



Northstar Commuter Rail

A Story of Partnerships,
Public Involvement and Persistence

2005 Rail~Volution Conference





Minnesota Trivia

- 90,000 miles of shoreline - more than California, Florida and Hawaii combined.
- Minneapolis - more golfers than any other city in the country.
- One recreational boat per every six people, more than any other state.
- Minnesota inventions: masking tape, Wheaties, Bisquick, HMOs, bundt pan, and Post-It Notes.
- The Mall of America is the size of 78 football fields – 9.5 million square feet and has received over 40 million visitors.



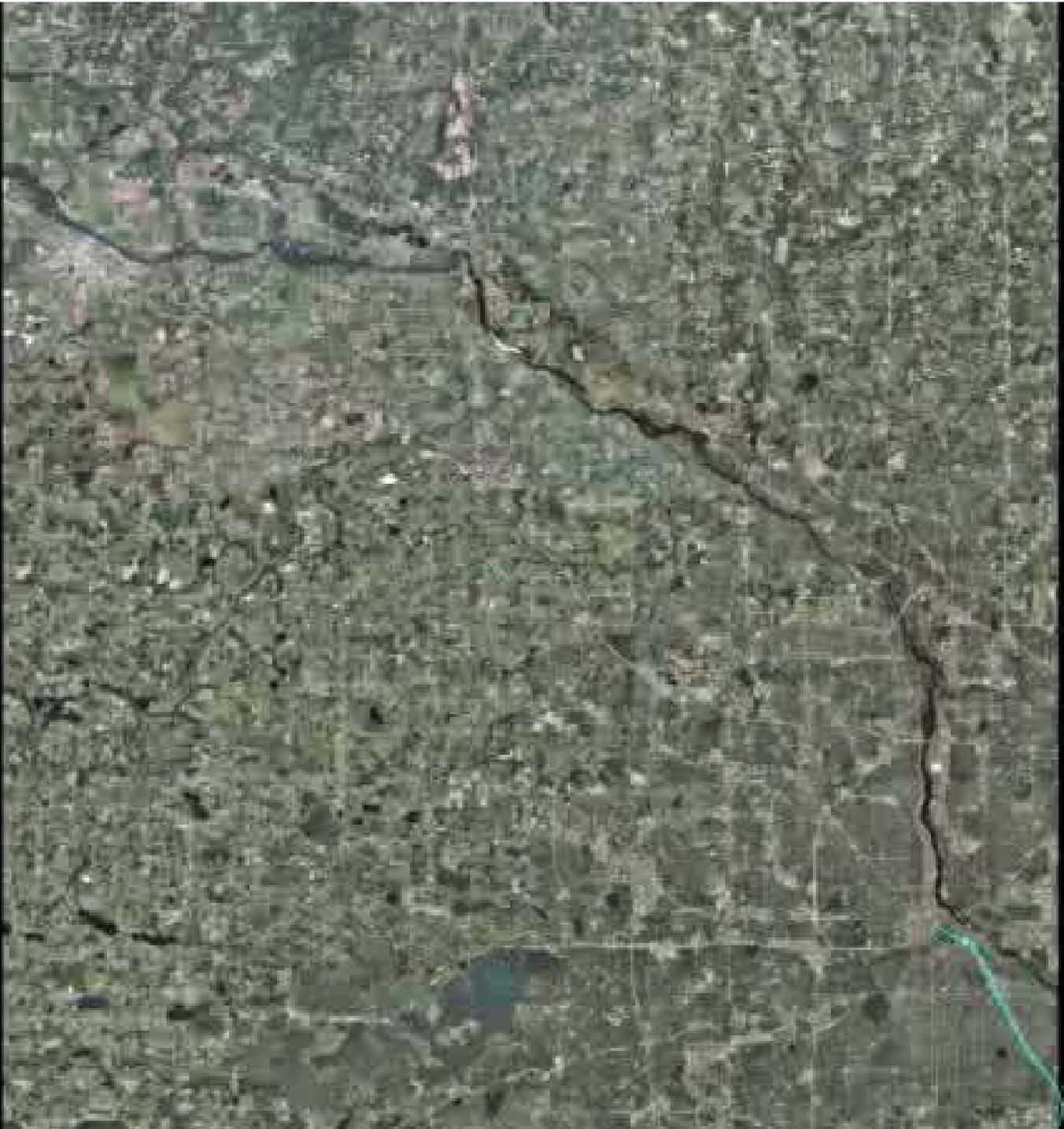
Rail History

- In 1931, Twin Cities Rapid Transit had the best intercity streetcar system in the nation with 530 miles of track and 1021 streetcars. It was the largest employer in the area.
- The last streetcar ran in Minneapolis in 1954 (street cars still run elsewhere in U.S. and Mexico).
- Demise of streetcar system was reportedly linked to the rise of the automobile and oil industry.
- Minnesota opened its first light rail line in 2004 – ridership is more than double projections.
- Northstar will be Minnesota's first commuter rail line – the second leg of a regional rail system.



Regional Growth

- By the year 2030, nearly 1 million people will be added to the Twin Cities region – the equivalent of two Denvers.
- By 2030, there will be 600,000 more jobs in the Twin Cities region.
- The Northstar Corridor is one of fastest growing areas in nation.





Phase 1 Preliminary Capital Cost Estimate

Component	Federal	State	Local	Total
Commuter Rail	\$116.3	\$77.5	\$38.8	\$232.6
Hiawatha Connection	\$16.2	\$10.8	\$5.4	\$32.4
Total	\$132.5 (50%)	\$88.3 (33%)	\$44.2 (17%)	\$265 (100%)

Cost in million of dollars, Fiscal Year 2008, based on 4-car trains.

Operational Cost (FY 2008): \$11 million



Partnerships

+

Public Involvement

+

Persistence

