

CITIZENS FOR MODERN TRANSIT POLICY AGENDA

2022

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 and improve quality of life in the St. Louis region.

CMT represents more than 22,000 riders, individuals, organizations, and corporations interested in moving transit forward in Missouri and Illinois. Public transit serves every county in Missouri – both rural and urban, and the St. Louis system spans the river into St. Clair County, Ill. Public transportation is serving as a link between people and possibilities. It's also delivering on a PROMISE. A promise to promote equality, job creation, stronger economies and the vibrancy of local neighborhoods. In 2022 legislative priorities will focus on funding, recovery, access and workforce development.

FEDERAL

CMT supported the passage of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act which was passed into law in December 2015. In 2020, CMT supported the CCR that extended the Fast Act one more year. Over the last 20 months, CMT supported the three federal COVID relief packages which provided more than \$30 billion for public transit with \$600 million for Missouri providers over the last 20 months through the CARES Act (\$248 million); COVID Relief Act (\$99.4 million); and American Rescue Plan (\$254 million).

In 2021, CMT advocated for public transit funding in the infrastructure bills moving through Congress including a new, multi-year transportation bill. Priorities for transit:

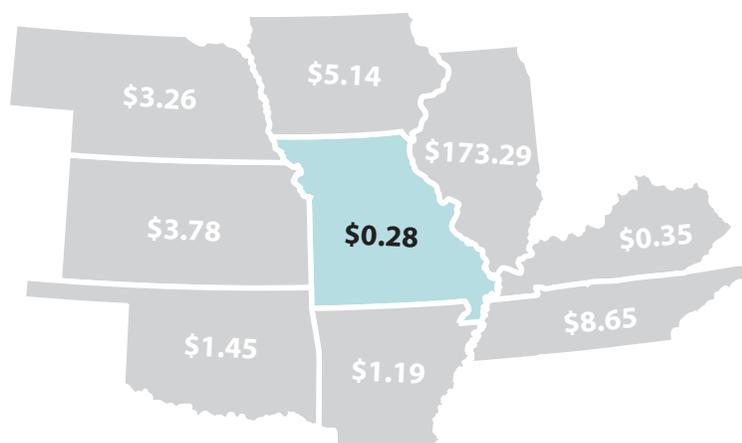
- Multi-year transportation reauthorization legislation to provide consistency for planning
- Growth in the Highway Trust Fund's Mass Transit Account through increased transportation investment funding. The Highway Trust Fund, which supports federal grant programs for transit, is near insolvency. CMT 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
- Key transit formula programs (Sections 5307, 5310, 5311 and 5339) funded fully out of the Highway Trust Fund's Mass Transit Account
- Predictable, steady growth in key formula programs (Sections 5307, 5310, 5311 and 5339) throughout the reauthorization

STATE

The federal COVID relief bills delivered a \$600 million lifeline for Missouri Transit providers. However, Missouri investment in transit is even more critical as the impact of the pandemic continues to take its toll on public transit providers across the state. State investment is key to ensure Missouri providers can bring as much federal funding back to the state through matching funds.

According to the 2019 Transit Impact Study, public transit delivers in Missouri. There are 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. Public transit is delivering more than \$3.6 billion in direct and indirect spending each year.

2019 MO per capita spending on Transit compared to surrounding states, 2021 AASHTO Report



TRANSIT INVESTMENT

PRIORITY #1

Support the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission request of \$8,710,875 million for Missouri transit. This request would include \$7 million from General Revenue and \$1,710,875 million from the State Transportation Fund. Currently, state transit funding assistance does not cover the impact of rising maintenance/operating costs of keeping the current systems in good repair. For SFY21, the total core budget was \$1,710,875 in State Transportation funds for 34 providers. Funding from General Revenue was zeroed out in 2017.

PRIORITY #2

Support a statewide funding plan for transit access for workforce development. The adoption of such a plan would reflect the importance of public transit to expanding opportunities for job access and growth to all Missourians. Twenty-nine thousand jobs are directly or indirectly supported by public transit, yet thousands more are supported through transit access. A state investment in transit for workforce development would be a game changer for Missouri employers especially in light of the impact of the pandemic on operator shortages.

PRIORITY #3

CMT supports the continuation of IL State Operating Assistance at \$48 million for St. Clair County, Ill.

PRIORITY #4

Oppose any efforts to allow conceal and carry on transit and advocate for local law enforcement partnerships 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 transit providers have opposed any legislation which would allow carrying concealed weapons (CCW) on transit.

PRIORITY #5

Support the request for state COVID relief funds to assist Missouri transit providers with capital projects which will have a lasting impact in their communities.

LOCAL

- 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.
- 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.
- Support local legislation/policy promoting development near transit.
- Support a statewide transit plan for MO.



**CITIZENS FOR
MODERN TRANSIT**
MAKING TRANSIT A PRIORITY

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