



October 2006

### **Companies that Subsidize the Monthly Bus Pass**

(See column 4)

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### **Transit Calendar – 2006**

**October 18:** RTA participates in the KCK Chamber of Commerce Business to Business Expo

**November:** Dedication of the renovated historic Kansas City PC streetcar-see [www.kctransit.org](http://www.kctransit.org) for final details.

**Correction to the September printed newsletter:** Due to a printing glitch panels 2 and 5 had the same information. To see the book review on panel 5 of *The Men Who Loved Trains* by Rush Loving Jr. go to the online newsletter at [www.kctransit.org](http://www.kctransit.org).

### **Join the RTA Grassroots Regional Advocacy Network**

Join the RTA's free advocacy network to pass enabling legislation in Kansas to create a regional funding mechanism for public transit (Missouri passed this legislation in May 2006) Legislators want to hear from their constituents that this issue is important to them.

Advocacy to develop ballot initiatives after the enabling legislation is in place will be the next step.

Go to [www.kctransit.org](http://www.kctransit.org) to join and let the RTA know of individuals or groups that we should contact.

## **November elections-RTA position**

### **The Regional Transit Alliance opposes Question 2 (the Chastain proposal)**

- 1. Question 2 is flawed and cannot be implemented as proposed.**
  - Capital costs are underestimated.
  - The proposed tax will produce insufficient revenue to cover the cost of building, operating and maintaining the system.
  - There is no likelihood that federal funding will be available.
  - The proposed wireless light rail and electric buses are unproven technologies for the purposes proposed.
- 2. Approval of Question 2 would result in a 40% reduction in present transit service and jeopardize the Smart Moves plan.**
  - The revenue source sought would divert existing funding currently being used for operating costs for daily transit service.
- 3. Smart Moves is a better plan.**

The *Smart Moves* plan is the product of a broad-based community-wide effort that has engaged thousands of our fellow citizens over a multi-year period to develop a transit plan that meets the needs of our entire regional community. Unlike Question 2, the *Smart Moves* Plan is regional in scope, not limited to just one jurisdiction. The RTA is working to bring the plan to voters in Missouri and Kansas as early as next year. If Question 2 were to be approved by voters it would jeopardize regional adoption and implementation of *Smart Moves* and thereby deny transit services to literally hundreds of thousands of our region's citizens.

Question 2 is bad for transit, cost prohibitive and less effective at reducing pollution than the *Smart Moves* Plan. We urge the voters to soundly reject Question 2.

**Adopted by the Kansas City Regional Transit Alliance Board of Directors on September 15, 2006.**

### **Kansas City Moves Toward Action on Climate Protection**

Kansas City took a big step toward doing its part to reduce global warming on August 17 when the city council adopted Resolution 060777 to launch a climate protection planning process.

Kansas City is one of nearly 300 cities across the United States whose mayors have signed the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

After signing the agreement last year, Mayor Kay Barnes directed her Environmental Management Commission to provide her with advice on how to implement it. The commission's 35-page report is at: <http://www.kcmo.org/manager/OEQ/cpr.pdf>

Resolution 060777 directs the city manager to initiate a broad-based planning process led by Chief Environmental Officer Dennis Murphey and a steering committee appointed by Mayor Barnes. Murphey hopes to implement some "early win" programs while the planning is underway. (Ten thousand new transit riders? Why not?)

RTA members can be involved in the planning process through one of the five work groups to be formed in the near future -- transportation; energy; policy and outreach; carbon offsets; and business/non-profit/government partnerships. We'll keep you posted.

Ron McLinden  
RTA Board member

## Companies that Subsidize the Monthly Bus Pass

As more and more companies in the Kansas City area realize how important public transit is they are encouraging employees to use it by paying for all or part of a monthly bus pass. Many companies do this to equalize benefits since they pay for parking for other employees. Some have limited parking and this helps alleviate the situation. Some are environmentally oriented and want to reduce congestion and pollution. Some want to entice people to work in the City since many people consider driving downtown regularly a disincentive to working in the City. Whatever the reason for this benefit more and more companies are offering it and more and more employees are using the bus and loving it.

**RTA** wants to recognize the following companies that provide transit benefit packages to employees by fully or partially paying for monthly bus passes. Additionally, there is a government program that allows employees to purchase the bus pass with pre-tax dollars. Some companies allow employees to take part in this program. The employee savings will depend on the employee's tax rate.

American Century  
Commerce Bank  
DST  
H&R Block  
Hallmark  
IRS  
Jackson County  
KCP&L  
Railroad Retirement Board  
Shook, Hardy and Bacon  
Social Security Administration  
State Street Bank  
TransAmerica  
TranSystems  
UMB Bank  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
U. S. Department of Homeland Security  
U. S. Department of HUD  
U. S. Department of the Treasury

Monthly bus passes are not the only transit benefit offered by many companies. Ride share and car/van pooling programs are popular also.

If your company is missing from this list or starts a transit benefit package please let us know and they will be included in a future recognition column.

## RAN Speakers Bureau Opportunity

The Regional Advocacy Network's Speakers Bureau program has been traveling the KC Metro area presenting the benefits of Smart Moves and public transit to business groups, environmental and social service organizations and neighborhood associations. The purpose of the Speakers Bureau is to increase awareness about Smart Moves and inform citizens about how they can help support regional transit. Some of the groups that have invited the Speakers Bureau to their meetings this year include: the Leawood Rotary, Statewide Independent Living Council, the Prairie Village Environmental Committee, Johnson County Rotary, Parkville Rotary and Bridging the Gap. If you participate in an organization that has guest speakers, please consider inviting us to your next meeting. Contact Meghan Jansen at [advocacy@kctransit.org](mailto:advocacy@kctransit.org).

## November Newsletter:

Update on the MoDOT Draft Environmental Impact Study regarding the new Paseo Bridge

### **Major RTA Corporate Sponsors:**

***Heros: Commerce Bank***  
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Newsletter Editor: Janet Rogers

# TRANSIT NEWS

KANSAS CITY  
**regional transit**  
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CITIZENS FOR EFFECTIVE,  
SENSIBLE & MODERN TRANSIT

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