The East Metro Rail Yards Improvement Project is located in Saint Paul, just south and east of Union Depot. The study area extends from Union Depot southeast to approximately I-494. This area includes freight track and rail yards owned by BNSF Railway, Canadian Pacific Railway, and Union Pacific Railroad. These three national rail lines converge at Union Depot.

This area moves 7,500 rail cars and two Amtrak passenger trains daily. Slow track speeds, congestion at rail yards, manual operations causing stopping and blockages, and limited rerouting opportunities are causing delay and conflicting train movements. This translates to materials and goods taking longer to reach customers, and loss of time and money for manufacturers and shippers.

Ramsey County and project partners are recommending a system of improvements to:

- Reduce train delay
- Supply efficient routing
- Provide flexibility to handle existing freight and passenger trains
- Maintain capacity for growth.

The East Metro area moves 7,500 rail cars per day, accommodating 5% of the total national freight rail volume every day.
WHAT IS NEXT?

Ramsey County will continue to work with partners to secure funding for these improvements. Once funding is received, environmental documentation and final engineering will be completed to meet all requirements for construction.

WHAT IS PROPOSED?

- **Add Automatic Switches** - Eliminates need for trains to stop
- **Add Rail Connection** - Increases capacity and provide more direct routes
- **Upgrade Turning Tracks** - Provides more options for train movements
- **Add Longer Track** - Allows more efficient switching of tracks for longer trains
- **Add Main Line** - Provides direct connection and reduces risk of track flooding
- **Shift Yard** - Frees up space for additional tracks to increase capacity and speed
- **Add Crossover Tracks** - Improves efficiency and eliminates need for trains to stop
- **Add Main Line** - Provides more direct route
- **Extend Yard** - Frees up space so one train doesn’t block other trains

NOTE: Examining solutions to stabilize bluff to limit potential damage to tracks