



Early Spring Edition
eNEWSLETTER

FIRST QUARTER 2018



MPTA UPDATES  **6**

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November 13, 2017, The Department of Transportation (DOT) published a final rule in the Federal Register (82 FR 52229).

NEED TRAINING?

Call our office to schedule training for your agency at **1.573.341.6155**

National RTAP is a program of the Federal Transit Administration dedicated to creating rural transit solutions through technical assistance, partner collaboration and FREE training.



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THE FINE PRINT

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LETTER FROM THE MANAGER

DEAR TRANSIT FRIENDS,

I reported at the end of last year in our fourth quarter eNewsletter that we were waiting on the review of proposals for the new RTAP contract to be completed. I am happy to share that we were selected by MoDOT to manage the operations of Missouri RTAP under a three-year contract. We will continue providing the same great RTAP services you have come to know and trust. Writing the proposal gave us an opportunity to outline our plans for the next few years and reflect on our successes over the past five years. Partnerships were key in the development of an effective and efficient RTAP program. We want to continue strengthening our relationships with the transit agencies we serve. I have traveled throughout the state alongside MoDOT personnel meeting with transit agencies in past years to assess your needs and satisfaction with the program. This proved very valuable in highlighting some additional training needs. I would like to hold similar meetings this year to identify topics of interest beyond those that we currently offer. If the agencies in your area are planning to meet in the coming months, I would be eager to attend and provide an update on the Missouri RTAP program. This would also allow me to answer any questions you may have on our plans.



Heath Pickerill, Missouri RTAP Manager

I do want to let everyone know about a change to the mileage rate. If you drive a personally owned vehicle (POV) versus a transit vehicle to any conference or workshop that is eligible for scholarship reimbursement, please note as of February 1, 2018, the mileage reimbursement rate has been reduced from 50.5 cents per mile to 37 cents per mile for travel by personal vehicle. This revised policy aligns with the current mileage rate for the state of Missouri. We realize this is a significant reduction; however, we unfortunately had no control over the change. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Please plan any anticipated travel well in advance. Remember that we require flying versus driving comparisons with rates secured at least 30 days in advance. The conference season will be upon us before we know it. Please submit travel requests as early as possible. Remember that we always want to hear from you. Feel free to contact me at pickerillh@mst.edu or by phone at 573-341-7637 with any questions, comments or suggestion you have. If you know someone who would like to start receiving the newsletter, they can call our office or go to the Missouri RTAP website at <http://mortap.com> and sign up.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heath Pickerill".

Heath Pickerill
Missouri RTAP Manager

ATTENTION!

IF IT IS NECESSARY to utilize a personally owned vehicle over a transit vehicle to attend a rural transit conference or workshop, please note that effective February 1, 2018, there is a reduction of mileage reimbursement rate from 50.5 cents per mile to 37 cents per mile for travel by personal vehicle. This revised policy aligns with the current mileage rate for the state of Missouri.



MO Transportation Task Force Report Calls for \$50-70 Million in Funding for Transit and other Multi-modal Transportation

IN 2017, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTED HCR 47, which established the 21st Century Missouri Transportation System Task Force – a 23-member, bipartisan panel comprised of participants from the House of Representatives, Senate and Executive Branch, as well as the private sector. The Task Force was directed to evaluate Missouri’s transportation system and make funding recommendations.

