



Fourth Quarter Edition

eNEWSLETTER

FOURTH QUARTER 2020

In this ISSUE

THIRD QUARTER 2020

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Rural Transit Fact Book | 2020



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U.S. Department of Transportation

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September 2020

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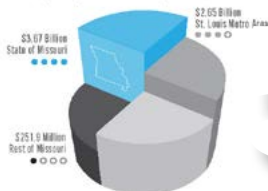
RURAL TRANSIT FACT BOOK PUBLISHED

Public transportation plays a fundamental role in the livability of all communities. Information on transit service availability and cost is necessary to efficiently and effectively meet rural community mobility needs.

2018 MO per capita spending on transit compared to surrounding states, 2020 AASHTO Report



Direct & Indirect Economic Output Supported by Public Transit's Annual Operations (2019 Dollars)



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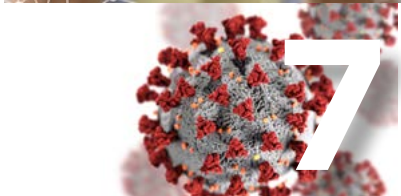
TRANSIT MEMBERS ON THE FRONT LINE

MISSOURI PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSOCIATION'S 2021 POLICY AGENDA



COVID-19 GUIDANCE ON VENTILATION IN THE WORKPLACE

OSHA is committed to protecting the health and safety of America's workers and workplaces during these unprecedented times.



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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.



COVID-19 AND TRAINING FOR ONE OATS TRANSIT REGION

OATS TRANSIT NORTHWEST REGION conducted Defensive Driving and Winter Driving Safety training with John Rice, MO-RTAP Instructor, on October 15th and 27th in Trenton, Bethany and Chillicothe.

OATS TRANSITS 4TH QUARTER 2020 WORK ANNIVERSARIES

OATS Transit had 74 employees that celebrated milestone anniversaries in 2020. There was one 40-year employee, one 35-year employee, four 25-year, three 20-year, five 15-year, seventeen 10-year, and forty-three 5-year.

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HAPPY WORK ANNIVERSARY

MILESTONES FOR RIPLEY COUNTY TRANSIT

*HAPPY 25TH ANNIVERSARY AND 2020 RETIREMENTS



MILESTONES FOR SCOTT COUNTY TRANSIT

Scott County Transit has been fortunate to have these individuals working with this program for so long. Their dedication and expertise have made Scott County Transit one of the front running transportation systems in Southeast Missouri.



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LETTER FROM THE MANAGER

DEAR TRANSIT FRIENDS,

I assume most everyone will be relieved, likely even happy, to see 2020 come to an end. The year has certainly been challenging for us all. As the number of cases around the state has continued to rise, we have been fortunate on the Missouri S&T campus the rate of infection has remained relatively low by comparison. This trend surely resulted from the adherence by students, faculty, and staff to strict guidelines set by the University. We have appreciated being able to continue working in the office, allowing us to maintain some normalcy in our day-to-day service to Missouri's rural transit agencies.

We feel fortunate to have held trainings across the state until recently. We ensured all host agencies took the necessary precautions, while closely monitoring all CDC, campus, and state guidelines to protect the health of our instructor, John Rice, along with all attendees. Only recently, did we have to cancel a few classes in late November and December as cases throughout the state began to rise. We felt it was best to be cautious. While Doreen has begun scheduling classes for 2021, we will monitor the situation to determine whether in-person trainings can be held during the first few months of the New Year. Please remember that we have access to a number of online classes and resources if your agency wants to utilize virtual training during this time. We are happy to organize webinars and other types of online training. Costs associated with these types of delivery qualify for reimbursement under the RTAP Scholarship Program if an agency prefers to host in-house. Additionally, Doreen continues to update the RTAP website with current information on COVID-19 and safety measures to implement within your agency to combat the spread of the virus.

