

intransit



Left to Right: Todd DeZurik (St. Cloud Metro Bus), Chuck Sprenger (Rainbow Rider), Jeffrey Iceman (Red Lake Transit), Virgil Stradtman (Watonwan County Take Me There), Ken Rakke (St. Cloud Metro Bus), Jabin Scepurek (St. Cloud Metro Bus), and Clifford Thorson (First Transit).

2012 Minnesota Bus Roadeo results

This year 40 drivers from 26 agencies competed in the 25th Annual Minnesota State Bus Roadeo. This year Paul Bunyan Transit hosted the event in Bemidji, MN.

Large Bus Division Winners

- 1st: Ken Rakke, St. Cloud Metro Bus
- 2nd: Jabin Scepurek, St. Cloud Metro Bus
- 3rd: Clifford Thorson, First Transit

Small Bus Division Winners

- 1st: Jeffrey Iceman, Red Lake Transit
- 2nd: Chuck Sprenger, Rainbow Rider
- 3rd: Todd DeZurik, St. Cloud Metro Bus

Driver's Choice Award (Selected by Roadeo contestants)

Virgil Stradtman, Watonwan County Take Me There



MINNESOTA BUS ROADEO
BEMIDJI, MN
JULY 20-21, 2012

2012 Minnesota State Roadeo Committee

- Greg Negard, Paul Bunyan Transit (chair)
- LuAnn Bleiler, Paul Bunyan Transit
- Joanne Brackey, Albert Lea Transit
- Kent Ehrenstrom, Mn/DOT
- Sel Formo, Transit Alternatives/Otter Express
- John Garceau, First Transit
- Harold Jennisson, Rainbow Rider
- Janice Klassen, Mn/DOT
- Tony Knauer, Rochester Public Transit
- Shawn Pierce, St. Cloud Metro Bus
- Bobby Redd, Metro Transit
- Craig Rempp, Chicago-Isanti Heartland Express
- Scott Retzlaff, Rochester Public Transit
- Larry Roering, Metro Transit
- Kelly Schroeffer, Mn/DOT
- Sue Siemers, Mn/DOT

The Driver's Choice Award is given to the contestant who best demonstrates the spirit of the profession through concern for customers and community, as well as the sense of sportsmanship and camaraderie displayed to fellow drivers during the competition. Roadeo contestants select the recipient of this prestigious award. A driver can only receive this honor once in his/her career.

From the President



Tony Kellen, President
Minnesota Public Transit Association
Director of Operations & Technology
St. Cloud Metro Bus
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President's Column

We need you to stay engaged this fall and help make a difference in the future of transit in Minnesota.

It's an exciting time and the Minnesota Public Transit Association is here to make advocacy easy. We'll help you talk with the candidates running for office, learn more about the new federal transportation bill and provide training and information that will improve your transit service.

With new legislative districts and all 201 legislators up for election, we have to be talking with the candidates about the importance of transit. There will be a huge turnover and many new faces at the Capitol for the 2013 Session. If they don't hear about transit on the campaign trail it won't be a priority in January when the session starts.

You can participate in a local candidate forum — it's easy, just show up. You can talk with candidates at your door, invite them to visit with you over a cup of coffee or show off your system. We need to educate the people who will be making the funding decisions for transit in Minnesota.

MPTA is also here to help you learn more about the new federal transportation bill — MAP-21. There are some dramatic changes from the previous law and you'll need to understand the impact for Minnesota and for your community. We'll be focusing on the new federal law at the MN/WI Public Transportation Conference this fall. This year's conference will be held in LaCrosse from October 8-10 and features important information and networking opportunities for you. Don't miss out on this chance to visit with colleagues in Wisconsin. All the information you need is on our web site: www.mpta-transit.org.

