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OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION



**2022**

**STATE OF  
TRANSPORTATION**



*[www.OzarksTransportation.org](http://www.OzarksTransportation.org) / 417 865 3042 / [comment@ozarkstransportation.org](mailto:comment@ozarkstransportation.org)*

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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1

A Note from the Executive Director

2

Traffic

4

Safety

5

Mobility

6

Transit

7

Infrastructure

8

Aviation

9

Navigating the OTO

# A NOTE

*From Executive Director Sara Fields, AICP*

The end of 2021 saw historic transportation investment. In October 2021, Missouri began collecting on its first fuel tax increase since 1996. This five-year graduated tax will generate a 42 percent increase in revenue when fully implemented. The federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was signed into law on November 15, 2021. Combined, the funding lays the groundwork for transformative projects that will shape our future through 2026. With our members, we have been excited to prioritize projects that can leverage these new found resources over the past two years.

I am excited to announce our successful Safe Streets and Roads for All (a new IIJA program) planning grant. The resulting Safety Action Plan will embody the region's commitment to enhancing safety across all of our communities. The Missouri Legislature also demonstrated safety as a priority during the 2023 session when they mandated hands-free driving for drivers of all ages.

Looking ahead, we will continue working to plan and prioritize projects that promote safety and enhance our regional transportation network. We are at our best when we work together. This past year was a great example of our region moving forward common objectives for a better transportation system.

*Stay safe,  
Sara J. Fields*

*The Ozarks Transportation Organization (OTO) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Springfield, Missouri Urbanized Area. Metropolitan planning organizations serve to conduct and lead a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process. In an effort to make the transportation planning process cooperative and collaborative, elected officials from jurisdictions within the urban area and major transportation providers are members of the Ozarks Transportation Organization.*

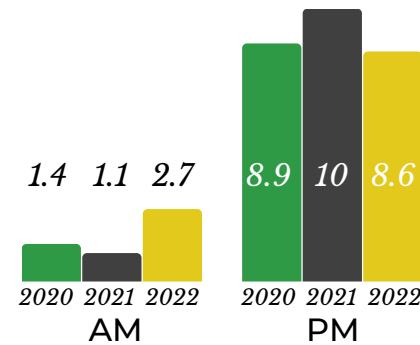


# TRAFFIC

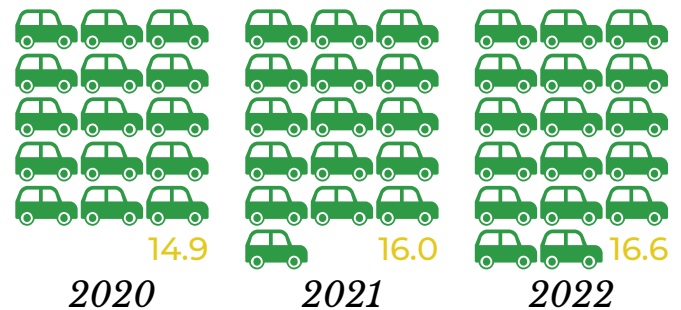
Traffic volumes continue to increase. There was a slight increase in morning peak and a slight decrease during the evening peak. The region continues to invest in congestion-reducing projects, as reflected in the percentage of delayed roadways. Projects like the reconfigured interchange at Glenstone, James River Freeway, and Republic Road contribute to improved traffic flow. The widening of James River Freeway through Springfield is also easing congestion and reducing conflicts at the interchanges. Improvements to Route 14 in Nixa are also improving traffic flow in a heavily traveled area. Additional planned projects to widen I-44 and reconfigure the 13/I-44 interchange will help to address some of the longest traffic delays.

Ozone, a byproduct of transportation-related emissions, has decreased over the past few years, but is now trending up again, though remaining below the federal standard. Continued investment in congestion-reducing projects should positively affect ozone levels.

