

NEWS RELEASE

For Third Straight Year, SouthWest Transit Receives National Honor for Bus Safety

May 7, 2009 – Eden Prairie – The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) has awarded SouthWest Transit its **2009 Gold Award for Safety** for bus systems operating 1 million – 4 million passenger trips.

This is the third straight year that SouthWest Transit has been honored by APTA. This year and last the agency received the “Gold Award” and in 2007 it received an “Award of Excellence.” The APTA “Gold Award” is presented to the nation’s top transit agencies for their safety record and their commitment to improving the safety of transit employees, customers, and communities through the application of effective safety initiatives.

“It takes a great deal of effort to ensure the safety of our riders,” said SouthWest Transit’s Commission Chairperson Nancy Tyra-Lukens. “To win the top award two straight years in two different categories is truly outstanding. This award is testament to the commitment of each and every person who is a part of SouthWest Transit.”

Data clearly shows that SouthWest Transit continues to improve its safety and reliability each year. Miles driven, the number of passengers and the miles between breakdowns have all increased in each of the last five years. During the same period there were decreases in the number of accidents, time lost due to injury, as well as the total costs associated with accidents.

“This safety award is not about one person or one team doing the right thing. It’s about everyone working together to make sure our customers are safely transported to and from work and home. This award recognizes the hard work, extensive planning and dedication of everyone who works for SouthWest Transit,” said Chief Executive Officer, Len Simich.

“Drivers, supervisors, mechanics, outside workers, office staff and management each have a role to play in safety at the agency,” said Simich. “The ‘Expect the Best’ credo shown on each of the buses reflects the responsibility SouthWest Transit places on its staff to provide not only a safe ride, but a ride that is as pleasant and enjoyable as possible.”

SouthWest Transit (swtransit.org) provides transit services to the residents of Chaska, Chanhassen and Eden Prairie as well as riders from other surrounding cities. SouthWest Transit has three main Park & Ride lots: In Eden Prairie the main Park & Ride facility is **SouthWest Station**, located at 13500 Technology Drive; in Chanhassen, **SouthWest Village** is located at the intersection of Hwy. 212 and Co. Rd. 101; and in Chaska, the agency has **East Creek Station** at the intersection of Hwy. 212 and Hwy. 41. Other information, including additional Park & Ride facilities, route maps and times are available at swtransit.org or by calling SouthWest Transit at: 952-949-2BUS (2287).

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