



## CITIZENS FOR MODERN TRANSIT

# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

# 2024

**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.**

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. CMT will continue to advocate for the use of these available federal funds in the following ways:

- 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 as it has not been raised since 1993 and/or other funding mechanisms to ensure the fund remains solvent.
- 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.
- Critical funding for Northside/Southside MetroLink expansion project.

## STATE

Missouri saw historic funding for public transit with the passage of HB 4 in 2023. This funding will help provide 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 as part of the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Federal funding support requires a 50:50 match for transit operations and an 80:20 match for capital programming. The following priorities are the main areas of focus across the bi-state region.



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

# TRANSIT INVESTMENT

## PRIORITY #1

Support the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission request of \$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 32 transit providers. Currently, state transit funding assistance does not cover the impact of rising maintenance/operating costs of keeping the current systems in good repair. This funding is imperative and starts to put Missouri in line with some of its peer states as it relates to transit investment.

**\$11.7  
MILLION**  
in transit  
funding from  
the state

**29,000**

jobs are directly or indirectly  
supported by public transit



## PRIORITY #2

Support a statewide apprentice program for transit operators. 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. In addition, the shortage of operators is one of the biggest challenges right now to the transit industry. Creation of a statewide apprentice program would standardize training across Missouri helping both rural and urban agencies meet the service demands. Seed funding has been identified to move the program to fruition.

## PRIORITY #3

Support the continuation of Illinois State Operating Assistance at \$50 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. 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.

**OPPOSE  
CONCEAL AND CARRY ON TRANSIT**



## 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.
- Advocate, support and assist in creating local funding mechanism(s)/package for transit funding.
- 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 promoting development near transit (ex: parking requirement policies, incentive packages and more).

## MO per capita spending on Transit compared to surrounding states, 2023 AASHTO Report

\*Funding reflects 34% increase in Missouri investment in 2023

