

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AMTRAK'S MISSOURI RIVER RUNNER SERVICE

executive summary

Passenger rail service provides an option for connecting rural communities and smaller cities to major economic centers and promotes commerce and economic development, particularly in the areas surrounding stations. The Missouri River Runner Amtrak passenger train route operates two round trips per day across 283 miles of track between the Gateway Transportation Center in St. Louis and Union Station in Kansas City, providing connection to the Southwest Chief and Texas Eagle routes. The Missouri River Runner provides an alternative travel mode along the heavily traveled I-70 corridor between St. Louis and Kansas City.

The Missouri River Runner gives rise to significant benefits in Missouri through travel/transportation, reduced energy consumption, safety, and tourism/visitor spending.



2022 STATE FREIGHT AND RAIL PLAN



KEY FINDINGS

MISSOURI RIVER RUNNER BY THE NUMBERS

IN MISSOURI, THE TOTAL ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACTS
GENERATED BY THE RIVER RUNNER INCLUDE:



1,250
JOBS ANNUALLY



\$65 MILLION
IN ANNUAL LABOR INCOME



\$208 MILLION
IN ANNUAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

MORE THAN **\$22 MILLION** IN ANNUAL TAX REVENUE

Amtrak's business presence in Missouri supports local vendors and small businesses statewide.

In 2019, Amtrak spent \$28.9 million to hire services from Missouri's construction, landscaping, railroad, engineering, and technology businesses.

Amtrak employs 78 people statewide, amounting to about \$7.5 million in labor income.

Collectively, Amtrak's direct employment and spending in Missouri yields the following direct, indirect and induced economic benefits:

450
jobs

\$35.2M
in labor
income

\$122.6M
in economic
activity

& \$11.3 MILLION
in federal, state & local
tax revenue.



82%
OF MISSOURIANS
live within
60 MILES
of a
**PASSENGER RAIL
STATION**

Missouri River Runner riders
spend an estimated

\$21.8M in hotels &
\$25.3M in food & sightseeing costs

each year. This supports direct, indirect
and induced economic benefits of

over
800
jobs

\$30M
in labor
income

\$86M
in economic
activity

& \$11 MILLION
in federal, state & local tax revenue.

