



Winter Edition
eNEWSLETTER

FOURTH QUARTER 2018



2018



4 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



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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,

Happy holidays from the entire Missouri RTAP staff. With the year quickly drawing to a close, I find myself reflecting back on all that has happened during the past year. I realize just how busy it has been both personally and professionally. We were fortunate to receive the new contract at the beginning of 2018 and look forward to managing the RTAP program for several more years. I recently met Joni Roeseler, the new Administrator of Transit at MoDOT. Joni brings years of experience working in MoDOT and the transit industry. I am excited to work with her and explore new opportunities for Missouri RTAP. I also want to take this time to congratulate Dion Knipp on his retirement from MoDOT. I had the pleasure of working with Dion for several years before he became Administrator of Transit. I wish him the best at OATS Transit and know he will strengthen their fantastic team.



Heath Pickerill, Missouri RTAP Manager

On a personal note, I am excited to report that I recently completed my Ph.D. in Human Environmental Sciences at the University of Missouri and participated in the commencement ceremony on December 14 at the Hearnes Center in Columbia. I have included a photo below. This adventure took nearly four and a half years, so I am very relieved to be finished. I owe many people a huge amount of thanks; Doreen Harkins and Kristi Barr are certainly at the top of the list. They were incredibly supportive and patient with me throughout the process, and I am the first to admit that it was probably not easy dealing with me at times.

With the holidays nearly upon us, the entire MO LTAP staff wishes everyone the happiest of holiday seasons. We look forward to serving all of you throughout 2019. If you have anything exciting planned for 2019 in your agency or something from this past year you would like to recap, please let us know. We would love to include it in the first quarter eNewsletter of 2019. Additionally, if you know someone who is not receiving the eNewsletter, make their holidays brighter by forwarding this to them. They may also contact the MO-RTAP office to be added to the email list. In closing, I want to wish everyone a very safe and happy holiday season from Missouri RTAP.

See you soon,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heath Pickerill". The signature is fluid and cursive.

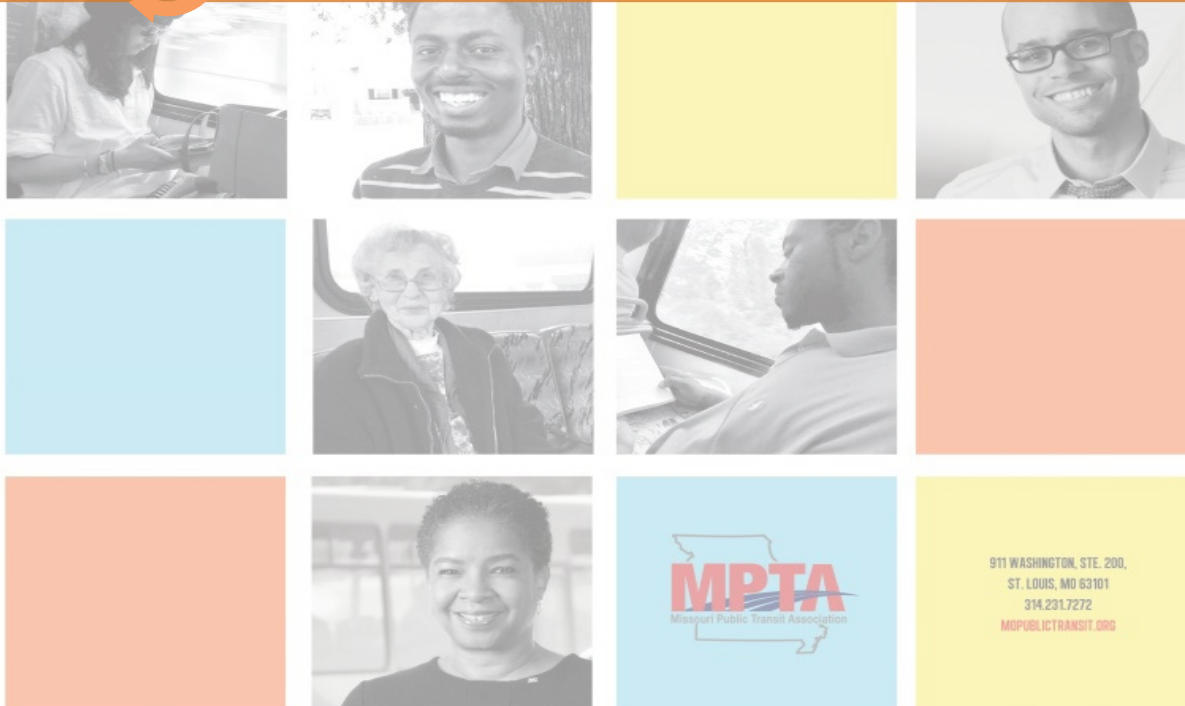
Heath Pickerill
Missouri RTAP Manager

Congratulations!



