The 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 daily specials.
This is such an exciting time to be a rider or a partner with Topeka Metro! Why do I say that? Take a look at this annual report, and you can count up the many reasons we are so excited about the transit services we provide throughout Topeka.

If you are a rider, you know about our aggressive program to upgrade our bus stops and shelters and to make those shelters even easier to access with better sidewalks and curbs. We are making significant progress to have each of our stops be handicapped accessible by 2020. When we complete this goal, we will be one of the first transit systems in the country to do so. With new fare media and pricing, we make it easier for everyone to get everywhere in Topeka on our buses and bikes!

Our partners are working closely with us to improve transit. Westar Energy continues to help us explore all-electric vehicles and lay the groundwork for battery powered, no emission, clean energy buses in our near future, which will make Topeka’s streets quieter and our air cleaner. Topeka Public Schools expanded its initiative to get more high school students to school on Topeka Metro buses. These are just a few of the many examples of community partnerships that benefit our riders.

As a part of Topeka city government, we so appreciate the efforts of the Mayor and City Council, the Shawnee County Commission, the Metro Topeka Planning Organization and the Kansas Department of Transportation. All of them are vital partners of Topeka Metro.

After reading this year-end report, I hope you are inspired to grab one of our bikes or hop on one of our buses and become one more of our most valuable partners---a rider of Topeka Metro!

Sincerely,

James R. Ogle, Jr.
Chair, Board of Directors
Topeka Metro
WHO WE ARE:
BOARD MEMBERS

The Topeka Metro Board of Directors is comprised of seven council-approved, mayoral-appointed citizens. The Board governs by establishing policy, goals and direction for the agency. Board members are appointed to four-year terms. Board meetings are held in the Quincy Street Station board room, the third Monday of each month beginning at 3:15 p.m.

Pictured left to right: Elsie Eisenbarth, Scott Tummons, Jim Ogle, Beverly Hall, Rodd Miller, Jim Daniel, Andy Vogel.
WHO WE ARE: MANAGEMENT TEAM

The Topeka Metro management team oversees the day-to-day administration of specific departments of the agency, lead by General Manager Susan Duffy.

Pictured left to right: Susan Duffy, General Manager; Keri Renner, Director of Marketing & Communications; Chip Falldine, Chief Financial Officer; Adam Weigel, Director of Service Planning; Karl Fundenberger, Director of Bicycle Operations; Denise Ensley, Chief Operations Officer; Jared Culbertson, Director of Information Technology; Terri Miller, Director of Human Resources.

Not pictured: John Cassidy, General Counsel, and Alan Parrish, Director of Facilities and Maintenance.
On March 16, 2017, Topeka Metro held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate a new ADA accessible standing pad located at SW 21st & Buchanan streets. This event showcased our commitment to become a fully accessible transit system. Speakers included Topeka Mayor Larry Wolgast as well as Mike Oxford, Executive Director for Policy at Topeka Independent Living Resources Center.

On February 4, 2017, Topeka Metro and the Amalgamated Transit Union #1360 hosted a Stuff the Bus competition at two Dillons locations in Topeka. This friendly competition benefits Project Topeka. Nearly 1,400 pounds of canned goods and food were donated and distributed in Topeka.

Topeka Metro collaborated with Harvester’s to host a ribbon cutting on May 23, 2017. The event unveiled two retired buses donated by Topeka Metro to Harvester’s. The large bus serves as a food pantry on wheels and will primarily be used in Topeka to distribute fresh produce to seniors. The small bus will be used to enhance the food bank’s nutrition outreach and provide meals for children after school and in the summer.

