

Minnesota Regional Freight Plans

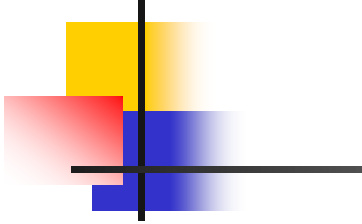


A Proposal to Profile and Forecast the
Impacts of Goods Movements via all
Modes in the Unique Local Regions



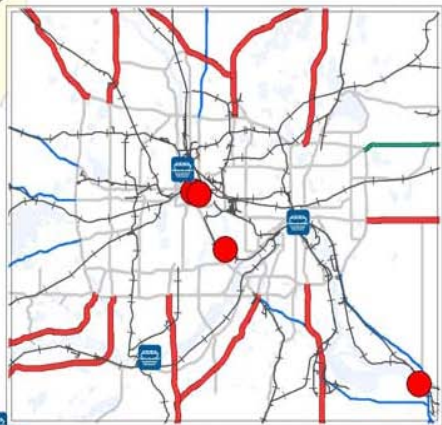
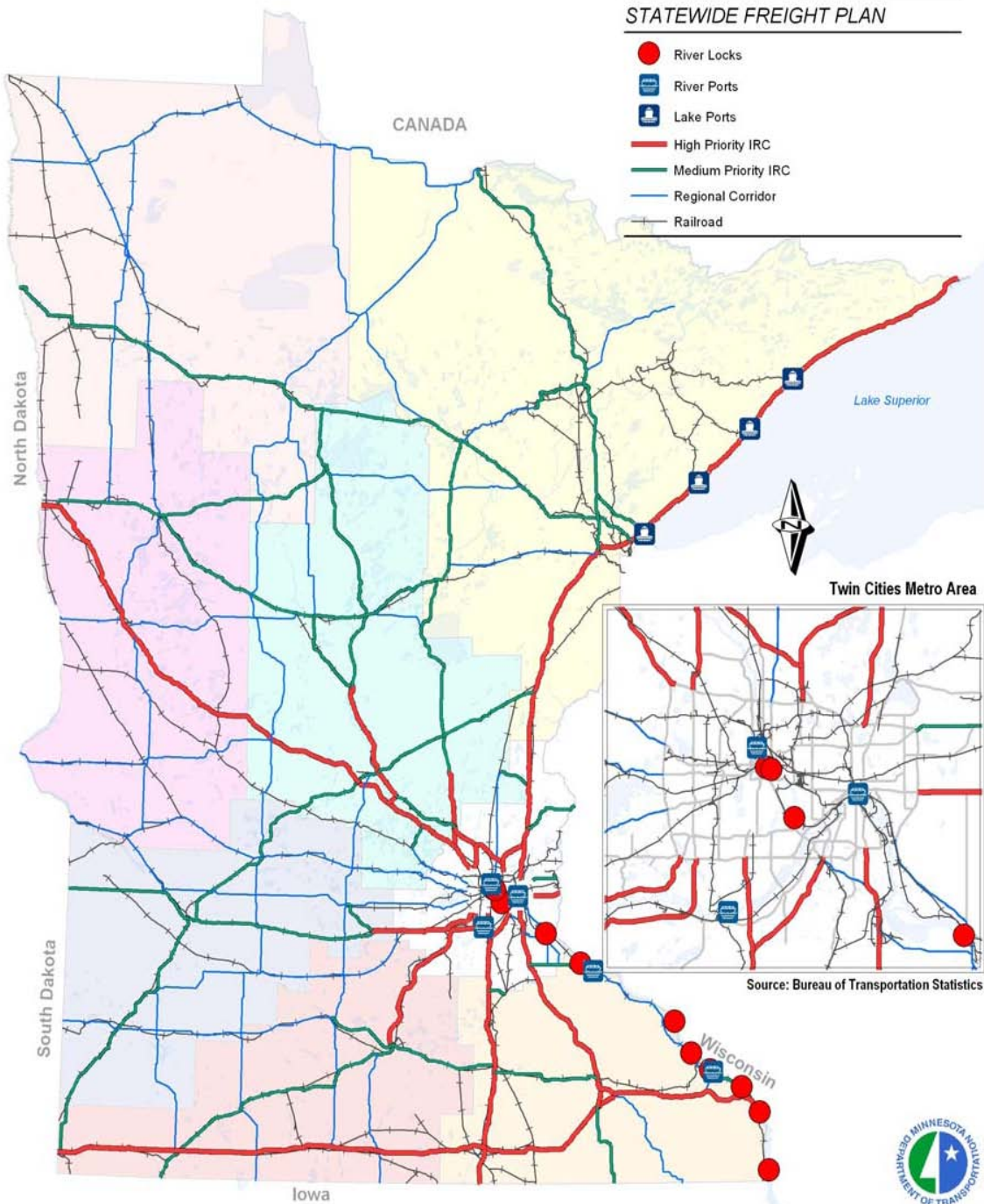
Predecessor Freight Studies

