



# in transit

Minnesota Public Transit Association



## Northstar light rail project wins federal funding

Federal, state and local officials gathered Dec. 11 at the Anoka County Government Center for the signing ceremony of the Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) for Northstar Commuter Rail. The agreement commits \$156.8 million in federal matching funds and immediately releases another \$97.5 million in state bonding money for Northstar construction and trains.

The signing ceremony featured Gov. Tim Pawlenty, U.S. Deputy Transportation Secretary Thomas J. Barrett, members of Minnesota's congressional delegation and numerous local officials.

"Northstar is an important piece of Minnesota's transportation future," Pawlenty said. "It will add more transportation capacity in one of the fastest growing areas of the state and get commuters to work and home faster."

"Minnesota has reached a new milestone today with the signing of the Full Funding Grant Agreement for Northstar," said Dan Erhart, Chair of the Northstar Corridor Development Authority (NCDA). "Not only is this a day of celebration for those who have kept the project on track, but for Minnesotans who will soon be riding the trains, employers who will have their workers on board and communities along the corridor."

The funding committed through the FFGA adds to the already significant financial contributions by the state of Minnesota, the regional rail authorities for Anoka, Hennepin, and Sherburne counties, the Metropolitan Council and the Minnesota Twins. It allows the project to award contracts in the coming months for passenger rail cars and construction of stations at Big Lake, Elk River, Anoka, Coon Rapids and downtown Minneapolis.

"Northstar is the Little Engine that Could," said Met Council Chair Peter Bell. "Its progress shows the power of motivation and positive thinking by folks from the NCDA, state and Metro Council – who believed in the project enough to invest in it and labor over it early on – confident that our federal partners would also step up."

The 40-mile Northstar Commuter Rail Line is an important element in the Met Council's long-range transit improvement plan for the region. It



Construction at the Northstar vehicle maintenance facility in Big Lake began in September.

calls for the development of a network of bus and rail "transitways" that give transit a travel time advantage over the single-occupant car. The Council's plan is designed to increase transit ridership 50 percent by 2020, slow the growth in traffic congestion and improve mobility.

The line, which is expected to open in late 2009, will use existing train tracks between Big Lake and downtown Minneapolis.

Trains will make the quick trip at speeds of up to 79 mph. Commuters will have a direct connection near the new Twins Ball Park to the Hiawatha light-rail transit line and, ultimately, the Central Corridor LRT line.

# From the President



Tony Kellen, President  
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The Minnesota Public Transit Association heads into 2008 knowing that this will be a critical year for transit funding. At both the state and federal levels, fiscal constraints are leaving many to wonder how transit funding will fare in the political tug-of-war. This could be a great year for transit funding or a tough year for transit budgets depending on the level of activity and participation from transit advocates.

MPTA is gearing up to be the statewide transit organization that legislators and others turn to for information and advocacy around transit issues. We are uniquely positioned to provide the perspective of those on the front lines, managing transit systems, all across the state. With a strong funding bill for transit at the state level still in play, we have a great opportunity to educate legislators about transit funding problems and the urgent need to take action during the '08 session.

The MPTA Board will be developing a strategy plan for the legislative session and the rest of the year. Our focus will be on raising the awareness of the benefits of transit throughout the state and advocating for the resources we need to provide the best transit service. We will be organizing local meetings, working with local transit systems, hosting a Transit Breakfast in St. Paul on March 5th, engaging advocates in letter writing campaigns and talking with legislators about how to meet our goal of a transit system that works for Minnesotans.

We have a legislative forum scheduled in Brainerd on January 31st. These forums bring local elected officials, transit advocates and local legislators together to talk about specific local issues and the broader needs of transit statewide. We will be holding more of these forums throughout the year.

The MPTA Board has also agreed to join an effort called Progress In Motion which brings transportation advocates of all types together to work cooperatively for a transportation funding package that contains at least the same funding level and major funding components as the bill that was passed and vetoed by the Governor during the 2007 Session.

This year is an important time for transit. We need everyone to get involved and speak up for those who rely on transit to live their lives.

Minnesota Public Transit Association 

## Transit ridership grows nationwide

The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) today announced that Americans took nearly 50 million more trips on public transportation during the third quarter of 2007, compared to the third quarter of 2006, representing a 2 percent increase in ridership.