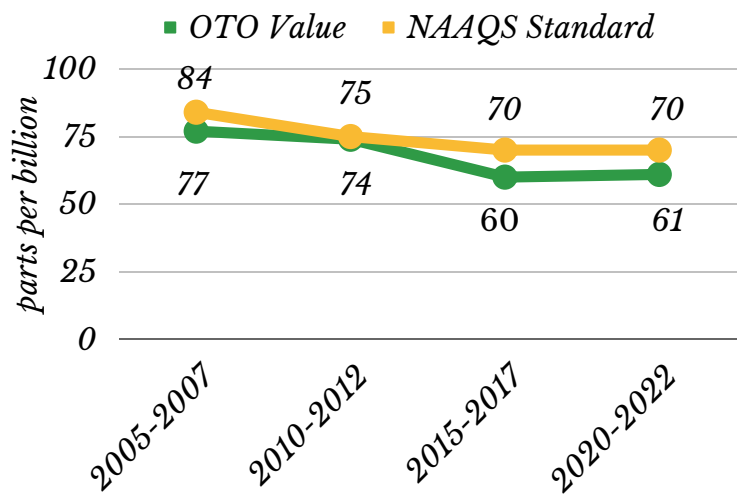
**Congestion:**  
Percent Significantly Delayed Roads



**Daily Vehicle Miles Traveled per Capita**



**Ozone Design Values**



## Glenstone/James River Freeway/Republic Road



# James River Freeway Widening



## Changes in Commute Times

Longest Commute Shortest Commute

*2008-2010*

2017-2021

Score	Category	Score	Category
24.9	Christian	25.3	Christian
18.8	Greene	20.0	Greene
22.1	Battlefield	21.8	Battlefield
23.2	Fremont Hills	21.7	Fremont Hills
23.4	Nixa	25.1	Nixa
23.3	Ozark	22.8	Ozark
22.3	Republic	25.8	Republic
16.9	Springfield	18.0	Springfield
20.8	Strafford	23.4	Strafford
24.8	Willard	22.5	Willard
21.9	Average of Gr	22.7	Average of Gr
22.1	Average of OT	22.6	Average of OT

# 22.6

## MINUTES

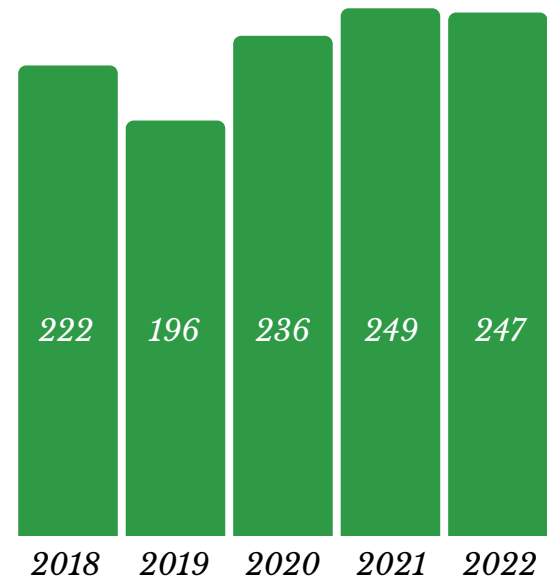
Average Commute Time of Cities  
within the OTO region.

# SAFETY

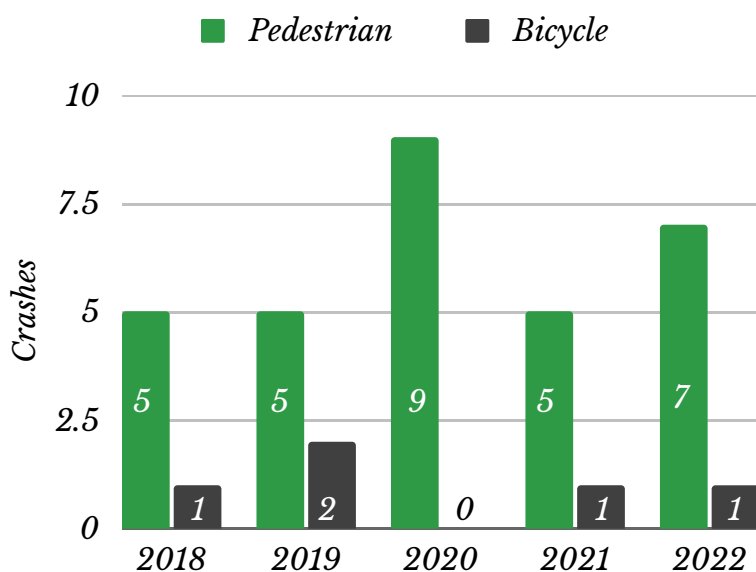
The OTO continues to address safety through its prioritization process, weighting projects with a history of fatal and serious injury crashes higher. The IJA introduced a new program called Safe Streets and Roads for All, offering both planning and implementation funding. On behalf of it's members, OTO applied to develop a Safety Action Plan. Awarded in 2023, this plan will identify high crash locations, systemic safety projects, and will position OTO's members to apply for implementation funding.

