



Summer Edition
eNEWSLETTER



VESTMENT



MEET JUSTIN

Justin Mbeka arrived in Springfield in October 2017 as a refugee from East Africa. Originating from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), he and his older siblings fled to Burundi when he was 14 years old after their parents were killed in the DRC's civil war. He eventually had to leave his wife and daughter behind in Burundi, so he could better provide for them. Quickly after arriving in Southwest Missouri, he secured a nightshift position at a plastics manufacturing company. He is grateful to be able to rely on City Utilities



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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.



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LETTER FROM THE MANAGER

DEAR TRANSIT FRIENDS,

Summer is finally here! I hope everyone is enjoying the warmer weather. As we look ahead to late summer and early fall, there are two conferences to keep in mind. Please mark your calendars for the 2018 Missouri Public Transportation Association (MPTA) Conference scheduled for September 19-21 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia, Missouri. There will be a Missouri Rural Network Session on Thursday, September 20 from 10:15-11:30 a.m. for all rural 5311 recipients. Missouri RTAP will be providing a program update at this time. This is also when we want to hear from you. Please come ready to give us your comments and suggestions on how we can better serve the rural transit agencies in Missouri. Doreen is planning some great giveaways to everyone who attends the session so don't miss out. I will also be presenting on procurement for transit agencies during a session from 1:30-3:00 p.m. on Thursday.



Heath Pickerill, Missouri RTAP Manager

The MPTA Conference registration is open, and the fee is covered directly by MoDOT. Doreen recently emailed the link for registering as a 5311 provider, but in case you missed it, here is the link [5311 REGISTRANTS LINK](#). Hotel lodging, meals, and travel are eligible for reimbursement through the RTAP reimbursement program. Please remember to send applications for scholarship reimbursement to Doreen at least 30 days in advance of the conference.

In addition to the MPTA Conference, you may want to consider attending the 23rd National Conference on Rural Public and Intercity Bus Transportation being held in Breckenridge, Colorado from September 30 – October 3.

Please remember to send us your meeting announcements as well as photos and meeting summaries to include in upcoming RTAP eNewsletters. Summer is a great time for us to catch up on things in the RTAP office and plan for upcoming events, so please let us know if you have any training ideas you would like us to consider. Always remember that National RTAP has a variety of training materials and resources available that we can use to develop new workshops. They also have several online resources that are easy to access on their website www.nationalrtap.org.

Best wishes to everyone for a wonderful summer!

See you soon,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heath Pickerill". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Heath Pickerill
Missouri RTAP Manager



FY18 OMNIBUS BILL HAS POSITIVE IMPACT ON MO TRANSIT PROVIDERS



MO TRANSIT INVESTMENT

IN MARCH, THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE \$1.3 TRILLION FY18 Omnibus Appropriations bill outlined funding for the remainder of fiscal year through Sept. 30, 2018. The FTA was funded at \$13.5 billion, \$1B above 2017 enacted levels. In addition, funding for Bus and Bus Facilities was increased by \$400 million in FY 2018. Transit formula grants came in at the recommended FAST levels with \$834 million in additional transit infrastructure spending including \$400M for Section 5339 bus and bus facility funding.

So what is the impact for MO transit providers?

5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Program FY18 allocations

- Small Urban – \$924,142 (36% increase over FY17)
- Statewide allocation – \$3,500,000 (100% increase over FY17)

The increase in federal funding provides critical funding to replace transit fleets in rural Missouri. A

significant share of the rural transit fleet in Missouri is operating beyond the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) recommended minimum useful life standards. Replacement of these vehicles will support the economic opportunities by providing access to employment centers, educational and training opportunities, and other basic needs.

