

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MCT Celebrates National Bike Month with Trail Summit and Bike Donation Drive

Virtual summit to explore trail-oriented development; Local libraries to serve as bike donation hubs

PONTOON BEACH, IL – April 14, 2025 – This May, to celebrate National Bike Month, Madison County Transit (MCT) will host the MCT 2025 Trail Summit – Exploring Trail-Oriented Development (TrOD), a virtual event focused on the economic and community benefits of trail-based development. Additionally, MCT is collaborating with St. Louis-based nonprofit BWorks and several local libraries to collect used bicycles to be distributed to individuals in need.

MCT 2025 Trail Summit: Exploring Trail Oriented Development

The MCT 2025 Trail Summit is a free virtual event that will take place on Wednesday, May 14, from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM. This online event will bring together experts to discuss how trails can drive economic growth and enhance community development. SJ Morrison, MCT's Managing Director, will moderate the discussion featuring speakers with firsthand experience in trail-oriented development:

- **Dan Tripp**, Co-Owner, Good News Brewing – Greater St. Louis Area
- **David Kennedy**, City Manager; Loveland, Ohio – Miami Valley Trails
- **Henry Mestetsky**, Director of Redevelopment; Carmel, Indiana – Monon Trail

"National Bike Month offers a perfect opportunity to highlight the impact of the MCT Trails and to encourage bicycling for short trips and recreation," said SJ Morrison, MCT Managing Director. "Through the 2025 Trail Summit, we hope to educate and inspire community leaders and developers to consider development opportunities that are oriented to the MCT Trails as a way to leverage this one-of-a-kind asset and create more destinations for trailgoers."

This summit is free and open to local government officials, business owners, developers, and members of the public interested in learning how trails can be leveraged for community and economic development. To sign up for the virtual event, visit www.MCTtrails.org/calendar.

Bike Donation Drive: Expanding Cycling Access

Also in May, MCT is partnering with St. Louis BWorks to collect used bicycles during National Bike Month. St. Louis BWorks is a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering youth and underserved individuals through educational programs centered on bicycles. Their "Earn-A-Bike" program provides participants with hands-on skills to repair and maintain a bike. At the end of the multi-class course, participants will receive their own bicycle, helmet, and lock. In the month of May, bikes can be dropped off at the **MCT Administration Building** (1 Transit Way, Pontoon Beach, IL) on Weekdays, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM) or at the following local libraries:

Edwardsville Public Library

112 S Kansas St, Edwardsville, IL 62025

Hayner Public Library (Downtown Alton)

326 Belle St, Alton, IL 62002

Collinsville Memorial Library Center

408 W Main St, Collinsville, IL 62234

Six Mile Regional Library (Johnson Road)

2145 Johnson Rd, Granite City, IL 62040

Maryville Community Library District

8 Schiber Ct, Maryville, IL 62062

Tri-Township Library

209 S. Main St, Troy, IL 62294

MCT CELEBRATES NATIONAL BIKE MONTH FIRST AND FINAL ADD

“I’m so impressed with the Bworks organization and the work that they are doing throughout the St. Louis region,” said Morrison. “Everyone has an old bike or two in the garage, I would love to see Madison County significantly contribute to their efforts in 2025.”

In addition to the Bike Donation program, Agency for Community Transit (ACT) is accepting applications from eligible municipal entities and nonprofit organizations who would be interested in receiving an ACT Community Action Grant to host an “Earn a Bike” class for 12 students in Madison County. For details, visit www.ACTinfo.org/grants

To learn more about St. Louis Bworks, visit their website at www.bworks.org.

For more information on the MCT 2025 Trail Summit or the Bike Donation Drive, email trails@MCT.org, visit www.MCTtrails.org, or call **618-797-4600**.

Madison County Transit (MCT) provides multi-modal transportation services for Madison County, Illinois. MCT operates a fixed-route bus service, connecting to MetroLink; express weekday commuter service directly to and from downtown St. Louis; and seasonal express service to the Muny. For elderly and disabled residents who are unable to use the fixed-route buses, MCT provides complementary door to door service. MCT is also responsible for the construction and maintenance of more than 138 miles of bikeways that comprise the MCT Trails system, as well as overseeing RideFinders, the St. Louis region’s FREE carpooling and vanpooling program.