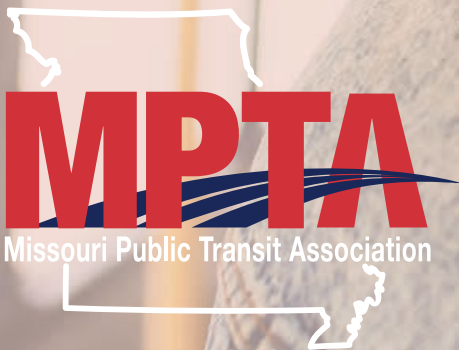


MISSOURI PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSOCIATION
YEAR IN REVIEW



2021



DELIVERING

Public transit is delivering more than \$3 billion to the state's bottom line annually, while ensuring transportation accessibility to nearly everyone in every county, every day. While 2021 was marked by a slow return to daily activity in our local communities and across the state, public transit never lost its momentum. It continued transporting essential workers during the height of the pandemic; expanded access as people returned to work; and helped promote social equality, stimulate development, provide economic returns and position the state of Missouri for recovery and growth. In short, public transit proved it can get us where we need to go.

For more than four decades, the Missouri Public Transit Association (MPTA) has provided a unified voice for public and specialized transit providers, stakeholders, vendors and partners from across the state as they collectively work to raise awareness about the role of public transit and why it needs to be an investment priority. This year was no different. We saw significant efforts behind advocating, educating and advancing public transit throughout Missouri. There were record wins with regards to federal funding for public transit, significant increases in education opportunities for members and the general public, and advancements made to help further the understanding of the impact of transit in Missouri through the launch of a Statewide Transit Needs Assessment Study.

However, we are not there yet. Challenges continue. Operator shortages remain and state investment in transit lags behind almost every other state in the country. The MPTA will keep working tirelessly to move the needle on transit related issues by expanding our support base with community organizations, employers and stakeholders impacted by public transit.

Transit is essential and it can be relied upon to get us where we need to go. Join us for the ride in 2022.



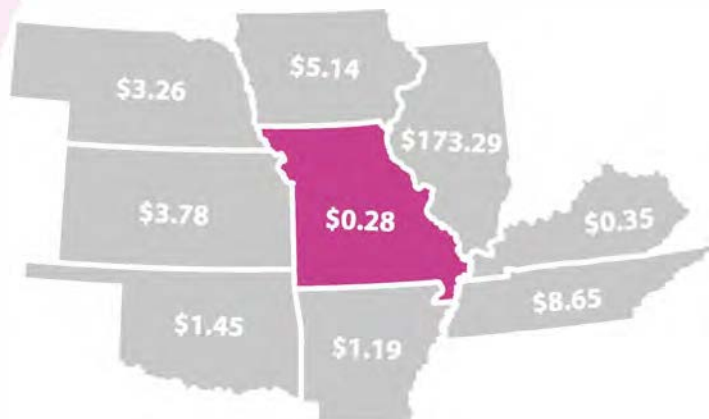
Chance Gallagher
President of the MPTA



Kimberly Cella
Executive Director of the MPTA



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



ADVOCATING

The MPTA delivers a legislative advocacy program each year at both the state and federal level. Each monitors legislation affecting public transit and advocates for equitable public funding for transit services.

Missouri's investment in transit for 2021 continued to remain the same, however, for the first time in more than two decades, the legislature passed a fuel tax increase. SB 262 provides revenue for Missouri's roads and bridges by gradually increasing Missouri's state motor fuel tax by 2.5 cents per year over five years, totaling 12.5 cents by 2025. While this funding increase has no direct impact on transit providers due to Missouri constitutional language, it will impact the roads and bridges most transit providers utilize to deliver service. The MPTA was in support of this increase.

The Missouri FY 2021 budget only included \$1,710,875 in state transportation funding for transit. This amount, which remained unchanged from last year, is split among 34 transit providers in the state. The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' (AASHTO) Survey of State Funding for Public Transportation – Final 2021 Report, based on FY2019 data – ranks Missouri 45th with regards to per capita funding for public transit (includes DC). Only five states have a lower per capita investment than Missouri's 28 cents per capita.



**MISSOURI RANKS 45TH WITH
REGARDS TO PER CAPITA
FUNDING FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT**

While the full impact of COVID-19 on the transit industry is not yet known, ridership declines of more than 90 percent on some systems, diminishing farebox recoveries and the impact on local sales taxes were visible within weeks of the outbreak. In turn, record-level federal funding was secured with more than \$600 million in COVID relief bills for public transit.

CARES Act – March 2020

- \$25B for public transit
- \$248M for Missouri providers
- No sunset on this funding, available until expended

COVID Relief Act – January 2021

- \$14B for Transit (urban areas)
- \$99.4M for Missouri transit (STL and KC)

American Rescue Plan – March 2021

- \$30.5B for public transit
- \$254M for Missouri providers
- Funds must be expended by 2024

Totals:

- \$69.5B for Public Transit in relief funding
- \$601.4M for Missouri Transit Providers

A new, multi-year transportation reauthorization bill was signed into law in November delivering more than \$39 billion to public transit and more than \$670 million to Missouri transit over the next five years. MPTA members met virtually with members of the Missouri Congressional delegation to advocate for funding for operating and capital needs and encourage work with local providers to ensure success of their projects. The MPTA was also able to rally support to help defeat the various proposed conceal and carry on transit bills by testifying at the state capitol and in local districts, expanding the base and reaching out to legislators on a regular basis.

