

# 2011 Transit Report: A Guide to Minnesota's Public Transit Systems

Prepared by the Minnesota Department of Transportation with  
assistance from the Metropolitan Council in compliance with  
Minnesota Statute 174.247

Published by the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Office of Business  
and Support Services, Reprographic Services Unit, December 2011, St. Paul, Minnesota

## **Minnesota Department of Transportation**

Office of Transit  
395 John Ireland Boulevard, MS 430  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-366-4191 (Telephone)  
651-366-4192 (Fax)

This full report is available online at: [www.dot.state.mn.us/transit/reports/transitreports/11/](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/transit/reports/transitreports/11/). To request this document in an alternative format, please contact the Affirmative Action Office at 651-366-4718 or 1-800-657-3774 (Greater Minnesota); 711 or 1-800-627-3529 (Minnesota Relay). You may also send an e-mail to [ADArequest.dot@state.mn.us](mailto:ADArequest.dot@state.mn.us). (Please request at least one week in advance).





Minnesota Department of Transportation  
395 John Ireland Boulevard  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

December 2011

Dear Citizens of Minnesota,

I am pleased to share with you the 2011 Transit Report for the state of Minnesota.

The report highlights transit accomplishments from the last year; lists ridership, financial and performance information; and provides a snapshot of every public transit organization in the state. Minnesota Statute 174.247 defines the required content of this report.

Minnesota transit systems had several notable accomplishments since the 2010 Transit Report:

- Three bus facilities in Greater Minnesota completed construction with funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.
- The Central Corridor Light Rail Transit project received a full funding grant agreement from the Federal Transit Administration and the Southwest Corridor LRT project received permission from the FTA to enter the preliminary engineering phase.
- Twelve Greater Minnesota regions completed local human service transit coordination plans. The plans identify strategies to maximize efficiency of publicly-funded transportation services through coordinating human service and transit resources.
- Public transit ridership in Minnesota exceeded 100 million trips, with more than 11 million in Greater Minnesota and nearly 91 million in the Twin Cities Metro Area.

Please review this report to learn more about Minnesota's public transit programs. The 2011 Transit Report and additional information are available on MnDOT's website:

[www.mndot.gov/transit](http://www.mndot.gov/transit)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Thomas K. Sorel'.

Thomas K. Sorel  
Commissioner

An Equal Opportunity Employer





# Table of Contents

## Annual Transit Report Legislation..... i

### State of the Industry

Introduction .....	1
Purpose of the Annual Report.....	2
Decade in Review .....	2
<i>Performance of Greater Minnesota Transit Counties Served 2000-2010</i>	
<i>Federal and State Funding for Transit</i>	
<i>Federal Funding Programs for Public Transit</i>	
<i>Federal Programs Support Local Transit Operating and Capital Projects</i>	
<i>State Funding Programs for Public Transit</i>	
<i>Looking Forward: 2012-2013 State Public Transit Assistance</i>	
<i>Continued Challenge of Financial Uncertainty</i>	
Major Accomplishments in 2010 .....	10
<i>Urban JARC Projects Produce High Ridership</i>	
<i>Northstar Link Commuter Coach Connects Big Lake and St. Cloud</i>	
<i>Minnesota Council on Transportation Access Established</i>	
<i>Volunteer Driver Programs in Rural Minnesota</i>	
<i>Intercity Bus Routes Achieve Profitability</i>	
Planning for Future Needs .....	13
<i>Establishment of Greater MN Public Transit Providers Advisory Committee</i>	
<i>Coordination Efforts at the Local Level Ramp Up Between Human Service and Public Transit Providers</i>	
<i>Increased Transportation Demand Impetus for Commuter Behavior Study in St. Cloud Area</i>	
<i>Major Redesign of Mankato Transit Kicks Off Operating and Capital Funding Requirements to Meet Future Transit Needs</i>	
Conclusion .....	17

