

**Minnesota Department of Transportation**FD 36052
CN

Office of Environmental Stewardship
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Office Tel: (651) 366-3615
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September 8, 2016

TO: Andrea Martin, FRA
Gabriel Meyer, STB
Sarah Beimers, MnHPO (SHPO # 2012-1289 PA)
Kimberly Cook, WisSHPO (SHSW# 12-0289/DG)
Jim Becker, WisDOT

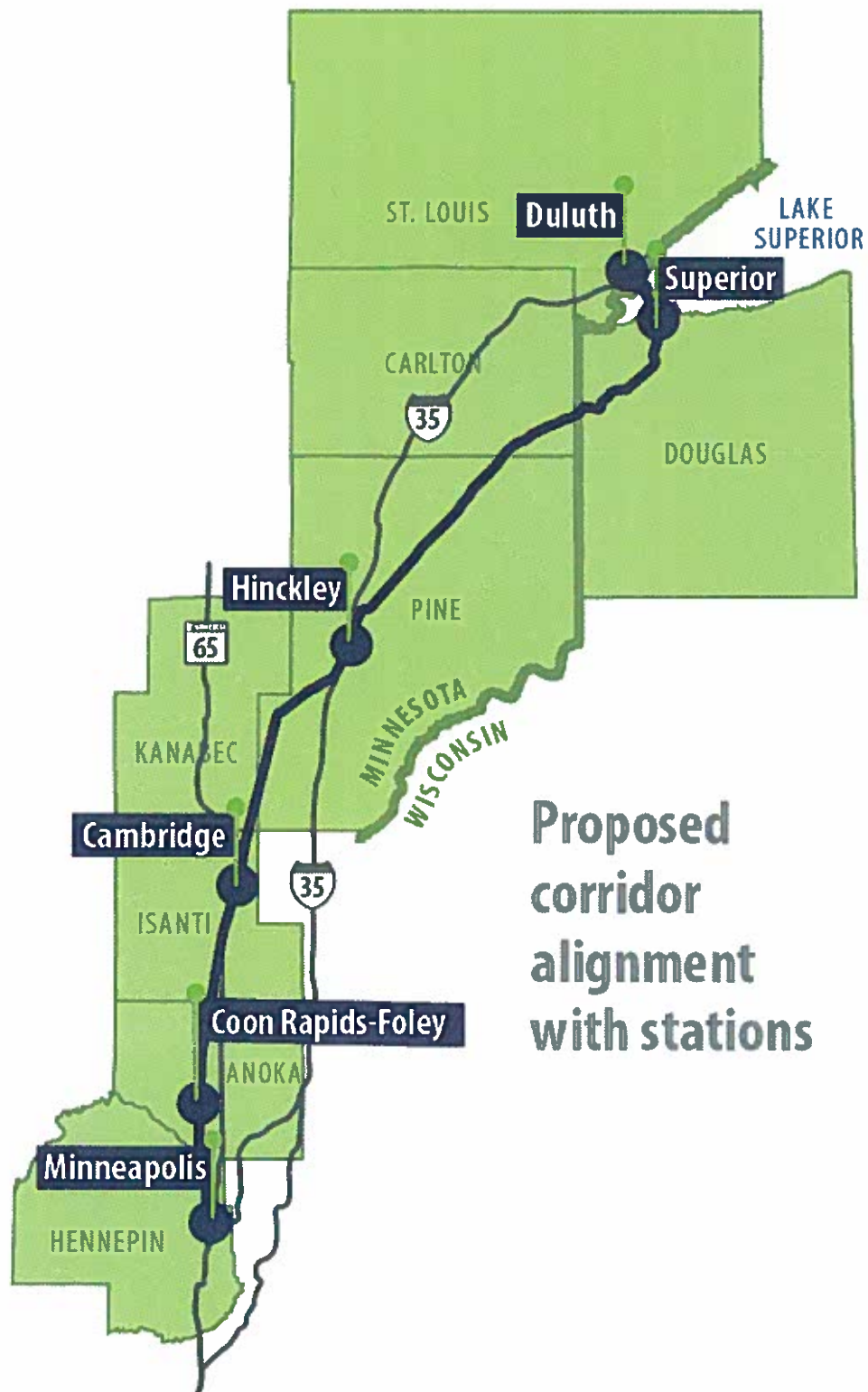
FROM: Garneth Peterson, MnDOT

RE: Northern Lights Express Consulting Party Letters

As signatories on the Northern Lights Express (NLX) programmatic agreement, you are receiving this information for your files. As part of the Section 106 process for the NLX passenger rail project, we have sent invitations to local communities and agencies to participate as consulting parties. Invitations were sent to communities that are identified for stations and to the three cities with heritage preservation commissions on the corridor. We have also included agencies affiliated with the Duluth Depot.

