



March 24, 2009

The Honorable Allen Icet
House Budget Chairman
Missouri State Capitol, Room 306
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear Representative Icet:

Metro is days away from implementing the largest transit service reduction in St. Louis transit history. A \$50 million operating deficit in the fiscal year 2010, which begins July 1, 2009, has forced the Agency to bridge the funding gap by eliminating \$35 million in transit service. On Monday, March 30, MetroBus, MetroLink and Metro Call-A-Ride will be drastically reduced in St. Louis City and County. Metro will also lay off approximately 500 transit personnel, as well as reduce \$3.5 million in administrative costs and defer \$10 million in employee benefit obligations.

Metro has sought both local and federal funding solutions as a way to avoid the reductions. The Federal Transportation Administration recently turned down a regional plan to draw on federal transportation funding that could have been used to keep some transit service in place. Unfortunately, the service cuts are unavoidable.

In an effort to restore transit service to the St. Louis region as soon as possible, Metro is requesting a one-time emergency appropriation of \$35 million from the State of Missouri. As Chairman of the House Budget Committee and as a member of the St. Louis regional caucus, it is important that we have your support for this important funding request.

Metro anticipates that the service reductions will significantly reduce bus and van access to 30 percent of employment centers in St. Louis County. The local news media reports that approximately 12,000 jobs will be negatively impacted by these transit reductions. An allocation of \$35 million from the State of Missouri will restore twelve months of Metro service to job centers, as well as Call-A-Ride service for thousands of elderly and disabled customers who rely on their Metro Call-A-Ride service to connect them to medical appointments, retail centers, and jobs.

Metro is available to provide any level of information that you and other members of the legislature may need regarding this funding request. As always, thank you for your interest in St. Louis regional transit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Robert J. Baer'.

Robert J. Baer