FY17 allocations:

- Small Urban – \$677,391 (allocated to small urban via formula)
- Statewide allocation – \$1,750,000 (allocations to large urban, small urban, and rural providers)

For more information visit, <https://mopublictransit.org/2018/05/18/2676/>

FACE OF MO TRANSIT;

Delivering more than service every day, everywhere for everybody



MEET JIM

Jim Peterson, of Sedalia, has been utilizing OATS Transit since 1986. As a student, he used the public transit service to get to and from Pettis County Children's Therapy Center for children with disabilities. Today, he continues to make this same trip, just in a different capacity, as he now works in IT at the school. Jim also uses OATS Transit to get anywhere else he may need to go, including shopping trips and to and from medical appointments. He says the drivers are very friendly, and he always feels safe. Also pictured is OATS Transit driver Terry Twenter.

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MEET JEREMY

Jeremy Leach, RPh, owns Parkland HealthMart Pharmacy in Fredericktown. He says medicines only work for the patients who take them, and a common barrier for his patients adhering to their medications is transportation. Many take critical blood pressure or blood sugar medications. Without access to public transportation like Southeast Missouri Transportation Service (SMTS), he fears many of his patients, especially those who don't have friends or family close by, would go without these critical medicines.

MEET JEREMY

Meet Jeremy, RPh, owns Parkland HealthMart Pharmacy in Fredericktown. He says medicines only work for patients who take them, and a common barrier to his patients adhering to their medications is transportation. Many take a critical blood pressure or blood sugar medications.

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MEET JUSTIN

Justin arrived in Springfield in October 2017 as a refugee from East Africa. Originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), he and his older siblings fled Burundi when he was 14 years old after their parents were killed in the DRC's civil war. He more recently had

to leave his wife and daughter behind in Burundi, so he could better provide for them. Quickly after arriving in Southwest Missouri, he secured a night-shift position at a plastics manufacturing company. He is grateful to be able to rely on City Utilities Transit Services (CU Transit) to get to and from work, school and the store. The city bus system has aided in his ability to secure a good job, which enables him to send money home to his family, while saving and preparing for them to join him someday.



MEET JUSTIN

Justin Mboka arrived in Springfield in October 2017 as a refugee from East Africa. Originally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), he and his older siblings fled Burundi when he was 14 years old after their parents were killed in the DRC's civil war. He more recently had to leave his wife and daughter behind in Burundi, so he could better provide for them. Quickly after arriving in Southwest Missouri, he secured a night-shift position at a plastics manufacturing company. He is grateful to be able to rely on City Utilities Transit Services (CU Transit) to get to and from work, school and the store. The city bus system has aided in his ability to secure a good job, which enables him to send money home to his family, while saving and preparing for them to join him someday.

MEET STEPHANIE

Meet Stephanie, of St. Louis City, uses a combination of MetroLink, MetroBus and biking to get to work, classes and local events, as well as to run errands and connect to the airport and train station. She loves how the local system makes it easy to be multi-model and believes public transit is a low-cost, low-impact means to travel and an asset to any metropolitan region.



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Stephanie Co. of St. Louis City, uses a combination of MetroLink, MetroBus and biking to get to work, classes and local events, as well as to run errands and connect to the airport and train station. She loves how the local system makes it easy to be multi-model and believes public transit is a low-cost, low-impact means to travel and an asset to any metropolitan region.

To read more, go to <https://mopublictransit.org/face-mo-transit-delivering-service-every-day-everywhere-everybody/>



Operating Above the Standard

(COLUMBIA, MO MARCH 12, 2018) BIG NEWS!

Today, after 47 years, we are releasing an updated brand identity, which includes our new logo and an added pop of color. The new logo blends OATS original block lettering with a new tagline. You will start to see our new image anywhere we're out in public, like our website, Facebook, Twitter, The Wheel newspaper, and very soon as we start rolling out fleet with the new logo.

Last fall, focus group meetings were held around the state that were comprised of staff, drivers, volunteers, community agencies and riders that we serve. These groups looked at a variety of options and a few design elements stood out. 1) Include the word "transit" so people know what we do; 2) include the tagline "operating above the standard"; and 3) add some new color.