Vehicular crashes continue to remain elevated, while pedestrian fatalities were up in 2022. During the pandemic, speeds increased while traffic volumes were low. Since then, speeding has remained an issue while traffic has increased. The Safety Action Plan will identify improvements to help reduce the amount of crashes in the region.

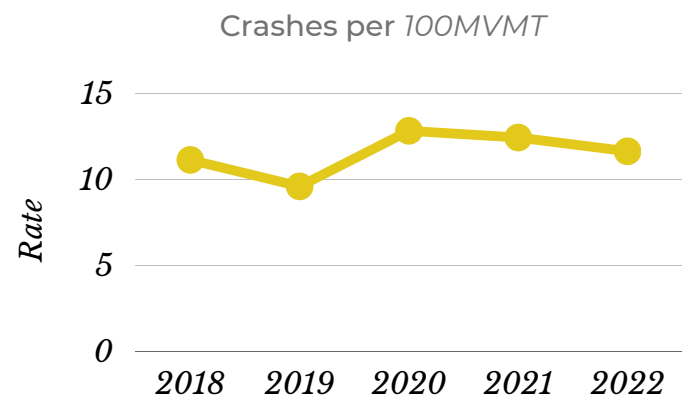
### Disabling Injury and Fatal Crashes



### Pedestrian and Bicycle Fatalities



### Disabling Injury and Fatal Crash Rate



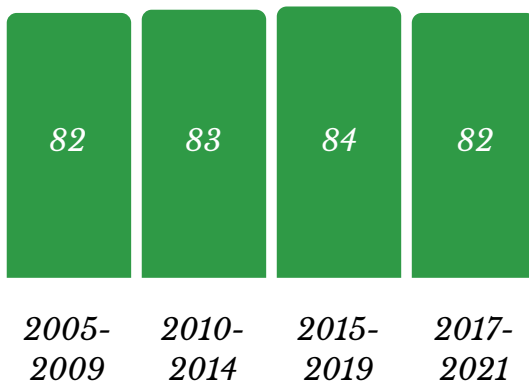
# MOBILITY

Increasing options for traveling throughout the region improves the experience of both roadway drivers and those who move around by bus, foot, or pedal. For the first time in several years, the number of people driving alone to work decreased, with these numbers accounting for 2020 when more people started working remotely. More sidewalks and trails were funded and built. The SGF Yields program has improved the number of drivers yielding for pedestrians in crosswalks. Scooters are also a new option for traversing Missouri State University and downtown Springfield.

## COMPLETED TRAIL PROJECTS

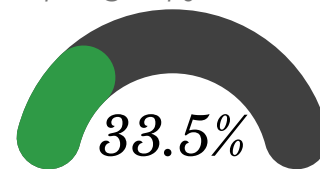
- 2,000 linear feet of multi-use trail as part of the Trail of Tears in Battlefield
- 28.6 miles of single-track trail as part of Dirt 66 at Fellows Lake
- 3,764 linear feet of multi-use trail in Ozark, including the Chadwick Flyer
- 1,270 linear feet of multi-use trail as part of the Fassnight at the Art Museum

