

***SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423***

Office of Environmental Analysis

July 21, 2016

Michael Johnsen
Acting Division Chief
Environmental and Rail Planning Division
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Northern Lights Express (NLX) Tier 2 Level Environmental Assessment
Minneapolis to Duluth, Minnesota in Hennepin, Anoka, Kanabec, Isanti,
Pine, Carlton and St. Louis counties, in Minnesota and Douglas County,
Wisconsin: Acceptance of Invitation to be a Cooperating Agency for
Environmental Review

Dear Mr. Johnsen

Thank you for your June 28, 2016 letter inviting the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to be a cooperating agency for the Tier 2 Environmental Assessment for the proposed Northern Lights Express (NLX) Passenger Rail Service from Minneapolis to Duluth, Minnesota. Because it appears that the Board may have a licensing role in this proceeding, I am pleased to accept your invitation to cooperate with the Federal Railroad Administration and the Minnesota Department of Transportation in conducting the environmental review for the Tier 2 phase of the NLX Project. I understand that the Tier 2 environmental review will be coordinated with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the Minneapolis-Duluth/Superior Passenger Rail Alliance.

Catherine Nadals of my staff is the environmental protection specialist assigned to this case. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact Catherine at (202) 245-0293 or email at nadalsc@stb.dot.gov.

We look forward to working with you and your team to provide timely review and comment on the environmental analysis for this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victoria Rutson" followed by a stylized "to CN".

Victoria Rutson
Director

cc: Andrea Martin, FRA
Garneth Peterson, MnDOT Environmental Manager