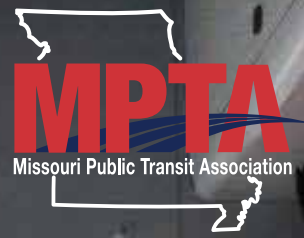


# MISSOURI PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSOCIATION YEAR IN REVIEW 2019



Thousands of Missouri Public Transit Association (MPTA) provider employees work collectively to provide more than 60.1 million rides a year to customers in every rural and urban county in the state. Service is offered almost everywhere, for everyone, every day. We know public transit is promoting equality of opportunity, job creation, stronger economies and the vibrancy of neighborhoods in communities across the state of Missouri. Yet, there has been no data to support this – until this year.

The 2019 Economic Impact of Public Transit Services in the State of Missouri study – commissioned by the Missouri Public Transit Association, Citizens for Modern Transit, and AARP in St. Louis – has provided the state with localized numbers tied to rider demographics, economic impacts, transit agency spending and funding sources. Findings showcased that transit is delivering in Missouri and positively impacting the state's bottom line. The direct and indirect economic output supported by public transit's annual operations this year exceeds \$3.67 billion in Missouri.

The study findings were eye opening, and the MPTA excitedly began work to share data through education and outreach efforts. 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, we hope these numbers encourage our state legislature to pause for a moment. 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. Missouri – let's be bold, let's fund transit.



Mark Mehmert  
President of the MPTA



Kimberly Cella  
Executive Director of the MPTA

**“TRANSPORTATION IS KIND OF LIKE ELECTRICITY AND WATER. YOU DON'T THINK ABOUT IT UNTIL IT'S NOT THERE. THEN YOU THINK A LOT ABOUT IT.”**

— SOUTHEAST MISSOURI  
TRANSPORTATION SERVICE (SMTS)

# ELEVATING THE STATUS OF TRANSIT FUNDING IN THE STATE

## On the State Front

The Missouri Elderly and Handicapped Transportation Assistance Program (MEHTAP) Funding increased from \$1.5 million to \$3 million, furthering state financial assistance for public and nonprofit organizations offering transportation services to the elderly and disabled at below-cost rates. Yet, funding from the State Transportation Fund again remained at only \$1.75 million with zero appropriation from General Revenue. In response, the MPTA decided to take a leadership role in drawing attention to this ongoing issue.

The MPTA teamed up with Citizens for Modern Transit and AARP in St. Louis to commission a first-of-its-kind, six-month study to quantify the economic impact of public transit services in the state of Missouri. It was led by Robert M. Lewis, FAICP, CECd, an independent consultant and assistant professor of Urban Planning & Development at Saint Louis University. The study was released in October and revealed the following:

- There is a total of 34 transit providers in Missouri. They collectively spend \$675 million each year on operations, capital improvements and labor compensation for the 4,500 transit employees who earn an average salary of \$64,200.
- Missouri public transit providers provide an annual average of 60.1 million rides. In conjunction with these trips, transit riders are spending \$600 million on goods and services. This translates into a direct economic impact of \$1.28 billion each year in Missouri.
- The direct spending triggers another \$2.4 billion in statewide economic activity, including \$1.03 billion in added household earnings for Missourians. These indirect, or multiplier effects, further support another 24,680 jobs in the state that pay an average of \$30,200 per year. Because of all the economic activity and job creation triggered by transit operations and riders, the State of Missouri collects an estimated \$48.8 million in taxes per year.
- The direct and indirect economic output supported by public transit's annual operations in 2019 exceeds \$3.67 billion in Missouri.

