



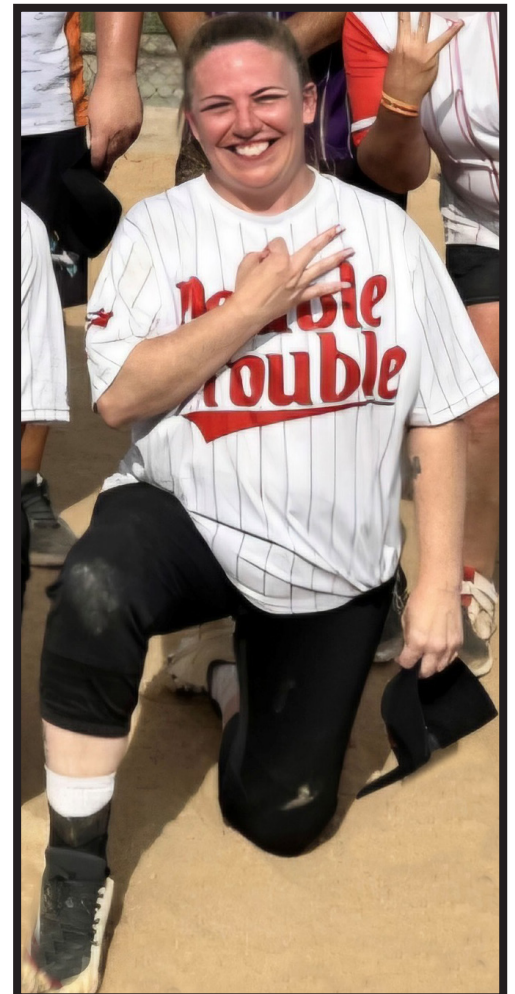
News Publication - July 2026

Summer Sports Spotlight: Teamwork Beyond the Workplace

Summer is a season filled with opportunities to get outside, stay active, and enjoy a little friendly competition. Across OATS Transit, many of our employees and riders take advantage of the warmer weather by participating in a variety of outdoor sports and recreational events. Whether they're crossing the finish line of a 5K, competing in a softball tournament, paddling in a kayak race, cycling scenic trails, casting a line in a fishing tournament, or enjoying a round of pickleball, these activities reflect their dedication to living healthy, active lives.

We are proud to celebrate the accomplishments of our employees and riders both on and off the road. Their commitment, determination, and team spirit extend far beyond the workplace and remind us that staying active is about more than competition—it's about building friendships, challenging yourself, and enjoying the communities we serve. We applaud everyone who is making the most of the summer season and wish all of our competitors the very best in their events. We wanted to share a few of their stories with you:

Amanda Brinker is one of our Mideast Operations Coordinators who works in Bridgeton MO. If you call our office to schedule trips or ask questions about transportation, chances are you have talked to Amanda. She wears many hats—including dispatching buses throughout her region, or working with drivers to keep them on schedule. Amanda's hobby is playing in a summer softball league in St Louis. "Over the last two years, I've played on multiple teams because my league (League Joe) does a fresh draft every season. Most recently, I played for the St Louis Smooth Operators, and the Shark Cards for a special League Joe tournament," said Amanda. "Softball has been one of my sports since childhood. I played from ages 7 to 18, and I've been playing adult softball for the last two years," she added. She loves softball because it keeps her active. "I play for the love of the game, the amazing camaraderie, and the pure fun of it. Best of all, my three boys get to watch me play and root for their mom," added Amanda. When I asked her about her favorite moment, she said hitting her first triple definitely took the crown. "Being a 5'3" woman in a co-ed league where 95% of the players are men who tower over me, I get underestimated a lot" added Amanda. "Between working 40 hours a week, rushing from the office to take my boys to their own sports practices, and managing the daily duties of being a mom, life is incredibly hectic" she added. "Being part of a softball league gives me a dedicated space to pause, have fun, and stay connected with other adults who share my passion," said Amanda. Her league only plays on Sunday evenings with no weekday practices, so it's easier for a work/life balance. She said she just shows up, plays hard, and has fun, making it the perfect low-stress way to wrap up the week." When asked what word her softball mates would use to describe her, she said LOUD! "I have a big voice and I use it. Whether we



are winning or losing, my teammates can always hear me on the field or in the dugout, constantly cheering them on and trying to keep their energy high” added Amanda.

