Minnesota Comprehensive Statewide Freight and Passenger Rail Plan
Kickoff Meeting

presented to
Policy Advisory Committee

presented by
Cambridge Systematics, Inc.
Kimley Horn and Associates, Inc.
TKDA, Inc.

March 20, 2009

CAMBRIDGE SYSTEMATICS

Agenda

- Introductions and Opening Comments
  - Dave Christianson, Project Manager, MnDOT
  - Khani Sahebjam, Chair; Deputy Commissioner, MnDOT
  - Randy Halvorson, Facilitator, CS
- Presentation on State Rail Plan, Cambridge Systematics
  - Overview of Scope, Marc Cutler, Project Manager
  - Outreach, Randy Halvorson
  - Vision (Task 1), Lance Grenzeback
  - Inventory Rail System (Task 2), Andreas Aeppli
  - Identify Passenger Network (Task 3), Allan Rutter
- Discussion
  - Randy Halvorson

Overview of Scope

Marc Cutler, Project Manager

Study Goals
Legislatively Mandated

- Comprehensive look at demand for freight and passenger rail services
- Identify infrastructure and other improvements needed to expand rail service
- Explore funding options
- Recommend policy guidelines for state investment and public/private partnerships

A STRATEGIC OVERVIEW WHICH CAN GUIDE INDIVIDUAL PROJECT ADVANCEMENT MOVING FORWARD

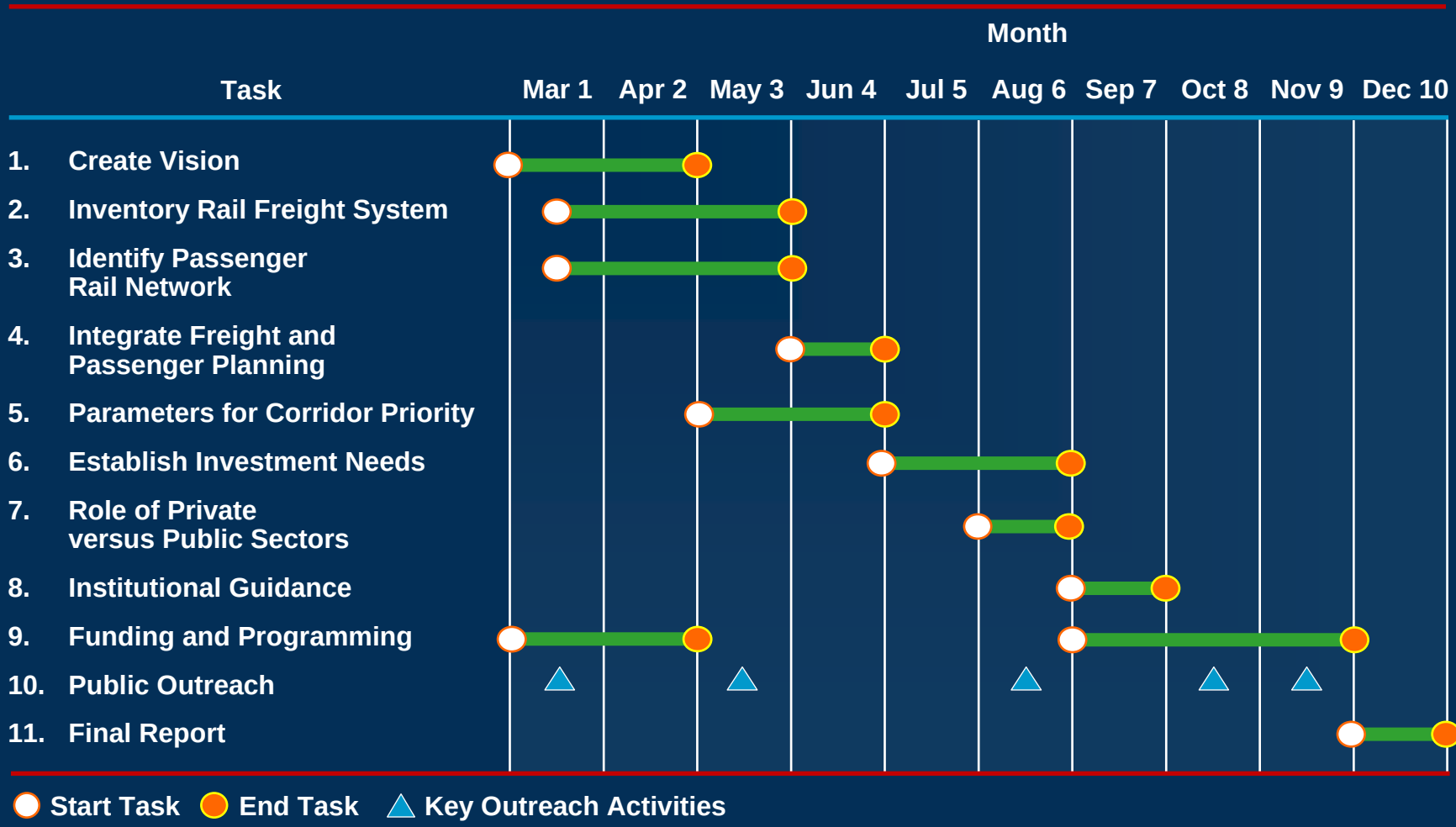
Funding Opportunities

- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Economic Stimulus)
  - $8 billion in capital assistance for the combined categories of Intercity Passenger Rail Service and High Speed Rail Corridors, authorized under Section 501 of PRIIA
  - Rail projects are eligible under other grant programs
- FY ’09 Appropriations
  - $90 million in matching funds available to states
- Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA)
  - $3.7 billion authorized for HSR, intercity and congestion
- Authorization of national Surface Transportation Programs (SAFETEA-LU)
- Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF)

Project Phases

Project Phase	Description	Task
Phase I	Rail Vision	Task 1
Phase II	Inventory Freight System and Passenger Rail Plans	Tasks 2 and 3
Phase III	Integration of passenger and freight planning, and development of performance criteria	Tasks 4 and 5
