



2019

CITIZENS FOR MODERN TRANSIT LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Citizens for Modern Transit (CMT) leads advocacy 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.

OVERVIEW

Citizens for Modern Transit represents more than 22,000 older adults, commuters, individuals, organizations, and corporations interested in moving transit forward in Missouri and Illinois. Public transit serves customers in every county in Missouri – rural and urban – and is critical to meeting the transportation needs of our citizens while serving as a catalyst for economic development opportunities and job access. Good public transit infrastructure improves access to jobs, healthcare and educational opportunities; greater economic development; and reinvestment in underserved parts of our community while binding our communities together.

FEDERAL

CMT supported the passage of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act which was passed into law in December 2015. The FAST Act funds surface transportation programs at over \$305 billion for fiscal years (FY) 2016 through 2020. This was the first long-term federal transportation bill since 2005.

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. The FY19 Appropriations Bill has passed both House and Senate at \$71 billion budget.

However, the Highway Trust Fund, which supports federal grant programs for transit, is near insolvency. CMT supports raising the federal gas tax which has not been raised since 1993 and/or other funding mechanisms to ensure the Fund remains solvent and the federal program continues to play a part in funding transportation infrastructure at the national level. In 2018, more than \$40 million was awarded to Missouri transit providers requiring a match. In addition, CMT supports the continuation of the New Starts Program as an effective way to fund transit infrastructure projects.



TRANSIT INVESTMENT

PRIORITY #1

Support the restoration of MO 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 good repair. For SFY18, the total core budget was \$1,710,875 in State Transportation funds for 34 providers. Funding from General Revenue was zeroed out in 2017. In addition, CMT supports the continuation of IL State Operating Assistance at \$43 million for St. Clair County, IL.

PRIORITY #2

Support use of the statewide internet sales tax for transit in MO. The internet sales tax for out of state entities is generating approximately \$200M annually. A fifteen percent earmark for multi-modal transportation would generate approximately \$30M annually.

PRIORITY #3

Support a statewide funding plan for total transportation which includes funding for capital and operating expenses for transit. Adoption of such a plan would reflect the importance of public transit to expanding opportunities for all Missourians.

PRIORITY #4

Oppose any efforts to allow conceal and carry on transit and advocate for state-supported law enforcement on transit. 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, many Missouri Public Transit Association (MPTA) members have opposed any legislation which would allow carrying concealed weapons (CCW) on transit.

Support prioritized public transit project(s) determined by the East-West Gateway Council of Governments, the local metropolitan planning organization, including regional transit projects.

- Advocate, support and assist in creating local funding mechanism(s)/package for transit funding.

- Support revision of MetroBus system with inclusion of new technologies to expand service areas in MO & IL.

- Ensure local regional transit system is safe/secure for current and future riders through advocacy for adoption of action items outlined in security audit of MetroLink.

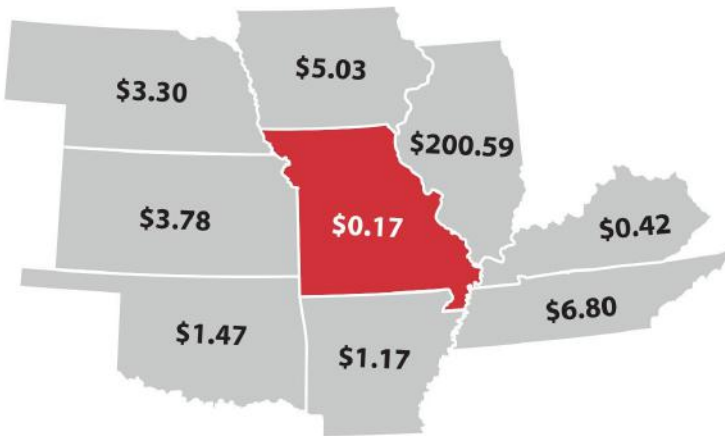
- Examine new possibilities for funding for transit at the local level including but not limited to:

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- Regional TDD
- Parking Fees or Meter Revenues
- Vehicle miles traveled Tax
- User fee for ridehailing/cab services for transit.

LOCAL

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



Missouri Transit Operating Investment Trends

