



News Release

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Plan ahead for double events at Target Center and Target Field

Twins games and concerts will add to Downtown traffic June 29 and July 1

June 25, 2010 (Minneapolis) The evenings of Tuesday, June 29 and Thursday, July 1 will be busy in downtown Minneapolis, as concurrent events take place at Target Center and Target Field. Nearly 55,000 people will fill those venues for Twins games and concerts, so it's important that folks plan ahead and explore their transportation options.

Events on June 29:

- **Justin Bieber concert at Target Center** – 7 p.m. – Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Many younger concert-goers may be dropped off and picked up before and after the concert resulting in increased pedestrian activity in the downtown area. Valet parking will be available for concert-goers. Valet Zone is located in front of Target Center's main entrance on 1st Avenue. There will be no parking on 1st Avenue between Washington Avenue and 8th Street from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. that evening to help keep traffic moving.
- **Twins game vs. the Detroit Tigers at Target Field** – 7:10 p.m. – Gates open at 5:30 p.m.

Events on July 1:

- **Styx, Foreigner, and Kansas concert at Target Center** – 7 p.m. – Doors open at 6 p.m. Valet parking will be available for concert-goers. Valet Zone is located in front of Target Center's main entrance on 1st Avenue.
- **Twins game vs. the Tampa Bay Rays at Target Field** – 7:10 p.m. – Gates open at 5:30 p.m.

The City of Minneapolis, Target Center, the Minnesota Twins, and other partners are working together to mitigate traffic congestion as much as possible and to spread the word to folks who are coming Downtown the evenings of June 29 and July 1 so they can plan ahead.

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Getting where you're going

Target Field and Target Center's urban setting provides a transportation opportunity to meet everyone's desired experience, whether you 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 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- and bicycle-friendly facilities, and it's easy to get there by light rail, commuter train, bus, or bicycle. Bicyclists are reminded to use headlights and taillights after dark.
4. **Come early/Stay late** – Take part in activities, shopping, dining, and other entertainment before and after games and concerts. 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

The ABC and Hawthorne Ramps adjacent to Target Field and Target Center are great parking options, and have been emptying quickly after events, thanks to some new improvements at the ramps. The ramps fill quickly on weekday day games. There are also many other parking lots and ramps throughout Downtown within a short walk. It can also be a good idea to park farther away and walk to your destination.

Taking transit

Northstar commuter rail will serve every weekend Twins 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. 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 ages 6 through 17 – range from \$8 roundtrip at Fridley Station to \$17 roundtrip at Big Lake Station. Trains for the June 29 and July 1 games will depart Target Field 30 minutes after the last out of the game.

Hiawatha light-rail continues to be a popular option for game and event-goers. For the June 30 weekday day game, Hiawatha trains will be supported post-game by supplemental bus service.

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Trains will be full after the game as Twins fans shared the service with regular rush-hour commuters. Six articulated buses will be used to accommodate additional passengers.

The new Twins Express bus service has also been a success among fans in the west metro, averaging 680 riders per game. 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.

Easing congestion

The City of Minneapolis will take a number of steps to reduce congestion as much as possible during these dual events. The volume of cars Downtown on these two evenings means some congestion is very likely at peak times, but there are several ways the City works to minimize congestion, including:

- Traffic control agents are at many Downtown intersections during peak times before and after the events. Traffic control agents at intersections are key to maintaining traffic flow and improving pedestrian safety when traffic volumes are high.
- Special traffic signal timing patterns are used to move high numbers of vehicles during events.
- Dynamic messaging signs throughout Downtown provide drivers with real-time information as they move around the area. There are currently more than 50 of these signs Downtown, which are used to direct people to parking, to notify drivers when key parking ramps fill, and to help drivers find their way around.

Making game days a great experience

Many City departments, the Minnesota Twins, Minnesota Ballpark Authority, Target Center, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Hennepin County, Metro Transit, ABC Ramps, the Warehouse District Business Association, and others are all taking steps to make event days in Downtown 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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