



2026

CITIZENS FOR MODERN TRANSIT LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Citizens for Modern Transit (CMT) is the region's transit advocacy organization. It was established in 1985 to help bring light rail to St. Louis and works to develop, support and enhance programming and initiatives to ensure safe, convenient and affordable access to the region's integrated public transportation system. CMT doesn't own or operate the transit system but works to champion it, challenge it and advocate for it. This will be accomplished in the coming year through the prioritization of the following federal, state and local efforts.

FEDERAL

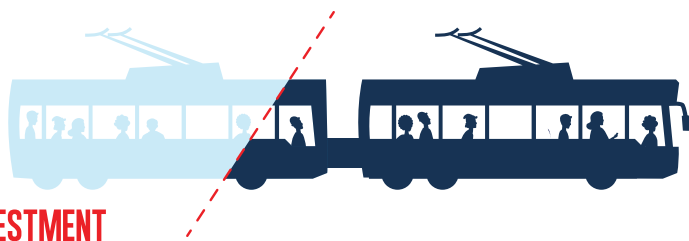
CMT supported the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act in November 2021, which provided a five-year, \$91 billion transit authorization as part of the \$1.2 trillion measure. Now is the time to support a multi-year reauthorization bill that includes federal investment in transit. CMT will continue to advocate for the use of these available federal funds:

- Growth in the Highway Trust Fund's Mass Transit Account through increased transportation investment funding or potential new funding sources to avoid insolvency.
- Predictable, steady growth in key formula programs (Sections 5307, 5310, 5311 and 5339) throughout the reauthorization.
- Critical funding for regional expansion project.

STATE

Missouri saw a significant decrease in state investment by 42% compared to prior year with a cut of \$5 million in General Revenue. Transit investment now sits at \$6.7 million. This funding is critical for the non-federal or local match required to enable transit providers to draw down some of the \$91 billion in federal funds earmarked for transit. Federal funding support requires a 50:50 match for transit operations and an 80:20 match for capital programming.

42%
DECREASE
IN STATE INVESTMENT



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TRANSIT INVESTMENT

The following priorities are the main areas of focus across the bi-state region.

PRIORITY #1

Support the restoration of the core \$5 million in General Revenue which was cut last year to \$11.7 million for transit in the state of Missouri, which includes \$10 million from General Revenue and \$1.7 million from the State Transportation Fund to be divided among the state's 30 transit providers. Last year's cut in state transit funding led to reduced service and frequency and loss of jobs, widening the gap between demand and availability of rides.

PRIORITY #2

Support the continuation of Illinois State Operating Assistance at \$50 million for St. Clair County, Ill.

PRIORITY #3

Oppose any efforts to allow conceal and carry on transit and advocate for local law enforcement partnerships on transit. 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. As such CMT and many Missouri transit providers have and will continue to oppose any legislation which would allow carrying concealed weapons (CCW) on transit.

SUPPORT

ILLINOIS STATE OPERATING ASSISTANCE

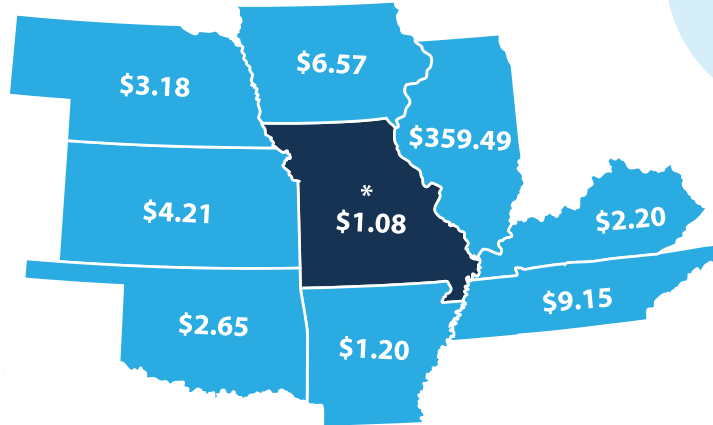


OPPOSE CONCEAL AND CARRY ON TRANSIT



RESTORE

THE \$5 MILLION CUT LAST YEAR



MO per capita spending on Transit compared to surrounding states, 2025 AASHTO Report

*Funding reflects 42% reduction in Missouri investment in 2025

LOCAL

CMT will also continue to advocate for transit on the hyper-local level through the following efforts.

- Support of prioritized public transit project(s) determined by the East-West Gateway Council of Governments, the local metropolitan planning organization, including regional transit projects like the Northside-Southside corridor.
- Advocate and support for local transit funding, ensuring St. Louis County funding passed for public transit remains for public transit.
- Ensure the region's local transit system is safe/secure for current and future riders by advocating for the adoption of action items outlined in security audit of MetroLink.
- Support of local placemaking and development projects near transit.
- Support of local legislation/policy/zoning promoting development near transit

