



Second Quarter Edition

eNEWSLETTER

In this ISSUE

SECOND QUARTER 2020



HOUSE UNVEILS MULTI-YEAR REAUTHORIZATION BILL

The Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America (INVEST in America) Act is a 5-year, \$494 billion investment to get existing infrastructure working again and fund new projects to create millions of jobs.



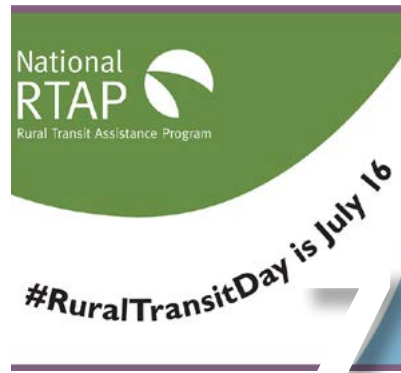
CTAA EXPO 2020 RESCHEDULED & 2020 CTAA EXCELLENCE IN MOTION AWARDS NOMINATIONS



MARSHA CROWLEY CELEBRATES 25 YEARS WITH OATS TRANSIT

Celebrating 25 years with OATS Transit.

The Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) was initiated in 1986 by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to provide resources, training and technical assistance to rural transit providers. The Missouri RTAP Center is located at Missouri University of Science and Technology (Missouri S&T) in Rolla. Since April 2012, Missouri S&T has been contracted by MoDOT to manage the RTAP program.



JULY 16, 2020 IS NATIONAL RURAL TRANSIT DAY & ENTER THE NATIONAL RTAP RURAL TRANSIT HEROES PHOTO CONTEST



MOTOR VEHICLE FATALITY RATES JUMP 14% IN MARCH DESPITE QUARANTINES

Preliminary estimates and data show emptier but riskier roads during COVID-19 pandemic.



OUTDOOR BUCKET LIST FOR 2020

With summer in full swing, now's an ideal time to start working on your outdoor bucket list for 2020. You might even want to add these Missouri natural wonders.

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.



LETTER FROM THE MANAGER

DEAR TRANSIT FRIENDS,

I am happy to report the MO-LTAP office resumed normal business operations on Monday, June 1 with the reopening of the Missouri S&T campus to faculty and staff under guidelines to protect the safety of everyone. We will cautiously begin offering RTAP trainings, following all CDC guidelines by limiting class sizes, adhering to social distancing, providing proper personal protective equipment such as face masks and gloves, along with using any necessary sanitizers and disinfectants. Doreen recently purchased a supply of facemasks and gloves for John Rice to take with him to classes. We recognize agencies ability to schedule training will depend on their facility sizes and the guidelines they must follow. Please contact Doreen if you would like to reschedule any training postponed during the last few months.



Heath Pickerill
Missouri RTAP Manager

Many of the upcoming transit events are being adjusted to meet updated CDC guidelines. You may have seen the survey requesting input for the MPTA conference as organizers considered various options for providing the safest method of holding the event. Based on the most recent information, it looks like the conference will be held in person as originally scheduled. If you plan to attend, please submit your Application for Training Assistance Form to Doreen. Also, note the 24th National Conference on Rural Public and Intercity Bus Transportation was postponed until October 24-27, 2021 in Charleston, South Carolina. We will share new information on transit related events as it becomes available.

In closing, I want to wish everyone an enjoyable summer. I hope the next few months bring warm, sunny weather to lift everyone's spirits. As transit agencies resume regular operations, I want to encourage all of you to work safely and take precautions to safeguard your own health and safety as well as those around you. All of us here at Missouri RTAP hope you, your employees, and families are staying safe and healthy.

Best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heath Pickerill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heath Pickerill
Missouri RTAP Manager

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HOUSE UNVEILS MULTI-YEAR REAUTHORIZATION BILL

The House has unveiled its multi-year reauthorization bill. The Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America (INVEST in America) Act is a 5-year, \$494 billion investment to get existing infrastructure working again and fund new projects to create millions of jobs and support American manufacturing and ingenuity while reducing carbon pollution, dramatically improving safety, and spurring economic activity. The proposed bill includes \$319 billion for highways and \$105 billion for transit investments. In addition, there is \$60 billion for rail investments.

