



**1 MILLION RIDES  
1 MILLION STORIES**

**TOPEKA METROPOLITAN  
TRANSIT AUTHORITY**



**FY 14**

## A Message from the Board of Directors:

The Topeka Metropolitan Transit Authority Board of Directors is pleased to present the FY2014 Annual Report. This past year has been one of accomplishment and positive change for the Authority.

New fareboxes were installed on all of the fixed route buses in February, and new fare media was introduced. The bus shelter construction project was initiated, with plans for 35 new shelters by the end of CY 2014. Ten new fixed route buses will be delivered in December 2014, and a new bike sharing program is scheduled to begin in Spring 2015. These improvements demonstrate the Board's commitment to becoming a transportation solution for Topeka residents, and we look forward to continuing to improve the transit system for all of our patrons.

We would like to express our appreciation to the Mayor, the City Council, the City Manager, various city departments, the Kansas Department of Transportation, the Federal Transit Administration, the Department of Homeland Security and all of the other agencies and organizations with which we have developed cooperative and productive relationships over the last several years.

Beverly Hall  
Board Chairperson

### Topeka Metro Board of Directors



Back Row L to R: Scott Tummons, Jim Ogle, Rodd Miller, Jim Daniel  
Front Row L to R: Beverly Hall (Chair) and Elsie Eisenbarth  
Not Pictured: Andy Vogel

# Kids Ride Free All Summer Long 48,000 Rides

Whether it's to the park, pool or a job, transportation will not be a barrier to a great summer.



\* Kansas Public Transit Association's Innovation of the Year \*



Partnership



# 122,254

USD 501 student rides during '13-'14 school year

- TopekaMetro provides free field trip bus transportation for students and teachers on the fixed routes
- Topeka Metro provides free transportation for USD 501 adult students using Washburn Tech to earn their GED
- Kids Ride Free during the summer (May 15 – August 15). Over **48,000** rides provided this summer



## Rider Education

- Topeka Metro representatives participated at each high school enrollment week to share route information with students and parents
- How To Ride and Rules of the Road courses were provided to all incoming freshmen on Freshman Day



- Topeka Metro meets students twice a year as they board and hand out snacks to say thank you for riding Topeka Metro!
- New shelters and benches at various school locations
- Winter Holiday week and Spring Break week promotion. Families ride the fixed route free and receive discounted fares to Topeka attractions.

## The Future

### Bike Sharing

Topekans will have a new option for personal mobility when Topeka Metro Bikes launches in April 2015! The Metro is bringing 100 bright-red bicycles to town, spread across five stations in the city. The pilot launch of the bikeshare system will have a special introductory price for students, visitors, and annual members. One-way trips are no problem; the bikes have a built-in lock system compatible with any bike rack, and an onboard GPS unit for locating bikes after they're parked. Membership will be accessible via the web or mobile app, and bikes can be checked out after a brief sign-up process. We plan to add another 50 bikes and 100 racks to the system in Summer 2015.



### Vending Machines

Topeka Metro will soon complete the installation of a ticket vending machine at the Quincy Street Station. A second vending machine is planned for installation at the public library later this year.



## The Future

### New Fixed Route Buses

In December 2014, Topeka Metro will accept delivery of ten new Gillig fixed route buses, which will replace ten buses that have exceeded their maximum life expectancy.



### Bus Shelter Project

Providing shelter from weather is critical to our riders, and may be the deciding factor in whether or not they ride the bus. All shelters will have trash receptacles, and some of the new shelters will have lighting and bike racks.

Topeka Metro began Phase I of its bus shelter project in Fall 2013. The first shelter, at 8th & Topeka, was installed in June 2014. Topeka Metro installed 18 shelters for Phase I (Green routes-West 10th and West 21st) and 13 shelters for Phase II (Yellow routes White Lakes and South California) in November 2014. Phases III (High traffic locations) will be completed in December 2014 and an additional six shelters will be added.



