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Metro Announces August 26th Grand Opening Date for Cross County MetroLink Extension

Today, Metro officials announced that regular passenger service on the new Cross County MetroLink Extension begins on Monday, August 28, 2006. Prior to opening day, Metro will celebrate the grand opening with a Welcome Aboard Weekend on Saturday, August 26 and Sunday, August 27 2006. Citizens are invited to enjoy special ceremonies, a community festival, and two days of free rides on the new extension.

The grand opening celebration will kick off at the Forest Park-DeBaliviere Station at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday with a progressive ribbon cutting. A MetroLink light rail vehicle will cut through a ribbon at each station to officially open the station. A train with elected officials, community leaders, members of Metro's Board of Commissioners and other Metro officials will arrive at each station for a brief five-minute ribbon cutting ceremony. The public is invited to attend any of the ceremonies (see attached schedule for exact times).

Citizens attending the grand opening ceremonies will have free access on MetroLink from the Forest Park-DeBaliviere to Shrewsbury Stations. Passengers will be required to pay the regular fare between Airport Main and Shiloh-Scott Stations. Metro staff will be on the Forest Park-DeBaliviere Station platform selling tickets for passengers who wish to continue beyond the Cross County Extension.

"The opening of Cross County connects seven municipalities from the Forest Park-DeBaliviere Station to Shrewsbury, and will provide more access to jobs, schools, medical facilities, shopping and entertainment destinations throughout the region," said Larry Salci, president and CEO of Metro.

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Construction of the Cross County MetroLink Extension began in the spring of 2003 and was funded 100% locally from the Proposition M sales tax passed in both St. Louis City and St. Louis County in August of 1994. The Cross County Extension will add 8 miles to the existing rail system, which currently spans 38 miles from Shiloh, Illinois (at Scott Air Force Base) to Lambert-St. Louis International Airport.

For MetroLink and MetroBus schedules and route maps, call Metro's Transit Information in Missouri at (314) 231-2345 or TTY (314) 982-1555, or from Illinois call (618) 271-2345 or TTY (618) 875-1200, Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Customers can also visit Metro's web site at www.metrostlouis.org

Cross County MetroLink Extension Grand Opening

Schedule of Events

All Missouri MetroBus routes are changing. New MetroLink and MetroBus schedules and route maps will be available beginning August 7th at the MetroRide Center located at 7th and Washington. The center is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. For added customer convenience look for the New Metro Information Bus at the following locations from 5:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on the dates shown below:

August 7 – Central West End Station
August 8 – North Hanley Station
August 9 – St. Charles Rock Road Station
August 9 – Ballas MetroBus Center
August 10 – South County Mall Bus Stop
August 10 – Wellston Station
August 14 – Delmar Station
August 16 – Grand Station (on Scott Drive)
August 17 – Jennings & Halls Ferry Bus Stop
August 22 – Civic Center Station
August 23 – Convention Center Station (on 6th Street)
August 24 – Clayton Station

Welcome Aboard Weekend - Saturday, August 26

Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – Begins at **11:00 a.m.** from the Forest Park-DeBaliviere Station

Here is the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Schedule by Station:

11:00 a.m. – Ceremony kicks off at Forest Park-DeBaliviere

11:12 a.m. – Train departs

11:14 a.m. – Train arrives at Skinker; Ceremony begins

11:20 a.m. – Train departs

11:22 a.m. – Train arrives at Big Bend; Ceremony begins

11:28 a.m. – Train departs

11:31 a.m. – Train arrives at Forysth; Ceremony begins

11:39 a.m. – Train departs

11:40 a.m. – Train arrives at Clayton; Ceremony begins

11:52 a.m. – Train departs

11:56 a.m. – Train arrives at Richmond Heights; Ceremony begins

12:02 p.m. – Train departs

12:04 p.m. – Train arrives at Brentwood I-64; Ceremony begins

12:10 p.m. – Train departs

12:12 p.m. – Train arrives at Maplewood-Manchester; Ceremony begins

12:18 p.m. – Train departs

12:20 p.m. – Train arrives at Sunnen; Ceremony begins

12:26 p.m. – Train departs

12:30 p.m. – Train arrives at Shrewsbury

Grand Opening Ceremony – Begins at **1:00 p.m.** at the Shrewsbury Lansdowne I-44 MetroLink Station

LinkFest – A community celebration will be held from **2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** across from the Shrewsbury Lansdowne Station.

Customers are welcome to ride the Cross County Extension free on Saturday, August 26 from

12:15 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and on Sunday, August 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Regular revenue service to Shrewsbury begins Monday, August 28.