

- Thank you. I am glad to be at these awards again this year.
- I understand I am with the best of the best today. By your commitment to safety and customer service, you represent the elite and model for 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 2002 legislative session, transportation and transit are caught in a tug of war and resulting service cuts being planned are the victim of political posturing. But it's not over till it's over and I plan to hold the collective legislative feet to the fire to address the congestion and transportation issues that the public wants solved
- 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.