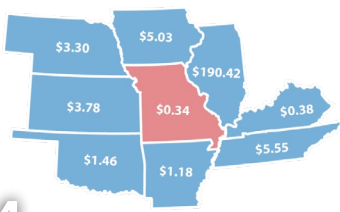




Second Quarter Edition
eNEWSLETTER

SECOND QUARTER 2019

2017 MO per capita spending on Transit
compared to surrounding states,
2019 AASHTO Report



National
RTAP
Rural Transit Assistance Program



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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.

National
RTAP
Rural Transit Assistance Program

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LETTER FROM THE MANAGER

DEAR TRANSIT FRIENDS,

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer months. I am happy to have a bit more time to relax after a very busy spring. As I plan for the last half of the year and look ahead to this fall, I encourage you to keep in mind two upcoming conferences. Mark your calendars for the 2019 Midwest/SW Transit Conference being held at the Intercontinental Kansas City at the Plaza in Kansas City, Missouri on September 11-13. Conference registration is open, and MoDOT covers the fee directly. Doreen Harkins recently emailed the link for registering as a 5311 provider. Hotel lodging, meals, and travel are eligible for reimbursement through the RTAP scholarship program. Please remember to send applications for reimbursement to Doreen at least 30 days in advance of the conference.



Heath Pickerill, Missouri RTAP Manager

Another conference to consider is the Fourth Annual National RTAP Technical Conference in Portland, Oregon on September 15-18. The agenda always offers a variety of sessions of interest to transit agencies. Offered every two years, the conference provides RTAP centers and transit agencies an opportunity to network and hear from peers and industry professionals. A few highlights from this year's conference include trainings and hands-on workshops, covering route design, inclusive planning, and drug and alcohol programs as well as lab sessions, new to the conference, where attendees can plug in their laptop and get expert help on projects like GTFS files, website improvement, and NTD reporting. For more information and to register, visit <http://www.cvent.com/events/national-rtap-2019-technical-assistance-conference/event-summary-d36eb0ba0ccf47e280033c1f46e01d0c.aspx>.

Summer is a great time for us to plan additional training and resources for the rural transit agencies we serve. We are exploring a class on active shooter awareness. We hope to find a class directly related to transit and bring this training to Missouri. Please let us know if you have any 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. In addition, please remember to send us your meeting announcements as well as photos and meeting summaries to include in upcoming RTAP eNewsletters.

Best wishes to everyone for a wonderful summer!

See you soon,

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

Heath Pickerill
Missouri RTAP Manager

About the front cover...

Wah'Kon-Tah Prairie is a remnant of the prairie ecosystem that once covered more than one-quarter of Missouri. It is also home to plants and animals that are specially adapted for life on the open prairie. Less than one-half of one percent of original prairie remains in Missouri making some of these species increasingly rare. There are a total of 3,030.5 acres on the prairie.

Managers use prescribed burning, grazing, and other tools to simulate historic disturbances that maintain healthy grasslands and limit the negative impacts of

invasive plants, including trees, which were historically uncommon here. Management priorities include providing nesting and brood-rearing habitat for Greater prairie-chickens, bobwhite quail, and grassland birds such as Henslow's sparrow and upland sandpiper.



<https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/wahkon-tah-prairie>

MISSOURI'S TRANSIT INVESTMENT REMAINS UNCHANGED



Missouri's investment in transit for 2019 continues to remain the same. The Missouri Legislature just wrapped its 2019 session including its work on the FY 2020 budget. House Bill 4 (HB4) contains \$100 million in general revenue for transportation infrastructure funding. It only includes \$1,710,875 in State Transportation funds for transit. Funding from General Revenue for transit was zeroed out in 2017. This \$1.7 million will be split among 34 transit providers in the state. This number remains the same as prior year. The bill contains \$50 million for all expenditures associated with the planning, designing, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, and significant repair of bridges on the state highway system under the Commission's five-year Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

The AASHTO Survey of State Funding for Public Transportation – Final Report 2019 just released, based on FY2017 data, ranks MO 46th with regards to per capita funding for public transit (includes DC). Only 5 states have a lower per capita investment than Missouri's 34 cents per capita. Four of those states have no state investment for transit. Of the remaining states, only Idaho at 18 cents per capita is lower than Missouri's 34 cents.

