



City of Burnsville

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HEART OF THE CITY PARK AND RIDE DEDICATED ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Cooperative project provides new opportunities for Heart of the City and commuters alike

The goal of creating a pedestrian friendly and transit oriented area in Burnsville takes another important step forward with the dedication of the 370 vehicle capacity Heart of the City Park and Ride on Friday, September 10. The public is invited to learn more about the project by attending a dedication ceremony at 9:00 a.m. on the plaza of Grande Market Place, located at the intersection of Burnsville Parkway and Nicollet Avenue.

The \$5.6 million project, with major funding provided through a \$3.5 million federal grant, was developed and will be operated cooperatively between the City of Burnsville and the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority. The ramp will open exactly 11 months from the groundbreaking for the project.

“Only through our close working relationship with the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority could this partnership have ever been forged,” commented Burnsville Mayor Elizabeth Kautz. “Working together provides better service at a lower cost to taxpayers, and the location and capacity of this ramp will provide much needed parking for Heart of the City events and attractions,” she added.

The Heart of the City Park and Ride is located at the intersection of Pillsbury Avenue and 126th Street, directly behind the newly developed Grande Market Place and the Wells Fargo Bank Building and across the street from Nicollet Commons Park. The location will allow for the primary use of the park and ride to serve MVTA express route downtown service on weekdays while allowing capacity for visitors to the Heart of the City during evening and weekend hours.

“Strategic partnerships with area cities and businesses serves our transit and community needs well,” commented MVTA Board Chair and Eagan City Council member Meg Tilley. “We know through experience that this facility will provide a high level of service to our commuters and the community as a whole,” added Tilley.

The MVTA, with a budget of \$12.5 million, is the third largest transit system in the State of Minnesota. The MVTA’s flagship location, the Burnsville Transit Station, located at Highway 13 and Nicollet Ave. has capacity for some 1,300 vehicles. The MVTA also operates park & ride facilities in Apple Valley, Eagan and Savage – with nearly 3,500 spaces. The MVTA provides some 7,000 rides each day – and is expecting to have total some 2 million rides this year.

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Heart of the City Park and Ride

With the dedication of the park and ride, total grant funding to support Heart of the City initiatives now exceeds \$7.6 million. In addition to the \$3.5 for ramp construction, a total of \$4.1 million in Metropolitan Council Livable Communities Demonstration Grants helped support the construction of Nicollet Commons Park and new streets and other infrastructure along the east side of Nicollet Avenue. Area businesses and Burnsville residents have supported Heart of the City development through sponsoring holiday lights and banners, purchasing bricks in Nicollet Commons Park, and volunteering for special events. In addition, the Burnsville Foundation has facilitated the donation of major public art projects through the Ames Sculpture on Burnsville Parkway and “Centrifuge” located in Nicollet Commons Park.

Along with creating a pedestrian friendly “downtown” for Burnsville, the Heart of the City is focused on bringing arts and cultural opportunities to the area and building tax base to benefit the entire community. At full development, the Heart of the City area will generate approximately \$3-\$4 million in property taxes annually compared to the \$200,000 it generated prior to redevelopment in 2001.

Visit www.burnsvilleheartofthecity.com on the internet for more information on the Heart of the City area of Burnsville. For more information on the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority visit www.mvta.com or call 952-882-7500.

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