The Northstar commuter-rail line has arrived. After a month of practice runs and a few days of hoopla, regular passenger service from rural Sherburne County to downtown Minneapolis — which took more than a decade and $317 million to create — is being launched this morning. Here’s a look at Minnesota’s first modern commuter-rail operation.

**ONBOARD AMENITIES**

Passenger cars will have restrooms, upholstered seating, and bicycle and luggage storage and will be fully ADA-compliant.

**AIR CONDITIONED UNIT**

Ticket machines will sell single rides, with Go-To Card reader available for frequent riders. Metrolink P.O. Boxes and Go-To College P.O. Boxes can be used with the reader.

**SCHEDULE**

 Five weekday round trips to and from Minneapolis, and one evening outbound train. In the afternoon and evening, there will be five round-trip trains and one intermodal train. Round trip times are scheduled for each Saturday and Sunday. There will be special events for some events.

**TRAIN CAPACITY**

Trains typically will consist of a locomotive and four passenger cars. Each car has 140 seats, but holds a maximum of 140 riders. Passengers standing in aisles wide enough to accommodate wheelchair users can get to the occasional vertical pole on each car. Short, however, must rely only on the grips on the aisle corners as support.

**RESTROOMS**

Each car has a midpoint wheelchair-accessible restrooms.

**SEATS WITH A VIEW**

The Northstar trains are uniquely curved. Inbound trains are spaced by a locomotive in the rear. That means all the seating passengers have a clear view of what’s ahead — although in the early darkness of winter mornings there may be little to see.

**FOOD AND BEVERAGES**

Fats and sugars are not allowed on the train. Non-alcoholic beverages are permitted.

**RIDING THE NORTHSTAR TRAIN SCHEDULE**

**ENTRANCE DOORS**

Entrance to trains on the right. Big Lake outside.