

22 MISSOURI PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSOCIATION POLICY AGENDA

- Elevate the status of transit in Missouri
- Build new coalitions to expand advocacy base
- Promote and support MPTA members

Members of the Missouri Public Transit Association (MPTA) help people get where they need to go every day in nearly every county in the state, resulting in more than 60 million rides a year and the employment of thousands in our communities. In addition, Missouri transit is delivering \$3.6 billion in economic activity each year. Transit is delivering on its promise to Missouri despite the distinct lack of funding. But the impact could be bigger, better and more profound. Any increase in investment by the State of Missouri could exponentially change the game in terms of economic return.

FEDERAL

The MPTA supported the three federal COVID relief packages since March 2020 which provided more than \$30 billion for public transit with \$600 million for Missouri providers over the last 20 months through the CARES Act (\$248 million); COVID Relief Act (\$99.4 million); and American Rescue Plan (\$254 million).

In 2021, the MPTA advocated for public transit funding in the new, multi-year Infrastructure bill that just passed. The package includes \$39 billion to upgrade public transit systems nationwide. The allocations also provide money to create new bus routes and help make public transit more accessible to seniors and disabled Americans. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) will provide \$7.82 billion in state formula funds for highway, bridge and transit investment in Missouri over the next five years. This includes a 32 percent funding increase compared to FY2021. Missouri is slated to get \$674 million to improve public transportation. MPTA will continue to support:

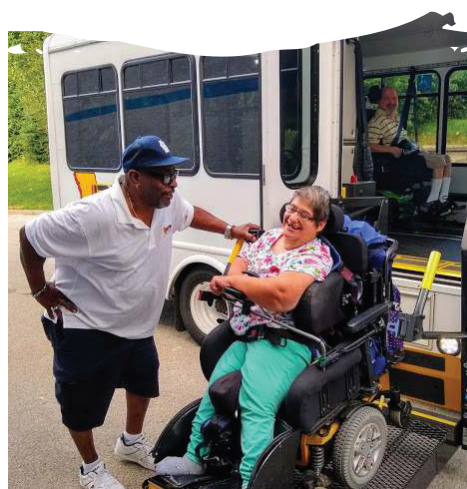
- Growth in the Highway Trust Fund's Mass Transit Account through increased transportation investment funding.
- Key transit formula programs (Sections 5307, 5310, 5311 and 5339) funded fully out of the Highway Trust Fund's Mass Transit Account
- Predictable, steady growth in key formula programs (Sections 5307, 5310, 5311 and 5339) throughout the reauthorization
- Incorporation of new transit service delivery modes and mobility on-demand including real time technology, smart phone applications, new fare systems and autonomous vehicles

STATE

The federal COVID relief bills delivered a \$600 million lifeline for Missouri transit providers. However, Missouri investment in transit is even more critical as the impact of the pandemic continues to take its toll on public transit providers across the state. State investment is key to ensure Missouri providers can bring as much federal funding back to the state through matching funds.

According to the 2019 Transit Impact Study, public transit delivers in Missouri.

There is a total of 34 transit providers in the Missouri. They collectively spend \$675 million each year on operations, capital improvements and labor compensation for the 4,500 individuals who are employed at an average salary of \$64,200. Public transit is delivering more than \$3.6 billion in direct and indirect spending each year.



TRANSIT INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

#1

Support the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission request of \$8,710,875 million for Missouri transit. This request would include \$7 million from General Revenue and \$1,710,875 million from the State Transportation Fund. Currently, state transit funding assistance does not cover the impact of rising maintenance/operating costs of keeping the current systems in good repair. For SFY21, the total core budget was \$1,710,875 in State Transportation funds for 34 providers. Funding from General Revenue was zeroed out in 2017.

#2

Support a statewide funding plan for transit access for workforce development. The adoption of such a plan would reflect the importance of public transit to expanding opportunities for job access and growth to all Missourians. Twenty-nine thousand jobs are directly or indirectly supported by public transit, yet thousands more are supported through transit access. A state investment in transit for workforce development would be a game changer for Missouri employers especially in light of the impact of the pandemic on operator shortages.

#3

Support the request for state COVID relief funds to assist Missouri transit providers with capital projects which will have a lasting impact in their communities.

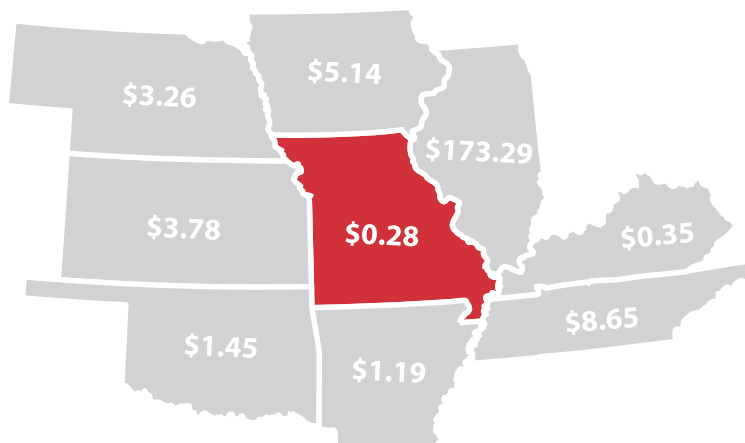
#4

Oppose any efforts to allow conceal and carry on transit and advocate for local partnerships for enforcement on transit.

Education at the state level:

- Quantify the impact of COVID on Missouri transit providers and the state's economy
- Educate on the service gaps across Missouri and the impact of state investment to meet those needs
- Partner with other organizations like regional chambers, labor, healthcare, AARP and transit organizations to spread the message to a broader audience about transit
- Localize economic impact by linking legislators with MPTA member stories in their areas
- Provide a transit story for both rural and urban legislators on impacts to state's economy

2019 MO per capita spending on Transit compared to surrounding states, 2021 AASHTO Report



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