

September 16, 2026

Governor Mike Kehoe
State of Missouri
P.O. Box 720
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Governor Kehoe:

On behalf of Missourians for Responsible Transportation (MRT) and the 35,000 members we represent across the Show-Me State, I've drafted the following letter to express our organization's **support** for the request from the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission (MHTC) to allocate \$9 million for public transit operating assistance in FY 2028. In supporting this request, we ask you to consider the following:

- **Everyday Missourians need affordable transportation options.** According to AAA's fuel prices monitor for the State of Missouri, the average price of gas has climbed to \$3.97 a gallon. While work has to be done to bring those prices down, this circumstance underscores the need for multiple options for everyday Missourians to affordably and reliably get where they need to go. Allocating the proposed \$9 million as recommended by the MHTC is a critical way that you can help to ease the financial burden that people across the state are feeling.
- **This funding will be most helpful for rural providers.** While the funding in question is needed everywhere in Missouri, it will have the greatest positive impact on the rural portions of the state. Looking at documents like MoDOT's high priority unfunded needs list, it's evident that rural transit providers need support: local match for OATS providers in Buchanan County, addressing key gaps in Vernon County, and more. Those are just some of the communities you can assist by allocating these funds.
- **Taking this action aligns with stated long-term goals for Missouri's transportation system.** Like the rest of the country, Missouri will experience a "grey tsunami" in the coming years as more and more residents grow older and reach retirement age. MoDOT's recently-updated Long-Range Transportation Plan acknowledges this fact and makes an explicit recommendation, quote "the state will need to explore how to best provide mobility options for the needs of those who decide to stop or reduce their driving." Following the MHTC's recommendation and investing these funds in public transit isn't just smart policy for the moment; it's a logical step that helps us to futureproof our transportation system for the trends and changes we know are coming.

It is for these reasons and more that MRT **supports** the MHTC's request.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Kelley
Policy Director
Missourians for Responsible Transportation

