

**Mankato/North Mankato Area Planning Organization (MAPO)
Policy Board**

May 6, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the MAPO Policy Board is being conducted electronically pursuant to Minnesota State Statute 13D.021, as attendance at the regular meeting location is not feasible due to the current health pandemic and emergency declaration. The meeting is open to the public via web or phone, and begins at 6:00 p.m.

If an American Sign Language, foreign language interpreter or other reasonable accommodation or documents in alternative format (braille or large print) are needed, please contact staff at 651-366-4720.

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85862614461?pwd=NUZIT0kveC95U3RhZWZXYzFLeFVYQT09>

Passcode: 999999

Or join by phone: US: +1 301 715 8592, +13126266799,85862614461# US (Chicago)
Webinar ID: 858 6261 4461

**Note - If you wish to speak, please register in advance of the meeting via email to candrosky@mankatomn.gov or by calling 507-387-8389. Registering will allow callers to be easily identified during the meeting.*

*****Meeting will be recorded for notetaking purposes*****

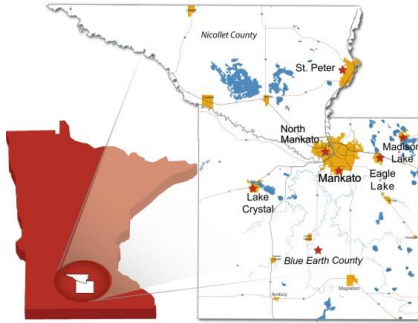
- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Approval of Minutes – April 1, 2021
- IV. New Business
 1. Motion approving consultant for Lookout Drive-CSAH 13 Corridor Study
 2. Motion approving consultant for Second Street Corridor Study
- V. Other Business, Discussion & Updates
 1. Presentation: Passenger Rail Service
- VI. Unapproved April 15, 2021 MAPO Technical Advisory Committee meeting minutes (informational)
- VII. Public Comments

Mankato/North Mankato Area Planning Organization (MAPO) | 10 Civic Center Plaza |
Mankato, MN | 56001 | www.mnmapo.org

VIII. Policy Board Comments

IX. Adjournment

Next MAPO Policy Board meeting: June 3, 2021



AGENDA RECOMMENDATION

Agenda Heading: Motion approving consultant for Lookout Drive-CSAH 13 Corridor Study No: 4.1

Agenda Item:

Motion approving consultant for Lookout Drive-CSAH 13 Corridor Study

Recommendation Action(s):

Motion authorizing Executive Director and Policy Board Chair to enter into contract for services in conformance with recommended proposal

Summary:

MAPO's 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) includes consultant partnership for a Lookout Drive-CSAH 13 Corridor Study. MAPO utilizes a competitive procurement process for consultant selection.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) was advertised through a range of venues including posting on the MAPO website/Twitter, notice in the Mankato Free Press, email to MAPO's consultant email list, and announcement through the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations, League of Minnesota Cities, Association of Minnesota Counties, American Council of Engineering Companies of Minnesota, and Women Transportation Society.

The proposal ranking subcommittee included representatives from MAPO, the City of North Mankato, and Nicollet County and met March 23, 2021. It is the subcommittee's recommendation that Bolton and Menk be selected for contract. Factors contributing to this recommendation included the proposal's work plan, stakeholder engagement plan, multijurisdictional emphasis, and previous experience.

Staff recommendation is a motion authorizing the Executive Director and Policy Board Chair to enter a contract with Bolton and Menk for consultant partnership to perform the Lookout Drive-CSAH 13 Corridor Study.

This item was reviewed by the MAPO Technical Advisory Committee at their meeting April 15, 2021 and was recommended for approval.

