



Fourth Quarter Edition

eNEWSLETTER

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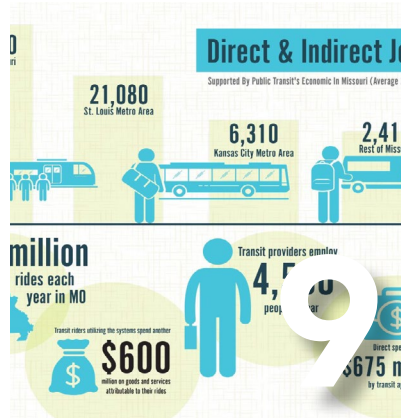


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The winner of the 2019 Halloween window decorating contest was the Ripley County Transit.



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.



MISSOURI TO RECEIVE \$5.5 MILLION IN GRANTS FOR BUSES AND BUS FACILITIES

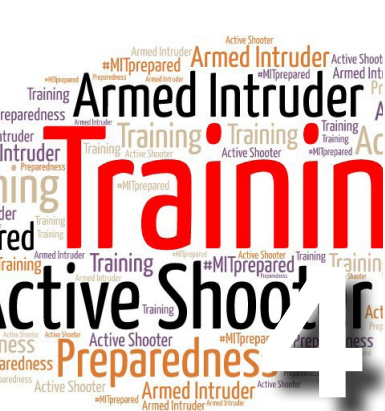
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2020 FEDERAL TRANSIT GRANT COMPLIANCE WORKSHOPS

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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.

LETTER FROM THE MANAGER

DEAR TRANSIT FRIENDS,

Happy holidays from the entire Missouri RTAP staff. The semester has wrapped up and all of the students have headed home for the holidays. The Missouri S&T campus has grown quiet; barely a creature is stirring and most certainly not a mouse...in all this snow. Well, you know the rest of that story. Before we can scurry off to visit family and friends for the holidays, while enjoying a week away from campus between Christmas and New Years for the University's holiday break, we had final trainings for hosting and tales we are sharing of the glories of this past year. As we come to an end of 2019, we have much to tell about all that has been coordinated with the transit agencies both far and near. The past twelve months were once again busy with workshops, conferences, meetings, and all that makes transit agencies cheer.



Heath Pickerill,
Missouri RTAP Manager

Just last week I headed to the Bootheel to help host one last RTAP training session of the year. We held a conflict resolution (dealing with difficult passengers) class in conjunction with an active shooter response class on December 19 in Sikeston. Mr. John Fields, Safety Compliance Manager for OATS, taught both classes for an audience of nearly 30 transit supervisors, staff, and drivers. Please see page 4 of this newsletter for more information and photos of the training session. We want to thank John for his willingness to teach these topics as well as the leadership at OATS for allowing him to travel and teach as part of his service to their agency. We hope to offer these classes again in 2020. Please let Doreen or me know if you have an interest in hosting them, so we can bring them to your area.

We have much to look forward in the upcoming year. We are hoping Santa delivers John Rice's new transit vehicle just in time for Christmas. If not, at least before he heads out to train in the New Year. We also look forward to serving all of you throughout 2020. If you have anything exciting planned 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 2020. 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.

Everyone with Missouri RTAP wants to wish all our transit friends a very safe and happy holiday season. Season Greetings!

