

For Immediate Release
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Office of Mayor Chris
Coleman

Contact: James Lockwood
651-266-8571
James.Lockwood@ci.stpaoul.mn.us

**Mayor Coleman, Community Partners Announce Launch
of Year-Round, After-School Circulator on East Side**

Free bus circulator connects Saint Paul students to community programs

SAINT PAUL, MN -- Standing with community partners and city staff, Mayor Chris Coleman announced today the launch of year-round service for the East Side Circulator in Saint Paul's Payne-Phalen and Dayton's Bluff neighborhoods, an expansion of a service that has proved successful during school vacation days during the summer.

A key component of the city's Second Shift Initiative, the Circulator provides free bus transportation on the East Side to after-school and no-school day programming at recreation and community centers.



"It is not enough that we create engaging, quality programs for students after-school and when school is not in session," Mayor Coleman said. "This free circulator is essential in giving the city's students access to these programs - meeting with friends, learning new skills, and having fun in safe environments. With 80 percent of students' time spent out of the classroom, providing access to these programs is how we can extend the learning day and close the education achievement gap."

Mayor Coleman made the announcement at the Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center, joined by state Sen. Mee Moua, Sally Narr of the Arlington Hills Presbyterian Church, Kurt New of the Saint Paul YMCA, Kathy Korum of the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Department, parents and students.

Previously, the East Side Circulator served students for 10 weeks in the summer. In 2007, the first year the circulator operated, more than 2,100 rides were given by the free service. This past summer, that number increased nearly 100 percent to more than 4,200 rides.

Stops on the East Side for the 2008-2009 academic year include:

On the Dayton's Bluff route: Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center, Margaret Recreation Center, American Indian Magnet/World Cultures school, Harding High School, East Side YMCA, Community Design Center/Residential stop, Dayton's Bluff Library and Young Artists Initiative, Portage for Youth at Mounds Theater, and residential stop by Mounds Park.

On the Payne-Phalen route: Arlington Hills Presbyterian Church, Ames Lake Housing Community, East Side YMCA, Hmong American Partnership, Wilder Recreation Center, Arlington Hills Library and Arlington Recreation Center, Duluth and Case Recreation Center, Roosevelt Homes and East Side Boys and Girls Club.

For more information on free bus passes, registration, pick-up/drop-off times, and locations, contact the Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center at (651) 793-3885.