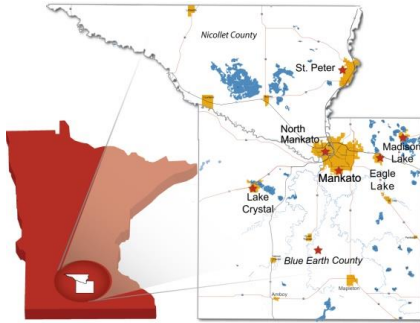
Attachments:

Proposal: BMI

https://mnmapo.files.wordpress.com/2021/04/proposal-bolton-menk-submittal_mapo_lookout-drive-corridor-study.pdf

Proposal: SRF

<https://mnmapo.files.wordpress.com/2021/04/proposal-srf-proposal-for-mapo-lookout-drive-csah-13-corridor-study.pdf>



AGENDA RECOMMENDATION

Agenda Heading: Motion approving consultant for Second Street Corridor Study No: 4.2

Agenda Item:

Motion approving consultant for Second Street Corridor Study

Recommendation Action(s):

Motion authorizing Executive Director and Policy Board Chair to enter into contract for services in conformance with recommended proposal

Summary:

MAPO's 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) includes consultant partnership for a Second Street Corridor Study. MAPO utilizes a competitive procurement process for consultant selection.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) was advertised through a range of venues including posting on the MAPO website/Twitter, notice in the Mankato Free Press, email to MAPO's consultant email list, and announcement through the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations, League of Minnesota Cities, Association of Minnesota Counties, American Council of Engineering Companies of Minnesota, and Women Transportation Society.

The proposal ranking subcommittee included representatives from MAPO and multiple staff from the City of Mankato and met March 25, 2021. It is the subcommittee's recommendation that SRF, Inc be selected for contract. Factors contributing to this recommendation included the proposal's work plan, emphasis on diverse stakeholder engagement, and previous experience.

Staff recommendation is a motion authorizing the Executive Director and Policy Board Chair to enter a contract with SRF for consultant partnership to perform the Second Street Corridor Study.

This item was reviewed by the MAPO Technical Advisory Committee at their meeting April 15, 2021 and was recommended for approval.

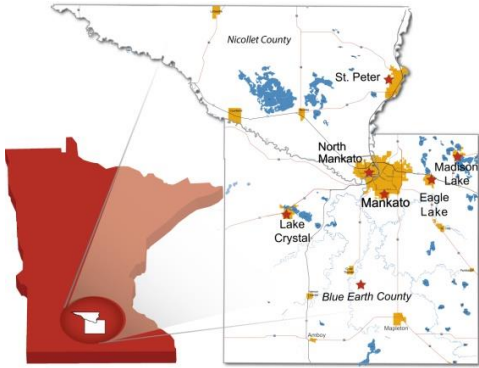
Attachments:

Alliant Proposal: <https://mnmapo.files.wordpress.com/2021/04/proposal-alliant-second-street-corridor-study.pdf>

Meeting Date: May 6, 2021

BMI Proposal: <https://mnmapo.files.wordpress.com/2021/04/proposal-bmi-second-street-corridor-study.pdf>

SRF Proposal: <https://mnmapo.files.wordpress.com/2021/04/proposal-srf-second-street-corridor-study-1.pdf>



AGENDA RECOMMENDATION

Agenda Heading: Presentation: Passenger Rail Service No: 5.1

Agenda Item:

Presentation: Passenger Rail Service

Recommendation Action(s):

Informational

Summary:

Presentation by Northfield City Council Member Suzie Nakasian of www.MnRail.org. Ms. Nakasian will deliver a brief presentation and Q&A regarding the Mankato-St Paul rail corridor. The corridor is one of six Phase One regional passenger rail corridors designated in the [State of Minnesota's Statewide Rail Plan](#). The prospective corridor is envisioned as part of a statewide network utilizing existing rail infrastructure to connect regions of Greater Minnesota and large urban centers. As a Phase One project, the Mankato-Saint Paul rail corridor is potentially eligible for study for future implementation.

The presentation will review the current status of regional corridors in the State Rail Plan including the Mankato-St Paul line and consider regional passenger rail possibilities for the MAPO region.