The 2012 Bus Roadeo was a big success and we want to thank all of the volunteers and drivers who participated in the event. We have a great crew of dedicated folks who make this event happen. You can view a slideshow from this year's Roadeo at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/66667533@N05/sets/72157630713390482/show/>

We know that our members are committed to transit in Minnesota and if we all work together we can expand and improve the service we provide to thousands of residents every day. We'll be in touch to keep you informed and serve as a resource for you.

**Minnesota/Wisconsin Public Transportation Conference
Monday-Wednesday, October 8 - 10, 2012 in La Crosse Center, La Crosse, Wisconsin**

Margaret Donahoe
Advocacy Director
Minnesota Public Transit Association

Legislative Report

MAP-21

The buzz right now is all about MAP-21, the new federal transportation authorization act and what it means for transit systems. Federal and state agencies are still sorting through the 600-page bill and trying to interpret the new language and determine what it means. MnDOT will be hosting a workshop on September 17 in the Twin Cities area on the contents of MAP-21 and what the changes from SAFETEA-LU mean for Minnesota. Check MnDOT's web site for more information on the workshop.

Some groups have put out some very helpful information like the summary from the [American Public Transportation Association](#). In addition, the Federal Transit Administration has a web page devoted to the new law: <http://www.fta.dot.gov/map21/index.html>

Transportation Candidate Forums

At the state level, we're focusing on election season and the need to educate candidates about the role transit plays in providing needed transportation to their constituents. You can help educate these new candidates by simply attending one of these Transportation Candidate Forums:

Willmar

Tuesday, September 18 ▪ 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Willmar Public Library – Multipurpose Room, 410 5th Street SW, Willmar, MN <http://www.willmarpubliclibrary.org/>

Marshall

Wednesday, September 19 ▪ 6:00 PM – 8:00PM, Southwest Minnesota State University Campus – Regional Event Center REC-224, 501 State Street, Marshall, MN, <http://www.smsu.edu/eventcenter/>

St. Cloud

Thursday, September 20 ▪ 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM, ▪ Buffet Lunch at 12:00 Noon, St. Cloud River's Edge Convention Center– Herberger Room 10 Fourth Avenue South, St. Cloud, MN <http://www.stcloudriversedgeconventioncenter.com/index.aspx?NID=6>

Blaine

Tuesday, September 25 ▪ 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, National Sports Center/Schwan Event Center – Gold Room B, Upper Level, 1700-105th Ave. NE, Blaine MN <http://www.nscsports.org/page/show/475140-maps-and-directions>

Bloomington

Tuesday, October 2 ▪ 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Bloomington Public Works Department – Training Room 1700 West 98th Street, Bloomington, MN http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us/main_top/2_facilities/pw_facility.htm

Eagan

Wednesday, October 3 ▪ 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Eagan Community Center – Oasis Room, 1501 Central Park, Eagan, MN <http://www.cityofeagan.com/live/article.aspx?id=40467>

Duluth

Thursday, October 18 ▪ 3:00 PM-5:00 PM, Duluth City Hall – Room 303, 411 West First Street, Duluth, MN <http://www.duluthmn.gov/contact/location.cfm>

Rochester

Wednesday, October 24 ▪ 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Ramada Hotel & Conference Center – Grand B Room 1517 16th Street SW, Rochester, MN <http://www.ramadarocheester.com/>

Cottage Grove/Woodbury

Thursday, October 25 ▪ 10:00 AM-12:00 PM, Washington County Service Center – Rooms 147 & 148, Main Floor, 13000 Ravine Parkway South, Cottage Grove, MN http://www.co.washington.mn.us/your_county_government/service_center_in_cottage_grove/

Legislative Report Continued...

Transportation Finance Advisory Committee

The Transportation Finance Advisory Committee, appointed by Governor Dayton to study funding needs in transportation, has continued to meet as they prepare to present a final report to the governor and legislature by the end of the year.