TRANSIT INVESTMENTS INCLUDED: \$105 BILLION

- Increases funding for transit agencies to add new routes and provide more reliable service, encouraging viable public transit options and fewer single-occupant cars clogging highways.
- Creates a Mobility Innovation program to permit transit agencies to collaborate on mobility on demand services.
- Strengthens Buy America provisions to boost domestic jobs in rail and bus manufacturing.
- Increases investment in zero-emission buses to reduce carbon pollution.
- Streamlines project delivery by reforming the Capital Investment Grants program so that our investments get shovels in the ground quicker and commuters see results faster.
- Provides the investments needed to address the growing backlog of transit maintenance needs, making public transit safer and more reliable.

Breakdown of the bill available [here](#).

mopublictransit.org/2020/06/03/house-unveils-multi-year-reauthorization-bill/

CTAA EXPO 2020 RESCHEDULED

THE CTAA EXPO ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED

for June 2020 in Louisville, KY has been rescheduled to November 15-19, 2020. Please read the announcement here ctaa.org/expo-2020/.

If you submitted an Application for Training Assistance and it was already approved for the June conference, you do not need to reapply due to the change in the conference date. If you have not submitted an application and would like to attend the conference, please submit your MO-RTAP Application for Training Assistance Form at least thirty days in advance of the conference start date.



20/20 MOBILITY INSIGHT AWARDS



2020 CTAA Excellence in Motion Awards Nominations

The Community Transportation Association of America is seeking nominations for membership awards. These awards provide a unique opportunity to recognize excellence in the community transportation industry. The person or organization must be a member of CTAA. Nomination information must be received by **September 21, 2020**.

Award categories include Rural Community Transportation System of the Year, Community Transportation Manager of the Year, Urban Community Transportation System of the Year, and State Leadership Award.

For further information go to ctaa.org/awards-2020/.

MARSHA CROWLEY CELEBRATES 25 YEARS WITH OATS TRANSIT



Sheree Webb honors Marsha Crowley with her 25 year clock.

“Marsha has consistently performed far beyond established objectives and has made significant contributions to our company,” said Regional Director Sheree Webb. “She is a great employee who has contributed so much to the success of the Northeast region and our Medicaid program.”

Marsha Crowley of Shelbina, MO was recently honored by OATS Transit for 25 years of service with the company. She started with the company in May 1995, which at that time was housed in Shelbina. In 2013, the regional office relocated to Macon, where Marsha still works.

Marsha is an Operations Coordinator and handles much of the northeast Missouri Medicaid program for the company.

The Northeast region has 90 drivers, 11 office staff, 200 volunteers, and 140 vehicles in its fleet. OATS Transit provides more than 1.4 million trips across the state of Missouri; 195,000 of those trips were in the Northeast Region alone.

Article link: oatstransit.org/post/marsha-crowley



ABOUT THE FRONT COVER...

ST. LOUIS — After biologists discovered a hidden prairie in the 1990s at Calvary Cemetery, they ended up with quite a storyline: The last remnants of native tall grasses left in the metro area could show what more than a third of Missouri looked like when settlers arrived. And there the 25-acre prairie was, protected all this time from agricultural development like a secret garden, in north St. Louis.

For more info, graphics.stltoday.com/apps/prairie/.

NATIONAL RURAL TRANSIT DAY IS JULY 16



TAKE THE NATIONAL RTAP RURAL TRANSIT DAY PLEDGE AND SHOW YOUR COMMITMENT TO RURAL TRANSIT.

Form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeVTT7IIqpGsoi5hnYwNer_Eq9HhZIZ-8qOsbxOv84KnEQwSw/viewform

This special day focuses on what agencies are doing to recognize passengers and staff on Rural Transit Day and through the year.

And look what's happening for Rural Transit Day! The second annual Rural Transit Day will take place on July 16, 2020. This year there are many new ways to get involved. Once again, the National RTAP will host a #RuralTransitDay Twitter Chat where participants share thoughts about the benefits of rural transit, along with challenges and solutions. Visit the new Rural Transit Day web page to learn more about this special day. Website Link nationalrtap.org/News/Rural-Transit-Day.

