



Public Transit Advisory Commission

Annual Report, CY 2025

PTAC Overview

The Public Transit Advisory Commission “advises City staff and Council with regard to transit policy and safety matters concerning transit issues affecting the City. This thirteen member commission has one member appointed by the University of Missouri administration, and the remaining twelve members are appointed by the City Council.”

Mission

The Public Transit Advisory Commission will advocate for the policies and resources necessary to meet the city’s goals for the public transit system, represent the interests of the public and current and future transit riders with regard to the day-to-day operations of the transit system, and encourage public understanding of and support for the transit system.

Vision

A high functioning, accessible transportation system accommodating to all our citizens by connecting communities, people, and destinations.

Membership

- William Brumbaugh – Term Ending March 1, 2028
- Sarah Johnson – Term Ending March 1, 2028
- Hannah Carrico – Term ending March 1, 2028
- Tammy Teel – Term Ending March 1, 2028
- Katharine Meagher – Term Ending March 1, 2027
- Matt Wright – Term Ending March 1, 2027
- Adam Thorp – Term Ending March 1, 2027
- Gabi Jacobs – Term ending March 1, 2026
- Bry Mink – Term ending March 1, 2026
- Ethan West – Term ending March 1, 2026
- Joan Ferguson – Term ending March 1, 2026
- Randal Meyer – Term ending March 1, 2027
- Christine Schneider (University of Missouri Administration Rep)
- Joy Rushing (term ended 2025)

Year-In-Review

Our commission continues to discuss and develop opportunities for improvement in Columbia's public transit. As the transit study has wound down, we've turned our attention to the questions of funding sources, Tiger Line agreements, and improvements to bus stop infrastructure. At the same time, we've provided requested recommendations to Council concerning a proposed pedestrian safety ordinance. And our membership has been almost completely stable for the year!

- Matt Wright, Chair

Commission and Member Activities

- Served as the primary coordinating commission for the city's Transit Study.
- Began in-depth discussions about fare collection and transit funding generally, including analysis and discussion of the city's Tiger Line agreement.
- Set up a booth at the Earth Day festival on April 27th, where we educated attendees on the city's transit system generally and the Transit Study specifically
- Advised the city on implementation of the new ETA Spot bus tracking and mapping software, including integration with Google Maps – both of which were completed in this calendar year.

Transit Study

Over the past year, we served as the steering and stakeholder body for the Comprehensive Transit Study, guiding public engagement, refining service concepts, and shaping the final tiered recommendations and implementation framework. The Study outlines a phased strategy to restore pre-August 2023 baseline service, expand service hours, improve frequency, and ultimately develop a high-frequency network aligned with community growth and climate goals; however, baseline service has not yet been fully restored.

We have focused our efforts on prioritizing restoration of baseline operations, advancing Tier 1 improvements centered on expanded service hours, emphasizing recruitment and retention of transit staff, and advocating for diversified and sustainable funding necessary to support long-term expansion.

In the coming year, we will continue to monitor implementation milestones, advise on funding and partnership strategies, support required public outreach and Title VI processes tied to service adjustments, and ensure that each incremental step toward Tier 2 and beyond remains aligned with the Study's vision of improving service for existing riders while positioning Columbia for responsible, long-term transit growth.

Looking Ahead

Below are some of the activities our commission has already contemplated tackling in the coming year. Obviously we look forward to any additional activities the Council may wish to send our way.

Transit Study Follow-Up

The commission will continue to follow up on and advocate for implementation of Transit Study recommendations.

Community Event Involvement

The commission desires to continue community involvement and education through registration for additional festivals and events.

Tiger Line and Fare Recommendations

Members of the commission plan to continue in-depth research into additional funding opportunities, as well as peer University communities and their student transit structures. We hope to provide information and possible recommendations in a future report to Council.

