

Rail

Freight

The two major rail lines operating in Region 7W are Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) and Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) (**Figure 21**). Grade crossing safety is important because state and local highways cross BNSF and CPR mainlines. The Mn/DOT Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations collects data such as ADT, number of accidents, exposure, and sight restriction and skew in order to evaluate crossings for improvements.

Commuter Rail

The Northstar Corridor is an 82-mile transportation corridor, which runs along Highway 10 and I-94 from downtown Minneapolis to the St. Cloud/Rice area. It was determined by Mn/DOT and the Northstar Corridor Development Authority (NCDA) that Northstar Commuter Rail was the best alternative for the corridor. The first phase is a 40-mile line between Big Lake and Minneapolis consisting of six stations and an estimated daily ridership of 5,600. A map of the Northstar Commuter Rail route is shown in **Figure 22**.