



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Diverse group of local leaders support public transit for the region**

A steering committee of prominent civic, business, labor, educational, health care and disability group leaders have come together to promote Proposition A. The **Advance St. Louis Steering Committee** has been formed to educate voters about the benefits and value of the area's public transit system. If passed by voters, Proposition A, a half-cent sales tax that will appear on the April 6, 2010 St. Louis County ballot, will restore service cuts and expand transit operations.

The Advance St. Louis Steering Committee is chaired by Dr. Mark S. Wrighton, Chancellor of Washington University. Chancellor Wrighton agreed to chair the Steering Committee because, "A well-operated, well-funded public transit system is vital to the health and prosperity of the St. Louis area, and I am honored to work with my fellow Steering Committee members to move Proposition A forward in the County. I believe that the campaign's theme is true - some of us ride transit, but all of us need it."

Metrolink, Metrobus, and Call-A-Ride services for the elderly and disabled are all at risk if Proposition A fails. Each day, there are over 100,000 boardings on Metro buses, trains or vans, totaling nearly 53 million rides per year. Many St. Louisans use public transit to get to jobs, and prior to the

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March, 2009 service reductions, 97% of all jobs in St. Louis City and County were accessible by riding Metro transit. According to Steering Committee member Joe Edwards, owner of Blueberry Hill, Moonrise Hotel, and the Pageant Theatre, “Public transit connects employees to jobs, patients to health care providers, and people to entertainment centers like The Loop. It creates a vibrant community.”

If Prop A is defeated, Metro will be forced to make significant cuts in public transit services, impacting thousands of riders who rely on buses and trains as their primary modes of transportation. Steering Committee member Mr. James Buford, President and CEO of the St. Louis Urban League, notes, “All great communities have good transit systems. Cities such as Dallas, Houston, Denver, Baltimore and Salt Lake City are all expanding their systems, recognizing that public transit is a key factor to job growth and economic development.”

The list of Advance St. Louis Steering Committee members is attached. For additional information, go to [www.moremetrolink.com](http://www.moremetrolink.com)

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## **Advance St. Louis Steering Committee**

Dr. Mark Wrighton, Chairman  
Chancellor, Washington University

Fr. Lawrence Biondi  
President, St. Louis University

Mr. James Buford  
President and CEO, St. Louis Urban League

Ms. Grace Corbin  
Senior Associate , Christner, Inc.

Mrs. Denny DeNarvaez  
President and CEO, St. John's Mercy Medical Center

Mr. William DeWitt, III  
President, St. Louis Cardinals

Mr. Charles Drury, Sr.  
Chairman, Drury Development Corporation

Mr. Joe Edwards  
Owner, Blueberry Hill and The Pageant

### **Advance St. Louis Steering Committee Continued**

Dr. Tom George  
Chancellor, University of MO-St. Louis

Dr. Zelema Harris  
Chancellor, St. Louis Community College

Mr. Steve Lipstein  
President and CEO, BJC Healthcare

Mr. Mark Mantovani  
President and CEO, NSI Marketing Services

Ms. Pat Mercurio  
President, Bank of America MO

Mr. Don Musick  
President, Don C. Musick Construction Company

Mr. Robert O'Loughlin  
Chairman and CEO, Lodging Hospitality Management

Ms. Elizabeth Robb  
President, Elizabeth Robb & Associates

Mr. Scott Schnuck  
CEO, Schnuck Markets, Inc.

Mr. Robert Soutier  
President, Greater St. Louis Labor Council

Mr. Max and Mrs. Colleen Starkloff  
The Starkloff Disability Institute

Dr. Elizabeth Stroble  
President, Webster University

Dr. Donald Suggs  
President and Publisher, The St. Louis American Newspaper

Dr. Vaughn Vandegrift  
Chancellor, SIU-Edwardsville

The chairman of the Advance St. Louis political campaign is John Nations, Mayor of Chesterfield

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