



High-Speed Rail Focus of Discussion in Winona

In August, members of the Minnesota High-Speed Rail Commission traveled to Winona to meet city, university and business representatives to learn why high-speed passenger rail is important to Winona. Local officials agreed that a fast inter-city rail connection would attract new businesses and bring additional visitors to the region. There was also agreement that the proposed high-speed rail corridor would benefit higher education institutions in the Winona area, including Winona State University, Saint Mary's State University and Southeast Technical College by attracting prospective students and staff.

High-speed rail would also turn the Winona Depot into an anchor for downtown redevelopment, including new restaurants and hotels. Winona's new transportation hub would make it easier for residents and visitors to explore the region through connections to rail, local and regional bus service, car rental and bike trails.



While touring Miller Felpax, a leading manufacturer and distributor of components for locomotives and railcars, commission members also saw first-hand how high-speed rail along the Mississippi River would benefit local businesses through expanded freight rail service.

Currently, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, along with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, is conducting a high-speed rail study to determine the best route connecting the Twin Cities to Milwaukee with a goal to commence service in late 2015 or 2016.