Dr. Heath Pickerill pictured at the commencement ceremony with his PhD advisor, Dr. Benjamin Schwarz.





MPTA SETS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

The Missouri Public Transit Association (MPTA) provider members provide more than 62 million rides a year almost everywhere for everybody almost every day in Missouri, and they employ thousands in our communities. Public transit serves customers in every county, rural and urban, and is critical to meeting the transportation needs of Missouri's citizens. Good public transit infrastructure improves access to jobs, healthcare and educational opportunities; brings greater economic development; and promotes reinvestment in underserved parts of our community while binding our communities together.

FEDERAL INVESTMENT

MPTA supported the passage of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act which was passed into law in December 2015. This was the first long-term federal transportation bill since 2005. There were no cuts to overall funding levels from the prior bill, MAP-21. The current bill authorizes \$230 billion for highways, \$61 billion for public transportation, \$10 billion for passenger rail and \$5 billion for highway safety programs. However, the funds available under the Bus Capital and No-Lo Emission programs are significantly lower than the needs demonstrate. In addition, the future of federal funding is uncertain under the new Administration. While advocates continue to push for federal

funding for capital and operating, programs like TIGER and New Starts are possibly on the chopping block. MO needs its own plan for raising additional transportation revenue, both to control its own infrastructure needs and to show its ability to provide state matching dollars to attract any federal funding available. MPTA will continue to work with bus transit system providers, other national transit organizations and local partners like MoDOT to ensure their systems are adequately funded to provide safe and reliable public transit in Missouri.

MO TRANSIT INVESTMENT

PRIORITY #1 Support the restoration of Transit Operating Assistance to the baseline FY 2002 transit funding levels of \$8,367,997 and expand from there. Currently, State Transit Funding Assistance does not cover the impact of rising maintenance/operating costs of keeping the current systems in Missouri in good repair. Restoration and expansion of this funding would go towards maintaining the services in the state to date. For SFY17, the total core budget was slashed by \$500,000 in General Revenue to \$1,710,875 in State Transportation funds. This reduction in funding was carried over in SFY18.

PRIORITY #2 Support innovative financing options for transit in MO. For example, advocacy for use of the VW Settlement funds for transit investment in Missouri. Missouri was awarded \$41 million as a part of the settlement to be used for a mitigation plan. Transit vehicles are eligible to be funded.

PRIORITY #3 Support use of the statewide internet sales tax for transit. The internet sales tax for out of state entities will generate approximately \$200 million annually. A fifteen percent earmark for multi-modal transportation would generate approximately \$30 million annually.

PRIORITY #4 Support a statewide funding plan for total transportation which includes funding for capital and operating expenses. Rural providers need an option for capital with the reduction in 5339 funding. Adoption of such a plan would reflect the importance of public transit to expanding opportunities for all Missourians. This would include improving access to jobs, education and healthcare; opportunities for economic development; and investment in disadvantaged areas of the state.

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 2019 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 with the defeat of Prop. D and the possible out-of-state internet sales tax revenues. In addition,

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.

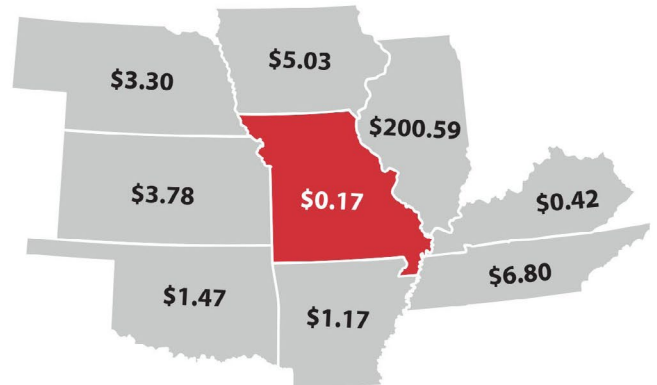
4. Contact Governor Parson about the need for Missouri to support public transit.

