

MISSOURI PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSOCIATION YEAR IN REVIEW 2018

Thousands of Missouri Public Transit Association (MPTA) provider employees work collectively to provide more than 62 million rides a year to customers in every rural and urban county in the state. Service is offered almost everywhere, for everyone, every day.

Public transit goes beyond simply providing transportation options – it serves as a lifeline. For some, it is the sole means by which they can get to work, school and doctor appointments, as well as gain access to shopping, services and entertainment. Transit also helps stimulate economic development, promotes reinvestment in underserved parts of the state and links communities. This year, the MPTA worked tirelessly to reinforce this through its education and advocacy work.

More specifically, the association received a national grant to spearhead a statewide public education campaign, titled “Faces of Missouri Transit.” The effort was designed to raise awareness about public transit accessibility and encourage both residents and legislators to take the needed action to increase local funding. MPTA also advocated for the identification of new transit funding avenues, created unique educational opportunities for members and achieved marked growth in its membership base.

While Missouri wasn’t successful in increasing state funding for transit this year, it experienced measurable wins on the federal funding front, and discussions in support of transit seem to be continually building momentum among key decision-makers. Public transit is moving in the right direction and the MPTA is looking forward to exploring the many areas of opportunity on the horizon as it heads into 2019.



Kelly Turner
President of the MPTA



Kimberly Cella
Executive Director of the MPTA



“Missouri’s inability to expand transit funding resources, coupled with continued cuts, is negatively impacting public transit and thus the economy of the state and local communities. A comprehensive, multi-modal plan needs to be developed that includes public transit funding as a key component of the solution.”

– Dorothy Yeager, MPTA past president and OATS executive director.

ELEVATING THE STATUS OF TRANSIT FUNDING IN THE STATE

In FY2018, the United States Congress approved an Omnibus Bill that provided billions of dollars in federal-aid for highway, transit, rail and transportation grant programs across the nation. This included a \$1 billion increase to USDOT's TIGER project grants, an \$800 million increase in transit formula funding and \$232 million for transit construction grants. Missouri transit providers were among those that benefited from the federal funding. The Omnibus Bill funded a 100 percent increase to 5339 Funding, which doubled the statewide allocation of federal resources for the replacement, rehabilitation and purchase of buses and related equipment.

Federal funding awards in 2018 included:

- A \$29.9 million Small Starts grant for the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority to begin construction on the new Prospect MAX;
- \$4.725 million in 5339 funding for the City of St. Joseph, Mo., to replace buses that have exceeded a useful lifespan;
- \$3.6 million in 5311 funding for the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) to replace 80-100 vehicles in rural areas; and
- \$5.63 million in 5339 funding to MoDOT for the purchase of transit buses and vans in rural areas, as well as technological upgrades for new and existing vehicles.

On the state front, funding from the State Transportation Fund remained at only \$1.7 million with zero appropriation from General Revenue. That said, some progress has been made.

The MPTA had a daily presence at the State Capitol throughout the 2018 Legislative Session thanks to its contract with Michael Winter, LLC. MPTA members rallied support around the importance of a total transportation funding package that positions transit as a priority by testifying at various meetings at the State Capitol and in their local districts. The association also successfully brought the Missouri delegation together for a Transportation Day in February. Members met with key legislators before attending a briefing led by Rep. Kevin Corlew and MoDOT Multi-Modal Director Michelle Teel.

For the first time, the MPTA witnessed the introduction of a multi-modal amendment, sponsored by Missouri Rep. Kevin Corlew, to provide funding for transit and other transportation modes. Transit funding was identified as a component in the Missouri VW Settlement's mitigation plan. Plus, the Missouri House of Representatives passed SSB #2 HB 1460 by a vote of 88-60, which allowed for a phased-in, 10-cent, motor fuel tax increase to be placed before Missourians for a vote in November 2018.

In short, MPTA members made great strides in building the network needed to move statewide financial support for transit forward. Heading into 2019, Missouri needs to establish a plan for raising its own revenue to support transit and multi-modal transportation. This is imperative because it will enable the state to control its own infrastructure needs, while demonstrating the ability to provide state-funded dollars to match any available Federal Funds.



BUILDING AWARENESS AROUND TRANSIT ISSUES, SUCCESSES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The MPTA continued its work to raise awareness about public transit and the work of its members.

For the second consecutive year, the association hosted a quarterly Educational Series in various areas of the state to keep members, and other stakeholders, in the loop on trending topics tied to transit. More than 200 individuals attended these events.