Commute - % Drive Alone



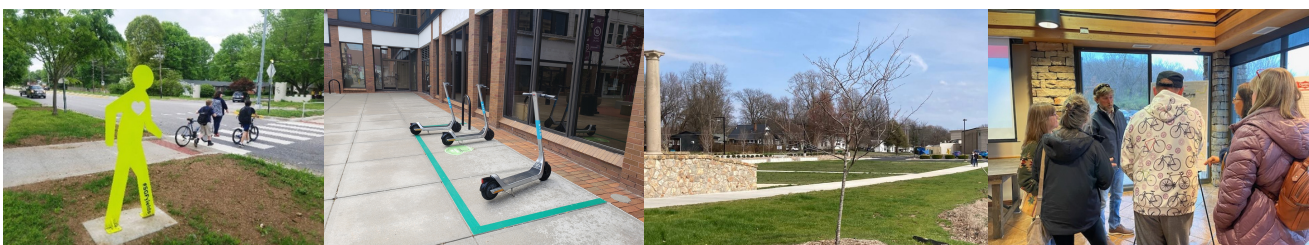
% Roadways with Sidewalk

Goal of 35% by 2035,  
excepting Expys and Fwys



Miles of Trails for Transportation

Goal of 80 miles by 2035



# TRANSIT

In 2022, City Utilities Transit kicked-off ConnectSGF, a planning project to improve transit service operated by City Utilities in both the short term and long term. The planning process includes a public visioning process and will evaluate various scenarios for growth and improvements to the system. Connect SGF is expected to be completed by the end of 2023.

Annual unlinked trips in 2022 were just above 2020 levels and are projected to increase as ridership recovers from the impacts of the past few years. Fixed route ridership in 2022 was 909,783, representing nearly an 18 percent increase over 2021.

16

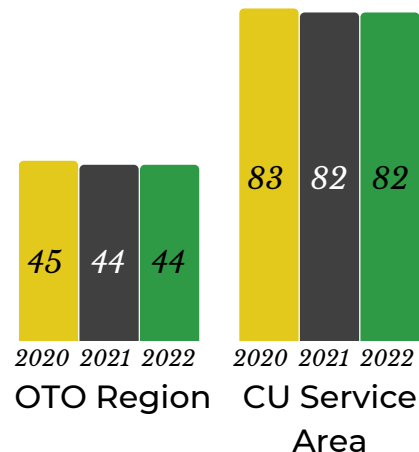
ROUTES

22

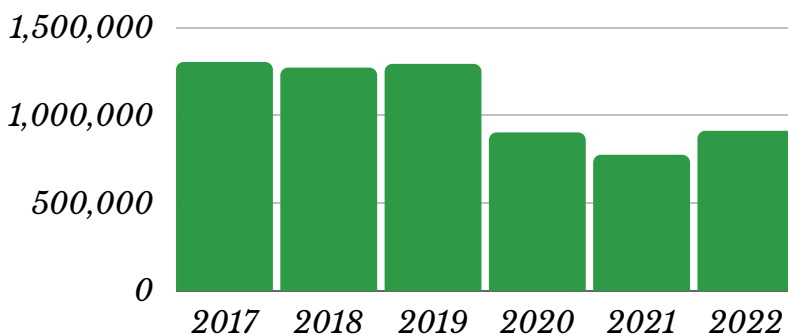
VEHICLES

CU Transit operates a combination of 16 routes that run seven days a week from 6am at the earliest and 11pm at the latest. All routes are either on a 30-minute or 1-hour schedule.