### Greater Minnesota Fact Sheets

Albert Lea Transit.....	19
Arrowhead Transit.....	20
Austin-Mower County Area Transit .....	21
Becker County Transit .....	22
Benson Heartland Express .....	23
Brainerd & Crow Wing Public Transit.....	24
Brown County Heartland Express .....	25
Chisago-Isanti County Heartland Express .....	26
Cottonwood County Transit .....	27
Dawson Heartland Express .....	28
Duluth Transit Authority-Regular Route .....	29
Duluth Transit Authority-STRIDE .....	30
East Grand Forks Transit-Regular Route.....	31
East Grand Forks Dial-A-Ride.....	32
FAR North Public Transit .....	33
Faribault County Prairie Express .....	34

Faribault Flyer.....	35
Fosston Transit.....	36
Granite Falls Heartland Express.....	37
Grant County Alpha Transit .....	38
Hibbing Area Transit.....	39
Hubbard County Heartland Express .....	40
Kandiyohi Area Transit .....	41
La Crescent Apple Express .....	42
Le Sueur Heartland Express .....	43
Lincoln County Heartland Express .....	44
Mahnomen County Heartland Express.....	45
Mankato-Greater Mankato Transit System.....	46
Martin County Express .....	47
Meeker County Public Transit .....	48
Montevideo Transit .....	49
Moorhead Metropolitan Area Transit .....	50
Moorhead Metropolitan Area Transit Paratransit .....	51
Morris Transit.....	52
Murray County Heartland Express .....	53
Northfield Transit .....	54
Paul Bunyan Transit .....	55
Pine River Ride With Us Bus.....	56
Pipestone County Transit .....	57
Prairie Five Rides .....	58
Prairieland Transit .....	59
Rainbow Rider Transit .....	60
Red Lake Transit .....	61
Renville County Heartland Express .....	62
RiverRider Public Transit.....	63
Rochester Public Transit-Regular Route .....	64
Rochester Dial-A-Ride.....	65
Rock County Heartland Express .....	66
St. Cloud Metro Bus-Fixed Route .....	67
St. Cloud Metro Bus-Dial-A-Ride .....	68
St. Peter Transit.....	69
SEMCAC Transportation .....	70
Steele County Area Transit .....	71
Stewartville Heartland Express.....	72
Three Rivers Hiawathaland Transit .....	73
Timber Trails Public Transit.....	74
Trailblazer Transit.....	75
Transit Alternatives.....	76
Tri-CAP Transit Connection.....	77
Tri-Valley Heartland Express .....	78
Wadena County Friendly Rider Transit .....	79
Watonwan Take Me There .....	80
Western Community Action-Community Transit.....	81
Winona Transit Service .....	82

### Metropolitan Area Fact Sheets

Laker Lines .....	83
Maple Grove Transit .....	84

Metro Mobility.....	85
Metro Transit-Commuter Rail.....	86
Metro Transit-Light Rail.....	87
Metro Transit-Regular Route Bus .....	88
Metropolitan Council Contracted Services- Regular Route Bus.....	89
Metropolitan Council Contracted Services- Transit Link .....	90
Metropolitan Council Contracted Services- Vanpool.....	91
Minnesota Valley Transit Authority.....	92
Plymouth Metrolink .....	93
Ramsey Star Express .....	94
Rush Line.....	95
Shakopee Transit.....	96
Southwest Transit .....	97
University of Minnesota Transit.....	98

### Other Transit Fact Sheets

Jefferson Lines.....	99
----------------------	----

### Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Capital Program

Section 5310 Organizations.....	100-107
---------------------------------	---------

### Financial Statistics

2010 Operating Expenditures Summary .....	109
Greater Minnesota Transit Systems	
2010 Operating Expenditures .....	110-112
2010 Capital Expenditures.....	113-114
2011 Operating Budget.....	115-117
Metropolitan Area Transit Systems	
2010 Operating Expenditures .....	118
2010 Capital Expenditures.....	119-120
2011 Operating Budget.....	121
Intercity Bus – Expenditures	
2010 Expenditures .....	122
2011 Budget.....	122
JARC/New Freedom Programs	
2010 Recipients .....	122-123

