



For Further Information Contact:

Metro

Dianne Williams
Director of Communications
(314) 982-1440 (office)
(314) 565-7048 (cell)

**For Immediate Release
July 28, 2009**

2009-027

METRO PREPARES FOR AUGUST 3rd SERVICE RESTORATION
Thousands of displaced Metro customers to regain transit access

ST. LOUIS, MO, July 28, 2009... In just six days, thousands of Metro customers who lost their link to employment, healthcare, shopping and recreation via transit earlier this year will temporarily enjoy restored access. After receiving a federal grant and a \$12 million one-time emergency appropriation from the State of Missouri, Metro will restore approximately one-third of the services that were suspended on March 30.

Using transit data, population and employment trends, and input from hundreds of customers, Metro has finalized a Transit Restoration Plan designed to return the most needed transit service across the St. Louis region. Restored services will include a combination of enhancements to existing routes so they are extended back into communities that lost service, restoration of some key routes that were cut, and the creation of new routes.

With an emphasis on reaching into the community and alleviating overcrowding, the plan will provide Metro Call-A-Ride paratransit access to many locations that lost service. The plan will also restore service to approximately 2,000 of the 2,300 bus stops to which service was temporarily suspended in March. Added frequency will alleviate crowded conditions on the most heavily used routes. Some Express MetroBus service in north, south and west St. Louis County will also be restored.

The service restorations are made possible by a one-time emergency infusion of \$12 million from the Missouri Legislature and a grant from the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program that will provide Metro with \$3.8 million annually for two years. This funding is expected to support restored services for just over 10 months, starting August 3.

"We're pleased to report that the restoration plan we've developed addresses 90 percent of the concerns that were raised by our customers," stated Ray Friem, Chief Operating Officer of Transit Services. "By getting creative in our planning, we've been able to create some new routes and schedules, and expand other routes to help meet our most critical customer needs in key areas with the funds we have available. However, it's important to note that, while the plan represents a significant improvement over the reduced system, it's still a long way from the level of service that existed prior to the service cuts on March 30."

-more-

With August 3 quickly approaching, a flurry of activity has been underway at Metro in preparation for the upcoming service restorations. Among the first visible signs of the service restoration is the recent installation of new covers on impacted bus stops across the region, alerting customers to reactivated bus stops.

Behind-the-scenes, new bus schedules are being printed so they will be available to customers by August 3, and route information has been added to Metro's website. Metro recalled operators who are undergoing refresher training before getting back on the road. Vehicles are also being made road-ready, and Metro's maintenance crews are assuring vehicles are road tested.

"It's exciting to see all the preparations that are underway as Metro gets ready to once again serve a broader customer base," said Friem. "The emergency funding we've received has enabled us to recall many of our employees, who will be doing their part to help more of their fellow St. Louisans get back to work using transit."

To answer questions and address concerns related to the August 3 service restorations, and provide updated timetables and schedules to riders, representatives from Metro will host informational booths at various MetroLink stations and MetroBus Transfer Centers in the region, tomorrow through Thursday, July 30. (See attached for specific stations location information and times.)

To learn more about this week's informational events, or the upcoming service restorations, visit www.metrostlouis.org or call (314) 231-2345.

Metro is the operator of the Metro public transportation system for the St. Louis region, which includes the 87 vehicle, 46-mile MetroLink light rail system; 206 MetroBus vehicle fleet that operates on 52 MetroBus routes; and Metro Call-A-Ride, a paratransit fleet of 100 vans.

Metro also oversees the operations of the St. Louis Downtown Airport and surrounding industrial business park, the Gateway Arch Revenue Collections Center, the Gateway Arch Transportation System, the Gateway Arch Riverboats, and the Gateway Arch Parking Facility.