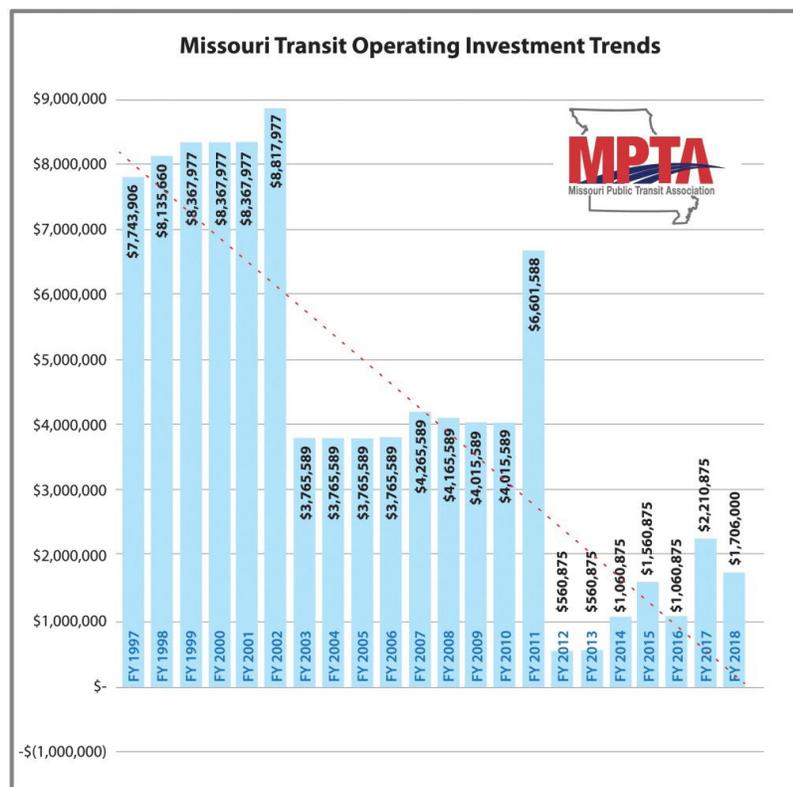
Between June and December of last year, the task force met throughout the state on 10 separate occasions. These meetings provided the opportunity for the public to weigh-in and resulted in more than 100 individuals testifying on a variety of transportation issues.

The Task Force released its recommendation report on January 2, 2018, calling for an increase in state gas tax revenues to deliver economic growth, and the creation of a dedicated revenue stream of \$50 to \$70 million for transit and other multi-modal transportation. More specifically, the Task Force is recommending a 10 cent hike in the gas tax and 12 cent hike in the diesel fuel tax. This would bring gas and diesel fuel to 27 cents and 29 cents per gallon, respectively, when both have been set at 17 cents per gallon for nearly two decades. According to State Rep. Kevin Corlew, a fuel tax hike would provide an additional \$430 million a year for roads and bridges. The proposed fuel tax hike would have to be passed by both the legislature and Missouri voters.

With regards to the \$50 to \$70 million for the dedicated stream of funding for transit and other multi-modal transportation, the report notes that it is not suggesting any additional taxation of Missouri citizens. Rather, it proposes a revision of Missouri’s “Timely Filing Discount” that currently allows retailers to retain two percent of the sales and use taxes they collect from customers if they remit those taxes to the state in a timely manner. This vendor discount is uncapped, remains the second-most generous in the country and cost Missourians about \$115 million in 2016. A discount at a lesser percent, or implementation of a cap, would provide revenue savings, which could then be directed to multi-modal transportation. The Task Force also recommends that any potential savings be statutorily designated to go into the non-highway transportation fund.

According to the American Public Transit Association, every \$1 dollar invested in public transportation systems yields a \$4 return. Given the fact that transit funding in Missouri has been slashed to \$1.7 million for FY2018, Citizens for Modern Transit, the transit advocacy organization in St. Louis, is encouraged by the recommendation. The organization understands that while the plan may come with challenges, it is on the right track as it relates to transit funding.

“While any transportation plan will face significant challenges in this legislative session, I am pleased to see that the Task Force took into account the need to recommend specific investment in transit and multi-modal transportation. MPTA members stressed the importance of this investment in their testimonies at many of the public meetings that were held in 2017. This is most definitely a good first step for transit,” said Dorothy Yeager, President of MPTA.



UPCOMING EVENTS



13th Annual FTA Drug and Alcohol Program National Conference

Fort Lauderdale, FL
May 8-10, 2018

This FREE three-day Conference will provide attendees with a well-founded background on 49 CFR Part 655 (Prevention of Alcohol Misuse and Prohibited Drug Use in Transit Operators) and 49 CFR Part 40 (Procedures for Transportation Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs).

The Conference will offer attendees the opportunity to choose from a variety of sessions, allowing each participant to customize their experience as they see best appropriate for the specific needs of their employer and knowledge level of the regulations.

There is no charge for this conference. Attendees are financially responsible for all travel related expenses, including all meals.

For more information, visit <https://transit-safety.fta.dot.gov/DrugAndAlcohol/Training/NatConf/2018/Register.aspx>



CTAA EXPO Pittsburgh, PA June 10-14, 2018

The EXPO is the premier annual event for community and public transportation professionals to participate in essential learning events and network with colleagues. Speakers and sessions will keep attendees up to date with innovative technology, workforce development, communication strategies, funding, and regulations. The EXPO also features a trade show with all of the latest community transportation goods and services.