Phase IV	Plan Development – Needs, Institutional Arrangements, Programs, Financing	Tasks 6-9
Continuous Public Outreach		Task 10
Final Report		Task 11

Schedule


Month
Task
Mar 1
Apr 2
May 3
Jun 4
Jul 5
Aug 6
Sep 7
Oct 8
Nov 9
Dec 10
1. Create Vision
2. Inventory Rail Freight System
3. Identify Passenger Rail Network
4. Integrate Freight and Passenger Planning
5. Parameters for Corridor Priority
6. Establish Investment Needs
7. Role of Private versus Public Sectors
8. Institutional Guidance
9. Funding and Programming
10. Public Outreach
11. Final Report
Start Task
End Task
Key Outreach Activities

Public Outreach

Randy Halvorson, Facilitator

Public Outreach (Task 10)

Task Objective

Provide opportunity for stakeholders to contribute to the development of the plan and to stay informed on the study's progress

Key Principles

- Be respectful of previous and underlying political and community issues
- Be flexible as plan evolves and any unforeseen issues emerge

Public Involvement Plan

- **Develop project specific Public Involvement Plan (PIP) to guide the outreach process to ensure**
  - **Lines of communications are open at all times**
  - **Public and stakeholders are engaged in the planning process**
  - **Consider public and stakeholder input when making decisions**

Project Committees

- **Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)**
  - Regional Railroad Authorities
  - Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB)
  - Railroads
  - Regional Development Commissions (RDCs)
  - Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Metropolitan Council
  - State DOTs
  - Rail Corridor Coalitions
  - Cities and Counties
  - Environmental Organizations
  - Legislators and Other Elected Officials
  - Shippers
  - Trade Associations
  - Transportation Associations, Ports, Minnesota Trade Associations
  - Organized Labor
- **Freight Technical Advisory Committee (FTAC)**
- **Passenger Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC)**

Outreach Techniques

- Public Open House Meetings
- Stakeholder Group Meetings
- Individual Stakeholder Meetings
- Press Releases
- Web Site Updates
- Progress Briefings
- Meeting Summaries

