

# MISSOURI PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSOCIATION



2024 State Conference & Expo  
St. Louis, Missouri

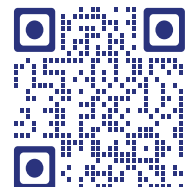


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SEPTEMBER  
3-5, 2024

WESTIN  
ST. LOUIS  
AT THE  
BALLPARK





# WELCOME

## to the 2024 Missouri Public Transit Association Conference & Expo

Thank you for attending the 2024 Missouri Public Transit Association (MPTA) Conference & Expo. We are pleased you are joining MPTA in shaping policy, developing networks, and collaborating to share knowledge and create new ideas for transit in Missouri and the Midwest. The Missouri Public Transit Association (MPTA) was established in 1980 to provide a unified voice for public and transportation providers in Missouri. Our mission is to elevate the status of public transit as a priority. This conference is one example of our work to ensure transit has a voice in this state.

Transit has experienced a number of unprecedented events over the past few years especially in Missouri. We have seen historic state investment for the last three years, a 580 percent increase since 2021, as well as a federal funding win with IIJA. However, we still have much work to be done. Agencies are still experiencing operator shortages, supply chain issues, ever-changing technologies and escalating costs of doing business. This conference provides the opportunity to network with peers, share ideas and learn how we can collaborate more to keep transit on track.

We welcome your active participation in not only the conference, but also in future MPTA activities. I hope you find your time here in St. Louis worthwhile and look for ways to get involved as we continue our work.

### ENJOY!

*Taulby Roach*

Taulby Roach, President, Missouri Public Transit Association  
President & CEO  
Bi-State Development – Metro Transit



## MPTA 2024

### Executive Committee:

Taulby Roach, President  
President/CEO, Bi-State Development

Matt Crawford, Vice-President  
Director, City Utilities of Springfield

Cindy Baker, Secretary  
Vice President of Communications,  
Kansas City Area Transportation Authority

Janine Clampitt, Treasurer  
Executive Director,  
Ray County Transit

Chance Gallagher, Past-President  
Deputy Director of Public Works and  
Transportation, City of St. Joseph

Dorothy Yeager, At-Large  
Executive Director, OATS, Inc.

### Special Thanks to the Conference Planning Committee:

Cindy Baker,  
KCATA

Janine Clampitt,  
Ray County Transportation

Christer Evers,  
MoDOT

Chance Gallagher,  
City of St. Joseph – Transit

David Johnson,  
TransPro Consulting

Ted Zimmerman,  
Metro Transit

# SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

TUESDAY 9/3

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	MPTA Board Meeting & Lunch Stadium Boardroom
1:00 - 4:30 p.m.	Registration for 2024 Missouri Conference & Expo
2:00 - 4:30 p.m.	REQUIRED for 5311: Substance Abuse Training by VOLPE Instructor: Mike Redington
4:30 - 6:00 p.m.	Welcome Reception: Transit is a Home Run in Exhibitor Hall Sponsors: KCATA, OATS Transit, SMTS
6:00 p.m.	Dinner on your own

WEDNESDAY 9/4

7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Registration for 2024 Missouri Conference & Expo			
7:00 - 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast in Exhibitor Hall			
8:00 - 8:45 a.m.	Welcome – Bi-State Development President & CEO Taulby Roach; FTA Region VII Acting Administrator Mark Bechtel, Senator Brian Williams			
8:45 - 9:30 a.m.	Plenary I - Funding Landscape on the National Front Halfway through IIJA - CTAA Executive Director Scott Bogren			
9:30 - 9:45 a.m.	Break			
9:45 - 11:00 a.m.	BREAKOUT SESSIONS			
	<b>Rural Transit Operations</b>	<b>Building Partnerships for Transit Success</b>	<b>Future of Transit</b>	<b>Mobile Workshop</b>
	Recruitment & Retention for Rural Systems	First Last Mile for Missourians: Current Practices and Future Opportunities	Alternative Fuels: Propane Autogas and Electrifying Your Fleet 101	Metro Transit – New View of Security – Real Time Camera Center Tour
11:00 - 12:00 p.m.	Break and Visit with Exhibitors			
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Plenary II & Lunch- Creating Leaders in the Transit Industry - Paul Comfort, SVP, Chief Customer Officer, for Modaxo Americas and Host of Transit Unplugged			



# SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

WEDNESDAY 9/4

1:00 - 1:15 p.m.	<b>BREAK</b>			
	<b>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</b>			
1:15 - 2:15 p.m.	<b>Rural Transit Operations</b>	<b>Building Partnerships for Transit Success</b>	<b>Future of Transit</b>	<b>Mobile Workshop</b>
	FTA Rural Connections	Disability Inclusion in Public Transportation	Technology Summit: Scheduling and Dispatching Technologies	Making it to a Million Miles: Metro Transit Maintenance Program and Tour
2:15 - 3:15 p.m.	<b>Rural Transit Operations</b>	<b>Building Partnerships for Transit Success</b>	<b>Future of Transit</b>	<b>Mobile Workshop</b>
	Rural Transit Operator Panel: Opportunities and Challenges on the Driving Front	New Avenues for Recruitment & Retention	Technology Summit: Fare Payment	Making it to a Million Miles: Metro Transit Maintenance Program and Tour, cont.
3:15 - 3:30 p.m.	<b>Break</b>			
3:30 - 4:30 p.m.	<b>Rural Transit Operations</b>	<b>Building Partnerships for Transit Success</b>	<b>Future of Transit</b>	<b>Mobile Workshop</b>
	MoDOT/RTAP Transit Update	Building Partnerships in Transit Round Table Conversations	FTA Workshop	Training and Mentorship - Onsite tour of Metro Training Facilities and update on Mentor program
5:00 - 6:30 p.m.	<b>TOD in Action: Ballpark Village Networking Event @ Sports &amp; Social</b>			
6:30 p.m.	<b>Enjoy Ballpark Village &amp; Downtown St. Louis on your own</b>			

THURSDAY 9/5

7:30 - 10:30 a.m.	<b>Registration</b>			
8:00 - 9:30 a.m.	<b>MPTA 2024 Annual Meeting &amp; Breakfast of Transit Champions</b> Recognition of Operators, MPTA Elections, & FTA Awards			
9:30 - 10:45 a.m.	<b>Plenary III - You Are a Brand: Build it Wisely</b> <b>Billy Terry, Executive Director, National Transit Institute</b> <b>Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey</b>			
11:00 - a.m.	<b>Conference Adjourns</b>			



# MEET THE SPEAKERS



## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

8:45 a.m. **GENERAL SESSION:** Funding Landscape on the National Front Halfway Through IIJA

**SPEAKER: Scott Bogren**

Community Transportation Association of America

CTAA Executive Director Scott Bogren has been working with, writing about, and covering the community and public transportation industry for nearly three decades. His experience with CTAA includes being Editor-in-Chief of Community Transportation Magazine; crafting the Association's various legislative, policy and regulatory positions on Capitol Hill; and shaping CTAA's communications, training and leadership activities. Transit funding sources have remained unchanged for the last 24 years, while costs for transportation projects have gone up. Find out more as Bogren addresses the transit funding landscape of 2024.



## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

12:00 p.m. **LUNCH SESSION:**  
Creating Leaders in the Transit Industry

**SPEAKER: Paul Comfort**

Modaxo Americas

Paul Comfort has spent the majority of his career in public transit and local government. As former CEO of the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) he oversaw the conversion of Baltimore's antiquated transit system into the efficient, frequent, and well-connected rail and bus transit system it is today. He also served as County Administrator for two Maryland counties and was elected to the role of County Commissioner. Currently, Mr. Comfort serves as Senior Vice President and Chief Customer Officer at Modaxo. He is also the host of the renowned podcast, "Transit Unplugged," which features Mr. Comfort interviewing leaders within the transit industry about operations and trends.



## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

9:30 a.m. **GENERAL SESSION:**  
You are a Brand: Build It Wisely

**SPEAKER: Billy Terry**

National Transit Institute at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Billy Terry presently serves as Director of the National Transit Institute (NTI) at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Before joining NTI, Mr. Terry advocated for public transportation funding and legislation in his role as Senior Legislative Representative at the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). Mr. Terry began his career in Washington, DC as the Manager of Special Projects/Presidential Management Fellow in the Office of the Secretary at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). He went on to serve as the Senior Advisor for Intergovernmental Affairs at the District of Columbia Department of Transportation and the Senior Federal Relations Officer at the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) in Washington, D.C., the fourth largest transit agency in the nation.