=

Success

Politics

Politics



Partnerships





Northstar Corridor Development Authority

- Established by joint powers agreement in 1997.
- Members include 30 units of government (counties, regional railroad authorities, cities and townships).
- Created strong coalition of advocates for Northstar Commuter Rail.
- The NCDA oversees project planning, engineering, public involvement, and BNSF negotiations necessary to advance in the Federal New Starts funding program.



Partnerships Forged in 2005

- Northstar Project Office comprised of staff from Northstar Corridor Development Authority, Minnesota Department of Transportation, and Metropolitan Council.
- New Starts request to enter final design submitted jointly by three agencies in July 2005.



Transit Oriented Development Partnerships

- NCDA provided early guidance and assistance:
 - Published Station Neighborhood Development Principles and Guidelines
 - Hosted TOD workshops
 - Contracted with consultants to assist communities
- \$4 billion in TOD springing up in Corridor
- Led by public – private partnerships
- Developers have needed little incentive to engage





Elk River Station

- City of Elk River adopted a resolution committing to transit oriented development.
- Began process of incorporating TOD principles into the comprehensive planning and zoning ordinances.
- City approved TOD project (submitted by team of developers) immediately northeast of station site.
- Remaining area north and west of station is open to TOD planning.



Elk River Station Development

- Elk River Station Development includes:
 - commercial, retail and rental office space
 - 475 residential units
- Transit supportive parking policies
 - 2 spaces per dwelling unit rather than 2.5
- Pleasant and safe pedestrian environment
 - 10 park areas
 - Sidewalks connect commercial, residential, park and transit areas