## FY2014 Year in Review

- Feb 2014 New Fareboxes and fare media
- April 2014 URS route and service meetings with Operations staff
- April 2014 800 mhz radios changed from analog to digital
- June 2014 Info tables at Great Life, Breakthrough Place, and at Topeka Workforce Center
- June 2014 Filmed Washburn University Chinese Student How To Ride video
- June 2014 First new bus shelter was installed at 8th Avenue & Topeka Boulevard
- All Year Provided 13 safety training opportunities- 643 employee attendees

Topeka Metro Management Team



L to R: Julie Anderson, Alan Parrish, Terri Miller, Susan Duffy, Denise Ensley, Chip Falldine, Ronnie Murphy, John Cassidy, Karl Fundenberger

## FY2014 Year in Review

July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014

### Community Promotions

July 2013	Shuttle service for the Kansas High School Shrine Bowl football game - 2,747 rides
Aug 2013	Initiated free rides to Washburn students, staff and faculty - 43,900 rides
Aug 2013	Initiated shuttle service for the monthly Art Walk (109 in Aug)
Oct 2013	Topeka Metro's 40th Birthday Free Ride Day - 7,046 rides
Nov 2013	Veterans Ride Free promotion - 7,316 rides
Dec 2013	Holiday Express shuttle service - 102 rides
Dec 2013	Families Ride Free promotion for Winter Holiday Break - 219 rides
Mar 2014	Free rides for the Topeka Family Spring Fling Week - 3,303 rides
April 2014	Safe Kids Day at the Zoo - 286 visitors
April 2014	Topeka Volunteers free rides for one week - 225 rides
April 2014	No Pay Earth Day free fixed route rides - 5,522 rides
May 2014	Free rides to seniors on Wednesdays, celebrating Older American Week - 656 rides
May 2014	Bike to Work Week free rides to passengers with bicycles - 376 rides
May-Aug 14	Kids Ride Free summer program - 39,109 rides
June 2014	Shuttle service for the Girls' State event, Washburn University - 549 rides
June 2014	Dump the Pump Day - 5,562 rides
June 2014	Library Reading routes for Deer Creek summer camp kids- 441 rides





## FY2014 Year in Review

### Community Events

July 2013	Shuttle service for the Spirit of Kansas Fourth of July Celebration - 856 rides
Aug 2013	USD 501 Freshman High School Orientation – 766 students
Aug 2013	National Night Out – 496 neighbors
Aug 2013	Washburn University WU Fest – over 150 student visitors
Aug 2013	Downtown Touch-a-Truck event - over 1,000 fun seekers
Sept 2013	Initiated the “Texting...It Can Wait” campaign
Nov 2013	Miracle on Kansas Avenue Parade and shuttle service
Feb 2014	Stuff the Bus event to raise food and donations for Project Topeka
March 2014	St. Patrick’s Day Parade shuttle service
April 2014	Green Fair Day at the public library – 47 visitors
May 2014	Gage Park Touch-a-Truck event - over 400 fun seekers visited the bus
May 2014	Back to Nature Safety Fair – 123 visitors
June 2014	Juneteenth Celebration shuttle service
All Year	The BusMobile welcomed over 300 Topekans on board to learn about Topeka Metro; buses were staged locations such as KCDC, Brookwood and Walmart



## FY2014 Year in Review

### Community Services

June-Aug 13	Free bottled water and Gatorade at Quincy Street Station on extreme weather days
Aug 2013	Washburn University International Student Orientation
Jan 2014	United Way Campaign
Feb 2014	Installed new smart fareboxes on all fixed route buses
Feb-Mar 14	Free coffee for passengers at Quincy Street Station on extreme weather days
March 2014	Statewide Tornado Drill exercise
March 2014	190th Emergency Preparedness exercise
April 2014	Highland Park High School accident exercise
April 2014	Issued a purchase order for ten new buses to be delivered in December
May 2014	Entered into an agreement with SoBi Bikes for bike sharing program
June 2014	Constructed the first bus shelter of the 6-phase construction project
June 2014	Developed a Chinese language How To Ride video for students
All Year	Continued service to the Amtrak station; provided 81 rides during the year



Target Bus Stop



## FY2014 Year in Review

### Community Services

#### How to Ride Clinics

• Over 30 How-to-Ride clinics were provided again this year to agencies, schools and individuals. Approximately 1,000 people attended the clinics. Topeka Metro provided attendees assistance with trip scheduling, passenger rules, and service information.

#### Lift Pilot Program

• The Lift Pilot Program, initiated in February 2013, is designed to encourage Lift-eligible passengers to use the fixed route service. After selecting candidates, providing How-to Ride training, and issuing fixed route ID's, Topeka Metro provided its first Lift Pilot rides on the fixed route in August 2013. Since then, we have provided 2,422 rides on the fixed route to Lift-eligible passengers.

