Madison County Transit

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JERRY KANE RECEIVES GATEWAY LIFETIME PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Longtime MCT Managing Director and Founder of ACT Honored for Four Decades of Service

PONTOON BEACH, IL – November 16, 2026… The East-West Gateway Council of Governments presented Madison County Transit's (MCT) former Managing Director Jerry Kane with the Gateway Lifetime Public Service Award on Friday, Nov. 13, at its 2026 Outstanding Local Government Achievement (OLGA) Awards. The award recognizes Kane for four decades of leadership in creating and expanding transportation options, connecting communities across Madison County, and developing the MCT Trails bikeway system.

Kane founded the Agency for Community Transit (ACT) in 1984 and served as its Executive Director and as MCT's Managing Director until 2019. During his tenure, Kane established door-to-door transportation for older adults and people with disabilities, expanded local and express bus service, and created RideFinders, the St. Louis region's carpool and vanpool program. In 1993, working with the Illinois General Assembly, Kane sought and received permissive authority from the state which allowed MCT to acquire, construct, and maintain bike trails. This new authority launched a 30-year, $50 million effort to acquire former railroad corridors and construct 138 miles of scenic, world-class, separated bikeways known as the MCT Trails. This inter-connected network of trails is one of the most extensive of its kind in the midwest.

“Jerry's visionary work at the helm of ACT and MCT has created access and opportunity for thousands of individuals. His efforts enabled generations of Madison County residents – of all ages, abilities, and income levels - to get to work, to class, to medical appointments, shopping, and countless other destinations," said SJ Morrison, current ACT Executive Director and MCT Managing Director. “And the expansive MCT Trails system has not only preserved these vital transportation corridors and created a family friendly recreation option, it has improved the quality of life for our residents, improved property values, and become a magnet for visitors and new home buyers. On behalf of our staff and board members, I'm pleased to see Jerry honored for his achievements and for a lifetime of service to the people of Madison County and beyond.”

More than 500 people attended the 2026 OLGA Awards ceremony in Downtown St. Louis, where the East-West Gateway Council of Governments honored Kane and recognized other individuals and organizations for their contributions to communities across the St. Louis bi-state region. To find out more about the services provided by MCT, visit **www.MCT.org**.

Pictured in Photo: *Charlie Brennan (2026 OLGA Awards Ceremony Host), Jerry Kane, Jim Wild (Executive Director of East-West Gateway)*

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 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.

MCT CELEBRATES NATIONAL BIKE MONTH
FIRST AND FINAL ADD

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