

July 2006

Summer Fun on the Buses

(See column 4)



Transit Calendar - 2006

July 8 or August 12 (10.30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.) **Explore the Core! Discover Kansas City by Bus** (see article column 4)

July 30-August 1: Missouri Public Transit Association (MPTA) Annual Conference

July 24: MAX 1st year anniversary celebrations

August 7-9: Kansas Public Transit Association (KPTA) Annual Conference

September 17-19: RTA participates in Leadership Exchange trip to Minneapolis



MAX First Anniversary

MAX will celebrate its first anniversary July 24. There is a lot to celebrate, like a 20% increase in ridership in that transit corridor and 1 million riders the first year of MAX service. Look for celebration activities at www.kcata.org

Major RTA Corporate Sponsors:

Heros: Commerce Bank

**Partners: Kansas City Power & Light; HNTB;
TranSystems; Stinson Morrison Hecker**

Newsletter Editor: Janet Rogers



RTA Initiatives

Although the RTA works diligently for a regional transit system, there are several other transit related initiatives keeping it busy.

MoDOT Paseo Bridge Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - RTA board members have been involved in the study of river crossing improvements under the auspices of MoDOT for the past seven years and are now active in the community response to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, which will set the stage for the development of a new bridge in the Paseo Bridge corridor. More detail in August...

Parking Initiative - The Kansas City zoning ordinance requires businesses to provide a specified number of parking spaces to serve their customers. This requirement in the central business district is zero, reflecting the convergence of considerable public transit service within Kansas City's downtown loop. RTA is developing a plan to present to the City to extend this zero requirement for businesses close to the new MAX bus rapid transit stations from River Market to the Plaza. More later...

Downtown Streetcar Initiative - RTA is working with the Convention & Visitor's Association, the Downtown Council, the City of Kansas City and major private sector entities to develop a new, unique transportation system to link Crown Center, the Crossroads district, the Power & Light Entertainment District and the Convention Center district. This system will be a private-public partnership with the purpose of improving transportation among these areas for the benefit of tourists, conventioners, sports fans, entertainment district patrons and the increasing number of people living and working downtown. More later...

Historic Kansas City PC Streetcar Renovation - Union Station has identified an outside area close to the planetarium for the renovated streetcar to be displayed. Current arrival time is September 2006.



Smart Moves and Your Community

Smart Moves is the proposed Kansas City regional public transit system. A draft service plan has been created to show connections between destinations and how transit services and centers will interact. This draft plan is subject to change as needs are further evaluated. Following are examples of potential new services.

Leavenworth, KS

Smart Moves includes proposed high-level *Freeway Flyer* commuter service on K7 & US73. Commuters may be able to return to the park and ride lots during the middle of the day using the *Local Link*.

Additionally, a flexible *Local Link Circulator*, similar to the current service in Lee's Summit, would pick up and deliver passengers curb to curb.

Local Link and regional connector services would link Leavenworth to KCI, the Northland, and Kansas City, MO.

Transit centers will link Leavenworth, KS to the region.

Gladstone, MO

Rapid Rider service is proposed to connect Gladstone to Kansas City MO. Services are also proposed to link Gladstone to KCI, Liberty, and other areas of the Northland.

Planned *Local Link* and other regional connector services as well as area transit centers would link Gladstone to the greater Kansas City region.

August Newsletter:

What is the controversy over the MoDOT Paseo Bridge Draft EIS study?

Summer Fun on the Buses

Explore the Core! Discover Kansas City by Bus

July 8 or August 12 (10.30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)

Register for this UMKC Communiiversity class and ride the new Metro Area Express (MAX) bus from the Country Club Plaza to the new Kansas City Public Library downtown. Learn interesting facts on how using public transportation protects the environment, promotes a healthy lifestyle, and enhances the urban core of Kansas City. Convener is RTA Board member David Doyle. Class fee: \$9. Register by calling 816-235-1448

OR

Try something interesting with those out of town visitors, the kids or something different for your self throughout the year.

Visit many of the same attractions previously visited by the Kansas City Trolley (plus some additional ones) easily on the MAX. Starting at Country Cub Plaza or the River Market a full day of fun can be designed for any group's interest. As an example try starting at the River Market and visit the Steamboat Arabia Museum. Before getting on the MAX try the new Italian Gelato (ice cream) shop in the Market. Stop at the Crossroads for art galleries and Christopher Elbow Artisanal Chocolates. Union Station, Crown Center and Liberty Memorial stops provide lots of activities. The Science Center and traveling exhibitions are at Union Station. The Hallmark Visitors Center (closed Sunday and Monday) at Crown Center does a great tour of Hallmark and Kaleidoscope provides free creative art sessions for children (individual and family sessions are available. Call 816-274-8301). Another stop for art lovers is Main at 45th street. The Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, the Kansas City Art Institute and the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art are all east of this station. The Plaza has great shopping and food and Mill Creek Park if you want to stretch your legs on its trail. Of course there are great places to eat all along this route.

Ask for a Day Pass before putting \$3 in the fare box and you can get on and off the buses all you want that

day. The MAX runs about every 15 minutes during the week and on Saturdays. Sundays they run about every 30 minutes.

Have a great day exploring the downtown corridor.

Join the RTA

RTA has restructured its membership levels for individuals and businesses. These are the new levels.

Individuals:

Transit Patron	\$500-\$1,000
Transit Enthusiast	\$250-\$499
Transit Advocate	\$100-\$249
Transit Supporter	\$50-\$99
Transit Friend	\$20-\$49

Businesses:

Transit Hero	\$5,000-\$10,000
Transit Champion	\$2,500-\$4,999
Transit Partner	\$1,000-\$2,499
Transit Patron	\$500-\$999

If you or your company are not members of the RTA, please consider joining to support the efforts needed to improve transit in the Kansas City area.

Please contact Greg Lever at www.kctransit.org or 816-471-6808

RTA Speakers Bureau

The RTA is firing up the Speakers Bureau to discuss the Regional Investment Fund and Smart Moves. This regional transit issue is important to the whole community.

Please contact Greg Lever at www.kctransit.org or 816-471-6808 to organize a speaker for your group. Be sure to get us on your calendar.

Additionally, please contact Greg if you are interested in joining the Speakers Bureau.

TRANSIT NEWS



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