#### Shuttles

- Law Enforcement shuttle – 16 passenger trips – July 10
- Topeka Tourism shuttles – 360 passenger trips – October 14 & 15
- Historical Museum shuttle – 86 passenger trips – November 1
- KTA/KDOT shuttle – 28 passenger trips – November 20
- Washburn Student shuttle to HHHS – 42 passenger trips – December 6
- Pine Ridge Prep shuttle – 139 passenger trips – February 21
- Know Your City shuttle – 31 passenger trips – May 6
- Topeka Gives shuttle – 44 passenger trips – June 3

#### Camp Metro

• Two part-time Summer Outreach Coordinators assisted the Camp Metro projects as well as other events and How-to-Ride clinics. The YWCA, the Boys and Girls Club, Topeka Lutheran, and Community Centers, such as Garfield and Central Park, took trips on the fixed route to local summer destinations. Children and the counselors rode free.



## FY2014 Year in Review

### Community Partnerships

#### Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library Partnership

- Topeka Metro is working with the library to install a ticket vending machine (TVM) in the library's rotunda. The library continues to provide books for Metro's Books on the Bus program. This past summer, Topeka Metro partnered with the library and Topeka Housing Authority to establish the Reading Route for day camps at Deer Creek.

#### Washburn University Partnership

- Washburn students, faculty and staff with a valid Washburn ID ride Metro fixed routes free for 2013-2014 school year.
- Metro staff provided How-To-Ride clinics to international students. Further, the International House partnered in the development of the Chinese language How To Ride video.
- Topeka Metro continued partnering with Washburn University and provided quality internship opportunities for students in the marketing, legal and mass media disciplines.

#### Topeka Public Schools Partnership

- For the 2013-2014 school year, USD 501 purchased approximately 1,000 student passes. These passes were issued to students living outside the 2.5 mile busing corridor. Metro staff worked with district officials to ensure stops were located close to or on school properties. Metro provided staff at all three high school enrollments to answer parent/student questions. Metro provided How-To-Ride instruction for incoming freshman students in all three high schools during freshman orientation.
- Initiated a route deviation for Topeka West High School May 2014.
- Initiated a route deviation for Hope Street School to aid in the transportation of students.
- Participated in a successful grant application with Highland Park for passes for needy students.
- Provided an average of 13,000 student rides per month.



## Year in Review – Revenues and Expenses

### Revenues

Mill Levy	\$4,652,017
Federal Grants	2,162,165
Fares	1,416,390
State Grants	724,424
All Other Sources	121,824

