NORTHERN LIGHTS EXPRESS PROJECT MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT

Quandel Consultants is assisting with project management oversight, coordination of preliminary engineering activities, Tier 2 environmental review, and financial planning for the Northern Lights Express (NLX) project. The NLX is a proposed high-speed intercity passenger rail service (HSIPR) that will operate between Minneapolis and Duluth, MN. The project includes planning, environmental review, engineering design and construction of the infrastructure required to implement daily intercity passenger train service that will travel at speeds up to 110 mph. The 152-mile corridor includes track primarily owned by the BNSF Railway, and terminal stations at the interchange in downtown Minneapolis, and the historic depot in downtown Duluth, MN. Intermediate stations are planned in Coon Rapids, Cambridge and Hinckley, MN and in Superior, WI. The NLX Project also includes procurement of intercity passenger rail equipment, construction of layover and maintenance facilities, selection of an operator, development of a system safety plan and completion of all necessary agreements needed to operate on BNSF tracks.

Client: Minnesota Department of Transportation

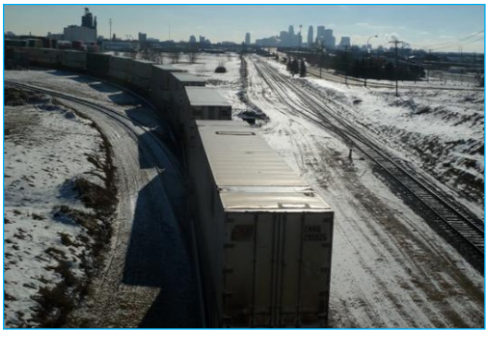
Location: Minneapolis to Duluth, MN

Project size: 152 Mile Corridor

The NLX project is being led by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the Minneapolis-Duluth/Superior Passenger Rail Alliance. The Tier 1 Service-Level Environmental Assessment (EA) was recently completed and a Finding of No Significant Impact issued, allowing the NLX Project to transition into the preliminary engineering and Tier 2 project level environmental review phases of project development.

Quandel is managing coordination between MnDOT and the BNSF Railway. BNSF will complete preliminary engineering of the track, signals and other railroad infrastructure. Quandel is also developing the horizontal track geometry, preparing train travel time estimates, and assessing corridor capacity and capital improvement requirements through the use of RTC software.

Quandel is also assisting MnDOT in the procurement and management of consultants to prepare ridership forecasts and financial planning; preliminary engineering of intersecting roadways and overhead bridges; preliminary engineering of stations, layover and maintenance facilities; procurement of equipment; identification of a system operator; and Tier 2 Project Level environmental review.



Upon completion of the PE/NEPA phase of the Project, Quandel will continue to assist MnDOT through the update of the Service Development Plan and the preparation of supporting documentation that will make the Project eligible for federal funding of final design and construction.

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