- Minnesota Statewide Freight Plan (2005)
- Twin Cities Metro Area Freight Connectors Study (2006)
- Southwest Minnesota Regional Freight Study (2007) – Mn/DOT District 7 and surrounding areas



STATEWIDE FREIGHT PLAN

-  River Locks
-  River Ports
-  Lake Ports
-  High Priority IRC
-  Medium Priority IRC
-  Regional Corridor
-  Railroad



Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics





Regional (District) Freight Plans

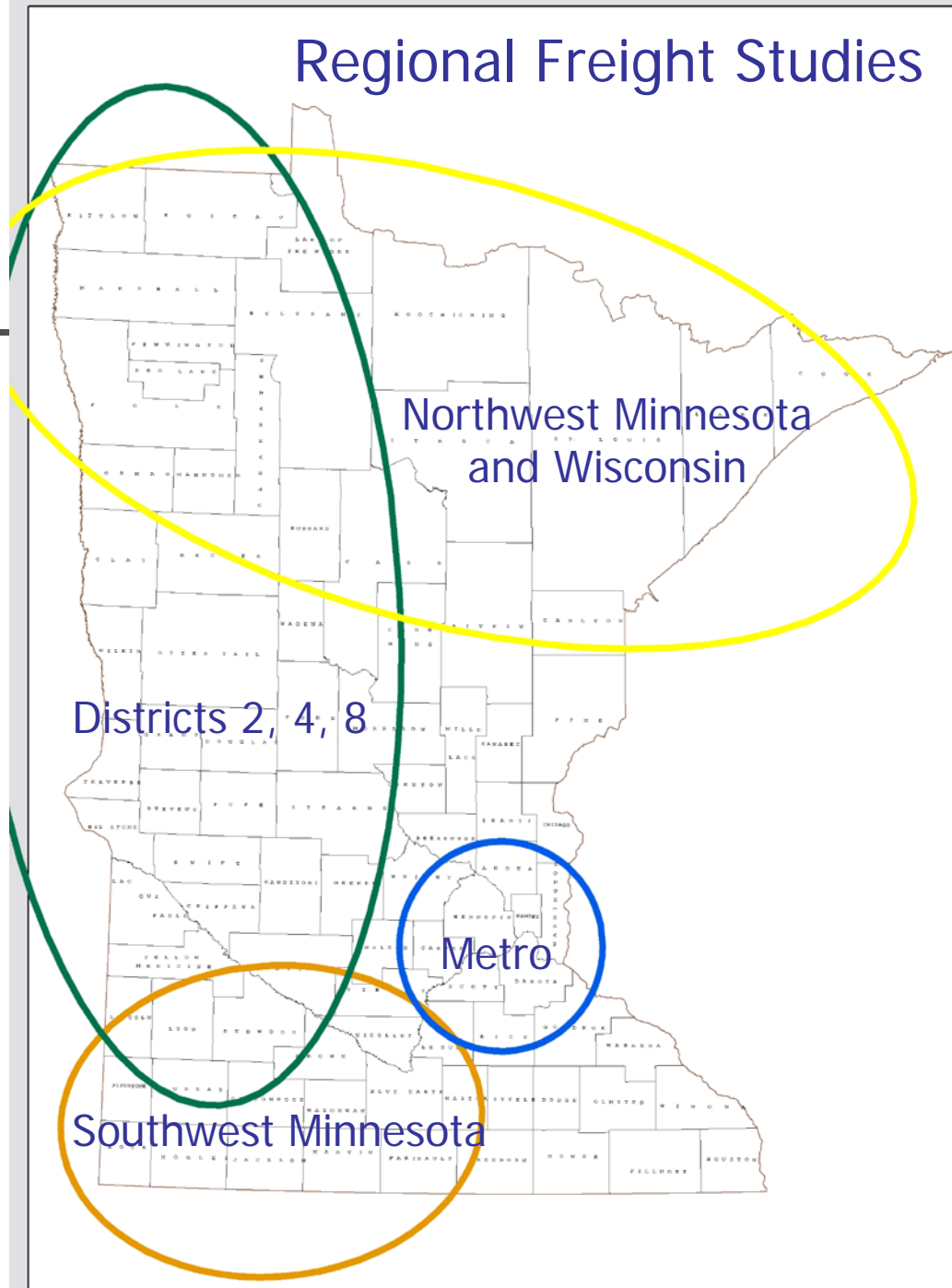
- In-depth profile of new & existing commodities (Examples: ethanol, ag, minerals)
- Face-to-face interviews & industry input: nominally 6 key commodities & representative businesses, plus carriers, facilities
- 30-year growth & trends
- System analyses & deficiencies
- Recommendations & Implementable Actions (D-7 examples: inter-agency cooperation, rail program, trunk highway improvement – TH 14, TH 60 (“ethanol alley”), need for agricultural connections)