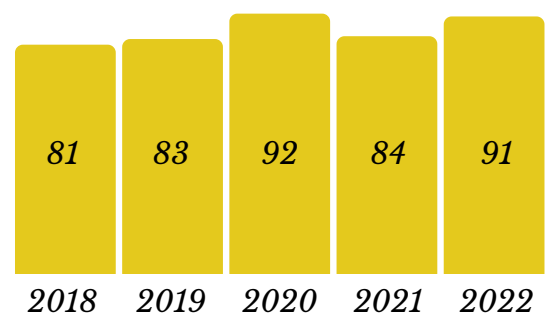
% Housing within  
1/4-mile of Transit



Annual Unlinked Trips



Transit On-Time Performance

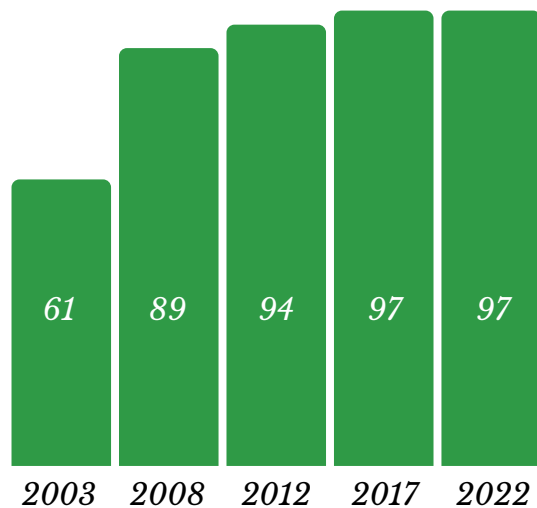




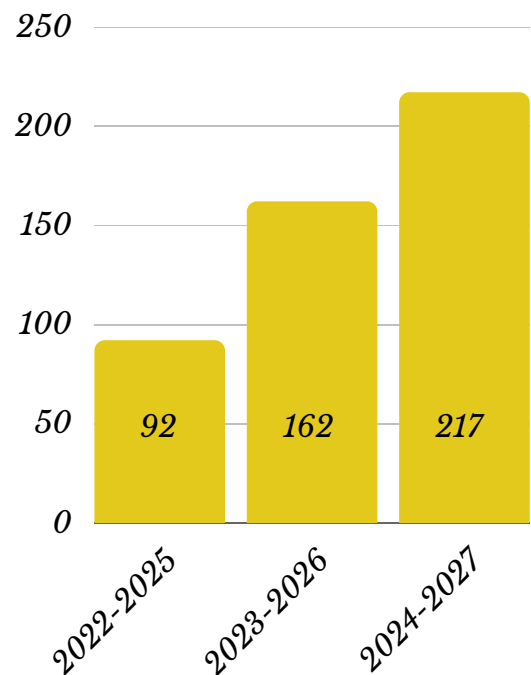
# INFRASTRUCTURE

Asset management continues to be a priority in the OTO region. Funding in the transportation improvement program goes first to addressing the needs identified in the regional asset management plan. Upwards of 45 percent of funding is dedicated to addressing these needs. Two significant pavement rebuilds include Chestnut Expressway between I-44 and Haseltine, as well as I-44 at the Mulroy/744 interchange.

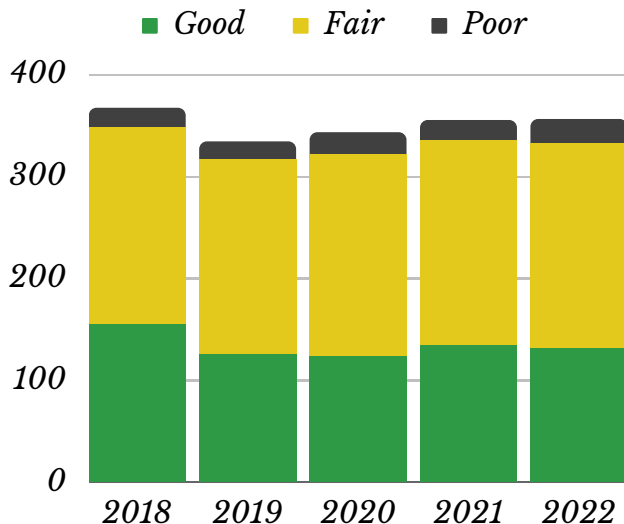
% Major Roads in Good Condition



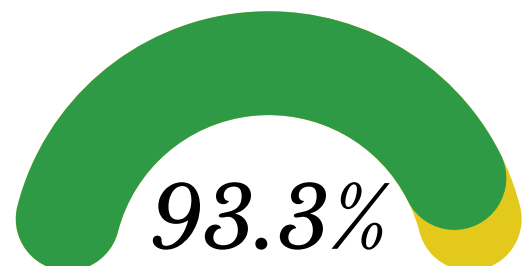
Asset Management Programmed Amount (\$) by TIP (in millions)