For more information, visit <http://web1.ctaa.org/webmodules/webarticles/anmviewer.asp?a=5185>



2018 MPTA Annual Conference Columbia, MO September 19-21, 2018

Join us for exciting speakers, interesting vendor exhibits, and practical workshops. The 2018 conference will focus on issues of interest to transit providers, but also of interest to local planners, community building networks, offices of sustainability, and more.

For more information on the MPTA Annual Conference, please visit <https://mopublictransit.org/event/2018-mpta-annual-conference/>



23rd National Conference On Rural Public And Intercity Bus Transportation

Breckenridge, CO
September 30, 2018-October 3, 2018

The conference includes multiple routes to offer learning opportunities throughout the conference for everyone: planning and design; policy, funding and finance; rural transportation in today's operating environment; technology and training solutions; and special topics in rural mobility.

The conference will be held at the Beaver Run Conference Center in Breckenridge, Colorado. For more information on registration visit <http://www.ribtc.org/>

MPTA WELCOMES NEW PROGRAM DIRECTOR



The Missouri Public Transit Association welcomed Mallory Box on Feb. 20 as the new Program Director.

Mallory Box advocates for improved investment in and commitment to public transportation throughout the State of Missouri in her role as Director of Programs and Membership of Missouri Public Transit Association (MPTA), and for expanded and improved transit in the St. Louis region as the Director of Programs and Membership for Citizens for Modern Transit (CMT). Her work focuses on educating the community on benefits of transit at the individual, regional and state level. Box oversees innovative transit ridership incentive programs, including the Try and Ride program, Ten Toes Express, and the Guaranteed Ride Home program.

Box brings with her more than five years of marketing and public relations experience, most recently serving as marketing director at The Elder & Estate Planning Law Firm. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Communication with a certification in Public Relations from the University of Missouri – St. Louis, where she graduated Magna Cum Laude, and currently serves on the board of directors for Pride St. Charles as the organization’s director of public relations and marketing.



MPTA EDUCATIONAL SERIES: GETTING ON BOARD WITH PURCHASING AND PROCUREMENT

MPTA announces its next Educational Series Event scheduled for Wednesday, May 2, 2018, “Getting on Board with Purchasing

and Procurement,” in Jefferson City, MO. Hear from FTA Region VII on their latest procurement requirements and resources for recipients to assist with third-party procurements for projects receiving FTA funds.

The event will feature FTA Region VII’s Director, Operations and Program Management, William Kalt. There will also be time for Q & A.

REGISTER HERE: <https://cmt.cividesk.com/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=106>

The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the MoDOT Central District Offices, 1511 Missouri Blvd., Jefferson City, MO.

MPTA’s Educational Series was launched in 2016 in order to support MPTA’s individual and organizational members. The series features quarterly events focused on issues that transit providers and advocacy organizations encounter in the transit industry in Missouri. Sponsorships are available; inquire at kcella@mopublictransit.org.

MPTA HIGHLIGHTS MISSOURI TRANSIT INDUSTRY OPPORTUNITIES IN 2018

The Missouri Public Transit Association (MPTA) is teaming up with transportation providers and members from all over the state to announce transit related job openings in 2018. MPTA members are encouraged to contact MPTA when searching for qualified applicants for any transit-related positions in Missouri. The MPTA will post the employment opportunities on their website and send out openings in their monthly newsletters.

“Our goal is to increase exposure for MPTA members for job recruitment while simultaneously helping to provide transit-related jobs for Missouri residents,” said Kim Cella, MPTA. “We know that MPTA members and providers employ thousands in Missouri rural and urban areas, and have a direct impact on this state’s economy.”

To report an available transit related position, please send details to kcella@mopublictransit.org.



Missouri Rural Transit Connection

DUNKLIN COUNTY TRANSIT *Hall of Fame*



Dunklin County Transit Services was recently awarded the Hall of Fame Award from the Missouri Rural Services Workers Compensation Insurance Trust for excellence in accident prevention. Presenting the award was Kara Gibbins from the Byrum, Culp, Davis, Dell Insurance Company. Pictured from left are Robin Allen, Debbie Stoker, Janie Jones, Kara Gibbins, Kristi Rawlings, Arden Tolleson, and Teresa Payne.

