



# CITY OF COLUMBIA/BOONE COUNTY, MISSOURI



ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY COMMISSION

February 26, 2009

Mayor & City Council  
City of Columbia  
PO Box 6015  
Columbia, MO 65205

Honorable Mayor, City Council, and County Commission:

The Environment and Energy Commission (EEC) would like to request that the Columbia City Council and the Boone County Commission consider federal stimulus options to participate in the funding of the **Mid-Missouri Transit Pilot Project**, a proposed local and regional transportation network. Steve Tatlow, of the Boone County Community Partnership (BCCP) presented this project to EEC because of the energy and environmental savings from reducing vehicles and emissions on Central Missouri roadways. This pilot would connect the five largest Boone County regional cities with a southern loop (Columbia, Ashland, and Jefferson City) and a northern loop (Columbia, Hallsville, Centralia, and Sturgeon) on a twice daily basis five days a week. Previously, \$300,000 of a federal renewable transportation grant was awarded for this pilot project, but due to the lack of \$100,000 in matching funds this money for 2008 has currently been diverted to other transportation projects outside Boone County. The current funds were spent on other projects in Camden and Laclede counties where local matching funds were appropriated.

We on the EEC feel that this regional pilot transportation project is important in that it will serve thousands of local commuters (from Columbia and Boone County to Jefferson City) and also the disabled population and people needing medical services. It will link Central Missourians to the two largest urban transit systems Amtrak, and Greyhound, as well as the Columbia Regional Airport. This project would further establish Columbia as the hub of a growing regional transportation network (bringing goods and services into our community and local economy).

The BCCP and OATS are the entities that applied for and received Section 5311 funding for operations of the regional pilot transportation project. There is a clear plan in place to proceed with this pilot project based on a thorough needs assessment study (<http://lscs.com/projects/Boone%20County/final.htm>), if matching funds can be secured. We have also attached with this letter, budget information and a regional map showing proposed routes in the following hyperlinks:

[www.boonecountypartnership.com/Pilot%20Project%20Fac20Sheet%20e%20%20Budget.pdf](http://www.boonecountypartnership.com/Pilot%20Project%20Fac20Sheet%20e%20%20Budget.pdf)  
[www.boonecountypartnership.com/Pilot%20Routes%20Map.pdf](http://www.boonecountypartnership.com/Pilot%20Routes%20Map.pdf)

In this current tight budget environment there still exist some key opportunities for funding. Out of the current \$790 billion federal stimulus plan being considered, billions are earmarked for transportation, with hundreds of millions coming to Missouri communities for transportation projects, a state priority. Apparently, **fifty percent of the federal stimulus funds need to be spent on projects that have been vetted by the federal government and deemed ready to go in 120 days.** This project has been funded in the past by the federal government in a renewable grant and would fit that process. The EEC was informed that the pilot program can start-up within 60 days of funding.

Other cities have already committed funds for this pilot project. Ashland committed \$1,100 as an initial amount, Centralia committed \$5,000 and many other communities including Columbia and Boone County, as well as needs organizations have written letters of support and given to the needs assessment study for the transportation project.

This is an exciting project that would help establish Columbia as a regional transportation hub and leader. Regional transportation is also an important goal of the visioning process. We hope the Council and Commission will consider further investigation into this needed project to quickly determine if it would fit 'as a shovel-ready project'.

**The EEC requests that the City of Columbia and the Boone County Commission add the Mid-Missouri Pilot Transit Project to your lists of shovel-ready projects for the federal stimulus funds.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Buffaloe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara Buffaloe  
Chair, Environment & Energy Commission

# Mid-Missouri Transit Pilot Project

**Issue:** Over 15 years of well documented transportation need throughout Central Missouri. Residents unable to access basic needs & community services.

**Action:** Over 100 diverse organizations, coordinate to implement Boone County Coordinated Transportation Services Study detailing unmet need, existing resources and potential to coordinate existing passenger transportation services. Region wide participation. Study funded in cash by 19 different sources including 4 local governments.