I want to thank Doreen for coordinating the special edition eNewsletter to honor Veterans Day and our many former military service men and women working for Missouri rural transit agencies. Doreen, with the help of Kristi Barr in the RTAP office, designed a stunning layout of interesting information on each military branch along with photos of each transit agency's veterans. Doreen herself served our country for 20 years before retiring from the U.S. Air Force. Thank you Doreen for your service and hard work on the special edition.

As the year draws to a close on a most unusual year, all of us with Missouri RTAP remain focused on planning for the coming year regardless of the challenges we may face in 2021. We remain optimistic that things will soon return to normal. Regardless, remember we are here to assist in any manner possible. The entire RTAP staff hope you, your employees, and families continue to stay safe and healthy. We wish you the very best holiday season during these most unusual times.

Happy Holidays,



Heath Pickerill
Missouri RTAP Manager



Heath Pickerill
Missouri RTAP Manager

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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Missouri University of Science
and Technology

THE FINE PRINT

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2020 RURAL TRANSIT FACT BOOK PUBLISHED



Public transportation plays a fundamental role in the livability of all communities. Information on transit service availability and cost is necessary to efficiently and effectively meet rural community mobility needs. Financial and operating statistics

can be used by agency managers, local decision makers, state directors, the FTA, and lawmakers to assist in policy making, planning, managing operations, and evaluating performance. Despite the widespread benefits, no regularly-published national rural transit information resource has been previously made available. The Rural Transit Fact Book is being initiated to provide information to assist the transit industry in the United States provide efficient and effective service to rural communities.

The Small Urban and Rural Center on Mobility (SURCOM) has published an updated edition of the Rural Transit Fact Book. This publication is intended to serve as a national resource for statistics and information on rural transit in America. The Fact Book includes rural demographic and travel behavior data as well as financial, operating, and fleet statistics and performance measures for agencies receiving section 5311 funding. In addition to national level data, statistics are presented by state, FTA region, tribe, and mode, as well as other agency characteristics.

The Rural Transit Fact Book presents agency level data from the Rural National Transit Database (NTD) and rural demographic and travel data from the American Community Survey and the National Household Travel Survey.

The 2020 Rural Transit Fact Book publication can be downloaded [HERE](#).

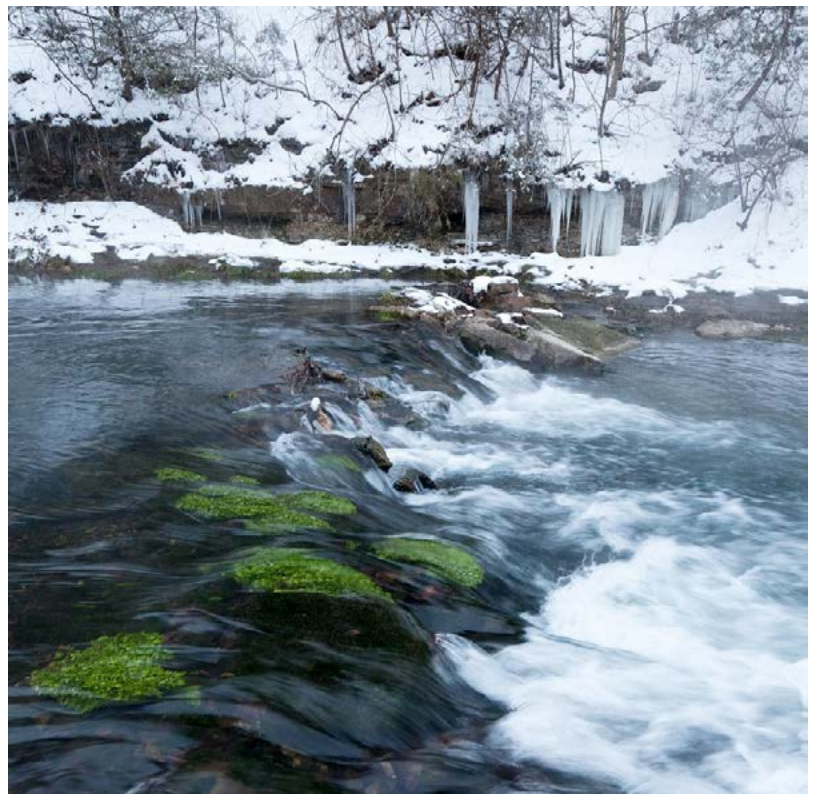
Article link [here](#):