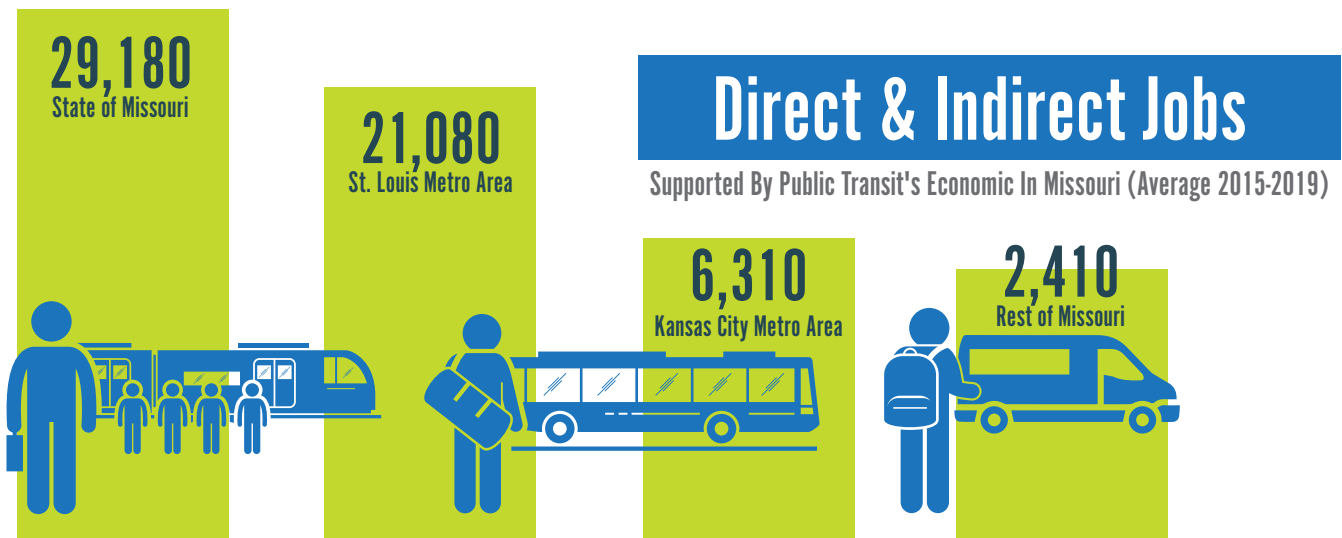
The study also confirmed a distinct lack of support from the state when it comes to transit funding. The full report is available for review at [www.mopublictransit.org](http://www.mopublictransit.org). The MPTA looks forward to being able to utilize the findings to lay the groundwork for the 2020 legislative session.

Thanks to its contract with Michael Winter, LLC., the MPTA had a presence at the state capitol each day of the 2019 legislative session. MPTA members were also able to rally support to help defeat the proposed conceal and carry on transit law by testifying at various meetings at the state capitol and in local districts. Throughout the session, members met with key legislators to talk about transit and transit funding options.

## On the Federal Front

New legislation was introduced by the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee calling for a five-year reauthorization of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, named America's Transportation Infrastructure Act of 2019. This new legislation served as a means for MPTA and its members to make their voices and opinions heard as they collectively work to improve transportation policy and increase transit investment. Priorities for transit include having:

- 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 as this fund which supports federal grant programs for transit, is near insolvency.
- Key transit formula programs (Sections 5307, 5310, 5311 and 5339) funded fully out of the Highway Trust Fund's Mass Transit Account, including predictable, steady growth in key formula programs (Sections 5307, 5310, 5311 and 5339) throughout the reauthorization.
- Support for new technologies in transit.





## BUILDING AWARENESS AROUND TRANSIT ISSUES, SUCCESSES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The MPTA worked to raise awareness about public transit and the work of its members. For the third consecutive year, the association hosted quarterly Educational Series in various areas of the state to keep members, and other stakeholders, in the loop on trending topics tied to transit. This included a full-day workshop in partnership with the CTAA to address driver recruitment, retention and sustainability.

For the first time, the MPTA expanded its annual Midwest/SW Transit Conference to include 11 states and 5 associations, helping to draw over 360 attendees to the event held in Kansas City. Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas opened the conference talking about the importance of transit to his upbringing and how it's a priority in his administration, before the 2019 Economic Impact Study results were released. The MPTA then celebrated the noteworthy efforts of those committed to improving public transportation in the state of Missouri. The 2019 Transit Champion Award was presented to the City of Jefferson Transit (JeffTran) for its unwavering efforts to deliver transit services to residents despite recent challenges, and the 2019 Friend of Transit Award was given to Mary Gaston of St. Joseph for her longstanding service to the transit industry.

The gathering also set the stage for the Federal Transit Administration to acknowledge several Missouri transit providers for increased ridership numbers. The Bus CU Transit Services in Springfield and the Cape Girardeau County Transit Authority were recognized among large urban and rural transit providers, respectively.

