
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Amanda Viliocco Smith
Madison County Transit
618-797-4600

MCT SUMMER YOUTH PASS OFFERS FAMILIES A BREAK FROM RISING COSTS

Madison County Students Ride Free All Summer Long

PONTOON BEACH, IL, May 20, 2026 - As families continue to feel the impact of high gas prices and the rising cost of everyday expenses, Madison County Transit (MCT) is once again offering a simple way for students to get around this summer for free. The MCT Summer Youth Pass is available to Madison County students, ages 18 and under, and provides unlimited free rides on MCT fixed-route buses and MCT Micro services from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

“For more than 15 years, the MCT Summer Youth Pass has helped local students travel safely and independently throughout Madison County,” said SJ Morrison, MCT Managing Director. “At a time when families are looking for ways to stretch their budgets, this program gives students a free and reliable way to get to summer jobs, classes, libraries, parks, pools, and other destinations throughout the community.”

Since launching in 2008, the Summer Youth Pass program has provided more than half a million student boardings, making it a valuable summer resource for families across Madison County. This year, MCT is distributing passes to middle and high schools throughout the county, as well as local youth organizations.

While Madison County students ride free with the Summer Youth Pass, MCT fixed-route service and MCT Micro service remain an affordable option for everyone. Fares in Madison County are only \$1 per boarding, and monthly passes are also available for frequent riders.

Students or parents can get a free MCT Summer Youth Pass by:

- Visiting their school office
- Emailing YouthPass@mct.org
- Calling 618-797-4600

MCT also encourages students to combine biking with transit using the MCT Trails. All MCT buses are equipped with bike racks, making it easy for students to connect a bike ride with a bus trip for even more freedom and flexibility this summer. Trip planning is simple with Google Maps. Riders can enter their starting and ending points, select the transit icon, and receive a full itinerary for their trip. Riders can also monitor where their bus is with MCT’s real-time bus tracking at www.NextMCTbus.org.

To learn more, visit www.MCT.org, email info@mct.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 Muni. 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 135 miles of bikeways that comprise the MCT Trails system, as well as overseeing RideFinders, the St. Louis region’s FREE carpooling and vanpooling program.

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