Number of Bridges by Condition



Bridge Condition  
Percent Bridges in Fair or Better Condition



# AVIATION

The Springfield-Branson National Airport is on track for record-breaking passengers with 2022 numbers back over 1 million. Growth is attributed to strong local and national economies and a demand for travel, with an increase in leisure trips, as well as business trips combined with leisure.

## 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



Number of airline seats rose 4 percent over 2021.



Flights leaving Springfield were 88% full on average. Eight percent better than 2021.



A 9% increase over 2021 saw 8.5 million gallons of aviation fuel loaded on board aircraft.

# 33

MILLION POUNDS

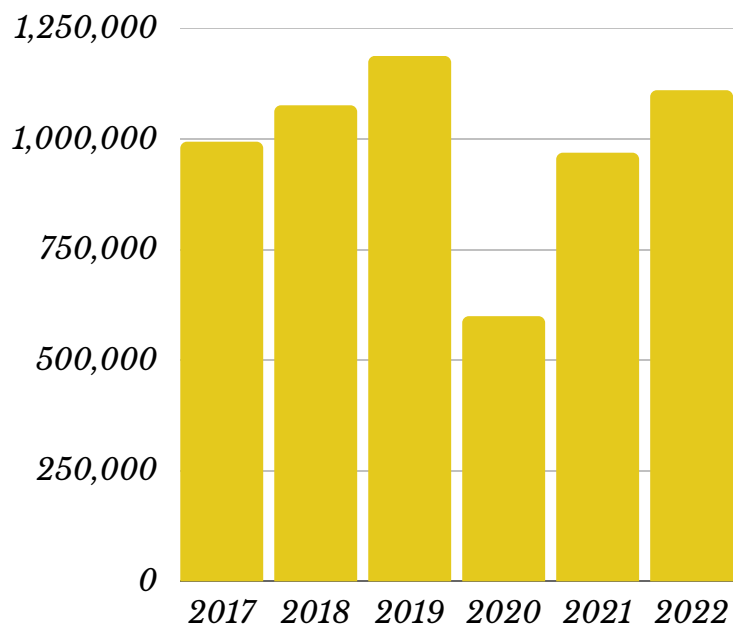
Combined freight moved by cargo airlines in 2022

## ROY BLUNT TERMINAL

On December 16, 2022, the terminal at the Springfield-Branson National Airport was renamed to honor retired U.S. Senator Roy Blunt. While serving Missouri as both a U.S. Representative and Senator, Mr. Blunt secured funding for the airline's terminal as well as several runway and taxiway projects.



Total Airline Passenger Numbers



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# NAVIGATING THE OTO

Public input is a cornerstone of OTO's operations. All feedback shared through the OTO is provided to Board of Director's members, as well as any relevant agencies. The QR codes below can be used to access specific plans and priorities established by the OTO.



Ozarks Transportation Organization website  
[www.OzarksTransportation.Org](http://www.OzarksTransportation.Org)



*Destination 2045* - Long Range Transportation Plan  
<https://www.ozarkstransportation.org/what-we-do/long-range-transportation-plan>



Transportation Improvement Program  
<https://oto.ecointeractive.com/>



Regional Trail Plan  
<https://www.ozarkstransportation.org/what-we-do/bikeped>



Unfunded Needs List  
<https://www.modot.org/unfundedneeds>



OTO Legislative Priorities  
<https://www.ozarkstransportation.org/what-we-do/legislative-priorities>

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This report was prepared in cooperation with the USDOT, including FHWA and FTA, as well as the Missouri Department of Transportation. The opinions, findings, and conclusions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission, the Federal Highway Administration or the Federal Transit Administration.

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