Robbie Makinen of KCATA, was honored with the Award of Distinction for his leadership in partnering with the KC Streetcar Authority, the City of Independence, the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and the Johnson County Government to provide seamless and efficient transit access to more than 16 million riders annually through "RideKC."

Special thanks to KCATA for their work on the 2019 convening. MPTA is greatly anticipating next year's event, as it is partnering with Bi-State Development to bring the conference to St. Louis in 2020.

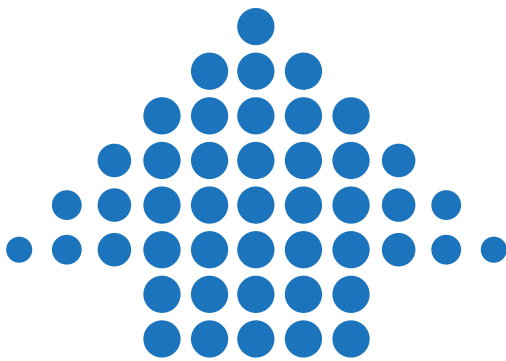


# ESTABLISHING TRANSPORTATION LEADERSHIP IN THE STATE

The MPTA appointed new officers to its Board of Directors during the 2019 Midwest/SW Transit Conference. Mark Mehmert, transit director for the City of Jefferson, was elected president; Chance Gallagher, MBA, transit planning manager of the St. Joseph Metropolitan Planning Organization, was elected vice-president; Robbie Makinen, president and chief executive officer of the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority (KCATA), was elected secretary; Matt Crawford, director of transit for City Utilities of Springfield, was elected treasurer; and Dorothy Yeager, executive director of OATS, Inc., was elected past president. Each is set to serve in this capacity for a one year-term. The organization also extended the appointment of seven existing board members to a second, two-year term.

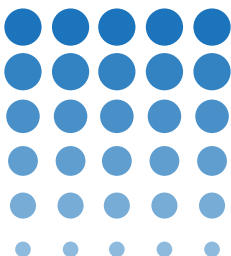
MPTA board members work tirelessly to ensure providers see value in their involvement with the organization. Members are provided with unique networking opportunities, monthly transit industry updates, an annual legislative agenda and the ability to be part of group of transit provider working collectively to positively impact public transit access in Missouri.

The association's membership revenue increased by more than 19 percent this past year, welcoming MO Development Disabilities Council, Routematch, Bi-State Development, Southern Bus and Mobility, REI and BAE Systems as its newest members.



