

Research Summary

First and Last Mile Connectivity for Missourians

Reliable transportation is critical to access many things. First-last mile services aim to connect communities to transportation networks by providing a link between fixed-route transit and travelers' origins and destinations.

This report discusses first-last mile transportation with a focus on access to employment. The Project Team examined first-last mile transportation services in other states in a variety of contexts, as well as the existing transportation landscape in Missouri.

This study consists of the following project components:

- 15 case studies on first-last mile services and employment transportation programs in a variety of contexts across the US.
- In-depth interviews with five transportation providers and state departments of transportation (DOTs) about their approaches to first-last mile and employment transportation.
- In-depth interviews with two Missouri transportation providers about their services and the landscape of transportation in Missouri.
- A virtual forum with stakeholders to discuss challenges and opportunities for first-last mile transportation within Missouri.



- An existing-conditions analysis and needs assessment to understand the current landscape of Missouri transportation, consisting of transit network analyses, commute pattern analyses, commute typology, and demographic analyses.

This study presents six key findings and their associated recommendations:

1. First-last mile transportation is a workforce development opportunity.

Recommendation 1.1: Develop interagency partnerships.

Recommendation 1.2: Connect with state and federal workforce development agencies.

2. Implementing first-last mile solutions requires an understanding of demographic, economic, and geographic contexts.

Recommendation 2.1: Ensure that core transit services are reliable and effective.

Recommendation 2.2: Evaluate the demographic, economic, and geographic context of a community to most effectively implement first-last mile services.

3. Effective partnership building is integral to first-last mile services and employment transportation.



Recommendation 3.1: Pursue partnerships with local employers.

Recommendation 3.2: Explore partnerships with a variety of organizations.

Recommendation 3.3: Provide directed support to local transportation providers on partnership building.

4. First-last mile transportation services need community support to thrive.

Recommendation 4.1: Plan a targeted marketing and promotion campaign.

Recommendation 4.2: Seek out project champions.

5. There are significant gaps in knowledge about Missouri’s transportation needs and opportunities.

Recommendation 5.1: Perform community transportation needs assessments.

Recommendation 5.2: Develop knowledge-sharing resources for transportation providers about first-last mile transportation services.

Recommendation 5.3: Support research about first-last mile options.

6. State DOTs can play several key roles in supporting first-last mile transportation initiatives.

Recommendation 6.1: Support first-last mile feasibility studies.

Recommendation 6.2: Establish first-last mile connectivity grant programs.

Recommendation 6.3: Invest in statewide or regional technology infrastructure development.

This project contributes to a better understanding of how state and local transportation agencies can support first-last mile connections to facilitate access to employment, and how first-last mile projects from around the country can inform more mobility options for Missourians.

Project Information

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