



# **State of Transportation**

# **2018**



# A NOTE...

FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SARA FIELDS

You will find within the pages of this report the investment in roads is paying off. We are monitoring the performance of the transportation system in order to ensure wise transportation investment. Federal, state, and local funds are used in combination to build a system that not only makes the commute safe and quick, but ensures better access to transportation with all users accommodated.

We are not satisfied with the number of crashes, especially those involving pedestrians and will work to plan improvements to address safety.

The overall condition of the transportation system is good, but there is much work to be done to improve trail connections and to make sidewalks more ADA accessible.

All of this is being balanced in a way that results in the excellent transportation system that is expected in the Ozarks.



## CONTACT

(417) 865-3042 p  
(417) 862-6013 f



[ozarkstransportation.org](http://ozarkstransportation.org)  
[sfields@ozarkstransportation.org](mailto:sfields@ozarkstransportation.org)  
[giveusyourinput.com](http://giveusyourinput.com)



2208 W. Chesterfield Blvd., Ste 101  
Springfield, MO 65807

# STAY SAFE,

# SARA J. FIELDS, AICP

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Up and Away



1

2



Get Moving

On My Own  
Two Feet



4

5



No Hitting

Work Zone



6

7



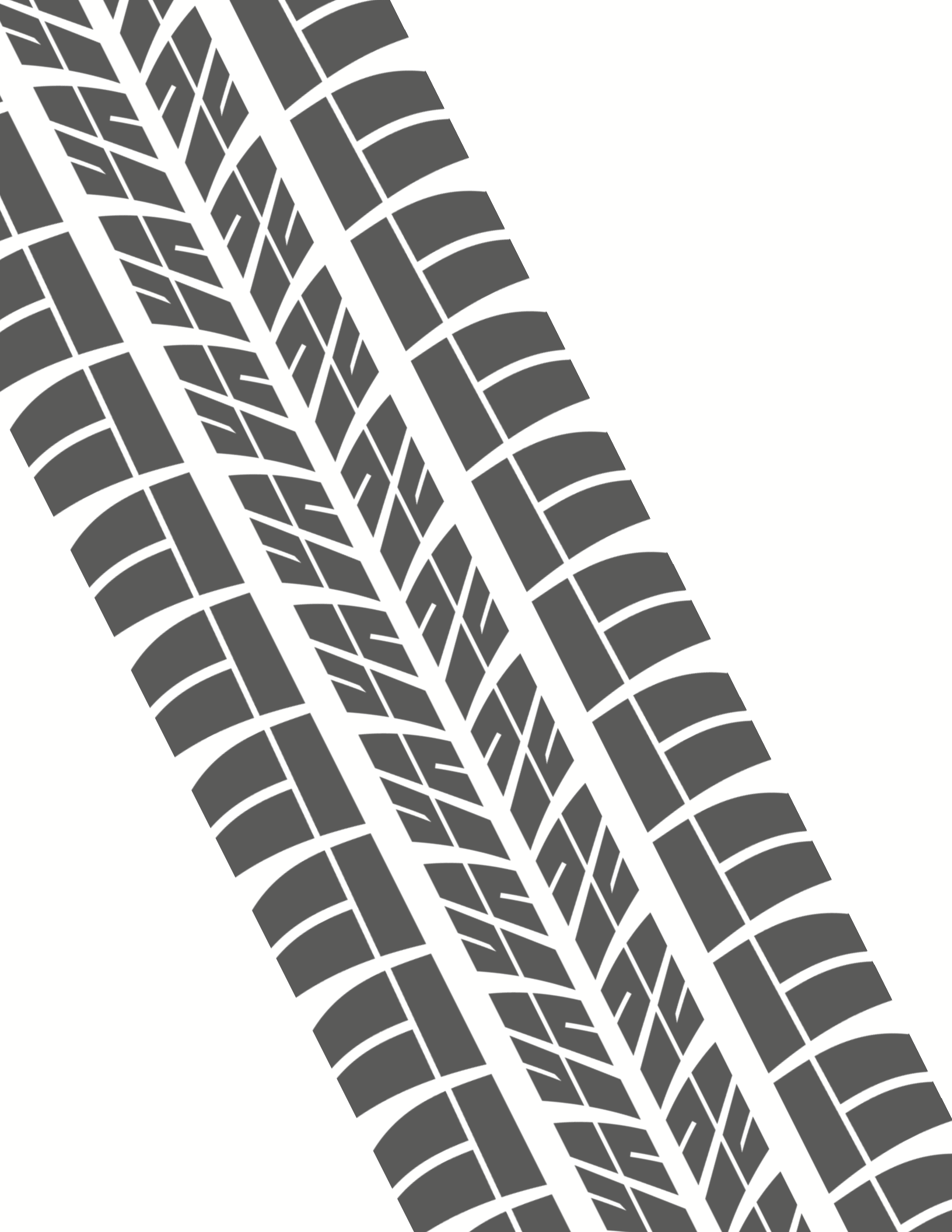
Road Work Ahead

Keep It Clean



8







# UP AND AWAY

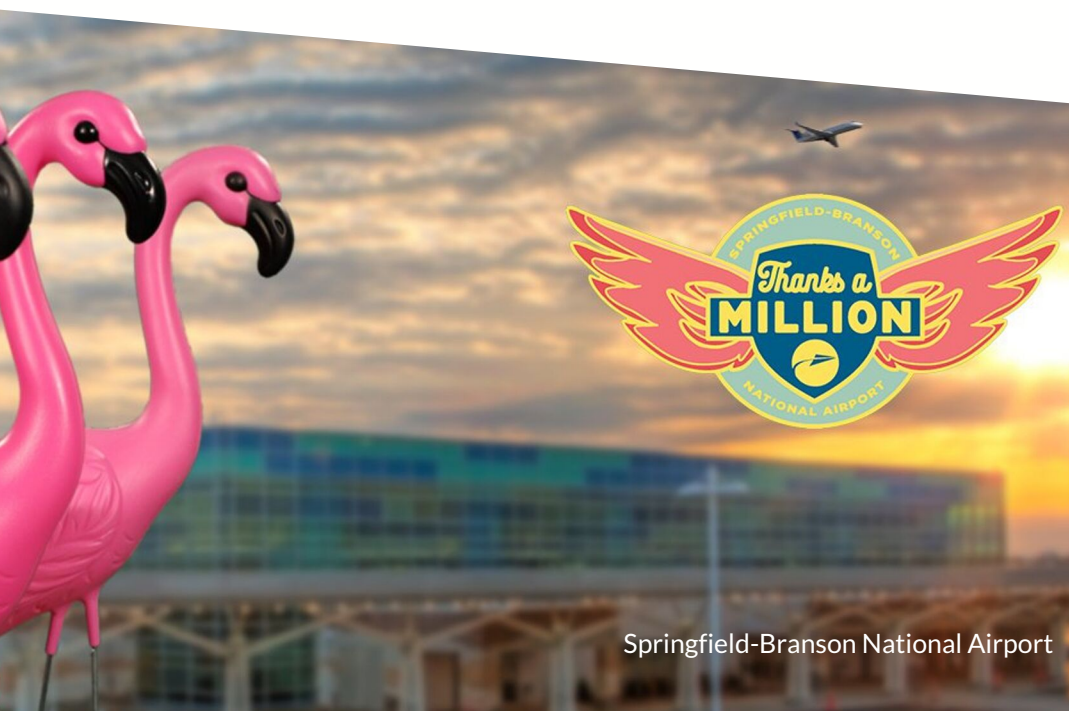
## Records were broken in 2018!

Between 2014 and 2018, passenger numbers grew 27 percent. "1,075,425 passengers used the airport in 2018," says Brian Weiler, the airport's Director of Aviation. "That's an 8.3% increase over last year and it sets a yearly passenger record for the fourth consecutive year."

Air cargo transported by carriers UPS and FedEx grew 5.5% to 30,613,895 pounds in 2018. Aviation fuel to airlines and general aviation aircraft grew 13% to 7,954,421 gallons.

**"IT SETS A YEARLY PASSENGER  
RECORD FOR THE FOURTH  
CONSECUTIVE YEAR."**

**- BRIAN WEILER -**



Springfield-Branson National Airport



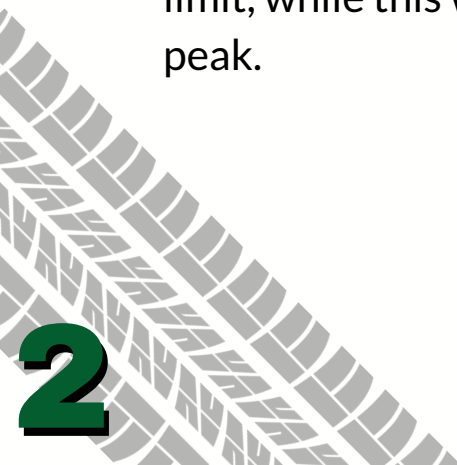
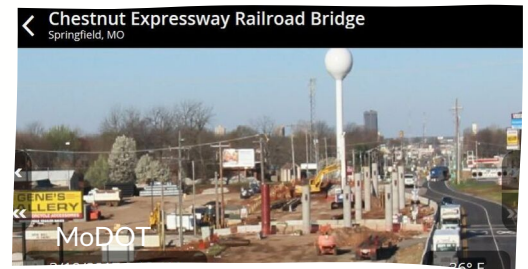
# GET MOVING

In 2018, traffic flow improved at Chestnut Expressway, with the April opening of the Chestnut Railroad Overpass project.

