



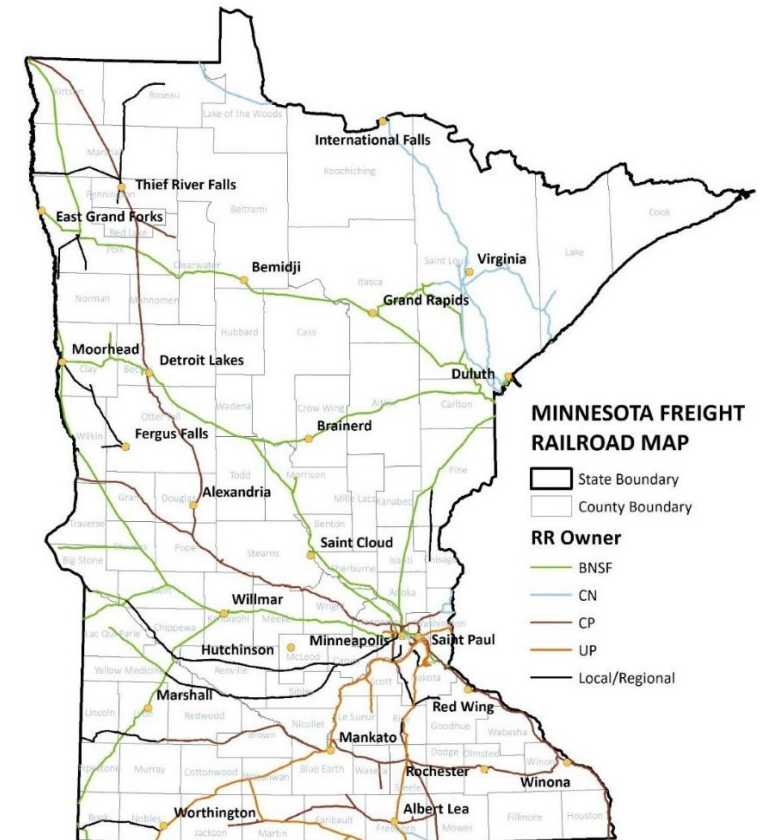
# ECRTCC MnDOT Passenger Rail Update

Greg Mathis | Transportation Planning Director, Passenger Rail Operations

1/9/2025

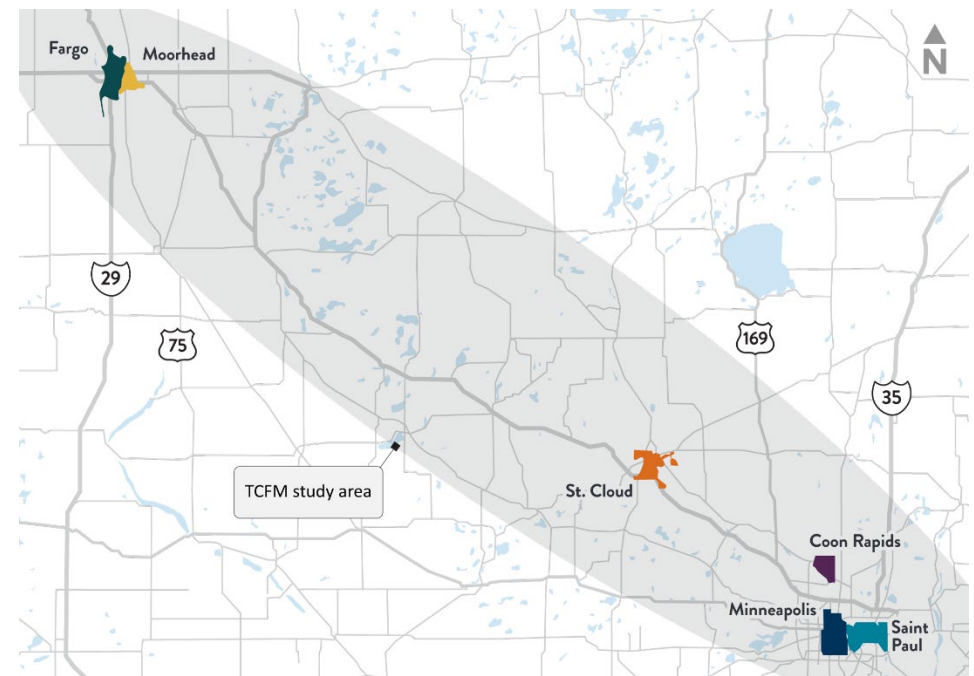
# State Rail Plan Update

- Update is in process
- Plan is for both freight and passenger rail
- Will guide future MnDOT passenger rail efforts
- Draft plan to be released for comment this year
- To learn more
  - <https://talk.dot.state.mn.us/state-rail-plan>



