



News Release

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First Twins games bring more transportation options to Target Field

Coming Downtown this weekend? Plan ahead to minimize delays and enjoy the fun

April 1, 2010 (Minneapolis) The first Minnesota Twins games at Target Field are just part of the excitement in downtown Minneapolis this weekend, as new transportation options to get visitors into and around Downtown are offered for the first time. Last Saturday, Minneapolis hosted more than 50,000 visitors to Target Field and Target Center, in addition to the residents and visitors who enjoy Downtown on an average weekend. With two Twins games, a Harlem Globetrotters game, and a Timberwolves game all at Target Field and Target Center, there will be lots of activity again Downtown this weekend.

Because the first Twins game begins at 5:10 p.m. Friday, there will be overlap between some workers leaving Downtown and game-goers arriving. This will reduce parking availability in the ABC and Hawthorne Ramps adjacent to the ballpark, and drivers are encouraged to use parking spaces throughout Downtown. In many cases, where you parked for games at the Metrodome will work just fine for events at Target Field.

New for this weekend

More bus service - New Twins Express Route 679 will start operating between Minnetonka and Target Field on game days beginning April 2. Northstar commuter rail service to Twins games will begin with the regular-season home opener on April 12.

LRT three-car trains – Metro Transit will use some three-car light-rail trains following the Twins games, along with its typical two-car trains. Using longer trains will help move more people and reduce wait times for riders.

Improved traffic management – During last weekend's events at Target Field and Target Center, Minneapolis Public Works and other partners carefully monitored traffic patterns and flow. As a result of those observations, the City is making some small adjustments to the placement of traffic control agents this weekend to help move cars and pedestrians as efficiently as possible.

ABC Ramps improvements - As construction work on improvements in Ramp B is being completed, the 5th Street entrance and exit for Ramp B will be open for the April 2 and 3 games. The I-394 entrance/exit and the new 2nd Avenue entrance/exit are expected to open by April 12 opening day.

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More bicycle parking - About 100 additional bike racks were installed this week on Twins Way near Ramp A and on the Target Field Promenade. There are also approximately 100 spaces along 2nd Avenue between 5th and 7th streets, and 40 spaces along 6th Street next to Target Center. Bicyclists are encouraged to park in designated areas. Bike parking is not allowed on Target Plaza, and bicycles are not permitted to be locked to parking meters or light poles on city streets. However, locking to sign poles is permitted. A new bike parking map with low traffic routes to Target Field can be found at DestinationTargetField.com.

Events this weekend

- The **Minnesota Twins** host the Saint Louis Cardinals for an exhibition game at Target Field at 5:10 p.m. Friday, April 2. Gates open at 3 p.m.
- The **Harlem Globetrotters** will play at Target Center at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 3. Magic Pass Ticket Holder doors open at 11 a.m. General public doors open at noon.
- The **Minnesota Twins** host the Saint Louis Cardinals for an exhibition game at Target Field at 1:10 p.m. Saturday, April 3. Gates open at 11 a.m.
- The **Minnesota Timberwolves** take on the Miami Heat at Target Center at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 3. VIP/season ticket holder doors open at 5 p.m. General public doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Getting where you're going

These early games and events provide fans a good opportunity to test their travel plans to Target Field and Target Center, as well as to get to know the neighborhood around the two venues. This urban setting provides a transportation opportunity to meet every fan's desired experience, whether they want to drive, ride a bus, take a train, or bike or walk.

When visiting Downtown, Target Field, or Target Center, there are four tips people should remember to minimize delays and maximize their enjoyment of all the activities happening Downtown.

1. **Plan ahead** – Visit DestinationTargetField.com or www.targetcenter.com to learn more about all your transportation choices.
2. **Let the past be your guide** – If you're used to going to games at the Metrodome, your old parking place will probably work just fine for games at the new ballpark. Target Field and Target Center are just 12 blocks from the Metrodome.
3. **Consider transit** – Target Field and Target Center are extremely transit-friendly facilities, and it's easy to get there by light rail, commuter train, or bus.
4. **Come early/Stay late** – Take part in pre and post-game activities, shopping, dining, and other entertainment. Enjoy the extra time to experience all Downtown has to offer, and avoid transportation delays. The Warehouse District looks forward to welcoming fans before and after Target Field and Target Center events.

