

TIMELINE

A look into the progression of the NLX passenger rail project



2023

- LMN Legislature appropriates \$194.7M, which equals 20% state match needed to pursue federal grants for final design and construction, and to purchase locomotives and cars.
- Receives \$500,000 federal corridor ID program grant

2018

- Received FONSI (Finding Of No Significant Impact)

2016

- Phase I archeology survey
- Duluth Union Depot National Register for Historical Places re-evaluation (findings were the Duluth Depot building itself is historical while surrounding rail road and station can be used)

2013

- **Tier I service level environmental assessment**
Negative declaration and a finding of fact and conclusion
 - BNSF reviews comments on PE/Signal plan
- **Aug:** Horizontal Geometry BNSF/ MnDOT/ FRA review
- **Sept:** Rail Traffic Controller (RTC) /Train performance calculator
 - **Sept:** Prepare cost estimate for various service options

2011

- Phase I architectural history survey
- Route 9 was selected for NLX route
- 106 group Area of Potential Effect (APE) developed in consultation with MnDOT Cultural Resource Unit (CRU)

2009

- Oct. and Nov. Group 106 concludes research with Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office and Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office
 - \$475,000 is designated for NLX in the FY Omnibus Appropriations Bill
- Under President Bush, NLX is designated one of the 8 top priorities for development by the National Passenger Rail study group.

2019

- Amtrak VP Joe McHugh says NLX is one of the most shovel-ready projects in the nation

2017

- **Tier II project level environmental assessment**
- MnDOT provides environmental assessment of stations, lay overs, maintenance facilities, 4 new bridges, and 18 signal upgrade locations

2014

- **Jan.:** Prepare ridership forecasts and Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA)
- **March:** Rail Traffic Control (RTC) Analysis
- **April:** Identify fence and barrier improvements
- **May:** Identify crossing closures
- **June:** Identify crossing closures (diagnostics)
- **June:** Identify fence and barrier improvements (diagnostics)

2012

- Phase II architectural history evaluation
- Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office (WiSHPO) concludes with architect history Area of Potential Effect (APE) findings
- Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (MnSHPO) concludes with architect history Area of Potential Effect (APE) findings

2010

- **Functional Analysis of Proposed Alternative Routes**

2007

- **Comprehensive Feasibility Study & Business Plan**