



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

Construction Zone

Spring has officially arrived in Minnesota! Like the first robin, the orange construction cones are a sure sign warmer weather is on its way. Two major projects will impact BlueXpress riders this year:

MARQ2 Project: Marquette Avenue and Second Avenue South are being reconstructed between 1st Street South and 12th Street South. Work started in August 2008 and will continue through December 2009. Both streets are being rebuilt from building front to building front. This means our buses have been rerouted once again during the construction season. The route change began on March 16th, and the transition happened as smoothly as possible. The inbound buses once again use Hennepin Avenue and 6th Street, while the outbound buses use 3rd Avenue. A schedule and map are posted on the BlueXpress website at www.blueexpressbus.com. We know the new route means a longer walk for some of our riders, but when the project is completed, the street will have two bus lanes and two traffic lanes (both operating in the same direction as they do today), wider sidewalks, new transit shelters, public art, more trees and more attractive landscaping and streetscaping. View a 3D animation of a typical section of the completed project on our BlueXpress website. We have also added a link to the MARQ2 project page.

35W UPA Project: The Urban Partnership Agreement is a series of transportation projects aimed at improving traffic conditions by reducing congestion on Interstate 35W, Highway 77/Cedar Avenue and in downtown Minneapolis. Through a combination of transit, road pricing, technology and telecommuting, project partners anticipate commuters will experience more transportation choices, less traffic congestion and reduced commute times on some of Minnesota's busiest roads. The road construction on 35W may push more traffic to Highway 169, and more riders to the BlueXpress. For more information about this project go to <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/upa/>.

Take the Commuter Challenge!

In the spirit of friendly competition, Metro Transit's 2009 Commuter Challenge is all about challenging everyone to try new ways of getting to work. Between now and June 30, pledge to take the bus or train, carpool, vanpool, bike, walk or telecommute – anything but drive to work alone. Track your trips and challenge a friend or co-worker to do the same. Even if you currently ride the bus, challenge yourself to try to do more. For more information go to the "Don't Lose the Challenge" website at <http://www.dontlosethechallenge.com/>.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Construction Zone
- 1 Take the Commuter Challenge
- 2 Cell Phone Etiquette
- 2 Coming Soon
- 2 Fun and Games

For more information on the BlueXpress Bus service, visit www.blueexpressbus.com or call 952-496-8800 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Sign up to receive the "BlueXpress Press"

E-newsletter at:

www.blueexpressbus.com

Cell Phone Etiquette

Cell phones are one of our greatest modern conveniences, but as their usage escalates, they may also create new problems. Loud ringing from multiple phones, unique rings that mimic other sounds and loud or prolonged conversations are irritating to other bus riders. They can also create a safety hazard if they interfere with your driver's ability to concentrate or operate the bus.

The BlueXpress wants to make the ride as pleasant and safe as possible for all our riders. If you travel with a cell phone, we ask your cooperation in following these simple rules of etiquette:

- Please set your phones to ring as quietly as possible, or even better, set them to vibration mode.
- If possible, please limit the length of your phone conversation to just a couple of minutes. Most people respond to a polite statement that you can phone them back at a specified time. Several people on cell calls at the same time greatly elevates the background noise inside the bus.
- Keep your voice, and your laughter, as low as possible. People unconsciously raise their voice when talking over sounds on the bus. You may not want to share your personal information with those around you; and they may not want to hear it.
- Be aware you are sharing space with others.

Thank you for helping us make the commute a pleasant experience for all of our riders.

Coming Soon

Watch for these and other announcements in upcoming issues of the BlueXpress Press, Rider Alerts and notices on the website:

- **A new rider survey:** We are working on a new rider survey to get more feedback on our BlueXpress Service.
- **Holiday Service:** There will be no BlueXpress bus service on Monday, May 25, 2009, in observance of Memorial Day, or on Friday, July 3, 2009, in observance of Independence Day.
- **Reverse Commutes:** BlueXpress received a grant to begin a Jobs Access Reverse Commute. We are planning to begin service in late 2009. Stay tuned for more details.

Fun and Games

Can you solve the Sudoku puzzle?

There is really only one rule to Sudoku: Fill in the game board so that the numbers 1 through 9 occur exactly once in each row, column, and 3x3 box. The numbers can appear in any order and diagonals are not considered. The game board consists of several numbers that are already placed. These numbers cannot be changed. Your goal is to fill in the empty squares following the simple rule above.

Be one of the first 10 people to solve the puzzle correctly and receive a free ride pass. Submit your answer along with your name and mailing address to info@blueexpressbus.com.

		5	8				6	
9				7		3		
2					4		1	7
		8	5					2
4					1			9
3			6			7		
1	7		2					6
		9		5				1
	6				8	4		

Skill Level: Easy