



November 26, 2025

The NLX Alliance is refining its 2026 strategy. We're shifting from growth-phase advocacy to project readiness. Engineering progress, state funding commitments, and federal recognition now position NLX as a mature, shovel-ready corridor. Our budget will be reduced about 50% from an earlier proposal to reflect this shift. The NLX Alliance acted today to adopt a 2026 budget of \$54,100.

Our role now is to preserve eligibility and safeguard previous investments.

A significant part of NLX is about safety—modernizing an existing rail corridor, through places like Carlton and Pine counties, that carries both freight and passenger traffic. These improvements will reduce conflicts, improve crossings, and enhance reliability for everyone using this corridor. These improvements will save lives.

Our continuing commitment is also about strengthening a critical corridor of commerce between Duluth and Minneapolis. The same investments that make NLX possible will improve the movement of goods, boost tourism, and connect our regional economies more efficiently.

Our reduced budget is not a step back. It is a step into focused readiness—lean, strategic, and prepared for future federal funding opportunities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Keith Nelson', written over a horizontal line.

Keith Nelson
NLX Chairman
St. Louis County Commissioner

Minneapolis-Duluth/Superior Passenger Rail Alliance

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