



Freight Rail Update



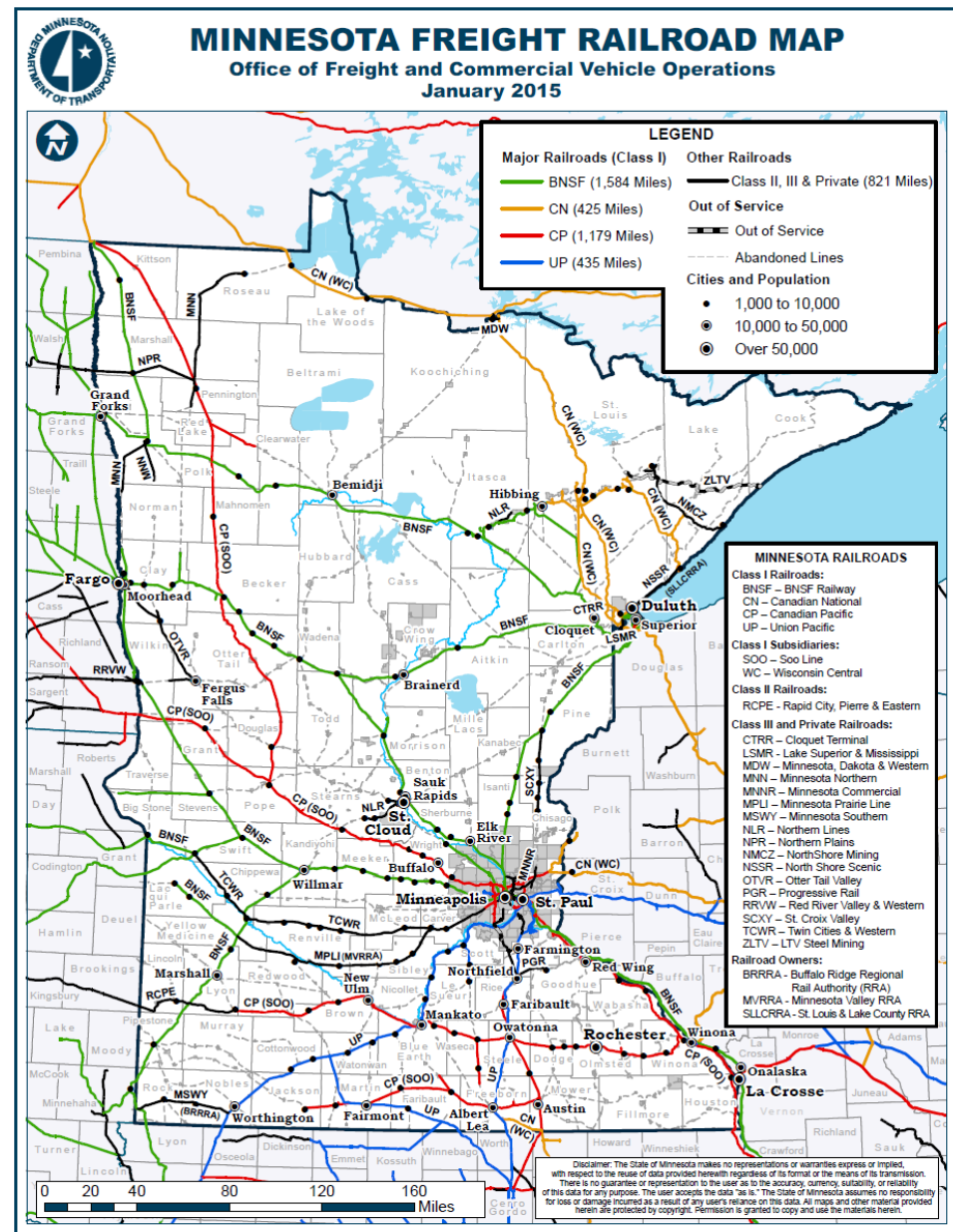
Transportation Committee
August 10, 2015

