



For immediate release

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The Biggest Celebration of Bicycling and Walking on BOTH Sides of the Mississippi

Minneapolis, Saint Paul, and Anoka County Kick Off First Annual Twin Cities Bike Walk Week

April 16, 2008 (MINNEAPOLIS). Over the past few years, Bike/Walk to Work Day successfully helped people in Minneapolis and St. Paul leave their cars and trucks at home and try pedaling or walking to their jobs. Building on that success, the Twin Cities region will celebrate the first-ever Twin Cities Bike/Walk Week from May 12 to 18, 2008.

Whether it's biking to work, taking a leisurely weekend ride, or walking to the grocery store, residents are making the Twin Cities region one of the top places in the country for bicycling and walking. Check out some of the ways residents, businesses, and government agencies are thanking people for bicycling and walking:

- **The Great Commuter Challenge.** At 7:45 a.m. on Monday, May 12th, prepare to root for your favorite mode of transportation as bicyclist, transit rider/pedestrian, and car driver vie to reach the finish line first. The race begins at the Merriam Park Community Center in St. Paul and ends up at the Central Library in Downtown Minneapolis. The contestants in the Great Commuter challenge are Minneapolis Mayor RT Rybak on his bike, Ramsey County Commissioner Toni Carter on transit and on foot, and the Star Tribune's RoadGuy Jim Foti in his car.
- **Bike Walk to Work Day.** Bike Walk to Work Day will take place on Wednesday, May 14 and will feature celebrations in the downtowns of Minneapolis (Hennepin Government Center Plaza), Saint Paul (Rice Park—featuring Rich Weiber's Bike Stunt Show!), and in the Anoka Government Center Atrium, thanking people who reach their jobs on foot or by bike. Commuters will have the opportunity to join walking and bicycling convoys departing from their neighborhoods and enjoy free continental breakfasts across the metro. Workplaces can compete to have the highest percentages of participating employees, and will be rewarded with fabulous trophies. Bikers and walkers can join up online at www.bikewalkweek.org to be eligible to win prizes, including

bicycles, gear, and gift certificates. The Minneapolis and St. Paul gatherings will take place between 6:30 and 9:00 a.m., while the Anoka County celebration will occur between 7:00 and 9:00 a.m.

- **Educational Clinics.** During Bike Walk Week, Twin Cities communities will encourage people to use biking and walking to get to places in addition to their jobs. Early in the week, educational clinics run by community volunteers in Minneapolis, St. Paul, St. Louis Park, and Bloomington will offer tips on getting the right gear, materials and maps; route planning; multi-modal transportation; and many other topics involving biking and walking. For suburban commuters, REI will host an open house in its three metro locations (Bloomington, Roseville, and Maple Grove) to provide tips on making suburban bike commuting a reality.

Other events are being added regularly for Bike Walk Week. To find out the latest, go to the Bike Walk Week website at www.bikewalkweek.org.

Bike Walk to Work Day is a public, private, and non-profit partnership. Presenting sponsors include Ameriprise, Anoka County TMO, City of Minneapolis, City of St. Paul, Dero Bike Racks, Downtown Minneapolis TMO, 494 Commuter Services, Hennepin County, Hoigaard's, Hour Car, Metro Transit, Minnesota Department of Transportation, Penn Cycle, REI, Rich Weiber's Bicycle Stunt Show, St. Paul Smart Trips (Formerly St. Paul + Midway TMOs), Transit for Livable Communities, and Whole Foods.

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Transit for Livable Communities is a regional, nonpartisan organization working to reform Minnesota's transportation system. Through advocacy, organizing, education, and research, it promotes a balanced transportation system that encourages transit, walking, bicycling, and thoughtful development. www.tlcmnnesota.org

The ***Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program*** (known locally as **Bike/Walk Twin Cities**) was established in 2005 as part of the six-year federal transportation bill known as SAFETEA-LU. The law provides \$21.5 million to four pilot communities nationwide (Columbia, MO; Marin County, CA; Minneapolis, MN; Sheboygan County, WI) to evaluate how investments in planning, infrastructure, and public education can increase rates of bicycling and walking and reduce driving. Transit for Livable Communities was designated by federal law to administer the Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program for Minneapolis and its 14 adjoining communities.