



## NEWS RELEASE

### SouthWest Transit 2008 Ridership

February 24, 2009 – Eden Prairie, MN – For the fifth year in a row, SouthWest Transit experienced a double-digit increase in ridership. A total of 1,146,829 rides were given in 2008, an increase of 13.3% over 2007, when ridership on SWT first reached the one million rider mark.

“Even though gas prices decreased later in the year, SouthWest Transit continued to see an increase in ridership,” said Chief Executive Officer Len Simich. “Our rider survey indicates that 89% of our riders ride by choice, and have a car available to make their trip. They realize the benefits riding the bus offers in comfort, ease and savings.”

SouthWest Transit opened two new Park and Ride facilities in 2008: East Creek Transit Station in Chaska and SouthWest Village in Chanhassen.

#### RIDERSHIP STATISTICS

	2007	2008	Percent Change
Jan	77,242	87,205	12.9%
Feb	73,017	90,033	23.3%
Mar	76,630	89,807	17.2%
Apr	78,705	104,493	32.8%
May	77,774	89,260	14.8%
Jun	75,148	90,458	20.4%
Jul	75,750	95,398	25.9%
Aug	122,201	136,700	11.9%
Sep	99,739	103,302	3.6%
Oct	98,669	104,050	5.5%
Nov	85,501	78,135	-8.6%
Dec	72,162	77,988	8.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,012,538</b>	<b>1,146,829</b>	<b>13.3%</b>

Year	Annual Ridership	Percent Growth
2004	726,310	20.4%
2005	800,020	10.2%
2006	900,227	12.5%
2007	1,012,538	12.5%
2008	1,146,829	13.3%

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#### **About SouthWest Transit**

SouthWest Transit (SWT) provides express and local bus service to residents of Eden Prairie, Chanhassen, Chaska and surrounding communities. SWT operates eight park-and-ride lots, including its main hub, SouthWest Station in Eden Prairie. Additional information and complete schedules for SWT can be found on the web at [www.swtransit.org](http://www.swtransit.org) or by calling our customer service line at 952-949-2BUS (2287)

#### **For more information:**

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