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## Bloomfield Transit gets a brand-new ride; more seating for passengers

Friday, November 28, 2014  
By JONATHAN DAVE, Statesman Staff Writer



**BLOOMFIELD** — After six years, the Bloomfield Transit System has a new vehicle.

Thanks to a 80/20 grant through the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), the city of Bloomfield is now able to offer a more comfortable ride to its citizens.

Penny Schatz has been Transit Director for the city of Bloomfield for 10 years, and said she looks forward to each new year and what it brings to Bloomfield Public Transit users. She said the Bloomfield Transit System applies for grants every year, but they never know what they might get from one year to the next.

The new vehicle — a 2015 Ford Eldorado -- was received on Oct. 17th. The original price was \$46,730.00 from Central States Bus; but, the City of Bloomfield Transportation System paid \$9,346.00 and MoDOT paid \$37,384.00 through available Transit asset funds.

Vehicle expectancy is 10 years for MoDOT vehicles in the Transit sector. The vehicle that the 2015 Ford Eldorado replaced was a 2002 Ford Star Craft.

According to Schatz, the new vehicle offers one more seat than the former vehicle, and is more streamlined. It also boasts a wheelchair lift; although, it isn't just senior citizens who utilize the service.

"I would say approximately 20 percent of our customers are senior citizens," Schatz explained. "We have all types of people that utilize our service. A lot of people use us to take them to and from work, or to the store to shop."

Schatz went on to explain that there are even children who regularly use the service to go to daycare.

"I would say, roughly, about 11 percent of our population uses this service," Schatz

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remarked. "We've come a long way. We recently connected with the city of Dexter. We go to commuter parking and trade off customers. We actually get a lot of riders from Dexter, because Bloomfield is the county seat, so, we get plenty of people that need us to get them to court or the juvenile office and things of that nature."

) Bloomfield Transit did keep its former vehicle longer than expected. Schatz explained that it had approximately 70,000 miles on it -- all from being driven inside of Bloomfield. According to Schatz, the 2002 Ford was sold at Kelly Blue Book value of \$5,000. The City of Bloomfield was able to keep 20 percent of that since it came from a 80/20 grant.

The final cost for the 2015 vehicle was \$8,346.00.

"We work hard to better serve our community in any way that we possibly can," Schatz remarked. "Bloomfield Transit would like to remind the public that we serve the public. You do not have to be elderly or disabled to ride. In fact, most of our riders are not either. Anyone can ride. Anyone wanting to know more about the Bloomfield Public Transit System please call 568-3960."

### Fact Check

See inaccurate information in this story?



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I own two 30 year old pickup trucks. One is gas powered, the other is diesel powered. They each have 250,000 miles or more and are still going strong. I assume the old bus was properly maintained and parked out of the weather when not in use. 70000 miles in 12 years equates to 250,000 miles in 43 years.

So the ladies of the council spent \$8346 for what?

) A new paint job and shiny new chrome when the 12 year old bus was still good to go for many more trouble free miles.

Eric Severide, an old TV personality, long since dead, said "everybody's money is nobody's money" when talking about government waste.

I say " use it up, wear it out, make do or do without".

-- Posted by dallaspse on Sat, Nov 29, 2014, at 8:48 AM

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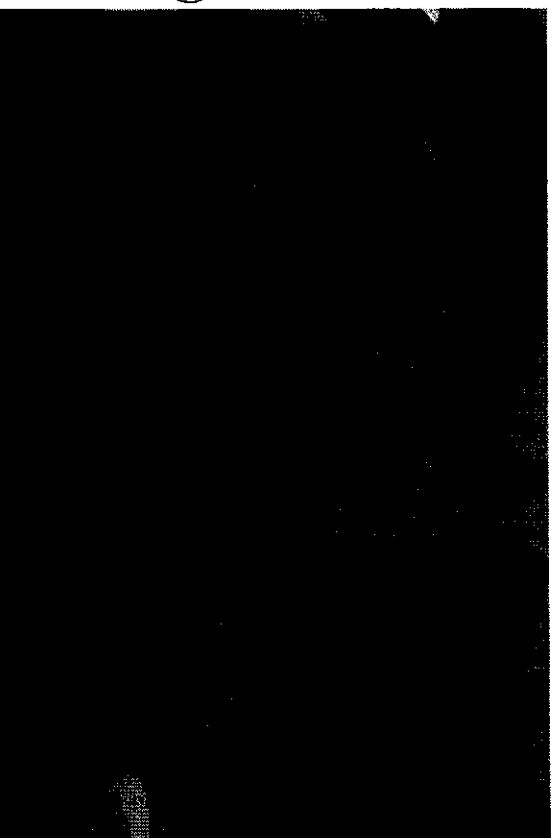
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## Bloomfield Transit receives national recognition