Attachments:

Presentation slides

Minnesota Regional Passenger Rail Initiative

www.MnRail.org



Suzie Nakasian
SuzieNakasian@MnRail.org
507.301-6756

The Minnesota Statewide Passenger Rail Plan

Restoring our connections; expanding our possibilities





Northfield Depot and Grain Elevator circa 1868
(eight years before the Jesse James/Younger Gang came through town)

Union Depot, Mankato, Minn.







Twin Star Rocket

*Connecting the Lone Star and the North Star States: 1945-1969; July 28, 1969
Twin Star Rocket passes through Northfield for the last time*





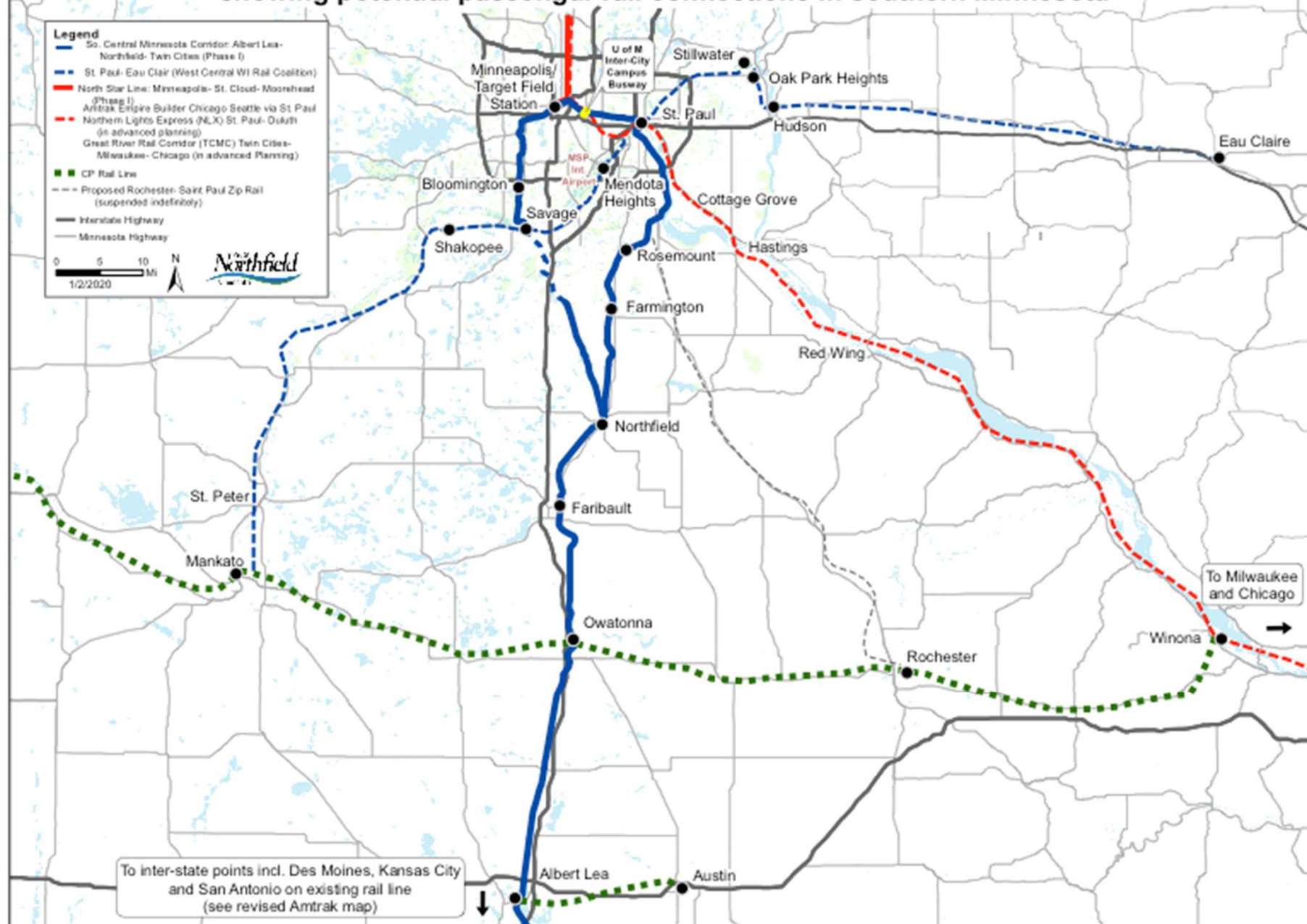
The Minnesota Statewide Passenger Rail Plan