###

Addendum – Metro Information Booth Locations

Metro Representatives Take information about August 3rd Service Restoration to the Community

Metro Ambassadors and Planning Department staff members will be on hand at various locations across the system this Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to help customers prepare for the August 3rd Service Restoration. They will staff the information bus, trailer or building as indicated below, from 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. as follows:

Tuesday - July 28, 2009

6-10 a.m. & 2-6 p.m.	North Hanley MetroLink Station (Information Bus in Bus Bay Area)
6-10 a.m. & 2-6 p.m.	Shrewsbury MetroLink Station (Information Bus in Bus Bay Area)
6-10 a.m. & 2-6 p.m.	Forest Park MetroLink Station (Information Bus in Bus Loop on DeBaliviere Blvd.)
6-10 a.m./10-2 p.m./2-6 p.m.	Civic Center MetroBus Transfer Center (Information in Ticket Trailer)

Wednesday - July 29, 2009

6-10 a.m./10-2 p.m./2-6 p.m.	Central West End MetroBus Transfer Center (Information Bus in Bus Bay Area)
6-10 a.m. & 2-6 p.m.	Delmar MetroLink Station (Information Bus at Bus Stop on Des Peres Ave.)
6-10 a.m. & 2-6 p.m.	Clayton MetroLink Station (Information Bus in Bus Bay Area)
6-10 a.m./10-2 p.m./2-6 p.m.	Riverview Hall MetroBus Transfer Center (Information Booth in Building)

Thursday – July 30, 2009

6-10 a.m./10-2 p.m./2-6 p.m.	Grand MetroLink Station (Information Bus located on Lower Level on Scott Ave.)
6-10 a.m. & 2-6 p.m.	St. Charles Rock Road (Information Bus in Bus Bay Area)
6-10 a.m. & 2-6 p.m.	Brentwood MetroLink Station (Information Bus in Bus Loop area)

AUGUST 3, 2009 METRO SERVICE RESTORATION PLAN

METROBUS ROUTES SERVING AREAS OF NORTH ST. LOUIS COUNTY

MetroBus Service Enhancements:

4 Natural Bridge
16 City Limits*
33 Dorsett Lackland
36 Spanish Lake
40 Broadway*
45 Hazelwood Ferguson
49 Lindbergh
61 Chambers Road
74 Florissant
94 Page
98 Chesterfield Hanley

MetroBus Service Restoration:

66 Clayton-Airport
194 Page Limited
174X New Halls Ferry Express
240X Bissell Hills Express

New MetroBus Service:

27 North County Shuttle
75 Florissant Clayton

**Note – These routes operate primarily within the City of St. Louis, but do offer access to areas in North St. Louis County*

SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS

4 Natural Bridge

Saturday service will change from operating every 60 minutes to every 40 minutes, from 5:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

16 City Limits

Weekday service will operate every 30 minutes from the Riverview MetroBus Center to Shrewsbury MetroLink Station. Saturday service will change from operating every 60 minutes to every 40 minutes, from 5:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

33 Dorsett Lackland

A trip will be added to arrive at the Rock Road MetroLink Station at 5:52 a.m.

36 Spanish Lake

Service will operate hourly between the North Hanley MetroLink Station and the Riverview MetroBus Center. Service to downtown St. Louis will be provided on the restored 240X Bissell Hills Express.

40 Broadway

Additional service will be added operating every 30 minutes between Broadway & Meramec and the Riverview MetroBus Center from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Saturday service will operate every 30 minutes from the Riverview MetroBus Center and Broadway & Meramec.

45 Hazelwood Ferguson

One trip will be added to arrive at Boeing at 2:30 p.m. from the North Hanley MetroLink Station.

49 Lindbergh

Weekday bus service will be restored between the Ballas MetroBus Center and the Jefferson Barracks VA Hospital, via St. Anthony's Hospital, with service operating every 30 minutes. Service between the North Hanley MetroLink Station and Ballas MetroBus Center will be provided every 30 minutes during peak hours and every 60 minutes during midday and evening periods. Saturday service will be restored between the Ballas MetroBus Center and the South County Shopping Center, via St. Anthony's Hospital, with service operating every 60 minutes. Sunday service will be restored between the Ballas MetroBus Center and the South County Shopping Center, via St. Anthony's Hospital, with service operating every 120 minutes.

