

## **Board Resolution: Supporting MnDOT Corridor ID Application for Twin Cities-Kansas City Passenger Rail Line**

We encourage support for the advancement and development of an intercity passenger rail service corridor connecting the Twin Cities, Northfield, Faribault, Owatonna, Albert Lea, Des Moines, and Kansas City. This corridor would provide a vital transportation link for Northfield, southern Minnesota, and the broader Midwest region, serving as a crucial connection in building a robust national passenger rail network.

We note that:

- The Federal Railroad Administration's 2025 Long-Distance Service Study identifies a San Antonio – Minneapolis/St. Paul corridor as a selected preferred route option, with a solid mid-level national priority rating.
- The Minnesota Legislature has introduced 2025 bills (HF 3176 / SF 2887) urging MnDOT to apply for federal Corridor Identification funding for the St. Paul – Kansas City corridor.

Establishing this passenger rail service:

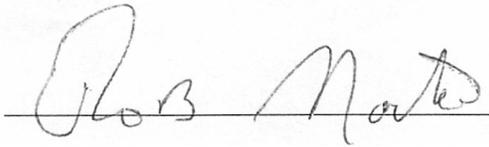
- Strengthens regional economic competitiveness by attracting employees, businesses, and investors to southern Minnesota communities currently underserved by passenger rail, while serving as a ridership multiplier for local transit options.
- Supports Minnesota's environmental health and clean air goals by reducing vehicular pollution and highway congestion, while decreasing roadway maintenance costs.
- Makes efficient use of existing rail infrastructure and depot investments to accommodate population growth more sustainably than highway expansion alone.
- Would provide safe, reliable, year-round travel for residents of all ages, students, and visitors—connecting them to education, employment, medical care, and tourism destinations across the corridor.
- Complements the Northfield Depot's mission as a multimodal hub and community gateway connecting local and regional transit services.

**THEREFORE**, the Northfield Depot Board **strongly supports MnDOT's application to the Federal Railroad Administration's Corridor ID Program for the St. Paul – Kansas City passenger-rail corridor**, as an essential step toward restoring passenger service along this historic route.

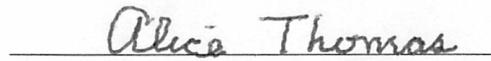
The Board further encourages local, regional, and state partners to collaborate on planning, funding, and advocacy efforts to ensure Northfield's inclusion as a designated station and active community partner in this corridor development process.

Approved by the Board of directors of the Northfield Depot this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2025.

Signatures:

Handwritten signature of Rob Marten in cursive script, written over a horizontal line.

Rob Marten, Chair

Handwritten signature of Alice Thomas in cursive script, written over a horizontal line.

Alice Thomas, Secretary