



2019

OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION
State of Transportation

“Successful places
are intentional.”

Mick Cornett

“Greenways are
America's "main
street," landscapes
where we greet
our neighbors,
places that
connect us with
the natural world
and to each other.”

Chuck Flink

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A note...



FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SARA FIELDS

This report reflects transportation conditions in calendar year 2019, a year for the history books. There were so many successes in 2019, followed by so many changes in 2020. While it is easy to focus on the future we face, I want to remember the hard work and partnerships that distinguish 2019. What we've learned from these successes will guide us through the future we all must navigate.

Congratulations to the City of Springfield on receiving a BUILD Grant for the Grant Avenue Parkway Project. We are looking forward to seeing this transformational project completed.

Congratulations to our communities who helped turn \$1.6 million into over \$2 million in trail investments, building over 3 miles in new trail. By 2023, we will have 70 miles of transportation trails in the region, well on our way to a regional connected trail system.

Congratulations to the Cities of Ozark and Springfield who were both awarded Governor's Cost Share funds for local projects.

Congratulations to Patrick McKenna, MoDOT Director, for his appointment as the Chair of the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials and for receiving an Appreciation Award from the OTO for his leadership in securing federal and state investment for transportation projects in Missouri.

Thank you to Governor Parson, the Missouri Legislature, and the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission for working together to allocate general fund revenue, fixing 45 bridges, as well as for instituting a bonding program to repair another 215 bridges across the state, so Missouri can continue to have functional and safe roadways.

Thank you to our members and partners for their cooperative spirit and can-do attitude.

Stay safe and stay healthy as we continue to create an excellent, regional transportation system.

Sara J. Fields, AICP

62%

Aviation

In 2018, the Springfield-Branson National Airport experienced over 1 million passengers for the first time in airport history. In 2019, records were broken again with 1,178,068 passengers - ten percent more than 2018 and 62 percent growth since 2011. July 2019 was the busiest month in SGF history at 125,473 passengers.

This incredible growth has created the need for additional parking. The Airport embarked on several parking lot projects during 2019, with over 700 new spaces to be completed in early 2020.

May 6, 2019 was the 10 year anniversary of the opening of the Midfield Terminal. Improvements since that time include an expanded restaurant, charging stations in the terminal, valet parking, and the additional parking.

Beyond passenger growth, freight moved by cargo was up 8 percent in 2019, while landings and takeoffs were up 9 percent. Aviation fuel delivered to the airport was up 15 percent, perhaps a sign of the larger planes airlines have added to accommodate growth.