Thursday, August 11, 2011

By COREY NOLES NSC Editor



COREY NOLES -cnoles@dailystatesman.com Penny Shepard and transit driver Jerry Busby alongside the city transit bus.

The Bloomfield Public Transit recently received national-level recognition at a Missouri Public Transit Association (MPTA) banquet.

The Federal Transit Administration's acknowledgement of several Missouri transit providers in both the rural and urban areas of the state. The City of Bloomfield was recognized for posting a 12.7% percent increase in ridership for 2010. In that year the city had a total of 3,187 trips in the transit bus.

City Transit Director Penny Shepard was on hand to accept the plaque.

"This award shows that we are doing our very best to promote and make the best of the Bloomfield Public Transportation System as we possibly can," Shepard said. "We have worked hard to help "anyone" who wants to ride become and stay independent or self-sufficient. We have riders who are weeks old to one gentleman who is 101."

The increase in ridership could be due to many different factors, but Shepard believes the economy has played a major role.

"It may be also showing the savings that the citizens are acquiring due to the economy in the way that they are saving money on gas, vehicles, insurance, license, and maintenance so that they can afford other things that they need," she said. "It takes a great staff of personnel to make this happen and I am so proud of the staff we have here."

While using the transit may be a sign of the ailing economy, people using the service could be giving the local economy a needed shot in the arm.

"The more people we take to town the more money is spent in our town," Shepard said.

"This means we take in more taxes and the City of Bloomfield can do more with this money."

The transit offers low-cost rides to anyone in town throughout the week. Anyone

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interested in a transit ride should call Bloomfield City Hall at 568-3464.

Also among the rural recipients of the awards were Southeast Missouri State University with a 20.23 percent ridership increase and the Scott County Transportation System with a 17.73 percent increase.

MPTA President, Mark Huffer, Kansas City Area Transportation Authority, remarked that "The demand for reliable, affordable transportation service continues to grow in Missouri. This is an opportunity to acknowledge the dedication and leadership of those who continue to work to meet this demand and to improve public transportation to assure personal mobility and independence for all who visit or live in our State."

The Missouri Public Transit Association was founded in 1980 to represent the interests, policies, requirement and purposes of public transportation in Missouri and values personal mobility as a basic quality of life.

### Fact Check

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## Safe Driver

Friday, March 16, 2007



Gary Exelby photo

Bloomfield Transit driver Raymond Ragsdale, center, accepts a certificate of recognition for a year of accident-free driving from Transit Director Penny Shepard. From left are Bloomfield North Ward alderman David Wilson, Shepard, Ragsdale, city clerk Torja Hanbold and city collector Hazel Williams.

### Fact Check

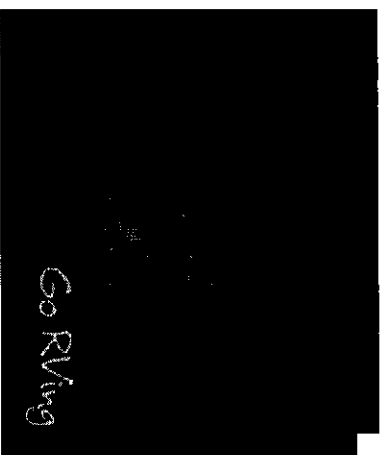
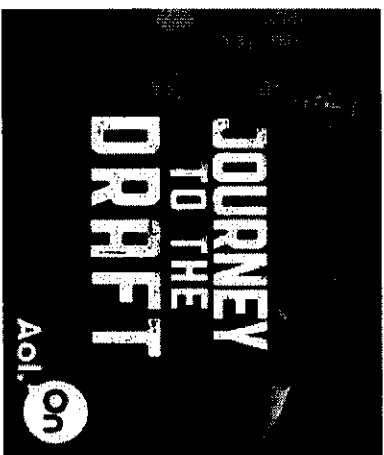
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## Easter Egg hunts

