

January 8, 2014

Office of Governor Jay Nixon  
P.O. Box 720  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Governor Nixon:

Transportation is the key to moving Missouri forward. I strongly urge you to include transit funding in your budget for 2014 by supporting the Missouri Department of Transportation's request for \$3.06 million for transit operations in the state this year - \$560,875 for State Transit Assistance (from State Transportation Fund) and \$2,500,000 for expanded State Transit Assistance (from General Revenue).

Transit is the key to putting Missouri back on track! The facts show investment in transit creates jobs. Research has shown that every dollar invested in transit projects has a \$4 return. We know that Missouri needs jobs, and transit provides a clear cut way to provide them. Last year, the Legislature passed an increase of \$500,000 from General Revenue for a total funding package of \$1,060,875 for 33 transit providers across the state.

This current level of state support for transit is inadequate. The State of Missouri ranks near the bottom of the list for funding of public transit. Local funding has hit a ceiling in many areas. In order to compete for federal dollars to put our economy back on track, Missouri must make transit a priority through support and funding. In St. Louis alone, more than 75 percent of the 223,000 daily boardings on transit are for the work commute.

In addition, with an aging population in Missouri of residents 65 years or older, transit is the answer to meeting the needs of our seniors and disabled residents. Transit increases accessibility, connects them to their communities, and keeps them active and healthy.

We strongly urge you to support MoDOT's request in your budget and look at ways to go beyond this appropriation to make public transit a priority for Missouri.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Cella  
Executive Director