

## Getting to the game and more on the Green Line

<http://www.metrotransit.org/getting-to-the-game-and-more-on-the-green-line>

When the cost of gas skyrocketed in 2008, Wally Widlund and his wife decided to make a change.

The couple sold their car and relocated from south Minneapolis to Prospect Park, nearer to work



at the University of Minnesota. The decision to go car free has meant more walking and almost daily bus rides to fetch groceries, stop at the library or go the gym.

Beginning June 14, they'll have an additional option – the [METRO Green Line](#). The Green Line's [Stadium Village Station](#) is just a few blocks north of their home and will provide convenient and reliable transportation to both downtowns and the University Avenue corridor. "I'm really looking forward to being able to easily go to St. Paul and accessing all that's along University Avenue," Widlund said recently, riding to the Minneapolis Whole Foods on [Route 6](#). "It will make it a lot easier for us, and I just like the vibrancy it will bring to the neighborhood."

Widlund's enthusiasm is shared by business owners, residents and commuters who will use Stadium Village Station.

Located at University Avenue and 23rd Avenue SE, the station will provide immediate access to [TCF Bank Stadium](#), which the Golden Gophers football team will share with the Minnesota Vikings while a new [stadium](#) is constructed in Minneapolis. Several other U of M athletic facilities, including [Williams Arena](#) and [Mariucci Arena](#), the [McNamara Alumni Center](#) and the [Biomedical Discovery District](#) are also nearby.

“We are excited about the Green Line opening,” said Jacqueline Brudlos, communications manager for the U of M’s Parking and Transportation Services. “Its impact on gamedays as well as the average school day should offer...relief to drivers in the immediate vicinity of campus.”

Brudlos, communications manager for the U of M’s Parking and Transportation Services. “Its impact on gamedays as well as the average school day should offer some potential relief to drivers in the immediate vicinity of campus.”

Just south of Stadium Village Station is the bustling [Stadium Village](#) commercial district, which got its name after businesses located near the U of M’s former Memorial Stadium.

Christopher Ferguson is active in the business community and owns two Stadium Village businesses, a Dairy Queen and Bywater Business Solutions. Ferguson said he and other business owners are largely optimistic about what the Green Line will mean for the area.



The hope is that the Green Line’s convenience will bring community members to Stadium Village throughout the year, and that some train passengers will be compelled to stop while traveling along the corridor.

Stadium Village businesses are partnering on events like the April 24 Taste of Stadium Village and looking to activate public open spaces to make Stadium Village a fun place to visit.

“The next phase of work is to get people to use the train and take advantage of the opportunities it creates -- to get them to explore parts of the community they haven’t before just because they weren’t as easy to get to,” Ferguson said.

Laura Beeth, the system director of talent acquisition for [Fairview Health Services](#), also sees promise in the Green Line. Fairview has several locations along the light-rail corridor, including outpatient and children’s clinics on University Avenue just east of Stadium Village Station.

Beeth said the new light-rail connection will not only benefit patients and employees but the thousands of students who go through clinical rotations at Fairview sites every year.

Fairview is actively working to attract students who live in the Green Line corridor and works with several schools that are connected by transit service, including the U of M, St. Catherine University, Augsburg College, Saint Paul College and Minneapolis Community & Technical College.

“Not all of these students have cars and this will be a very convenient, affordable, stress-free way to get here,” Beeth said.

The convenience of light-rail is also seen as a major boost for those attending a wedding reception or other event at [Profile Event Center](#), located on University Avenue about halfway between the Green Line’s Stadium Village and Prospect Park stations.

Having an easy way to travel to and from the venue is important for out-of-town guests who don’t want to rent a car and will also make for a fuller, more enjoyable visit, owner Patrick Kellis said.

“A lot of people have relatives or friends coming in from out of town,” Kellis said. “Now they can stay in a hotel downtown and take light-rail right to our facility, as well as the Mall of America, the airport, lots of places. It will be more of a fun weekend experience.”

Duane Rohrbaugh, the general manager at [The Commons Hotel](#), said the prospect of a car-free, hassle-free stay drawing guests to the hotel, a block south of Stadium Village Station.

“In the last three weeks, we’ve booked three groups for the [MLB All Star Game](#) and it’s all because of the Green Line,” he said. “They’ll get into town, get on light rail and be able to get right here.”

The Green and Blue light-rail lines will share stations in downtown Minneapolis, including [Target Field Station](#), where the All-Star Game will be held on July 15.

While particularly beneficial during events and gamedays, Rohrbaugh said the light-rail connection will be a year-round asset for guests at the hotel, which opened in late 2012.

“This (the Green Line) is just going to be a major artery for people to get into Stadium Village from either downtown and any place in the Twin Cities really,” he said.

### **Stadium Village Station At a Glance**



**Connecting bus routes:** [Route 6U](#), with local service in Edina, Uptown, downtown Minneapolis and the U of M, will be extended further east to 27th Avenue SE to connect with Stadium Village Station and provide local service to Prospect Park. [Route 16](#) will continue to provide local service on the University Avenue corridor but will not continue to downtown Minneapolis; westbound commuters can instead transfer to the Green Line at Stadium Village Station. Several express or limited-stop routes with service to the U of M will also connect with the station, including [Route 111](#), [Route 113](#), [Route 114](#), [Route 115](#), [Route 118](#), [Route 252](#), [Route 272](#), [Route 465](#), [Route 652](#), and [Route 579](#). The U of M’s [Campus Connector](#) (Route 121) and [East Bank Circulator](#) (Route 123) also connect to Stadium Village Station.

**Public art:** Artist [Roberto Delgado](#) created a collage of historic and current photos from around campus and the Twin Cities, transferring the images to tiles using a silk screen process. The collage includes several photos from the U of M archives and commencement. “I like to superimpose photos so it becomes like a puzzle and you have to get up close to see what’s going on,” he said. Delgado created similar artwork for the Snelling Avenue and Central stations. [Learn more.](#)

**Area landmarks:** TCF Bank Stadium, Williams Arena, Mariucci Arena, McNamara Alumni Center, University Recreation and Wellness Center, Biomedical Discovery District, Stadium Village, Prospect Park

**Bike-ped connections:** The Dinkytown Greenway, an off-road trail through Dinkytown, runs between the Mississippi River and just north of TCF Bank Stadium. The trail connects with the

U of M Transitway, which connects to the U of M's St. Paul campus and is open only to bicyclists, transit and emergency vehicles. The [Washington Avenue Transit/Pedestrian Mall](#) runs between Walnut and Pleasant streets. Bicyclists and pedestrians can cross the Mississippi River on the Washington Avenue Bridge. There is also a trail along East River Parkway, on the west bank of the nearby Mississippi River. The [U of M Bike Center](#) is located at 401 SE Oak St, on the west side of the Oak Street Parking Ramp. For more information on biking on campus visit the U of M's [biking website](#).

**Neighborhood groups:** [Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood Association](#), [Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association](#), [Prospect Park 2020](#), [Stadium Village Commercial Association](#)

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