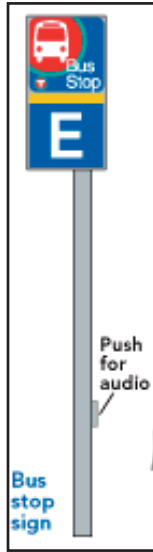


Routing Changes in Downtown Minneapolis

All Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) buses serving downtown Minneapolis will shift operations from Third Avenue to Second and Marquette Avenues effective Monday, Dec. 14. These two streets have been part of a multi-year project designed to improve bus operations in downtown and funded by the federal Urban Partnership Agreement (UPA).

MVTA buses will travel into downtown Minneapolis on Second Avenue stopping every other block, at all "E" stops, beginning at 10th St. Buses will also stop before Washington Avenue and before 2nd St.

MVTA buses departing downtown Minneapolis on Marquette Avenue will stop before Washington Avenue and then every other block at all "C" stops beginning just past 3rd St. The last stop on Marquette Avenue will be mid-block between 11th and 12th Streets. Buses will also stop at a new location on 12th St. between Second and Third Avenues. MVTA drop-off and pick-up locations are noted below with a circle around the appropriate stop locations.



Both Marquette and Second Avenues have been completely reconfigured to allow side-by-side bus-only lanes. Passengers will **always** board in the "curb" lane. Passengers will **not** be allowed to board buses that are traveling in the "passing" lane. Each block contains two "bus-stop zones." Riders must pay attention to their zone as there will frequently be two buses stopped in a bus-stop zone. The second bus will not pull forward to the front of the "bus-stop zone" when the first bus pulls out, but will exit from its position.

In addition to the bus-only lanes, there will be shelters at each stop zone, along with wider sidewalks, additional lighting, NexTrip real-time information and enhanced streetscape design.

Note: initially, the NexTrip departure information regarding MVTA buses will be based on MVTA's schedule as the fleet is not yet equipped with the technology needed to feed real-time information to the signs. The MVTA expects implementation of the technology on its fleet in

2010.

In addition to the routing changes in downtown Minneapolis, the MVTA asks that passengers wishing to alight at Lake Street & I-35W on northbound buses to notify the driver upon boarding the bus.

Other route changes will also be effective Dec. 12 and riders are encouraged to pick up new schedules. There are many changes to trip start times due to the routing changes in downtown Minneapolis and many updates to connection notes. Change are as follows:

Route 420 - Available Soon

- New schedule will be published with updated connection notes and routing changes on Jan. 4, 2010, when the new Apple Valley Transit Station opens.

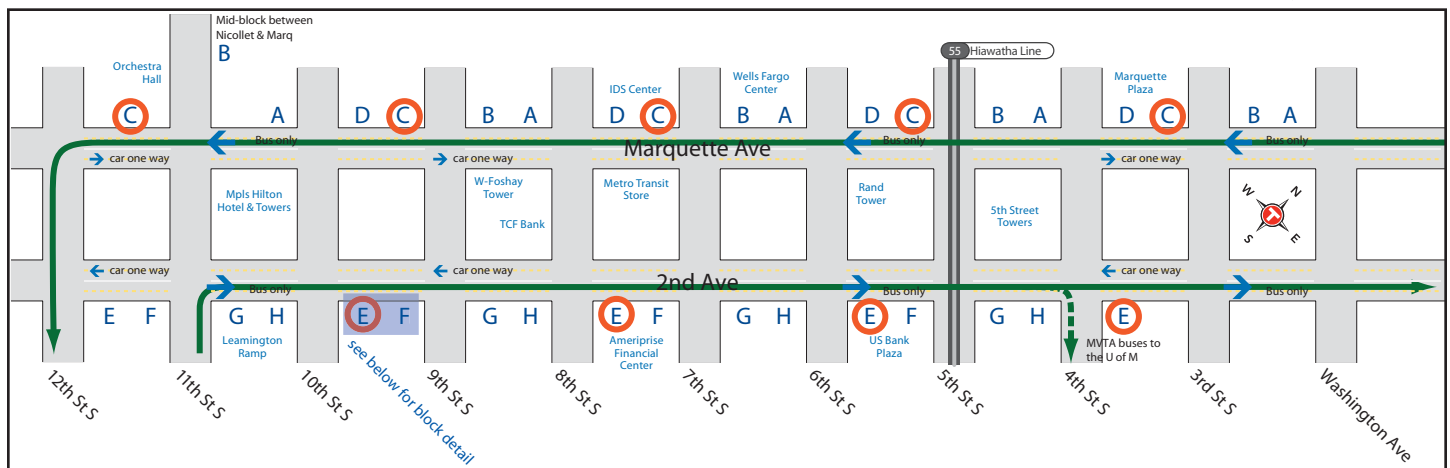
Route 426

- Northbound running times redistributed; all trips start 4 minutes later
- Southbound running times redistributed; loop serving Heart of the City Park & Ride is eliminated; some southbound trips will begin 1-3 minutes later.

