HAPPY FALL

Wheel

October 2026



OATS IS

COMMUNITY ACCESSIBLE



DEPENDABLE ESSENTIAL

55 Years of Caring, Connecting and Serving

OATS Transit is celebrating 55 Years of Connecting Missouri! On November 1, 1971, OATS Transit buses first hit the road, beginning a journey that would grow into 55 years of serving Missouri communities. What started as a vision to help older adults get where they needed to go has grown into a statewide transportation network serving people of all ages across 87 Missouri counties. Through the years, our mission has remained the same: enhancing quality of life by providing safe, caring and reliable transportation services. As we celebrate this remarkable milestone, we honor the people, employees, volunteers, funding partners and riders who have helped shape our history. Here's to 55 years of making connections and many more years of moving Missouri forward!

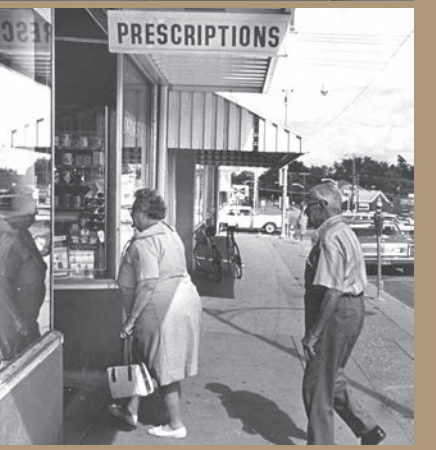
Check out our new video online on Facebook or Youtube to see how it all began- @oatstransit











Fall Is Better When You Have a Way to Go

Fall brings cooler temperatures, changing leaves, and plenty of reasons to get out and enjoy the season. For much of Missouri summer lingered on and the temperates stayed hotter than normal, so it was a slow start to Fall. No matter the weather, our riders need reliable transportation to get to medical appointments, work, grocery stores, shopping, and other everyday destinations. Whether it's an important appointment or simply a trip to pick up a few things, OATS Transit helps make sure transportation isn't a barrier to getting where you need to be.

But transportation is about more than getting from one place to another—it's about staying connected. OATS Transit helps riders visit friends and family, participate in community activities, attend events, and enjoy seasonal outings. Every trip is an opportunity to stay independent, connected, and involved in the communities they call home. Fall is better when you have a way to go—and OATS Transit is here to help you get there.



Driver David regularly transports riders to Blessing Health Center in Quincy, Illinois, where many Missourian's in the far northeastern corner turn for medical care. For these rural communities, access to reliable transportation is essential to reaching healthcare providers and getting the medical attention they need.



Driver Jeff takes time to visit with long-time rider Macy when he picks up other riders at the Lacoba Nursing Center in Monett Missouri.
We never forget our riders - and they never forget us!





James (left) and Juan (right) both work at Helping Hands Thrift Store in Chillicothe, MO and rely on OATS Transit to get to work. For them, reliable transportation makes it possible to work every day, contribute to their community, and enjoy the independence that comes with employment. In a rural town, access to dependable transportation can make all the difference in turning an opportunity into a reality!



For rider Leslie, who uses a walker, an accessible OATS Transit van provides the reliable transportation she needs to take care of everyday business errands. With OATS, she can maintain her independence, get where she needs to go, and stay connected to her community. Driver Forrest helps her get safely on the lift to exit the van at the license bureau in Camdenton Missouri.



Each week driver James helps connect Missourians living in the far northern part of the state to Columbia on OATS Transit's InterCity Express route, picking up riders in communities along Highway 63. His trips provide an important transportation link for people traveling between rural communities and the state's central region.



Enhancing quality of life by providing
SAFE, CARING & RELIABLE
transportation services

55 YEARS OF SERVICE
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

BY THE NUMBERS

6 REGION OFFICES
Mideast (Bridgeton) - MidMO (Columbia)
Midwest (Sedalia) - Northeast (Macon)
Northwest (St. Joseph) - Southwest (Springfield)
Home office Columbia MO

87 counties out of 114 in Missouri have OATS Transit service.

818,928 trips provided

10,138,263 miles traveled

591 Service Vehicles

522,925 operating hours of service

Top Requested Trip Purposes...

56% of trips were for employment

19% of trips were for medical/ dialysis

11% of trips were for shopping/ Food Pantry

Other trip request (in addition to above) includes day hab, senior centers, education, and recreation.

15,118 unique riders

37% Seniors 60+

63% Under Age 59

Age of Riders
0 to 102

512 Employees Statewide
80% Drivers
20% Office Staff

18% of our employees are Veterans

226 Safe Driver Awards
1,743 cumulative years

889 In-Kind Ads
$173,176 value

FUNDING & EXPENSES

Operating Budget: $36 Million

Where our funding comes from:

- Federal funding **53%**
- Special billings **17%**
- Department of Mental Health **13%**
- Medicaid **8%**
- Other **2%**
- Area Agencies on Aging **2%**
- State funding **4%**
- Rider fares and contributions **1%**

Where our funding goes:

- Driver/regional wages & benefits **59%**
- Direct operating support **9%**
- Gasoline **9%**
- Vehicle insurance **12%**
- Repairs and maintenance **6%**
- Indirect admin. **4%**
- Driver Expenses **1%**

**Unaudited rounded percentages*

Board of Directors *meetings are held six times a year at OATS Transit's home office in Columbia, MO. The Board of Directors provide policy direction, guidance, and fiduciary direction for the organization. The 2026 Board: President Tammy Nadler, Vice-President Jeff Leeman, Secretary/Treasurer Andrew Warlen, and 10 other board members.*

Miles of Smiles



Riders Hannah, Anthony and Karen ride everyday with driver Jeff, who is taking them to the Arc of the Ozarks in Cassville Missouri. They love their driver and riding the bus. Jeff makes their daily journey special by providing friendly, caring rides that help them start each day with a smile!

THE WHEEL

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