Topeka Metro holds public meetings throughout the year to gather input from the general public and our passengers. Multiple meetings are arranged in order to reach as many passengers as possible.
CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY

- Kids Ride Free May 15 - August 15
- 18 Public Meetings for System Updates
- National Night Out - 10 neighborhood appearances
- July 4th Spirit of Kansas at Shawnee Lake
- Touch-a-Truck Kid Event
- Project Topeka “Stuff the Bus”
- USD 501 High School & Washburn University Enrollment
- USD 501 High School Freshman Orientation
- All USD 501 High School Homecoming Parades
- Washburn University Homecoming Parade
- Backpacks for Pine Ridge school kids
- Deer Creek Reading Route to Library
- United Way Education & Learning Tours
- City Council CIP Tours
- “Know Your City” Bus Tours for hotel service staff
- Shared bottled water/coffee during excessive hot and cold days
- Food Truck Festival shuttle
- “Welcome Back” Gatorade for high school students
- Disaster simulations with city emergency preparedness staff
The Remember Rosa Project idea came at a time of heightened unrest and racial divide in the United States. The thought was to provide Topekans with an opportunity to engage with each other, fostering mutual understanding, racial healing, and reconciliation. The City of Topeka was poised at an inflection point with significant energy invested by numerous private and civic entities, as well as individuals, toward creating a more positive and united community. The Remember Rosa project reinforced that movement.

The Remember Rosa Mobile Museum (inside a fully wrapped Topeka Metro Bus) was in public service for a full year. The Mobile Museum traveled to all USD 501 schools with Brown vs Board park rangers sharing the story of how transit affected the Civil Rights Movement and included an integrated classroom curriculum. In October 2015, a Unity Walk began at the Great Overland Station, crossed a section of the Kansas Avenue Bridge, and ended in the NOTO Arts District in North Topeka. Although the mobile museum was dismantled in October 2016, the “Rosa bus,” as it is affectionately called, continued to carry passengers on Topeka Metro, and has been a favorite, because of its significance. The wrap will be discontinued in Fall 2017.

In February 2017, Topeka Metro General Manager Susan Duffy was honored with The President’s Award, presented by her colleagues in the South West Transit Association at their annual meeting. Susan worked diligently and passionately to promote the Rosa Parks legacy both locally, regionally and nationwide. Her goal was to engage all U.S. public transits to celebrate “Remember Rosa Day” on December 1st annually, offering a free ride that day for passengers to honor Rosa Parks. Rosa Parks stood for many things: the power of the individual and community activism; regular people can make a difference; and there are multiple paths towards equity (legal, educational, civic, artistic).

At Topeka Metro, our goal is to remember that “We All Ride Together!”
OPERATIONS

Safety is always the first priority at Topeka Metro. Safety education topics, training and exercises this year for staff:

- Defensive driving
- Active shooter
- Working with school resource officers
- De-escalation training
- Heart healthy precautions
- Emergency management
- Safe left turns
- Amber and Silver Alerts
- Post-accident reporting
- Risk management
- Winter storms
- Power outages
- Open and concealed carry laws
- Ergonomics
- Disability sensitivity training
- Near misses
- Passenger securement
- Tornado and fire exercises
- Fire extinguisher usage
- Wheelchair securement
- Tactical training with SWAT
- Additional portable back-up, analog radio system
THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

12
# OF BUS ROUTES
+2 Special Routes

95
# OF BUS SHELTERS

48
BUS OPERATORS

10
PARA-TRANSIT BUSES

26
# OF FIXED ROUTE BUSES

12
# OF RIDES

USD 501 Students: 82,506
Washburn University: 60,408
Kids Ride Free (summer): 43,118

83
# OF TOPEKA METRO EMPLOYEES
(Full time)

39
How-to-Ride Demonstrations

72,349
Hours on the Road

1,240,896
Miles Driven

# OF BUS STOPS IMPROVED IN FY 2017:

+11
SHELTERS

+14
BENCHES

+2
STANDING PADS

30,571 GAL (Unleaded)
192,967 GAL (Diesel)
FINANCES FY 2017
July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

**REVENUES**

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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>MILL LEVY</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEDERAL</td>
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<td>FARES</td>
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<td>STATE</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$9,661,256</td>
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**EXPENSES**

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>WAGE/BENEFIT</td>
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<td>SUPPLIES</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAPITAL COST</td>
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<td>SERVICES</td>
<td>$866,698</td>
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<tr>
<td>OVERHEAD</td>
<td>$352,496</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$9,333,630</td>
</tr>
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</table>
FY 2017 RIDERSHIP

TOTAL RIDES
1,248,933

- Average of **99,777** fixed route boardings per month and **4,301** Lift boardings per month
- Average of **4,294** fixed route boardings every weekday and **2,360** each Saturday
- 60,115 hours of fixed route revenue service
- 12,233 hours of paratransit revenue service
With more bikes in more places, Topeka Metro Bikes (TMB) has grown into a valuable transportation solution for a broader range of citizens. We started with 100 red bikes in 2015 and the addition of the blue bikes sponsored by Capitol Federal in 2016 brought TMB’s current fleet to 200. Capitol Federal will sponsor an even greater opportunity for Topekans to “Bike Topeka!” with 100 additional bikes in 2018.