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2024

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Stadium Boardroom	<b>MPTA Board Meeting &amp; Lunch</b>
1:00 – 4:30 p.m. Hotel Lobby	<b>Registration for 2024 Missouri Conference &amp; Expo</b>
2:00 – 4:30 p.m. Plaza	<b>Substance Abuse Training (Required for 5311 Providers)</b>
4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall - Cupples Ballroom	<b>Welcome Reception: Transit is a Home Run</b>

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2024

7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Hotel Lobby	<b>Registration for 2024 Missouri Conference &amp; Expo</b>
7:00 – 8:00 a.m. Exhibit Hall – Cupples Ballroom	<b>Breakfast with Exhibitors</b>
8:00 – 8:45 a.m. Promenade Ballroom	<b>Welcome &amp; Opening Session</b> Bi-State Development CEO Taulby Roach; FTA Region VII Interim Administrator Mark Bechtel; Missouri Senator Brian Williams
8:45 – 9:30 a.m. Promenade Ballroom	<b>Plenary I:</b> <b>Funding Landscape on the National Front with CTAA Executive Director Scott Bogren</b>
9:30 – 9:45 a.m.	<b>Break</b>
9:45 – 11:00 a.m. Plaza	<b>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</b> • <b>Rural Transit Operations:</b> <b><i>Recruitment &amp; Retention for Rural Transit Systems</i></b> – David Stephen, Communications Manager, Transit Workforce Center In this session, presenters will explore initiatives that can support rural systems in their ongoing recruitment and retention efforts, beginning with a brief overview from Transit Workforce Center, FTA's technical assistance center for workforce development, on recruitment and retention resources and strategies accessible to smaller agencies across the country. Agency leaders from Missouri and Iowa will then discuss a range of approaches that strengthen recruitment and retention, including strong mentorship programs, using the frontline workforce for outreach, ways to restructure your application process for better recruitment outcomes, and more. Audience questions, engagement, and ideas will be a key component of this session.

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

- Promenade Ballroom**
- **Building Partnerships for Transit Success: *First Last Mile for Missourians: Current Practices and Future Opportunities***- Alvaro Villagran, Director at Shared-Use Mobility Center, Luba Guzei, Director at Via Strategy and Jose Feliciano Jr, Intergovernmental Relations Officer at Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority.  
First Last Mile (FLM) solutions options are critical to support transit services, to provide access to jobs and other destinations. Supported by a MoDOT research grant, Shared-Use Mobility Center (SUMC) and Via have conducted a study assessing multimodal FLM services, and surveyed FLM cases from across the country to learn what opportunities can inform FLM options for Missourians.
- Concourse**
- **Future of Transit: *Alternative Fuels: Propane Autogas and Electrifying Your Fleet 101*** – Luke Fitzpatrick, COO- Missouri Propane Education & Research Council (MOPERC) and Mike Jones, Project Leader in the Technical Assistance for Clean Transportation (TACT) Group in the Center for Integrated Mobility Sciences (CIMS) at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL).  
In this session, representatives from MOPERC and NREL will explore alternative fuel options for your transit fleets, including the opportunities surrounding propane autogas and fleet electrification.
- Hotel Lobby**
- **Mobile Workshop: *Metro Transit – New View of Security – Real Time Camera Center Tour*** – Melissa Webb, Director of Security Media and Customer Engagement at Metro Transit will dive into the newest tech that’s making transit security and surveillance better than ever. Take a tour of the Emerson Park Transit Center where the Secure Platform Plan is getting off the ground in a unique effort to keep customers safe and sound.
- 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**      **Break and Visit with Exhibitors**
- 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.**  
**Promenade Ballroom**      **Lunch Session – Plenary II**  
**Creating Leaders in the Transit Industry with Paul Comfort, SVP, Chief Customer Officer for Modaxo Americas and Host of Transit Unplugged**
- 1:00 – 1:15 p.m.**      **Break**
- 1:15 – 2:15 pm:**  
**Promenade Ballroom**      **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**
- **Rural Transit Operations: *FTA Rural Connections*** – Region VII Staff  
FTA Region 7 staff will discuss formula and discretionary funding for FTA and DOT programs that support rural transit including operations and capital investment for vehicles and facilities.



# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## Plaza

- **Building Partnerships for Transit Success: *Disability Inclusion in Public Transportation*** – Lori Becker, CEO of Starkloff Disability Institute, and Jason Hartsfield, Disability Inclusion Lead Consultant at Starkloff Disability Institute

Over 25 million Americans have disabilities that impact driving. People with disabilities rely heavily on public transportation services to access work, healthcare, and the community. In this session, we will explore the challenges facing riders with disabilities and the steps public transit operators and administrators can take to create a welcoming and safe experience for disabled riders.

## Concourse

- **Future of Transit: *Technology Summit – Scheduling & Dispatching Technologies*** – Abby Tremel and Lauren Ellis of the National Center for Applied Transit Technology (N-CATT), CTAA

Scheduling and dispatching platforms are complex pieces of software that you are trying to fit into your complex operations. Finding the best option for your system, from procurement and selection through contracting and deployment, can be a daunting task. However, there are strategies to help you position your agency for the best possible outcome. The National Center for Applied Transit Technology will show agencies how they can set up smart procurements and contracts, and how staff at every level can help with a successful rollout of new software.

## Hotel Lobby

- **Mobile Workshop: *Making it to a Million Miles – Metro Transit Maintenance Program and Tour*** - Dale Schaefer, General Manager, Vehicle and Facility Maintenance and Geoff Kehr, Director of Quality Assurance and Training in the Vehicle Maintenance Division (this Mobile workshop will run from 1:15-3:15 p.m.)

Don't miss this one-of-a-kind opportunity to discover the secrets behind Metro Transit's incredibly long-lasting public transit vehicles. We'll pull back the curtain on the inventive maintenance techniques and strategies that have helped their fleet stay on the road for over a million miles. You'll leave with a deeper understanding of how careful planning, cutting-edge tech, and dedicated teamwork come together to keep public transportation safe, dependable, and efficient. If you want to learn how to get the most mileage out of your transit fleet, this session is a must.

2:15 – 3:15 p.m.

## Promenade Ballroom

- **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**
- **Rural Transit Operations: *Rural Transit Operator Panel – Opportunities and Challenges on the Driving Front*** - OATS Driver Sandy Nolan; SMTS Operators Jimmy Gilliam and Jerry Williams; Moderator – Daniel Smith, SMTS

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Rural transit in Missouri is a critical link for many in our small communities across the state including a very different service profile than we see in the urban areas. This panel will be composed of expert rural transit operators on the road in Missouri talking about the opportunities and challenges faced in our rural communities.

## Plaza

- **Building Partnerships for Transit Success:  
*New Avenues for Recruitment and Retention*** –Moderator: Shayna Gleason, Research Associate, Transit Workforce Center

As transit agencies continue to work to recruit and retain quality employees from the communities we serve, are there partnerships we can develop and populations we can reach out to broaden and strengthen our recruitment strategies as we move forward? This session will explore examples of successful strategies and partnerships for recruitment and retention of populations sometimes overlooked, including people with disabilities, retirees, people experiencing homelessness, and individuals entering transit through second chance programs. Join this session to hear from presenters about a range of creative initiatives, followed by opportunities to have a dialogue with presenters and to share experiences.

## Concourse

- **Future of Transit:  
*Technology Summit – Fare Payment*** - Abby Tremel and Lauren Ellis of the National Center for Applied Transit Technology (N-CATT), CTAA

There are a wide variety of technologies to collect fares from passengers. It is important to consider the investments required for certain types, and to balance those against how much you expect to collect. This session will walk agencies through their fare collection goals and the types of fare collection technologies that tend to match those goals so agencies can right-size their efforts and investments.

3:15 – 3:30 p.m.

**Break**

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.  
Concourse

## **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

- **Rural Transit Operations:  
*MoDOT & RTAP Transit Update*** – Christy Evers, MoDOT, and Heath Pickerill, Missouri RTAP

Discussion with MoDOT Transit staff discussing all federal programs, state programs, and reporting requirements. This is an opportunity to meet all MoDOT program managers and ask questions regarding federal and state programs. Included in this session is a presentation from Missouri University of Science and Technology for Rural Transportation Assistance Program (RTAP) identifying the training opportunities offered for rural transit providers in the State of Missouri.