Public Open House Meetings

- Two rounds of meetings
  - April
  - October
- Five locations
  - Duluth
  - Minneapolis-St. Paul
  - Red Wing
  - Rochester
  - St. Cloud

Upcoming Meeting Dates

- PAC Meetings
  - May 29
  - August 14
  - November 13
- Freight and Passenger TAC Meetings
  - May 28
  - August 13
  - November 12

Vision

Lance Grenzeback, Senior Advisor

Vision for Rail in Minnesota (Task 1)

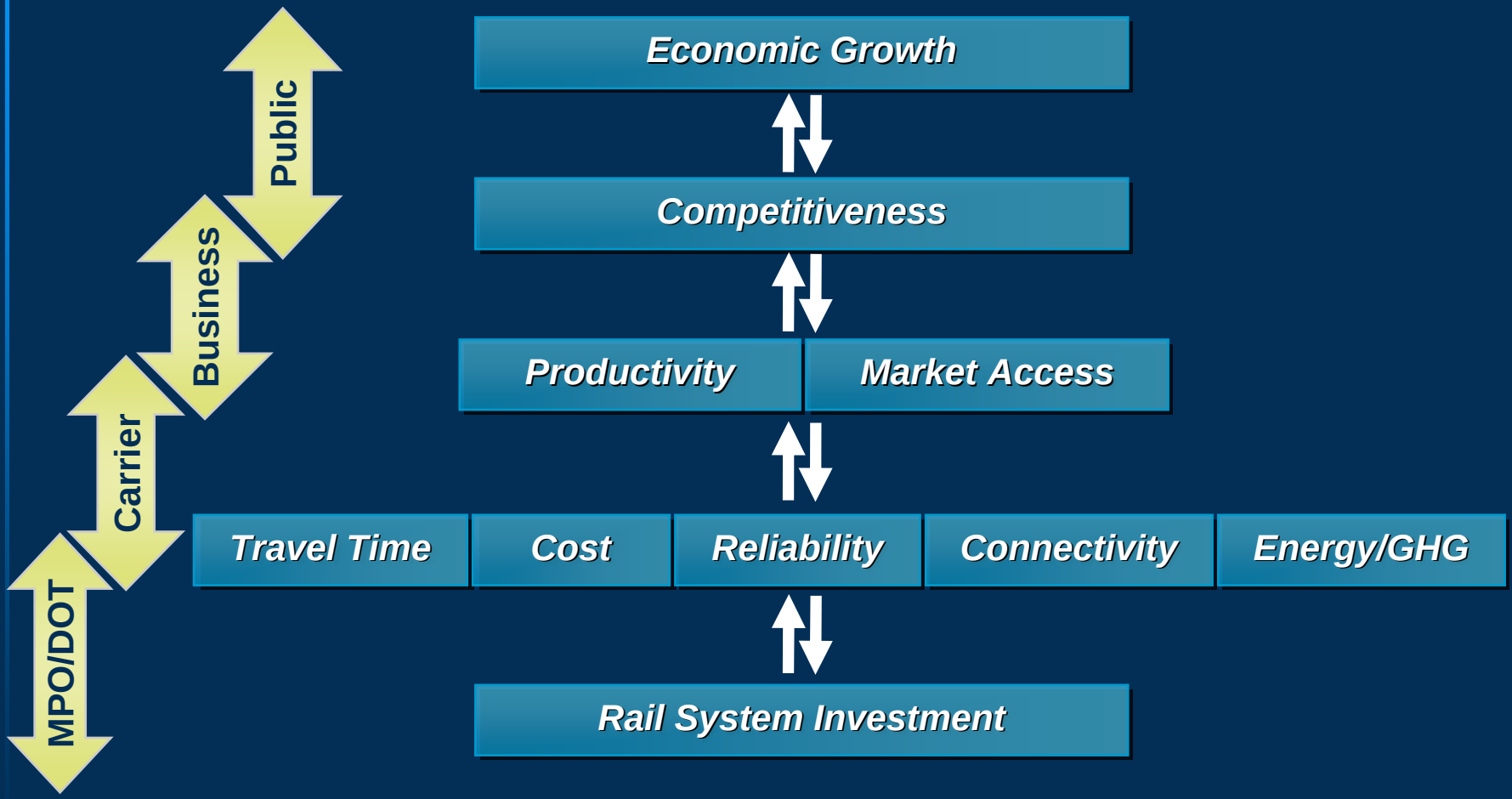
Task Objective

Develop a vision for freight and passenger rail in Minnesota as part of the State's overall transportation network

