



Shakopee Transit *News!*

Public Transit for the City of Shakopee



Southbridge Crossings Transit Station Opens

Shakopee's first transit station also opened on July 16 as part of the roll-out of the new BlueXpress commuter service. The new Southbridge Crossings Transit Station is located on Crossings Boulevard just north of Home Depot at County Road 18 and Hwy. 169 in Shakopee. This facility offers the public 500 new parking stalls, heated bus shelters, a well lighted lot and loading area, separate access for buses and cars, bicycle lockers, and an eco-friendly pervious paving system on the busway.

Southbridge Crossings Transit Station was constructed through a unique joint funding effort between the federal government, the State of Minnesota (MnDOT), the Metropolitan Council, Scott County, and the cities of Shakopee and Prior Lake.

The day-long Grand Opening celebration hosted at the Transit Station on October 3rd included doughnuts and coffee for passengers in the morning, a ceremony for dignitaries and the general public in the early afternoon, and snacks and live music for the passengers as they returned later in the day. Lt. Governor and Commissioner of Transportation Carol Molnau attended the ceremony

as well as Metropolitan Council Chair Peter Bell and Shakopee Mayor John Schmitt.

BlueXpress Now in Service

On July 16, 2007, Route 490 implemented express transit bus service from two locations in Scott County to downtown Minneapolis. Named the BlueXpress, this new transit service is the result of the cooperative efforts of the City of Shakopee (Shakopee Transit), the City of Prior Lake (Laker Lines), and Scott County (Scott County Transit).

Route 490 serves Shepherd of the Lake Park & Ride in Prior Lake and Southbridge Crossings Transit Station in eastern Shakopee with eight runs in the morning and eight return runs from downtown Minneapolis in the afternoon. All BlueXpress buses are state-of-the-art motor coaches, designed to provide maximum passenger comfort and convenience.

Also implemented in July, the local shuttle Routes 498A and 498B are designed to provide free connections from multiple locations in Shakopee to the BlueXpress buses at Southbridge Crossings. The shuttle and BlueXpress schedules are coordinated for easy transfers at the Transit Station.

Ridership is growing rapidly on the BlueXpress, and has increased from 383 passengers per day in July to 451 passengers per day in September. For more information, call the dedicated BlueXpress line at 952-496-8800. To view the complete Route 490 schedule, click on www.BlueXpressBus.com.



PHOTOS:
Left – Metropolitan Council Chair Peter Bell
Right – Lt. Governor and Commissioner of Transportation Carol Molnau



Winter Weather Safety

Our Minnesota winter can surprise us at any time now. For your safety and convenience, please check local radio and TV stations for current updates on impending storms and transit related announcements from the Metro Transit system. You can also call the Transit Line at 612-341-4BUS (612-341-4287) 24 hours/7 days a week, to check on the current status of bus (and LRT) service on most major routes.

As always, use common sense when storms are predicted. Dress defensively for the worst conditions. Buses can be delayed by traffic congestion beyond our control, so be prepared to wait. Dress in multiple layers so you can remain comfortable if the temperature or wind conditions change.

Also drive defensively, by reducing your speed and staying alert for drivers who are not experienced with ice and snow conditions. Use caution when driving into a Park & Ride lot as the accumulation of snow can be much deeper than it initially appears.

Holiday Service Schedule

Shakopee Transit, including the BlueXpress, will not operate on Thanksgiving Day or the Friday following Thanksgiving Day, on Christmas Day (Tuesday, December 25) or on New Year's Day (Tuesday, January 1, 2008). Full, regular service will be offered each weekday before and after these holidays.

Bicycle Lockers Available at Southbridge Crossings

Shakopee Transit offers several secure and weatherproof bicycle lockers for rental at the new Southbridge Crossings Transit Station. They are available as a convenience for BlueXpress passengers for a \$5 monthly fee. Renters receive an access key when they sign a contract and pay a \$25 security deposit. This deposit is refunded when the key is returned. If you are interested in renting one of these bicycle lockers, please contact the BlueXpress hotline at 952-496-8800.



Go-To Cards Available Online

Passengers who want the convenience and enhanced security of the Go-To Card (the computerized bus/rail fare card) can now order it and add value to it online at www.metrotransit.org.

You can now quickly set up your account using a credit card, and you can recharge the account online whenever needed for the life of the card (approx. 10 yrs.).

Value can also be added at LRT ticket machines with your credit card, by mail, or at Metro Transit stores. Go-To Cards can store up to two 31-Day Passes and up to \$200 of Stored Value.

If you register your card with Metro Transit and it is lost or stolen, you will receive a replacement card with the value that was on your card at the time the loss was reported (minus a small administrative fee). Registration is free!

More than 47,000 riders already use Go-To Cards – order yours online today!

Customer Service

Questions? Comments? Lost and Found?

For more information contact:

BlueXpress

952-496-8800 • www.BlueXpressBus.com

Shakopee Circulator

952-496-8341 • www.ci.shakopee.mn.us