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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shakopee/Maple Grove Transit Service Launches Jan. 19 **30-Minute Frequency During Morning, Afternoon Peak Periods**

A “first of its kind” collaborative effort begins transit service on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2016 serving Eden Prairie, Hopkins, Maple Grove, Plymouth and Shakopee. Funded directly by the Minnesota Legislature, the Suburban Transit Association (STA) will provide suburb-to-suburb service on Route 494, with a one-seat ride between Shakopee’s Marschall Road Transit Station and Station 73 in Plymouth (via SouthWest Station or the Golden Triangle in Eden Prairie) with connecting service to/from Maple Grove Transit Station.

“Jobs and economic development are very important to me,” said Rep. Tony Albright (R-55B of Prior Lake). “This suburb-to-suburb demonstration project has the potential to serve thousands of employees in the southwest Twin Cities metro area. I am proud to have authored the bill in the House and am excited to follow the results beginning in January.”

Designed to demonstrate express bus service between suburbs can be successful in the Twin Cities, Route 494 is aimed at increasing access to major employment and commercial centers throughout the Twin Cities western suburbs.

The service plan includes 20 trips operating about every 30 minutes, in both northbound and southbound directions during the morning and afternoon peak periods. Buses will be operated by the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA), SouthWest Transit and Plymouth MetroLink.

A local peak fare (\$2.25 per trip) will be charged on this demonstration route. Transfers to local or other routes may include an additional fee. All buses will be equipped with regional fare equipment and will accept Go-To cards, Metropasses, tokens, Stored Value cards and cash. Change is not available.

“I have been a long-time supporter of our suburban transit providers,” said Sen. Jim Carlson (District 51: Eagan & Burnsville). “Providing a ride from Shakopee to Maple Grove increases opportunities for commuters from Dakota County and the south metro, and is an excellent way for us to grow transit while serving the unmet needs of employees and employers along the route.”

Pocket schedules will be available in mid-December and a website (www.S2S494.com) will be launched by Jan. 1.

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