



## NEWS RELEASE

### **SouthWest Transit Honored for its Safety Record APTA Recognizes Agency with the Gold Award for Safety**

May 2, 2008 – Eden Prairie – The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) has awarded SouthWest Transit its 2008 Gold Award for Safety. The APTA Bus Safety Awards program recognizes transit systems for their commitment to improving the safety of transit employees, customers, and communities through the application of effective safety initiatives.

APTA presents just one Gold Award in each of its size categories and one Certificate of Achievement. In 2007, SouthWest Transit received a Certificate of Achievement meaning it was the runner-up for the Gold Award.

“It takes a great deal of effort to ensure the safety of our riders,” said SouthWest Transit’s Board Chair Jay Rohe. “This award recognizes the hard work, extensive planning and heads-up efforts of everyone who works for 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 has all increased in each of the last four years. During the same period there were decreases in the number of accidents 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 brought to and from work and home,” 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. The “Expect the Best” credo shown on each of the buses reflects the importance SouthWest Transit places on its staff to provide a safe ride, while also providing the highest level of customer service and satisfaction.

SouthWest Transit will provide more than 1,000,000 rides in 2008. In 2007, SouthWest Transit’s Park & Ride lots were at 99% of capacity on a daily basis. To help meet the increasing number of people using SouthWest Transit services the SouthWest Village Park and Ride lot along Highway 312 in Chanhassen is now open. Later this year the East Creek Station Park and Ride in Chaska at the intersection of Highway 41 and Highway 312 will open.

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