Key Issues

- Meeting business, community, and economic needs (short- and long-term)
- Balancing the rail program with environmental, energy, greenhouse gas, development, land use, social, and fiscal programs
- Allocating public and private benefits, costs, and risks
- Adjusting as the system evolves

Rail Transportation Investments Can Be Used to Shape the Minnesota Economy and Drive Development



Source: Cambridge Systematics, Inc.

Work Steps

- Examine economic growth projections (2030+)
- Identify industry sectors and communities
- Identify rail corridors and rail services
- Show benefits to Minnesota highway, air, and water systems
- Describe the benefits, costs, and risks
- Outline initial policies, procedures, and key criteria
- Set up procedures for updating the State rail plan

Reporting the Vision

- Task 1 (Vision task)
  - Produces an initial vision
- Tasks 2 through 10 (Analysis and Outreach tasks)
  - Shape and refine the vision
- Task 11 (Final Report and Recommendations task)
  - Details the vision
  - Spells out a State rail plan to achieve the vision

Freight Rail System

Andreas Aeppli,
Freight Rail Lead

Freight Rail System Inventory and Assessment (Task 2)

Task Objective

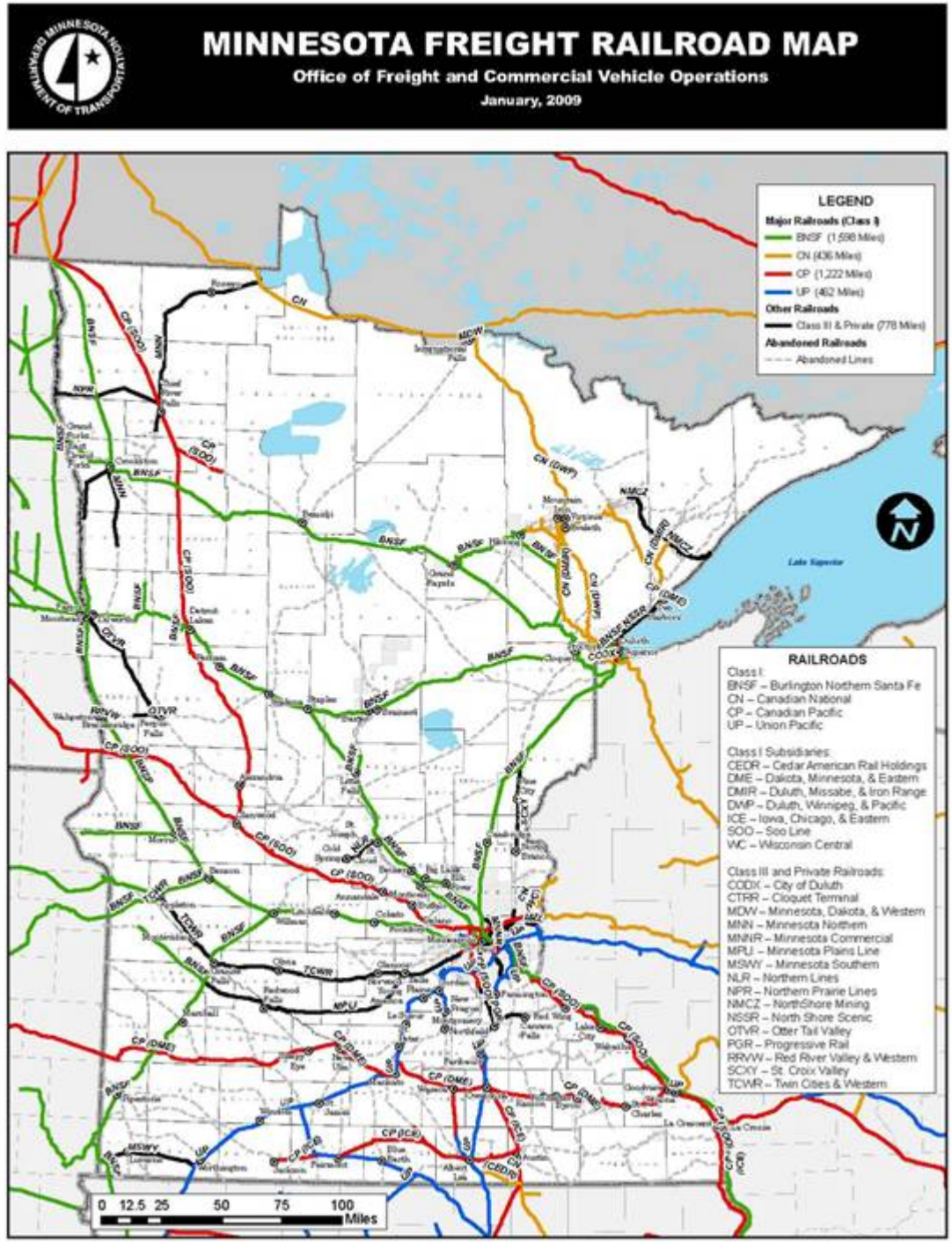
Describe Minnesota's present rail system, who it serves today, and how it will accommodate Minnesota's future goods movement needs