ENTER THE NATIONAL RTAP RURAL TRANSIT HEROES PHOTO CONTEST



Do you know someone who has gone above and beyond to make sure their passengers travel safely and comfortably in all situations? An individual who has spurred innovations to help rural and tribal transit agencies overcome challenges and find new solutions? A person who has helped provide essential transportation or delivery of vital resources during the COVID-19 pandemic? Somebody who has played a leadership role in curbing human trafficking, addressing the opioid crisis, or helping other vulnerable populations through transit? All these heroes deserve to be commended and celebrated, so the theme of our 2020 Photo Contest is "Rural Transit Heroes." The contest ends August 20, 2020. nationalrtap.org/News/2020-Photo-Contest

THE AWARDS ARE:

First Prize \$400, Second Prize \$200, Third Prize \$100
All entries, including honorable mentions, will also receive plaques. Entries will be showcased on the national RTAP website and social media, tweeted at #RuralTransitHeroes Twitter Chat in October 2020, and displayed at one or more upcoming conferences.

Judging criteria and submission process can be found at nationalrtap.org/News/2020-Photo-Contest

MOTOR VEHICLE FATALITY RATES JUMP 14% IN MARCH DESPITE QUARANTINES

Preliminary estimates and data show emptier but riskier roads during COVID-19 pandemic.

Itasca, IL – Preliminary estimates from the National Safety Council show that as Americans began driving less and covering fewer miles, the emptier roads became more lethal. Early data indicate a year-over-year 14% jump in fatality rates per miles driven in March, in spite of an 8% drop in the total number of roadway deaths compared to March 2019. The actual number of miles driven dropped 18.6% compared to the same time period last year. The mileage death rate per 100 million vehicle miles driven was 1.22 in March compared to 1.07 in March 2019.

Through the first three months of 2020, the following states have experienced notable increases in the number of roadway deaths: Arkansas (16%), California (8%), Connecticut (42%), Illinois (11%), Louisiana (23%), Nevada (10%), New York (17%), North Carolina (10%), Oklahoma (9%), Tennessee (6%) and Texas (6%).

States with notable decreases include Arizona (-4%), Hawaii (-32%), Idaho (-28%), Iowa (-13%), Maryland (-13%), Michigan (-12%), Oregon (-24%) and South Carolina (-12%).

For the three-day Memorial Day weekend starting at 6 p.m. ET Friday, May 22, NSC estimates 366 potential fatalities. If the estimate holds, it will be the lowest number of fatalities for the holiday period since 2014.

“Disturbingly, we have open lanes of traffic and an apparent open season on reckless driving,” said Lorraine M. Martin, NSC president and CEO. “Right now, in the midst of a global pandemic and crisis, we should take it as our civic duty to drive safely. If we won’t do it for ourselves, we should do it for our first responders, our law enforcement and our healthcare workers, who are rightly focused on coronavirus patients and should not be overwhelmed by preventable car crashes.”

Quarantines and shelter in place directives across the country most likely account for a significant portion of the drop in the number of deaths. However, additional insight is needed to determine the alarming rise in death rates. Anecdotal reports indicate speeding, for example, has increased significantly since traffic diminished. Some states are also moving

forward with ill-advised roadway tactics intended to address the COVID-19 pandemic but that could have far-reaching consequences. Among them are repealing requirements for teen drivers to pass road tests before acquiring licenses and relaxing hours of service rules for commercial vehicle drivers.

Even with the declining fatality numbers in March, deaths on the road are up an estimated 2% through the first three months of 2020 compared to the same time period last year. This tentatively reverses gains made in 2018 and 2019. After three straight years of at least 40,000 roadway deaths, fatalities plateaued in 2018 and dropped an estimated 2% in 2019, according to preliminary NSC estimates.

To help ensure safer roads, particularly during the pandemic, NSC urges motorists to:

- Follow state and local directives and stay off the roads if officials have directed you do to so; many states are asking drivers to stay home except in emergency situations or for essential errands
- Obey speed limits, even if roads are clear and traffic is light
- Be aware of increased pedestrian and bicycle traffic as people turn to walking and biking to get out of the house safely during quarantine; conversely, pedestrians and bicyclists should remember that reduced traffic does not mean no traffic, and be careful when crossing or walking in streets
- Practice defensive driving: Buckle up, designate a sober driver or arrange alternative transportation, get plenty of sleep to avoid fatigue, and drive attentively, avoiding distractions
- Stay engaged with teen drivers’ habits and practice with them frequently – tips are available at nsc.org/DriveitHOME
- Organizations and employers are encouraged to join the Road to Zero Coalition, a 1,500-member group committed to eliminating roadway deaths by 2050

Learn more: nsc.org/in-the-newsroom/motor-vehicle-fatality-rates-jump-14-in-march-despite-quarantines



OUTDOOR BUCKET LIST FOR 2020 MISSOURI NATURAL WONDERS

Photo by Sam O'Keefe Photography. Eagle flying over Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area.

