



- I understand I am with the best of the best today. By your commitment to safety and customer service, you represent the elite and are models for 1,600 fellow bus drivers .
- Metropolitan Council Chair Ted Mondale talks frequently about Metro Transit's accomplishments. You are key to this success. Nearly 800 buses on the street during each rush hour, serving a quarter-million customers
- Your hard work and skill provides increased mobility in the region. You are literally in the driver's seat for increased productivity for commuters and all riders, as they head to their work place and other destinations.
- Count me as a transit supporter. In the 2000 legislative session, we sealed the deal for light rail with the final installment of state funding. The federal government contributed its share and ground was broken for the Hiawatha line in January.
- This session I have recommended that Metro Transit and the other providers receive \$30 million in additional funding so you can keep pace with higher fuel prices, increased operating costs and the growing demand for more service.
- I congratulate those who will receive awards today for safe driving and for first-rate customer service. And I salute the contribution that Metro Transit makes each day to the success of the region and the state.