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

Heath Pickerill
Missouri RTAP Manager



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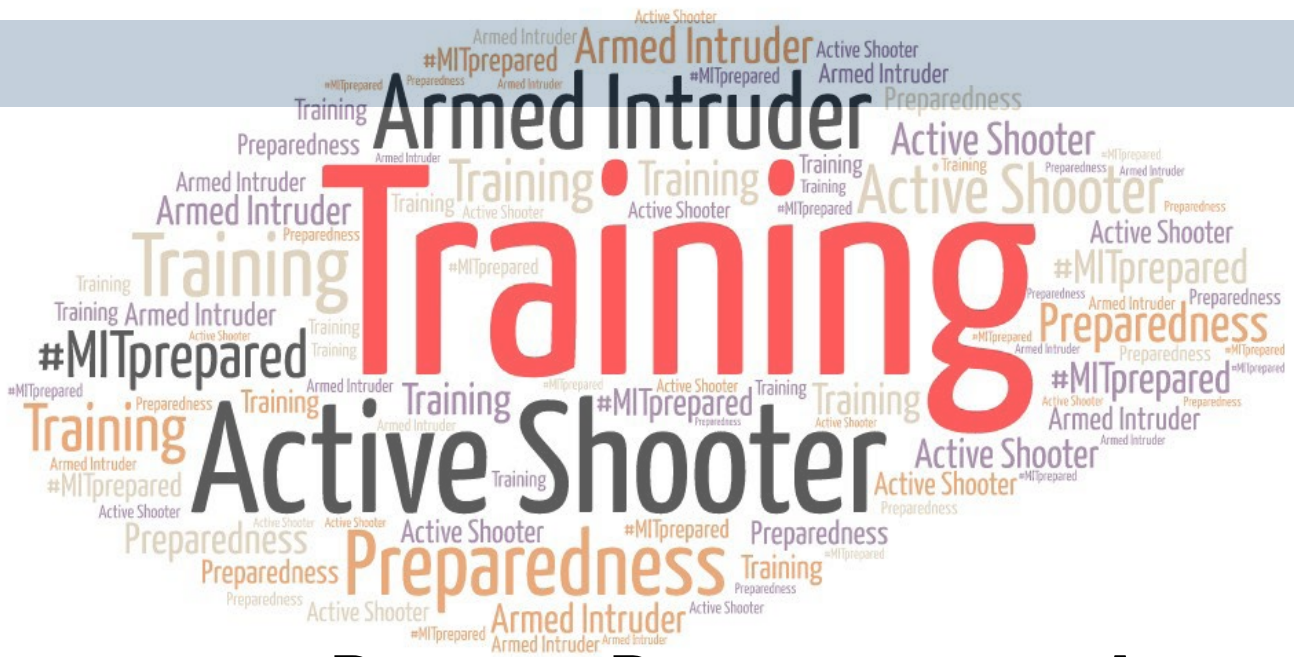
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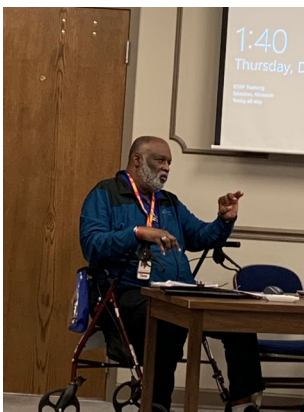
Missouri University of Science
and Technology

THE FINE PRINT

Missouri RTAP quarterly eNewsletter is published by the Missouri RTAP office located on the campus of Missouri University of Science and Technology. The opinions, findings, and recommendations expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of Missouri S&T, MoDOT or the Federal Transit Administration.



DEALING WITH DIFFICULT PASSENGERS AND ACTIVE SHOOTER PREVENTION & RESPONSE TRAINING



Missouri RTAP hosted an afternoon of training on December 19 at the Sikeston City Hall. John Fields, OATS Safety Compliance Manager, coached twenty-six participants on how to deal with difficult passengers as well as recognize and respond to an active shooter situation. The class was approximately three and a half hours long with a break for snacks and refreshments. The first half of the training covered a variety of topics related to conflict resolution such as mediating arguments and the importance of listening. One tip for diffusing a tense situation with an angry rider is to lower one's voice as a means of getting someone to calm down. Fields also stressed that drivers should always remind passengers that the policy dictates the guidelines that must be followed. Supervisors should always be consulted if there is an issue or question about the policy. Additionally, drivers should be very mindful of not projecting their mood to passengers and consider how their body language along with the tone of their voice are impacting the situation.

The second half of the training included several videos demonstrating active shooter situations. In addition, Fields shared countless stories of first-hand experience from many years in law enforcement and security. He emphasized the need to watch for warning signs that someone may act in an irrational manner. Statistics show that over sixty percent of active shooters show prior signs. Therefore, learning to read the signs is very important. He repeated the need for drivers to document everything and report any unusual behavior to their supervisors. If drivers have a passenger that is mad at them, they need to report it in case something were to happen. Having documentation is critical. Finally, Fields maintained that in any active shooter type situation, the best response is running first if it is safe to do so, hiding if necessary, or fighting as a last option – run-hide-fight.

Missouri RTAP wishes to thank John Fields for his willingness to teach both topics. The class provided very relevant and useful information to the participants. Fields is willing to travel throughout the state, and we will be happy to organize a class in your area. Please let us know if you are interested.