Noting that more and more Americans are choosing to ride public transportation as gas prices remain high and traffic congestion remains a problem, APTA President William W. Millar said, "The greater use of public transit in the third quarter of 2007 demonstrates the importance of a community having a good public transportation system to help its residents save time and money."

In the third quarter of 2007, light rail (modern light rail, streetcars, trolleys, and heritage trolleys) had the highest percentage of ridership growth among all modes of transportation, with an 8.9 percent increase. Some of the areas reporting the highest increases in light rail ridership opened new services. The Regional Transit Authority of New Orleans, LA showed the largest increase at 115.7 percent, as it restores more service. Other areas showing notable increases on light rail systems are: Denver, CO (65.1 percent), St. Louis, MO (25.8 percent), Kenosha, WI (23.3 percent), New Jersey (14.1 percent), Tampa, FL (13.1 percent), and San Diego, CA (12.5 percent)

Commuter rail had the second highest growth rate of all modes at 5.4 percent and areas with significant commuter rail ridership increases included: Harrisburg to Philadelphia, PA (50.2 percent), Oakland, CA (16.2 percent), Oceanside, CA (12.8 percent), Dallas-Forth Worth, TX (12.3 percent), Stockton, CA (12.4 percent), Philadelphia, PA (9.4 percent), and Anchorage, AK (9.0 percent).

Heavy rail (subways) ridership grew nationally by 4.0 percent during the third quarter of 2007. Areas showing the largest increases in ridership are: San Juan, Puerto Rico (10.6 percent), Atlanta, GA (10.4 percent), and Staten Island, NY (10.2 percent).

Bus ridership throughout the country showed a slight increase of 0.1 percent, although in communities with a population below 100,000, bus ridership showed a 7.5 percent increase.

Demand response (para-transit) ridership increased by 4.5 percent for the third quarter of 2007. Trolley bus ridership increased by 1.5 percent and all other types of public transportation increased by 6.7 percent. To see a complete ridership report visit [www.apta.com/research/stats/ridership/](http://www.apta.com/research/stats/ridership/).



# Legislative Update

Margaret Donahoe  
Legislative Director  
Minnesota Transportation Alliance



The 2008 Legislative Session convenes February 12th. Mark your calendars and get ready for a busy, yet critical year for transit in Minnesota. We came so close to having a strong transportation bill with dedicated funding for transit become law last session. We're just a few votes shy. We need to keep pushing and get it over the hill this year and have it become law.

### The main provisions for transit:

■ Authorization for counties in the 7-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area to levy a sales tax of up to ½ percent for

transportation purposes. At least 50 percent of the revenue generated must be used for transit, 25 percent for roads and 25 percent must go into a fund that allows dollars to be spent on either transit or roads. A ½ cent sales levied in all seven counties is estimated to generate approximately \$255 million per year.

■ Statutory dedication of the sales tax on leased motor vehicles with 50 percent dedicated to transit and 50 percent to roads. Of the 50 percent dedicated to transit, 37.5 percent would be directed to Metropolitan Area Transit and 12.5 percent to Greater Minnesota transit.

The 2008 Session will focus on capital bonding as well. Requests for transit project funding are significantly higher than in past years - most notably the \$140 million request for the Central Corridor light rail line.

## MnDOT's Office of Transit has requested \$4 million in general obligation bonds for Greater Minnesota transit facilities.

### The Metropolitan Council has submitted the following requests:

Central Corridor Light Rail Transit	\$140,000,000
Urban Partnership Agreement	\$ 7,200,000
Regional Park and Ride Expansion	\$ 15,000,000
Transitway Studies and Facilities	\$ 2,000,000

### Political Subdivisions have submitted these requests:

Dakota County - Cedar Avenue Transitway	\$ 22,000,000
City of Minneapolis - Hiawatha LRT site improvements	\$ 6,500,000
Hennepin County Regional Rail - Southwest Transitway	\$10,000,000
MN Valley Regional Rail - Railroad rehabilitation	\$15,000,000
Ramsey County Regional Rail - Union Depot	\$ 9,000,000
Ramsey County Regional Rail - Rush Line	\$ 1,000,000
Red Rock Corridor Commission - Red Rock Transitway	\$ 2,000,000
Red Rock Corridor Commission - High Speed Rail	\$10,000,000
Washington County - I-94 transitway	\$ 1,000,000
St. Louis & Lake Co. Regional Rail - North Shore Express	\$ 1,655,000

With so much at stake, everyone involved in transportation in Minnesota has to get busy contacting legislators and spreading the word about the need for increased transit funding. MPTA is part of a larger effort called Progress In Motion. This group will be coordinating a grassroots effort and a media campaign directed at obtaining support for a comprehensive transportation funding plan including dedicated funding for transit systems all across the state.

