



Willmar Wye

Public Open House #3
October 18, 2016

We all have a stake in **A**  **B**



Today's Agenda

- ▶ Project Summary & Benefits
- ▶ Project Partners
- ▶ Alternatives
- ▶ Public Engagement
- ▶ Project Schedule
- ▶ Project Status
- ▶ Upcoming & Major Milestones
- ▶ Q & A



Project Summary

- ▶ The Willmar Rail Connector and Industrial Park Access Project (Willmar Wye) will provide:
 - a direct connection between the Marshall and Morris Subdivisions of the BNSF rail network
 - improved access to Willmar's industrial park





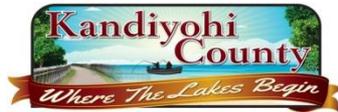
Project Benefits

- ▶ Reduces delay and emission savings
- ▶ Reduces the number of trains traversing through downtown Willmar
- ▶ Improves safety
- ▶ Encourages economic growth
- ▶ Improves quality of life
- ▶ Increases multi-modal opportunities



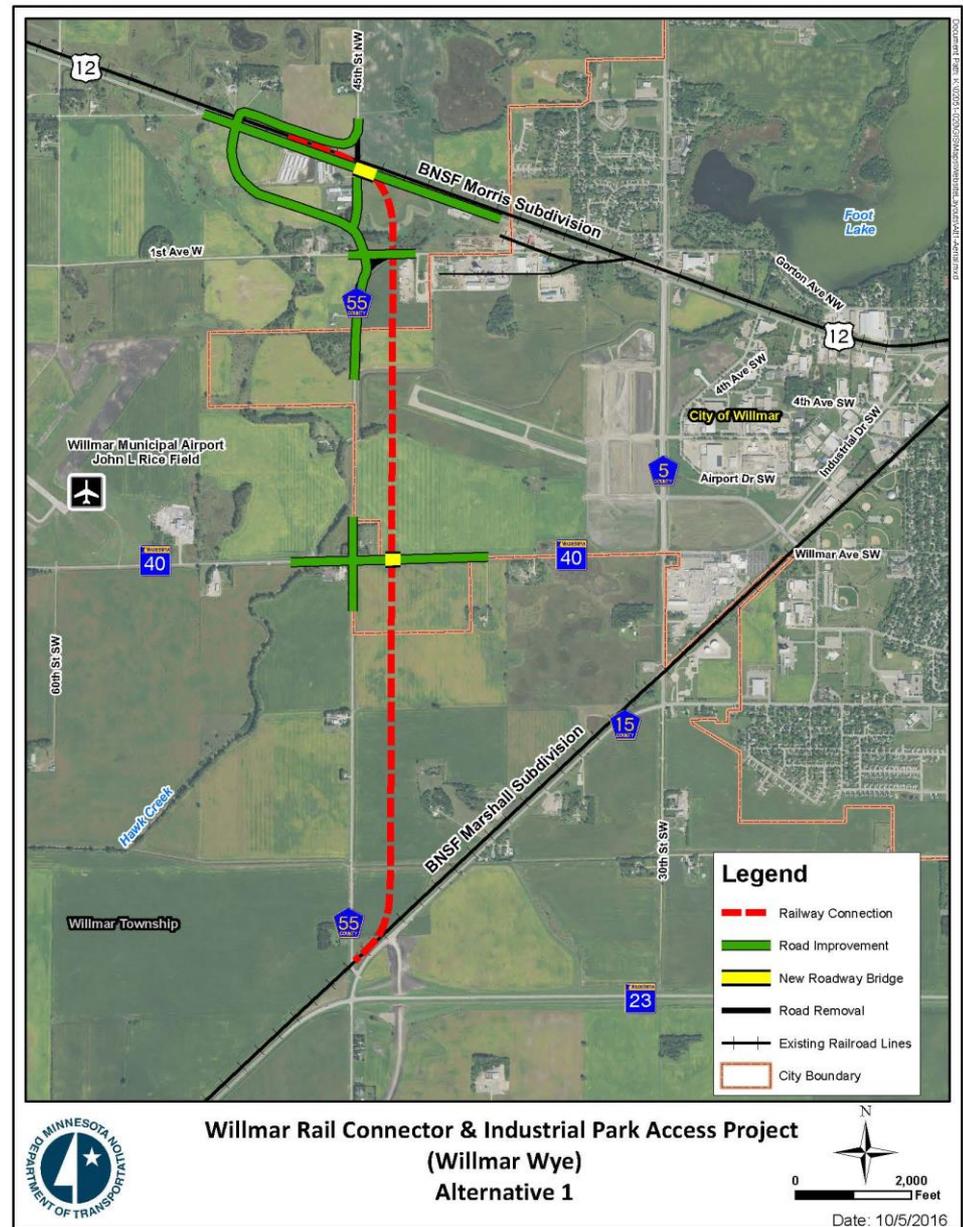
Partners / Contributors

- ▶ BNSF Railway
- ▶ MnDOT
- ▶ U.S. DOT
- ▶ Local Road Improvement Program
- ▶ Kandiyohi County
- ▶ City of Willmar
- ▶ Kandiyohi County/Willmar Economic Development Commission



