



For immediate release  
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## **City Expands Efforts to Support Lowertown Vitality**

*Expanded parking validation program allows patrons to park free at Lowertown Parking Ramp on weeknights and weekends*

SAINT PAUL – Starting today, the weekend validated parking program at Lowertown Parking Ramp will be expanded to every night of the week. Customers can now enjoy validated parking from participating retailers during the following periods:

- Evenings: from 4:00 p.m. through 5:00 a.m. the next day
- Weekends: Friday from 4:00 p.m. through Monday at 5:00 a.m.

Conveniently located in the heart of the Lowertown Entertainment District, the Lowertown Parking Ramp is located at 316 Jackson Street in Saint Paul and has skyway access to many downtown businesses (skyway hours vary). The validation entrance for the ramp is on Sibley Street and the exit is on Jackson Street. Both streets will remain open during construction.

“This is the next step in our commitment to keep businesses strong as we construct the Central Corridor. Lowertown is going through some big changes, and we will continue to do everything we can to make sure that this neighborhood continues to be easily accessible for visitors and residents,” Mayor Coleman said.

“We recognize the challenge of maneuvering in and out of the construction area and want to ensure businesses continue to thrive despite these disruptions. The City of Saint Paul is pleased to provide a parking solution for patrons of our fantastic Lowertown retailers, bars and restaurants while utility work and pre-Central Corridor construction takes place,” said Second Ward Council Member Dave Thune.

“The validated parking program gives our patrons a better option to park and visit our business and other retailers in Lowertown during construction. We appreciate the City, the Chamber and other local business partners working with us to address construction concerns and develop programs to ease some of the growing pains of construction” said Sean Fetterman, co-owner of Rumours & Innuendo Nightclub.

This announcement of this initiative comes just days after Mayors Coleman and Rybak, along with Met Council Chairman Peter Bell, unveiled the Business Resources Collaborative, the

Ready for Rail action plan and a \$1.5 million loan fund to aid businesses affected by construction of the light rail.

In order to address concerns about the effect construction on the Central Corridor may have on businesses, the Parking Solutions Team of the Central Corridor Project Office and the City of St. Paul released a report on how to mitigate the loss of parking in 2009.

Last August, the report led the City Council to approve a \$1 million dollar parking program sponsored by Council members Russ Stark and Melvin Carter providing incentives to businesses and property owners. Recipients would be able to apply for forgivable loans or grants to improve their lots through repaving or upgrading lighting.

These initiatives are part of an ongoing regional effort by Saint Paul, Minneapolis and the Met Council to ensure all businesses have the tools they need to prepare for construction.

Visit <http://www.stpaul.gov/ped> more information and retailer participation.

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