61 Chambers Road

Weekday service will operate every 20 minutes during morning service, every 40 minutes during afternoon service, and every 60 minutes during evening service. Saturday service will change from operating every 60 minutes to every 40 minutes, from 5:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

74 Florissant

Weekday service will be restored on both the Waterford and New Halls Ferry branches. The Waterford branch would leave the Florissant Valley Community College, proceed via West Florissant Avenue to Dunn Road, Waterford Drive, North Waterford Drive, Lindbergh, Patterson, Greenway Chase, and New Halls Ferry ending at the Flower Valley Shopping Center. The New Halls Ferry branch would leave Florissant Valley Community College via West Florissant Avenue, to New Halls Ferry and ending at the Flower Valley Shopping Center, with selected trips serving Delmar Gardens North. Weekend service will extend on the Waterford Branch only, with service operating every 80 minutes from 6:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

94 Page

Weekday peak-hour service to the Government Record Center will be provided every 15 minutes. Selected peak-hour trips will extend to the Schuetz and Baur area.

98 Chesterfield Hanley

This route will provide service between the North Hanley MetroLink Station, Westport Plaza, St. John's Hospital, Ballas MetroBus Center, St. Luke's Hospital, Delmar Gardens West and Cedars at JCA. Three morning trips will be provided from the North Hanley MetroLink Station between 5:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. on a 30 minute frequency. Three evening trips will be provided between 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. on a 30 minute frequency.

RESTORED BUS ROUTES

These restored routes will not have the exact routing and scheduling as they had before March 30, but will provide similar service.

66 Clayton - Airport

The route will return to its original routing prior to March 30, 2009. The route will operate on a 60 minute frequency, with a total of six morning trips and six evening trips.

194 Page Limited

Service will be restored between the Wellston MetroLink Station and Ameling & Bennington. Morning service will operate from Ameling, to McKelvey, Bennington, and along Page Avenue to the Wellston MetroLink Station. Evening service will follow the reverse of the morning service. The route will operate on a 30 minute frequency with a total of four morning trips and four evening trips.

174X New Halls Ferry Express

Express bus service will be restored to the same routing prior to March 30, 2009. Evening service will follow the reverse of morning service. The route will operate on a 30 minute frequency with a total of five morning trips and five evening trips.

240X Bissell Hills Express

Express bus service will be restored to same routing prior to March 30, 2009. This route will operate seven morning trips and seven evening trips.

NEW BUS SERVICE

27 North County Shuttle

This route will provide service between the Riverview MetroBus Center and Flower Valley Shopping Center. From the Riverview MetroBus Center, west on Riverview, north on Bellefontaine, west on Jennings Station Road, north on Lewis and Clark, selected trips via Missouri Veterans Home, west on Berwyn, north on Monarch, west on Hudson, north on Vorhof, west on Ainsworth, north on Landseer, west on Pershall Rd., north on Old Halls Ferry, east on Dunn Rd, north on Landseer, west on Redman Rd., north on Parker Rd., north on Lusher or Benham, north on Lewis and Clark, west on Lindbergh, into Jamestown Mall, ending at

Flower Valley Shopping Center. Service will be provided hourly, seven days a week, from 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

75 Florissant Clayton

This new route will provide service from North County, connecting to the North Hanley MetroLink Station and Clayton MetroLink Station seven days a week. Service will start at the Flower Valley Shopping Center, to New Halls Ferry, Parker Road, Waterford, Dunn Road, I-270, to I-170, to I-70 and the North Hanley MetroLink Station, to I-70, then I-170 to the Clayton MetroLink Station. Service will be provided everyday from 4:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., with weekday peak-hour service operating every 30 minutes, non-peak weekday service and Saturday service operating every 45 minutes, and Sunday service operating every 90 minutes.