Restoring our connections; expanding our possibilities



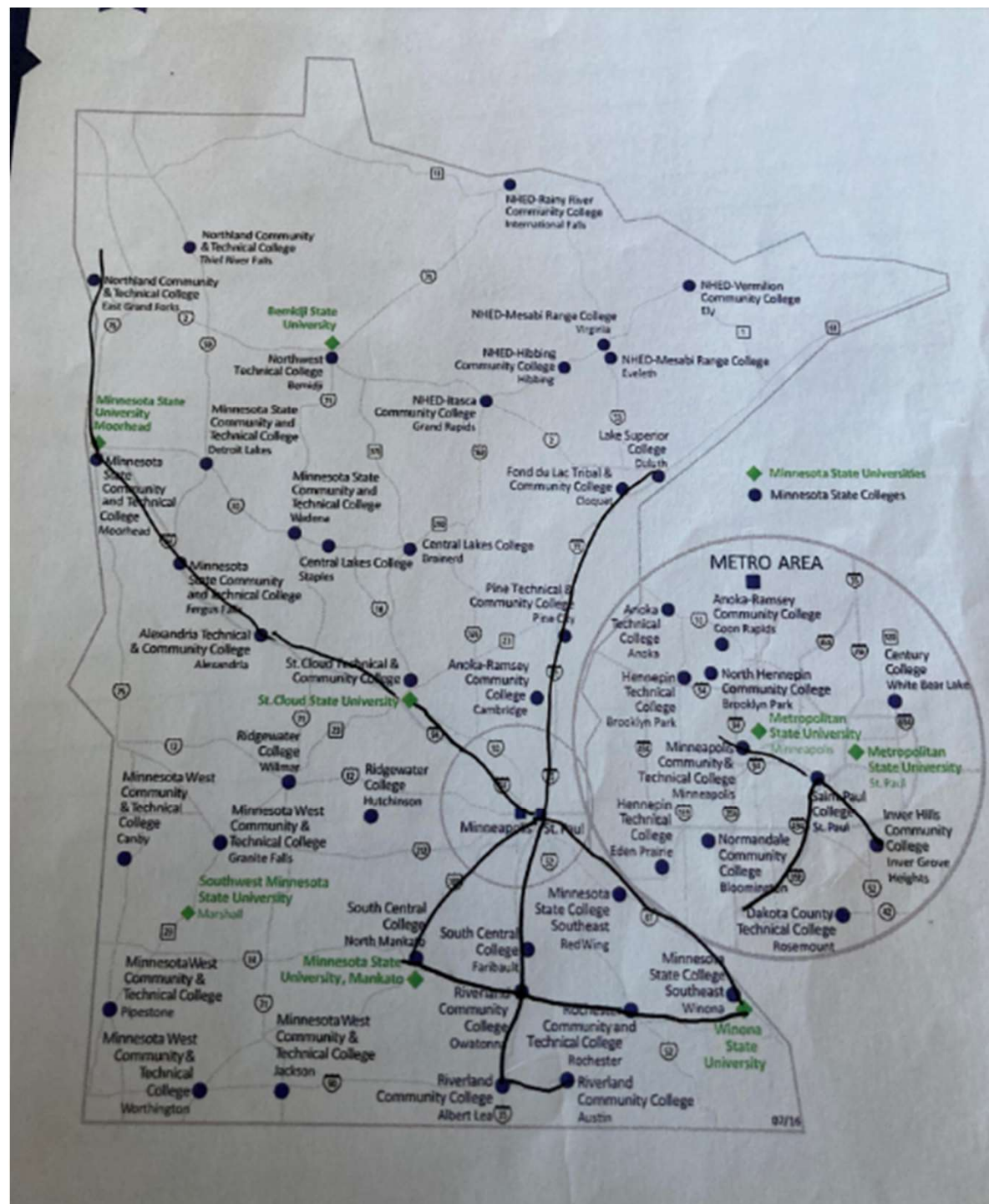
South Central Minnesota Passenger Rail Network