Bus Stop Evaluation Matrix

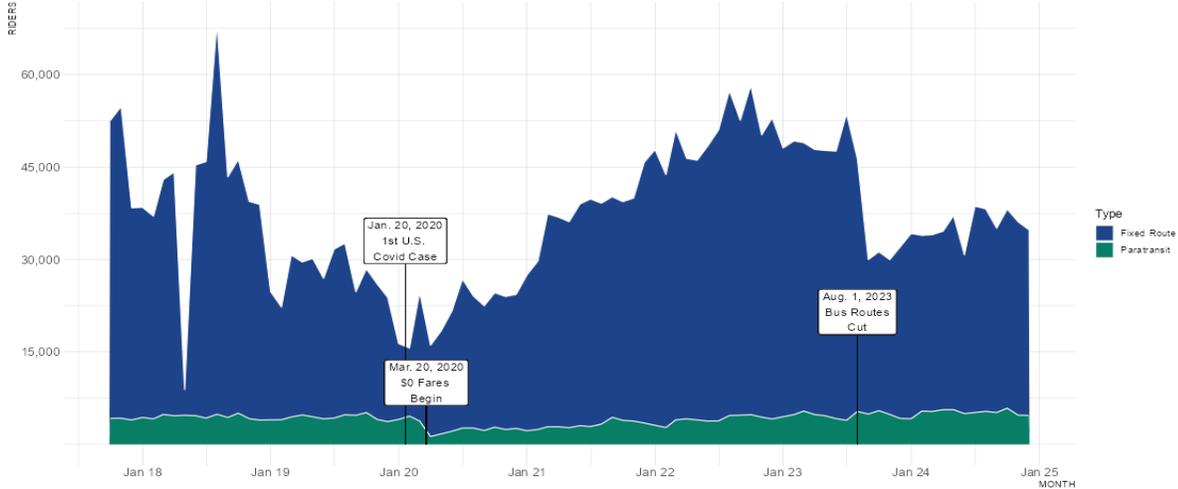
With the Bus Stop Evaluation Matrix developed, the commission hopes to present data-driven recommendations to staff and/or Council concerning the best opportunities for bus stop improvements which are likely to have the greatest positive impact on the community.

The map below (Measures & References, pg. 5) demonstrates the stops with the highest ridership in 2025, and therefore the stops most likely to support bus stop upgrades.

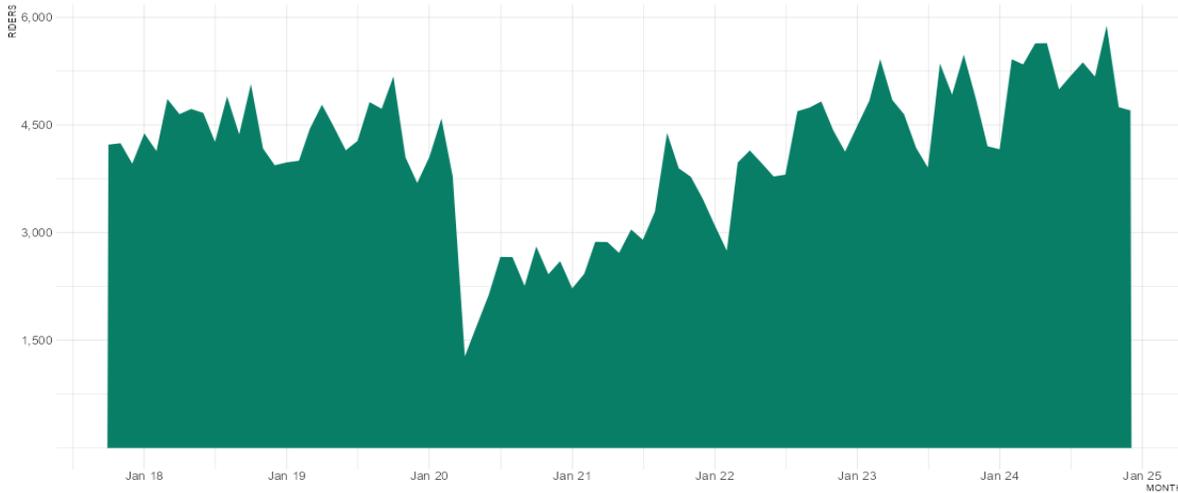
With RAISE grant funds available to be used for bus stop replacement, the commission may also discuss recommendations for new bus stop designs, and review stop designs from other communities.