Route 440 - Available Soon

- New schedule will be published on

(Continued on page 2)



December Schedule Changes Outlined *(continued from page 1)*

Jan. 4, 2010, when the new Apple Valley Transit Station opens.

Route 442 - Available Soon

- New schedule will be published with updated routing and connection notes on Jan. 4, 2010, when the new Apple Valley Transit Station opens.
- As of Jan. 4, northbound trips start 1 minute earlier; northbound trips from 4:43 a.m. through 12:34 p.m. end 1 minute earlier; running times redistributed throughout schedule.
- As of Jan. 4, southbound trips start 1 minute later; running times redistributed throughout schedule.

Route 444

- Designated stop system is made permanent.
- Northbound trips start 2-4 minutes earlier; running times redistributed throughout schedule.
- Southbound trips start 1 minute later; running times redistributed throughout schedule.
- Trips following temporary detour are permanently rerouted from Outer Ring Road to Burnhaven and Executive Boulevard to avoid pedestrian traffic near the movie theater at Burnsville Center.

Route 445

- Updated connection notes on schedule.

Route 446

- Updated connection notes on schedule.

Route 460

- Downtown routing revised to use Marquette Ave. and 2nd Ave. facilities.
- Running times revised to be consistent with regional estimates.
- Some trip times adjusted to begin 1-2 minutes earlier or later than previous schedule.

Route 464

- Downtown routing revised to use Marquette Ave. and 2nd Ave. facilities.

- Northbound trips start 1-2 minutes later.
- Southbound trips from Gateway Ramp start 1-3 minutes earlier.

Route 465

- Downtown routing revised to use Marquette Ave. and 2nd Ave. facilities.
- Southbound trips from U of M no longer stop at Gateway.
- Some northbound trips begin 1 minute later.
- Some southbound trips from Gateway Ramp begin 1-3 minutes earlier or later.
- Dec. 12 pocket schedule will include routing changes to be effective Jan. 4, 2010, when the new Apple Valley Transit Station opens.

Route 470

- Downtown routing revised to use Marquette Ave. and 2nd Ave. facilities.
- Northbound trips start 1-2 minutes earlier or 1 minute later.
- Southbound trips from Gateway Ramp start up to 5-6 minutes earlier, some trips begin 1 minute later.
- Updated connection notes in pocket schedule.

Route 472

- Downtown routing revised to use Marquette Ave. and 2nd Ave. facilities.
- Northbound trips may begin 1-3 minutes earlier.
- Southbound trips from Gateway Ramp may start 1-3 minutes earlier or later.

Route 476

- Downtown routing revised to use Marquette Ave. and 2nd Ave. facilities.
- Southbound routing on 476R and 476V trips revised to turn left at 142nd Street from Johnny Cake Ridge Rd. 476R trips will turn left on Pilot Knob, then right on 140th Street to resume current routing to Rosemount.
- Northbound trips adjusted throughout schedule to begin 1-3 minutes earlier or later.
- Some southbound trips from Gateway Ramp adjusted to begin 1-3 minutes earlier.
- Connection note added from northbound 476 at 7:14 a.m. at Palomino

Hills Park & Ride to northbound 480 due 7:15 p.m. at Palomino Hills Park & Ride.

Route 477

- Downtown routing revised to use Marquette Ave. and 2nd Ave. facilities.
- Northbound start times adjusted throughout schedule to begin 1-3 minutes earlier or later.
- Southbound trips from Gateway Ramp start times adjusted throughout schedule to begin 1-3 minutes earlier or later.
- Dec. 12 pocket schedule will include routing changes to be effective Jan. 4, 2010, when the new Apple Valley Transit Station opens.

Route 478

- Downtown routing revised to use Marquette Ave. and 2nd Ave. facilities.
- Northbound start times adjusted to begin 2-3 minutes earlier.
- Some southbound start times from Gateway Ramp adjusted to begin 1 minute earlier.

Route 479

- Downtown routing revised to use Marquette Ave. and 2nd Ave. facilities.
- Northbound start times adjusted to begin 1-4 minutes later.
- Southbound start times from Gateway Ramp adjusted to begin 3 minutes earlier or later.

Route 480 - Available Soon

- New schedule will be published with updated routing and connection notes on Jan. 4, 2010, when the new Apple Valley Transit Station opens.
- Jan. 4 schedule will include updated connection note from northbound 480 at 7:15 a.m. at Palomino Hills Park & Ride to northbound 476 due 7:14 p.m. at Palomino Hills Park & Ride.