showing potential passenger rail connections in southern Minnesota



Connects East to St Paul Union Depot





THE AMTRAK SYSTEM



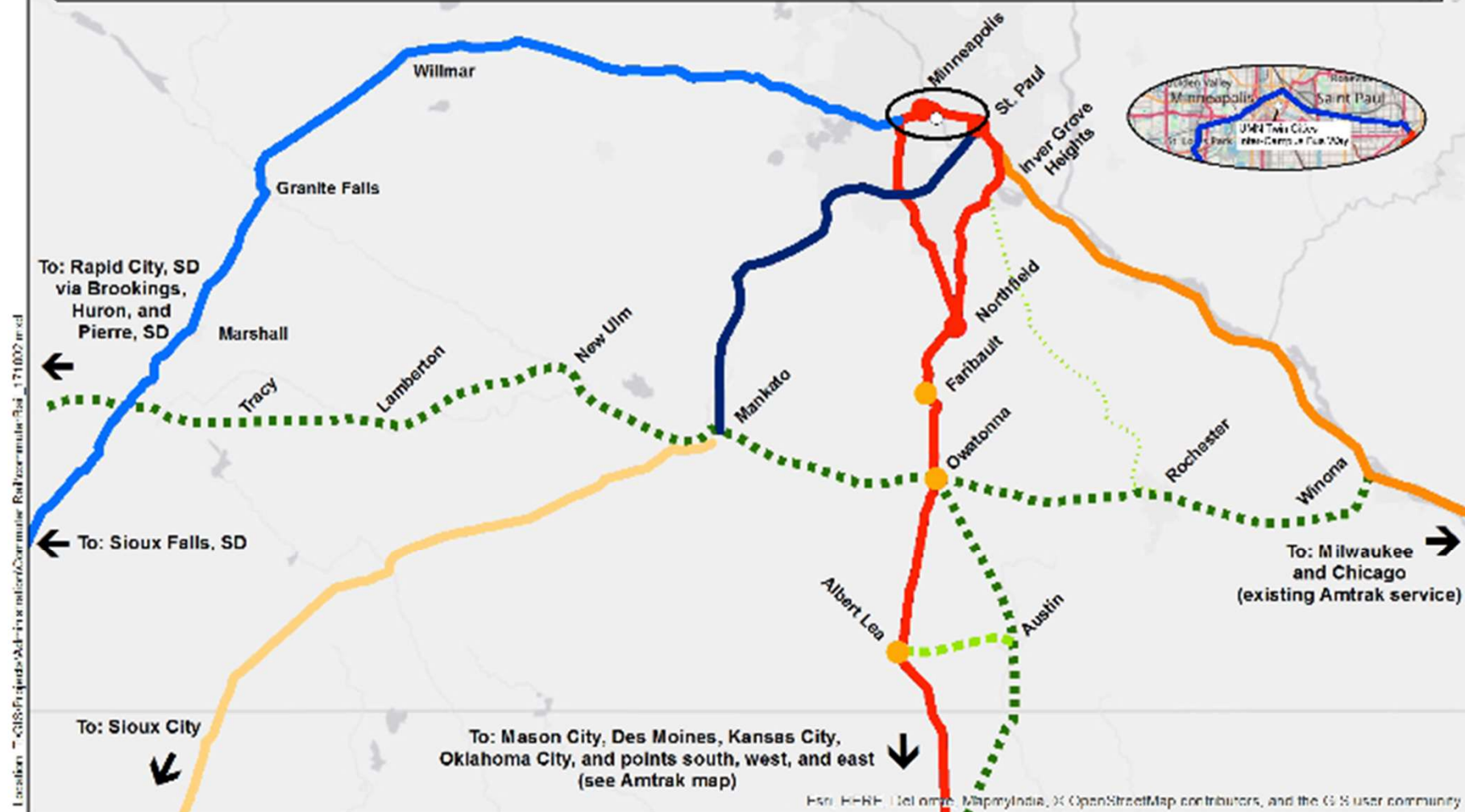
Minnesota Statewide Regional Passenger Rail Plan (Revised, 2015) with potential east-west rail connections via Owatonna

