

## Getting where you need to go

Each train will consist of a locomotive and four passenger cars, with each car seating about 140 customers. Each suburban station has adjacent Park & Ride facilities, and platforms are equipped with cameras, emergency telephones, enclosed shelters, heating, and other amenities. Four suburban stations will have connecting bus service, including Northstar Link Commuter buses, which will bring commuters from St. Cloud to Big Lake for their Northstar trips to Minneapolis.

Northstar commuters arriving in downtown Minneapolis will be able to make quick connections to the Hiawatha Light Rail Line, which has been extended north to the new Target Field Station adjacent to the new Twins' ballpark. Access to regional bus routes and to the Minneapolis skyway system is a short walk away.

<b>One-way fares, to/from downtown Minneapolis:</b>	<b>Weekday</b> All customers except persons with disabilities	<b>Weekend/Holiday</b> Adults	<b>Weekend/Holiday</b> Seniors 65+ Youth 6-12 and Medicare card holders <b>At all times</b> for persons with disabilities
Big Lake	\$7.00	\$5.25	\$1.75
Elk River	\$5.50	\$4.00	\$1.25
Anoka	\$4.00	\$3.00	\$1.00
Coon Rapids	\$4.00	\$3.00	\$1.00
Fridley	\$3.25	\$2.50	\$0.75
Station-to-station	\$3.25	\$2.50	\$0.75

**For detailed schedule information go to [www.metrotransit.org/Northstar](http://www.metrotransit.org/Northstar) or call 612-373-3333.**

## Buses and trains work together to move people

Some bus routes will be altered, some will be discontinued and at least three new routes will start when Northstar Commuter Rail trains begin running Nov. 16.

The Northstar Link Commuter bus will shuttle people about 28 miles between Big Lake and the proposed future train station in East St. Cloud. The introductory bus fare is \$1 for a one-way trip. The bus will meet every train.

There will be one train arriving in Big Lake every weekday morning at 6:56 a.m. People can transfer to the Northstar Link Commuter bus and travel to St. Cloud State University (SCSU) or downtown St. Cloud. In the afternoon, one bus will pick up people downtown or at SCSU and meet the reverse commute train in Big Lake

headed to Minneapolis that departs at 5:03 p.m. All other Northstar Link Commuter buses will travel to and from the Park & Ride lot on Lincoln Ave. and Hwy. 10 in St. Cloud. Go to [CatchtheLink.com](http://CatchtheLink.com) for more information.



In Elk River and Coon Rapids, Northstar Commuter Coach service, Route 888, ends when the trains begin running. In Coon Rapids, a new feeder route connecting neighborhoods along Round Lake Blvd., Bunker Lake Blvd., 7th Ave., 9th Ave., and 119th Ave. will bring people to the station. This new route, called 811, replaces Route 851, which is discontinued. In Fridley, Route 10 will be adjusted to match train service. Route 824 will serve the Fridley station and the schedule will be adjusted to meet select trains.

*(Buses and trains continued page 7)*

# Free reward for commuters

The Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) program ensures that you have a ride if you need it – for example, if you have a family issue or need to work unexpected hours.

Commuters who ride the bus or train, carpool, vanpool, bicycle, or walk at least three days a week to work or school are eligible for this free perk. All you need to do is register online at [www.MetroTransit.org](http://www.MetroTransit.org).



## How it works

Once you enroll, you'll get two coupons every six months. Use the coupons for

cab fare reimbursement (up to \$25) or for emergency bus or train fare. To

use coupons toward a cab fare, obtain a signed and dated receipt for the cab ride. Then send the original receipt, along with the GRH coupon(s), within 10 days of the cab ride to Metro Transit for reimbursement. If the cab fare is more than \$25, you may use both coupons together. To use the coupons on a bus, simply put a coupon in the bill feeder of the farebox.

To use the coupons on a train, purchase a ticket from a vending machine at the rail station. Send the ticket along with one GRH coupon to Metro Transit for reimbursement. You will receive a coupon for a free bus or train ride.



Anoka County Commissioner Dan Erhart, right, talks with Dave Christensen, center, MN Dept. of Transportation, and Bill Schreiber, Messerli and Kramer, during a Northstar Commuter Rail test run.

## *(Buses and trains continued from page 6)*

In downtown Minneapolis, a new shuttle service will meet all trains and deliver people to 9th and 10th Streets in the southern part of downtown. Hiawatha LRT will meet all commuter rail trains at the Target Field Station. Route 889 is a new express route providing an evening trip to the Anoka and Coon Rapids Stations. It leaves downtown on 3rd Ave. S. at approximately 7 p.m. weekdays.

Metro Transit will continue to monitor and analyze needs during the start-up phase of the Northstar Line.

# Northstar Commuter Rail Weekday Schedule

## Weekday trains TO Minneapolis

Big Lake	Elk River	Anoka	Coon Rapids	Fridley	Downtown Mpls.
5:00 AM	5:10 AM	5:19 AM	5:23 AM	5:31 AM	5:51 AM
5:49 AM	5:59 AM	6:08 AM	6:12 AM	6:20 AM	6:40 AM
6:19 AM	6:29 AM	6:38 AM	6:42 AM	6:50 AM	7:10 AM
6:49 AM	6:59 AM	7:08 AM	7:12 AM	7:20 AM	7:40 AM
7:19 AM	7:29 AM	7:38 AM	7:42 AM	7:50 AM	8:10 AM
5:03 PM	5:13 PM	5:22 PM	5:26 PM	5:34 PM	5:54 PM

## Weekday trains FROM Minneapolis

Downtown Mpls.	Fridley	Coon Rapids	Anoka	Elk River	Big Lake
6:05 AM	6:22 AM	6:30 AM	6:34 AM	6:43 AM	6:56 AM
3:50 PM	4:07 PM	4:15 PM	4:19 PM	4:28 PM	4:41 PM
4:20 PM	4:37 PM	4:45 PM	4:49 PM	4:58 PM	5:11 PM
4:50 PM	5:07 PM	5:15 PM	5:19 PM	5:28 PM	5:41 PM
5:20 PM	5:37 PM	5:45 PM	5:49 PM	5:58 PM	6:11 PM
6:10 PM	6:27 PM	6:35 PM	6:39 PM	6:48 PM	7:01 PM

In addition to the weekday schedule, Northstar trains will run on Saturday and Sunday. Go to [www.MetroTransit.org/Northstar](http://www.MetroTransit.org/Northstar) for weekend schedule information. Note: Northstar trains will not operate on these holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, or Christmas.