Auxiliary lanes on James River Freeway between Glenstone and National, both east and westbound, have provided much needed breathing room.

Vehicle Miles Traveled per Capita was slightly down from 2017 and 2016, and is still lower than its peak in 2004. Average commute times fell for all but three area jurisdictions, with the largest increase seen for Fremont Hills, and smaller increases seen for Springfield and Greene County, who peaked at 17.7 and 19.3 minutes, respectively.

Improvements were also seen in the percent of roadways significantly delayed, both during the AM peak and PM peak. Just 2 percent of roadways during the AM peak experience speeds 20 miles per hour below the speed limit, while this was 16 percent for the PM peak.

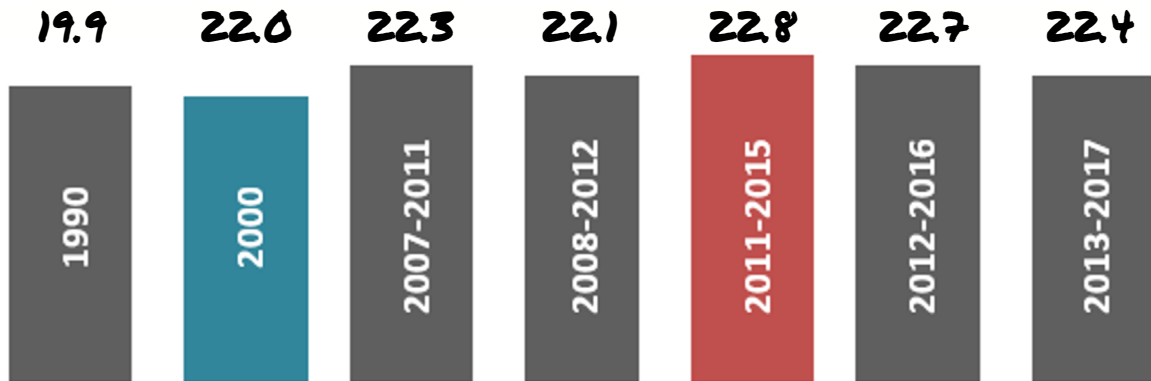
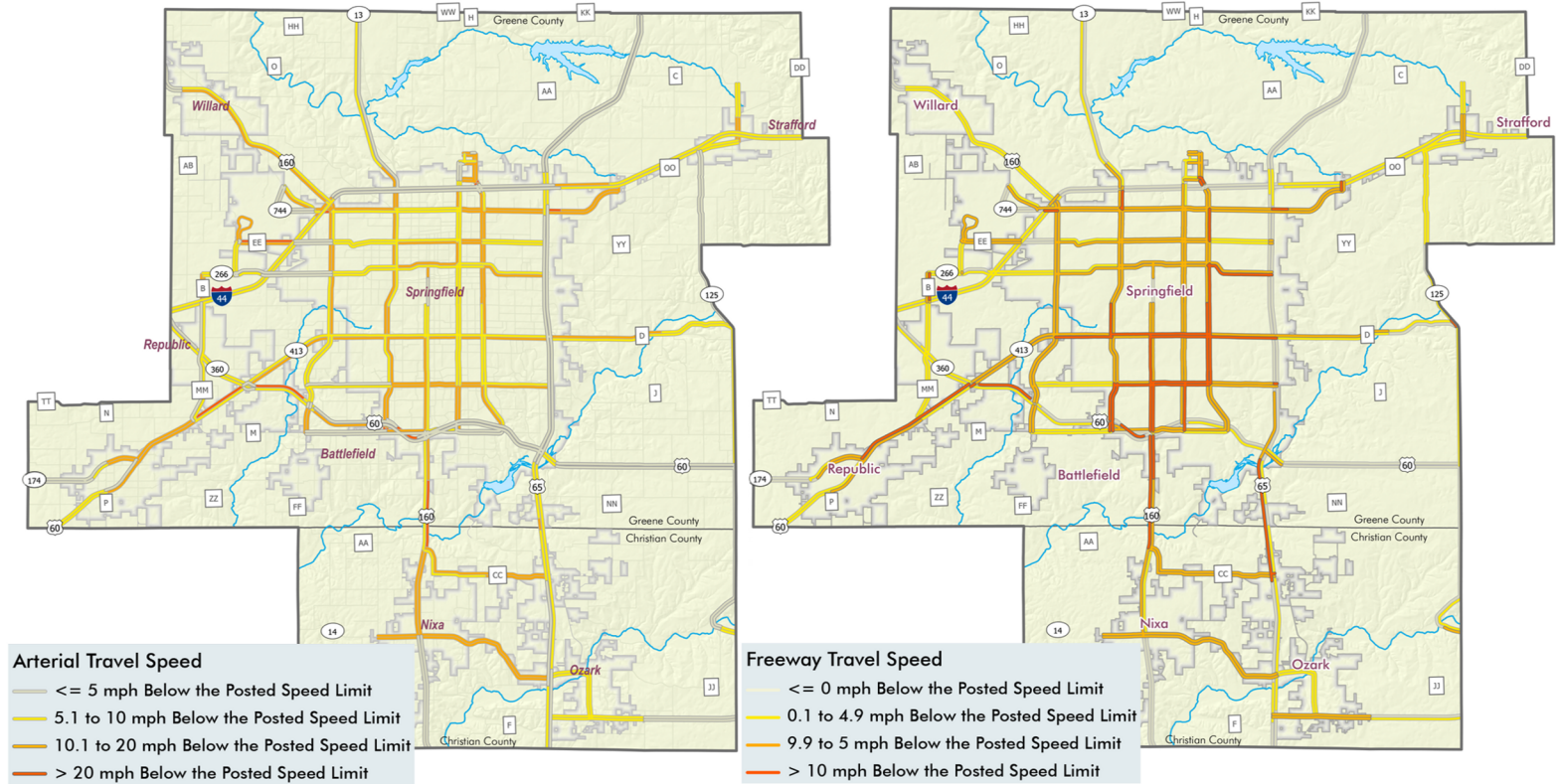