MISSOURI TO RECEIVE \$5.5 MILLION IN GRANTS FOR BUSES AND BUS FACILITIES

U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao announced that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will award \$423 million in transit infrastructure grants nationwide to improve the safety and reliability of America's bus systems and enhance mobility for transit riders. Two projects in Missouri will receive a total of \$5.5 million from FTA's Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program. A list of the selected projects is available online.

"Public bus systems throughout the country provide millions of Americans access to jobs, healthcare, grocery stores, and other vital services," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao.

The funding supports efforts to replace, rehabilitate, and purchase buses and related equipment, as well as projects to purchase, rehabilitate, and construct bus-related facilities.

"More people travel by bus than any other form of public transportation," said FTA Acting Administrator K. Jane Williams. "This Administration is committed to rebuilding our nation's transportation infrastructure and helping to improve bus service nationwide."

Missouri projects selected to receive funding are as follows:

- The Bi-State Development Agency of St. Louis will receive \$350,000 to transform bus stops into mobility hubs to improve safety and create a more welcoming experience for riders. The hubs

will improve accessibility and include amenities such as benches, lighting and community information at key transit transfer points.

- The Missouri Department of Transportation will receive approximately \$5.1 million to construct two storage and maintenance facilities for rural transit providers. The facilities will save operational costs compared to using contract services, add efficiencies and help keep transit buses in a state of good repair.

Demand for FTA's Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program far exceeded available funds, as FTA received applications for 318 eligible projects totaling approximately \$1.9 billion in funding requests, from a total of 270 applicants in 43 states and territories. Project proposals were evaluated based on criteria outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Federal public transportation law (49 USC § 5339(b)), as amended by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, authorizes FTA's Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program through FY2020.

In Fiscal Year 2019, FTA has made available more than \$12 billion in funding through both formula and competitive grant programs to support public transportation.

Resource: <https://www.ktts.com/2019/11/29/missouri-to-receive-5-5-million-in-grants-for-buses-and-bus-facilities/>



2020 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 27-31, 2020** 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.

2020 TRANSIT WORKSHOP AGENDA / OVERVIEW

Oversight and Compliance Presentation

Service Provisions & Eligibility
Asset Management
Americans with Disabilities Act
Equal Employment Opportunity
School Bus / Charter Bus
Non-discrimination / Civil Rights
USDOT Drug & Alcohol Program
Grant Application Process

Legal & Governance
Organizational Control Environment
Project Management / Grant Admin.
Financial Management
Procurement / DBE Requirements
Safety & Security
Planning / Coordination / Marketing
Vehicle Acquisition, Repair, & Disposal

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR REGISTRATION OF ALL DATES BELOW

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

JANUARY 27

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

JANUARY 28

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

JANUARY 29

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

JANUARY 30

MoDOT NW District Office
Conference Room 4
3602 North Belt Highway
St. Joseph, MO 64086

JANUARY 31

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



U.S. SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ELAINE L. CHAO ANNOUNCES MAJOR NEW INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT RURAL TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao today announced the creation of a major new initiative to support transportation needs in rural America. The initiative, known as the Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) Initiative, will analyze the Department's discretionary funding and financing opportunities to ensure nationwide outcomes for rural communities' transportation infrastructure. Secretary Chao made the announcement during her remarks at the annual meeting of the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) in St. Louis, Missouri.

"Rural America, which has a disproportionately high rate of fatalities and is historically neglected, needs to have its transportation needs addressed," said U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao.

Rural communities and their transportation networks have been instrumental in building and supplying urban areas throughout our nation's history, carrying people from city-to-city and carrying freight from bedrock American industries such as agriculture, mining, forestry, and manufacturing. Yet rural transportation infrastructure has significant challenges. Over 70% of America's road miles are in rural areas. While one-fifth of Americans live in rural areas, rural America's traffic fatalities are disproportionately high, totaling 46% of fatalities in 2018. Further, of the nation's bridges that are posted for weight limits, 90 percent are in rural areas.

The new ROUTES Initiative will address these challenges by assisting rural stakeholders in understanding how to access DOT grants and financing products, and developing data-driven approaches to better assess needs and benefits of rural transportation projects. This builds on the Department's Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) Loan Program's Rural Project Initiative, which offers lower project-cost thresholds for loan eligibility, subsidized interest rates, and the coverage of fees to encourage use of the credit program for infrastructure projects in rural areas. The Department will engage rural transportation stakeholders at events over the coming year to educate project sponsors about the funding and finance opportunities at DOT, as well as to receive their feedback.