For transit systems, the Committee has been presented with the following information:

Greater Minnesota Transit

- Estimated anticipated revenue from current sources: \$1.9 Billion from 2013 to 2032.
- Estimated cost to meet 100% of the need by 2032: \$2.8 Billion
- Gap between needs and revenue = \$900 million
- If the state were to maintain current transit service levels from 2013 to 2032, there would be a \$20 million shortfall.

Metropolitan Area Transit

Scenario 1 – Current funding levels	Scenario 2 – Maintain current transit service levels	Scenario 3 – Provide an Economically Competitive Transit System	Scenario 4 – Provide a World Class Transit System
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10 million gap in 2015 • \$14 million gap in 2016 • After 2016, gap continues to grow because of structural funding issues – \$36M per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenario 1 service levels • Bus service expansion (0.5% growth/year) • Southwest LRT (SWLRT) • I-35W South BRT • Cedar Ave BRT Stage 2 • Three Arterial BRT corridors • \$100M per year gap – \$1.6 B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenario 1 and 2 service levels • Bus service expansion (1.0% total growth/year over status quo) • Two additional LRT (after SWLRT) • Six additional Arterial BRT corridors • Three additional Highway BRT/Managed Lane corridors • \$200M per year gap – \$3.2B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System includes (conceptual example): Scenario 1, 2, and 3 service levels • Bus service expansion (1.5% total growth/year over status quo) • Three additional Arterial BRT corridors • Two additional rail lines • Two additional Highway BRT/Managed Lane corridors • Six streetcar lines \$300M per year – \$4.8B

The Minnesota Public Transit Association will continue to monitor the discussion and seek to provide some input to the Advisory Committee as it works to develop recommendations for the legislature.



Metro Bus hosted a Rider Appreciation week when the Transit Center reopened in August. The week included a free ride day, discounted 31-Day and 10-Ride passes, free treats one morning and free brat and hot dog lunch another afternoon.

St. Cloud Metro Bus Transit Center renovation, reopening celebration Public Art project surrounding Transit Center next

By TOM CRUIKSHANK, St. Cloud Metro Bus

The final phase of the Metro Bus Transit Center renovation and expansion project was completed and reopened July 30.

The Transit Center closed May 14th for renovations and improvements to all concrete parking and passenger sidewalk surfaces. Passenger services relocated to temporary site one block west during construction. A grand reopening rider thank you event was held the week of August 6th with a free ride day, brat and hot dog day, coffee and muffin day, and employee and ribbon cutting day along with a food collection drive for local food shelves.

The 1.2 million dollar project began in 2010 with interior building remodeling—the first major renovation of the Transit Center since it opened in 1992. Improvements were made to the Transit Center’s interior to create a more welcoming, updated and comfortable space. The Transit Center property footprint expanded to the west after the purchase and demolition of an office building next door was completed in 2011.

Metro Bus has also partnered with neighboring property owners, the City of St. Cloud, and St. Cloud Arts Commission to solicit area artists to design, fabricate and install permanent art pieces along the walls of the buildings surrounding the Transit Center. The artwork will serve as a focal point of a newly revived 5th Avenue corridor for the City of St. Cloud. The artwork will complement the surrounding environment and neighboring facilities, and reflect or develop the character of Downtown and its rich transit heritage.

Annually, over 750,000 bus riders pass through or utilize the Transit Center services.

Exterior Renovations

- New concrete parking and sidewalk surfaces
- Three additional bus parking stalls
- Wider sidewalks on the north and south sides of the Transit Center to provide more passenger loading space
- Heated passenger loading sidewalks around the Transit Center building to prevent snow and ice buildup
- Detectable warning tiles along passenger loading platforms to assist people with visual impairments to identify changes in sidewalk elevation
- New landscaping to improve aesthetics and create urban green spaces
- New customer drop off/loading and staff parking spaces on the west end of the property
- Extra lighting and video surveillance equipment added

Interior Renovations

- New cabinetry and countertops in employee work and break areas
- Granite flooring in passenger lobby
- Low consumption lighting

MVTA offers expanded service to University of Minnesota

By ROBIN SELVIG, MVTA

Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) is expanding its direct service to the University of Minnesota on Routes 465 and 475 beginning Tuesday, Sept. 4.