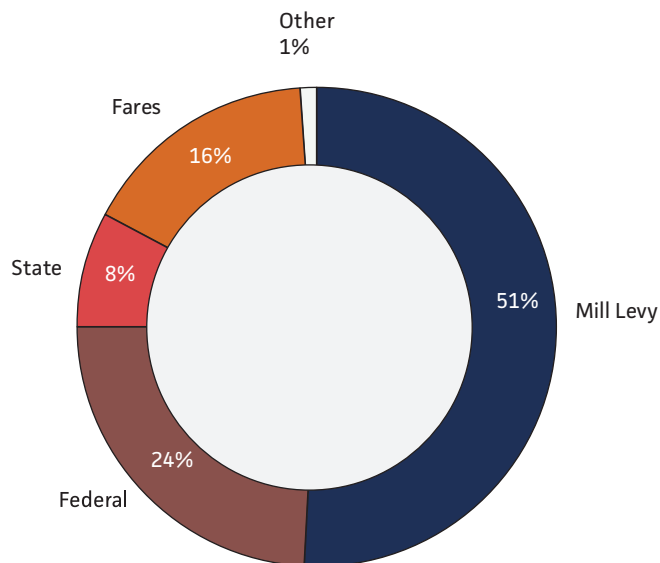
**Total Revenues \$9,076,820**

### Expenses

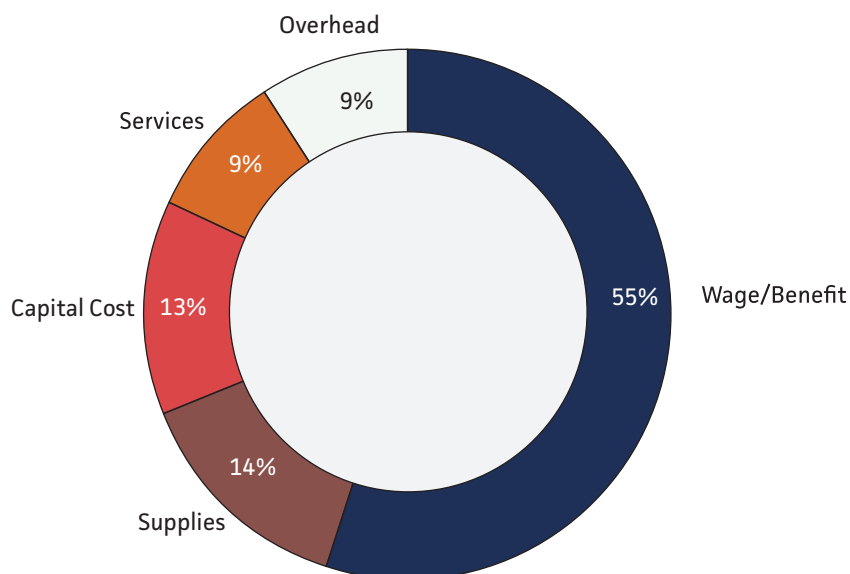
Wages & Benefits	\$4,796,351
Materials & Supplies	1,268,228
Capital Costs	1,142,793
Contracted Services	815,127
General Overhead	763,805

**Total Expenses \$8,786,304**

### FY 2014 Revenues



### FY 2014 Expenses



# Ridership Summary

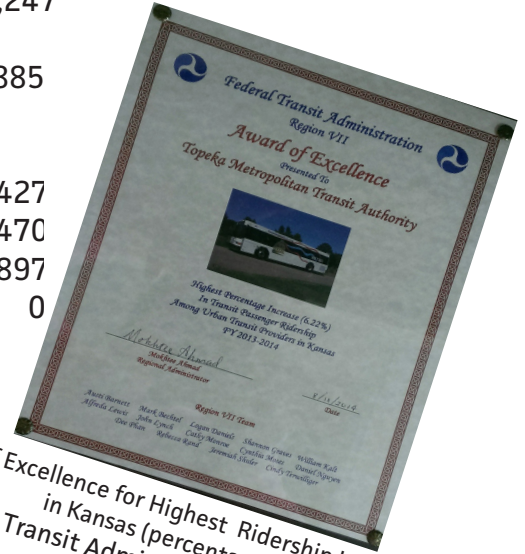
Rides Provided	FY2012*	FY2013	FY2014
Fixed Route	1,127,752	1,136,393	1,204,350
Lift Service	78,296	66,253	63,897
Total Rides Provided	1,206,048	1,202,646	1,268,247