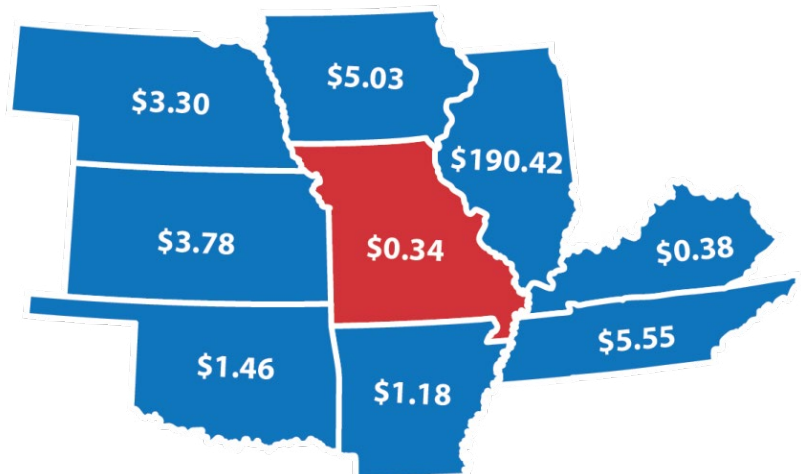
New Sources of Funding

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources announced the availability of funds for transit and shuttle buses from the VW Settlement Fund. For fiscal year 2019 (July 2018 through June 2019), the department funded \$1.75 million in transit and shuttle bus repower and replacement projects.

Conceal and Carry on Transit

Various bills were introduced in the MO House of Representatives and the MO Senate this session which would allow individuals with conceal/carry permits to carry their firearms on public transit buses, vans, trains, and other spaces owned or operated by a public transit

2017 MO per capita spending on Transit compared to surrounding states, 2019 AASHTO Report



provider. In light of the understanding that allowing firearms on public transit may serve as a detriment to ridership and has not been proven to enhance safety and security of the system, MPTA as well as many of its members opposed any legislation which would allow carrying concealed weapons (CCW) on transit. Several Missouri transit providers including Bi-State, KCATA, and City Utilities of Springfield testified along with MPTA at hearings throughout the session.

In the final weeks, the sponsor of HB 643 allowing CCW permit holders to carry on public transit, distributed this language as an amendment on SB 89, a commercial vehicle bill and SB 291 relating to public safety. These bills along with HB643 were moved to the Informal calendar in the House. SB39 on CCW on transit never made it to Senate floor.

Resource: <https://mopublictransit.org/2019/05/17/2019-legislative-session-missouris-transit-investment-remains-unchanged/>



TRANSIT MANAGER'S TOOLKIT RECEIVES COMPREHENSIVE UPDATE

The National RTAP Transit Manager's Toolkit has been thoroughly updated in May 2019 with new content, resources, charts, explanations, and more. There is now a PDF version of the entire toolkit and enhanced page navigation. Brand new sections include Driver Recruitment, Training and Retention and Federal Regulations and Circulars. We also added a glossary and a chart with examples of agency vision and mission statements in the Mission and Leadership section.

This online toolkit was developed to give new transit managers the information they will need on day one to ensure their rural transit organizations are operating smoothly and are in compliance with the federal regulations associated with receiving Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5311 funding.

While this toolkit will cover a number of topics regarding compliance, it is important to note that this list is not exhaustive, and transit managers should not rely on this toolkit alone to ensure they are meeting all federal requirements. Currently, the toolkit focuses on the federal regulations in place as of February 2019, with the [Fixing America's Surface Transportation \(FAST\) Act of 2015](#) being the most recent authorization of the

transportation programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation. Read more about the FAST Act on the FTA website.

We will be adding to this toolkit additional guidance is issued and new topics arise. If you find that this toolkit does not cover a topic that you are looking for, feel free to use the 'Suggest a Topic' form on any page of the site to submit your topic idea. The PDF version of the toolkit was updated in April 2019 and will be updated annually.

NEW SECTIONS INCLUDE:

- [DRIVER RECRUITMENT, TRAINING AND RETENTION](#)
- [FEDERAL REGULATIONS AND CIRCULARS](#)
- [MISSION AND LEADERSHIP](#)
- [GLOSSARY](#)

[RTAP TRANSIT MANAGERS TOOLKIT](#)





Transit's Role in Emergency Response

Updated Technical Brief - 2019

Transit providers do an excellent job of planning - everything from routes to staffing to equipment needs to ridership expansion. But how can they plan for the unexpected?

Disasters can range from the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 to the devastating wildfires, hurricanes, landslides and flooding that have wracked many areas of the country in recent years. By their very nature, emergencies are unpredictable. That's why the time to develop a detailed plan - and to convey that plan to key community partners - is before disaster strikes. This Technical Brief is aimed to assist transit management and staff to prepare for unpredictability and plan for emergency response and recovery.