In 2007, the MVTA secured funding for expansion of I-35W service in 2012 via federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. A total of \$1.36 million has been secured for three years of operating funds for Route 465 expansion and additional expansion along the I-35W corridor that will begin in 2013.

Mid-day, there will be 30-minute frequency and all trips will serve South Bloomington Transit Center and downtown Minneapolis. Alternating trips originate at County Road 42 and Portland Ave.

Route 465 will serve Burnsville only; the local branch between the Apple Valley and Burnsville Transit Stations is eliminated. Service on Portland Ave., McAndrews Rd., and Nicollet Ave. will be available on alternating trips from the Burnsville Transit Station.

There will be improved connections between Route 465 and northbound and southbound Route 444 service at Burnsville Transit Station.

Route 475 Expanded to Serve Both Apple Valley and Cedar Grove Transit Stations

All Route 475 trips will begin at Apple Valley Transit Station and then serve Cedar Grove Transit Station.

Grove at 10:08 a.m. serving downtown.

Southbound trips added:

- Depart Ridder Arena at 3:10 p.m. (serving downtown) and arriving at Cedar Grove at 3:59 p.m. and at Apple Valley at 4:11 p.m.
- Depart Ridder Arena at 6:10 p.m. (skipping downtown) and arriving at Cedar Grove at 6:42 p.m. and at Apple Valley at 6:54 p.m.

Trip times adjusted at Cedar Grove and northbound run time from Lake Street to 19th Ave. & Old Washington is increased by one minute.

Service changes will also occur on Routes 421, 444 and 480 (from Burnsville) (pick up pocket schedules, watch the MVTA web-site at www.mvta.com). Also of note, all trips that travel north to the Mall of America will now exit at Old Shakopee Road and travel to 28th Avenue and then to 82nd St. before entering the Mall. Timing studies indicate this routing will save time and is the preferred routing as significant construction around the Mall of America will begin later this year and continue through the 2013-2014 construction seasons.

A smarter way to the U

Improved service from Cedar Grove (Eagan) • Burnsville • Apple Valley

- 15-minute frequency from Burnsville on Route 465 during peak times.
- Improved service from Apple Valley and Eagan on Route 475.

952-882-7500
www.mvta.com



Route 465 - Significantly More Service

The peak-period, peak direction schedule is expanded to 15-minute frequencies, with alternating trips serving and skipping the South Bloomington Transit Center.

Northbound trips added

- Depart Apple Valley at 6:33 a.m. and depart Cedar Grove at 6:45 a.m. (skipping downtown)
- Depart Apple Valley at 9:56 a.m. and depart Cedar



Flood of 2012 impacts the DTA

By TOM ELWELL, Duluth Transit Authority

The heavy rain began in the evening on June 19; but no one expected it to continue all night and throughout much of the morning the following day. As buses headed out of the garage that morning, flood waters had already created havoc with streets and bridges and several routes were impassable. Detours went into effect throughout the day as regional flood waters were funneled down streets,

streams and rivers into Lake Superior, uprooting pavements and seeping into basements. Buses were stuck in traffic - particularly on Grand Avenue where I-35 traffic was diverted as parts of the freeway were also flooded.

Several buses were dispatched to the Fond-du-Lac neighborhood in the early morning hours to evacuate residents.

The Miller Hill Mall area became a shallow lake and all those flood waters there were channeled down Miller Creek and under the DTA Operations Center before flowing into Lake Superior.

LEFT: Officials from FEMA, Red Cross and state agencies, along with local officials and legislators assembled to tour the flood damage in Duluth.



