

Economic Impact of Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad (LS&MR)

UMD's Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) has estimated the economic impacts from LS&MR visitor spending on the city of Duluth. The results show impacts of three western Duluth rail and trail configurations being considered for the LS&MR.

Study Highlights

6,000
passengers
annually

4,000
visitors to
Duluth

\$1 million
visitor
spending

17 jobs
supported
annually

Passenger Feedback

- The final portion of the ride (across Mud Lake) was ranked as the best
- 98% would recommend the train ride to others
- 60% would be less likely to recommend the ride if the final portion were eliminated
- Nearly 30% said the LS&MR was their primary reason for visiting Duluth

If LS&MR ridership were to increase by 20%, the total economic impact on the city could reach

\$1.5 million

Bureau of Business and
Economic Research

Labovitz School
OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH
Driven to Discover

According to communities with similar rail and trail combinations, residents typically favor the pedestrian trail, and visitors favor the train. A combination rail with trail increases awareness and usage of both.

The full report can be found on the BBER website at z.umn.edu/bber
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