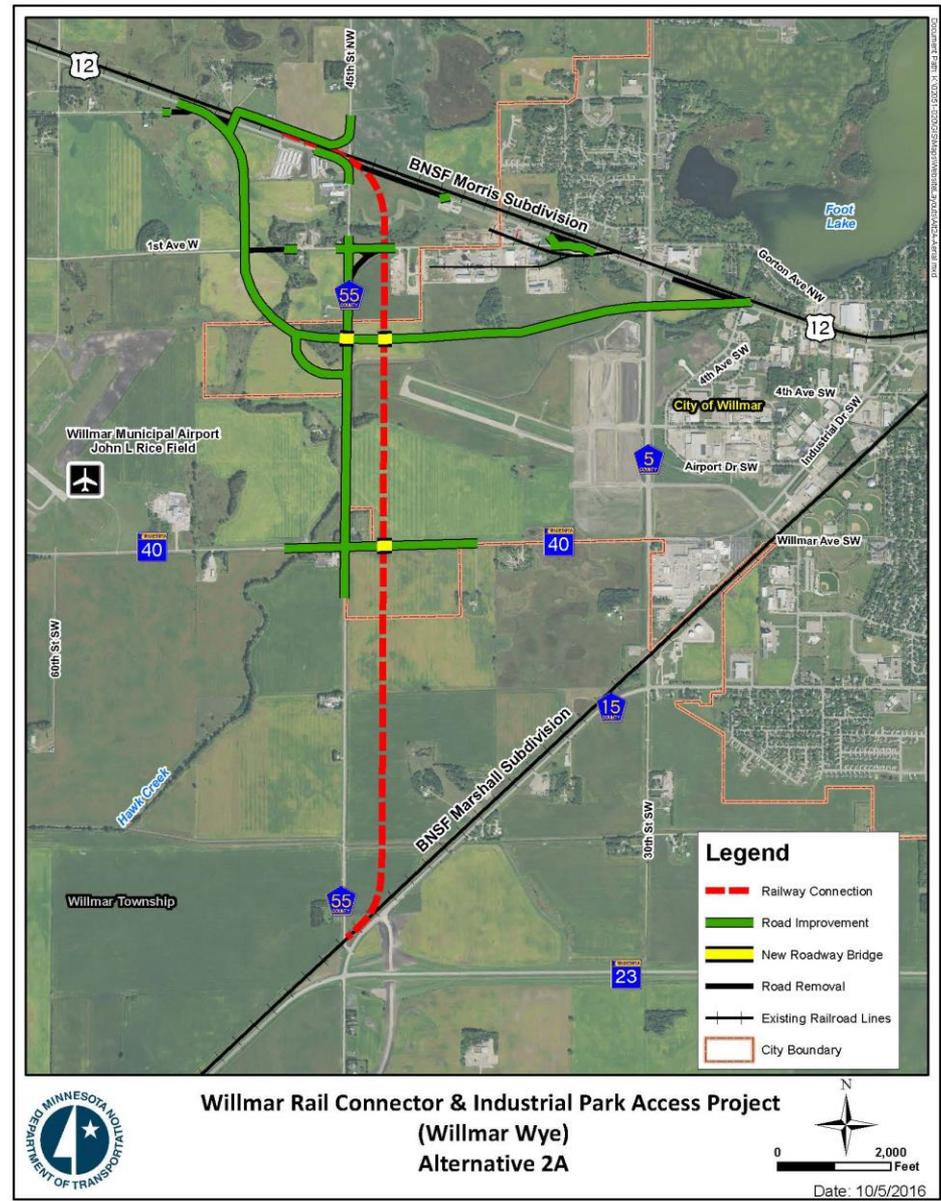
Alternative 1

- Hwy 12 stays on current location
- Long skewed bridge
- High (30 ft.) retaining walls