RIGHT: DTA buses evacuated residents from the Fond-du-Lac neighborhood which was swamped by flood waters. DTA service to Fond-du-Lac was suspended for two weeks.



SouthWest Transit launches new marketing campaign

BY LINDA SPEVECK, SouthWest Transit



SouthWest Transit is always looking for new ways to entice people to ride transit.

Our latest marketing campaign was created to generate a “buzz” surrounding taking the bus and to draw attention to the fact that people from all walks of life are riding the services SouthWest Transit provides.

Phase I of this campaign began with celebrity look-a-likes on the backs of several of our buses including Donald Trump, Steven Tyler, Lady Gaga, Brad Pitt, and Albert Einstein.

Besides stating that Bosses, Rockers, Divas, Heartthrobs, and Brainiacs ride the bus, the ad encourages the viewer to ride as well.

This effort is also aimed at breaking the stigma or stereotype of riding the bus.

To date SouthWest has received positive feedback on the creativity of this campaign including coverage on KARE 11 and by the gossip columnist writer CJ in the Star Tribune.

We hope this marketing initiative will lead to many people taking a look at SouthWest Transit and what we have to offer.

On the Web... Minneapolis students ride city buses now

BY TIM POST, Minnesota Public Radio <http://bit.ly/RgOlzq> August 27, 2012

MINNEAPOLIS — Today was not only the first day back in class for Minneapolis Public Schools students, it also marks the first day of using public transit to get many students in that district to school.

Instead of the traditional yellow school buses, Metro Transit buses and trains are now taking thousands of high school students to school. School officials say public transportation will offer more

flexibility for students. But some people are concerned it's not the safest way for students to get to school.

Minneapolis Public Schools Superintendent Bernadeia Johnson boarded a Metro Transit bus early Monday morning as it headed out to pick up students.

Johnson praises the benefits of city buses and trains for Minneapolis high school students. Chief among

them is attendance.

Under the traditional yellow bus system, students who missed their rides may opt to stay home, especially if they can't find another way to school.

Johnson said a test of the program showed access to Metro Transit buses and trains boosted student attendance. [READ MORE](#)



MATBUS to be recognized at APTA conference: Annual Report earns first place AdWheel Award

By LORI VAN BEEK, MATBUS

Each year, APTA honors members' marketing and communications efforts with the AdWheel Awards. Transit agencies, large and small, across the country submit entries to the competition.

This October, MATBUS will be honored with first place for the 2011 Annual Report. As a first place winner, MATBUS is also eligible to win a Grand Prize

Award in its division. Grand Prize Awards will be announced during the AdWheel Awards Ceremony at 2:15pm on Monday, October 1, 2012.

"We are very excited to have won this award," said Lori Van Beek, Transit Manager City of Moorhead. "My thanks to Gregg Schildberger, Transit Planner for MATBUS, who worked diligently on the report."

Memories from Last Year's Conference





A prime candidate for an arterial BRT station is the intersection of Snelling and University avenues, where buses will connect with light rail, now under construction.

metro council.org

Council Chair Susan Haigh's August Message Building a 21st century transit system: a challenge we can meet

[Read more.](#)



Council Chair
Susan Haigh

Arterial rapid bus line, region's first, planned on Snelling Avenue

Metro Transit has chosen the Snelling Avenue corridor as the first of several arterial rapid bus routes planned for the metro area transit system. [Read more.](#)

More than trains will connect at the Interchange in Minneapolis

The new development project near Target Field aims to revitalize nearby neighborhoods, create a gathering place, and establish connections between light-rail transit (LRT) lines, Northstar Commuter Rail, bus routes and bike trails. [Read more.](#)

Central Corridor Making Tracks News

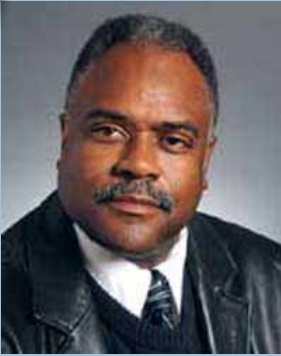
Central Corridor LRT Update

**Making
Tracks**



[Read News](#)