Your participation will make a huge difference! Get ready for an exciting and important year for transit in Minnesota.

## Annual MPTA Legislative Breakfast

Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Best Western Kelly Inn, St. Paul - (Across from the Capitol)

8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Without the involvement of transit advocates from all over the state, transit in Minnesota will miss a huge opportunity to secure dedicated funding for transit throughout the state. Come join you colleagues and visit with key legislators about the need for transit funding. It's the one day out of the year that we need you to make the trip to the State Capitol and educate legislators about the importance of transit service throughout Minnesota.



## Transit in the News

### Use of park-and-ride lots grows 11 percent

**New facilities, bridge collapse prompt more commuters to park their cars  
Put them in the right places, and people will use them.**

That's the message from a survey that showed use of park-and-ride facilities in the region grew 11 percent in the last year. The growth is tied to more capacity at the lots, according to Ginger Murphy, the survey's project coordinator at Metro Transit.

The annual survey, conducted in late September and early October, showed that this year an additional 1,600 commuters are parking their vehicles and then boarding a bus or rail car to get to work. During the same period, metro area transit providers added approximately 4,500 park-and-ride spaces. The region's park-and-ride capacity now totals nearly 24,000 spaces.

The August 1 collapse of the I-35W bridge also contributed to the increase, Murphy said. The survey found that more new transit riders boarded buses at park-and-rides in areas affected by the collapse and continued to use the facilities at the time the survey was conducted. Those park-and-ride lots saw a 15 percent increase in use over last October, Murphy said.

### Keeping up with demand

The growth is part of a longer-term trend. Commuter use of park-and-rides grew by 21 percent between 2004 and 2005, and another 5 percent the following year. The continued popularity of park-and-rides now means that some facilities are overflowing, Murphy said.

"The sustained growth over the past three years has resulted in the consumption of more than five years worth of projected capacity," she said. "We are seeing 10 facilities near capacity, 11 at capacity and 14 over capacity."

The past year saw a flurry of construction activity at park-and-ride lots across the metro area. Thirteen new facilities opened since the last regional survey, with the largest – the parking ramp at I-394 and County Road 73 in the west metro – providing 730 spaces for commuters. In addition, 12 existing lots expanded, adding a total of more than 1,100 new spaces.

In order to keep up with demand, the Metropolitan Council and local communities continue to explore options for immediate relief by leasing spaces while investigating more permanent options such as constructing additional facilities, Murphy said.

### New lots open, more under construction

For instance, in December Metro Transit opened a new 225-space park-and-ride lot on the northeast corner of I-35W and Industrial Boulevard. The lot is on land donated by the Minnesota Department of Transportation, which agreed to let Metro Transit use the property through 2011.

That park-and-ride serves as anchor for new bus Route 241, which provides nine morning and nine afternoon rush-hour trips to downtown Minneapolis. "This lot will provide additional relief to commuters who want to avoid congestion after the bridge collapse," Murphy said. Another park-and-ride facility that opened in December was the Mound Transit Center, providing 50 spaces on the top level of the City of Mound's municipal parking ramp. The largest facility under construction now is at the 28th Ave. station in Bloomington, where a 1,450-space ramp will open in 2008, replacing a 540-space surface lot.



Construction is under way on a parking ramp to expand capacity at the 28th Ave. station of Hiawatha light rail in Bloomington. When completed in 2008, the station will have 1,450 spaces, compared with 540 when the line opened. In the meantime, commuters are using temporary lots nearby.



## Transit in the News

### Metro Transit introduces Hybrid buses in parade down Nicollet Mall

MINNEAPOLIS—Metro Transit gave downtown Minneapolis workers and residents a look at the future of public transportation in the region when it paraded 17 of its 19 new hybrid electric buses up Nicollet Mall during the noon hour on November 15th.

The new buses, along with 150 more to follow over the next four years, are the cornerstone of Metro Transit's Go Greener initiative. The hybrid buses deliver 22 percent better fuel mileage and produce 90 percent fewer emissions than the buses they replace. The hybrid models, coupled with Metro Transit's commitment to soy-based bio-diesel, will reduce the agency's dependence on fossil fuel and improve air quality.

