



MISSOURI PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSOCIATION POLICY AGENDA

2024

- Elevate the value 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. This translates into more than 47 million rides a year, the employment of thousands of Missourians, and \$3.6 billion in economic activity each year. Transit is delivering on its promise to Missouri, but the impact could be even bigger, better and more profound. Currently, Missouri ranks in the lower half with regards to transit funding across the country. And this is on the heels of Missouri making its largest transit investment in two decades. Another increase in investment by the state could exponentially change the game in terms of economic return.

FEDERAL

MPTA supported the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act in November 2021, which provided a five-year, \$91 billion transit authorization as part of the \$1.2 trillion measure. MPTA will continue to advocate for the use of these available federal funds in the following ways.

- Multi-year transportation reauthorization legislation to provide consistency for planning.
- Growth in the Highway Trust Fund's Mass Transit Account through increased transportation investment funding. The Highway Trust Fund, which supports federal grant programs for transit, is near insolvency. MPTA supports raising the federal gas tax as it has not been raised since 1993 and/or other funding mechanisms to ensure the fund remains solvent.
- 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.

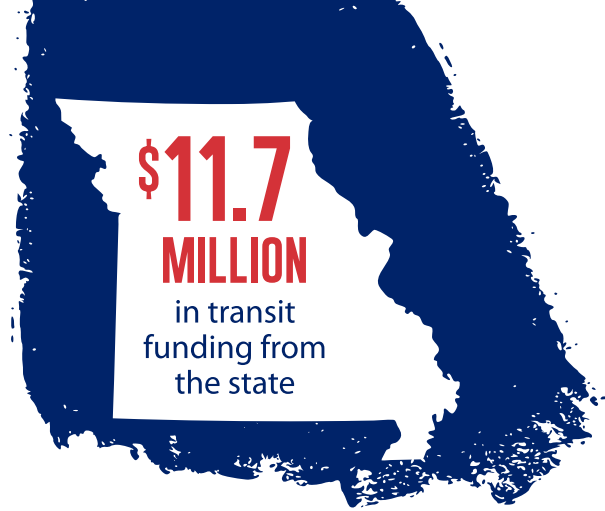
STATE

Missouri saw historic funding for public transit with the passage of HB 4 in 2023. This funding will help provide the non-federal or local match required to enable transit providers to draw down some of the \$91 billion in federal funds earmarked for transit as part of the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Federal funding support requires a 50:50 match for transit operations and an 80:20 match for capital programming. The following priorities are the main areas of focus across the bi-state region.



PRIORITY #1

Support the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission request of \$11.7 million for transit in the state of Missouri, which includes \$10 million from General Revenue and \$1.7 million from the State Transportation Fund to be divided among the state's 32 transit providers. Currently, state transit funding assistance does not cover the impact of rising maintenance/operating costs of keeping the current systems in good repair. This funding is imperative and starts to put Missouri in line with some of its peer states as it relates to transit investment.



29,000

jobs are directly or indirectly supported by public transit



PRIORITY #2

Support a statewide apprentice program for transit operators in Missouri. The adoption of such a plan would reflect the importance of public transit to expanding opportunities for job access and growth to all Missourians. The shortage of operators is one of the biggest challenges right now to the transit industry. Creation of a statewide apprentice program would standardize training across Missouri, helping both rural and urban agencies meet service demands.

PRIORITY #3

Oppose any efforts to allow conceal and carry on transit and advocate for local law enforcement partnerships on transit. Allowing firearms on public transit may serve as a detriment to ridership and has not been proven to enhance safety and security of the system. As such, MPTA and many Missouri transit providers have and will continue to oppose any legislation which would allow carrying concealed weapons (CCW) on transit.



STRATEGIES FOR EDUCATION:

- Quantify the impact of Missouri Transit Providers and the state's economy.
- Raise awareness of 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 educate a broader audience about the benefits of transit.
- Localize economic impact by linking legislators with MPTA member testimonials in their areas.
- Educate on the unfunded project needs list for Missouri transit.
- Provide legislators in both rural and urban areas with metrics underscoring the very real impacts transit has on the state's economy.

MO per capita spending on Transit compared to surrounding states, 2023 AASHTO Report

*Funding reflects 34% increase in Missouri investment in 2023