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

- Promenade Ballroom**
- **Building Partnerships for Transit Success: *Roundtable Conversations***
    - Alternative Fuels, Table Captain, MOPERC
    - Placemaking/Stop Improvements, Table Captains, Marilyn Turner and Charlene Wall
    - Adopt-A-Stop Maintenance Programs, Table Captain, Cindy Baker, KCATA
    - Social Service Partnerships, Table Captain: Ted Zimmerman, Metro Transit
    - Evaluating Transit Operations, Table Captain, Matt Crawford, Transit Director at City Utilities of Springfield
- Plaza**
- **Future of Transit:  
*FTA Workshop with FTA Region VII Staff***

FTA Region VII staff will discuss the future of transit including green initiatives and automated fare collection. Additionally, FTA will discuss micro transit and the future of free fare. Have questions for FTA? Now is the time to ask!
- Hotel Lobby**
- **Mobile Workshop:  
*Training and Mentorship – Onsite Tour of Metro Training Facilities and Update on Mentor Program*** - Trenise Winters, Assistant Executive Director of Metro Transit, and Dr. Samada Randels, Director of Metro Training
- Metro Transit is shaking things up with a brand-new approach to training and we want to give you an inside look. Join us for a special session where we'll take you on a behind-the-scenes tour of Metro's Training Facilities. You'll see firsthand how they combine classroom learning with hands-on practice to get their new operators and frontline staff ready to provide top-notch service. We'll also dive into Metro's mentorship program, a team effort with ATU local 788. This program is all about making the onboarding process even better by creating a supportive environment for new hires.
- 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.**  
**651 Clark Ave.**
- TOD in Action: Ballpark Village  
Networking Event @ Sports & Social**

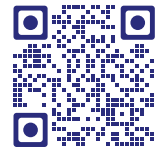
## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2024

- 7:30 – 8:00 a.m.**  
**Hotel Lobby**
- Conference Registration**
- 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.**  
**Promenade Ballroom**
- Breakfast of Transit Champions: MPTA 2024 Annual Meeting and Breakfast,**  
including Recognition of Operators, MPTA Elections, and FTA Awards
- 9:30 – 10:45 a.m.**  
**Promenade Ballroom**
- Plenary III:  
You are a Brand: Build it Wisely with Billy Terry, Executive Director of the  
National Transit Institute at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey**
- 11:00 a.m.**
- Conference Adjourns**



# EXHIBITORS

- Altro
- American Seating
- AMF BRUNS of America
- Bi-State Development
- BraunAbility
- Central States Bus Sales
- Complete Coach Works
- Ecolane USA, Inc.
- Federal Transit Administration
- Genfare
- Gerflor
- Gillig
- Hanover Displays
- Indra
- Master's Transportation
- Missouri Propane Education and Research Council
- National RTAP
- Passio Technologies
- Q'Straint / Sure-Lok
- REI
- RIDE
- Romaine Electric Corp
- Seifert Transit Graphics
- Southern Bus & Mobility
- Tesco Bus Corporation
- Transit Workforce Center
- TripMaster
- United Safety & Survivability Corporation
- Via

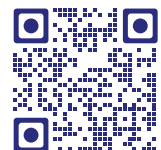


SCAN TO VIEW  
EXHIBITORS LAYOUT

# OPERATOR AWARDS

The challenges of the last few years have greatly affected Missouri's transit operators. MPTA is recognizing the following individuals, all of whom were nominated by their transit agencies for going above and beyond the call of duty over the last year.

- Bruce Hollinsworth, SMTS, Long-Distance Medical
- Charles Park, Cape Girardeau County Transit Authority
- Charrell DePree, Cape Girardeau County Transit Authority
- Dan Langendoerfer, OATS Transit Mid-Missouri Region
- Eric Williams, KC Streetcar
- Frank Seiberlich, OATS Transit Mideast Region
- Howard Nevins, OATS Transit East Region
- Jaime Oestreich, SERVE, Inc.
- James Sturrock, SMTS, Workshops
- Jerrell Woolford, Metro Transit (MetroLink)
- Kimberly Quinn, Metro Transit (MetroBus)
- Loretta Law, City Utilities of Springfield (Fixed Route)
- Patty Robinson, OATS Transit Northeast Region
- Paul Schuerger, SMTS, Non-Emergency Medical
- Peggy Taylor, OATS Transit Midwest Region
- Randy Bower, SMTS, Deviated Fixed Route Service
- Randy Hillyard, OATS Transit Northwest Region
- Ray Wallace, Kansas City Area Transportation Authority
- Rick Painter, OATS Transit Southwest Region
- Sean Driscoll, JeffTran
- Shane Johnson, OATS Transit West Region
- Sibyl Nanney, SMTS, Paratransit (Local Service)
- Stephen Duff, City Utilities of Springfield (Paratransit)
- Takesha Stanford, Metro Transit (Call-A-Ride)
- Vickie Thomas, SERVE, Inc.