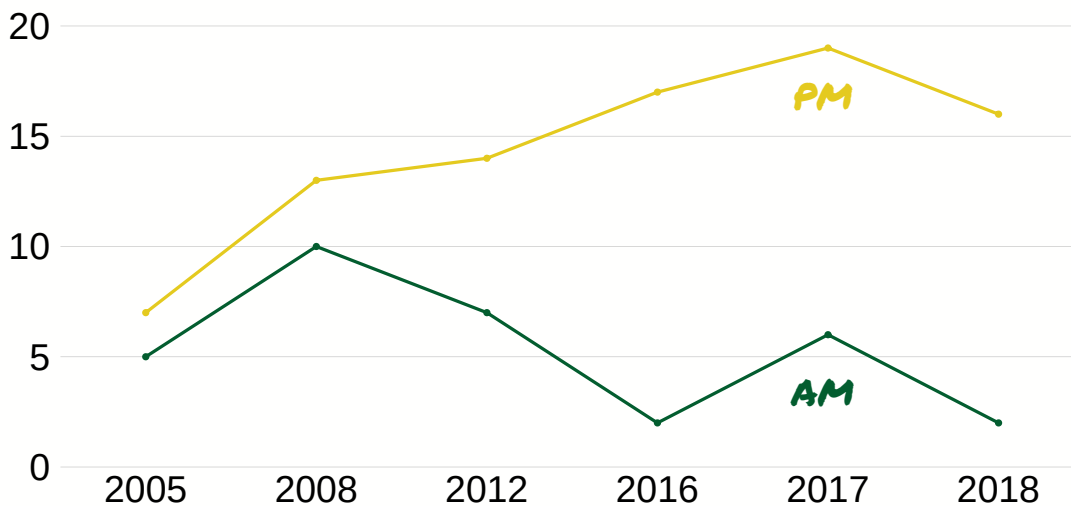
# TRAVEL DELAY FOR AM AND PM PEAK

AM

PM



AVERAGE COMMUTE TIME TRENDS OF OTO CITIES, 2007-2017



PERCENT ROADS 20+ MPH BELOW SPEED LIMIT



# ON MY OWN TWO FEET

It was a banner year for active mobility in 2018. A multi-disciplinary team from OTO, Ozark Greenways, the Springfield-Greene County Health Department, and the City of Springfield received a scholarship to attend the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors Walkability Action Institute in Decatur, GA.

The Missouri Chapter of the American Planning Association celebrated Historic Commercial Street as a "Great Place in Missouri - Great Street."

Short segments of trail were built to close key connections in the Jordan Creek Greenway, one at Ewing Park and Bennett and the other to safely navigate Grand Street. The Grand Street Bridge replacement at this location was an incredible benefit to pedestrian safety.

New bike lanes were constructed on Battlefield Road from Scenic to Austin, as well as on east Trafficway. A new sidewalk and multi-use path was built along Scenic Avenue, improving the connections to the South Creek Greenway and Nathaniel Greene Park. Nearly a mile of sidewalk was built along Kansas Expressway, Bennett, and Grand, in addition to school sidewalks built around the City of Springfield.

