

## Apple Valley Transit Station to Open Jan. 4

The Apple Valley Transit Station is re-inventing the look and feel of transit in Apple Valley. In addition to a sweeping design, the station features the first pedestrian overpass in the city, connecting the southbound transit station to the northbound transit station.

Located at 15450 Cedar Avenue, the station will provide parking for 750 vehicles and will connect the city to downtown Minneapolis, downtown St. Paul, the University of Minnesota, Burnsville Center, Fairview Ridges Hospital, Minnesota Zoo, Mall of America and many more destinations. Riders can also transfer to other systems throughout the region.

The project incorporates a number of innovative features, including;

- 6-acre site with 2,475 square feet of enclosed space on two levels in the northbound station (1,125 square feet of covered platform space) and 1,898 square feet of enclosed space on two levels in the southbound station (279 square feet of covered platform space).
- The northbound and southbound stations, as well as the parking ramp, have full generator back-up for continuous operation during a loss of



power.

- In an effort to save energy, all lights will be automatically controlled to turn on and off based on time of day or outside light levels. Lights can be programmed to turn on in early morning for early commuters, turned off during the day when there is sufficient sunlight to light the buildings, and then back on during evening for late commuters.
- Parking ramp and surface parking lots are designed to support future electronic vehicle counting notifying users when ramp or lots are full.
- Argon-insulated glass is being

used on walls to provide more energy efficiency.

- There will be parking spaces designated for hybrid vehicles only.
- Three active elevators (one in each station and one at the parking ramp); one for future ramp expansion. The elevators are expected to accommodate 1300 pounds - perhaps 7-10 people at one time.
- The exterior of the building will have architectural lighting elements made up of a light "tape" (roughly the thickness of a credit card) which uses less energy than LED lights.
- Some 45 cameras are located throughout the surface lots, parking ramp, station buildings and skyway. The cameras will record and store video on a DVR for up to 21 days.
- There will be 10 Bike lockers; 3 bike racks; and connections to city/county trails.
- Level boarding platform; bus pull-out and passing lanes.

### A. V. Route Changes Featured on Page 4

All routes serving the Apple Valley Transit Station will change effective Monday, Jan. 4 and begin serving the new Transit Station. Buses will pick up and drop off only at the new site, but some buses will use the former station for lay-overs.

Details about the changes, including some routing modifications are detailed on Page 4 of this newsletter. Please also pick up new schedules.

# Apple Valley Transit Station Opens Jan. 4 (continued from page 1)

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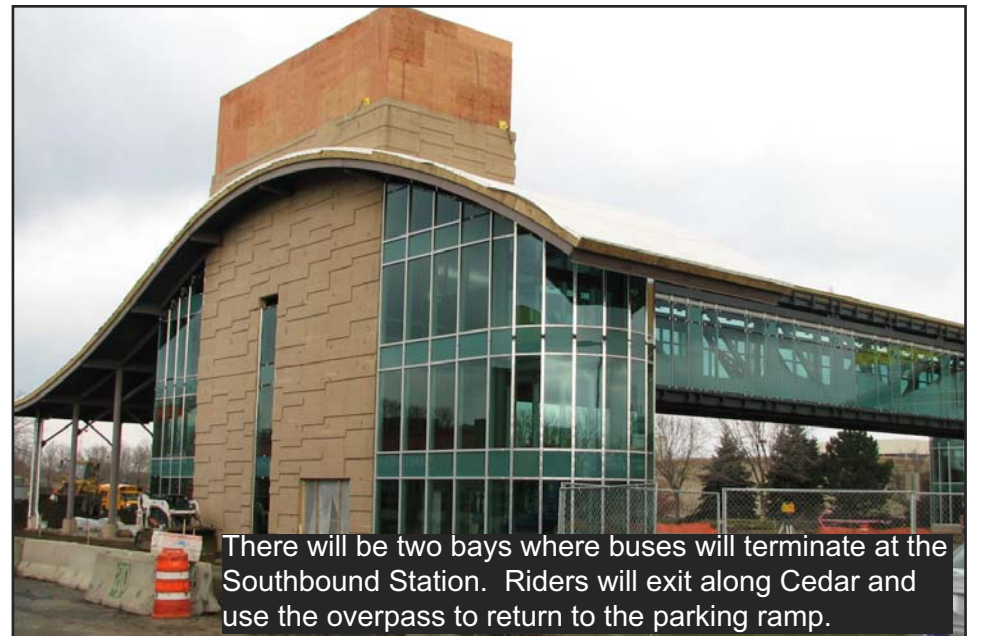
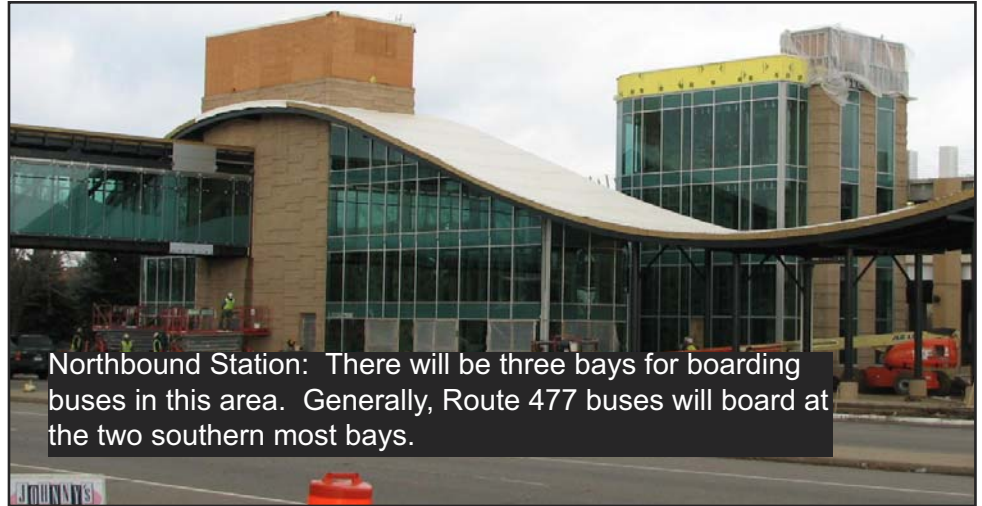
Materials being used at the site include: **Station** - colored concrete flooring, colored glass and colored concrete walls; **Skyway** - steel truss structure with colored concrete flooring and mainly colored glass walls; **Parking ramp** - post-tensioned concrete structure with pre-cast concrete panel exterior; **Ramp elevator lobby** - colored concrete and colored glass walls.

