



Thank you for your time today. Below is my Missouri transit story. Transit matters to this state. We need your support of the restoration of the core \$5 million from General Revenue for public transit operating investment. Thank you.

# MY MISSOURI TRANSIT STORY

**Name:** Liz Austin

**Phone:**

**Address:**

**E-mail:**

## Transit provider in my area:

Bi-State: MetroBus, MetroLink, and Call-A-Ride



## My transit story in Missouri:

Our family relies on Missouri's transit system every single day. Our 21-year-old son, Ryan, has Down syndrome. He is a proud part of our region's workforce—working part-time at Busch Stadium in the summer, Enterprise Center in the winter, and serving as a host at Curtain Call for the Fox Theatre. He also serves on Metro's Metro Transit Accessibility Advisory Committee. Here's his Spotlight on Metro's website: <https://youtu.be/Yywzpo7oSqs> Ryan will never drive, but he is capable, independent, and an incredible ambassador for the special needs community and inclusive workforce development. Public transit makes that independence possible. He successfully navigates Call-A-Ride and MetroLink to get to his jobs, as well as to programming at St. Louis ARC and the Down Syndrome Association of Greater St. Louis. These These educational, social, and community connections simply would not be available without safe, reliable, affordable, and accessible transportation.

## Why this should be important to you as our elected official.

Public transit is not just a service—it is an economic development tool for Missouri. When people like Ryan can access work, training, healthcare, and community life, our entire region benefits. Employers benefit. Businesses benefit. Our tax base grows. Independence grows. Transit funding needs to increase, not decrease, if we want to support job growth, inclusive workforce participation, and a strong, competitive region. Public transit is essential infrastructure that connects people to opportunity.



Missouri Public Transit Association, 701 Market, Ste. 275, St. Louis, MO 63101

[www.mopublictransit.org](http://www.mopublictransit.org) 314.231.7272