Route 484

- Updated connection notes.

Nov., Dec. Cedar Avenue Transitway Meetings Set

When: Thursday, Nov. 19, 6 – 7:30 p.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

When: Dec. 17, 7:30 – 9 a.m.

What: Each month, Dakota County holds meetings for residents and businesses to keep up to speed on Cedar Avenue transitway and provide input.

Where: Dakota County Western Service Center First Floor Room L139, 14955 Galaxie Ave., Apple Valley

Can't make it to one of these meetings?

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 search "Cedar."

Thanks for Participating in MVTA Survey

Thanks to everyone who participated in our online survey in early November. Response was great. Look for survey results in an upcoming newsletter.

Cell Phone Courtesy

MVTA riders have asked that we remind everyone of cell phone courtesy.

Loud ringing from multiple phones, unique rings that mimic other sounds, and loud or prolonged conversations are irritating to other bus riders. The sounds can also create a safety hazard if they interfere with the driver's ability to concentrate or operate the bus.

If you travel with a cell phone, we ask your cooperation in following these simple rules of etiquette:

- Please set phones to ring as quietly as possible, or even better, set them to vibration

mode.

- If possible, please limit the length of your 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 the other sounds on the bus. You may not want to share your personal information with those around you; and they may not want to know your details.

- Be aware that you are sharing space with others.

MVTA drivers have the right to stop the bus at any time the ringing of cell phones or conversations are interfering with their operation of the bus.

MVTA to Demo Double-Decker Bus in December

A new look in transit vehicles will be coming to the south metro, as the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) places a double-decker bus in service on a three-week trial. The bus, manufactured by Alexander Dennis, will be in service on a variety of MVTA routes for much of the month of December. Watch our web site at 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.



Free Rides Dec. 12-13: Shop, Eat, See the Holiday Parade

American Seating will also sponsor free rides on MVTA routes on Saturday, Dec. 12 and Sunday, Dec. 13 as a



stress-free way for area residents to prepare for the holidays. Buses travel to popular shopping and dining establishments. Additionally, service is available (with a transfer to the light-rail) to get to the Target Holiday parade, the Macy's auditorium show and more.



Watch for a special edition of *News That Travels* in December, featuring information about the opening of the New Apple Valley Transit Station. Service is expected to begin from the new site on Jan. 4, 2010 (check www.mvta.com for details). The site will support parking for 750 vehicles.



Construction is proceeding at the Cedar Grove Transit Station. Operations are expected to begin from this site in March 2010. More details will be included in future issues of the *News That Travels*. The site will support parking for 160 vehicles.

Thanksgiving, Christmas Holiday Schedules Listed

THANKSGIVING SCHEDULE

The MVTA has exciting news regarding the Thanksgiving Weekend schedules. First, all rides will be **FREE** on Friday, Saturday and Sunday as a result of a promotion sponsored by American Seating. This includes the added trips on Routes 460 and Route 477 on Friday after Thanksgiving.



Further, in response to requests from riders, trips have been added on *Wednesday, Nov. 25* (Day before Thanksgiving) as follows:

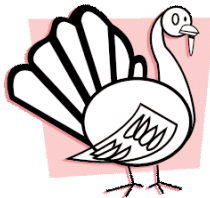
Route 460 southbound depart Gateway to Burnsville TS 12:35, 1:35, 2:35 p.m.

Route 470 southbound depart Gateway to Eagan TS 2:06 p.m.

Route 477 SB depart Gateway to Apple Valley TS 12:36, 1:36, 2:36 p.m.

Route 480 southbound depart 5th Street Layover to Blackhawk Park & Ride (via Eagan TS) 2:04 p.m.

There will be **NO** service on *Thanksgiving Day, (Nov. 26)*.



On *Friday, Nov. 27* (Day after Thanksgiving) the MVTA will operate a Saturday schedule with service as follows:

Local Routes: 420, 421, 426, 436, 440, 442
No service

441 Saturday service, trips added:
northbound from Apple Valley TS at 7:04 a.m.
southbound from Mall of America at 8:02 a.m.

444 Saturday service, trip added:
northbound from Savage Park & Ride at 6:25 a.m.

445 Saturday service, trips added:
eastbound from Mall of America at 8 a.m.
westbound from Dodd Rd./Opperman at 8:56 a.m.