Proposed 2008/9 Freight Plans

- Northern Minnesota & Wisconsin Freight Plan – District 1, District 2, and northwest Wisconsin
- Western Minnesota (Red River) Freight Plan – District 2, District 4, District 8
- Metro Freight Plan – Metro District & Metropolitan Council (circulation and connectors)

Regional Freight Studies



Northwest Minnesota
and Wisconsin

Districts 2, 4, 8

Metro

Southwest Minnesota



Northern Minnesota & Wisconsin Plan-Study Scope

- Mn/DOT D1, D2, Northwest Wisconsin
- Industries: Minerals, Timber, Manufacturing, Energy, Transportation & Transshipment
- Modes: Trucking, Rail, Ports & Marine, Air, Intermodal, Specialty
- 6 or more key commodities, multiple interviews & research for each



Sample Lines of Investigation

- New minerals mining & processing?
- Trends in timber, ag industries?
- Biofuels & alternative energy potential?
- Intermodal access to distant markets?
- Inter-regional (E/W) truck routes?
- Multi-lane, OS/OW corridors?
- Short Sea shipping?
- Emerging business trends & competitiveness?



Deliverables

- System Inventory & Mapping: Routes, Modes, Freight Flows, Generators, HCADT, etc.
- Commodity/Industry Profiles & Value, including Forecasts, Sensitivity Ranges
- Industry Interviews & Research: Transport, Operations, Economics, Trends, Issues
- Government Program Analyses
- Improvements & Implementation Strategies



Planning Progress (Halfway)

- Infrastructure Mapping
- Freight Flow Analysis
- Key Commodity/Industry Identification
- Industry Interviews – 30+
- Freight Forums/Workshops – 4
- Key Issues Outlined



Key Industrial Sectors

- Metallic Ore extraction, processing
- Timber & Forestry Products
- Manufacturing, esp. Transportation Equipment (utility, ATV, snowmobile)
- Transportation; Rails, Ports, Trucking



Plan Area Characteristics – Positive Aspects

- Transportation Crossroads; Lake Superior Ports, 4 Class 1 RR's, Air, Interstate and NHS routes, Canadian Gateways
- Major Transportation-dependent industries; iron ore, forestry, manufacturing, ag
- State-of-the-art Logistics Solutions, Plants, Work Force, truck exemptions, shuttle trains
- Extremely High Community Ties & Support



Plan Area Characteristics – Negative Aspects

- Widely Dispersed Industrial Base
- Low Density of Population, Businesses
- Marginal Road Capacity, Conditions; Some highly used routes not conducive to Heavy Commercial Vehicle traffic
- Long Distances, limited access to rail, container intermodal terminals (Twin Cities)
- Restrictions to rail use; Short line barriers, Class 1 demarketing of carload lots



Key Issues Outline

- Freight Conducive Roads; Smooth pavement, 10-foot shoulders, extended distance signing, bypasses, 10-ton connectors (Truck Routes)
- New and improved Intermodal Access; Duluth, Dilworth (Fargo/Moorhead)
- Oversize/Overweight transport and routes; preferred route info, Hwy 2 & Duluth upgrades
- Port Access and Capacity improvements
- Gateway Improvements; border crossings, Metro congestion and access to terminals



Investigative Needs

- Trends on volatile industries; Iron Ore, Forest Products
- Trends, viability of Manufacturing Base
- Carrier Interviews and insight
- Potential of new industries; biofuels, nickel-silver ores, steel processing
- Funding, business models for new expansion, operation of transportation facilities
- Marine Shipping needs, opportunities



Needed Output To Enhance Regional Freight Transport

- Highlight Area Characteristics, Needs
- Policies on Rail support, facilities investment, truck permits and weights
- Freight Guidance for Highway Planning
- Project List, investment needs
- Integration with local, District, State planning