

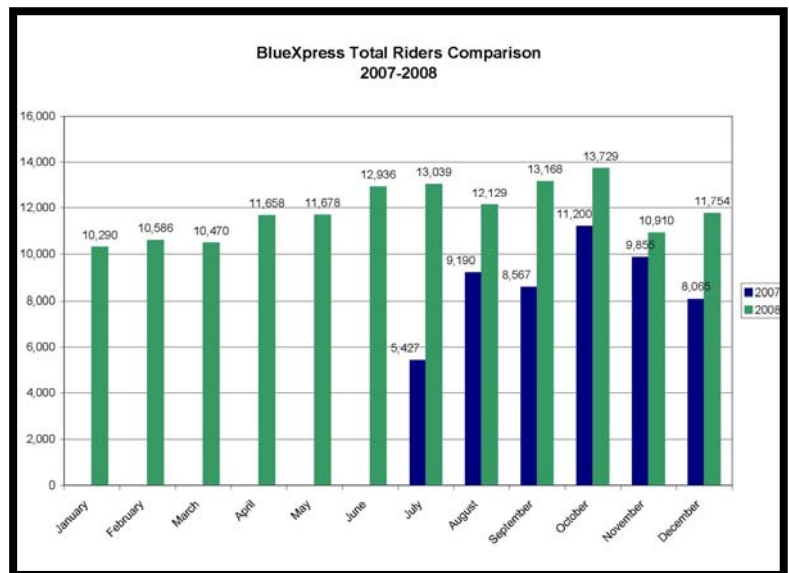
## 2008 Year-End Report

January 27, 2009



### BlueXpress Ridership Continues to Grow

2008 was a busy year on the BlueXpress buses. BlueXpress has been operating for 18 months now, and the number of riders has continued to increase since the first bus rolled in July, 2007. Significant increases in gas prices in January of 2008 brought more riders to BlueXpress. More importantly, when gas prices dropped later in the year, the ridership numbers did not, suggesting that bus riders become adjusted to the routine and convenience of the bus commute. Between August, 2007, and December, 2008, the number of riders increased by nearly 28 percent. In the peak month of October, the number of riders increased by more than 22% between 2007 and 2008.



Ridership on BlueXpress increased by nearly 28% since 2007



Southbridge Crossing Transit Station

We work hard to respond to our customers' needs. In response to a rider survey, we made some schedule changes in April. A bus now leaves every 15 minutes between 6:15 AM and 8:00 AM from the Southbridge Crossing Transit Station.

More bus riders means more cars at the park and rides. We are learning more as we go. This year, we were able to adjust the lighting and irrigation schedules at Southbridge Crossings to save money. We also installed security cameras for our passenger's safety.

### Unified Transit Management Plan Updated

Many of the long-term recommendations regarding service, capital investments and long-term funding were not addressed in detail in the UTMP adopted in 2005. The expansion of the express commuter service took significantly less time than was originally anticipated. The update to the UTMP provides more detail as it relates to the longer term recommendations.

The changes to the approved UTMP include updates and recommendations in the following areas: Relationship of the UTMP to the Scott County 2030 Comprehensive Plan; Long-Term Funding Issues; Express Bus Service; Suburban Local Service; Dial-A-Ride Service; and Connections to Other Services.

## Looking Ahead

### Eagle Creek Transit Station

Construction of the Eagle Creek Transit Station is scheduled to take place with the County Road 21 project in 2009-2011. The future 545-stall park and ride also includes room for an additional 200 stalls in the future. Funding for this project includes federal funding and a local match. Instead of purchasing the property, the County negotiated a 50-year lease agreement with the SMSC, significantly reducing the cost.

### Bus-Only Ramp

The bus only ramp from Southbridge Crossings to TH 169 will also be constructed with the County Road 21 project. This ramp provides direct access to 169, and will take time off the commute.

### Communications

In the next year, we want to improve our communications with our riders. We have already launched the BlueXpress Press, a monthly newsletter. Riders can also receive the newsletter and Rider Alerts via e-mail by signing up on the website. In the next few months, we will conduct a rider survey.

### Dan Patch Study

Scott County and the Cities of Prior Lake, Shakopee and Savage partnered to conduct a study to evaluate ridership of the potential Dan Patch light rail line. The final results of this study will be presented in the near future.



Coming Soon  
Future Eagle Creek Transit Station

For more information on the  
BlueXpress Bus service, visit  
[www.blueexpressbus.com](http://www.blueexpressbus.com)

## Future Challenges

### Jobs Access Reverse Commute Grant

Prior Lake, Shakopee and Scott County teamed up to secure a Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC) grant. We will receive \$436,000 to create the BlueXpress Reverse Commute project, which will provide a transportation alternative to workers in the central cities to available jobs in suburban Shakopee and Prior Lake. The project involves the purchase of a coach bus and the operation of at least three additional reverse routes to and from downtown Minneapolis. We expect to implement this project in late 2009.

### Funding

Our greatest challenge in the coming years will be funding to maintain and expand our service. The decline in automobile sales means a downward trend in the Minnesota Vehicle Sales Tax (MVST), a major source of our funding. This impacts our day-to-day operational funding, and our ability to purchase new buses, and expand our existing park and ride facilities.

The staff continues to explore opportunities with MN DOT and the Metropolitan Council to improve the TH 169 corridor and encourage investment in transit in Scott County.



BlueXpress Buses Operated Jointly by the  
City of Prior Lake and the City of  
Shakopee