Measures & References

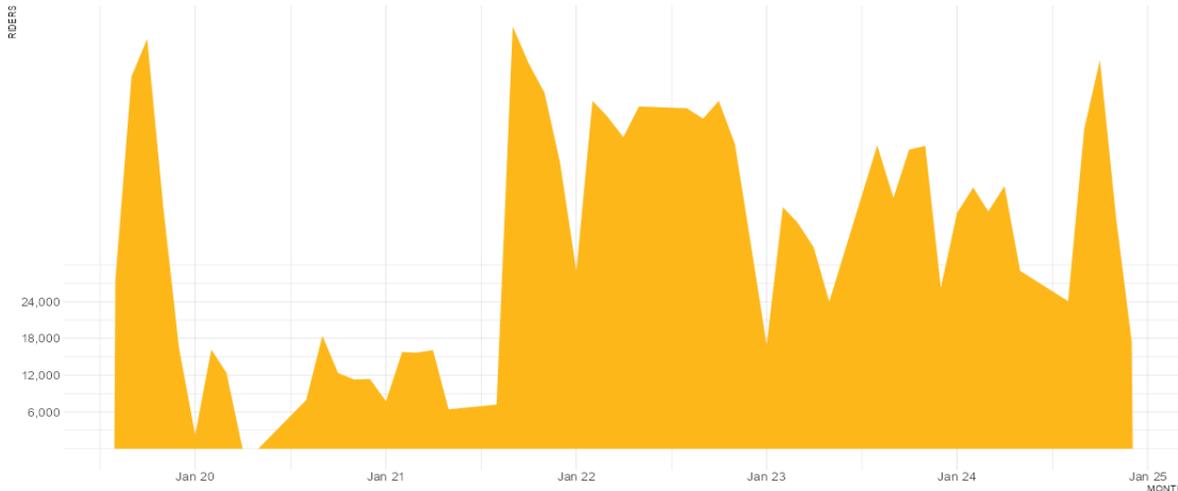
Total GoCOMO Ridership (Excluding Tiger Line) 2017-2024