Photo by Jeff Dorris, staff

OATS - NORTHEAST ON THE JOB

On March 15th, I noticed some of our hard-working rural transit drivers in Columbia, MO. I just left Sam's Club and saw two people with their OATS vehicle in the parking lot. I don't get to meet many of the transit drivers at the annual MPTA Conference so I decided to stop and identify myself and ask if I could take their picture for our upcoming Enewsletter.

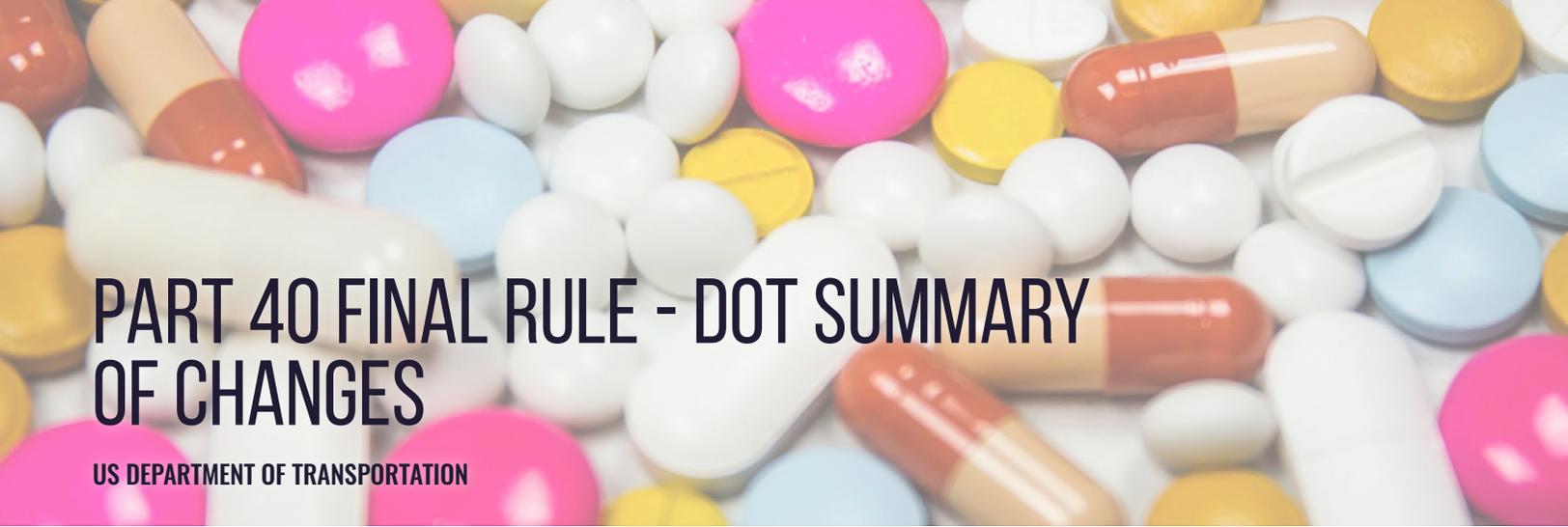
Allow me to introduce you to Emily Robinson and Rick Brokes, both from Hannibal, MO who are employed by the OATS, Inc. Northeast Region in Macon. Emily has worked for OATS for 19 years and Rick is a recent hire. It was nice to meet and visit with them on such a gorgeous day.



If I come across any of our other rural transit drivers in their agency vehicles, I will definitely stop by to chat with them and take a picture for our Enewsletter.

Thanks Emily and Rick! Safe travels!

Doreen Harkins, MO RTAP Program Specialist



PART 40 FINAL RULE - DOT SUMMARY OF CHANGES

US DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NOVEMBER 13, 2017, THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT) published a final rule in the Federal Register (82 FR 52229). The rule, among other items, added four semi-synthetic opioids (i.e., hydrocodone, oxycodone, hydromorphone, oxymorphone). It also added methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA) as an initial test analyte and removed the testing for methylenedioxyethylamphetaime (MDEA).

When is the final rule effective?

- The final rule is effective January 1, 2018.

What does this mean for employees?