MEMBERSHIP REVENUE INCREASED BY

**19 PERCENT**



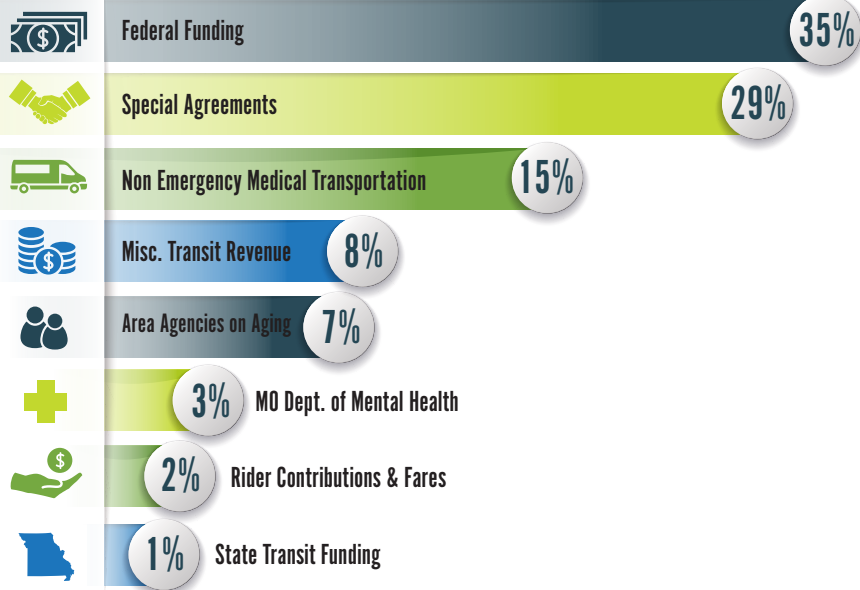


# EXPANDING ITS MESSAGE AND ADVOCACY BASE

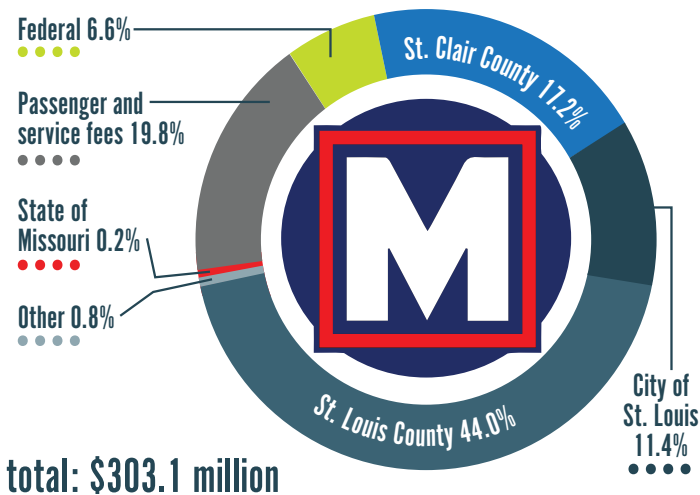
A strong partnership is being built with the Missouri Department of Transportation to ensure all transit providers receive education and training opportunities, have a voice on the legislative front with regards to funding, and can create marketing tools and services for both rural and urban constituent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

MPTA is also working to build grassroots support for transit in Missouri communities. Media outreach efforts resulted in more than 50 positive news stories, reaching of over 3.9 million residents from various areas of the state and helping to spread the word about the importance of transit access and lack of state funding.

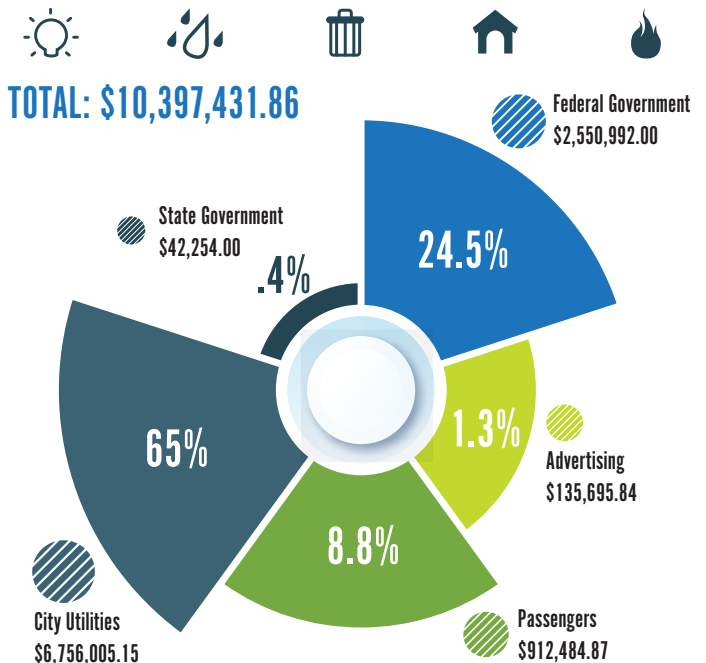
## OATS Transit



## How Metro Transit's Operations Were Funded For Fiscal 2017



## The Bus | CU Transit Services | Springfield

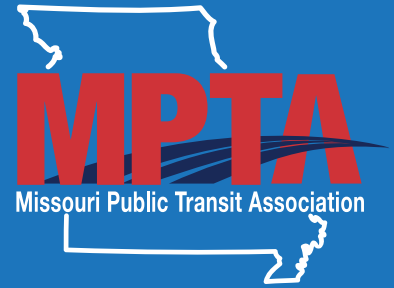


# SETTING THE STAGE FOR 2020

MPTA will be urging the legislature to support the following priorities:

1. Transit access for job training funding,
2. Paratransit funding, and
3. Operational assistance for Missouri transit providers.

MPTA, through its network of members, stakeholders and constituents, is committed to improving transit funding at the state level to ensure transit continues to deliver in Missouri.



MISSOURI PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSOCIATION  
911 WASHINGTON, STE. 200, ST. LOUIS, MO 63101  
[WWW.MOPUBLICTRANSIT.ORG](http://WWW.MOPUBLICTRANSIT.ORG)

