

SMTS MARKETING STRATEGIES

by Tracy Jones, Executive Director

Section 5311 Rural Transportation Provider 21 Counties in Southeast Missouri

Demand Response, Paratransit, Fixed Route Local and Long-Distance

KEY CONSIDERATIONS



ROI

What is the budget for marketing?
Will there be a return on investment, or is it trackable?



Target Demographic

General public with a focus on those who would need us the most: low-income, seniors, and individuals with disabilities.

MARKETING STRATEGIES

Word of Mouth Google/SEO Website **Print** Strategies **Social Media** Radio **Vehicle Wraps**

WHAT WORKS

WHAI DOESN'T WORK

People trust recommendations from friends and family

WORD OF MOUTH

Free

Could

receive

dations

negative

recommen-

Limited reachMay not hittarget

SOCIAL MEDIA

• It's real and

personal

• Can be free

target demographic

variety of people • One-time cost

VEHICLE WRAPS

Constantly

advertising,

reaching a

moving

- Lack of SMTS contact information
- May only be recognized by those already familiar with the service

 Great for general searches for transportation

GOOGLE/SEO

- Using Thryv makes this easier
- Minimal Cost

 Takes time to set up

WHAT WORKS

WHAT DOESN'T WORK

Can customize all informationEasy to findMinimal cost

WEBSITE

Newspapers

 and
 brochures
 can be great
 for targeted
 campaigns

PRINT

SMTS

 published
 brochures

Hits a wide range of demographics

RADIO

 Local stations are typically received as trustworthy Target
 demographic
 likely watches
 TV frequently

TV

 Takes time to set up, especially when trying to coordinate with Google search keywords

- Newspapers covers small area
- Limited
 number of
 people still
 read
- Expensive

- Target
 demographic
 doesn't drive,
 which is most
 frequent use
 of radio
- Can be expensive

- Can be very expensive
- Difficult to see results or ROI



SMTS MARKETING STRATEGIES

Biggest Takeaway:

Marketing is ever-evolving, and strategies should be evaluated and changed as needed.