



December 9, 2014

Dave Christianson
MnDOT Passenger Rail (Mail Stop 480)
395 John Ireland Boulevard
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Mr. Christianson,

We the undersigned governmental entities have met to explore a common interest in pursuing restored inter-city regional passenger rail service from south central Minnesota to the Twin Cities on existing rail lines through Northfield.

We unanimously support restored intercity regional passenger rail service between our south central Minnesota communities and the Metropolitan area, as well as the potential inter-state rail connections that our particular rail line would open for Minnesotans by virtue of the intersection of our line with 3 of Amtrak's most heavily trafficked inter-state lines, immediately to the south of us (Kansas City and Des Moines). We feel strongly that this project presents sufficient merit as to warrant serious study for possible development in the next five years.

The 2009 Minnesota Comprehensive Statewide Freight and Passenger Rail Plan identifies the Northfield – Metropolitan corridor for Tier II development. Elevation of rail service on one of the existing rail lines connecting Northfield to the Twin Cities to Tier One status for purposes of an evaluative preliminary study is more than justified by the forecasted levels of usage, the apparent technical and financial feasibility of this project in comparison to other proposed passenger rail projects, and the enthusiastic support of the undersigned affected communities.

We strongly encourage MnDOT to elevate restored regional inter-city passenger rail service from south central Minnesota on existing rail lines through Northfield to Tier One status in the State's revised Rail Plan, and urge MnDOT to commence an evaluative study of that routing as part of your statewide rail planning.

Respectfully,

Dana Graham
Mayor of Northfield