Secretary Chao also announced the formation of a rural transportation infrastructure council, the ROUTES Council, to lead the way on this initiative. This new internal deliberative body at the Department will identify critical rural transportation concerns and coordinate efforts among DOT's different modal administrations. The Council will initially review public comments and create a rural resources handbook, holding its first meeting in November 2019.

Resource: <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-secretary-transportation-elaine-l-chao-announces-major-new-initiative-support-rural>



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

R.O.U.T.E.S. RURAL OPPORTUNITIES TO USE TRANSPORTATION FOR ECONOMIC SUCCESS



Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) is an initiative to address disparities in rural transportation infrastructure. Specifically, rural transportation infrastructure’s unique challenges need to be considered in order to meet our Nation’s priority transportation goals of safety and economic competitiveness.

THE ROUTES INITIATIVE IS NEEDED FOR THE NATION’S ECONOMY.

- Rural transportation networks are critically important for domestic production and export of agriculture, mining, and energy commodities, as well as the quality of life for all Americans.
- Two-thirds of rail freight originates in rural areas, and nearly half of all truck vehicle-miles-traveled (VMT) occur on rural roads. These industries require heavy trucks that create significantly more wear-and-tear on roadways.
- Ninety percent of posted (limited weight) bridges are in rural areas and heavy trucks cannot cross posted bridges – to find a safe bridge, heavy trucks hauling in rural areas must traverse three-times the distance as in metro areas.

THE ROUTES INITIATIVE IS NEEDED FOR SAFETY.

- A disproportionate number of roadway fatalities occur in rural areas. While only one-fifth of the nation’s population lives in rural areas, 46% of the nation’s highway fatalities occur on rural roads, 39% of all highway-rail crossing fatalities occur in rural areas, and the highway fatality rate is more than twice that in urban areas.

- In fact, 44% of personal vehicle miles traveled on rural roadways are actually urban residents traveling to destinations outside their home metro areas, so rural roadway safety matters for our entire country.

ROUTES Council

The ROUTES Council will be chaired by the Under Secretary for Transportation, which will oversee the ROUTES Infrastructure Management Team in three primary activities:

- Collecting input from stakeholders on the benefits rural projects offer for safety and economic benefits, as well as the type and degree of assistance rural projects require
- Providing user-friendly information to rural communities to assist them in understanding and applying for DOT discretionary grants
- Improving DOT’s data-driven approaches to better assess needs and benefits of rural transportation infrastructure projects.

The ROUTES Initiative will be coordinated across key modal administrations, including the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Federal Rail Administration (FRA), and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

THE ROUTES FACTS SHEET

Resource: <https://www.transportation.gov/rural>

29,180
State of Missouri

Direct & Indirect Jobs

Supported By Public Transit's Economic In Missouri (Average 2015-2019)

21,080
St. Louis Metro Area

6,310
Kansas City Metro Area

2,410
Rest of Missouri



60.1 million
rides each
year in MO



Transit riders utilizing the systems spend another



\$600
million on goods and services
attributable to their rides



Transit providers employ

4,500
people a year



Direct spending

\$675 million
by transit agencies

TRANSIT DELIVERS MORE THAN \$3 BILLION IN MO ACCORDING TO 2019 IMPACT STUDY

The Missouri Public Transit Association today released the findings of a six-month study designed to quantify the economic impact of public transit services in the state of Missouri. Highlights include the fact that the direct and indirect impact of public transit in Missouri this year exceeds \$3.67 billion, yet a distinct lack of state funding for transit in Missouri remains.

The first-of-its-kind study, commissioned in partnership with Missouri Public Transit Association, Citizens for Modern Transit and AARP in St. Louis, was led by Robert M. Lewis, FAICP, CEcD, an independent consultant and assistant professor of Urban Planning & Development at Saint Louis University. He revealed the following findings from the 2019 Economic Impact of Public Transit Services in the State of Missouri study.

- There is a total of 34 transit providers in Missouri. They collectively spend \$675 million each year on operations, capital improvements and labor compensation for the 4,500 individuals who are employed at an average salary of \$64,200.
- Missouri public transit providers provide an annual average of 60.1 million rides, which is equivalent to 9.8 rides per year, per Missouri resident. In conjunction with these trips, transit

riders are spending \$600 million on goods and services. This translates into a direct economic impact of \$1.28 billion each year in Missouri.

