

MINNESOTA HIGH-SPEED RAIL

Suite 6560 RCGC - West
50 West Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55102
651-266-2760

www.mnhighspeedrail.com

RIVER ROUTE MEMBERS:

Dakota County
Regional Rail Authority

Goodhue County
Regional Rail Authority

Ramsey County
Regional Rail Authority

Wabasha County,
Regional Rail Authority

Washington County
Regional Rail Authority

Winona County
Regional Rail Authority

Cottage Grove

Goodview

Hastings

La Crosse Area
Planning Committee (LAPC)

Lake City

Prairie Island Indian Community

Red Wing

St. Charles

St. Paul

St. Paul Park

Utica

Wabasha

Winona

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Mike Rogers
Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority
(651) 266-2773
michael.rogers@co.ramsey.mn.us

High-Speed Rail from Chicago Speeds toward St. Paul

Obama Administration Announces \$823 million to Start Building High-Speed Rail Route from St. Paul to Chicago

(WINONA, MINN.) – January 28, 2010 – The Obama Administration today announced more than \$8 billion in stimulus grants for 13 high-speed rail routes in 31 states, including \$2.27 billion for routes in the Midwest. Of this amount, the Twin Cities to Chicago route was awarded \$823 million for the following three projects along the corridor:

- **St. Paul to Madison: \$1 million.** To conduct a planning study to explore extension of high-speed rail service to the Twin Cities.
- **Madison to Milwaukee: \$810 million.** For new and refurbished stations, as well as the implementation of positive train control technology along 80 miles of track.
- **Milwaukee to Chicago: \$12 million.** For station construction, infrastructure enhancements and signal and track improvements to enhance time performance and reliability, creating the building blocks for future 110 mph service.

"Building a national high-speed rail network may put Americans immediately back to work, but it's a long-term investment for communities within and outside of these corridors," said Jerry Miller, chair of the Minnesota High-Speed Rail Commission. "A high-speed rail line along the River Route is a three-for-one investment for not only high-speed rail, but also future commuter rail and faster, efficient freight rail service."

A high-speed rail line connecting St. Paul and Chicago will create 15,000 construction jobs and 57,000 permanent jobs in the Midwest. In Minnesota alone, the high-speed rail line will generate \$2.3 billion in economic development opportunities and \$180 million for the communities close to each station.

"The decision to release early money for the first phase of the St. Paul to Chicago high-speed rail line, it is increasingly important that Minnesota and Wisconsin quickly finalize a preferred route," continued Miller.

About the Minnesota High-Speed Rail Commission

The Minnesota High-Speed Rail Commission is one of the leading authoritative voices on high-speed rail in Minnesota. Comprised of local elected officials, the Commission advocates for the development of Minnesota's first high-speed rail line within the federally designated high-speed rail corridor that connects the Twin Cities to Madison, Milwaukee and Chicago. The Commission is a strong proponent of bringing high-speed rail to the Midwest through the scenic upper Mississippi River valley.

For more information on the Minnesota High-Speed Rail Commission, please visit www.mnhighspeedrail.com.

For more information on the \$8 billion in funding and grant recipients, please click [here](#). (PDF)

###