Elvis Snyder lives in Kirksville MO and has been a long-time OATS Transit rider. Elvis rides the OATS Transit bus to get to work at High Hope Recycling in Milan MO. In his free time, he participates in Special Olympics events, including power-lifting and track and field, running the 400m. He has been participating in Special Olympics for 12 years. “My favorite memory was when I got my first gold medal doing the long jump,” said Elvis. His favorite part about sports is that he loves visiting with other people on his team and making new friends from all over. His hobbies and interests include fishing, volunteering at church, playing video games, going to the leadership program with his coach in Jefferson City, and he loves to cook. When he’s not at work at High Hope, Elvis can be found competing in Special Olympics. Elvis, keep up the good work and bringing home those medals!



Alex Evans is one of our St Louis area drivers. He has worked for OATS Transit for almost ten years now, driving primarily workshop routes. When he’s not on the road driving for us, or spending time with family and friends, you can find him participating in the sport of armored combat. Armored combat, often called buhurt or historical medieval battle, is a full-contact sport where competitors wear custom-made medieval armor and use blunted steel weapons. Unlike staged historical reenactments, athletes use real martial arts, strikes, and grappling to knock opponents to the ground. Alex’s team is Legion of Honor out of Festus MO. Before this sport he participated in larping, but he says that got too soft for him and he wanted more of a physical challenge, so he switched to armored combat. Don’t worry I didn’t know what “larping” was either and had to look that one up- it’s Live Action Role Playing, and less aggressive with no physical contact. Alex admits moving around in armor is physically exhausting with 75-80 pounds of armor, but he enjoys the challenge. In order to be successful in the sport you must have stamina, strength, speed and most of all teamwork! “The biggest misconception people have about the sport is that participants are mean and intimidating, but they are actually friendly, goofy and love spending time together,” says Alex. Alex says he will continue with armored combat as long as his body lets him - and don’t worry he doesn’t carry his medieval armor with him to work.

Their journeys don’t stop with transportation—our employees and riders are making memories and reaching new goals through summer sports.

AMERICA



As we celebrate our nation's 250th birthday, we honor the freedoms, opportunities, and spirit of independence that have shaped the United States for generations. It's a time to reflect on our shared history, appreciate those who have served our country, and celebrate the communities that make America strong. We hope everyone had a safe, enjoyable Independence Day filled with time spent with family, friends, and neighbors. As we move forward into the summer, may we continue to carry the spirit of unity, service, and community that makes our nation so special.

Happy Birthday, America!

OATS Transit Receives Grant Funds from Jefferson Foundation

Jefferson Foundation

OATS Transit is happy to announce that it has received grant funds from the Jefferson Foundation to help support service in Jefferson County MO. OATS Transit was awarded \$100,000 to help provide rides in Jefferson County, plus \$39,742 to help purchase new vehicles, for a total of \$139,742. This award plays a pivotal role in advancing OATS Transit's mission in rural Missouri, and makes a greater impact in Jefferson County.

OATS Transit provides transportation for work, medical appointments and essential shopping to many Jefferson County residents who have no other method of getting around in the community. Last year, we provided 43,344 trips to 280 Jefferson County residents. "The Jefferson Foundation is excited to be able to partner with OATS Transit to provide transportation services in Jefferson County, said Melissa Endres, Executive Vice President of the Jefferson Foundation. "The service provided by OATS Transit is key in helping people get to medical appointments and employment and we are fortunate to have them in our community" added Endres.

OATS Transit Executive Director Dorothy Yeager added: "We are grateful to receive this generous grant from the Jefferson Foundation, and sincerely appreciate their continued support. The funds will stay directly in Jefferson County to help local residents get to places they need to go."

"I am writing you this letter to let you know how grateful I am for OATS Transit. I am 75 years old, and I lost my leg in 2024, so I depend on them. I have no one to give me a ride but OATS and I don't have much money. I am also a US Air Force Vietnam Veteran, serving from 1969 to 1973.