Attached with this memo is an example letter of the invitations for consulting parties, and a list of the parties who received the letter. We will notify you of any consulting party meetings as we move forward with work on the NLX project. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, at garneth.peterson@state.mn.us or by phone at (651)366-3615.

PROPOSED NLX CORRIDOR



NLX CONSULTING PARTY INVITATIONS

Duluth

Duluth Heritage Preservation Commission
City of Duluth
411 W. 1st Street
Room 407
Duluth MN 55802-1197
Contact: Chuck Froseth
cfroseth@duluthmn.gov
218-730-5255

Dave Montgomery
Chief Administrative Officer
City Hall, Room 402
411 West First Street
Duluth, MN 55802
(218) 730-5370

Ken Buehler
St. Louis County Heritage and Arts Center
506 West Michigan Street
Duluth, MN 55802-1505

Bob Manzoline
St. Louis and Lake County Regional Rail
Authority
111 Station 44 Road
Eveleth, MN 55734

St. Louis County
Barbara Hayden, Director
St. Louis County Government Services Center
320 West 2nd Street, Suite 301
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Tony Mancuso, Director
Property Management
St. Louis County Courthouse
100 N. 5th Ave. W., Rm 515
Duluth, MN 55802

Minneapolis

*Minneapolis Heritage Preservation
Commission
Room 110
250 South 4th Street
Minneapolis MN 55415-1385
Contact: Hilary Dvorak
hilary.dvorak@ci.minneapolis.mn.us
612-673-2597

Spencer Cronk
City Coordinator--Minneapolis
City Hall
350 S 5th St Rm 301M
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Superior

Superior Historic Preservation Commission
1316 N. 14th St
Superior, WI 54880

Jason Serck
Planning director, City of Superior
1316 N. 14th St.
Superior, WI 54880

Coon Rapids

Grant Fernelius
Community Dev. Director
11155 Robinson Drive
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Cambridge

Stan Gustafson
Economic Development Director
300 Third Avenue NE
Cambridge, MN 55008



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September 8, 2016

Duluth Heritage Preservation Commission
Attn: Chuck Froseth
City of Duluth
411 W. 1st Street
Room 407
Duluth, MN 55802-1197

RE: Consulting party status; Section 106 historic review of proposed Northern Lights Express (NLX) project

Dear Mr. Froseth:

On behalf of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), I am extending an invitation to the Duluth Heritage Preservation Commission to participate in the Section 106 review process for the Northern Lights Express (NLX) project as a consulting party. The NLX is a proposed high-speed passenger railroad from the Twin Cities to the Duluth/Superior area, primarily using existing rail lines throughout the corridor (see attached map). The proposed project is receiving funding from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA); therefore, it must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (Section 106). The FRA is the lead federal agency and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is the lead state agency for the project. The Cultural Resources Unit (CRU) at MnDOT is acting on behalf of FRA in carrying out many aspects of this project review.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their projects on historic properties. When there are potential adverse effects to properties which are listed in, or eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places, the Section 106 process seeks ways to avoid, reduce, or mitigate those effects. The result is often a Section 106 agreement, which stipulates measures to be taken to address project effects.

Local governments are entitled to participate in the Section 106 process as consulting parties, along with the Historic Preservation Office, Indian tribes, and other interested organizations and individuals. Consulting parties are able to share their views, receive and review pertinent information, offer ideas, and consider possible solutions together with the Federal agency and other parties. Consulting parties play an active and important role in determining how potential effects on historic properties will be avoided or mitigated during the planning and implementation of a project. For more information, see: <http://www.achp.gov/docs/CitizenGuide.pdf>

We would welcome your involvement in the Section 106 consultation process for the NLX project. If you would like to participate, please let us know by September 30 of your interest, in writing at the address on this letterhead or by email to me at