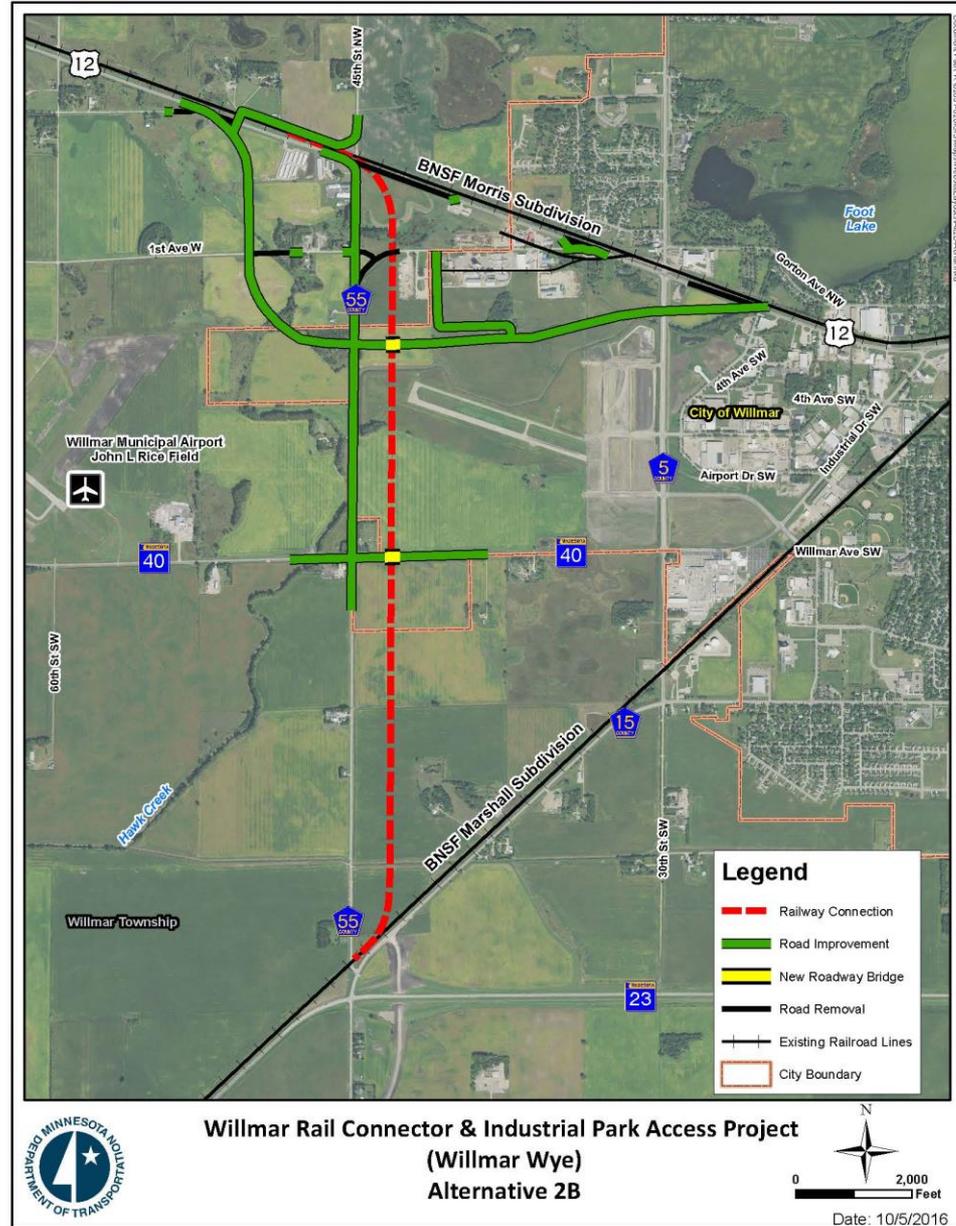
Alternative 2A

- Realigns Hwy 12 (approx. 1½ mile)
- Includes shorter simpler bridge
- Eliminates high retaining walls
- Includes 1st Ave. at-grade rail crossing



Alternative 2B

- Realign Hwy 12 (approx. 1½ mile)
- Shorter simpler bridge
- Eliminates high retaining walls
- Eliminates 1st Ave. at-grade rail crossing
- Provides an access road to 1st Ave.



Public Engagement

- Comprehensive engagement plan (face to face & online)
 - Open Houses
 - (Feb/Aug/Oct)
 - Community Presentations
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - Rotary
 - Kiwanis
 - Townships
 - Focus Groups
 - Law Enforcement/Fire/EMS
 - Freight
 - Pop-Up Events
 - Targeted Meetings
 - Public Hearing (Jan. 2017)



Schedule

Project Schedule	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Pre-Design & Environmental Review	→				
Design		→			
Construction			→		
Public Engagement	→		→		



Project Status

- ▶ The draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has gone out to project partners for their review and comment.
- ▶ Layout refinements are underway.
- ▶ Currently conducting various public engagement activities.



Upcoming & Major Milestones

Milestone	Date
Draft roadway layout completion	November 2016
Submission of draft EA for federal agency review and comment	November 2016
Submission of draft EA for public review and comment	January - February 2017
Public hearing	Late January 2017
Municipal consent	Spring 2017
Agreements	Summer 2017
Bid (design-build) letting	November 2017
Start of construction	Spring 2018
Project completion	Fall 2020



Questions?

www.dot.state.mn.us/d8/willmarwye





Thank You

We all have a stake in **A  B**