MPTA members have also been creating programming in their own communities to underscore the benefits of public transportation. This included City Utilities of Springfield hosting a pop-up farmers' market at its new Transit Center, KCATA's expansion of its New Freedom Program and SMTS's 45th anniversary celebration.

The MPTA secured an APTA Local Coalition Grant to launch a "Missouri Faces of Transit" campaign. This statewide educational effort worked to showcase the impact transit has on Missouri residents and the economy through earned media, social media, web presence, direct mail and a video. It reinforced the need for public transit accessibility and encouraged both residents and legislators to take the needed action to increase local funding.

MPTA's 2018 Annual Meeting was highlighted by a mobile workshop on GoCom's electric bus fleet. It also featured guest speaker Charlotte DiBartolomeo, CEO of the Red Kite Project, who discussed why transit's critical role among society is at a crossroads. She described how difficult it can be to provide transit service, particularly as drivers are forced to take on the role of human services provider on top of vehicle operator. CTAA's Executive Director Scott Bogren was also on hand to talk about rural transit issues and the status of federal funding. As a part of the programming, MPTA was able to honor "Transit Champions" in Missouri. Cindy Baker with the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority and Representative Kevin Corlew of Kansas City were both acknowledged for their ongoing commitment to moving transit forward.

The gathering also set the stage for the Federal Transit Administration to acknowledge several Missouri transit providers for increasing their ridership numbers among urban, small urban and rural public transit systems in Missouri between 2016 and 2017. This included the City of Independence for an increase of 42 percent or 118,013 riders; Southeast Missouri State University for a 7 percent increase or 22,239 riders; the City of Houston for increasing ridership of the Houston Shuttle by 10 percent or 1,378 riders; and the City of El Dorado Springs Transit Service for a 10 percent increase or 1,102 riders. OATS Transit was presented with an Award of Recognition for increasing ridership by 78,278 rides.

The annual meeting had a record number of vendors and sponsors participate in the event. And, MPTA is greatly anticipating next year's event, as it is partnering with representatives in Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and the Southwest Transit Association to bring an 11-state conference to Kansas City in 2019.

"Through the 'Missouri Faces of Transit' project we wanted Missourians to witness the impact public transit has on the everyday lives of Missourians and better understand that funding goes beyond just the dollars and cents," stated Kimberly Cella, MPTA executive director. "It's about being able to continue to connect people to jobs, medical care, grocery stores and other necessities."



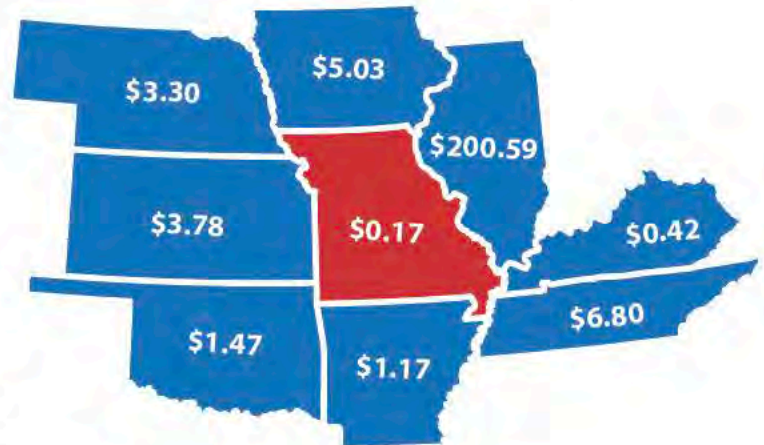
ESTABLISHING TRANSPORTATION LEADERSHIP IN THE STATE

MPTA elected new officers to its Board of Directors. Kelly Turner of City Utilities of Springfield, Mark Mehmert of the City of Jefferson, Jameson Auten of the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority and Dorothy Yeager of OATS have been named president, vice-president, secretary/treasurer, and past-president respectively. Each is set to serve in this capacity for a 2 year-term.

The organization also extended the appointment of six existing board members to a second, two-year term; and, elected Leah Christian with the City of Columbia and Laura Machala of the Mid-America Regional Council as its newest board members. These, and other, board members worked tirelessly to ensure MPTA members saw value in their involvement and membership in the organization. They provided additional networking opportunities, monthly member updates, an annual legislative agenda and access to updates on the MPTA website, including regular blog entries and the ability to renew memberships online.