No plan can possibly account for every contingency. The purpose of this technical brief is to suggest general guidelines for each critical stage of an emergency:

- Before it happens
- During notification and deployment
- During evacuation
- After it subsides

To read the technical bulletin for more information follow this link: <http://nationalrtap.org/Resource-Center/Advanced-Search/fid/159>

Being prepared is the key to saving lives!

SEVERE WEATHER ALERT

ARE YOU READY?

Severe weather can happen anytime, in any part of the country. Severe weather can include hazardous conditions produced by thunderstorms, including damaging winds, tornadoes, large hail, flooding and flash flooding, and winter storms associated with freezing rain, sleet, snow and strong winds.

TORNADOES

Tornadoes can destroy buildings, flip cars, and create deadly flying debris. Tornadoes are violently rotating columns of air that extend from a thunderstorm to the ground. Tornadoes can:

- Happen anytime and anywhere;
- Bring intense winds, over 200 MPH; and
- Look like funnels.

IF YOU ARE UNDER A TORNADO WARNING, FIND SAFE SHELTER RIGHT AWAY!

If you can safely get to a sturdy building, then do so immediately. Go to a safe room, basement, or storm cellar. If you are in a building with no basement, then get to a small interior room on the lowest level. Stay away from windows, doors, and outside walls. Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You're safer in a low, flat location. Watch out for flying debris that can cause injury or death. Use your arms to protect your head and neck.

For more preparation for tornadoes follow this link:
<https://www.ready.gov/tornadoes>

FLOODS

Failing to evacuate flooded areas, entering flood waters, or remaining after a flood has passed can result in injury or death. Flooding is a temporary overflow of water onto land that is normally dry. Floods are the most common natural disaster in the United States. Floods may:

- Result from rain, snow, coastal storms, storm surges, and overflows of dams and other water systems.
- Develop slowly or quickly – Flash floods can come with no warning.
- Cause outages, disrupt transportation, damage buildings, and create landslides.

IF YOU ARE UNDER A FLOOD WARNING, FIND SAFE SHELTER RIGHT AWAY!

- Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters. Turn Around, Don't Drown! Just six inches of moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.
- Stay off of bridges over fast-moving water.
- Determine how best to protect yourself based on the type of flooding.
- Evacuate if told to do so.
- Move to higher ground or a higher floor.
- Stay where you are.

For more preparation for flooding follow this link:
<https://www.ready.gov/floods>



STUDY COMMISSIONED TO DETERMINE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF PUBLIC TRANSIT SERVICES IN MISSOURI

Citizens for Modern Transit, in partnership with the Missouri Public Transit Association and AARP St. Louis, announced today it is commissioning a study to help quantify the impact public transportation has on urban, suburban and rural communities statewide. The organizations hope the findings of this six-month Economic Impact of Public Transit Services in the State of Missouri study will reinforce the significance of public transit access and the role it plays in Missouri's economic viability.

The first-of its-kind study will be conducted by Robert M. Lewis, FAICP, CECD, who is an independent consultant and assistant professor of Urban Planning & Development at Saint Louis University. It will analyze the effect of public transit on the economies of Missouri and the St. Louis metropolitan region. Because little quantitative public transit data in Missouri exists, this study will seek to define the current public transportation landscape, rider demographics and spending by transit agencies across the state. It will also measure economic impacts triggered and reinforced by public transit.

"Public transportation goes far beyond simply getting people where they need to go," commented Kimberly Cella, executive director of both Citizens for Modern Transit and the Missouri Public Transportation Association. "We hope this study will help riders, non-riders, elected officials and stakeholders better grasp the impact of transit and understand how important it is as a Missouri investment."

Once the study is complete, Citizens for Modern Transit will use the findings to continue to build the case for more state and federal funding for transit.

"Transit systems across the nation receive approximately 40 percent of their annual operating budgets from their respective states, but this is not the case in Missouri," Cella added "Many local transit providers get less than one percent of their annual operating budgets from the state. A safe, reliable public transit system plays an important role in ensuring our state remains economically viable. Whether people chose to ride it or not – it matters for Missourians. And, this study will hopefully allow us to better showcase why."

To learn more about Citizens for Modern Transit and its efforts to further transit development in the St. Louis region, call (314) 231-7272, find the organization on Facebook or follow them on Twitter @cmt_stl.

Citizens for Modern Transit is a nonprofit, member supported organization that leads efforts for an integrated, affordable, and convenient public transportation system with light rail expansion as the critical component that will drive economic growth to improve quality of life in the St. Louis region.