Key Issues

- What are the existing conditions, system usage and institutional structure?
- What freight markets are currently served?
- How well does Minnesota's rail system meet current and future logistics needs?
- What is the impact of public sector initiatives and regulations?

Existing
Freight Rail

- 4 Class I Railroads
- 16 Short Line Railroads
- 4,500 Public Grade Crossings
- 8th Highest Rail Miles in Nation



Work Steps

- Assess fixed facilities (i.e., track, bridges, terminals, traffic control systems) from the standpoint of current condition, capacity, performance, and planned improvements
- Estimate usage for each network segment and analyze system performance from the standpoint of markets needs and policy goals
- Examine the institutional structure of Minnesota's railroads
- Analyze current and future freight markets and demand for goods movement
- Evaluate ability of Minnesota's rail system to meet current and future freight logistics needs
- Produce a high-level assessment of the impacts of important public sector initiatives and regulatory activities

Forecasting Freight Demand

- Examine current freight traffic for all modes, using STB Waybill Sample, TRANSEARCH Insight, and other available data
- Develop economic futures for Minnesota
  - Use IHS-Global Insight forecast
  - “Base Case” and alternatives developed in consultation with PAC
- Apply forecast to estimate demand across Minnesota’s rail, road, and waterway networks

Passenger Rail System

Allan Rutter,
Passenger Rail Lead

Passenger Rail System Inventory and Forecasts (Task 3)