SCAN TO VIEW  
OPERATOR STORIES

# SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2024 SPONSORS

## Premium



## Gold



## Silver



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MODERN TRANSIT**  
MAKING TRANSIT A PRIORITY

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## Bronze

**TRANSYSTEMS**



**GILLIG**

## Reception

**KCATA**

(Kansas City Area Transportation Authority)

**OATS Transit**

**SMTS**

(Southeast Missouri Transportation Service)

# SAVE THE DATE



## 2025 MIDWEST TRANSIT CONFERENCE

September 3-5, 2025, Kansas City, Missouri  
KC Marriott Downtown, Kansas City, MO





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## TRANSFORMING TRANSIT TOGETHER

Join us in enhancing St. Louis public transit.



Citizens for Modern Transit works to ensure the St. Louis region has access to a safe, convenient and affordable public transportation system. CMT works to champion it, challenge it, encourage it and advocate for it. Join us.

**WORKING TO MOVE TRANSIT FORWARD IN THE REGION**  
**CMT-STL.ORG**

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# ABOUT MPTA

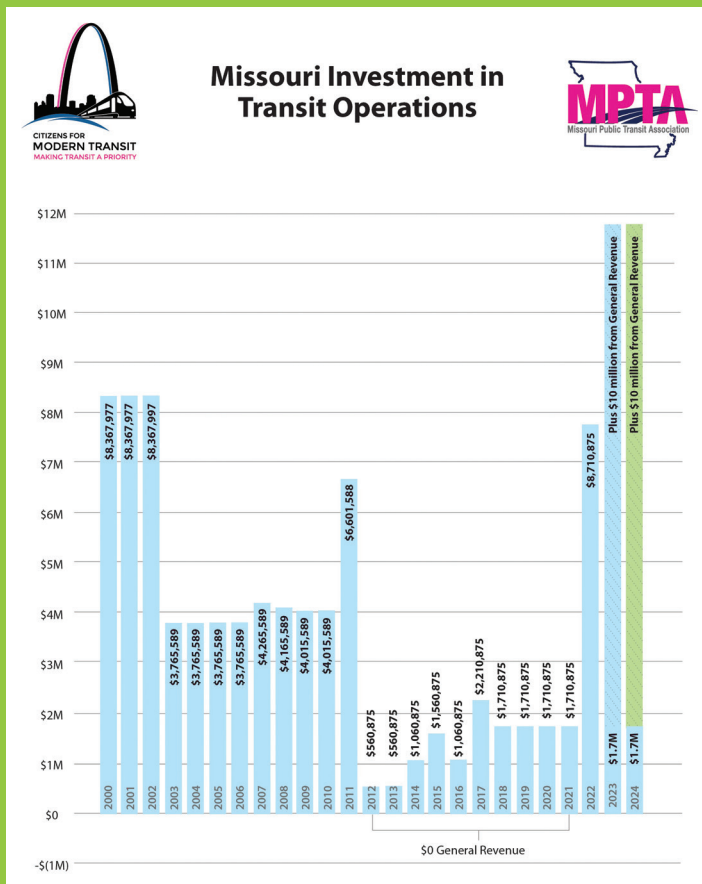
The Missouri Public Transit Association (MPTA) was established in 1980 to provide a unified voice for public and specialized transportation providers in Missouri and to work toward elevating the status of public transit as a priority. Forty-two years later we continue to work to ensure transit has a voice in this state.

MPTA transit provider members provide more than 42 million rides almost everywhere for everybody every day in Missouri, and they employ thousands in our communities. The MPTA mission values personal mobility as a basic quality of life by promoting access to public transit services.

The facts show investment in transit increases access to jobs, education and healthcare; creates development opportunities and jobs; and provides reinvestment in the disadvantaged areas of our state. According to the American Public Transit Association, for every dollar invested in transit projects there is a \$4 return for the state.

## GOALS:

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



[mopublictransit.org](http://mopublictransit.org)

## MISSOURI PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSOCIATION

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