- Central Minnesota Rail Corridor (I-35) (Phase I)
- Chicago/Milwaukee to Twin Cities: HSR Amtrak (in Advanced)
- Mankato - Twin Cities (Phase I)
- Mankato to Sioux City (Phase II)
- Sioux Falls, SD to Twin Cities (Phase II)

- ⋯ [Project Halted Indefinitely by MnDOT 1/26/2015: Rochester Twin Cities High Speed Zip Line]
- IC&E Line
- - - CP DM&E Line
- UMN Twin Cities Inter-Campus Bus Way



0 10 20 40 Miles



Location: C:\GIS\Projects\Ad-Inv\miller\Corridor\Rail\miller\Rail_171002.mxd

Base: ESRI, DeLorme, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community

HF1393 / SF 2365

HF 1393

as introduced - 92nd Legislature (2021 - 2022) Posted on 02/25/2021 05:52pm

KEY: ~~stricken~~ = removed, old language. underscored = added, new language.

[Version List](#) [Authors and Status](#)

Jump to page/line #

- 1.1 A bill for an act
- 1.2 relating to transportation; appropriating money for a passenger rail feasibility study
- 1.3 in southern Minnesota.
- 1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
- 1.5 Section 1. **APPROPRIATION; NORTHFIELD CORRIDOR PASSENGER RAIL**
- 1.6 **FEASIBILITY STUDY.**
- 1.7 \$500,000 in fiscal year 2022 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
- 1.8 of transportation for a feasibility study and alternatives analysis of a passenger rail corridor
- 1.9 connecting Minneapolis and St. Paul to Albert Lea on existing rail line and passing through
- 1.10 Faribault and Northfield and auxiliary east-west passenger rail service connecting Mankato
- 1.11 and Winona on existing rail line and passing through Owatonna and Rochester.

Catch a Train for Mankato

Call or Email:

Sen. Nick Frentz (Sen. Trans Comm) Sen.Nick.Frentz@senate.mn 651-296-6153

Rep. Luke Frederick (House Trans Com) Re.Luke.Frederick@house.mn 651-296-3248

Governor Tim Walz <https://mn.gov/governor/contact/> 651-201-3400

MESSAGE:

Pass a State budget that includes the funds requested for regional passenger rail for Mankato and Greater Minnesota

HF1393/SF2365 *the South Central Minnesota Corridor Study (including Mankato)*
and

HF1639/1962 for the Statewide network of rail corridors (including St. Paul-Mankato)

Share why you support regional passenger rail. . . as a need not “a want.”
What difference will it make to you? To others? To our Economy?