5. RIDE TRANSIT, and invite others to get on board with you.

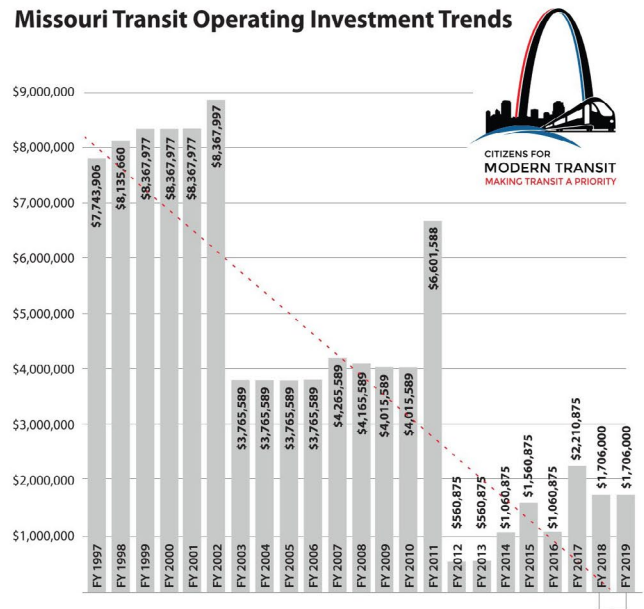
Resource: <https://mopublictransit.org/2018/11/29/mp-ta-sets-legislative-priorities-2019/>



2016 MO per capita spending on Transit compared to surrounding states, 2018 AASHTO Report



Missouri Transit Operating Investment Trends



MPTA HIGHLIGHTS SUCCESSES OF 2018

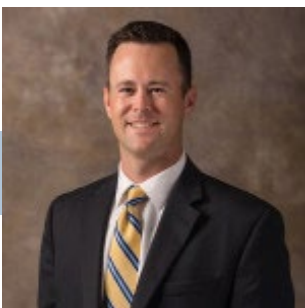
Thousands of Missouri Public Transit Association (MPTA) provider employees work collectively to provide more than 62 million rides a year to customers in every rural and urban county in the state. Service is offered almost everywhere, for everyone, every day.

Public transit goes beyond simply providing transportation options – it serves as a lifeline. For some, it is the sole means by which they can get to work, school and doctor appointments, as well as gain access to shopping, services and entertainment. Transit also helps stimulate economic development, promotes re-investment in underserved parts of the state and links communities. This year, the MPTA worked tirelessly to reinforce this through its education and advocacy work.

More specifically, the association received a national grant to spearhead a statewide public education campaign, titled “Faces of Missouri Transit.” The effort was designed to raise awareness about public transit accessibility and encourage both residents and legislators to take the needed action to increase local funding. MPTA also advocated for the identification of new transit funding avenues, created unique educational opportunities for members and achieved marked growth in its membership base.

While Missouri wasn’t successful in increasing state funding for transit this year, it experienced measurable wins on the federal funding front, and discussions in support of transit seem to be continually building momentum among key decision-makers. Public transit is moving in the right direction, and the MPTA is looking forward to exploring the many areas of opportunity on the horizon as it heads into 2019. Find out more here in the [MPTA 2018 Year Review](#).

“Missouri’s inability to expand transit funding resources, coupled with continued cuts, is negatively impacting public transit and thus the economy of the state and local communities. A comprehensive multi-modal plan needs to be developed that includes public transit funding as a key component of the solution.” -Dorothy Yeager, MPTA past president and OATS executive director.



Kelly Turner
President of the MPTA



Kimberly Cella
Executive Director of MPTA

MPTA EDUCATION SERIES HIGHLIGHTED HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION IN TRANSIT INDUSTRY

MPTA hosted its latest Educational Series event on Nov. 1 in Columbia, MO on the harassment and discrimination industry under the current #MeToo climate. Attorney Ashley Norgard with KutakRock based in Springfield, MO discussed how transit agencies could combat harassment issues with good policies, an action plan, and education. "Sexual harassment is not about sex. It's about power." Sheryl Sandberg.

Norgard discussed elements that make up a good harassment policy such as defining protected classes, making sure reporting mechanisms are clear and well known, keeping confidentiality a priority whenever possible, and ensuring retaliation is prohibited. She also reviewed why these policies matter, and the consequences of having an insufficient policy in place can have, including violations of state, federal, and local laws, absenteeism/turnover, and bad publicity just to name a few.

The discussion continued with the exploration of roles in the organization and how some offenders may use their status in the company to inappropriately exert power over others.

There are two types of harassment: quid pro quo sexual harassment and a hostile work environment. Both types of behavior include unwelcome conduct and can have a severe and negative effect on the workforce. Examples cited included supervisor and operator; driver and passenger; employee and employee; and passenger and passenger. In every scenario, Norgard

stressed the agency is responsible to ensure the safety of employees and passengers.