- You will also be tested for four semi-synthetic opioids (i.e., hydrocodone, oxycodone, hydromorphone, oxymorphone). Some common names for these semi-synthetic opioids include OxyContin®, Percodan®, Percocet®, Vicodin®, Lortab®, Norco®, Dilaudid®, Exalgo®. In addition, you will no longer be tested for MDEA.

What does this mean for employers and Consortium/Third Party Administrators (C/TPA)?

- As an employer or C/TPA, you will no longer be required to submit blind specimens to laboratories.

What does this mean for urine collectors?

- The shy bladder process has been modified so that the collector will discard any specimen provided during the collection event when the employee does not provide a sufficient specimen by the end of the three hour wait period.

What does this mean for laboratories?

As an HHS-certified laboratory you will:

- Add four semi-synthetic opioids: hydrocodone, oxycodone, hydromorphone; oxymorphone to your DOT testing panel;
- Add MDA as an initial test analyte;
- Remove testing for MDEA;
- Add three more fatal flaws to the list of reasons when a laboratory would report a 'rejected for testing' specimen; and
- Need to modify the reports [in Appendix B & C] you provide to employers and the DOT.

What does this mean for Medical Review Officers (MRO)?

- Several of your MRO drug test review processes have been modified. For example:
- The term 'prescription' has been clarified;
- You have authority to conduct D,L stereoisomer and THC-V testing; and
- The timing when you communicate a significant safety risk has been modified.

What does this mean for alcohol technicians?

- The list of NHTSA-approved Alcohol Screening Devices and Evidential Breath Testing Devices will appear on ODAPC's website.

What does this mean for service agents?

- Collectors, alcohol testing technicians, MROs, and Substance Abuse Professionals will be required to subscribe to ODAPC's list-serve at: https://www.transportation.gov/odapc/ListServe_Notices.
- Unauthorized use of DOT-branded items (such as logos or emblems) on a service agent's website, publications, etc., could be a basis for the DOT to initiate a Public Interest Exclusion proceeding.

What are some of the other changes to Part 40?

- The DOT added a new section reiterating that, in the DOT testing program, only urine specimens can be collected and analyzed at HHS-certified laboratories.
- The DOT added language further emphasizing the existing DOT prohibition on the use of DNA testing on DOT drug-testing specimens.
- The final rule made minor modifications to certain section headings.
- The final rule moved the list of Substance Abuse Professional certification organizations from the rule text to ODAPC's website.
- The final rule moved the MIS instructions from Appendix H to ODAPC's website.

- Outdated compliance dates were removed and links were updated.
- Appendices B, C, D, and H were updated.

Where can I find a copy of the final rule?

You can view the final rule on ODAPC's web site www.transportation.gov/odapc/frpubs.

NOTE: This document informally summarizes some of the important effects of the rule, but it is not a substitute for the rule and should not be relied upon to determine legal compliance with the rule. ODAPC encourages affected entities, including employers and service agents, to review the final rule.

Only in Your State ~ Missouri

The One Incredible Trail That Spans The Entire State of Missouri

One spectacular trail in Missouri spans the entire state. This rails-to-trails system follows the old Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad lines, and is now the largest state park in Missouri. **Katy Trail State Park** is one of the best biking trails in the state and is a great trail for beginners and advanced riders. Find out why this state park is just so incredible!

For the ride of a life time, Missourians can bike 287.5 miles across the state on the Katy Trail. The trail begins in Machens, just north of St. Charles, and ends in Pleasant Hill, just south of Lee's Summit.

Katy Trail is the longest developed rail-trail in America! It's truly a great pride point for Missourians. There are

so many neat things to see along the trail. From natural wonders to man-made ones, this trail trip is definitely worth taking.

The trail follows the Missouri River for much of the trip. While the valleys provide long straightaways, there are hills to climb too! Along the way you may see old ruins from river trading days, caves tucked away in the bluffs, and remnants from the railroad. Crossing old railroad bridges and traveling through tunnels is certainly a highlight of the trip.

Many trail travelers plan stops along the way. You'll find great wineries, cafes, shops, and hotels along the trail. You may even discover your new favorite small town!

Some of the best aspects of the trail are the quiet stretches that are nestled into the trees. You can truly feel a sense of peace and tranquility along the trail.

For most riders, just getting in a few miles on the trail is enough. There are many places to start your ride but be sure to plan your trip in advance so you have the right gear! With spring upon us, it's time to get out your bikes for another season of outdoor fun!