Through its contract with Michael Winter, LLC, the MPTA had representation at the state capitol each day of the 2021 legislative session.

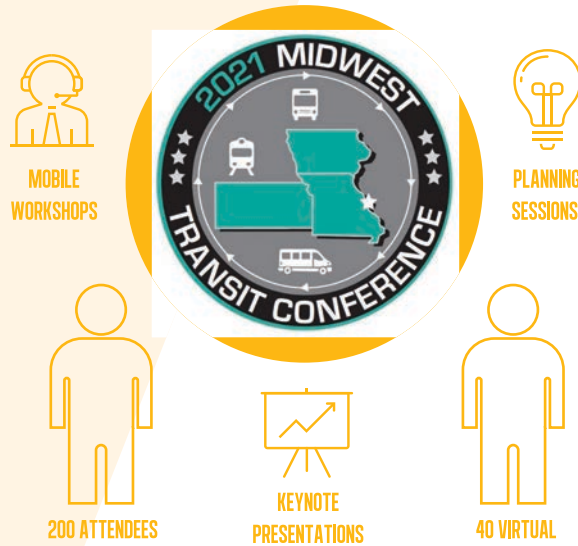


EDUCATING

The MPTA provides its partners significant education and networking opportunities throughout the year. This year the MPTA launched Peer Round Tables and Vendor Spotlights to increase opportunities for learning, especially during the pandemic.

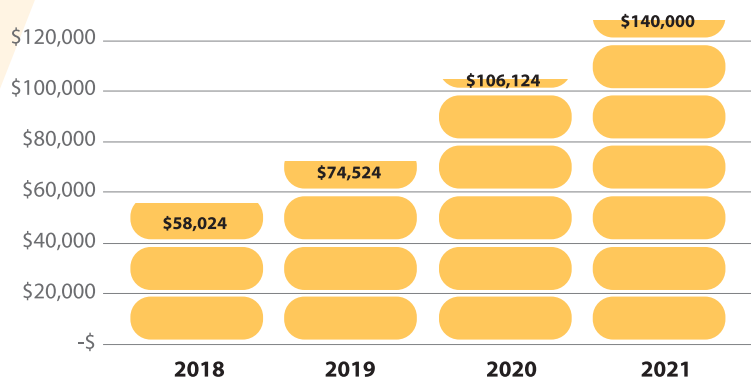
The MPTA hosted bi-monthly “Educational Series” to keep members, elected officials, stakeholders, transit riders and the community at-large in the loop on issues and efforts influencing public transportation. These events featured guest speakers and panel discussions addressing a wide range of topics. This included highlighting wellness at worksites during COVID-19, the role the transit industry can play in the prevention of human trafficking, how transit proved to be a catalyst for community response during the pandemic and making sure security personnel are in the know. The association also hosted several “Vendor Spotlight” events designed to connect its vendor members with providers. These efforts featured COVID-19 resources for transit providers, electric transit vehicles and innovative solutions to improve fleets. Round table discussions addressed transit operator shortages, accident investigations and policy development.

In addition, this year the MPTA, in partnership with the Iowa Public Transit Association and Kansas Public Transit Association, hosted a three-state, in-person conference in St. Louis from September 7-9, 2021 with the help of host provider, Bi-State Development/Metro Transit. Nearly 200 attendees and 40 virtual participants took part in mobile workshops, planning sessions and keynote presentations over the two-and-a-half-day period under the St. Louis Gateway Arch. The 2022 Missouri Transit Conference is set for September 27-29, 2022 in Springfield, Mo.



Education also included the development and placement of commentaries, op-eds and letters-to-the-editor in media outlets across the state, helping to advocate for and raise awareness of the benefits of public transit to Missouri. Earned media for 2021 topped more than \$158,000, a 49 percent increase over prior year. The MPTA also created promotional campaigns including “MO Transit Operators are Hiring” and a statewide funding piece. Other education opportunities throughout the year included monthly electronic updates, monthly COVID calls with the FTA, social media updates and year-end reports.

HISTORY OF MPTA EARNED MEDIA



ADVANCING

The MPTA works to advance transit in Missouri through several different channels. Advocacy and education are both key elements of advancement, but research is also essential. The MPTA selected Lochmueller Group – a full-service survey, planning, engineering and environmental firm – to lead a Statewide Transit Needs Assessment Study in August. The firm will examine public transit access across Missouri, identify existing and potential service gaps and help establish a guide for the development of optimum personal mobility as transit providers are forced to make service modifications and respond to changing rider demographics. Study findings are expected to be released in Spring 2022.

