



## News Release

Contacts: Matt Laible, City of Minneapolis: (612)673-2786

# Trains, trails, sidewalks, and streets all lead to opening day at Target Field

*When it comes to getting to the game—there are lots of options*

April 9, 2010 (Minneapolis) The Minnesota Twins home opener on Monday, April 12 brings even more transportation options for people coming Downtown to catch the game. During the two Twins exhibition games and Target Center events last weekend, crowds took advantage of all the ways to get to the Warehouse District. More than 6,000 people rode the Hiawatha Light-rail line for each of the games, hundreds of bicyclists parked in racks near the ballpark, and thousands of people used parking spaces in the nearby ABC and Hawthorne Ramps and across downtown.

### New for Monday's home opener

**Northstar commuter rail** – Metro Transit will begin its Northstar rail service to Twins games with the home opener, with a train leaving Big Lake Station at 1:21 p.m. Fans will arrive at Target Field at 2:10 p.m., an hour before game time. Northstar will use a five-car train, the longest that can be accommodated at the line's six stations. Return service will leave Target Field on schedule at 6:10 p.m. Northstar will serve 53 of the 81 regular-season home games this year.

**Buses supplementing light rail service** – Beginning with the home opener, the Hiawatha light-rail line will be supported by supplemental bus service for each weekday day game this season. Trains are expected to be full, because Twins fans will share trains with regular rush-hour commuters. Ten articulated buses will be staged near Target Field to take Twins fans back to their cars at Fort Snelling Station, 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue Station, and Mall of America station at the south end of the light-rail line.

**More bicycle parking** - There are about 400 bike parking spaces within 200 yards of entrances to Target Field and Target Center including approximately 85 spaces on Twins Way, 125 on the Promenade, 100 along 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave between 5<sup>th</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Street, and 50 on 6<sup>th</sup> Street next to Target Center. Additional temporary event bike racks can be found along Glenwood Avenue in Ramp A and along 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue in Ramp C. 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](http://DestinationTargetField.com).

**ABC Ramps improvements** - Construction work on improvements in Ramp B is expected to be completed, with the I-394 entrance/exit and the new 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue entrance/exit available for opening day. Fans can also use the Ramp B 5<sup>th</sup> Street entrance and exit.

## Getting where you're going

Target Field's 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](http://DestinationTargetField.com) or [www.targetcenter.com](http://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.

### Ramp 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 may 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 Ramps A and B also have entrances and exits directly to I-394 for convenient access to and from the west.

### Meter parking

Parking meters in the Warehouse District are now enforced seven days a week, and they have a two-hour limit, so those spaces are not intended for game parking. This includes the area from Washington Avenue to 9<sup>th</sup> Street between 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North and Hennepin Avenue.

### Taking transit

Northstar commuter rail begins service to Twins games on Monday with a southbound train leaving Big Lake Station at 1:21 p.m. Fans will arrive at Target Field Station at 2:10 p.m., an hour ahead of game time. Northstar will use a five-car train, the longest that can be accommodated at the line's six stations. Return service will leave Target Field Station on schedule at 6:10 p.m.

Northstar will serve 53 of the 81 regular-season home games, including all three games in the home opening series against the Red Sox. Using a combination of regular service trains and special event trains, Northstar will serve every weekend game this season and every weeknight game in June, July and August, the heart of the season. Northstar schedules for Twins games can be found at [metrotransit.org/twins](http://metrotransit.org/twins).

Northstar roundtrip family passes are available from ticket machines at Northstar's suburban stations. Prices for a family of five – two adults and three kids – range from \$8 roundtrip at Fridley Station to \$17 roundtrip at Big Lake Station.

For each weekday day game this season – including the three games of the Boston series – the Hiawatha light-rail line will be supported by supplemental bus service. Trains are expected to be full as Twin fans share trains with regular rush-hour commuters. Ten articulated buses will be staged near Target Field to take Twins fans back to their cars at Fort Snelling Station, 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue Station and Mall of America Station at the south end of the light-rail line. Light-rail customers should exit Target Field on the promenade along the third base side of the stadium. Metro Transit staff members will help fans board Hiawatha trains and will escort customers to the supplemental buses.

The new Twins Express bus service has also proved popular among fans in the west metro with about 600 riders for each of the exhibition games. Route 679 leaves the park-and-ride ramp at County Road 73 and I-394 beginning two hours before each game with return service for one hour after the last out.

### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

During the first events at Target Field, Minneapolis Public Works and other partners carefully monitored traffic patterns and flow. As a result of those observations, the City continues to make adjustments to its traffic plan. This includes making some changes to the placement of traffic control agents this to help move cars and pedestrians as efficiently as possible.

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 1 p.m. Monday, there will be no parking on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue from Washington Avenue to 8<sup>th</sup> Street, or on 6<sup>th</sup> Street from 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue to Hennepin Avenue. Parking will not be allowed in these areas until 7 p.m., following the conclusion of the game.

One street closure is also planned. As the game ends, 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue will close from 4<sup>th</sup> Street to mid-block between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> streets. This post-game closures will last 30 minutes to an hour. Closing the street 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. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, which was closed for a short time following the first exhibition game, will remain open after games.

## **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](http://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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