If you're interested in tackling the entire trail this year, be sure to visit the Katy Trail State Park [website](#).

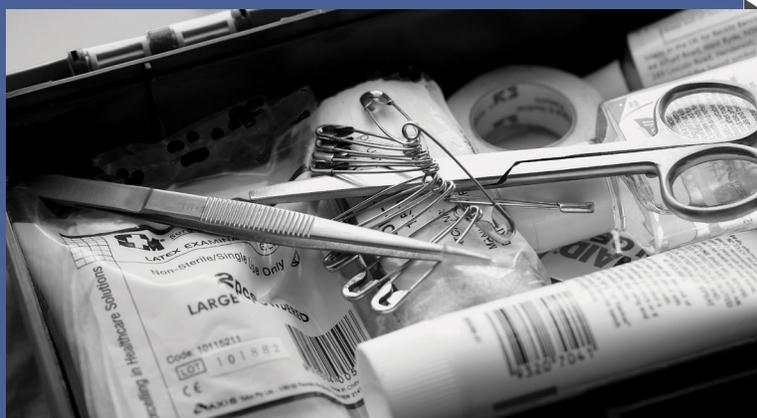
Reference: <http://www.onlyinyourstate.com/missouri/katy-trail-spans-entire-state-mo/>MISSOURI RTAP eNEWSLETTER



AVAILABLE TRAINING PROGRAMS

The following is a list of the training programs and a course description of each that are currently available to rural transit providers through Missouri RTAP. Requests for training can be made by contacting Doreen Harkins, MO-RTAP Program Specialist, at harkinsd@mst.edu or 573-341-6155.

1. AGGRESSIVE DRIVING — 1 hour.
2. BACKING SAFETY — 1/2 hour.
3. BASIC FIRST AID — 1 hour.
4. BLOOD BORNE PATHOGENS — 1 hour.
5. CPR & BASIC FIRST AID — 4 hours.
6. DEFENSIVE DRIVING — 3 hours.
7. DISTRACTED DRIVING — 1 hour.
8. DIVERSITY & AWARENESS TRAINING - PROVIDING QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE FOR TRANSPORTATION PASSENGERS WHO HAVE DISABILITIES — 2 hours.
9. DRIVEN TO EXTREMES — 1 hour.
10. DRUG ABUSE AWARENESS IN RURAL TRANSIT — 1 hour.
11. EMERGENCY & EVACUATION PROCEDURES — 1 1/2 to 2 hours.
12. ENTRY LEVEL CDL DRIVER TRAINING — 2 hours.
13. FATIGUE AWARENESS FOR DRIVERS — 2 hours.
14. HIPAA — 1 hour.
15. OPERATION LIFESAVER - HIGHWAY-RAIL CROSSING SAFETY — 1 hour.
16. PASSENGER ASSISTANCE/MOBILITY AID SECUREMENT — 2 hours.
17. REASONABLE SUSPICION TRAINING FOR SUPERVISORS — 2 hours.
18. SAFE & SECURE PROPER INFANT AND CHILD SEAT INSTALLATION — 2 hours.
19. SENSITIVITY AWARENESS — 1 hour.
20. SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS — 1 hour. **NEW**
21. WHEELCHAIR SECUREMENT — 2 to 3 hours depending on number of participants.
22. WINTER DRIVING SAFETY — 1 hour.



For more information on classes and to register please visit: mltrc.mst.edu/mortaphome/mortaptraining/

RESOURCES

National RTAP – Rural Transit Assistance Program

www.nationalrtap.org/

Transportation Safety Institute – Transit Safety & Security Training Division

www.tsi.dot.gov/Transit.aspx

Federal Transit Administration – Rural Transit Assistance Program Page

[www.fta.dot.gov/funding/grants/
grants_financing_3554.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/funding/grants/grants_financing_3554.html)

Missouri Public Transit

www.mopublictransit.org/

National Transit Institute

www.ntionline.com/

Kansas RTAP – Kansas University Transportation Center

[www.kutc.ku.edu/cgiwrap/kutc/rtap/
index.php/index.html](http://www.kutc.ku.edu/cgiwrap/kutc/rtap/index.php/index.html)

Transportation Research Board's (TRB) Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP)

www.tcrponline.org/