The skyway over Cedar has 1,875 square feet of enclosed space, 15' tall, 150' long, 20' above Cedar Avenue. The skyway itself is not heated.

Partnerships have been key in gaining funding for the site.

Sources include:

- Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) \$6,950,000
- Urban Partnership Agreement (UPA) \$4,000,826
- Federal Transit Administration (FTA) \$ 742,500
- State Bonds/Metropolitan Council - Land \$6,124,250
- Local Match (for federal funds) \$1,885,832
- Dakota County Regional Rail Authority \$1,255,000



### Cedar Avenue Transitway Meetings Continue

*When:* Thursday, Jan. 21, 7:30-9 a.m.

*What:* Open House format, Dakota County will present and gather input on transit stations, bus rapid transit vehicle options, service plans and public art.

*Where:* Dakota County Western Service Center First Floor Atrium, 14955 Galaxie Ave., Apple Valley

Dakota County transit staff routinely provides updates at Dakota County Board meetings, Dakota County Regional Rail Authority meetings, Apple Valley and Lakeville City Council meetings, and Apple Valley Chamber of Commerce meetings. All meetings are open to the public.

Check meeting schedules and agendas to see when staff will be making presentations. Those who are interested

can also find up-to-date information and the presentations from monthly meetings at: [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us) search "Cedar."

### Thanks for Participating in MVTA Survey

We are sorting through more than 500 responses to our Customer Survey and thank everyone who participated. Here's some preliminary information we have gleaned from the responses you provided:

- 90 percent of our riders use the bus 4-5 days per week.
- Nearly 80 percent of our riders would have driven alone if the bus were not available.
- Some 97 percent of our riders use the bus to get to work.
- Nearly 97 percent of MVTA riders report that the service meets or exceeds

their expectations.

- Eight percent of riders have ridden for less than one year.
- Top reasons for riding the bus: Saves money, Avoids the Stress of Driving, Convenience and Can read/work on the bus.
- Top strengths of the MVTA: Good, friendly drivers; Clean, safe, timely buses
- Top areas identified as needing improvement: There was a call for more service on nearly every route at every time, including more weekend and late evening service.
- Top items to influence decision to ride the bus: Employers, observed bus/train, family or co-worker, information is easy to obtain.
- 64 percent of riders are female.

Watch for more information gleaned from the survey results in future editions of *News That Travels*.

### Buses Operate on Regular Schedule MLK Day (Jan. 18)

All MVTA buses will operate on a regular schedule on Monday, Jan. 18, the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday. The MVTA Offices will be closed.

### MVTA to Demo Double-Decker Bus in January

The demonstration of a new look in transit vehicles will now be coming to the south metro, as the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) places a double-decker bus in service on a multi-week trial beginning in early January.

The bus, manufactured by Alexander Dennis, will be in service on several of MVTA routes and will also be on display at area transit stations including the Apple Valley Transit Station Grand Opening event on Jan. 8. Watch our web site at [www.mvta.com](http://www.mvta.com) for details.



While the bus is in service, riders will be asked to comment on what they like and dislike about the vehicle. The double-decker bus accommodates up to 70 seated passengers.

