FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Amanda Viliocco Smith
Madison County Transit
618-797-4600

MCT Opens Reconstructed Nature Trail Segment

First Bike Repair Station in Granite City dedicated to Granite City's City Clerk

PONTOON BEACH, IL – November 18, 2026… Madison County Transit (MCT) celebrated the opening of a reconstructed segment of the MCT Nature Trail in Granite City with a ribbon cutting on Tuesday, November 17. The ceremony also included the unveiling of MCT's first "Bike Repair Station," dedicated to Jenna DeYong, Granite City's first female police officer and current City Clerk.

For years, the MCT Nature Trail between Nameoki Road (IL-203) and Kate Street in Granite City was located on a gravel alleyway, shared with garbage trucks and other motorists. Thanks to a donation of property from Granite City (a strip of former railroad right-of-way), MCT was able to construct a completely separated asphalt Class I bikeway that is dedicated for bicycle and pedestrian use. The 2,000-feet long trail segment runs parallel to the alley and also features the MCT Trails' first "Bike Repair Station" with tools and an air pump to perform basic bicycle repairs. The Bike Station is named in honor of Jenna DeYong for her advocacy of this and other trail projects as well as for her decades of service to Granite City.

"This project would not have happened without Jenna's advocacy for the community she loves. Jenna sees a problem and wants to fix it, which is why we are dedicating this "Bike Repair Station" in her honor," said SJ Morrison, MCT Managing Director. "She came to MCT and showed us that the conditions of this trail segment were not in-keeping with MCT's high standards, and I told her that if Granite City would give MCT the property, we would build a separated trail. They did, and here we are cutting a ribbon today."

Design engineering for the new MCT Nature Trail segment was completed by Juneau Associates. Gleeson Asphalt, Inc. served as the prime contractor, with KEG Build completing the striping and LW Contractors performing the soil modification. The project was funded entirely with local funds.

"I want to thank the MCT and ACT Boards for their ongoing support of trail enhancing projects, as well as our hard-working team at ACT, the contractors, Mayor Parkinson and Rick Daily from Granite City, the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Granite City Housing Authority," said Morrison. "All major projects require significant coordination between many individuals from various agencies and organizations, and this was no exception."

For more information about the MCT Trails visit **MCTtrails.org** or contact MCT at trails@mct.org.

***MCT Nature Trail Ribbon Cutting Photo (from left to right**): Mark Steyer (ACT Engineering Assistant), Brian Kulick (Vice President, Juneau Associates), Phil Roggio (ACT Director of Capital Project), David Eagleton (ACT Construction Inspector), Andy Economy (MCT Board Member), Dave*

MCT RIDGE PRAIRIE TRAIL OPENS
FIRST & FINAL ADD

Massey (ACT Project Engineer), Joe Juneau (Vice President, Juneau Associates), Rick Daily (Granite City Public Works Director), Angelia Gower (ACT Board Member), Jenna DeYong (City Clerk, Granite City), Mark Achenbach (ACT Board President), Mike Parkinson (Mayor, Granite City), SJ Morrison (MCT Managing Director), Kay Rollins (Ward 4 Alderman, Granite City)

***Jenna DeYong Fix-it Station Photo (From left to right**): Mike Parkinson (Mayor, Granite City), Jenna DeYong (City Clerk, Granite City), SJ Morrison (MCT Managing Director)*

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.

###