



NEWS RELEASE

SouthWest Transit Congratulates the Suburban Transit Association's (STA) Legislators of the Year

Eden Prairie, Minn. - August 20, 2009– The SouthWest Transit Commission congratulates the 2009 Suburban Transit Association (STA) Legislators of the Year. Five legislators were honored at an event held earlier this month.

The five recipients for 2009 are: Rep. Jennifer Loon, Eden Prairie Rep. Joe Hoppe, Chaska; Sen. John Doll, Burnsville; Sen. Jim Carlson, Eagan; and Rep. Tara Mack, Apple Valley.

“These legislators have been very open to hearing and acting on the needs of the Suburban Transit Providers,” said SouthWest Transit CEO, Len Simich. “It’s important to have strong relationships with legislators and to acknowledge their service on behalf of transit, especially now as the state continues to grapple with its deficit.”

Rep. Hoppe, Rep. Loon and **Rep. Mack** were recognized for authoring an amendment on the House floor to reprioritize transit funding which would have provided more funding for SouthWest Transit and the other suburban providers.

STA recognized **Sen. Doll** because he was the chief author and instrumental in passing legislation that requires the conveyance of the Apple Valley Transit Station to the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) from the Metropolitan Council. Sen. Doll amended this language into both the Omnibus Transportation Finance bill and the Capital Investment Bonding Bill, eventually being included in the Omnibus Transportation Finance bill that was signed into law by Governor Pawlenty on May 5th.

Sen. Carlson was a co-author of the legislation that requires the conveyance of the Apple Valley Transit Station to the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority from the Metropolitan Council. In addition, Sen. Carlson was a member of Transportation Finance Conference Committee and ensured that this language was included in the final conference committee report that was passed by the legislature.

The Suburban Transit Association (STA) was founded in 1995 to bring together suburban communities whose purpose was to provide flexible transit services. The STA is an innovative, public-private transit partnership that embraces and implements new technologies to respond to changing passenger needs. From 2003 to 2007, ridership on STA member buses increased by 40 percent. Member agencies of the STA are: SouthWest Transit, Minnesota Valley Transit Authority, Maple Grove Transit, Plymouth Metrolink and Shakopee Transit.

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