

April 13, 2023

Dear members of the Missouri Senate Appropriations Committee and of the City of St. Louis delegation to the Missouri Senate,

We are writing to express our strong support for continued and increased investment in public transit in Missouri. The Community Mobility Committee of the City of St. Louis is an advisory group made up of residents who are committed to creating a safer, more accessible experience for people who are getting around by walking, transit, biking, and other modes of transportation.

While some are concerned about the negative impacts of excessive automobile travel on our communities and neighbors, many residents want a safe, convenient, affordable alternative to driving. Many people choose not to drive, given the stress and danger of being on our roads. However, it's less of a choice for many St. Louis residents. Many St. Louis residents cannot afford or are unable to drive, including young people, elders, and many people with travel-limiting disabilities.

Many St. Louis residents cannot afford or are unable to drive, including young people, elders, and many people with travel-limiting disabilities. Many people choose not to drive, given the stress and danger of being on our roads. Whether by choice or circumstance, 18.6% of City of St. Louis residents don't have a car in their household. For all these groups, effective public transit is critical to the quality of life in our city. Public transit that is robust, supported, and connected allows people across our city to be mobile and engaged in their lives. Over the last few years, the bus operator shortage has forced Metro to cut the bus schedule, making simple trips inconsistent and much slower. State funding can help maintain Metro's ability to hire and retain the operators necessary to have a strong system.

We have been asking our local elected officials to make changes so our streets and sidewalks are safer — but the change we need also requires people to have good alternatives. State funding for public transit is a critical component of maintaining our transit system, which cannot be supported by fares alone. For the City of St. Louis to be an economic and cultural engine of eastern Missouri, we must have a robust transportation system. As Missourians for Responsible Transportation said in a recent letter, public transit has had a \$3.67 billion direct and indirect economic impact on the state and supported 29,000 jobs¹. This impacts not just residents, but also visitors and tourists who come to our city, spend money, and experience our wonderful attractions.

Transit is critical to people in our region, and we urge the Missouri Senate Appropriations Committee to support continued and increased investments in public transit. Public transit benefits us all, and Missourians need you to support these essential services.

Thank you,

The Voting Members of the Community Mobility Committee

Aamna Anwer
Judith Arnold
Denis Beganovic
Aubrey Byron
Christie Holland, co-chair

Jacque Knight
Liz Kramer, co-chair
Kaleena Menke
Michael Ridenhour
Kea Wilson

¹ [Economic Impact of Public Transit in Missouri \(October 2019\)](#)

Sent to:

Senator Rusty Black

Senator Lincoln Hough

Senator Lauren Arthur

Senator Justin Brown

Senator Mike Cierpiot

Senator Sandy Crawford

Senator Bill Eigel

Senator Karla Eslinger

Senator Denny Hoskins

Senator Tony Luetkemeyer

Senator Karla May

Senator Jeanie Riddle

Senator Barbara Washington

Senator Brian Williams

Senator Steve Roberts

With copy to:

Missourians for Responsible Transportation