The OTO made over \$2.5 million in federal funding available for alternatives transportation funding. The majority went to sidewalk improvements (\$2.34m) and over \$200,000 for trails. This was the most OTO has been able to make available at one time. The sidewalk and trail projects should be completed by 2021.

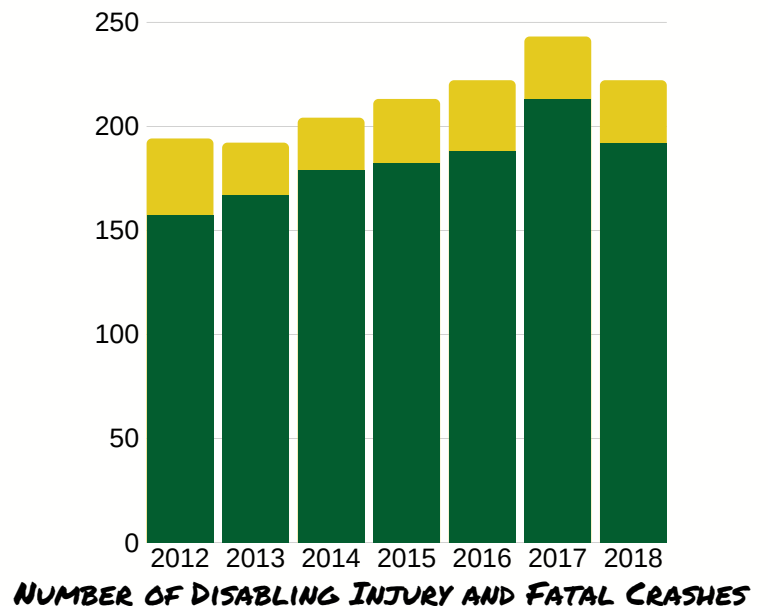




# NO HITTING

The OTO Disabling Injury and Fatal crash rate in 2018 was below the 2015, 2016, and 2017 crash rates. The goal is to continue this downward trend. The actual number of fatalities and disabling injuries is trending upward, however.

OTO helps coordinate the regional Traffic Incident Management Team, which helps identify improvements to accident response and traffic management during any incidents. MoDOT's emergency response operators work on the ground to assist responders and motorists. This helps to reduce secondary crashes and improves the safety of first responders.

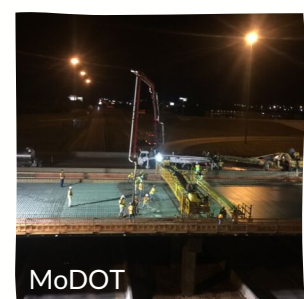
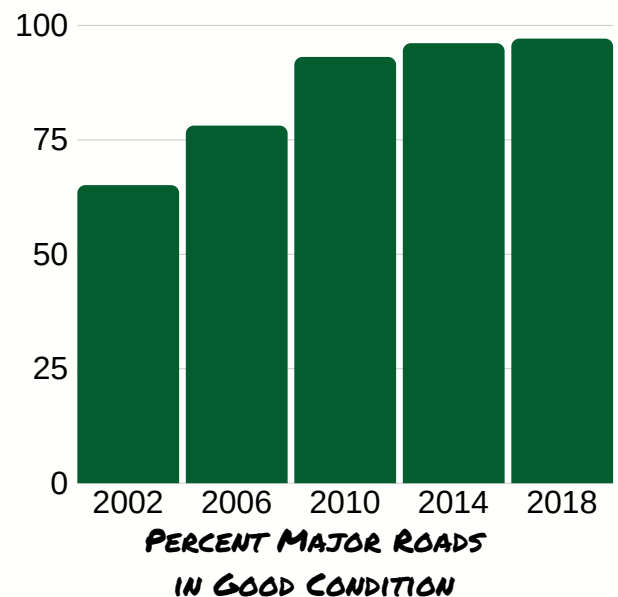
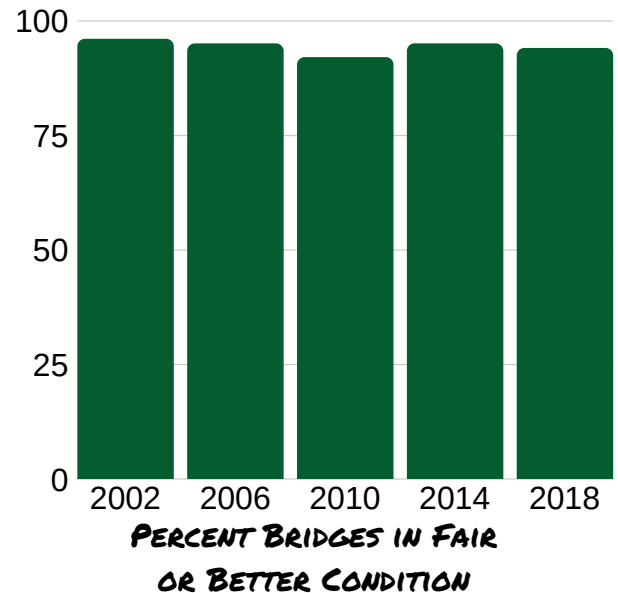


# WORK ZONE

Major roadways continue to stay in good condition in the OTO region. In 2018, 1950s era Glenstone concrete was rebuilt between Grand and I-44. Phase 2 of the US 65 Rebuild project replaced the original concrete pavement on southbound Route 65 between Valley Water Mill Road and Kearney Street, as well as replaced the southbound US 65 bridge over I-44.