We all have a stake in **A**  **B**



Minnesota Rail System

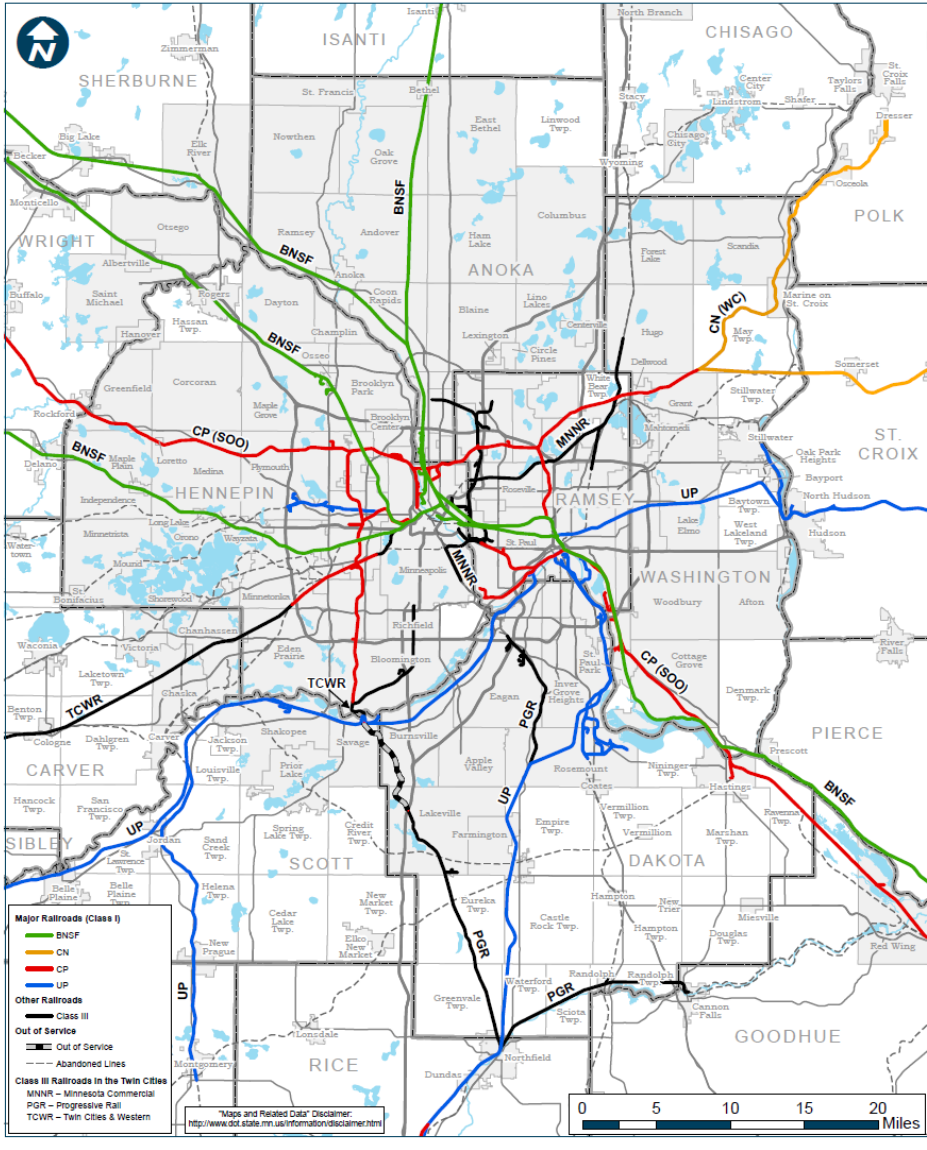
- ▶ 4 Class I Railroads
- ▶ 16 Short Line Railroads
- ▶ 4,500 Route Miles
- ▶ 250 Million tons/year
- ▶ Rail moved 25% by weight, 20% by value of all freight in MN – approximately double the US average
- ▶ 8th Highest Rail Mileage in Nation
- ▶ 25–40% growth by 2040





TWIN CITIES AREA FREIGHT RAILROAD MAP

Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations
January 2015



Twin Cities Rail System

- ▶ 4 Class 1 Railroads
 - BNSF Railway
 - Canadian National
 - Canadian Pacific
 - Union Pacific
- ▶ 4 Short Lines
 - Minnesota Commercial
 - Minnesota Prairie Line
 - Progressive Rail
 - Twin Cities & Western
- ▶ 656 Route Miles
- ▶ 660 Rail-Highway Grade Crossings



Freight Rail Issues

Congested Rail Network and Impacts on Communities

- Blocked crossings
- Poor service to shippers
- Railroads adding train equipment and employees
- Railroads adding capacity (double tracking, yard improvements, etc.)
- Proposed rerouting (Crystal)



Freight Rail Issues

Crude By Rail Safety Risks

- Concerns about oil train fire, impacts on communities, and emergency preparedness
- ▶ Crude by Rail Grade Crossing Study
- ▶ Increased Rail Inspection
- ▶ Increased local responder training
- ▶ Changes in federal regulations
 - New tank car rules



Freight Rail Issues

Coordination of Freight and Passenger Rail Services

- Bottlenecks and capacity constraints
 - Poor service to shippers and passengers
- ▶ Public-Private infrastructure improvements (East Side, Willmar, etc.)
- ▶ Evaluating new approaches to coordination



Draft State Rail Plan Action Plan

- Develop a comprehensive, risk-based rail network safety plan
- Improve grade crossing safety and blockages through added protection and grade separations
- Initiate advanced planning & construction of bottleneck relief projects to improve freight & passenger rail mobility
- Continue railroad deployment of advanced communications, control and train and track monitoring technology
- Better integrate rail into the public planning process; explore options for formal coordination of planning and operations among railroads and public agencies



Thank You!

Peter Dahlberg, Program Manager, Office of
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