- The direct spending triggers another \$2.4 billion in statewide economic activity, including \$1.03 billion in added household earnings for Missourians. These indirect, or multiplier effects, further support another 24,680 jobs in the state that pay an average of \$30,200 per year. Because of all the economic activity and job creation triggered by transit operations and riders, the State of Missouri collects an estimated \$48.8 million in taxes per year.
- The direct and indirect economic output supported by public transit's annual operations in 2019 exceeds \$3.67 billion in Missouri. This includes \$2.65 billion in the St. Louis Metro Area, \$786.4 million in the Kansas City Metro Area and \$251.9 million throughout the rest of the state.

The study also confirmed that Missouri transit providers serve every county in the state. The highest density of transit utilization is found in the urban areas of St. Louis and Kansas City, but there is access to public transportation in all rural areas and small towns. It

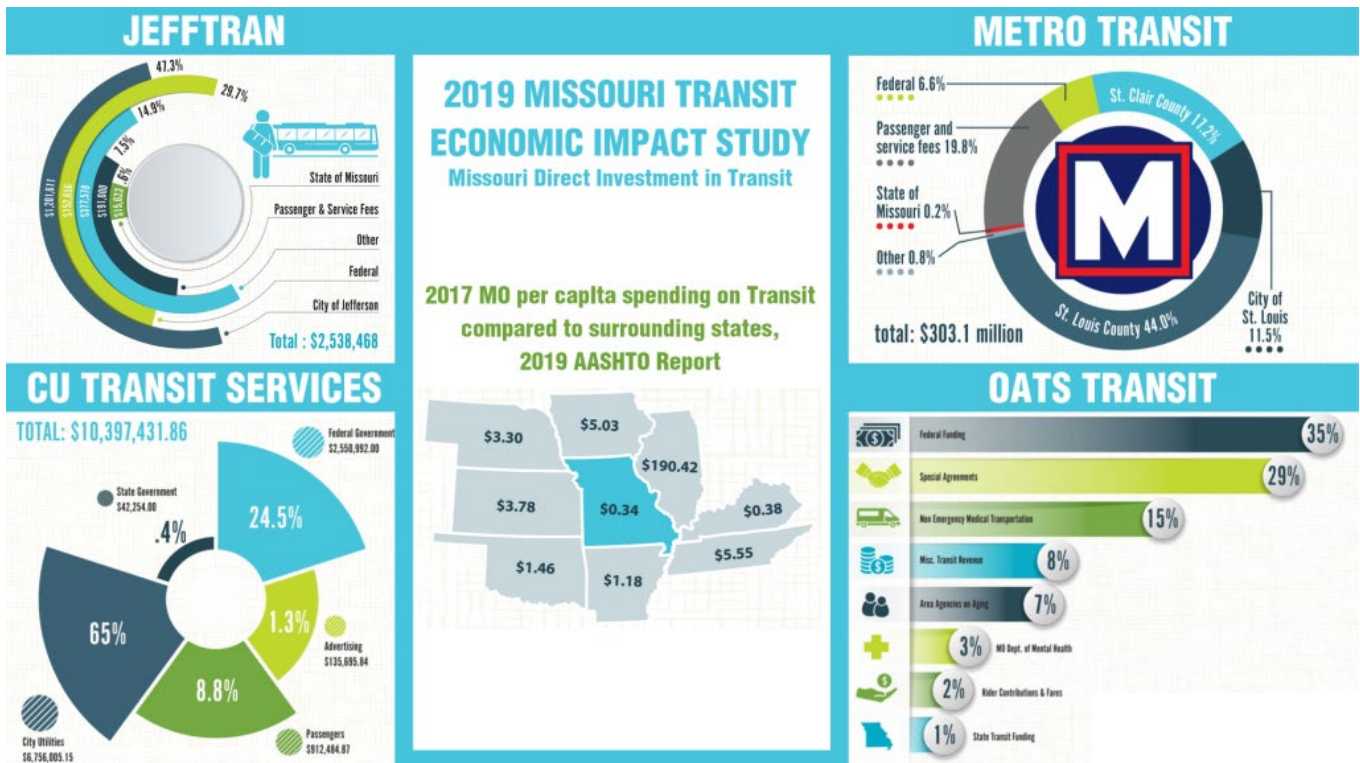
also highlighted a distinct lack of support from the state when it comes to transit funding – pointing to JeffTran as a local example. JeffTran operates fixed route bus service in Jefferson City. It has a \$6,597,000 economic impact on Cole County and supports 94 jobs. Yet, it received less than .6 percent or \$15,623 from the state of Missouri for its FY2017 budget of \$2.5 million. The remainder came from federal funding and local sources.