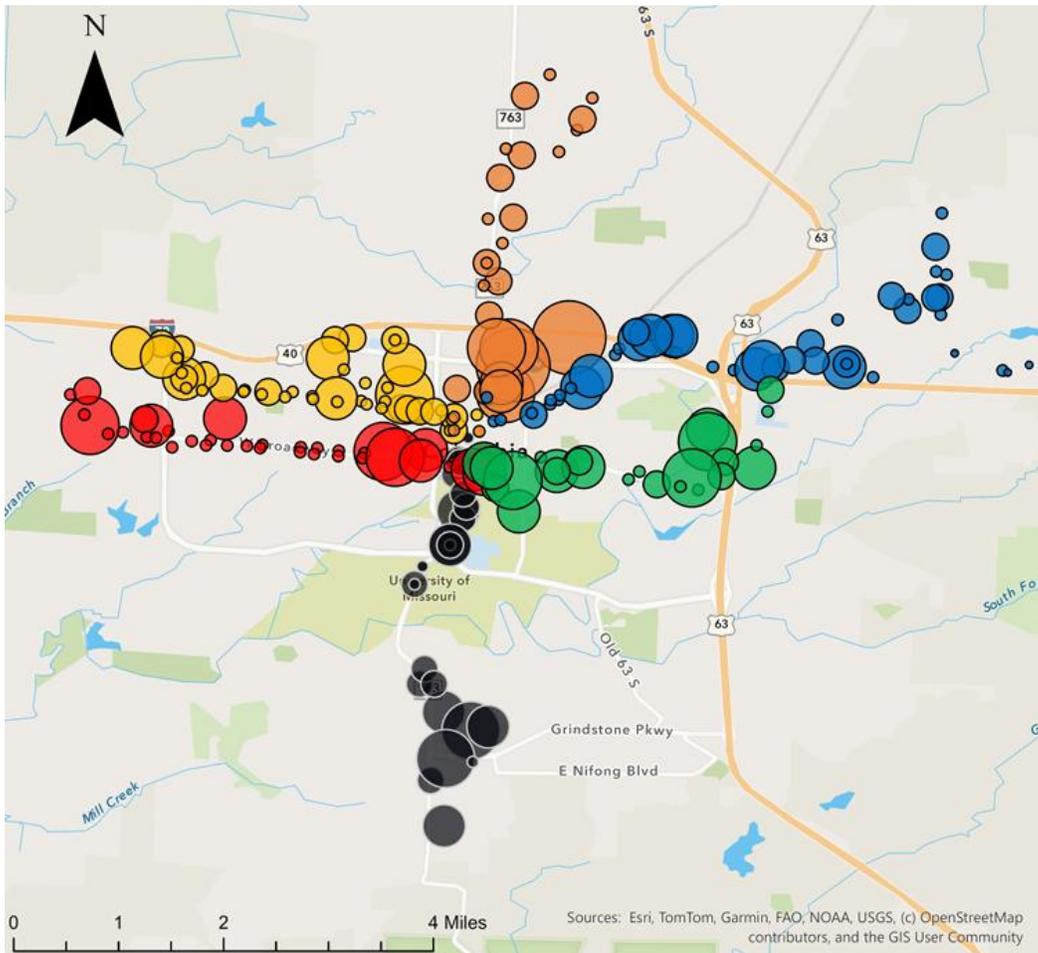
Total Paratransit Ridership 2017-2024



Monthly Tiger Line Ridership, Academic Years 2019-2024



Measures & References



Bus Stops

Route

- Black Line
- Red Line
- Gold Line
- Orange Line
- Blue Line
- Green Line

Average Daily Riders



Prepared for the Public Transit Advisory Committee's Annual Report by Joan Ferguson.

Based on 2025 ridership statistics from the City of Columbia.

Staffing Levels and Select Wages (2024)

Position	Staff	Wages
CDL Driver	25-33	\$21.06/hr (starting) / \$23/hr (average)
Lead Driver	6	\$25.30/hr (average)
Bus Supervisor	5	-
Paratransit Only Driver	2-4	\$17.39/hr (average)
Bus Cleaner (part-time)	3	-
Campus Driver (Part-Time)	3	\$20/hr (starting part-time)
Paratransit Scheduler	3	-
Transit Supervisor	2	-
Paratransit Compliance	1	-
Admin Support	1	-
Maintenance Tech.	1	-
Manager	1	-

Note: Staff ranges represent the highest and lowest level of staff deployed over the course of the calendar year.

Bus Fleet (2024)

Year	Fuel	Deployed	Count
2011	Gas	Paratransit	2
2012	Gas	Paratransit	1
2014	Gas	Paratransit	3
2019	Gas	Paratransit	6
2022	Gas	Paratransit	4
2024	Gas	Paratransit	6
2020	ELECTRIC	Fixed	4
2024	ELECTRIC	Fixed	6
2021	CNG	Fixed	2
2015	CNG	Campus	2
2020	CNG	Campus	1
2023	CNG	Campus	2
2001	#2 Diesel (2% Bio-fuel)	Fixed	1
2011	#2 Diesel (2% Bio-fuel)	Campus	2
2012	#2 Diesel (2% Bio-fuel)	Campus	6