

1) **Who is involved in the MN&S Rail Study, and what role does each play?**

Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRRA)

The Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRRA) was established in 1980 as a political subdivision and local government unit of Minnesota. It was established as a separate political entity to promote transit development and implement interim uses of rail corridors. The Board of Commissioners for the Authority consists of the seven members of the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners.

The role of the HCRRRA for the MN&S Rail Study is to oversee the study by managing the process, resources, and budget. The HCRRRA and MnDOT are sharing study costs.

Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)

MnDOT is responsible for developing the Minnesota Comprehensive Statewide Freight and Passenger Rail Plan ("State Rail Plan") pursuant to Minnesota Statute Minnesota Session Law 2008, Section 174.03 subdivision 1b. The Plan guides the future of the rail system and rail services in the State.

The February 2010 State Rail Plan says that MnDOT should cooperate in study development and evaluation of alternatives for the 'Kenilworth project', including providing:

- technical resources,
- potential access to Federal funds, and
- assessment of consistency of alternatives with the State Rail Plan.

MnDOT is paying for a portion of the MN&S Rail Study costs, and serves as the Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU) for the environmental review process.

Railroad Companies

Three railroad companies, Twin Cities & Western (TCW), Canadian Pacific (CP), and BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) are participating in the Study process through their involvement on the Project Management Team (PMT). These three companies own and/or operate rail lines in the areas of interest. As the proposed action would be within right-of-way currently owned by the CP and the BNSF, both railroad entities are decision makers in the process. The role of the three railroad companies in the study process is to be a resource to the Project Management Team and to ensure that current and future business operations on the line can be conducted safely and efficiently.

City of St. Louis Park

The City of St. Louis Park is a key stakeholder and a partner with the HCRRRA and MnDOT providing input on managing the study process. As a stakeholder the City of St. Louis Park participates in the Project Management Team along with other representatives from the community.

Other Stakeholders (St. Louis Park Schools, communities and businesses)

Stakeholders have a role in providing input and guidance that is representative of their group. Stakeholders have opportunities to provide input at the Project Management Team meetings and through the website, www.mnsrailstudy.org.

Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)

The FRA was created by the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (49 U.S.C. 103, Section 3(e)(1)). The purpose of FRA is to: promulgate and enforce rail safety regulations; administer railroad assistance programs; conduct research and development in support of improved railroad safety and national rail transportation policy; provide for the rehabilitation of Northeast Corridor rail passenger service; and consolidate government support of rail transportation activities. A wealth of information about railroad administration and regulations can be found on the FRA website: www.fra.dot.gov

While this proposed project is currently not using federal funds, it is anticipated that based on the nature of the project, funding could be pursued through the FRA. If FRA becomes a funding partner, FRA would need to sign off on the environmental review documents.