“This pinch is not limited to Jefferson City – it is being felt across the state as Missouri currently allocates \$1.75 million per year for public transit, a total that must be divided among all 34 transit providers,” commented Lewis during his presentation. “This amounts to 34 cents per Missouri resident, which is similar to Kentucky, but less than a third of Arkansas and one quarter of Oklahoma, and is almost

insignificant when compared to Illinois. Of nine bordering states, Missouri has the 8th largest GDP and the slowest growing GDP since the Great Recession.

“The hole that exists in each transit providers’ budget is funding from the state of Missouri – it is missing from the equation,” added Kimberly Cella, executive director of the Missouri Public Transit Association. “That is why we did this study. State funding is at a record low. Missouri ranks 47th in the country for state funding for transit. Some of our transit providers are getting as little as \$5,000 from the state. We’ve got to be bold. The state has to do better. Whether you ride transit or not, Missouri’s investment in transit is key to the economic viability of this state.”

Resource: <https://mopublictransit.org/2019/10/22/3625/>



“Transit is delivering on its promise to Missouri despite the distinct lack of funding. But the impact could be bigger. Any increase in investment by the State of Missouri could exponentially change the game in terms of economic return,” added Cella.

[2019 Economic Impact of Public Transit Study](#)
[2-page Report Summary](#)
[MO Transit Economic Impact Presentation](#)

OATS TRANSIT TO ADMINISTER JEFFCO EXPRESS



OATS Transit is pleased to announce the acquisition of one of Jefferson County's transportation programs known as the JeffCo Express. Even though OATS Transit has been operating the service since it began, the company is officially taking over administration of the program from the Jefferson County Community Partnership (JCCP). The administrative change will be effective on December 1, 2019.

businesses who stepped up to support the service. They have contracted with OATS Transit to provide the service, including dispatching and driver recruitment, and have now made the decision to hand over administration as part of their continuing efforts to better coordinate services.

Currently, OATS Transit operates three transportation programs in Jefferson County, all operating under different names- OATS Transit, JC Transit, and JeffCo Express.

Transportation for Jefferson County is funded by federal grants administered by the MO Department of Transportation, Developmental Disability Advocates, Aging Ahead, Missouri Elderly & Handicapped Assistance Program, and Medicaid Waiver. OATS Transit has also been awarded a grant for \$100,000 from the Jefferson Foundation, which will go toward transportation in Jefferson County for 2020.

"This consolidation will result in few changes for the riders who depend on this service and will allow for better efficiencies and greater customer effectiveness," said Dorothy Yeager, OATS Transit Executive Director.

Jefferson County residents wanting to schedule a ride can call the local Festus office at 636-933-9380. Schedules can be found online at www.jeffcoexpress.org or www.oatstransit.org, or by picking up a brochure at several local businesses.

JeffCo Express was developed in 2009 by JCCP who saw a need for a general public, deviated fixed-route system. Under their leadership, the program grew thanks to the collaboration with local agencies and



RIPLEY COUNTY TRANSIT WON FIRST PLACE IN THE RIPLEY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S HALLOWEEN DECORATING COMPETITION!

Ripley County Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the students from the local Current River Career Center digital media program, hosted an annual Halloween window decorating contest. First place winners received the opportunity to work with the digital media students to create and produce a 60 second Facebook commercial.

The winner of the 2019 Halloween window decorating contest was the Ripley County Transit. The door artists were, pictured (left to right) below, Sara McGavock (dispatcher/clerk), Sarah Lamb (Assistant Director) and Laura Oldham (Executive Director). Laura Oldham stated, "We try to get involved, be noticed, and inspire others to do the same! We take pride sharing with our community. All of our windows were hand drawn and painted by the three accepting the award."



CONGRATULATIONS 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. SEXUAL HARRASSMENT — 1 hour.
22. SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS — 1 hour.
23. WHEELCHAIR SECUREMENT — 2 to 3 hours depending on number of participants.
24. 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/

