

NEWS RELEASE



SouthWest Transit Honored Nationally for Security and Locally for its Dedication to the Community

May 3, 2010 -- Eden Prairie – SouthWest Transit (SWT), the transit provider for Eden Prairie, Chanhassen and Chaska has been recognized for its work in two very distinct areas.

The first area is Security. On Sunday, May 2, the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) presented SouthWest Transit with its National Certificate of Merit for Security, recognizing SouthWest Transit for its commitment to passenger and employee safety and for its Emergency Preparedness Plan. This comprehensive plan provides written procedures for situations such as weather emergencies; vehicle breakdowns and accidents; facility emergencies; regional emergencies, including a pandemic outbreak plan.

The second area SouthWest Transit is being honored for is its dedication to area residents, specifically for the “Feeder Bus” service it operates in Eden Prairie which provides senior citizens and other individuals transportation for grocery shopping, medical appointments and access to other much needed services. The Eden Prairie Human Rights and Diversity Commission has selected SouthWest Transit as a recipient of the Human Rights Award. The Commissioners stated that SouthWest Transit is being recognized for its dedication to the residents which exemplifies the intentions of the Eden Prairie Manifesto. The award will be presented at the Eden Prairie City Council meeting on May 18, 2010.

As part of its community outreach, SouthWest Transit employs special-needs students from Intermediate District 287 who receive work experience and provide SouthWest Transit capable, reliable help. On May 7, the Outstanding Employer Award was presented to SouthWest Transit by the District in recognition of “Exceptional Vocational Opportunities offer to our Intermediate District 287 South Education Center Students”.

“All of us at SouthWest Transit strive to make this the very best transit system for our riders and for the communities at large that we serve,” said SouthWest Transit’s Chief Executive Officer Len Simich. “It’s rewarding to be recognized three times in the same month for two very different parts of our service. It is a testament to the foresight and dedication of the SouthWest Transit employees and our Commission in leading this organization.”

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