Providing the Voice for Transit Choice

Citizens for Modern Transit (CMT) celebrated a major milestone in FY2017 as we marked our 20th anniversary. Over the past three decades CMT’s advocacy work has grown a long way towards being the voice for transit choice. This year we saw new energy and a shift towards more grassroots efforts and window and individually-focused initiatives. The demand for services included a reimagining of the MAPS Transit system, a national program that supports public transportation infrastructure. In addition, CMT's advocacy efforts included supporting the implementation of the new MAPS Transit system in St. Louis County. The system was designed to provide a more efficient and equitable transportation network.

Moving Forward with New Transit Infrastructure

In September, a $1.3 million TIGER grant was awarded to Metro for the construction of a new Metrolink station at Boyle Avenue and Sand Street in the Sunset District. This project will be the first addition to the St. Louis light rail system since the Cross-County extension opened in 2016. The station will be located on the 160th Street line, which is currently under construction. The station will be named the Boyle Avenue Station and will be a significant addition to the Metrolink system in St. Louis County. The station will be designed to accommodate the growing population and provide easy access to the surrounding neighborhoods.

Recognizing Funding Needs

Several significant events took place this past year that underscored the importance of transit funding. This year the St. Louis region experienced a major funding crisis as the federal government要考虑。The crisis was exacerbated by cuts to the federal transit budget, which resulted in a significant reduction in funding for transit projects. This situation highlighted the need for innovative and creative solutions to address funding needs.

The purpose was to begin the process of building a case for long-term, sustainable capital and operational funding to greatly enhance public transit services. The multi-month study assessed current costs for transit expansion and operations, evaluated the current approach of transit agencies in the region, and developed a menu of funding schemes for local consideration based on the analysis and findings. The results were presented to the community through a public forum featuring key stakeholders who questioned the report. This event was held in conjunction with CMT's 20th anniversary celebration and was co-sponsored by the St. Louis Regional Chamber.

St. Louis County also took steps in FY2017 to move light rail forward. County Executive Steve Stenger requested a light rail study to be added to the region’s long-range transportation plan, known as ConnecT2035. CMT and its Transit Alliance members worked closely with St. Louis County to test the possibility of a future light rail expansion along the Main North, Metro South and Daniel Boone corridors. On the federal front, CMT advocated for a long-term Federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act to replace, and significantly reauthorize, the authorization laws currently provided for in the current MAPS Transit Legislation. At the state level, CMT also worked to rally support for operating and capital funding for transit.
SUCCEEDING AT ATTRACTING NEW TRANSIT USERS

In June 2014, CMFT launched its Try & Ride Program aimed at attracting new riders to the transit system. The program far exceeded initial expectations. During its first year, the program surpassed the inaugural participation goal of 3,000 passengers by 90 percent and ended up helping more than 2,400 individuals “test drive” transit. This success led to CMFT being honored by Focus St. Louis through the presentation of the 2015 What’s Right with the Region Award in the Innovative Solutions Category.

“The Try & Ride program demonstrates that people will ride transit if we help them get over the initial perceived hurdles. What’s even better is the fact that survey results showed that 69 percent of riders would continue to use transit after the initial two-month program period. We are excited to see where this program goes as we head into year two.”

- Kimberly Celis, CMFT Executive Director

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

New partnership, new Try the Transit Express. New people, new roles, and new added challenges. CMFT teamed up with AMTRAK to bring rail service to the St. Louis area. As part of the new partnership between the two organizations, more than 300,000 AMTRAK rail car passengers passed through the St. Louis region. AMTRAK rail cars passed through the station at least once during the year. These increases also help the associated health and wellness benefits. Additionally, CMFT expanded service to Beyond Housing and the City of St. Louis to help provide access to the program and reach new communities.

CMFT’s Try the Transit Express program enables seniors to better familiarize themselves with the transit system by providing guided walking tours around the St. Louis area. CMFT hosted more than 7,500 active adult participants in the unique program to date. This continues to be a success in large part to the commitment of our volunteer walk leaders.

CMFT has also worked to strengthen partnerships through its involvement with a host of national, state-wide, local, and regional organizations. These include the National Alliance of Public Transportation Advocates (NAPTA), the Missouri Public Transit Association (MPTA), the Missouri Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the St. Louis Regional Transit Committee, and the St. Louis Regional Transit District (RTD).

BIGGEST BENEFITS OF TAKING TRANSIT?

