

MBA CELEBRATES LAUNCH OF NORTHSTAR COMMUTER RAIL



MBA Chair Steve Cramer speaks at the grand opening of the Northstar Commuter Rail Line on November 14, 2009. The Minnesota Ballpark Authority (MBA) and its partners celebrated the launch of the Northstar Commuter Rail Line, the state's first commuter rail service, on Saturday, November 14 at a special public event held at Target Field Station.

Target Field Station is located at the heart of a new downtown transit hub where commuter rail and light rail intersect. With the convergence of multiple transportation options at the new ballpark, MBA Chair Steve Cramer said Target Field will be one of the most accessible sports facilities in the country.

During the grand opening celebration, Cramer thanked the MBA's partners responsible for the innovative transportation infrastructure design. Cramer said the MBA believes the design is critically important to the long-term success of the ballpark.

Since its inception in 2006, the MBA has been focused on creating strong connections to the ballpark. This year the MBA approved \$2 million for projects aimed at enhancing the pedestrian experience and transportation infrastructure around Target Field.

"The coordination and integration of this new transit line with all of the other modes of transportation to the ballpark will enhance the fan experience and create great development opportunities for the surrounding area in the years ahead," Cramer



said.

The Northstar Commuter Rail Line began passenger service on Monday, November 16 and will provide a convenient, affordable, fast option into downtown Minneapolis for commuters.

ABOUT THE NORTHSTAR COMMUTER RAIL LINE

Northstar will offer five morning trips from Big Lake to downtown Minneapolis and five return trips in the afternoon along a 40-mile corridor, with stops at Fridley, Coon Rapids, Anoka, Elk River and Big Lake. One reverse commute roundtrip also will be offered on weekdays, and three weekend roundtrips are planned on Saturdays and Sundays. Fares range from \$3.25 to \$7 each way depending on the distance traveled. Fares are lower on weekends.

The trains will consist of a locomotive and four passenger cars, with each car seating about 140 customers. Passenger cars have three seating levels, worktables, electrical outlets and an on-board restroom. Each car can accommodate two bicycles and is fully accessible for persons with disabilities. The suburban stations have adjacent park-and-ride facilities and platforms are equipped with cameras, emergency telephones, enclosed shelters, heating and other amenities.

Connecting bus service will be available at four suburban stations, including Northstar Link coach buses, which will bring commuters from St. Cloud to Big Lake for their Northstar trips to Minneapolis.