"The new buses also demonstrate our support of the Access Minneapolis transportation plan, which calls for only clean, alternatively fueled vehicles to be used on Nicollet Mall beginning in 2010," said Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb.

When the new 19 buses are placed in service Monday better than one-third of all local bus trips on the Nicollet Mall will be operated with hybrid electric models, Lamb said.

"Metro Transit's actions today demonstrate a commitment to innovation and to stewardship of the region's environment," said Todd Klingel, president and CEO of the Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce. "These buses are not only better for air quality throughout the metro area, they also are substantially quieter than standard models, making the pedestrian, shopping and outdoor dining experience on the Mall more enjoyable."

When all elements of Metro Transit's Go Greener plan are implemented, the agency will reduce its consumption of fossil fuel by 1.6 million gallons annually, said Peter Bell, chair of the Metropolitan Council, which oversees Metro Transit and other transit operations in the region.

"Governor Pawlenty asked state government to lead the way to a sustainable future for Minnesota, and both the Council and Metro Transit have responded," Bell said. "Metro Transit already uses a 10 percent bio-diesel blend in its fuel – five times higher than the state requires. And it will double that percentage next year."

Mayor R.T. Rybak noted that better than 40 percent of commuters headed to downtown Minneapolis use public transportation. "By using Metro Transit buses and trains, these commuters are improving the environment. By sharing the ride, they are dramatically cutting into the 2.6 tons of greenhouse gas emissions that the average metro area commuter places in the air every year by driving alone to work.

"It made sense to use public transportation before today's announcement," he said. "It makes even more sense now," Rybak said.



### Transit Conference Powerpoint presentations available online

Powerpoint presentations used by session speakers and presenters at last fall's Minnesota Public Transit Conference in St. Cloud are now available for download on the Minnesota Public Transit Association's website - [www.mpta-transit.org](http://www.mpta-transit.org).



Serving Communities – Empowering Lives

Minnesota Public Transit Conference  
October 29-31, 2007

Minnesota Public Transit Association





## Transit in the News

### Metro Transit praises Bituminous Roadways Inc. for late-season support - corporate donation

MINNEAPOLIS –With temperatures dropping and asphalt plants preparing to shutdown for the season, Metro Transit had a problem.

The Minneapolis/St. Paul transit agency wanted to build a new park-and-ride lot to help commuters dealing with north metro congestion caused by the collapse of the I-35W bridge over the Mississippi River.

The state transportation department had vacated the land at I-35W and Industrial Boulevard, and Metro Transit's contractor had prepared the site for paving.

But could asphalt be mixed and delivered in advance of an upcoming snow storm?

Thanks to Bituminous Roadways Inc. of Minneapolis the answer was yes. The company kept its plant open beyond its scheduled closing and brought on extra staff to make the asphalt.

And best of all Bituminous Roadways shouldered the extra cost at no charge as a community service.

In recognition, Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb said: "We were able to complete the park-and-ride project just one day before the Dec. 1 snowfall thanks to the commitment of Bituminous Roadways and your staff."

Lamb praised the company for "demonstrating corporate citizenship at a time of community need . . . We very much appreciate your efforts and your donation of more than \$6,700 in services."

Metro Transit now has begun marketing efforts to attract riders to the new 225-space lot from which it offers nonstop service to downtown Minneapolis.

Bituminous Roadways Inc. is a 61-year-old company with offices and operations in Minneapolis, Inver Grove Heights and Shakopee. It employs nearly 100 men and women who design, construct, maintain and seal coat about 900 pavement projects a year.



### MTVA procures parking at Watson's site

BURNSVILLE—The Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) has secured 100 parking spaces for MVTA riders in the Watsons' parking lot, adjacent to the Apple Valley Transit Station, effective Wednesday, December 5. Riders who have been parking on the street are encouraged to park in these spaces. The 100-car restriction will be removed by January 6.

"We are pleased to provide this additional parking to our riders in Apple Valley – particularly now that the snow season is expected to be upon us," said Beverley Miller, MVTA Executive Director. She continued, "It will make the situation safer for riders and easier for the city to maintain its streets."

Both northbound and southbound buses will stop on 155th Street after buses have stopped at the Apple Valley Transit Station, to accommodate riders parking in the Watson's lot. Riders are asked to walk to the Watson's driveway, and then use the sidewalk to get to the mid-block bus stop. Initially,

parking spaces available to MVTA riders will be in the first two rows closest to 155th Street. It is hoped that a shelter can be moved into place at the location of the bus stop.