Passenger growth since 2011

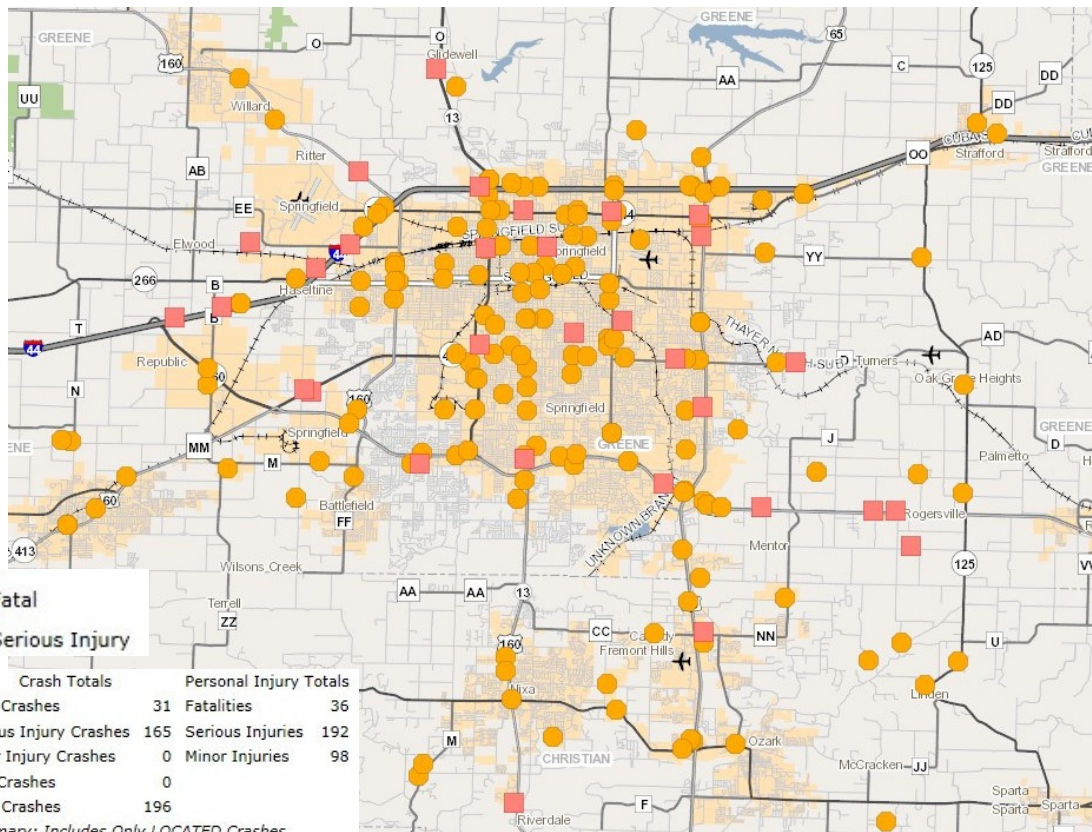


Safety

The number of fatal and disabling crashes in the OTO area were at their lowest since 2013 and the crash rate for fatal and serious injuries is at its lowest in nearly two decades. Fatalities, however, are holding near steady, with 31 in 2019. The region continues to support safety projects, like the roundabout at the Republic High School, in hopes of reducing future crashes.

9.6

Fatalities





Traffic

Traffic increased in 2019 and this is demonstrated through a variety of measures. OTO tracks Daily Vehicle Miles Traveled per Capita. Essentially, Daily VMT per Capita is the number of vehicles traveling a number of miles divided by the population of the region. VMT correlates to congestion and can communicate impacts of policy changes or forecast the frequency of traffic crashes. Daily VMT per Capita has increased since 2018, is barely above 2017 levels, and is still below the peak of the early 2000s.

OTO updated the Congestion Management Process Monitoring report in 2019. This report pulls together a variety of data to determine which roadways in the OTO are congested, why they are congested, and what strategies are most effective at mitigating congestion. The 2019 report has confirmed the prior trends of lower congestion in the AM peak and higher congestion in the PM peak.

There are four elements OTO reviews to determine congested roadways and intersections:

- Volume-to-Capacity Ratio
- Crash Frequency
- Average Travel Speeds
- Intersection Level-of-Service