Resource: <https://cmt-stl.org/citizens-for-modern-transit-commissioning-study-to-determine-economic-impact-of-public-transit-services-in-missouri/>

For every \$1 
communities invest in public transportation,
approximately \$4
is generated in economic returns.

HOUSE APPROPRIATORS REVEAL PLANS FOR FY 2020 TRANSIT SPENDING

What would be better than seeing the federal transit program funded at the fully authorized levels of the FAST Act? How does FAST Act + \$750 million sound? If you like the sounds of that, read on.

At the same time that hundreds of CTAA members and friends were gathering in Palm Springs for the CTAA Expo, the House Transportation-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee was releasing its draft FY 2020 spending bill for DOT, HUD and related agencies. Legislative language is not yet available to the public, but you can read this committee's May 23 press release at <https://appropriations.house.gov/news/press-releases/appropriationscommittee-releases-fiscal-year-2020-transportation-housing-and>.

This is the first substantive step in the annual cycle of federal appropriations for the next fiscal year, and it is a very important, encouraging step.

The key basic points are that all funding levels authorized under the FAST Act are honored in this draft legislation. In addition, money is added to several important Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant programs, including what would be a significant boost in Section 5339 competitive bus and bus facilities grants above FAST Act levels, and a small but intriguing program of grants for FTA formula grantees in counties that meet federal definitions of persistent poverty.

It's far too soon to take any of these numbers to the bank. Remember that the full House Appropriations Committee needs to take up and possibly revise this bill, and then the House bill is supposed to go to the House floor for a vote. In addition, the Senate

Appropriations Committee has yet to take any actions or reveal any intentions regarding Transportation-HUD spending for next year. If recent years are any indication, the Congressional clock will run out, and Congress will cobble together some form of consolidated or continuing appropriations for next year, which might or might not include the provisions of this House committee draft.

FY 2020 appropriations are extra-important, because their funding levels set the stage for the very critical surface transportation reauthorization that comes due in FY 2021. Without an authorization (even if it's just a short-term continuation of the FAST Act), all federal highway and transit spending comes to a grinding halt, which is why these reauthorizations are so important. And when Congressional committees start working up the details of their transportation bills, they tend to look to the latest appropriations for spending baselines, which is why this House draft is important.

What's Proposed for Transit in this Bill?

Remember that dedicated spending from the federal Highway Trust Fund supports some FTA programs, while other aspects of FTA spending come from the federal government's general revenues. Trust fund expenditures tend to be honored exactly as authorized, whereas Congress has considerable latitude about how – or whether – to follow general fund authorizations.

With those thoughts in mind, continue [HERE](#) to see what the House Transportation-HUD appropriations subcommittee is proposing for FTA programs in FY 2020.



Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act

TRAINING DAY

Scott County Transit Systems

Scott County Transit Systems in Sikeston, MO recently held training sessions at their facility on May 9th and 23rd with John Rice, MO RTAP Instructor. CPR and First Aid, Wheelchair Securement, Passenger Assistance Techniques, and Defensive Driving were instructed. As you can see in the picture below, John is training with the new Zinger Chair which is becoming very

popular and the rural transit agencies are transporting more passengers who use them. John will include instruction on the Zinger Chair during Wheelchair Securement training.

his time training to make sure everyone understands the subject. Marilyn stated that "John is a joy to work with and Missouri should be very proud to know that the rural transportation systems being trained by John Rice are definitely being trained by the best!"



Marilyn Schlosser, Executive Director, wants everyone to know how patient and kind John is and that he takes

onboard to provide the same quality of training as he did when employed at MoDOT. Everyone enjoys his instruction and style of teaching and it was important to have ongoing training that the transit agencies were accustomed to receiving. We are extremely happy that John wanted to continue training the rural transit agencies in Missouri after retirement.

Thank you for all you do, John!



ROAD TRIP!

INEXPENSIVE ROAD TRIP DESTINATIONS IN MISSOURI THAT WON'T BREAK THE BANK

Missouri is a great place for an inexpensive adventure. In bigger cities, there are many free museums and modern city parks. Out in rural Missouri, you can find amazing state parks and historical sites well worth a visit. Even if you have already splurged a little this summer, you don't have to stop having fun under the summer sun. This list of 12 inexpensive road trip destinations features a lot of great free attractions that will only cost you a tank of gas!

1. Forest Park - St. Louis: Forest Park was recently named the best city park in the nation. It's easy to see why with well maintained grounds, endless opportunities for exercise, and the amazing free museums. Spend your day visiting the free zoo, art museum, history museum, or catch a showing at the Muny.