**Fixed Route:** Average Rides per Day      3,673      3,702      3,885

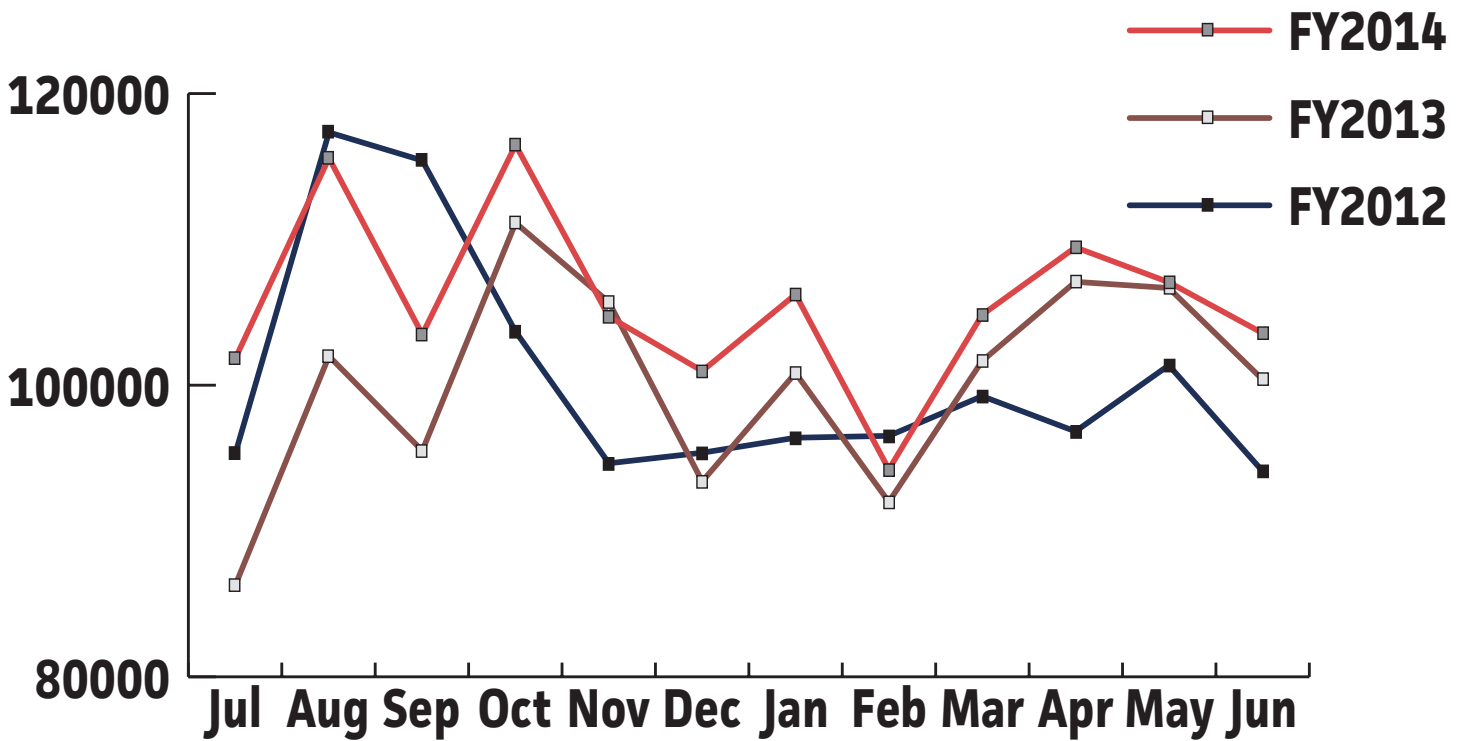
**Lift Service:**

Total Ambulatory	50,696	41,721	40,427
Total Wheelchair	27,600	24,532	23,470
Regular Operating Hours	73,724	66,253	63,897
Evening/Sunday	4,572	0	0

\*Fare increase effective October 2011



Award of Excellence for Highest Ridership Increase  
in Kansas (percentage)  
Federal Transit Administration Region VII



## About Topeka Metro

### Mission

To be known as a transportation solution provider and explore and implement transportation opportunities which enhance the social, economic, and environmental well-being of the greater Topeka community.

### Vision

To provide safe, reliable, courteous, and efficient public transportation service to all residents of the Topeka community.

### Values

To operate in an ethical manner within the framework of all regulatory and budgetary constraints while always maintaining a focus on our customers.

### History

Topeka Metro was created in 1973 by a vote of the city residents and has operated public transportation service since then. Over the years, numerous changes have taken place in service, equipment, fare structure and operating performance of the system.

When the Topeka Metropolitan Transit Authority assumed operation of the bus system in July of 1973, it was the 55th carrier system to be organized (a total of 19 actually operated) in Topeka, Kansas in the last 107 years (1866-1973). It marked a continuation of 92 years of street railway activity including horse cars, steam trains, electric cars, electric buses, and finally the gasoline and diesel buses of the present era.

Topeka Metropolitan Transit Authority provides bus service within the Topeka city limits and works with other organizations to meet mass transit needs. Topeka Metro provides fixed route service and paratransit (Lift) service Monday through Saturday during daytime hours. Topeka Metro currently operates twelve fixed routes and two weekday specials.

### FY2014 Facts

- 14 Fixed Routes (12 regular and 2 specials)
- 55 Bus Shelters
- Fixed Route Cost per Passenger: \$2.53
- Lift Cost per Passenger: \$18.54
- Total Number of Employees: 82
  - o 58 Operations (40 bus operators)
  - o 14 Maintenance / Custodian
  - o 10 Administration
- Union: Amalgamated Transit Union #1360, represents bus operators and maintenance



Topeka Metropolitan Transit Authority  
TopekaMetro.org