### Operating Statistics

2010 Ridership and Revenue Hours	
Summary.....	125
Greater Minnesota Transit Ridership ....	126-127
Greater Minnesota Transit Revenue Hours .....	128-129
Greater Minnesota Transit Indicators....	130-131
Twin Cities Metro Area Transit Ridership.....	132
Twin Cities Metro Area Transit Revenue Hours .....	133
Twin Cities Metro Area Transit Indicators ....	134

<b>Glossary .....</b>	<b>135-139</b>
-----------------------	----------------

### Tables

Table I	2011 Federal Funding for MN Transit.....	7
Table II	Transit Funding for 2012-2013 Biennium.....	9
Table III.a	Greater MN Public Volunteer Driver Program Statistics.....	11
Table III.b	Greater MN JARC and NF Volunteer Driver Program Statistics .....	11
Table IV	Cost to Meet 100% of Projected Transit Needs 2011-2016 .....	15
Table V	Cost to Meet 100% of Projected Transit Needs 2011-2030 .....	16
Table VI	Cost to Meet Legislative Targets: 2015 and 2025.....	16

The Transit Report has been published annually since 1983. Information is compiled by existing staff and the document is printed in-house and posted on the web. Tracked and reported per Minn. Stat. 3.197, the total cost for preparing the 2011 Transit Report, including MnDOT staff time and reproduction expenses, was \$14,475.94.

## Annual Transit Report Legislation – 174.247

From the Legislation	Location in 2011 Transit Report	Page
(a) By February 15 annually, the commissioner shall submit a report to the legislature on transit services outside the metropolitan area. The Metropolitan Council and any public transit system receiving assistance under section 174.24 shall provide assistance in creating the report, as requested by the commissioner.		
(b) The report must include, at a minimum, the following:		
(1) a descriptive overview of public transit in Minnesota;	State of the Industry – · <i>Introduction</i>	1
(2) a descriptive summary of funding sources and assistance programs;	State of the Industry – · <i>Federal and State Funding for Transit</i> · <i>Major Accomplishments</i>	5 10
(3) a summary of each public transit system receiving assistance under section 174.24;	Fact Sheets	19-99
(4) data that identifies use of volunteers in providing transit service;	State of the Industry – · <i>Major Accomplishments</i> · <i>Volunteer Driver Programs in Rural Minnesota</i>	10 11
(5) financial data that identifies for each public transit system and for each transit system classification under section 174.24, subdivision 3b:		
(i) the operating and capital costs;	Financial Statistics	109-123
(ii) each of the funding sources used to provide financial assistance; and	Financial Statistics	109-123
(iii) for federal funds, the amount from each specific federal program under which funding is provided;	State of the Industry – · <i>Major Accomplishments</i> Financial Statistics	10 109-123
(6) a summary of the differences in program implementation requirements and aid recipient eligibility between federal aid and state sources of funds;	State of the Industry – · <i>Federal and State Funding for Transit</i>	5
(7) in each odd-numbered year, an analysis of public transit system needs and operating expenditures on an annual basis, which must include a methodology for identifying monetary needs, and calculations of:		
(i) the total monetary needs for all public transit systems, for the year of the report and the ensuing five years;	State of the Industry – · <i>Federal and State Funding for Transit</i> · <i>Planning for Future Needs</i>	5 13
(ii) the total expenditures from local sources for each transit system classification;	Financial Statistics	109-123
(iii) the comprehensive transit assistance percentage for each transit system classification, which equals (A) the expenditures identified under clause (7), item (ii), for a transit system classification, divided by (B) the amounts identified under subitem (A), plus the sum of state sources of funds plus federal funds provided to all transit systems in that classification; and	Financial Statistics	109-123
(iv) the amount of surplus or insufficient funds available for paying capital and operating costs to fully implement the greater Minnesota transit investment plan under section 174.24, subdivision 1a.	State of the Industry – · <i>Federal and State Funding for Transit</i> · <i>Planning for Future Needs</i>	5 13

This page intentionally left blank.