Cyclovia 2016, Topeka’s bike festival, was a big hit, with 180 riders participating in a nighttime Glow Ride, bike polo, test rides, and some great excursion trips to nearby destinations.

Topeka Metro Bikes staff and volunteers biked in the Washburn Homecoming Parade, pedaled through Winter Wonderland at Lake Shawnee, and had a “Wheelie Good Christmastime” ride through Potwin neighborhood in freezing December weather. In May, TMB kicked off the riding season with free breakfast for bike commuters.
Camp Metro is a community outreach initiative that serves as a conduit between youth summer camps and Topeka Metro. Camp Metro teaches Topeka youth how to ride the bus and navigate routes effectively. Public transportation is a life skill crucial for young Topeka citizens and Topeka Metro is an easy and friendly place to learn to ride the bus.

Operational during the summer months of May through August, Camp Metro “counselors,” schedule youth camps visits throughout the city.

This year, four counselors worked with camp kids, including the YMCA, Shawnee County Parks and Recreation, and Boys and Girls Club of Topeka. Topeka Metro served over 15 camp locations and educated 694 youth and young adults riding the bus.

“Most children have never stepped foot on a bus. Learning to ride transit is a life skill and learning in Topeka with friendly and helpful bus operators will serve these kids well as they grow up.”

-- General Manager Susan Duffy
FY 2017 PROMOTIONS

TOPEKA METRO FY 2017 ANNUAL REPORT • PAGE 20
The following illustrate additional community needs for Topeka Metro’s transit system. These services would greatly improve transit and the quality of life in Topeka, however, funding is not available at this time. These services can greatly improve the quality of transit in Topeka.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evening Service</th>
<th>Sunday Service</th>
<th>24/7 Accessible Transportation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There is continual customer demand for evening service in Topeka. In April 2016, service was extended to run until approximately 7:30 p.m. The demand is to run the buses later.</td>
<td>Sunday service is another popular request from passengers. Topekans need transportation to work weekends or attend church.</td>
<td>Find transportation solutions for non-ambulatory customers at all times of the day and night.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wi-Fi on Buses</th>
<th>Workforce Development</th>
<th>Additional TMB Bikes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There is great demand from the public to stay connected electronically on their smart device. The future of transportation includes Wi-Fi on the buses to provide connectivity for Topeka Metro’s passengers.</td>
<td>Multiple employers are looking to Topeka Metro for transportation solutions. One example is Reser’s Fine Foods plant which employs over 1,000 people. Topeka Metro will be adjusting current routing to better serve plant expansion and the increase of employees.</td>
<td>Adding more bicycles to the TMB fleet in more locations provides better accessibility and opportunities to ride throughout the city.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where’s My Bus?</th>
<th>Commuter Trips</th>
<th>Wanamaker Express</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In early 2018, Topeka Metro will unveil a phone application that shows passengers their bus arrival time. The app allows trip planning and calculates the cost of using bus, bikeshare, or Uber. This resource makes using transit easier and more efficient.</td>
<td>A commuter bus route between Topeka and Lawrence would make several trips per day transporting workers between the two communities.</td>
<td>Wanamaker Road is an economic hub of Topeka with multiple businesses stretching over 20 blocks. The majority of Topeka Metro buses serves these routes. As businesses continue to be added to the corridor, transportation should expand with the demand.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Because...

WE ALL RIDE TOGETHER

TOPEKA METRO

Topeka Metropolitan Transit Authority
Quincy Street Station, 820 SE Quincy Street
Topeka, Kansas 66612
785-783-7000
topekametro.org

FIND US ON YOUR FAVORITE SOCIAL MEDIA SITES!