**Result:** Unprecedented understanding of need, resources and potential to coordinate passenger transportation.

**Need:** 51% Unmet Need in rural Boone County, MO  
1<sup>st</sup> Seniors, 2<sup>nd</sup> Persons with disabilities, 3<sup>rd</sup> Low income  
1<sup>st</sup>, Employment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Health Care, 3<sup>rd</sup> Access to Community Resources  
Need to travel beyond *immediate* community essential  
Users unable to navigate maze of issue specific providers

**Resources:** Numerous agency vehicles with “Silo Funding”  
No coordination of services.  
Duplication & Inefficiency  
Majority - taxpayer supported.  
No existing county wide - public transportation available.

**Potential:** Significant savings & enhanced access available through coordinating resources.  
Rural needs efficiently & effectively met through a daily transit service.  
Rural transit service should coordinate with existing transit services in Columbia & Jefferson City.

**Response:** Mid-Missouri Rural Transit Pilot Project

Local & Regional coordination effort  
First time link for Central Missouri’s 2 largest urban transit systems, Amtrak, Greyhound and Columbia Regional Airport  
Provides efficient, effective and dependable service  
Connects Boone County’s 5 largest communities  
Connects Jefferson City to Columbia and Boone County  
5 Days a week 2x per day  
Addresses significant and critical unmet rural need  
2/3 of funding needed for Pilot Project already secured with funds from local & federal sources

**REQUIRED ACTION:** \$120,000 will provide balance of funding required to implement \$326,680 - 12 month pilot.

**Long Term Support:** Success of this project will develop local support and investment for continuation &/or expansion.

***Estimated Project Costs***  
**Northern Mid-Missouri Transit Pilot Project**

For the Fiscal Year 2009 (July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009). Effective Date: July 1, 2008

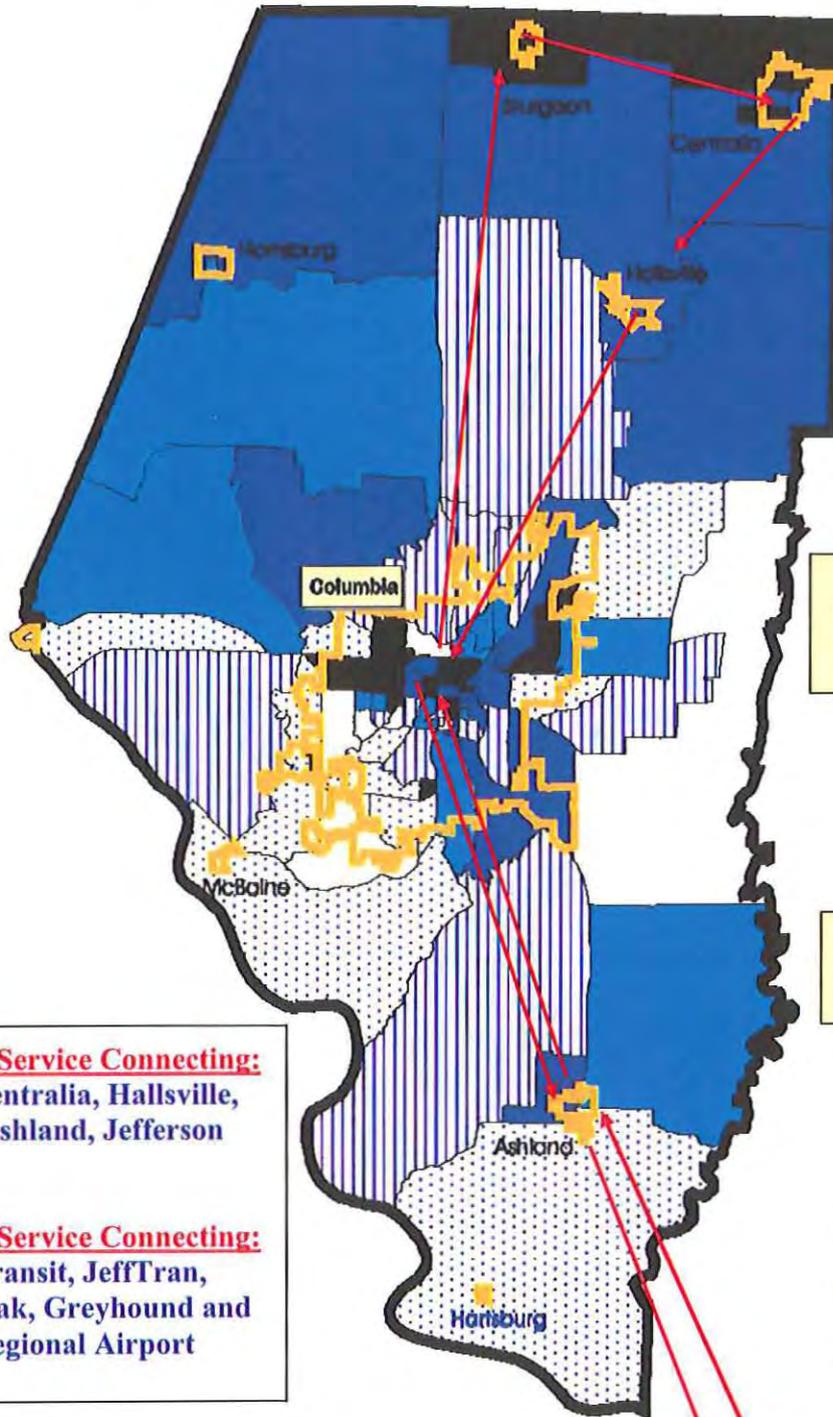
<b>Project Income</b>		<b>Project Expenses</b>	
<i>Funding Sources</i>		<i>Costs</i>	
Section 5311 grant	\$ 85,680.00	Driver Wages (120 hours per week x 51 weeks x \$28.00 per hr)	\$ 99,314.29
Other funding sources	\$ 2,000.00	Driver Benefits	\$ 11,899.87
Rider fees/donations	\$ 25,200.00	Dispatching Cost/Office Space	0
<b>City of Centralia</b>	<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>	Fuel & Lubricants	\$ 19,412.41
In-kind services	Negotiable	Tires & Tubes	\$ 2,583.97
		Other Material/Supplies for Vehicle	\$ 3,634.98
		Preventive Maintenance	\$15,086.51
		Insurance	\$ 11,468.83
		Licensing & Taxes	\$ 531.94
		Administration: billing & recordkeeping	\$ 8,427.20
		Advertising and Marketing	\$ 5,260.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 117,880.00</b>	<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$177,620.00</b>
<b>Additional Funding Needed</b>	<b>\$59,740.00</b>		
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>\$177,620.00</b>		