Flex Route 420 will continue to make connections at the Apple Valley Transit Station. Schedules are available on buses, at the Transit Station, at the MVTA web-site at [www.mvta.com](http://www.mvta.com) or by calling the MVTA offices at 952-882-7500.





## Transit in the News

### Local companies, individuals recognized for commuter program innovation

MINNEAPOLIS –Thirteen awards were presented to Twin Cities area organizations and individuals in November for innovation in helping people get to work without adding to traffic congestion. They received Commuter Choice Awards, presented by Metro Transit in cooperation with regional transportation management organizations (TMOs), during a ceremony in Minneapolis.

Commuter Choice Awards recognize organizations and individuals for creativity in promoting alternatives to driving alone to work, such as transit, bicycle commuting, car-pooling, van-pooling and tele-commuting.

Organization awards were presented in eight categories: Starkey Laboratories of Eden Prairie won the Large Organization Award for distinguishing itself among Twin Cities employers that offer comprehensive commuting programs. Starkey's program includes incentives for car-poolers and van-poolers, transit riders and bicycle riders.

In the Medium Organization category, Quality Bike Products of Bloomington won for its employee bicycle commuting program and for providing a free outdoor bike rack to any Twin Cities company that works with a TMO to promote alternate commuting options.

Small Organization winner Reliable Sites, a St. Paul-based web services and development firm, was recognized for its employee transportation program, including pre-tax transit benefits, bicycle amenities, free transit passes and incentives for car-poolers.

Zeller Realty Group of Bloomington received the Property Management Award for providing commuter fairs and free bike tune-ups for those working and living near the firm's facilities.

Minneapolis Community and Technical College won the University or School Award for promoting options such as the Go-To College Pass for students, offering more bike racks and adding parking for motorcycles.

The University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus won the award for Outstanding Promotion (large organization) for its successful implementation of a transit and transportation response plan after the I-35W bridge collapse.

Trotter's Café of St. Paul received the award for Outstanding Promotion (small organization) for organizing a campaign in

the Merriam Park neighborhood to encourage residents to bike, walk or take transit instead of driving alone.

Rookie of the Year went to the Minneapolis engineering firm Dunham, which provides unlimited-ride Metro Passes to employees at no cost. The company has been promoting commuting options for about a year.

Individual awards were presented in five categories: Rookie of the Year went to Katherine DuGarm, who was recognized for biking 14 miles round trip at least three days a week to her job with Ramsey County.

Thomas Ruffaner of Augsburg College won the Individual Achievement Award for advocating for public transportation and alternative commuting options at the college. He encouraged college leaders at Augsburg to implement discounts on transit passes and to offer the Go-To College Pass program for students.

Pat Sorensen, president of Penn Cycle & Fitness, received the Lifetime Achievement Award for promoting commuting options at his company and in the wider community. Sorensen, a transportation commissioner for the City of Richfield, is also involved with the nonprofit group Two Wheels to Town, which works with local communities on planning for bike paths.

Friend of Commuter Alternatives Award was presented to Steve Rusk, chair of the Bike Edina Task Force. Thanks to his leadership, the City of Edina incorporated bicycle and pedestrian plans into its comprehensive plan.

Scott Conwell of Best Buy won the Commuter of the Year Award for his bicycle commuting efforts and for touting the health and environmental benefits of bike commuting to his co-workers.

Metro Transit, a service of the Metropolitan Council, is the transportation resource for the Twin Cities, offering an integrated network of buses and trains as well as resources for those who car-pool, van-pool, walk or bike.





## Transit in the News

### Met Council honors Flint Hills Resources

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL – The Metropolitan Council today will honor Flint Hills Resources for its service to the community in the wake of the I-35W bridge collapse.

In a certificate of appreciation the Council will commend Flint Hills Resources for its donation of 100 tons of asphalt that was used to create a new park-and-ride lot for north metro commuters using public transportation as an alternative to driving alone.

“One of the first calls Metro Transit received in the aftermath of the bridge tragedy was from the Flint Hills refinery in Rosemount,” said Council Chair Peter Bell. “The Flint Hills staff knew that we would need to expand our park-and-ride capacity, and they wanted to help.”