Email the same message to

Members of the Minnesota House and Senate Transportation Committees

Find Emails and letters at www.MnRail.org

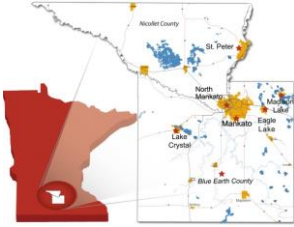
THANK YOU

Minnesota Regional Passenger Rail Initiative

www.MnRail.org



Suzie Nakasian
SuzieNakasian@mnrail.org
507.649-0382



Meeting Minutes of the Mankato/North Mankato Area Planning Organization (MAPO) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

April 15, 2021 | 1:30 p.m. | Remote meeting conducted via Zoom

TAC members present: Jennifer Bromeland– City of Eagle Lake, Paul Corcoran – Minnesota State University, Mankato, Mike Fischer - City of North Mankato, Karl Friedrichs – Lime Township, Seth Greenwood - Nicollet County, Jeff Johnson - City of Mankato, Scott Hogen – ISD #77, Mark Konz – City of Mankato , Leroy McClelland – South Bend Township, Sam Parker – MnDOT District 7, Landon Bode – Mankato Transit System (ex officio), Shawn Schloesser– Region Nine Development Commission, Ryan Thilges - Blue Earth County

Others Present: Charles Androsky – MAPO staff, David Cowan – Minnesota State University, Suzie Nakasian – MnRail.org, Paul Vogel – MAPO Executive Director

I. Call to Order

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

II. Introductions

Introductions were made.

III. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Greenwood made a motion approving the agenda. Mr. Schloesser seconded the motion. With all voting in favor, the motion carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes – March 18, 2021

Mr. Fischer made a motion approving the minutes from the previous TAC meeting. Ms. Bromeland seconded the motion. With all voting in favor, the motion carried.

V. New Business

Note: to accommodate the speaker, Item 6.1 was advanced to the start of the New Business section.

5.1 Recommendation to approve consultant for Lookout Drive-CSAH 13 Corridor Study

Staff reported MAPO's 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) included consultant partnership for a Lookout Drive-CSAH 13 Corridor Study. MAPO's competitive procurement process included advertising a Request for Proposals (RFP) through a range of venues.

The proposal ranking subcommittee included representatives from MAPO, the City of North Mankato, and Nicollet County. It was the subcommittee's recommendation that Bolton and Menk be selected for contract.

Mr. Hogen made a motion recommending approval to the Policy Board. Mr. Schloesser seconded the motion. Mr. Sarff abstained. With all voting in favor, the motion carried.

5.2 Recommendation to approve consultant for Second Street Corridor Study

Staff reported MAPO's 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) included consultant partnership for the Second Street Corridor Study. MAPO's competitive procurement process included advertising a RFP through a range of venues.

The proposal ranking subcommittee included representatives from MAPO and multiple staff from the City of Mankato. It was the subcommittee's recommendation that SRF be selected for contract.

Mr. Konz made a motion recommending approval to the Policy Board. Mr. Parker seconded the motion. With all voting in favor, the motion carried.

5.3 Invitation for TAC members to serve on scoring subcommittee for 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Staff reported project suggestions were currently being solicited from partner agencies. The form deadline was May 14, 2021. A scoring subcommittee comprised of TAC members would review project suggestions and provide a recommendation for inclusion in a future work plan.

A subcommittee was formed comprised of Ms. Bromeland, Mr. Fischer, Mr. Johnson, Mr. McClelland, Mr. Parker, and Mr. Schloesser.

VI. Other Business, Discussion & Updates

6.1 Discussion: Passenger Rail Service

Ms. Nakasian delivered a presentation regarding the Mankato-St Paul rail corridor. The corridor is one of six Phase One regional passenger rail corridors designated in the State of Minnesota's Statewide Rail Plan.

The TAC discussed the MPO role in these efforts and recommended the Highway 169 Corridor Coalition be contacted.

VII. Unapproved April 1, 2021 MAPO Policy Board meeting minutes

The draft minutes from the MAPO Policy Board meeting held April 1, 2021 were disbursed for TAC review.

VIII. TAC Comments

The TAC discussed future meeting logistics. The TAC discussed MAPO's role in planning for potential passenger rail service to the region.

IX. Adjournment

Mr. Thilges made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Konz seconded the motion. With all voting in favor, the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:40p.m.

Chair, Mr. Johnson

DRAFT