



*BlueXpress Press is the newsletter of the BlueXpress Transit Line,
Your commuter connection from Scott County to Downtown Minneapolis.*

Getting Started

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Getting Started
- 1 Route Changes
- 2 Fare Increase
- 2 Frequently Asked Questions
- 2 More Interesting Facts

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the "BlueXpress Press"! We are thrilled to be bringing you this new resource to keep you informed about any schedule or route changes, new services or upcoming events.

While this print newsletter will be made available on our BlueXpress buses, we will be bringing you up-to-the-minute, breaking news on our website – www.bluepressbus.com – under "Blue Flash." You can even subscribe to receive these "Flash" notifications via your e-mail, so that you can be assured to have the most current information as soon as it is available.

This is truly a work in progress, so we welcome your comments, suggestions, and thoughts at info@bluepressbus.com. Once again, thanks for reading the new "BlueXpress Press."

Route Changes Begin September 8th

Street reconstruction on Marquette Avenue and 2nd Avenue between Washington Avenue S. and 5th Avenue S. begins Monday, Sept. 8. As a result, the BlueXpress Route 490 buses will be rerouted upon arrival into and departure from Downtown Minneapolis. Please note the following changes:

- A.M. service from I-394 will travel down Hennepin Avenue to 6th Street, east on 6th Street to 5th Avenue S., and north on 5th Avenue S. to the Gateway Transit Center at 5th Avenue S. and 3rd Street S.
- P.M. buses will start at the Gateway Transit Center and travel south on 4th Avenue S. to 9th Street, turn west on 9th Street to Hawthorne, and on to I-394.

A rider alert outlining the new time stops was distributed Sept. 3. Rider Alerts also are available at www.bluepressbus.com.

This new routing was determined by the City of Minneapolis in consultation with Metro Transit. We apologize for any inconvenience caused by the rerouting.

*For more information on
the BlueXpress Bus service,
visit*

www.bluepressbus.com
*or call 952-496-8800
between 8 a.m. and 4
p.m., Monday through
Friday.*

Fares to Increase October 1st

The Metropolitan Council voted to raise fares in the metro area by 25¢ per trip, effective Oct. 1, 2008. This increase will help offset rising fuel and labor costs. This regional fare increase does apply to the BlueXpress service.

Beginning Wednesday, Oct.1, the current \$2.75 peak express trip on Route 490 will increase to \$3. Fares for persons with disabilities will also increase by 50¢ per trip.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I make a mid-day return?

Minnesota Valley Transit Authority Routes 460 & 465 provide mid-day service to the Burnsville Transit Station (call 952-496-8800 for details). Scott County Dial-A-Ride will pick you up from the Burnsville Transit Station between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., Monday through Friday with a one-hour advance reservation (call 952-496-8341). Dial-A-Ride Fares are \$3 (\$2 for senior citizens 65+).

I'm interested in riding my bike more. What options are available?

Bike racks are available at both the Shepherd of the Lake Park and Ride and the Southbridge Crossings Transit Station, and locker rentals are available for \$5 per month (2 month minimum rental) at the Southbridge Crossings Transit Station. To rent a locker, visit the Scott County Transit office at 828 1st Avenue E in Shakopee. Each bus also holds two bikes, if you would like to transport your bike downtown. Bike transportation is available on a first-come, first-served basis. The Metro Transit website also has information and tips for bike riders. Visit www.metrotransit.org and click the bicycle emblem in the top right corner.

What options do I have for paying my fare?

Shakopee and Prior Lake buses accept all regional passes including SuperSaver 31-Day, Stored Value Cards, U-Passes, Go-To Cards, and Metropasses. Many of these passes are available for purchase at the Savage Cub Foods and Rainbow stores, as well as many other retail outlets. They are also available for purchase online at www.metrotransit.org. If paying with cash, please bring dollar bills or coin of the correct value -- drivers cannot give change.

Please pay your morning fare as you board the Express Route 490 bus and pay your evening fare as you exit. This practice is to prevent the holding up downtown traffic. Transfers to other regional buses will be issued as you exit the 490.

Interesting Transportation Facts

- A 10 percent increase in bus ridership would save about 35 million gallons of gasoline annually.
- The average car costs more than 2.5 months of gross income to drive 15,000 miles per year.
- A bus with as few as seven passengers is more fuel efficient than the average auto use for one person.
- Traffic congestion delays are expected to double by 2020.
- Traffic congestion delays cost the region more than \$1 billion annually.
- Biking, walking and riding the bus decrease congestion, pollution and fuel use.

Questions, Comments, Lost & Found—Call 952-496-8800.