"We believe the new look helps modernize our image, and tells people not only what we do, but how we do it" {OATS Transit- Operating Above the Standard} said Dorothy Yeager, Executive Director. "We will phase in the new logo when we obtain new vehicles. We won't be replacing decals on existing fleet, but instead phase it in over time so we are more cost-conscious," added Yeager.

A pop of new color (blue), incorporating the word Transit and including a new tagline brings a refreshed look to the company. These changes, along with new mission, vision and values statements, are all part of the company's approach to prepare for its 50th anniversary in a few short years.

Mission: Enhancing quality of life by providing safe, caring & reliable transportation services.

Vision: Every OATS community receives superior transportation services.

Values:

- Safe: Safely transporting passengers to their destinations.
- Caring: Treating passengers with respect and compassion.
- Reliable: Achieving and maintaining maximum standards of performance.

Headquartered in Columbia, MO OATS Transit is a private, not-for-profit corporation providing specialized transportation to the rural general public, individuals with disabilities and senior citizens in 87 Missouri counties. Governed by a volunteer board of directors, the organization has a staff of over 760 employees and a fleet of 800 vehicles statewide. The home office is located in Columbia, Missouri with regional offices and satellite offices located throughout the state. OATS has grown to be one of the largest and most unique systems of its kind in the country.

http://www.oatstransit.org/_p/nws17/9A44F25B-62D8-4A94-80E0-EA56834D4148/news/oats-transit-announces-new-logo

OATS TRANSIT HIRES NEW FINANCE DIRECTOR

(COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, JUNE 4, 2018) – OATS Transit is pleased to announce the appointment of Debbie Stevens to its executive team. Debbie Stevens joined OATS Transit as the new Finance Director at its headquarters in Columbia MO effective June 1st. She will oversee the financial operations of the entire company.

Stevens previously worked for Universal Research Solutions, The Kroenke Group and Services for Independent Living before coming to OATS Transit. She holds an MBA from William Woods and a BS in Business Administration from Central Missouri State University. She is also a Certified Public Accountant.



"We're excited to welcome Debbie as Finance Director," said Dorothy Yeager, OATS Transit Executive Director. "She will be an excellent addition to our executive leadership team, while bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience to our finance department," added Yeager.

"I am excited to immerse myself into everything OATS and to meld my experience and skills with the wonderful things that have already been done here," said Debbie Stevens.

OATS Transit has an annual operating budget of \$29 million with 770 employees and a fleet of 800 vehicles covering 87 Missouri counties. The company specializes in rural general public transportation as well as serving individuals with disabilities and senior citizens, plus offers contract service to more than 150 agencies and individuals in its service area. OATS Transit is the largest and most unique system of its kind in the country. For more information about OATS Transit please visit their website at www.oatstransit.org, or call 888-875-6287.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The 2018 MPTA Conference will provide the opportunity to meet with other transit professionals, stakeholders, elected officials and interested citizens to shape policy, develop networks, and collaborate to share knowledge and create new ideas for transit in Missouri. [Check out the full conference agenda.](#)

HIGHLIGHTS WILL INCLUDE:

- A special intensive training on Wednesday afternoon on Strategic Advocacy for Transit with Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) Executive Director Scott Bogren.
- A special off-site networking reception on Wednesday evening at The Broadway Rooftop sponsored by BYD.
- A mobile workshop touring the GoCOMO Transit Center including hearing from GoCOMO's Director of Transit Drew Brooks on their successful electric bus fleet.
- Friday's luncheon keynote is Chris Keefover with the TSA talking about Transit and Homeland Security.
- Workshops will highlight transit innovations, revisioning of systems, NTI Trainings and much more. Here are some highlights:
 - Transit's Impact on Missouri's Health with Bethany Johnson Javois, Chief Executive Officer of the Integrated Health Network, and Kendra Copanas, Executive Director of Generate Health STL
 - KC Streetcar moving more than just riders – Impact on Development with Executive Director of the KC Streetcar Tom Gerend



MISSOURI PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSOCIATION 2018 STATE CONFERENCE & EXPO

- Conversations with the FTA
- KCATA's Innovative Programming with Jameson Auten, KCATA Chief of Regional Service Delivery and Innovations
- NTI Training on Building Diversity Skills in the Transit Workplace
- Substance Abuse Training (**Required for 5311 Providers**)
- A Vendor Reception on Thursday evening.
- Networking opportunities and Vendor exhibit.