Devil's Icebox

A double sinkhole that features an underground stream, Devil's Icebox can be reached via the two-mile Spring Brook Loop Trail. Please note, that Devil's Icebox is currently closed for the safety of the resident bats. However, you can still get a glimpse from outside of the cave.

Johnson's Shut-Ins

Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park makes an ideal outdoor day or weekend getaway all year around. During the summer, however, you can swim in the natural water park, a fun way to cool down. The park also boasts hiking trails and spots for a leisurely picnic.

Current River

A simply beautiful body of the water, the Current River spans 184 miles through Missouri and into Arkansas. The Current River is an ideal spot for spending a warm day - kayaking, canoeing, or tubing down the water. You'll find, in fact, several companies that rent kayaks, canoes, and tubes, and provide trips down the river.

Grand Gulf State Park

Right before you hit the Arkansas border, you'll stumble upon Grand Gulf State Park. Also known as the Little Grand Canyon, it's definitely a bucket list-worthy destination. Explore some of the 322-acre park, beginning with a hike along the Interpretive Loop Trail. The trail will lead you through the canyon, which boasts 130 foot walls

on either side. You'll also come across a natural bridge on the canyon floor.

Mingo National Wildlife Refuge

Spanning nearly 22,000 acres, Mingo National Wildlife Refuge has been a Missouri treasure since it opened in 1944. The refuge serves as a safe place for migrating birds and waterfowl. You'll find plenty of opportunities to view the wildlife at the refuge, which also offers boating, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, berry picking, and horseback riding.

Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area

An outdoor bucket list certainly wouldn't be complete without Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area. Stretching over 4,400 acres, the conservation area boasts a magnificent scenic overlook, 17 wetland pools, and limestone bluffs. It's an ideal spot to view local wildlife, including birds, and to see the stunning fall foliage.

Big Spring

One of the biggest springs in Missouri and in the world, Big Spring's a natural addition to any outdoor bucket list. The breathtaking spring, in fact, feeds into the Current River and boasts a cool temperature of 58 degrees Fahrenheit. It's also an estimated 80 feet deep

Taken from onlyinyourstate.com/missouri/9-naturalwonders-mo/. Visit for other must see spots and more information regarding Only in Missouri.

AVAILABLE TRAINING PROGRAMS

The following is a list of the training programs and course length 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. ACTIVE SHOOTER PREVENTION AND RESPONSE - 2 hours.
2. AGGRESSIVE DRIVING —1 hour.
3. BACKING SAFETY — 1 hour.
4. BASIC FIRST AID — 1 hour.
5. BLOOD BORNE PATHOGENS — 1 hour.
6. CPR & BASIC FIRST AID — 4 hours.
7. DEALING WITH DIFFICULT PASSENGERS - 2 hours.
8. DEFENSIVE DRIVING — 3 hours.
9. DISTRACTED DRIVING — 1 hour.
10. DIVERSITY & AWARENESS TRAINING - *PROVIDING QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE FOR TRANSPORTATION PASSENGERS WHO HAVE DISABILITIES* — 2 hours.
11. DRIVEN TO EXTREMES — 1 hour.
12. DRUG ABUSE AWARENESS IN RURAL TRANSIT — 1 hour.
13. EMERGENCY & EVACUATION PROCEDURES — 1 1/2 to 2 hours.
14. ENTRY LEVEL CDL DRIVER TRAINING — 2 hours.
15. FATIGUE AWARENESS FOR DRIVERS — 2 hours.
16. HIPAA — 1 hour.
17. NIGHT DRIVING — 1 hour.



18. OPERATION LIFESAVER - HIGHWAY-RAIL CROSSING SAFETY — 1 hour.
19. PASSENGER ASSISTANCE/MOBILITY AID SECUREMENT — 2 hours.
20. REASONABLE SUSPICION TRAINING FOR SUPERVISORS — 2 hours.
21. SAFE & SECURE PROPER INFANT AND CHILD SEAT INSTALLATION — 2 hours.
22. SENSITIVITY AWARENESS — 1 hour.
23. SEXUAL HARRASSMENT — 1 hour.
24. SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS — 1 hour.
25. WHEELCHAIR SECUREMENT — 2 to 3 hours depending on number of participants.
26. 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/