This past year the MPTA appointed two new board members – Sheila Holm of AARP in St. Louis and Mike Sokoff of the City of Columbia to its Board of Directors and extended the appointment of seven existing board members. This included Janine Clappitt of Ray County Transit, Sara Fields of the Ozarks Transportation Group, Chance Gallagher of St. Joseph Transit, Laura Machala of Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), Mark Mehmert of the Jefferson City Transit Division (JEFFTRAN), Rachel Pawlak of East-West Gateway Council of Governments and Denny Ward of Southeast Missouri Transportation Service (SMTS). New officers were also elected at the Midwest Transit Conference held in September. Chance Gallagher of St. Joseph Transit was elected president, Robbie Makinen of the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority (KCATA) was elected vice-president, Mark Mehmert of the Jefferson City Transit Division (JEFFTRAN) was elected past president, Matt Crawford of City Utilities of Springfield was elected secretary, Taulby Roach of Bi-State Development was elected treasurer and Dorothy Yeager of OATS Transit was elected at-large.

In addition, Citizens for Modern Transit (CMT) – the St. Louis region's transit advocacy organization – was selected by the MPTA Board through a competitive bid process to continue managing the association for an additional three years, extending the professional relationship between the two groups. CMT's executive director, Kimberly Cella, was also appointed to serve as the executive director for the MPTA for another three years.

Membership numbers grew in 2021. The MPTA welcomes aboard to new members: Roush Cleantech, LLC; Proterra; MTM, Inc.; CWI Digital System and New Flyer.



MEMBERSHIP REVENUE TOPPED
\$140,000



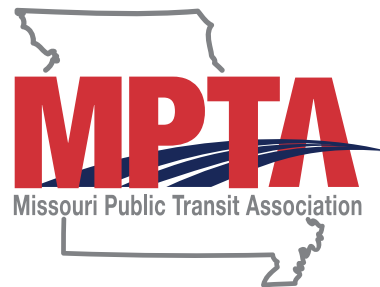
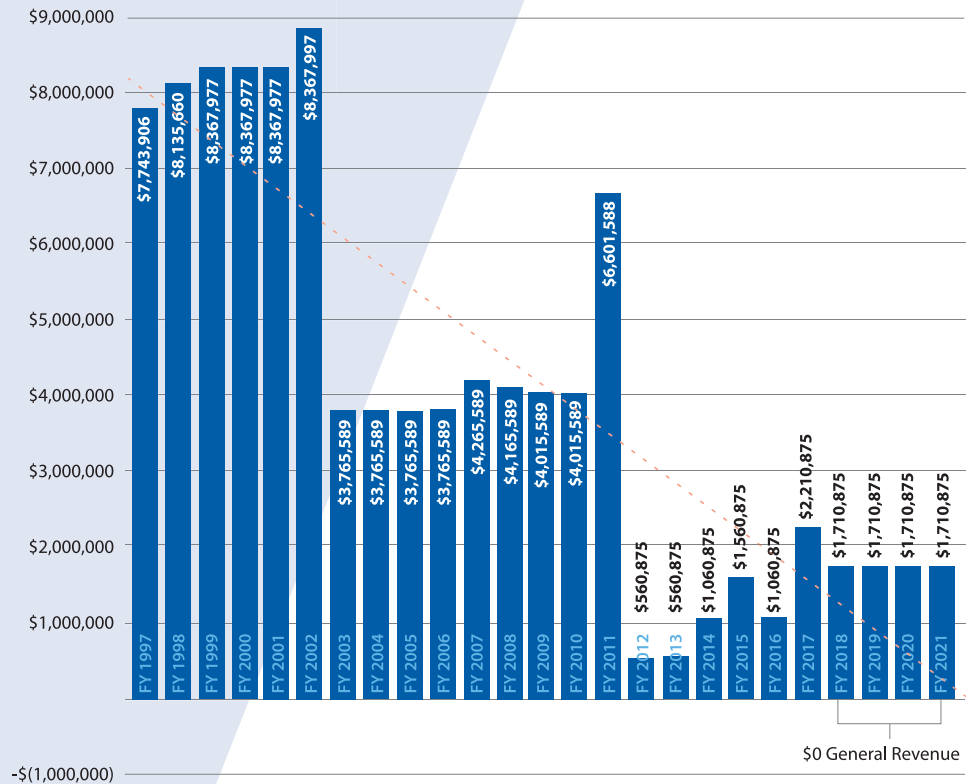
MOVING INTO 2022

MPTA will be urging the legislature to support the following priorities in 2022:

- Increased operational assistance for public transit providers
- Workforce development funding for transit access
- Missouri COVID relief funding for a pilot MO Transit Operator Hiring Campaign
- No conceal and carry on transit

The MPTA, through its network of members, stakeholders, and constituents is committed to improving transit for all in Missouri.

Missouri Transit Operating Investment Trends



MISSOURI PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSOCIATION
 911 WASHINGTON, STE. 200, ST. LOUIS, MO 63101
 WWW.MOPUBLICTRANSIT.ORG