ABOUT THE FRONT COVER... ROARING RIVER STATE PARK

Historians have long agreed that Native American settlements and encampments lined the banks of what we now call Roaring River. The deep river valley provided lush vegetation and wildlife needed to sustain the inhabitants through the changing seasons. The rock bluffs provided shelter and protection from Mother Nature—whose winds, humidity and varied temperatures were in constant motion.

The colorful history of Roaring River State Park came to a head in 1928 when 2,400 acres of the area were the focal point of a foreclosure auction. A wealthy businessman from St. Louis purchased the land and would eventually give the land to the State of Missouri for use as a state park. L.R. Chambers would take the position of the first Roaring River Park director in 1929.

Article link [here](#):



TRANSIT OPERATORS NEED TO BE AMONG THOSE AT THE FRONT OF THE LINE

Like the light at the end of a long, dark tunnel, COVID-19 vaccines are on the horizon. Distribution plans are being put in place, and we must ensure transit operators are given priority.

Public transportation provides access to employment, education and healthcare. It also ensures everyday citizens can gain access to food, medicine and other necessities. Transit is essential. For some, it is their only means for getting where they need to go. Since the pandemic hit, transit agencies across the state have been working tirelessly to provide as much service as possible in both rural and urban communities, while working to keep operators and passengers safe. Cleaning protocols and social distancing parameters are in place. Face coverings are required. Yet, transit operators are being exposed to the virus and we are witnessing the impacts.

Significant driver absenteeism has caused ongoing service interruptions and changes, not to mention complete cessation of service in Jefferson City in early-

November – which has thankfully been restored.

The Missouri Health Department’s COVID-19 Vaccination Plan currently includes Transportation Systems in Phase 1B, as part of Missouri’s Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers. Transit workers are on the front lines. They need to be protected. They need to be included in initial priority groups right behind doctors, nurses, emergency responders and the elderly.

Prioritizing vaccinations for transit operators will enhance the current disease mitigation strategy, while helping to minimize service disruption, so we can move Missourians and keep the economy on track.

Article link [Here](#).



MISSOURI PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSOCIATION
2021 POLICY AGENDA

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

The Missouri Public Transit Association (MPTA) provider members provide more than 60 million rides a year almost everywhere for everybody almost every day in Missouri, and they employ thousands in our communities. In addition, Missouri transit is delivering \$3.6 billion in economic activity each year. Transit is delivering in Missouri despite the distinct lack of funding. But, the impact could be bigger, better and more profound. Any increase in

investment by the State of Missouri could exponentially change the game in terms of economic return.

FEDERAL

MPTA supported the passage of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act which was passed into law in December 2015. In 2020, MPTA supported the CCR that extended the Fast Act one more year. Key for transportation in the extension is an additional

\$13.6 billion added to the Highway Trust Fund. Additional provisions included:

- An extension of FAST Act funding and provisions from FY 2020 to all of FY 2021.
- A \$3.2 billion transfer to the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund.
- An increase to the "multimodal cap" within the U.S. Department of Transportation's Infrastructure for Rebuilding America or INFRA discretionary

- grant program from \$500 million to \$600 million.
- An extension of 2017 and 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program obligation deadlines through September 30, 2021.

