



NEWS RELEASE

SouthWest Transit – State of the Agency Local public transit system looks back at 2008 and ahead to 2009

February 25, 2008 – Eden Prairie, MN – The year 2008 brought several well-deserved honors to SouthWest Transit. The agency was named Minnesota Transit System of the Year by the MN Public Transit Association. The American Public Transit Association presented SouthWest Transit with its National Gold Award for Safety and Service Reliability. For the second year in a row, the Government Finance Officers Association awarded its Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the SWT Finance Department.

“These awards are not about one person or one team doing the right thing. It’s about everyone working together to make sure we provide the best in service, safety and accountability to our riders and the public,” said Chief Executive Officer, Len Simich.

Construction was finished on two new Park & Ride facilities – SouthWest Village in Chanhassen and East Creek Transit Station in Chaska – which added over 650 parking stalls along the new TH212 corridor.

Ridership increased by 13.3%, and in November SouthWest Transit successfully demonstrated the first double-decker bus service in the Twin Cities.

One of the biggest challenges SWT will face in 2009 is maintaining its level of service in the face of declining funding. “Our goal is to minimize as much as possible any negative impacts to both our riding customers and staff,” said CEO Simich. “We will do our best to maintain all operating performance, system quality, system reliability, system safety and customer satisfaction accomplishments achieved in 2008.”

Projects planned for 2008 include finalizing plans for a ramp and station in downtown Chanhassen, determining the best plan for bus garage facilities (expansion or a new facility), and determining a site and plans for a future ramp and station in Chaska.

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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 or by calling our customer service line at 952-949-2BUS (2287)

For more information:

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