Public Involvement



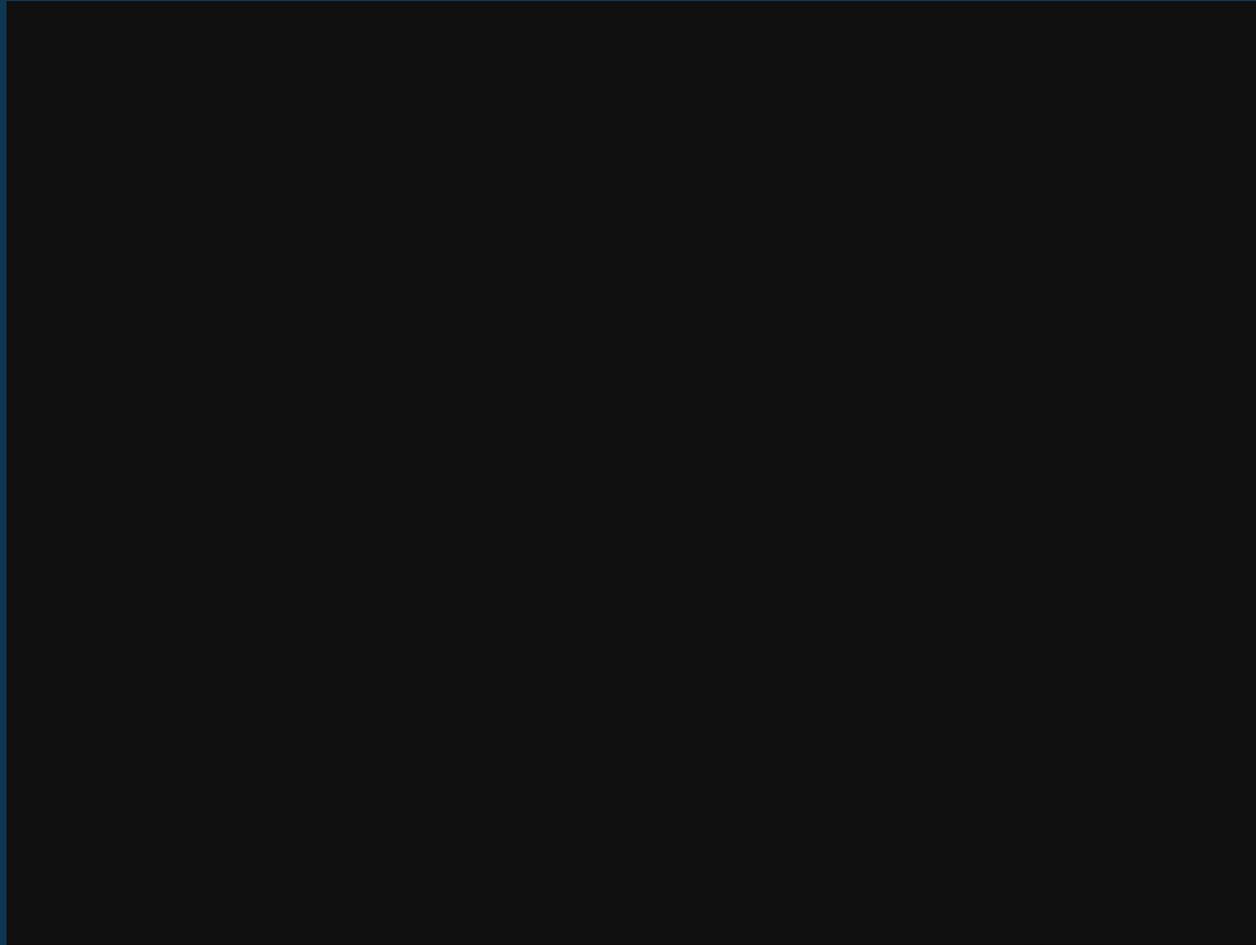


Public Involvement Since 1997

- Corridor wide mailings to 350,000+ residents
- Project update mailings to 12,000+ supporters
- Hundreds of presentations to businesses and community groups
- Fact sheets and brochures
- Surveys
- www.mn-GetOnBoard.com



Commuter Rail Demonstrations





Events, Open Houses and Neighborhood Meetings







Other Non-Traditional Methods

- Statewide Media Tour
- Business Action Kit
 - Led to letters of support from Medtronic, United Defense and other employers in Corridor
- Citizen Action Groups
 - Conducted rallies at Capital; NCDA not involved



Public Involvement Tips

- Make sure your vision is concrete.
- Find a champion – for us it was NCDA.
- Identify business and citizen advocates early – agency shouldn't do all the talking.
- Invest in public involvement!
- Grassroots effort is most successful.
- Create your own reality.

NORTHSTAR COMMUTER RAIL

Congratulates **HIAWATHA**



meet you in 2008



Persistence





Persistence

- NCDA's 30 governmental bodies have stuck together through monthly meetings for 8 years.
 - Early years focused on establishing Northstar as second leg of regional rail system.
 - Latter years focused on securing state and federal funds.
- FTA cost effectiveness index forced NCDA into phased approach but northern communities support stills leads the way



Persistence

- Congress has authorized federal funding for Northstar every year since 1998 due to bipartisan congressional support.
- Current governor is a convert.
- Northstar became issue in local elections; Northstar turned the corner when four legislators loss their seats.



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+

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Success

Politics

Politics



Success!



April 11, 2005





**NORTHSTAR
COMMUTER RAIL**

Thank you!