

# 7 Transit Plan Correlation to State Long-Range Transportation Plan

In developing its State Long-Range Transportation Plan, the Missouri Department of Transportation assessed public transportation needs for large urban areas, small urban areas and rural areas separately. In all three classifications, needs were defined as preservation and expansion needs. Preservation needs are those things necessary for continuation of the existing service levels. Expansion needs are the capital needs required to increase or expand service.

The state's long-range plan found many of the same issues as this transit coordination planning effort. Access to public transportation is limited in rural areas. Because there are fewer mobility options for residents without access to automobiles, rural public transportation needs are growing. Few rural systems offer service to employment, schools, volunteer activities or community events. Better access to medical and nutritional services is especially important to certain segments of the population like the elderly and persons with disabilities.

MoDOT believes approximately 90 percent of the projected needs must be met to adequately serve the needs of Missourians. That equates to approximately \$7,840 million over two decades, or roughly \$392 million per year for the next 20 years. Of that, \$456 million is needed to meet rural transportation goals over that 20-year time period, roughly 22.8 million annually.

Over the 20-year time frame, \$193 million is needed to preserve the present public transit system in rural Missouri and

an additional \$263 million is needed to expand it. When surveyed through the long-range planning effort, Missourians rated public transportation the second most important mode behind highways and bridges. Based on the state's long-range plan, investments in public transportation will be guided by the following policies:

- MoDOT will consider public transportation in its efforts to preserve and enhance Missouri's overall transportation infrastructure, environmental quality and economic vitality. MoDOT will assist local communities in developing and maintaining public transportation systems that are safe, effective and cost-efficient.
- MoDOT will support the preservation, maintenance, expansion and enhancement of public transportation infrastructure including vehicles, facilities and other assets. It will partner with law enforcement and civic groups to incorporate safety and security in public transportation facilities.
- MoDOT will work to establish stable and sustained funding mechanisms for public transportation projects and plan, facilitate, provide funding assistance and establish service level guidelines for public transportation services.
- MoDOT will emphasize that transportation services and providers meet community needs and that transportation projects offer economic benefit to those communities.

The strategies outlined in this coordination plan are consistent with these state policies.