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August 21, 2020

Francis E. Loetterle, PhD, AICP
Freight and Rail Planning Section
Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations
Minnesota Department of Transportation
395 John Ireland Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Northstar Commuter Rail Extension Feasibility Assessment
Section 10.5 – Potential Schedule

Dear Dr. Loetterle:

Section 10.5 of the above-referenced Feasibility Assessment requires modification based on information relative to construction durations of specific infrastructure improvements within the corridor from Minneapolis to St. Cloud. The section should read:

A preliminary estimate of the time required to complete the above steps for the 2040 Bi-Directional Service Alternative is as follows:

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. Preliminary Engineering/Environmental Review | 18-24 months |
| 2. Equipment Acquisition (concurrent with PE/NEPA and FD/Construction) | 36 months |
| 3. Final Design/Construction | 30-42 months |
| 4. Testing/Commissioning (overlaps with construction) | 6 months |

A preliminary estimate of the time required to complete the above steps is 54 to 72 months or 4 ½ to 6 years. If weather cooperates, the likelihood of meeting the 4 1/2 -year timeline is possible. If weather is on the bad side, the full timeline will be needed to complete the project.

Thank you for the opportunity to make these modifications. If you have any questions or remarks concerning the above, please contact me at your convenience.

Respectfully submitted,
Quandel Consultants, Inc.

Melanie K Johnson, PE
Director of Planning & Technology