



OZARKS  
TRANSPORTATION  
ORGANIZATION  
A METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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The *Ozarks Transportation Organization* (OTO) is seeking community input before it considers awarding \$50,792 in *Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021* (CRRSAA) funding to OATS Transit to support its transportation services to COVID-19 mass vaccination events. These services will be available to seniors and individuals with disabilities in the OTO region. Additional funding is also being provided to OATS Transit by the Greene County Senior Tax Board.

“We are always excited to partner with local service organizations,” said OTO Senior Planner Andy Thomson. These CRRSAA funds are a special allocation of the *Federal Transit Administration’s* Section 5310 grant program. “Traditionally, the OTO uses Section 5310 funds to help agencies purchase vehicles to benefit seniors and individuals with disabilities, but FTA is prioritizing this allocation to be used to fund transit operations benefiting these population groups. Given the importance of COVID-19 vaccination efforts and the complexities of receiving federal funds, OATS Transit was an obvious partner.”

OATS Transit is coordinating with the Springfield/Greene County Health Department and the Springfield/Greene County Office of Emergency Management to help ensure transportation is available to individuals living in group settings. Once OATS has completed providing vaccination trips, any remaining funds will continue to support the transportation needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities as the vaccine allows them to resume their pre-COVID routines.

The OTO’s *Local Coordinating Board for Transit* will consider this opportunity to partner with OATS Transit at its regularly scheduled meeting at 3pm on Thursday, February 11. The LCBT will be meeting via Zoom and a livestream of the meeting will be available on the [OTO’s Facebook page](#). If you have any feedback on this funding opportunity, please submit it to [Comment@OzarksTransportation.org](mailto:Comment@OzarksTransportation.org) by noon on February 11, 2021. A meeting agenda is available at [www.OzarksTransportation.org](http://www.OzarksTransportation.org).

**Ozarks Transportation Organization** is your Springfield-regional Metropolitan Planning Organization, or MPO. The MPO is a body of elected and appointed members who work together with local, state and federal elected officials and policy-makers, serving to make funding and planning decisions for transportation within the Springfield, MO region.

Public input is a cornerstone of our operations. To tell us what you think, please email us at [comment@ozarkstransportation.org](mailto:comment@ozarkstransportation.org). Find us on Facebook or on Twitter @theOTOMPO.

*Si usted necesita la ayuda de un traductor, por favor comuníquese con Andy Thomason al 417-865-3042, al menos 48 horas antes del plazo.*

*Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Andy Thomason at 417-865-3042 at least 2 working days prior to the expiration of the public comment period.*

*If you need relay services please call the following numbers: 711 - Nationwide relay service; 1-800-735-2966 - Missouri TTY service; 1-800-735-0135 - Missouri voice carry-over service.*

*OTO fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For more information or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, see [www.ozarkstransportation.org](http://www.ozarkstransportation.org), or call 417-865-3042.*