When reporting harassment it is best to have multiple channels for reporting inappropriate behavior. Individuals selected to investigate the complaint should have no conflicts of interest. It is important to encourage prompt reporting and multiple reporting channels, but it is also important to not restrict the time frames of investigations.

Norgard encourages organizations to review their own policies and commit to equal employment opportunities and respect for others. It is important to build a community of trust within an organization for those that do come forward. Supporting co-workers during an investigation, and encouraging cooperation during that time is essential. Norgard also emphasized the importance to stay vigilant for acts of retaliation after a report has been made.

For additional info on possible trainings:

Ashley Norgard, Attorney
Kutak Rock LLP
Direct: 417-755-7347
Ashley.Norgard@KutakRock.com

Resource: <https://mopublictransit.org/2018/11/05/mp-ta-education-series-highlighted-harassment-discrimination-transit-industry/>



2019 Federal Transit Grant Compliance Requirement Workshops

How Do Transit Grant Compliance Requirements Impact You?

When an agency accepts Federal Transit Administration (FTA) assistance through a transit grant funded project, whether for a capital project, such as a bus, van, or for public transit operating assistance, then there are grant contract terms and conditions (federal requirements) that continue for the life of the project. FTA requires MoDOT to assure compliance with these requirements.

MoDOT will continue to review all agencies receiving FTA funding for conformance to these requirements.

The Transit Section of the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) will hold five (5) workshops January 28-February 1, 2019 to address federal transit grant requirements and MoDOT's compliance reviews approach for 5310, 5311, 5339, and 5317 sub-recipients. MoDOT has retained Milligan & Company, LLC (Milligan) to assist with the implementation of this program. Milligan will make workshop presentations and work with MoDOT to conduct on-site grantee reviews. These workshops will provide technical assistance as well as assure greater compliance.

Need an accommodation to participate? Call (573) 751-2523 or write to the registration address at least one week in advance of the workshop date you desire to attend.

2019 TRANSIT WORKSHOP AGENDA / OVERVIEW Oversight and Compliance Presentation

Legal Status & Governance
Project / Grant Administration
Procurement
Equal Employment Opportunity
Service Provisions & Eligibility
Safety & Security
Non-discrimination / Civil Rights
Grant Applications

Organizational Control Environment
Financial Management
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise
Asset Management
Americans with Disabilities Act
School Bus and Charter Bus
Planning and Coordination
Vehicle Acquisition Repair & Disposal

JANUARY 28

MoDOT Central District Office
Muri Conference Room
1511 Missouri Blvd
Jefferson City, MO 65102

[ONLINE REGISTRATION](#)

JANUARY 29

MoDOT Transport Mgmt. Center (St. Louis)
Conference Room 209
14301 South Outer U.S. 40 Road
Chesterfield, MO 63017

[ONLINE REGISTRATION](#)

JANUARY 30

MoDOT SE District Office
District Conference Room
2675 North Main Street
Sikeston, MO 63801

[ONLINE REGISTRATION](#)

JANUARY 31

MoDOT SW District Office
3025 East Kearney
Springfield, MO 65801

[ONLINE REGISTRATION](#)

FEBRUARY 1

MoDOT KC District Office
Conference Rooms 136 East & West
600 NE Colbern Road
Lee's Summit, MO 64086

[ONLINE REGISTRATION](#)

Sessions run 9 am - 3 pm at these locations listed: (Note – Section 5310 & 5317 funded agencies need only attend the morning portion)



Christmas In These Missouri Towns

Virtual hands up! Who really loves Hallmark's Christmas movies? Sure, they may be a guilty pleasure, but there's one thing we can probably all agree on. Each movie is set in an enchanting town that just looks so cozy and inviting. Well, you may feel as though you've stepped into one of those holiday movies when you visit these 10 Missouri towns at Christmastime.

ST. CHARLES - Step back in time for an old-fashioned Christmas when you visit St. Charles. The enchanting town celebrates the holiday all December long with its annual Christmas Traditions. The festival – which takes place on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays through December 24, 2018 – features a variety of festive activities, including candlelight readings of "A Christmas Carol," ice block parties, and appearances by Santa and Mrs. Claus.

HANNIBAL - The charming town of Hannibal transforms into a Christmas wonderland every December. Visit for the picture-perfect Victorian Festival of Christmas, which runs through Christmas Eve, 2018. Stop by for a photo with Santa. Stroll along the sidewalks to admire the festively-decorated store windows. And, start or finish your Christmas shopping.

BRANSON - Embrace the magic of the Christmas season in Branson, where you can experience an Old Time Christmas at Silver Dollar City. Then, pile everyone into the car for a beautiful holiday adventure through the area's drive-thru light shows, including Branson's Gift of Lights and Trail of Lights. Of course, what's Christmas without a trip aboard the Polar Express, complete with a steaming cup of hot chocolate and cookies?