Harrington named Metro Transit Police Chief



Metro Transit Chief of Police John Harrington

Metropolitan Council Regional Administrator Pat Born has tapped former St. Paul Police Chief and current Minnesota Senator John Harrington to serve as the next Metro Transit Chief of Police. Harrington served as chief of the St. Paul Police Department

from 2004 to 2010, though his service with the department goes back more than 30 years. He was elected to the Minnesota Senate in 2010.

InTransit is your chance to share your story.

We want to hear from you.

It can be as simple as a photo and a paragraph. Submit news items & photos for the InTransit newsletter to: bertahartigcommunications@gmail.com.

**NEXT NEWSLETTER: NOVEMBER
DEADLINE: OCTOBER 20**

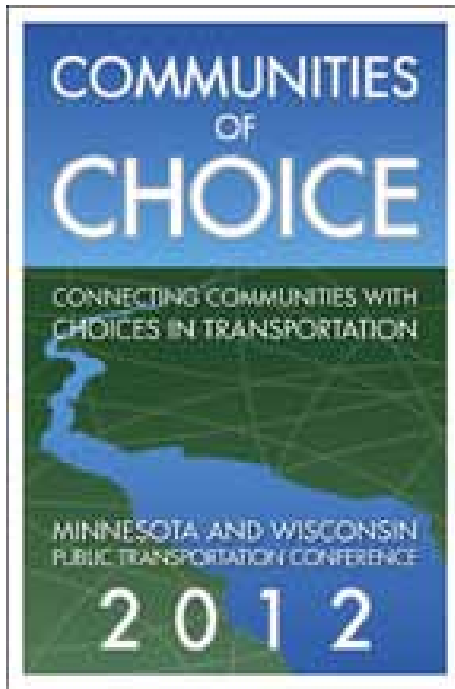
THIRD QUARTER- 2012 DRIVER TRAINING SCHEDULE

Location	Driver Refresher 4 hours 8 am to 12 pm	Passenger Assistance 8 hours 8 am to 4:30 pm	Defensive Driving & Maltreatment Awareness 8 hours 8 am to 4:30 pm
Baxter		Sat., Sept. 22, 2012 City of Brainerd	Sat., Sept. 29, 2012 City of Brainerd
Elk River		Sat., Sept. 8, 2012 Guardian Angel Care Center	
Mankato	Sat., Sept. 29, 2012 City of Mankato	Sat., Sept. 22, 2012 City of Mankato	Sat., Sept. 15, 2012 City of Mankato
St. Cloud		Sat., Sept. 15, 2012 St. Cloud Metro Bus	Sat., Oct. 6, 2012 St. Cloud Metro Bus

Register drivers through the Mn/DOT Office of Transit website at:

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/transit/rtap/classes.html>

Link to apply to host a future RTAP Training: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/transit/rtap/classrequest.html>



Minnesota/Wisconsin Public Transportation Conference October 8-10, 2012 La Crosse Center La Crosse, Wisconsin

Click on links below to learn more!

[View Preliminary Conference Program](#)

[Conference Hotel Information](#)

[LaCross Visitor Information](#)

[Registration Information](#)

[Award Nomination Information](#)

On this 30th Anniversary of the Minnesota Public Transit Association Awards, it is especially important to celebrate and honor those public transit individuals and programs demonstrating professional excellence and exceptional achievements within the last year.

**Award Nomination Deadline:
Friday, Sept. 28, 2012**

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InTransit newsletter is a bimonthly newsletter published by the Minnesota Public Transit Association (MPTA). Opinions and views expressed in this publication may not necessarily be those of the Minnesota Public Transit Association or its members.

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Metropolitan Council Newsletter

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