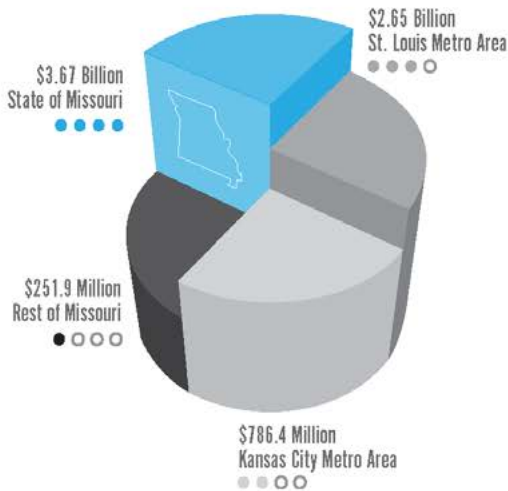
A new, multi-year transportation bill will be on the agenda for this year. This new legislation is a time for MPTA and its members to make their voices and opinions heard to improve transportation policy and

2018 MO per capita spending on transit compared to surrounding states, 2020 AASHTO Report

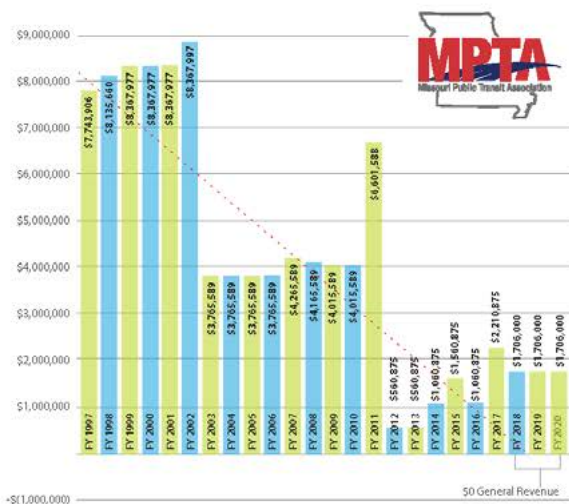


Direct & Indirect Economic Output

Supported By Public Transit's Annual Operations (2019 Dollars)



Missouri Transit Operating Investment Trends



TRANSIT INVESTMENT

PRIORITY #1

Support the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission request of \$8.4 million for Missouri transit. This request would include \$6.7 million from General Revenue and \$1.7 million from the State Transportation Fund. Currently, state transit funding assistance does not cover the impact of rising maintenance/operating costs of keeping the current systems in good repair. For SFY20, the total core budget was \$1,710,875 in State Transportation funds for 34 providers. Funding from General Revenue was zeroed out in 2017.

PRIORITY #2

With regards to COVID response in 2021 and vaccine distribution, advocate for prioritization of Missouri transit's front line workers as essential workers with high priority for vaccination.

PRIORITY #3

Every transit provider in the state of Missouri provides paratransit services. These services are essential for healthcare access, job access, and education. The costs of these rides range from \$12 - \$93. Without these services, many in Missouri would not be able to live let alone prosper. MPTA is supporting a per ride subsidy of \$5. This subsidy will provide much needed, predictable funding for MO providers to ensure this service is provided.

PRIORITY #4

Support a statewide funding plan for transit access for workforce development. Adoption of such a plan would reflect the importance of public transit to expanding opportunities for job access and growth to all Missourians. Twenty-nine thousand jobs are directly or indirectly supported by public transit yet thousands more are supported through transit access.

PRIORITY #5

Oppose any efforts to allow conceal and carry on transit and advocate for state-supported law enforcement on transit.



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MOPUBLICTRANSIT.ORG

KCELLA@MOPUBLICTRANSIT.ORG

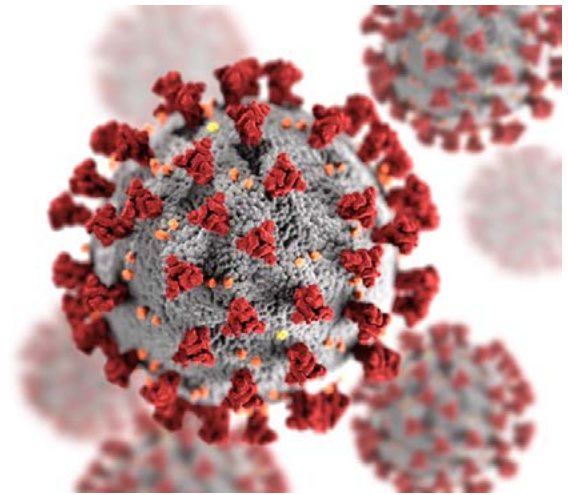
increase transit investment.

