

February 17th, 2026

Director Ed Hassinger
Missouri Department of Transportation
105 W. Capital Avenue
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Director Hassinger:

On behalf of the City of Columbia's Public Transit Advisory Commission, we write to express our support for Missouri beginning development of a statewide active transportation plan (SATP).

The Public Transit Advisory Commission advises local elected officials and staff on public transportation policy, funding, and service design, with a particular focus on access, safety, and mobility for people who rely on transit as part of their daily lives. Because every transit trip begins and ends as a pedestrian trip, our work necessarily intersects with the needs of people who walk, roll, bike, and access public transportation. We believe a SATP would directly support our mission and advance broader statewide transportation goals in several important ways.

First, safety. Missouri has made meaningful progress through efforts such as the Show Me Zero Strategic Highway Safety Plan and the Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment. These initiatives establish an essential foundation, but they stop short of providing a comprehensive planning framework focused on active transportation networks and their connection to transit. A SATP would allow Missouri to more clearly articulate strategies for reducing injuries and fatalities among people traveling outside of automobiles, particularly in the context of accessing bus stops, stations, and other mobility hubs. This added clarity would help organizations like ours align local priorities with statewide safety goals.

Second, collaboration. A statewide active transportation plan would improve coordination among MoDOT districts, state planning partners, transit agencies, and local advisory bodies. The Public Transit Advisory Commission understands the needs within our community, but many active transportation and transit access challenges cross jurisdictional boundaries. A shared statewide framework would help ensure that limited resources are invested strategically, support continuity across regions, and improve connections between communities throughout Missouri.

Third, economic development. Active transportation and public transit are both contributors to local and regional economic vitality, yet their economic impacts are often evaluated separately or not at all. We encourage MoDOT to include funding within a SATP to conduct a comprehensive economic impact analysis of walking, biking, and related investments across Missouri. This analysis could also provide an opportunity to update or expand upon previous corridor-specific studies, such as the economic impact work conducted for the Rock Island Trail, and to better understand how active transportation supports workforce access, tourism, and community development statewide.

In conclusion, the Public Transit Advisory Commission supports the development of a statewide active transportation plan and encourages MoDOT to begin this important work. We believe such a plan would strengthen safety outcomes, improve coordination across agencies and regions, and better position Missouri to invest wisely in transportation systems that serve all users.

Respectfully submitted,

Public Transit Advisory Commission, City of Columbia
Matt Wright, Chair