While almost 95 percent of bridges are in Fair or better condition, the majority of bridges are only in Fair condition. Of those 315 bridges, 48 are rated a 5, which is one step away from poor condition.

Asset management is important to the OTO region, with other major pavement improvements programmed in FY 2019 on Route 160 south of Plainview through Nixa, Route YY east of Springfield, and Eastgate/Ingram Mill.





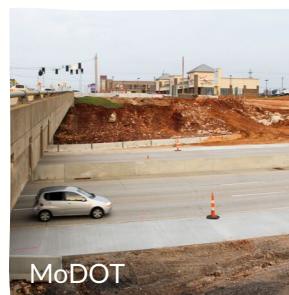
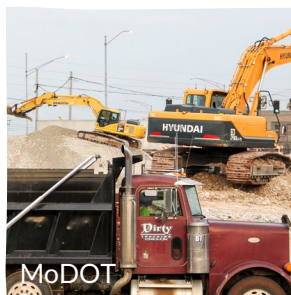
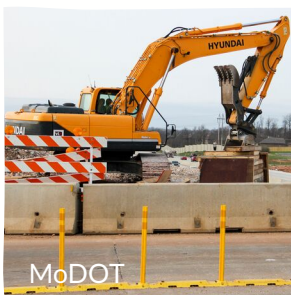
# ROAD WORK AHEAD

Many major projects in the planning, design, and right-of-way phases and are planned for construction in the next few years, addressing safety and operational issues, as well as updating facilities that would soon be needing maintenance:



## Improvements funded over the next 5 years:

- Route 14 Capacity Improvements from 32nd to 22nd in Ozark
- Route 14 Capacity Improvements from Fort to Ridgcrest
- Route 14 Capacity Improvements from Westminster to Route 160
- Jackson St. Capacity Improvements from 16th to NN in Ozark
- Jackson St. and NN Intersection Improvements in Ozark
- South St. Capacity/Pedestrian Improvements, US 65 to 3rd in Ozark
- South and 3rd Intersection Improvements in Ozark
- US 160 Capacity Improvements from AB to Farm Road 94 in Willard
- US 160 Intersection Improvements at Tracker, Northview, and South in Nixa
- Route 60 and MO 125 Interchange
- US 60 Capacity Improvements from National to US 65
- US 65 Capacity Improvements south of US 60
- Campbell and Republic Road Intersection Improvement in Springfield
- Republic Road Capacity Improvements east of Campbell in Springfield
- Riverside Bridge Replacement
- ITS Improvements



# KEEP IT CLEAN

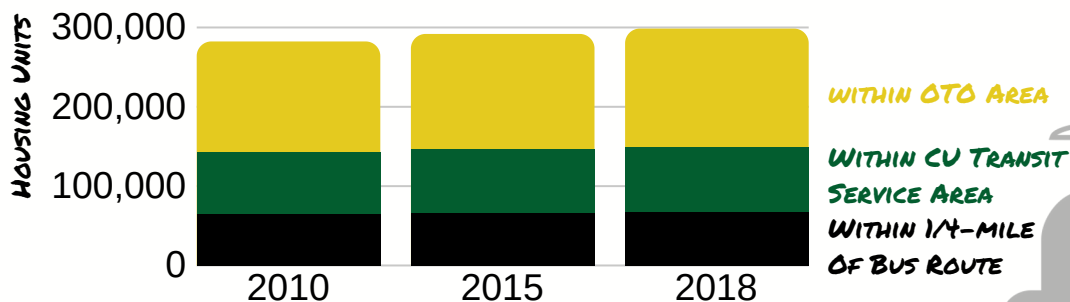
## CU Transit Trends

City Utilities Transit continues to operate both fixed route and paratransit services, with 12 daily routes running on 30-minute and 60-minute schedules from 6:00 am to 6:35 pm, when 7 night routes run until 11:10 pm. In March 2018, the North Springfield Betterment Association awarded City Utilities with their Commercial Betterment Award for the Transit Center on Main, which opened in May 2016.

