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CN/WCGroup Log Committee Initial Project Three  
**DULUTH-SUPERIOR GATEWAY LOGS – WORK PLAN**

**Objectives:** Optimize logs via Duluth-Superior gateway on rail (single line and interchanged) and conversion of over-the-road truck logs to attain sustainable, compensatory and truck-competitive rail service levels.

**Work Plan – Initial Elements:**

- 1. Identify logs moving via Duluth-Superior gateway, existing and potential.**
  - Quantify current rail and OTR truck O/D and potential?
  - Use ASD ("Actionable Shipper Data") approach, to extent feasible?
  - Identify means of optimizing loaded miles, optimized match-back?
  - Explore producer/mill capacity to smooth seasonal demand variations?
  - Identify potential transloads/re-locations to maximize CN single line?
  - Current/potential v. increase with changed operations/interchange scenarios?
- 2. Detailed profile of existing/potential operations – CN, BNSF, other RRs?**
  - Locomotive/crew balance, operational challenges and costs?
  - Local and inter-train switching, current and capacity/value of larger blocks?
  - Interchange, current and capacity/value of larger blocks, time changes, *etc.*?
  - Improving capacity utilization & costs based on changes in shipper practices?
  - Other change potential/value with/without significant investment?
- 3. Engagement of additional stakeholders?**
  - BNSF with producers-mills and CN regarding, *e.g.*:
    - Means, potential contributions to improve interchange, overall?
    - Externals, *e.g.*, street closings, grade separation, other investments?
  - Duluth-Superior public interest in reducing OTR truck logs, public benefits?
  - MN DNR forestry objectives?
  - Benefits/beneficiaries relating to public investment/cooperation, as needed?
- 4. Ladysmith-Escanaba potential & CN central WI operations overhaul?**
  - Log/other freight lane potential? Restoring short miles, trade-offs & timing?
  - Wood tick, from pest to star? CN system benefits? Near/long term?
- 5. Coordinate this Project with:**
  - CN system needs to assure fluidity between Winnipeg and Chicago?
  - Great Lakes Forests Log Car Fleet action agenda – TIGER & other funding?
  - Other initiatives for growing volume on CN/WC lighter density lines.