this study?

The set of reasonable and feasible alternatives identified in the study will be advanced through the appropriate level of environmental review, as and when necessary.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summer 2012</strong></td>
<td>• Open House #1 – Provide input on Purpose and Need Statement</td>
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<td>• Adopt Purpose and Need Statement</td>
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<td><strong>Fall 2012</strong></td>
<td>• Develop Alternatives</td>
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<td>• Open House #2 – Provide input on alternative evaluation &amp; screening</td>
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<td>criteria</td>
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<td><strong>Fall/Winter 2012</strong></td>
<td>• Further Study and Analysis</td>
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<td><strong>Fall/Winter 2012</strong></td>
<td>• Open House #3 – Provide input on reports</td>
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<td>• Deliver Feasibility Report</td>
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<td>• Deliver Initial Alternatives Analysis Report</td>
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What’s next today?

We invite you to:

- Browse boards and other material around the room
- Address questions to any of the project staff
- Identify specific areas of concern within the project area
- Provide feedback on the purpose of the project
- Provide feedback on the need for the project
- Stop at the table creating a “word cloud” to contribute your issues/concerns
- Sign up for email updates at sign-in table
Are there any questions?