



NEWSLETTER

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MetroTransit launched the Northstar Commuter Rail with an inaugural celebration on Nov. 13, 2009. Dignitaries were transported by bus to the Big Lake Station and then boarded the commuter line bound for Target Field in Minneapolis. Even though the weather was less than ideal, the atmosphere inside the big event tent on the Target Field promenade was charged with excitement. Speeches were made by many of the stakeholders. Words of wisdom and wit were also shared by Senator Amy Klobuchar and Congressman Oberstar, chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. As a stakeholder, Minnesota Operation Lifesaver, Inc. was present for this event and for all of the Grand Opening events. Volunteers were at each of the stations along the route for the Grand Opening Nov. 14th, to distribute OL information. All of this was made possible by a grant received last year from the FRA for collaborative work in local communities. Congressman Oberstar's words to me about OL were **“Operation Lifesaver does good work!”**

We will continue to work with MetroTransit as it proceeds to expand the Northstar Commuter Rail route to St. Cloud, and for the work along the Central Corridor.(Additional pictures are on a separate page.)

The **Central Corridor** continues its construction work in St. Paul. To follow the progress of this project please visit <http://www.metrocouncil.org/transportation/ccorridor/centralcorridor.htm>

Additional news: The **Harvest Blitz** grant work has been completed and MNOL, Inc. has received additional funding to carry our media campaign into 2010. The new grant also provides outreach opportunities to work with the Minnesota League of Cities and the Minnesota Farm Bureau. If any of you have an interest or connection working with either of these organizations, please let me know. One event is already scheduled with the Minnesota Farm Bureau at their safety conference at the end of January.

Our affiliation with the **“Hands On”** volunteer recruitment/training organization in the Twin Cities has given us an opportunity to staff a MNOL, Inc. volunteer presenter recruitment booth at the Mall of America on Feb. 20, 2010.

“The Newest Star in Minnesota”

Happy Holidays

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Northstar commuter train Grand Opening

November 13 & 14, 2009

Big Lake & Elk River, MN



Photos by
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