2. Ha Ha Tonka State Park - Camdenton: Ha Ha Tonka State Park is a great place to camp, hike, or swim at the Lake of the Ozarks. The main attraction at Ha Ha Tonka is the castle ruins that sit on the bluffs overlooking the lake.

3. Meramec Caverns - Sullivan: Meramec Caverns is one of Missouri's most visited caves. This amazing cave formation is open year round and is always a cool 65 degrees. At one point in its long history, the cave was thought to be a hideout of the outlaw Jesse James.

4. Daniel Boone Home - Defiance: Daniel Boone moved to Missouri with his family in 1799. His home and other buildings from the early 1800's are now part of a small pioneer town in St. Charles County. Learn about what living in Missouri was like before it became a part of the union.

5. Kauffman Memorial Gardens - Kansas City: The Kauffman Memorial Gardens are a small and beautiful oasis in Kansas City. This city garden is tended to by Powell Gardens staff which means you will always find stunning and well maintained grounds.

6. Johnston's Shut-Ins State Park - Lesterville: Johnston's Shut-Ins is located in southeast Missouri and is one of the best natural swimming destinations in the state. Hike the trails through the park on a hot

summer day then cool off with a swim before you head home!

7. Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum - Hannibal: The Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum sits on the banks of the Mississippi River in Hannibal. Mark Twain is a beloved American author who penned *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. See the homes of the people who inspired some of the most popular characters in American Literature.

8. Hammons Field - Springfield: It can be a bit costly to see an MLB game but minor league games are just as fun and half the cost! The Springfield Cardinals are a minor league affiliate to the St. Louis Cardinals. Hammons Field is considered one of the best minor league parks in the nation, there isn't a bad seat in house.

9. Grand Falls - Joplin: You can find Missouri's largest waterfall in Joplin. The falls are located just downstream from Wildcat Park that has a wonderful yet easy nature trail to hike.

10. Mark Twain Splash Landing - Monroe City: Mark Twain Splash Landing is a great little water park north of Hannibal. This water park has fast water slides for thrill seekers and a great wave pool for those just looking to cool off.

11. Watkins Woolen Mill Historic Site - Lawson: Watkin's Mill is a historical site near Excelsior Springs where wool was produced into textiles. The mill opened in 1860 and is the only mill in the nation with its original machinery.

12. Grand Gulf State Park - Thayer: Grand Gulf State Park near the Arkansas boarder is one of the most breathtaking spots in Missouri. This mini grand canyon was created after a cave system collapsed after centuries of natural erosion.

For more information on the locations follow this link: <https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/missouri/12-inexpensive-road-trip-destinations-mo/>

UPCOMING EVENTS



2019 MPTA Midwest/SW Transit Conference Kansas City, MO September 11-13, 2019

The conference will provide a space for transit professionals, stakeholders, elected and interested citizens across the Midwest to share innovative ideas and best practices with a variety of top presentations, workshops and panel discussions.

REGISTER OR SPONSOR NOW! FOR MO 5311 PROVIDERS, A DISCOUNT CODE HAS BEEN SET-UP. PLEASE USE PROMO CODE MODOT WHEN REGISTERING.

For more information on the MPTA Midwest/SW Transit Conference, please visit <https://mopublictransit.org/event/2019-eleven-state-midwest-transit-conference/>



4th National RTAP Technical Assistance Conference Portland, OR September 15-18, 2019

The National RTAP Conference Committee announces a call for presentations for the 2019 Technical Assistance Conference in Portland, Oregon. This is our fourth biennial conference focused on innovation, best practices, and compliance. The conference will include multiple routes to offer learning and technical assistance opportunities for all attendees: Administration and Planning; Operations; Compliance; Coordination; and Technology.

For more information, visit <https://www.nationalrtap.org/News/2019-Conference>

MISSOURI RTAP VISITS THE MISSOURI BOOTHEEL

Heath Pickerill, Missouri RTAP Manager, recently attended a meeting in Dexter with some of the transit agencies in Southeast Missouri. The meeting was held on June 20th at the American Steakhouse. The group confirmed their interest in holding a training on active shooter response. They also inquired about hosting a Conflict Resolution (Dealing with Difficult Passengers) class. Missouri RTAP is planning to offer both classes during one training session in Sikeston at the MoDOT

district office this fall. Pictured are from left to right Katrina Hodges, Dunklin County Transit; Samantha Jones, Mississippi County Transit; Marilyn Schossler, Scott County Transit System; Heath Pickerill; and Laura Oldham, Ripley County Transit.



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