<https://mopublictransit.org/2018/04/17/2623/>

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

Holiday Inn Executive Center
2200 I-70 Drive SW | Columbia, MO 65203
573-445-8531

Beaver Run - Breckenridge



23rd National Conference On Rural Public And Intercity Bus Transportation

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

Held once every two years, it offers a valuable experience for rural transit and human service transit providers, tribal transit managers, planners, state agency staff, intercity bus operators, consultants, researchers and trainers; anyone who is interested in learning about the latest in best practice and current research in mobility and access in rural communities. 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. To learn more about the area, visit the [Area Information page.](#)

Only in Your State ~ Missouri

13 THINGS TO DO IN MISSOURI WHEN YOU THOUGHT YOU'VE DONE EVERYTHING



I am sure you have heard someone say it, "There is nothing to do in Missouri." Well, folks here is an awesome list of things to do when you think you have tried it all! There are so many great small attractions and unique activities across the state. Therefore, when you are feeling bored or think there is nothing to do in the Show Me State, pull out this list and start check a few off.

1. Take a [CARRIAGE RIDE](#) through wine country. If you are looking for a fun and unique way to safely visit Missouri wine country, you'll want to check out the Wine Country Wagon Ride.
2. Visit the tigers. Get up-close and personal with exotic animals like lions, tigers, and lemurs at [THE NATIONAL TIGER SANCTUARY](#). The sanctuary is a non-profit, animal rescue organization that works to promote public education and awareness about exotic animals.
3. Spend the night in a yurt. While many people have camped in tents or cabins, few people can claim to have slept in a yurt. These yurts at Lake of the [OZARKS STATE PARK](#) are perfect for a novice camper or an avid camper looking for a new experience.
4. Take a gondola ride. A [GONDOLA RIDE](#) through Kansas City is perfect for a romantic night out. However, this special boat ride is only available during warmer weather.
5. Try some freshly pressed apple cider. [DUNN'S CIDER](#) has been a tradition for many Kansas City area families for decades. They are now open for 41st season so you can get your fix on their freshly pressed cider.
6. Learn to ride a Segway. Segways are super unique and there are not many opportunities to ride one in Missouri. This [SEGWAY TRACK](#) in Branson is closed off to traffic so you can learn in a totally safe environment.

7. Climb to the top of a [CENTURY OLD WATER TOWER](#). Do you want to see St. Louis from a completely new vantage point? Take a trip to the top of the tower for amazing panoramic views of the city.

8. Tour a haunted theater. [THE FOX THEATER](#) is one of Missouri's most notable theaters. It is also one of Missouri's most haunted establishments. Each October they open their doors for special ghosts' tours.

9. Visit the cave of orchids. Underground in a nondescript warehouse is a huge shop full of stunning orchids. Find [BIRD'S BOTANICALS](#) in Kansas City and take home on of these exotic blooms.

10. Take a ride on a hidden roller coaster. Take a scenic ride through the trees on this hidden roller coaster. At [BRANSON MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE PARK](#) you can take this personal coaster ride and control your own speed as you zoom over the hilly terrain.