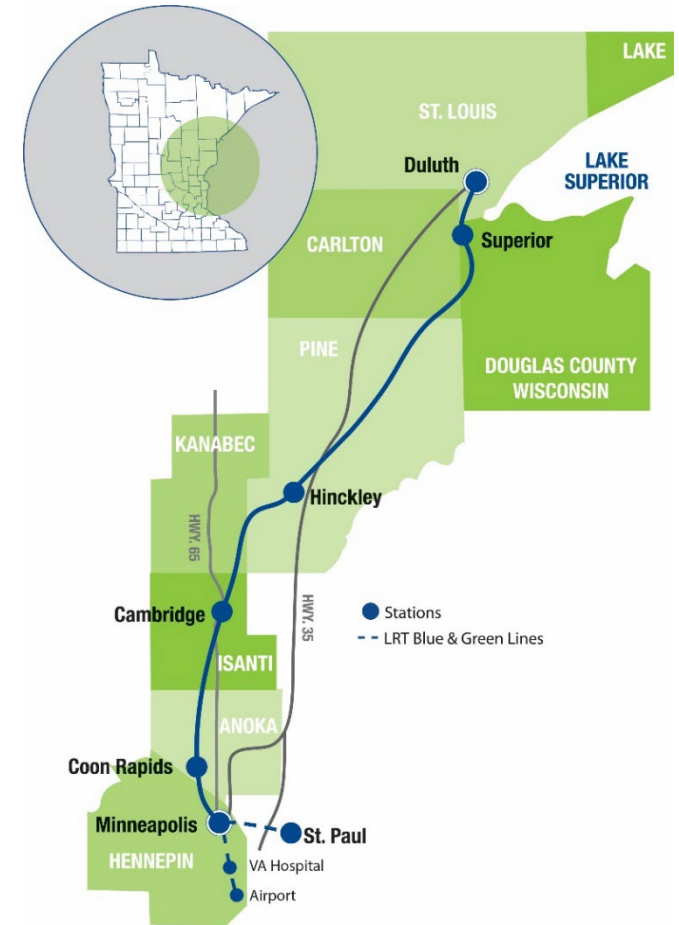
# Corridor Projects: Twin Cities–Fargo/Moorhead

- Study requested by the Legislature
- Evaluate options for developing transit and rail service improvements on the corridor, including connections beyond
  - Alternatives must consider bus and rail
- Assess fiscal impacts of potential changes to Northstar service
- Look at potential jurisdictional responsibilities
- Feb 1, 2025 – Report due to the Legislature



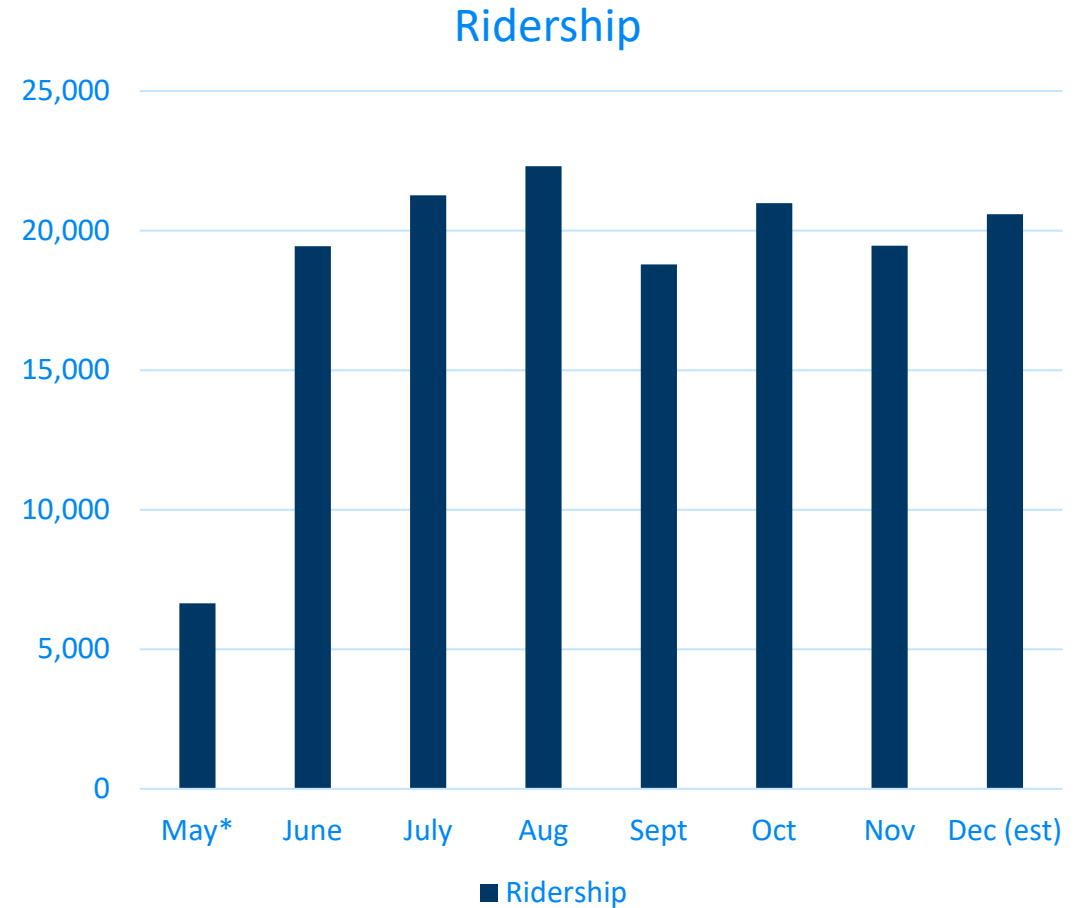
# Corridor Projects: Minneapolis–Duluth/Superior

- Progress since we last met
- 2024
  - Summer – Completed an FRA required gap analysis
  - Fall – Prepared a scope, schedule and budget for revising the Service Development Plan (SDP)
- 2025
  - Winter – Work with FRA to finalize and approve SDP scope, schedule and budget
  - Spring – Obligate grant to revise the SDP
  - Next step – Contracting and begin revising the SDP



# Operations: The Borealis

- *Ridership is exceeding expectations*
  - May 21, 2024 – Service started
  - Oct 18, 2024 – 100,000<sup>th</sup> passenger
    - ***Less than five months!***
    - Forecast – 125,000-135,000 annually
- Ridership varies throughout the year
  - Peaks – Summer and holidays
  - Low – Jan-Feb
  - ***Fall ridership remained strong***



# Thanks!

**Greg Mathis**

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