In a race against winter weather, the asphalt was used in the late-season paving of a 225-space park-and-ride lot at I-35W and Industrial Boulevard, which opened December 3 in Minneapolis. The site had been used as a construction staging area for MN/DOT contract work crews. The late-November paving project ensured that lot was completed just one day before the Dec. 1 snowfall.

Metro Transit has begun promoting the lot and new Route 241 service that offers nine daily round-trips to downtown Minneapolis. Promotional efforts include direct mail to nearby homes and ads in community papers.

“Like all Minnesotans, we were deeply affected by this tragedy. We hope this donation will help address some of the long-term transportation impacts that resulted from the bridge collapse by offering additional transportation options for commuters,” said Diane Schmidt, director of northern tier public affairs for Flint Hills Resources.

At the current rate of \$250 per ton, the Flint Hills contribution to the park-and-ride project is valued at \$25,000.

Flint Hills Resources is a leading producer of fuels, petrochemicals and other related products. The company, which is based in Wichita, Kan., owns and operates refineries and chemical plants in Alaska, Minnesota, Texas, Illinois and Michigan. The company also owns a system of refined products and asphalt terminals that serve Texas and the Midwest.

The Metropolitan Council is the regional planning organization for the seven-county Twin Cities area. It runs the regional bus and light rail system, collects and treats wastewater, manages regional water resources, plans regional parks and administers funds that provide housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income individuals and families. The Council is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the governor.



### Metro Transit riders get discount on Timberwolves tickets

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL – Metro Transit riders get a discount on Timberwolves tickets when they show a fare pass for the day of the game on “Metro Transit Tuesdays.” Metro Transit riders presenting a fare pass for the day at the Target Center Box Office two hours before game-time receive a \$35 ticket for \$20. Metro Transit and the Timberwolves have teamed up for “Metro Transit Tuesdays” promotion allowing riders to get discounts on tickets on Tuesday home basketball games this season.

“Metro Transit Tuesday” discounts are only valid on these Tuesdays: January 15  
February 19 & 26  
March 4 & 11

The discount cannot be combined with any other offers. Limit one ticket per person.





## Minnesota Public Transit Newsletter

*In Transit newsletter* is a bi-monthly newsletter published by the Minnesota Public Transit Association (MPTA). Opinions expressed in this publication may not necessarily be those of the Minnesota Public Transit Association.

### MN Public Transit Association

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## Bulletin Board



### RTAP Training Classes

Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) offers training in passenger assistance, defensive driving and abuse prevention. In 2008, RTAP is offering refresher courses and training for newly hired employees. New hires should take the full eight hours of Passenger Assistance, four hours of Defensive Driving and four hours of Abuse Prevention. Refresher training should be taken once every three years after the initial new hire courses have been completed. Register for classes by completing the form posted on the Office of Transit's web-site at: [www.dot.state.mn.us/transit/RTAP/Form/index.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/transit/RTAP/Form/index.html). **RTAP calendar is subject to change. For the most up-to-date listing, see the 2008 RTAP training calendar at [www.dot.state.mn.us/transit/RTAP/rtaptrng.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/transit/RTAP/rtaptrng.html).** For more information, contact RTAP Coordinator Lynn Frank at 651/366-4170 or [lynn.frank@dot.state.mn.us](mailto:lynn.frank@dot.state.mn.us).

### January

- 10 Defensive Driving/Abuse Prevention — White Earth Transit / White Earth — 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- 11 Passenger Assistance Training — White Earth Transit / White Earth — 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- 12 Driver Refresher Course — Tri-Cap / St. Cloud — 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- 19 Passenger Assistance Training — Paul Bunyan Transit / Bemidji — 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- 26 Defensive Driving/Abuse Prevention — Mankiato Transit / Mankato — 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### February

- 04 Driver Refresher Course — Rainbow Rider / Lowry — 12:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.
- 09 Defensive Driving/Abuse Prevention — Paul Bunyan Transit / Bemidji — 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- 11 Driver Refresher Course — Rainbow Rider / Lowry — 12:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.
- 15 Driver Refresher Course — Rainbow Rider / Lowry — 12:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.
- 18 Driver Refresher Course — Rainbow Rider / Lowry — 12:30 p.m. - 5 p.m.
- 23 Passenger Assistance Training — Rochester Area — 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### Transit Events

Sept. 29 — Oct. 1, 2008 Minnesota Public Transit Conference — River Center — St. Paul, MN  
July 19, 2008 — Minnesota Statewide Bus Rodeo — Bemidji