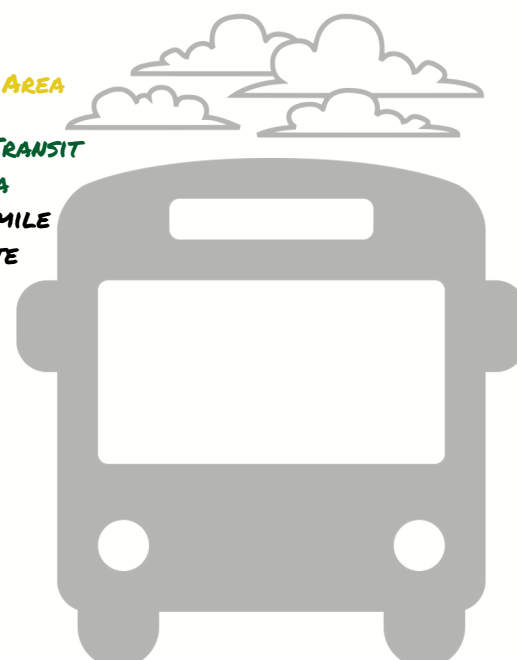
City Utilities Transit also replaced 11 fixed route buses during the year, providing much needed fleet improvements.

Housing density near transit routes has not changed significantly in Springfield over the past ten years. More housing continues to be added outside of the CU Transit service area, rather than within it. Density that supports more frequent transit service is lacking. Over time, continued apartment construction around downtown Springfield and the Missouri State University campus may change this trend.

Riding transit is one way to help improve air quality. The majority of OTO area Ozone emissions is from mobile sources. Using other modes of transportation reduces idling in traffic congestion.



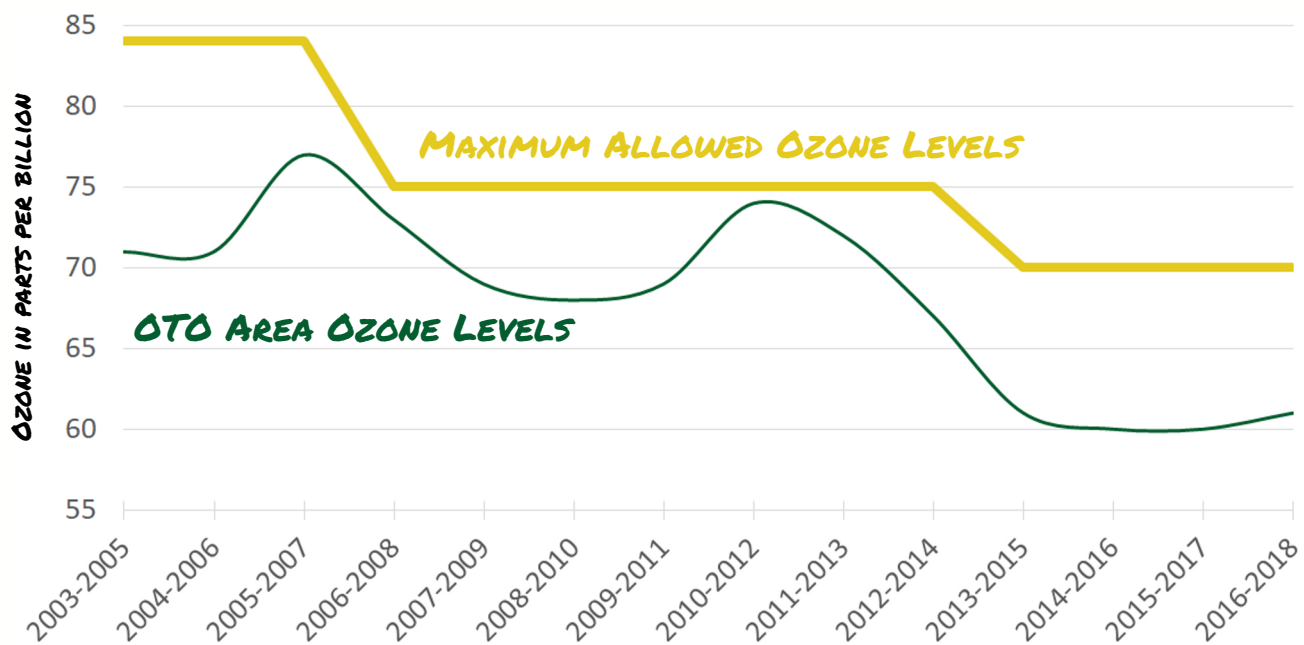
**OTO AREA HOUSING UNITS  
AND PROXIMITY TO TRANSIT**





## Ozone

While the local Ozone level in the OTO area crept up by one point for 2016-2018, the reality is that Ozone levels continue to stay at record low values. This is despite continued growth in vehicle miles traveled, going to show that efforts to improve congestion are having an impact. The outdoor air quality in the region is a source of pride and supports the outdoorsy lifestyle of those living in the Ozarks.