### Construction Proceeding on Cedar Grove Station

Plans are progressing at the site of the new Cedar Grove Transit Station, located at 4035 Nicols Road, Eagan, MN 55122. The site is expected to open in Mid-March, serving as a hub for local service. There will also be an **opportunity for public input** on the service plan from this site, including options for express service. Watch for details just after the New Year on the MVTA web site at [www.mvta.com](http://www.mvta.com). We look forward to your comments



# Schedules Change with Opening of New Apple Valley Station

Schedules on the following routes will change on Monday, Jan. 4, 2010 when the new Apple Valley Transit Station opens. Keep an eye on the MVTA web-site at [www.mvta.com](http://www.mvta.com) for maps of the routes serving the new AVTS.

All routes will serve the new site and riders should park at the new facility. Buses will not pick up or drop off at the old Apple Valley Transit Station, although some buses may layover there and drivers only will have access to the restrooms.

Routes that are changing include: 420, 440, 441, 442, 465, 477 and 480. In most instances, timepoints are not changing, but the pick-up and drop-off locations will change.

**Route 420** will be an exception. The westbound route will now terminate at 149th St. and Granada Avenue (near Walmart). Riders traveling west from Rosemount to Apple Valley will be dropped off on the east side of Cedar in order to make connection to most northbound buses.

Riders connecting from southbound buses to travel east into Rosemount will connect at the southbound platform. Additionally, Cub Foods is removed as a designated stop and there are some time adjustments in the schedule.

No timepoint changes are currently planned for Routes 440, 441, 442, 465, 477 and 480. However, there are several routing changes, moving service off Cedar Avenue in the schedule.

**Route 440** changes south of 147th Street to be implemented 1/4/2010, with the opening of Apple Valley Transit Station.

Route is also revised to use western loop (Glazier Ave.) between Garrett Ave. and 147th St.

**Route 441** changes around Apple Valley Transit Station to be implemented 1/4/2010. Route also shifts from 147th Street to 153rd Street be-

tween Cedar and Pennock, both directions.

**Route 442** changes around Apple Valley Transit Station to be implemented 1/4/2010. Route also shifts from 147th Street to 153rd Street between Cedar and Pennock, both directions. Buses will not stop on Cedar Avenue.

**Route 465** changes around Apple Valley Transit Station to be implemented 1/4/2010. Route to turn at Cedar & CR-42, rather than serving 153rd & Pennock. Non-stop between AVTS and CR-42 & Pennock Ave. in both directions.

**Route 477** changes around Apple Valley Transit Station to be implemented 1/4/2010. Scheduled arrival/departure times will not change, though MVTA will monitor actual running times and make adjustments as necessary in future picks.

**Route 480** changes around Apple Valley Transit Station to be implemented 1/4/2010. Scheduled arrival/departure times will not change, though MVTA will monitor actual running times and make adjustments as necessary in future picks.

New schedules will be available the week of Dec. 27, both on buses and at transit stations.

## ***Grand Opening - Jan. 8 at 2 p.m.***

A grand opening celebration is slated for 2 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 8. Invited speakers include Sen. Amy Klobuchar, Rep. James Oberstar, Rep. John Kline. Gov. Tim Pawlenty (declined), Apple Valley Mayor Mary Hamann Roland, Hennepin County Commissioner and CTIB Chair Peter McLaughlin, Sen. Jim Carlson, Rep. Tara Mack, Rep. Phil Sterner, Dakota County Regional Rail Authority Chair Will Branning and MVTA Chair Elizabeth Kautz will serve as the emcee.

Local councilmembers, legislators, Cedar Group representatives, County Commissioners, Met Council representatives, MnDOT personnel and others are expected to attend. The public is invited, as well.

In addition to comments from speakers, music groups from two Apple Valley High Schools have been invited to provide entertainment. Tours of the site will be offered and light refreshments will be served.

## **Route 421 Correction effective Jan. 4**

With the changes to the route 444 schedule effective Dec. 12, there were some connections broken between the 421 and the 444.

To correct this problem, all start times and passing times will be shifted two minutes earlier. Westbound trips to depart BTS at :03 after the hour; Eastbound trips to depart Savage P&R at :33 after the hour. Therefore connections between Route 421 and Route 444 will be restored at the Savage Park & Ride. New schedules will be issued.

*News that Travels* is published by the MVTA, Beverley Miller, Executive Director; Robin Selvig, Editor.

For more information contact the MVTA at 100 East Highway 13, Burnsville, MN 55337 or call (952) 882-7500. Web-site: [mvta.com](http://mvta.com); E-mail: [mvta@mvta.com](mailto:mvta@mvta.com).

MVTA Board Members are: Elizabeth Kautz (Burnsville Mayor and MVTA Chair); Will Branning (Dakota County Commissioner and MVTA Vice Chair); Jane Victorey (Savage City Councilmember and MVTA Treasurer); Wally Lyslo (at large representative and MVTA Secretary); Ruth Grendahl (Apple Valley Councilmember); Gary Hansen (Eagan City Councilmember); William Droste (Rosemount Mayor); Jon Ulrich (Scott County Commissioner) and Margaret Schreiner (at large alternate).