***Estimated Project Costs***  
**Southern Mid-Missouri Transit Pilot Project**

For the Fiscal Year 2009 (July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009). Effective Date: July 1, 2008

<b>Project Income</b>		<b>Project Expenses</b>	
<i>Funding Sources</i>		<i>Costs</i>	
Section 5311 grant	\$ 71,400.00	Driver Wages (100 hours per week x 51 weeks x \$28.00 per hour)	\$82,358.03
Other funding sources	\$ 2,000.00	Driver Benefits	\$ 9,868.17
Rider fees/donations	\$ 20,400.00	Dispatching Cost/Office Space	0
<b>City of Ashland</b>	<b>\$1,100.00</b>	Fuel & Lubricants	\$16,098.06
In-kind services	Negotiable	Tires & Tubes	\$ 2,142.80
		Other Material/Supplies for Vehicle	\$ 3,014.36
		Preventive Maintenance	\$12,510.74
		Insurance	\$ 9,510.72
		Licensing & Taxes	\$ 441.12
		Administration: billing & recordkeeping	\$ 7,856.00
		Advertising and Marketing	\$ 5,260.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 94,900.00</b>	<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$149,060.00</b>
<b>Additional Funding Needed</b>	<b>\$54,160.00</b>		
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>\$149,060.00</b>		

# Mid-Missouri Transit Pilot Project Routes



**COLUMBIA**  
OATS, Columbia  
Transit &  
Greyhound

**Columbia**  
Regional  
Airport

**Twice Daily Service Connecting:**  
Sturgeon, Centralia, Hallsville,  
Columbia, Ashland, Jefferson  
City

**Twice Daily Service Connecting:**  
Columbia Transit, JeffTran,  
OATS Amtrak, Greyhound and  
Columbia Regional Airport

**Jefferson City**  
Amtrak & Jeff Tran

## GREATEST TRANSIT NEEDS