Tuesday, April 10, 2007



The chilly temperatures depressed turnout for the Bloomfield Transit Authority's Easter Egg hunt Saturday. But to the youngsters who braved the cold it was all good, as it meant there were more eggs for each child to harvest.

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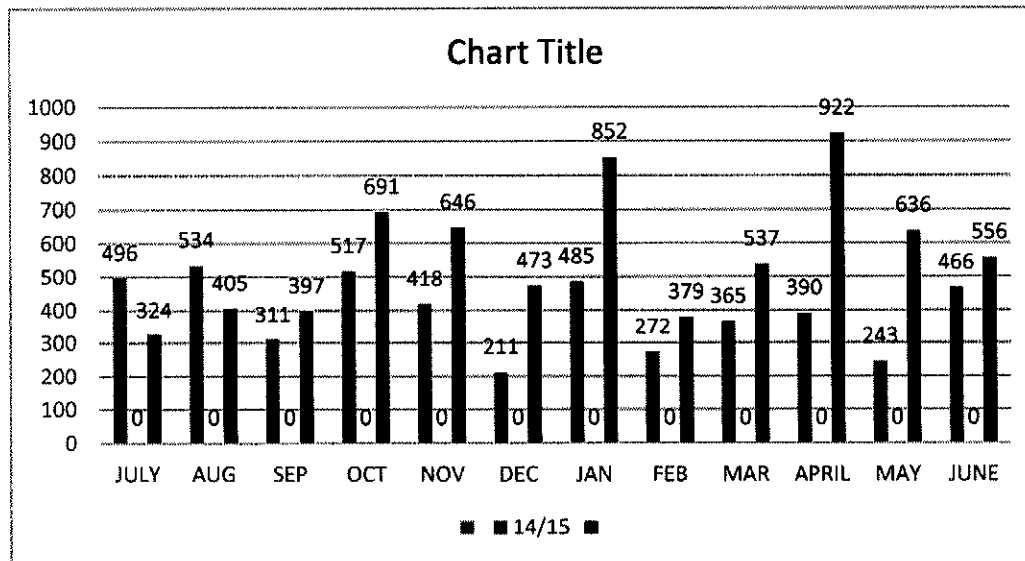
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Date: 4/10/2014

A Applicant's Name CITY OF BLOOMFIELD

Mailing Address PO BOX 350

Street Address (if different from mailing address) 400 NORTH PRAIRIE

City, State, Zip BLOOMFIELD MO 63825

Contact Person PENNY SCHATZ

Phone Number 573-568-3960 Fax Number 573-568-4960

E-mail Address pennelope\_shepard@hotmail.com

County STODDARD US Congressional District 8

Missouri Senate Dist. 25 Missouri Representative District 159

General Description of Project

The Bloomfield Public Transportation System is a general public transportation service for all persons living inside the city limits of Bloomfield and up to 2 miles beyond with an extension of 1 extra mile south on hwy 25 to connect with Dexter City Transit at Computer Parking. This agreement will reimburse the city 50% of the project operation.

(additional pages may be attached but please submit a summary of no more than 2 pages for attachment to the agreement)

50% Proposed Operating Funding	\$ 67,615.50	Budget Before Reimbursement	\$ 72,315.50
Local Match	\$ 33,807.75		

80/20 Proposed Operating Funding Admin.	\$ 4,700.00
Federal Funds	\$ 3,750.00
Local Match	\$ 37,567.75
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 46,017.75</b>