

MINNESOTA HIGH-SPEED RAIL

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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

FACT SHEET

INFORMATION ON HIGH-SPEED RAIL

General – High-Speed Rail:

- High-speed rail is a generic name of passenger rail transport that operates faster than the normal speed of rail traffic and is intended to relieve highway and air traffic.
- The Federal Railroad Administration has broken passenger rail into the following categories
 - High-Speed Rail Express: No at-grade crossings on its own track traveling at least 150 mph while servicing cities between 200-600 miles apart with few intermediate stops
 - High-Speed Rail Regional: No at-grade crossings primarily on its own track traveling between 110-150 mph while servicing cities between 100-500 miles apart with some intermediate stops.
 - Emerging High-Speed Rail: Advanced grade crossing protection while utilizing shared track while traveling between 90-110 mph while servicing cities between 100-500 miles apart. Intended to develop the passenger rail market for additional high-speed investments
 - Conventional Rail: Traditional intercity rail service utilizing shared track with top speeds of 79-90 mph depending on track conditions while servicing cities more than 100 miles apart.
- High-speed passenger rail is a cost-effective option for relieving congested intercity areas, and has often the most efficient trip time available for travel.

The Midwest Regional Rail System

- The Midwest Regional Rail system includes nearly 3,000 miles of existing railways to connect urban and rural areas.
- Twin Cities to Chicago route connects the Twin Cities to the entire Midwest via the 'hub and spoke' system centered in Chicago.
- Additional connections to alternative forms of transportation such as light rail, bus and commuter rail will improve overall accessibility for travelers in the Midwest.
- Introduction of new, modern train equipment capable of operating at speeds over 100 mph.

High-Speed Rail in Minnesota:

- A high-speed rail line between Saint Paul and Chicago will ultimately lead to 15,000 construction jobs and 57,000 permanent jobs in the Midwest.
- In Minnesota alone, there would be up to \$2.3 billion in economic benefits for businesses, passengers and residents.
- A high-speed rail line will provide up to \$180 million in economic development opportunities close to each Minnesota stations.