

Saint Paul Police Department Releases First Phase of Traffic Management Plan for City During RNC

SAINT PAUL, Minn. (June 18, 2008) – The Saint Paul Police Department today released the first phase of the traffic management plan for the Republican National Convention (RNC). The plan ensures that nearly all major access roads – including Interstates 94 and 35E, Wabasha and Robert streets, and Shepard Road – will remain open. This reflects the City of Saint Paul’s goals to limit the traffic impact in the downtown area and keep the city open for business during the RNC.

As part of the plan, the city is also undertaking a comprehensive outreach effort to contact every business in the area immediately surrounding the Xcel Energy Center to help answer questions and address concerns. City officials will also meet with every district council across the city, as well as a number of other civic groups and associations over the next few weeks. And, community meetings will be held in Room 40 of St. Paul City Hall on Monday, August 11, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Wednesday, August 13, from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. to provide more information to the public. The goal is to continue to share information about the city’s plans for the convention and to help address concerns.

“This plan is one more example of our commitment to balance the needs of the convention and our community,” said Matt Bostrom, assistant Saint Paul police chief, the lead public safety organization for the convention. “While we are still working on some details, we want to provide as much information as possible to the public. We want people who live, work, and do business in Saint Paul to know that a fairly limited area will be affected, and that Saint Paul will be open for business.”

Bostrom said that planning is still underway on additional phases of the plan, which will include the area immediately surrounding the convention center, efforts to help address parking and transit issues, and other ways to support the people who live and work downtown.

“A great deal of time and effort is being focused on creating a world-class security plan for the convention,” Bostrom said. “But we also want the public to know that access to hospitals, churches and nonprofits in that area will still be available, as well as access to downtown for employees who work in the area.”

Next Steps

The Saint Paul Police Department will announce details of additional phases for the plan when they are available. The Saint Paul Police Department will continue to contact individual businesses and residents’ associations in the affected convention area to discuss plans to help employees and residents get in and out of that area during the convention. The department will also work with the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA), the Saint Paul Area

Chamber of Commerce, and Capitol River Council on how to ensure good communications with downtown employees and residents.

“We will be discussing issues ranging from parking alternatives to delivery access, so that we make sure we keep the city open for business,” Bostrom said.

The Saint Paul Police Department will also be visiting with district councils around the city to talk about RNC-related plans and how public safety needs across town will continue to be met. Approximately 500 Saint Paul police officers will be on duty throughout the convention, in addition to 3,000 officers assisting from other jurisdictions around the state.