

Columbia City Council
701 E. Broadway
City of Columbia, MO

December 17, 2018

Dear Council Members,

We, the Public Transit Advisory Commission (PTAC), would like to request funds from the \$20,000 that has been allotted to provide citizen transportation to and from City Council meetings, for the provision of citizen and commission member transportation to and from PTAC meetings. PTAC meetings are held eleven times a year, on the third Thursday of the month, from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

With the recent cut in transit service hours, both commissioners and members of the public who attend the commission meetings, and who rely on public transportation, can no longer depend on the transit system to get home from PTAC meetings.

At the November 15th PTAC meeting, members discussed changing to an earlier PTAC meeting time so that commissioners and attendees could access public transportation to get to and from the meetings. However, an earlier, feasible meeting time was not identified, as a number of commissioners work past 5:00 pm.

One of the strongest and most important goals for PTAC this year has been to increase public awareness and involvement with our community. Therefore, we are excited to report to Council the tremendous success of our First Annual Open House, held on October 18th. We had a total of 33 people in Room 1A representing 17 community members, 4 staff and 12 commissioners. The purpose of this meeting was to raise awareness of our commission and encourage community members to attend and participate in issues affecting public transit. In turn, PTAC will be most able to fulfil one of its key responsibilities as outlined in our charter of duties 2-337 (2) *"Serve as a sounding board for citizen transit, pedestrian and safety and access issues and make recommendations to the city council and city staff for appropriate action."*

As a result of community feedback from the Open House and Council feedback from the November 5th pre-council session, PTAC will begin in January to reach out to local businesses and organizations to learn specifics about their transit needs and potential ways to partner to reach goals. We will develop a survey to help facilitate this process. PTAC will also hold a Driver Appreciation function in February, and post flyers on buses announcing upcoming PTAC meetings. Columbia citizens' concerns are especially important to note during this time of budget cuts. Everyone at the PTAC Open House was eager to see progress and to have their voice heard.

In order to continue this important work to improve community support and involvement surrounding public transit issues and to increase the quality of citizen feedback PTAC can provide to city staff and Council, we must ensure available public transportation for PTAC meeting attendance. Thus, we request permission to access the \$20,000, which has already been set aside to help all citizens attend City of Columbia public meetings, for that end.

On behalf of the Public Transit Advisory Commission,
Katherine Lee, Chair.