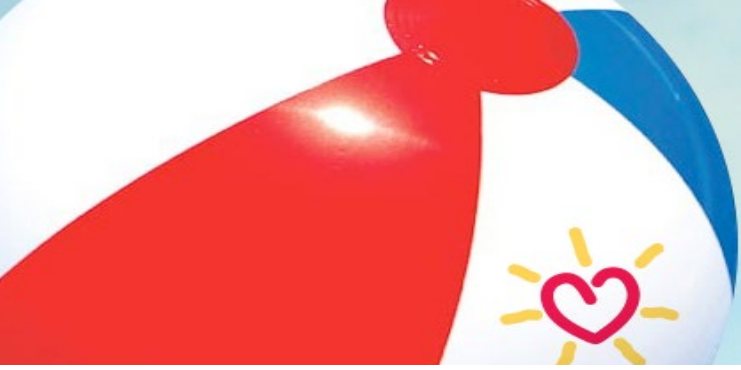
11. Tour a chocolate factory. If you love chocolate then you're sure to love this tour of the [CHOCOLATE CHOCOLATE CHOCOLATE FACTORY](#) in St. Louis. Watch workers prepare gourmet chocolate treats on the line.

12. Take the [WINE TROLLEY TOUR](#). Hermann is one of the best small towns for a weekend full of fun. Visit one of Hermann's many wineries but arrive safely and in style on the Hermann Trolley.

13. Visit this replica town off Route 66. [READ OAK II](#) is one of the most unique towns in the Show Me State. Artist Lowell Davis has created this new town from buildings and homes that he has transplanted and repaired on his large tract of land. This small town is modeled after the pre-war era Red Oak, Missouri where Davis' was raised.

For more details and information visit: https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/missouri/13-activities-mo/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=missouri&utm_campaign=newsletter





SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

BEAT THE HEAT - Anybody can be at risk for a heat-related illness. Follow these summer safety tips, like taking extra breaks and drinking lots of water.



BUG SAFETY - Mosquitoes can cause a number of illnesses, including Zika Virus and West Nile Virus. Learn what you can do to protect yourself at work and play.

PLAYGROUNDS - Emergency departments see more than 20,000 children ages 14 and younger for playground-related traumatic brain injury each year.



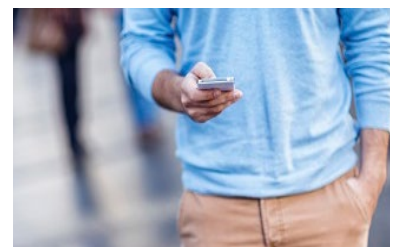
FIREWORKS - Summer is synonymous with barbecues, parades, fireworks displays – and plenty of visits to emergency rooms, especially during July.

WATER SAFETY - Not including boating incidents, on average about nine people die from drowning every day. The younger the child, the greater the risk.



BICYCLING - Bicyclists must take extra precautions when they ride. They often share the road with vehicles, but injuries can happen even on a bike path.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY - Cell phone distracted walking is a huge problem, and rarely are we more vulnerable than when walking, crossing streets and negotiating traffic.

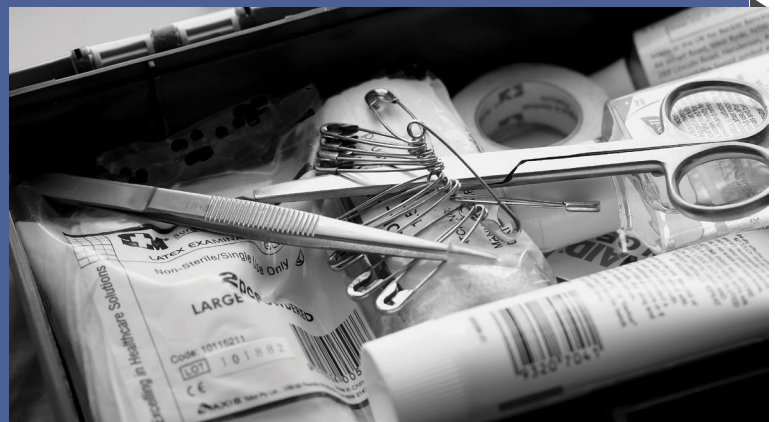


For more tips and information, visit <https://www.nsc.org/home-safety/tools-resources/seasonal-safety/>

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/