It would be nice to have OATS service 7 days per week and also more service into Springfield. The people who drive the buses are awesome - Please keep OATS going forever!"

Rider Livia, Branson MO

Thank you
for having
OATS TRANSIT
FOR ME.

GOD BLESS

Monika
Dixon MO

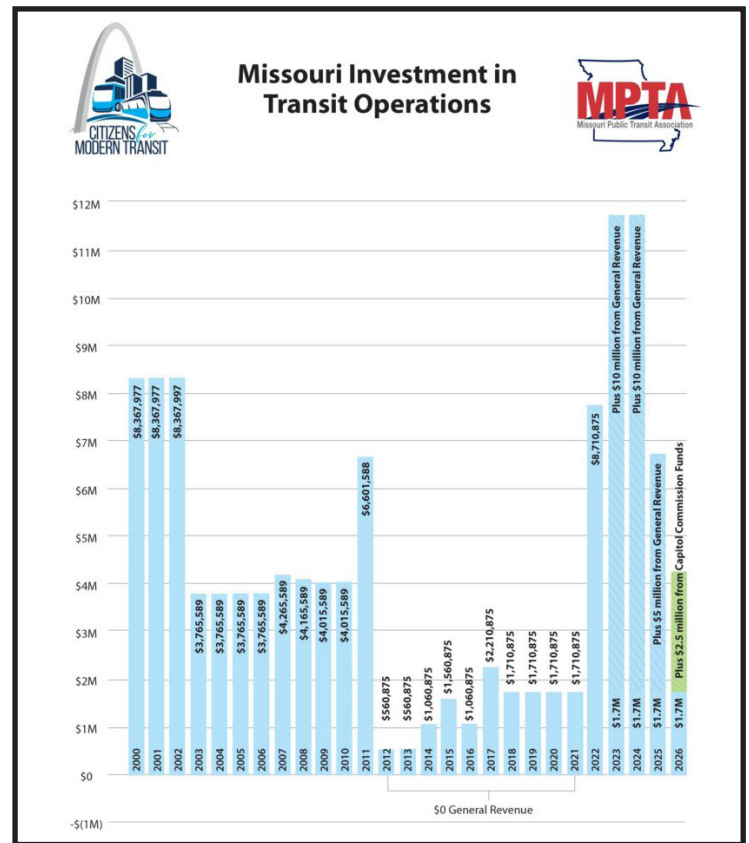
Governor Signs Budget Bills Including \$2.5 Million from Capitol Commission Funds for Transit

Story provided by the Missouri Public Transit Association

At the end of June, Governor Mike Kehoe signed the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) state operating and capital improvement budget bills. Following a roller-coaster session for public transit investment, the final budget preserves \$2.5 million from Capitol Commission Funds for transit, bringing total state operating assistance for public transit to \$4.2 million.

The 2026 Missouri Legislative session wrapped the budget process before the May 8 deadline with a second consecutive year of reduced investment in public transit. House Bill 4 (HB4), as approved by the Conference Committee and now signed by the Governor, includes \$2.5 million from Capitol Commission Funds and \$1.7 million from the State Transportation Fund for transit operations. While this funding represents a 37% reduction from 2025 funding levels, it avoids the deeper cuts originally proposed and reflects a 64% reduction in state transit investment since Governor Kehoe took office.

“Public transit providers deliver nearly 40 million rides each year across rural and urban Missouri, while also generating \$4 billion in economic activity statewide. Restoration of \$2.5 million will help ensure Missourians maintain access to reliable transportation. Every dollar matters to every transit provider right now whether they are a rural or urban provider in this state. Without this funding, the impending service cuts or loss of service altogether would disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, including seniors, individuals with disabilities and those living in rural and under-served areas. It means losing access to jobs, dialysis appointments, essential health care services, necessary medications and groceries. Holding on to \$2.5 million is a start, but definitely not the end of the transit investment story,” said Kimberly Cella, Executive Director of Missouri Public Transit Association.



THE WHEEL

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