Task Objective

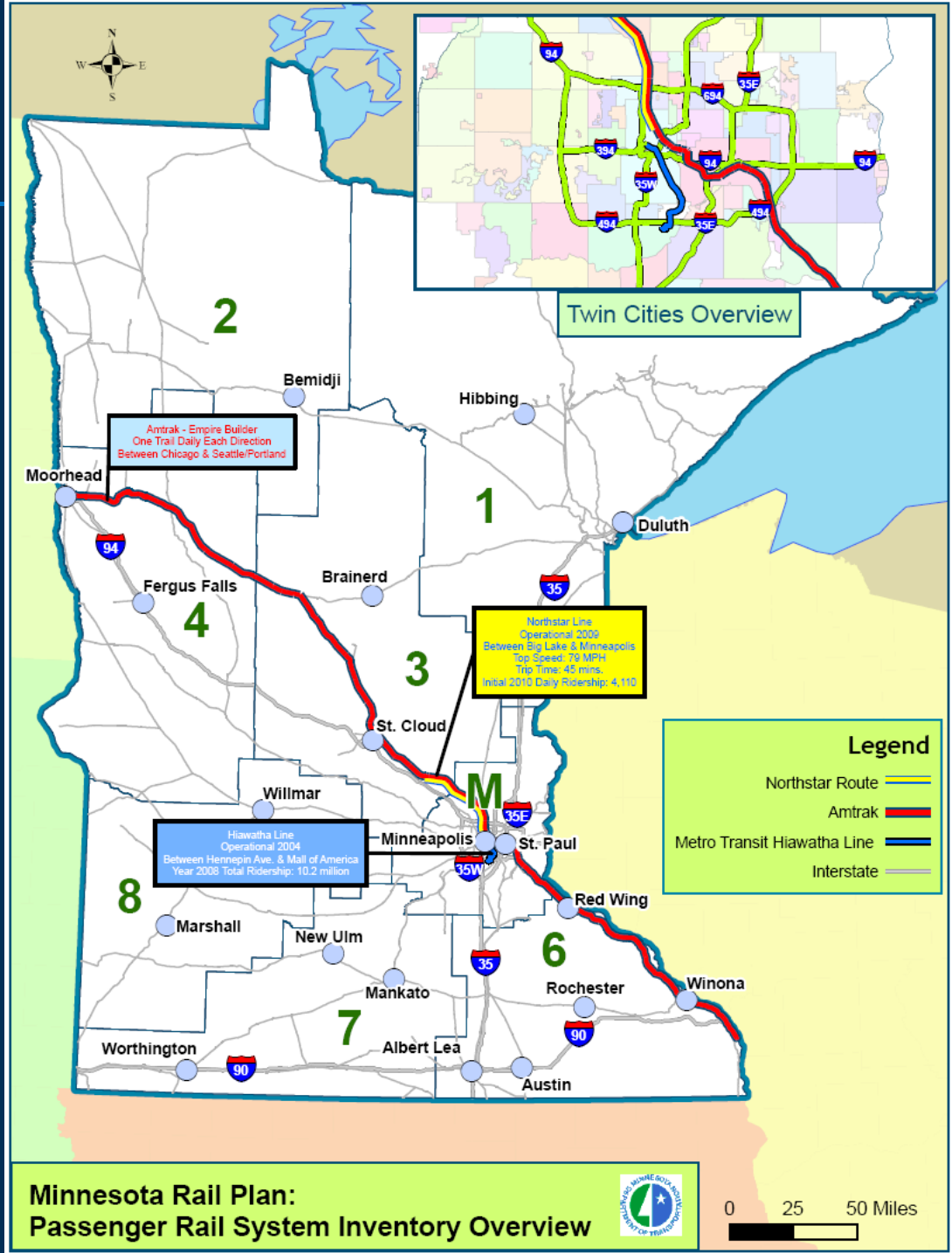
Synthesize information from existing studies to identify corridors and rail lines most likely to support effective passenger rail service

Key Issues

- Compile previous and ongoing reports on other relevant planning efforts
- Inventory physical characteristics on rail lines in likely passenger corridors
- Synthesize demand-related forecasts to evaluate corridors

Existing
Passenger Rail

- Daily Amtrak service between Chicago and Seattle
- Northstar service to start in 2009



Future
Passenger Rail

- Passenger rail projects that have been studied in the past
- Potential future rail service

Context for Passenger Rail Evaluation

- Midwest
  - Connect to Midwest Regional Rail Initiative (MWRRI)
  - Understand alternative modes like scheduled intercity bus and airline service
- State
  - Prepare for new Federal funding (stimulus, PRIIA, and beyond)
  - Examine intrastate connections to major cities (beyond MWRRI)
- Local
  - Connect to/complement Twin Cities transit (commuter, light rail)
  - Address challenges of existing Twin Cities rail infrastructure

Passenger Rail Demand Forecasts

- Examine prior passenger rail study assumptions and methodologies
- Incorporate updated data on Minnesota intercity travel
  - National Household Travel Survey (2001)
  - Census Journey to Work (2000)
  - Metropolitan Council Household Interview (2000)
  - Direct and indirect estimates from Amtrak, intercity bus and scheduled airline service
- Estimate impact on forecasts when assumptions are updated
- Synthesize and apply ridership models (e.g., Met Council model)

Discussion

Randy Halvorson, Facilitator