There are many ways for you to be involved with these efforts as MPTA members and transit supporters.

1. Please contact your legislators now as we head into 2021 to express your interest in transit funding. There will be many new legislators taking office this session and will need to hear from their constituents that transit makes a difference. In addition, there will be significant discussion on

transportation funding.

2. Continue reading MPTA's eblast and blog postings that will keep you updated on where things stand.
3. Contact your locally elected officials or weigh in with a letter to the editor about the importance of transit funding. Help build grassroots support in your own community for transit.
4. Contact Governor Parson about the need for Missouri to support public transit.
5. RIDE TRANSIT, and invite others to get on board with you.



COVID-19 GUIDANCE ON VENTILATION IN THE WORKPLACE

OSHA IS COMMITTED TO PROTECTING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF AMERICA'S WORKERS AND WORKPLACES DURING THESE UNPRECEDENTED TIMES. The agency will be issuing a series of alerts designed to keep workers safe.

Ensuring adequate ventilation throughout the work environment can help to maintain a safe and healthy workplace. Employers should work with a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) professional to consider steps to optimize building ventilation. An HVAC professional can ensure that the ventilation system is operating as intended. The following tips can help reduce the risk of exposure to the coronavirus:

- Encourage workers to stay home if they are sick.
- Ensure all HVAC systems are fully functional, especially those shut down or operating at reduced capacity during the pandemic.
- Remove or redirect personal fans to prevent blowing air from one worker to another.
- Use HVAC system filters with a Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV) rating of 13 or

higher, where feasible.

- Increase the HVAC system's outdoor air intake. Open windows or other sources of fresh air where possible.
- Be sure exhaust air is not pulled back into the building from HVAC air intakes or open windows.
- Consider using portable high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) fan/filtration systems to increase clean air, especially in higher-risk areas.
- When changing filters, wear appropriate personal protective equipment. ASHRAE recommends N95 respirators, eye protection (safety glasses, goggles, or face shields), and disposable gloves.
- Make sure exhaust fans in restrooms are fully functional, operating at maximum capacity, and are set to remain on.
- Encourage workers to report any safety and health concerns.

For more information, visit www.osha.gov/coronavirus or call 1-800-321-OSHA (6742).

Article link [Here](#).

COVID-19 AND TRAINING FOR ONE OATS TRANSIT REGION

OATS TRANSIT NORTHWEST REGION conducted Defensive Driving and Winter Driving Safety training with John Rice, MO-RTAP Instructor, on October 15th and 27th in Trenton, Bethany and Chillicothe. November trainings were held on November 3rd, 4th, and 5th in St. Joseph and Maryville. Additional in-house training included COVID protocol and ensuring every OATS Northwest Region driver had all the necessary protection gear in order to continue to do their job in a safe and efficient manner. Meetings allow drivers time to discuss certain issues that they face on a daily basis with other drivers to see how situations are handled.

Training attendees are wearing their Kansas City Chiefs facemasks. If you have to mask up, why not do it in style with the 2019 Super Bowl Champions!!!



BARBARA BERGTHOLD CELEBRATES 38 YEARS WITH OATS TRANSIT WITH HER RETIREMENT

After more than 38 years of driving a bus for OATS Transit, Barbara Bergthold is turning over her bus to begin her retirement. Barbara will officially begin retirement on December 1st. Bergthold has driven Monroe County residents to various locations for medical care, shopping and other essential needs since starting at OATS in 1983. Barbara is a resident of Perry MO.

“We are sad to see Barbara retire as she is just like family to so many of her riders,” says OATS Transit Northeast Regional Director, Sheree Webb. “She has gone above and beyond for many years ensuring her riders are well cared for,” added Webb.