The association's membership revenue increased by more than four percent this past year, welcoming Ecolane, Kelderman Air Suspensions, ACC Climate Control, REV Group, Inc. (formerly El Dorado), Marilyn Cullers, BYD, BraunAbility, Complete Coach Works and Bergstrom Inc. as its newest members.

2016 MO per capita spending on Transit compared to surrounding states, 2018 AASHTO Report



EXPANDING ITS ADVOCACY BASE

A strong partnership is being built with the Missouri Department of Transportation to ensure all transit providers, including 5311 providers, receive education and training opportunities, have a voice on the legislative front with regards to funding, and can create marketing tools and services for both rural and urban constituent bases.

MPTA is also working to build new partnerships, including ones with AARP, health advocates and other community providers. These efforts are designed to ensure transit's messages reach new audiences.

RURAL PROVIDERS

Missouri is home to the two largest and oldest rural providers in the nation – SMTS & OATS. They, along with 20 other rural members, assure that every county and small community in Missouri has public transit – regardless how rural or sparsely populated.



2018-19 EVENT CALENDAR

Nov. 1,
2018

**MPTA EDUCATIONAL SERIES:
HARASSMENT & DISCRIMINATION
SPECIFIC TO TRANSIT IN THE
#METOO ERA**

10:00 a.m. - 12 noon
OATS Office - 2501 Maguire Blvd.,
Suite 101 - Columbia, MO

Mar. 6,
2019

**MPTA EDUCATIONAL SERIES:
SHAPING YOUR DIGITAL FOOTPRINT
IN THE TRANSIT INDUSTRY:
WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA**

10:00 a.m. - 12 noon
SMTS Home Office
700 E. Highway 72
Fredericktown, MO 63645

May 1,
2019

**MPTA EDUCATIONAL SERIES:
BUILDING DIVERSITY SKILLS IN THE
TRANSIT WORKPLACE
NTI TRAINING**

10:00 a.m. - 12 noon
MoDOT Central District Offices
1511 Missouri Blvd.,
Jefferson City, MO

Sept. 11-
13, 2019

**MIDWEST TRANSIT
CONFERENCE & EXPO**

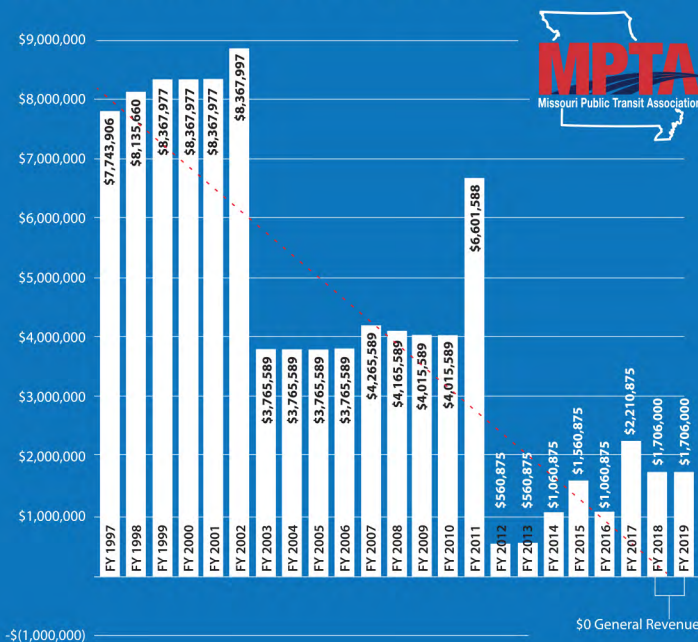
Intercontinental Hotel,
401 Ward Pkwy,
Kansas City, MO 64112

Nov. 6,
2019

MPTA EDUCATIONAL SERIES:

10:00 a.m. - 12 noon
OATS Office - 2501 Maguire Blvd.,
Suite 101 - Columbia, MO

Missouri Transit Operating Investment Trends



SETTING THE STAGE FOR 2019

MPTA will be urging the legislature to support the appropriation of \$8,367,997 in general revenue (a return to 2002 funding levels), and an additional \$1.7 million from the State Transportation Fund, for the 34 transit providers in the state. It will also continue to advocate for a dedicated funding source for transit. These efforts will improve access to jobs, healthcare and educational opportunities; attract talent, and create thousands of jobs. MPTA, through its network of members, stakeholders and constituents, is committed to improving transit funding at the state level to ensure these positive benefits for Missouri come to fruition.



MISSOURI PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSOCIATION

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