SPRINGFIELD - Pile everyone into the car for a picture-perfect holiday adventure at Candy Cane Lane in Springfield. Admire the more than 10,000 lights and holiday displays at the farm on Friday,

Saturday, and Sunday through December 16, 2018. Then, stop by Miracle Square, a fun holiday pop-up bar, that's open through December 31, 2018.

KANSAS CITY - Start your holiday adventure in Kansas City at Crown Center, the home of the 100-foot Mayor's Christmas Tree (which is draped in 7,200 lights). And, stop by Union Station's Grand Hall, festively-decorated for the season. Other Christmas highlights in Kansas City include Winterfest at Worlds of Fun through January 1, 2019.

NEW MADRID - Celebrate the season at New Madrid's Annual Christmas Parade, slated for December 15, 2018. The parade kicks off at 3 p.m. Then, after the festive parade, stop by Hunter-Dawson Home State Historical Site for a seasonal candlelight tour.

KIMMSWICK - Plan a holiday visit to the charming town of Kimmswick. And, don't forget your Christmas list. You'll find plenty of quaint shops, such as the Purple Pickle Gift Shop, The Christmas Haus, Savannah Rose, and the Dough Depot.

[READ HERE](#) for more Christmas towns.



Resource: https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/missouri/christmas-10-towns-mo/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=missouri&utm_campaign=newsletter



SEASONAL FLU: WHAT IS INFLUENZA?

From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): "Flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and sometimes the lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death."

The CDC estimates that between 10-28% of people in the United States get sick with flu each year. Flu season peaks in January or February, but can occur several months earlier or later. The virus is spread through sneezing, coughing, or other contact with bodily fluids, including touching a surface that someone with the flu has touched. Some groups are more likely to be impacted by the flu, including seniors, children, and people with chronic health conditions, all of whom are groups that frequently use public transportation.

People with flu can spread it to other people up to about six feet away, so transit operators and riders are at risk if anyone on the bus has the flu. Common symptoms of flu include fever, chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, and tiredness. Other symptoms and complications are possible. People with flu can infect others even before symptoms appear.

The common cold is usually milder than the flu, and there are medical tests that can tell if a person has a cold or the flu. There are a number of different types and subtypes of flu. While flu is considered seasonal, anyone can get the flu anytime of the year, and even very healthy people can catch the flu. Antiviral drugs can be prescribed to lessen flu symptoms, prevent complications and shorten flu duration, but there is no cure.

The CDC recommends that everyone over 6 months old should be vaccinated annually with a licensed, age-appropriate flu vaccine. Most health insurances cover this and many community organizations and clinics also offer free or discounted flu shots. Some transit agencies, like the Kanawha Regional Transit Authority in Charleston, WV, have even offered free flu shots to residents on one of their buses parked at a bus mall.

HOW CAN TRANSIT OPERATORS PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE?

CLEAN BUS SURFACES - Wiping down infected surfaces is an easy and effective way to prevent infection with the influenza virus. The Safety and Compliance team at Crawford Area Transit Authority in Meadville, PA, created a "germ patrol," with staff meeting the buses at layover stops and disinfecting surfaces that were likely to be touched. Within a week, the spread of infection amongst staff had stopped, and more than a few passengers were likely also spared infection. OSHA recommends that workplaces provide tissues, no-touch trash cans, soap, hand sanitizer, disinfectants and disposable towels to clean work surfaces.

CLEAN HANDS - Hand washing is a way to reduce influenza transmission. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers can be used when hand washing is not convenient. Some fleets have equipped their buses with hand sanitizer.

GET VACCINATED - The CDC recommends that everyone over the age of six months be vaccinated yearly, ideally before the end of October. Ask your manager if this is a covered benefit.

EDUCATE RIDERS - Transit agencies can play a role in educating riders. Some agencies post signs and hand out brochures and cards to riders on ways to prevent the spread of flu. These tips can include general information, and can recommend that riders carry tissues, hand sanitizers or disinfecting wipes. Agency websites and social media can also spread the word.

IF YOU GET THE FLU - While it may be hard for transit operators to take time off work, once you know you have the flu, discuss staying home with your manager or dispatcher. Work on your recovery by resting, drinking liquids, and possibly taking medicine (as directed by a health care provider). CDC recommends staying home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except for getting medical care or necessities.

Resource: <http://nationalrtap.org/Resource-Center/Advanced-Search/fid/375>

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. 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.
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/