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Downtown parking

If you plan to come early and stay late, the ABC and Hawthorne ramps adjacent to Target Field and Target Center are a great parking option, but they will take time to empty after the events. If you must leave right after the event, consider parking farther away and walking to your destination. Ramps A and B are directly connected to Target Plaza and provide access for fans with disabilities.

The ABC Ramps will be available for event parking this weekend, as construction finishes up on some improvements at the ramps. The Ramp B 5th Street Entrance/Exit will be open for this weekend's events. The new 2nd Avenue Entrance/Exit and the I-394 entrance in Ramp B are expected to be complete before the Twins season opener April 12.

Beginning Monday, April 5, parking meters in the Warehouse District will begin to be enforced seven days a week, and they will have a two-hour limit. This includes the area from Washington Avenue to 9th Street between 2nd Avenue North and Hennepin Avenue.

Taking transit

The Hiawatha light-rail line will be a key transit option for the events this weekend at Target Field and Target Center. Metro Transit will have staff members at Hiawatha's Target Field Station, Fort Snelling Station, 28th Avenue Station and Mall of America station to acquaint fans with light-rail service. Extra trains will be provided post game.

New Twins Express Route 679 will start operating between Minnetonka and Target Field on game days beginning April 2, and Northstar commuter rail service to Twins games will begin with the regular-season home opener on April 12.

Skyway connections

Fans coming from Ramps A and B, or from other points in the skyway, are encouraged to use the skyway to get to Target Plaza, to make the crossing while avoiding vehicle traffic. A new skyway connects Ramp A to Target Field at the Twins Way Lobby on level three. Also, Ramp A and Ramp B connect to the plaza at a few points along the skyway over 2nd Avenue.

Managing traffic

On game days, the City of Minneapolis is taking a number of steps designed to ease congestion and improve safety for drivers and pedestrians around the ballpark. The traffic volumes that come with an urban ballpark like Target Field will be substantial, so some congestion and delays at peak times is unavoidable. The City's plan is designed to minimize delays and enhance the experience of anyone who comes Downtown on game day.

New traffic signal timing patterns at more than 60 intersections are used to move higher volumes of cars, and dynamic messaging signs throughout Downtown provide real-time information to help drivers get around. Also, 20 traffic control agents and police reserve officers will direct traffic during games.

There will also be some parking restrictions and short-term street closures on game days. Beginning at 3 p.m. Friday, there will be no parking on 1st Avenue from Washington Avenue to 8th Street, or on 6th Street from 1st Avenue to Hennepin Avenue. Parking will also be restricted on 6th Street between 2nd and 1st Avenues north beginning at 5:30 p.m. Friday. Parking will not be allowed in these areas until 5 p.m. Saturday, following the conclusion of that afternoon's game.

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Some street closures are also planned:

- Because many pedestrians will be converging on 1st Avenue near the ballpark, City crews will monitor the traffic and pedestrian situation closely. The City intends to keep the street open before games, however, if traffic and pedestrian congestion begins to cause safety issues, 1st Avenue may be closed from 4th to 6th streets within the hour before game time. Cross streets would remain open.
- As the game ends, 1st Avenue will close from 4th to 6th streets, and 6th Street will close from 2nd Avenue North to 1st Avenue. The intersection of 6th Street and 1st Avenue will also be closed. The post-game closures will last 30 minutes to an hour. Closing those streets as waves of game-goers leave the ballpark will improve safety for pedestrians and avoid sending vehicles into areas where pedestrians may inhibit traffic movement during the busiest time just after the game.

As fans leave the area, Hawthorne Avenue (the southern end of 1st Avenue) will be expanded to three southbound lanes following games from 8th to 12th streets. This will create more street capacity to accept traffic exiting nearby parking ramps, and to facilitate traffic flow to Interstate 394 at 12th Street.

Making game days a great experience

Many City departments, the Minnesota Twins, Minnesota Ballpark Authority, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Hennepin County, Metro Transit, ABC Ramps, the Warehouse District Business Association, Target Center, and others are all taking steps to make game day a success. To help fans plan ahead and make the most of their Target Field experience, these partners have collaborated to create DestinationTargetField.com on the Minnesota Twins Web site. The site helps folks explore all their options for getting to the game, whether it's by car, on a bus or train, or by biking or walking.

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