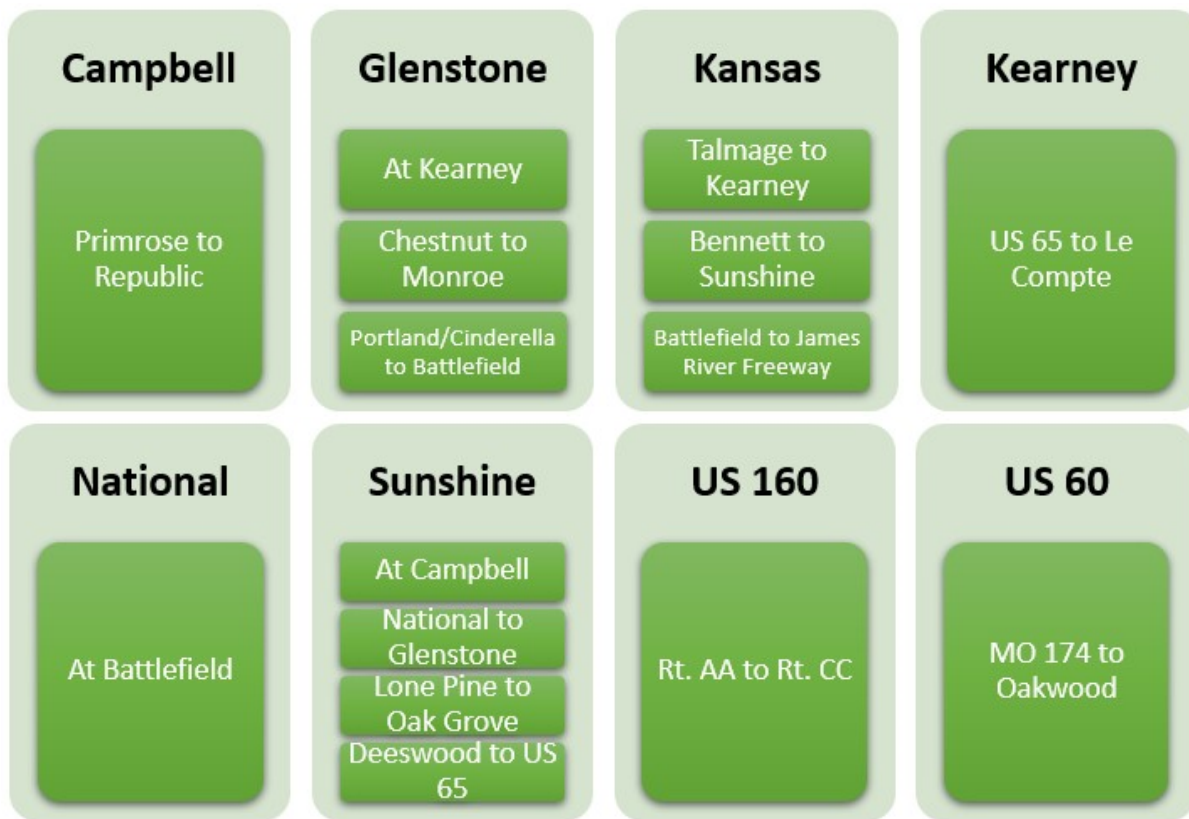


2019 Daily Vehicle Miles Traveled per Capita

These four elements are combined to identify congested roadways (Crashes, Volume-to-Capacity ratio, Travel Speed) and congested intersections (Intersection Level-of-Service, Volume-to-Capacity ratio, Travel Speed).

84

CONGESTED ROADWAYS IDENTIFIED IN 2019



CONGESTED INTERSECTIONS





System Condition



Major roads and bridges continue to stay in good condition in the OTO region. Though there are a number of bridges in fair condition that should be monitored, as a single bridge inspection can result in a fair condition rating.

In January 2019, Governor Parson put forth a proposal to address to worst bridges in Missouri and this \$50 million plan was passed by the state legislature. The receipt of an INFRA grant for I-70 further allowed the state to bond \$301 million, providing funding for other new transportation projects across the state. While the OTO region does not have any bridges identified in this Focus on Bridges, the bonding program allows for an additional \$18 million in projects locally.

95%

In 2019, the US 65 Rebuild project was completed with the final phase between Sunshine Street and US 60. By rebuilding the highway with concrete rather than resurfacing with asphalt, future maintenance needs and costs are drastically reduced.

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The US 65 and Division interchange, as well as the relocation of Eastgate, was also completed in 2019. In addition to improving traffic movement through the interchange, this work made repairs to the Division Street Bridge, prolonging its useful life.

97%

-
-

Pedestrians & Bicyclists

65.44

32.6%

OTO would like to thank the Ozark Chapter of Institute of Transportation Engineers for recognizing the effort put into the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail Investment Study by OTO and Alta Planning + Design, with the Transportation Achievement Award.

This work was put into practice in 2019, with \$1.6 million made available for trail projects that help implement the Trail Investment Study:

- Ozark Chadwick Flyer Trail and Underpasses
- Republic Design for Shuyler Creek Trail
- Springfield Fasnigh Trail
- Battlefield Trail of Tears
- Ozark Greenways Planning Services

The City of Springfield received a BUILD Grant for the Grant Avenue Parkway project which will include dedicated bicycle and pedestrian facilities from Sunshine to downtown Springfield. Springfield also adopted a resolution supporting the Springfield Walkability Guide.