446 No regular Saturday service, trips added:
northbound from Eagan TS at 6:20 a.m.;
Braddock/Diffley at 6:30, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 a.m.,
12, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 p.m. to 46th St. Station;
add trip from Braddock/Diffley at 8 p.m. to Eagan TS.

southbound from 46th Street Station at 6:05, 7:05, 8:05, 9:05, 10:05 and 11:05 a.m. and at 12:05, 1:05, 2:05, 3:05, 4:05, 5:05, 6:05, 7:05 p.m. to Braddock/Diffley; 8:05 p.m. to Eagan TS).

Express Routes: 464, 465, 470, 472, 476, 478, 479, 480, 484, 489 No service -

check for service on local routes to the Mall of America or the 46th St. light rail station for options.

460 No regular Saturday schedule, trips added:

northbound from Burnsville TS at 5:45, 6:20, 6:45, 7:07, 7:38, and 8 a.m. to downtown

southbound trips from Gateway Ramp at 1:36, 2:36, 3:06, 3:34, 4:02, 4:34, and 5:05 p.m. to Burnsville TS.

477 No regular Saturday service, trips added:

northbound from Apple Valley TS at 5:51, 6:29, 7:14, 7:57 a.m. to downtown

southbound from Gateway at 1:30, 2:15, 3:04, 4, and 4:38 p.m. to Apple Valley TS.

CHRISTMAS, NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

Reduced service will operate Dec. 23 and Dec. 28-31. A Saturday Plus schedule with service generally terminating about 6-6:30 p.m. will operate on Thursday, Dec. 24. There is no service on Christmas Day (Dec. 25). A Sunday schedule will operate on New Year's Day (Friday, Jan. 1, 2010).

The reduced service schedule for Dec. 23 and Dec. 28-31 is as follows:

Route 460 – Northbound - Trips that will not operate: 6:32, 6:55, 7:25, and 7:48 a.m.

Trips that will change: 6:37 trip moves to 6:34 a.m., 6:59 trip moves to 6:57 a.m., 7:21 trip moves to 7:22 a.m., 7:28 trip moves to 7:27 a.m., 7:52 trip moves to 7:51 a.m.

Route 460 – Southbound - Trips that will not operate: 3:31, 4:11, 4:31, 4:44 and 5:06 p.m.

Trips that will change: 3:26 trip moved to 3:28 p.m., 3:41 trip moved to 3:39 p.m., 4:16 trip moved to 4:13 p.m., 4:28 trip moved to 4:29 p.m., 4:35 trip moved to 4:33 p.m., 4:38 trip moved to 4:39 p.m., 4:49 trip moved to 4:46 p.m., 5:02 trip moves to 5:04 p.m.

Route 470 – Northbound - Trip that will not operate: 6:53 a.m.

Route 470 – Southbound - Trip that will not operate: 4:01 p.m.; Trip that will change: 3:54 p.m. trip moved to 3:57 p.m.

Route 477 – Northbound - Trip that will not operate: 7:08 a.m.; Trip that will change: 7:03 trip moved to 7:06 a.m.

Route 477 – Southbound - Trip that will not operate: 5:17 p.m.

The Saturday+schedule for Christmas Eve (Dec. 24) is as follows:



Local Routes: 420, 421, 426, 436, 440, 442
No service

441 Hourly Saturday service northbound from 7:04 a.m. to 6:04 p.m., southbound from Mall of America from 8:02 a.m. to 6:02 p.m.

444 Hourly Saturday service northbound from Savage Park & Ride from 6:25 a.m.-6:25 p.m., southbound from Mall of America from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

445 Hourly Saturday service eastbound from Mall of America from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., westbound from Dodd Rd./Opperman from 7:56 a.m. to 4:56 p.m.

446 No regular Saturday service, trips added with hourly northbound service from Braddock/Diffley at 6:30, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 a.m., 12, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 p.m. to 46th St. Station; add trip from Eagan TS at 6:20 a.m.

southbound trips added from 46th Street Station from 6:05 a.m. to 5:05 p.m. to Braddock/Diffley; 6:05 p.m. to Eagan TS).

Express Routes: 464, 465, 470, 472, 476, 478, 479, 480, 484, 489 No service -

check for service on local routes to the Mall of America or the 46th St. light rail station for options.

460 No regular Saturday schedule, trips added: northbound from Burnsville TS at 5:47, 6:19, 6:43, 7:06, 7:39, and 8:08 a.m. to downtown

southbound trips from Gateway Ramp at 1:34, 2:34, 3:04, 3:31, 4:05, 4:35, and 5:06 p.m. to Burnsville TS.

477 No regular Saturday service, trips added: northbound from Apple Valley TS at 5:50, 6:28, 7:12, 7:58 a.m. to downtown southbound from Gateway at 1:29, 2:19, 3:04, 4:04, and 4:42 p.m. to Apple Valley TS.

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; E-mail: 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).