HAPPY WORK ANNIVERSARY

4TH QUARTER 2020 TRANSIT ANNIVERSARIES



Operating Above the Standard

OATS Transit had 74 employees that celebrated milestone anniversaries in 2020. There was one 40-year employee, one 35-year employee, four 25-year, three 20-year, five 15-year, seventeen 10-year, and forty-three 5-year. Thirteen of the personnel were office staff and the rest were drivers. Each quarter, Missouri RTAP will feature the milestone anniversaries.



Terry Brown will celebrate 10 years of service with OATS Transit on December 20, 2020. Terry is a driver for the OATS Transit Northeast Region.



Donna Short celebrated 35 years of service with OATS Transit on November 1, 2020. She started as a driver in 1985, then moved to the Southwest Region Office in Springfield in 2014. Donna is an Operations Coordinator and assists riders scheduling their trips.



Lea Dzurick celebrated 20 years of service with OATS Transit on November 20, 2020. Lea is the OATS Transit Mid-Missouri Region Operations Manager.



Jim Slone celebrated 10 years of service with OATS Transit on November 23, 2020. Jim is a driver for the OATS Transit Midwest Region.



Jerry Shaver celebrated 15 years of service with OATS Transit on November 23, 2020. Jerry is a driver for the OATS Transit Midwest Region.



Gina Wehde celebrated 10 years of service with OATS Transit on October 19, 2020. Gina is a driver for the OATS Transit Northeast Region.

Congratulations

MILESTONES FOR RIPLEY COUNTY TRANSIT



HAPPY 25TH ANNIVERSARY RIPLEY COUNTY TRANSIT



Ripley County Transit, Inc. was formed in 1995, 25 years ago, in one room of a rental building with a shared restroom and was flooded by the Current River.

Fast forward to March 4, 2011 to a wonderful new facility and a much needed addition to the Ripley County community. They've come a LONG way!!!



Sara McGavock, Head Dispatcher, and her family created the TRANSIT masterpiece and gave it to Laura Oldham, Executive Director, in honor of the 25-year anniversary of Ripley County Transit, Inc.

HAPPY
Retirement!



Doug Baker



Alton Thompson
2016-2020

Happy Retirement to Doug Baker and Alton Thompson. Thank you for your dedication and service to Ripley County Transit. We wish you both the best of luck.

40 FUN FACTS ABOUT THE CHRISTMAS TREE



1. The use of evergreen trees to celebrate the winter season occurred before the birth of Christ.

2. The first decorated Christmas tree was in Riga, Latvia in 1510.

3. The first printed reference to Christmas trees appeared in Germany in 1531.

4. Approximately 100,000 people are employed full or part-time in the Christmas tree industry.

5. In the United States, there are more than 15,000 Christmas tree farms. There are approximately 350 million Christmas trees growing on U.S. farms.

6. The most popular Christmas trees are: Scotch pine, Douglas fir, noble fir, Fraser fir, balsam fir, Virginia pine and white pine.

7. Besides evergreens, other types of trees such as cherry and hawthorns were used as Christmas trees in the past.

8. In 2012, 35% of real Christmas trees sold were from chain stores or garden centers/nursery, 24% from cut and harvest farms, 15% from retail tree lots, and 15% from non-profit groups.

9. The first Christmas tree retail lot in the United States was started by Mark Carr in New York, in 1851.

10. Live Christmas trees have been sold commercially in the United States since about 1850.

11. Using small candles to light a Christmas tree dates back to the middle of the 17th century.

12. 10.9 million artificial trees were purchased in the United States in 2012.

Visit link below to continue reading the 40 fun facts about the Christmas Tree.

[CHRISTMAS TREES](#)

MILESTONES FOR SCOTT COUNTY TRANSIT



Scott County Transit has been fortunate to have these individuals working with this program for so long. Their dedication and expertise have made Scott County Transit one of the front running transportation systems in Southeast Missouri.

From left to right:
-Marilyn Schlosser, Executive Director has been with Scott County Transit for 35 Years.



-Fred Bruenderman, Driver has been with Scott County Transit for 28 years.

-Sherry Payne, Driver Supervisor has been with Scott County Transit for 30 years.

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/