Trail improvements throughout the region added nearly a mile to the system. New trail included an extension to Mount Vernon along the Jordan Creek Greenway and a portion of Fulbright Spring Greenway.



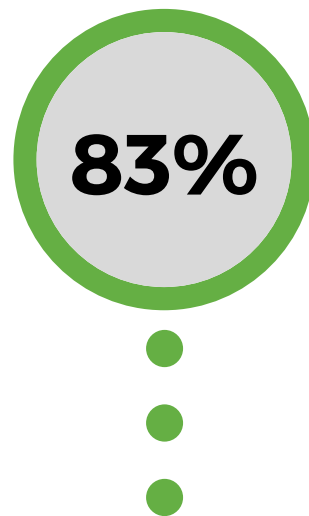
Transit

In July 2019, City Utilities was awarded nearly \$1.5 million for two battery electric buses, replacing diesel buses that will have exceeded useful life, as well as for charging stations and workforce development. These buses will be delivered in April 2021. As the electricity provider with a strong renewable portfolio, these buses will truly be zero-emissions.

The percent of housing units near transit hasn't changed since 2017, with 45 percent of all housing units in the OTO area within a quarter mile of a bus route and 83 percent of housing units in the City Utilities service area near a bus route.

On-time performance has improved for the past few years. In 2015, City Utilities purchased automated vehicle location devices for each of their buses, which provides a more complete picture of on-time performance over the prior manual methodology.

In October of 2019, the Missouri Public Transit Association released the findings of a six-month study, which quantified the economic impact of public transit services in Missouri. Even though Missouri has a lack of distinct state funding for transit, the direct and indirect impact is more than \$3.67 billion.



Commuting

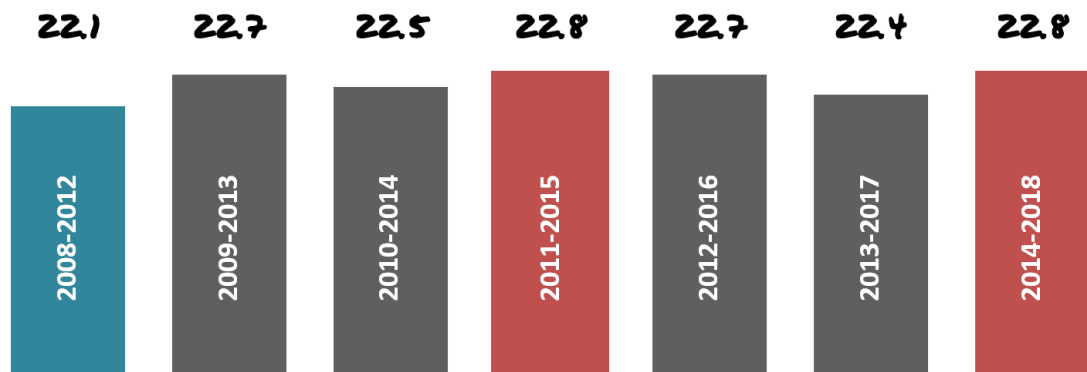
In 2019, work started on widening Route 160 between Springfield and Willard, with work to conclude in December 2020. This project will widen Route 160 to four lanes and will provide improvements at seven different intersections, including roundabouts at Farm Road 94, Farm Road 103/Melville Road/Hunt Road, and at Jackson Street.

A pedestrian underpass will also be added at Hunt Road. The design elements for this project were tested in a driving simulator at Missouri S&T.

61

The US 65 Widening and Evans Road Bridge Improvements were completed in 2019, widening US 65 to six-lanes from just south of Evans Road to Christian County Route CC/J.

The widening of South Street in Ozark to five lanes was also completed in 2019 and included new sidewalks and turn lanes between 19th Street and 6th Street.



AVERAGE COMMUTE TIME TRENDS OF OTO CITIES 2008-2018



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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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