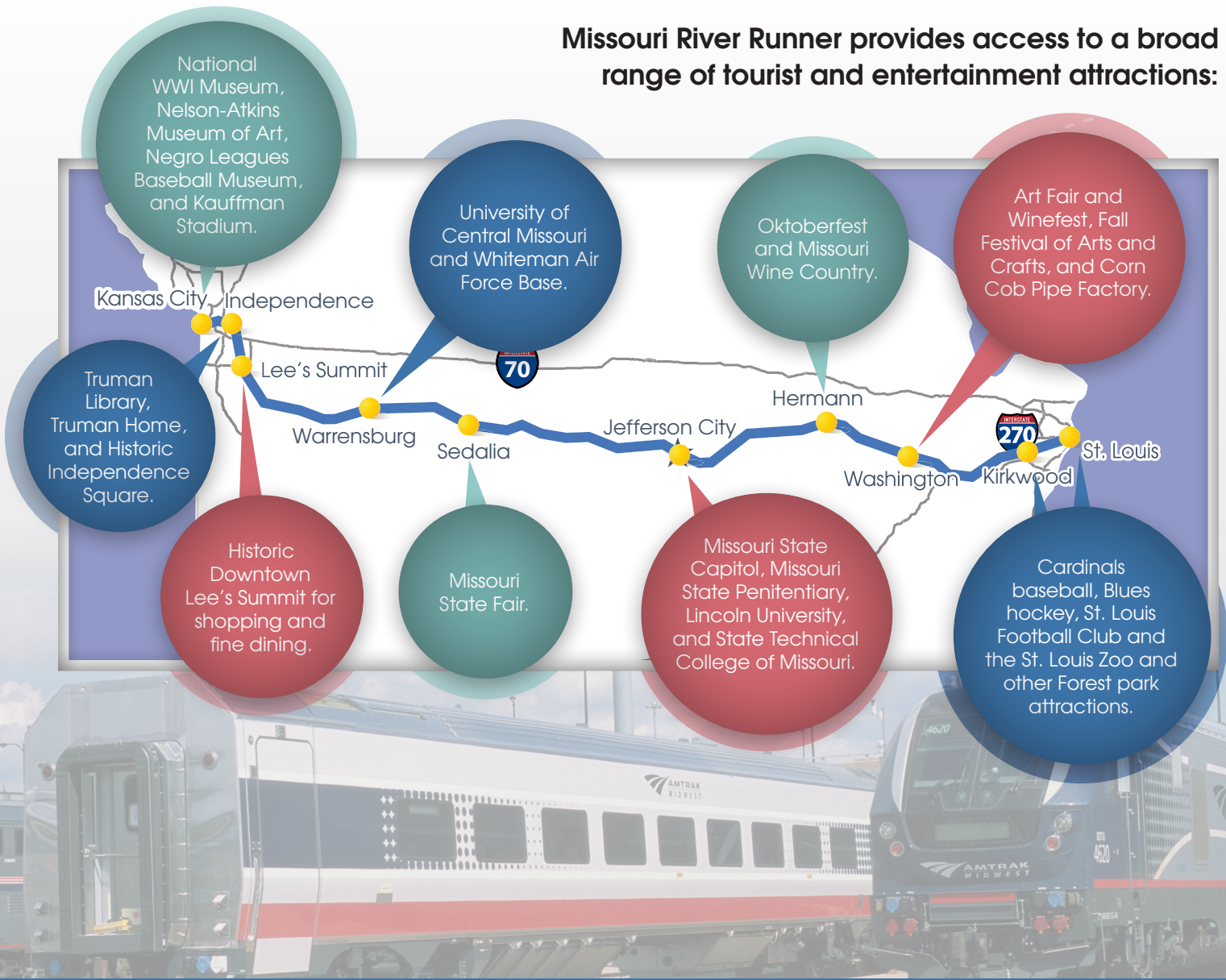


172,555
PASSENGERS
rode the Missouri
River Runner in 2018, with
an average fare of

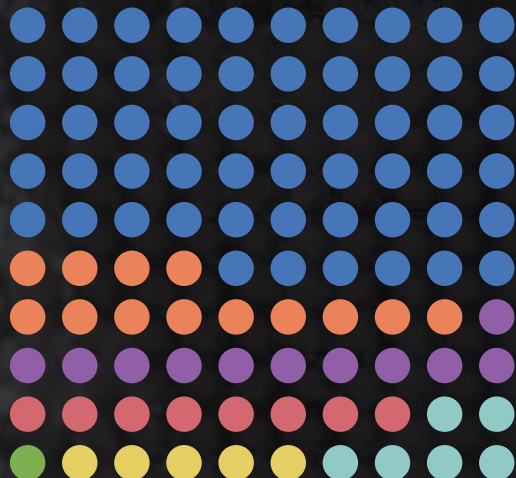
\$32.47
PER PASSENGER.

MISSOURI RIVER RUNNER SERVICE SUPPORTS MISSOURIANS

Missouri River Runner provides access to a broad range of tourist and entertainment attractions:



WHY DO PEOPLE RIDE THE RIVER RUNNER?



Visit family or friends - 56%

Leisure or recreation - 13%

Daily work commute or business travel - 11%

Vacations - 8%

Personal or family event (e.g., wedding, graduation) - 6%

Travel to or from school - 5%

Shopping - 1%

Key Takeaways

Many Missouri residents and visitors depend on non-highway modes of transportation.

Enhanced passenger rail service provides important economic development benefits to Missouri communities by improving accessibility, connectivity, and travel efficiency for both in-state and out-of-state travelers.

Missouri maintains existing Missouri River Runner service with relatively modest state appropriations. Missouri has no dedicated funding source for passenger rail. Funding is subject to legislative general revenue appropriation each year and this investment has not kept pace with inflation of the cost to operate the service. In FY 2021, MoDOT received \$8 million in state support for the operation of River Runner service.

Infrastructure improvements to the St. Louis to Kansas City line have reduced delays and increased reliability. These improvements were funded primarily by federal sources, with contributions from the state and the railroads.

The Missouri River Runner service strengthens communities by providing connectivity amongst Missouri's cities, serving as an anchor to commercial and residential development and encouraging more efficient mobility options in the community.



Contact:

888-ASK MODOT (275-6636)

MoRail@modot.mo.gov

www.modot.org