



Saint Louis County

Second District Commissioner • 100 N. 5th Avenue West, Room 205 • Duluth, MN 55802
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Patrick Boyle
County Commissioner

The Honorable Emily Larson
Mayor of Duluth
411 W 1st St
Duluth, MN 55802

December 14, 2022

Dear Mayor Larson,

I write to you today in support of the Northern Lights Express inter-city rail project connecting Duluth and Superior with Minneapolis and St. Paul and to respectfully ask that the City of Duluth contribute an additional \$35,000.00 to our NLX alliance efforts in 2023. The Northern Lights Express Alliance, of which both the City of Duluth and St. Louis County are members in good standing, has done outstanding work over the past nearly 20 years in support of this important inter-city passenger rail line connecting Duluth with the Twin Cities.

Considering what was an unpredictable state general election, hopes of passing funding to match significant federal funding for the project seemed unlikely. However, the outcomes of November 2022's general election gave control of the Minnesota Senate, Minnesota House, and Governor's office to the DFL Party – all of whom have been long time supporters of the NLX project. Given these results and a renewed level of support for the project, we are requesting the City of Duluth partner with St. Louis County, the St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority, Hennepin County, and the City of Minneapolis along with other stakeholders to increase our efforts to get this important project across the finish line during the 2023 legislative session.

Mayor Larson, with leadership in all three branches of state government, we believe timing has never been better to access an \$88 million dollar state match that is needed to access more than \$340 million in federal infrastructure dollars to complete the project.

Additional financial support by the City of Duluth will allow the alliance to support these legislative efforts in St. Paul.

On behalf of my fellow county commissioners, and NLX Alliance members, I want to thank you for giving this request serious consideration.

Respectfully,

Patrick Boyle
St. Louis County Commissioner