- 65% cited cost savings
- 40% cited less stress from the commute
- 41% cited more time to themselves
- 13% cited lost weight

BIGGEST DISCOVERIES FROM TRYING TRANSIT?

- 44% more time to do what they want
- 34% more time to do what they need
- 32% saw more of the way to work from home
- 10% lost weight
- 28% more time to do what they want

TRY & RIDE RIDE BREAKDOWN

- 2014: 54
- 2015: 34
- 2016: 34
- 2017: 54
- 2018: 74
- 2019: 54
- 2020: 54
- 2021: 74
- 2022: 54
- 2023: 74
CHAMPIONING FOR TRANSIT IN THE COMMUNITY

CMT’s advocacy and education work in FY2015 ranged from a Transit Crash and a Great Race competition on the St. Louis transit system to a “Jumpstart Metro Manual” and other community-wide campaigns. Each event provided a voice for transit choice in St. Louis.

Love was in the air along the MetroLink alignment in mid-February as CMT and the Saint Louis Football Club teamed up to host the Football Transit Crash event designed to give transit advocates the chance to unite in support of their love for the region’s transit system. Transit advocates met at various spots along the alignment to create a flash mob-style “crash” onboard the trains during the evening commute.

The 2015 CMT Great Race: Relay is the relay competition was highlighted by great partnership, participation by a host of local members of the media, and community-wide advocacy for multi-modal options in St. Louis. The competition used a new relay format that pitted Team WEST against Team EAST as they worked to demonstrate how seaside-going bicycling, car-sharing, carpooling and walking can all be integrated. White Team East took home the win and the bragging rights for 2015, the entire region won, as the event was a fun and exciting way to promote all of the alternative transportation modes available on both sides of the river.

In early June, CMT partnered with Metrolink, Great Rivers Greenway and Beyond Housing to host a CMT Metro Mash at the Rock Road Station. The event provided free rides in abundance with a glimpse of how Metrolink Fort Rice Louts across the region could be transformed and better utilized. More specifically, showcased what could work in terms of shopping, dining and entertainment at all Metrolink stations. The community involved in development around St. Louis’ transit system.

CMT also worked to promote the lines between transit and trails through a partnership with Great Rivers Greenway. CMT most recently launched the “Get out and Explore on Transit and Trails” campaign in an effort to promote transit to trail connections in the region, and all of the various destinations along the way.
INFLUENCING THE COMMUNITY THROUGH LEADERSHIP

CMT’s board of directors, members and dedicated volunteers play a collective role in raising awareness about the benefits of transit, as well as the need for a regional voice and funding for capital and operating expenses. They also serve as the leadership behind this thriving organization.

This year, CMT’s membership revenues exceed our goal by 2%. We are also announcing the debut of the Fred Spaker Public Transit Education Fund, creating a memorial legacy in honor of longtime board advocate and one of the founders of CMT, the late Mr. Spaker.

At CMT’s 36th Annual Meeting on Sept. 12, 2014, members unanimously elected Terry Briggs, Director of Communications for Laburnum-Employers Cooperative and Education Trust, Karen Hongman, Director of Project Development with Cortiva Innovations Community, and Jennifer Gwaltney, Vice President and Operations Manager of the Missouri-Kansas Operations for URS Corporation to a three-year term on the board of directors. CMT’s board members also elected to elect the name of Katek Fencer of Center A. Gombo LLC, and James Frendel of Palomar, for another three years. Rose Windmiller, Associate Vice-Chancellor at Washington University, was elected to serve as the new Chair of the organization.

CMT Providing the Voice for Transit Choice: CMT Board members, elected officials and community stakeholders

In July, CMT also marked its 35-year anniversary with a celebration at the Missouri Hotel. Overlooking the new Cass Trolley, which is currently under construction, and west of the Delmar MetroLink Station and along the Delmar MetroLink Line, the event hoped to underscore how a multi-modal transit system benefits the region.

STRENGTHENING THE REGION’S VOICE FOR TRANSIT

CMT members recognize the fundamental importance of a good public transportation system and the role it plays in creating jobs and building a stronger economy and more vibrant neighborhoods. Yet, CMT knows the region still has a long way to go. To get the bus to build more rail, walkable and sustainable communities around our system. In FY2014, CMT will focus its efforts on creating a vision for transit we all need to plan for and address the need for funding to plan this region into a reality.