**OTO AREA OZONE LEVELS COMPARED TO MAXIMUM ALLOWED LEVELS**



# OTO STAFF



**SARA FIELDS, AICP**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



**NATASHA LONGPINE, AICP**  
**PRINCIPAL PLANNER**



**ANDY THOMASON, AICP**  
**SENIOR PLANNER**



**DAVE FAUCETT**  
**GIS ANALYST**

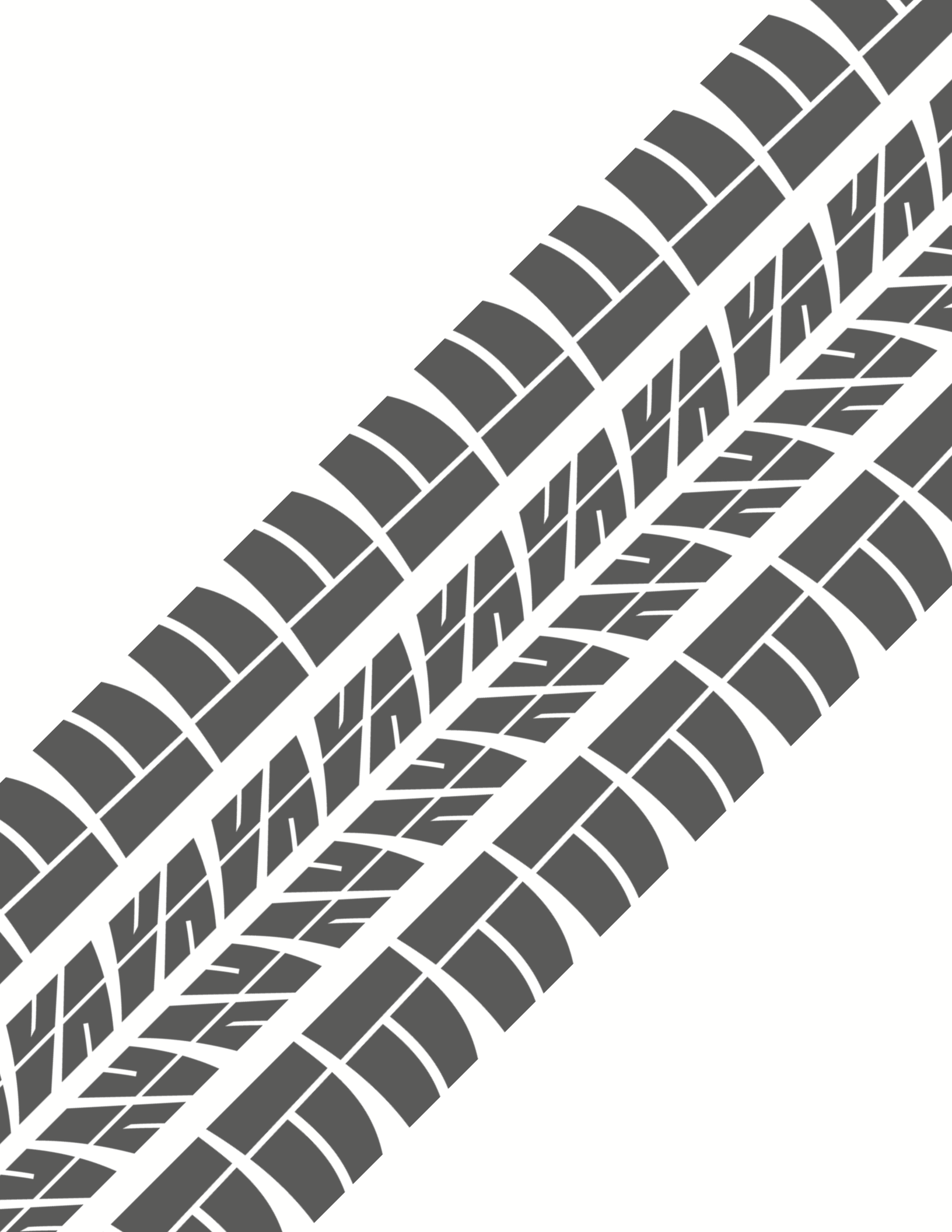


**KIMBERLY COOPER**  
**OPERATIONS MANAGER**



**MARKEE HEBDEN**  
**COMMUNICATIONS CLERK**







## OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION

A METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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.

### Ozarks Transportation Organization

2208 W. Chesterfield Boulevard, Suite 101

Springfield, Missouri 65807

(417) 865-3042

(417) 862-6013 Fax

[www.OzarksTransportation.org](http://www.OzarksTransportation.org)