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News Release

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For Immediate Release

Open house for Willmar Wye project set for October 18

WILLMAR, Minn. – The third open house for the Willmar Rail Connector and Industrial Park Access (Wye) project has been set for Tuesday, October 18 at the Minnesota Department of Transportation (2505 Transportation Road) in Willmar from 5-7 pm. There will be a presentation given at 5:30 pm. The presentation will also be streamed live and available to view later on the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Facebook's page.

The community is invited to learn more about the project, environmental process, staff recommended layout and next steps. Staff from the Minnesota Department of Transportation, BNSF and WSB & Associates will be present to review design alternatives and to take public comment.

The Willmar Wye project will provide a direct connection between the Marshall and Morris Subdivisions of the BNSF rail network. The project also includes a rail spur that will provide access to the City of Willmar's industrial park. Currently, two alternatives are being considered. Alternative 1 suggests keeping Highway 12 in its current location. It would include construction of a high retaining wall and long bridge lifting Highway 12 over the new rail connection.

Alternative 2 suggests the realignment of Highway 12 and the construction of a less complex bridge over the rail connection. Alternative 2 would have more traditional embankments.

Both alternatives include a Highway 40 bridge over the railroad.

The Willmar Wye project is a public private partnership between the Minnesota Department of Transportation, BNSF, US DOT, Kandiyohi County, City of Willmar and Kandiyohi County and City of Willmar Economic Development Commission (EDC).

To request an ASL or foreign language interpreter, or other reasonable accommodation, call Janet Miller at 651-366-4720 or 1-800-657-3774 (Greater Minnesota), 711 or 1-800-627-3529 (Minnesota Relay). You also may send an email to ADArequest.dot@state.mn.us. Please request at least one week in advance, if possible.

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For more information about this project please visit
<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d8/projects/willmarwye/index.html>.

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