NOW IS THE TIME TO INVEST IN TRANSIT. JOIN CMT, AND GET ON BOARD TODAY!

30 YEARS INVESTING IN TRANSIT

CMT was awarded several grants in FY2013. This list includes an American Public Transit Association grant to support the TRY A Ride program, a Great Rivers Community grant to expand work on the corridors between transit and greenways, and a new Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality grant to build new connectivity programs to drive new riders to the system.

CMT members recognize the fundamental importance of a good public transportation system and the role it plays in creating jobs and building a stronger economy and more vibrant neighborhoods. Yet, CMT knows the region still has a long way to go. To get the bus to build more rail, walkable and sustainable communities around our system. In FY2014, CMT will focus its efforts on creating a vision for transit we all need to plan for and address the need for funding to plan this region into a reality.

NOW IS THE TIME TO INVEST IN TRANSIT. JOIN CMT, AND GET ON BOARD TODAY!

Citizens for Modern Transit (CMT) is the transit advocacy organization leading efforts to establish an integrated, affordable and convenient public transportation system, with light rail expansion as the critical component, to help drive economic growth and improve quality of life in the St. Louis region.

CMT was awarded several grants in FY2013. This list includes an American Public Transit Association grant to support the TRY A Ride program, a Great Rivers Community grant to expand work on the corridors between transit and greenways, and a new Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality grant to build new connectivity programs to drive new riders to the system.

In July, CMT also marked its 35-year anniversary with a celebration at the Missouri Hotel. Overlooking the new Cass Trolley, which is currently under construction, and west of the Delmar MetroLink Station and along the Delmar MetroLink Line, the event hoped to underscore how a multi-modal transit system benefits the region.

30 YEARS INVESTING IN TRANSIT

CMT was awarded several grants in FY2013. This list includes an American Public Transit Association grant to support the TRY A Ride program, a Great Rivers Community grant to expand work on the corridors between transit and greenways, and a new Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality grant to build new connectivity programs to drive new riders to the system.

CMT was awarded several grants in FY2013. This list includes an American Public Transit Association grant to support the TRY A Ride program, a Great Rivers Community grant to expand work on the corridors between transit and greenways, and a new Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality grant to build new connectivity programs to drive new riders to the system.

In July, CMT also marked its 35-year anniversary with a celebration at the Missouri Hotel. Overlooking the new Cass Trolley, which is currently under construction, and west of the Delmar MetroLink Station and along the Delmar MetroLink Line, the event hoped to underscore how a multi-modal transit system benefits the region.

30 YEARS INVESTING IN TRANSIT

CMT was awarded several grants in FY2013. This list includes an American Public Transit Association grant to support the TRY A Ride program, a Great Rivers Community grant to expand work on the corridors between transit and greenways, and a new Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality grant to build new connectivity programs to drive new riders to the system.

In July, CMT also marked its 35-year anniversary with a celebration at the Missouri Hotel. Overlooking the new Cass Trolley, which is currently under construction, and west of the Delmar MetroLink Station and along the Delmar MetroLink Line, the event hoped to underscore how a multi-modal transit system benefits the region.

30 YEARS INVESTING IN TRANSIT

In July, CMT also marked its 35-year anniversary with a celebration at the Missouri Hotel. Overlooking the new Cass Trolley, which is currently under construction, and west of the Delmar MetroLink Station and along the Delmar MetroLink Line, the event hoped to underscore how a multi-modal transit system benefits the region.

CMT was awarded several grants in FY2013. This list includes an American Public Transit Association grant to support the TRY A Ride program, a Great Rivers Community grant to expand work on the corridors between transit and greenways, and a new Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality grant to build new connectivity programs to drive new riders to the system.

In July, CMT also marked its 35-year anniversary with a celebration at the Missouri Hotel. Overlooking the new Cass Trolley, which is currently under construction, and west of the Delmar MetroLink Station and along the Delmar MetroLink Line, the event hoped to underscore how a multi-modal transit system benefits the region.

CMT was awarded several grants in FY2013. This list includes an American Public Transit Association grant to support the TRY A Ride program, a Great Rivers Community grant to expand work on the corridors between transit and greenways, and a new Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality grant to build new connectivity programs to drive new riders to the system.
THROUGHOUT ITS WORK CMT DRAWS ON THE EFFORTS OF AN ARRAY OF DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS. THANK YOU.