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## **MCT HOSTING BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN TRAIL SUMMIT EVENT**

*Featuring Guest Panelists from Thriving, Bike-Friendly Communities Across the Nation*

**PONTOON BEACH, IL., April 29, 2022...** In celebration of May as National Bike Month, and to illustrate the many benefits of trails and a vibrant bicycle/pedestrian culture to communities and individuals, Madison County Transit (MCT) is hosting the MCT 2022 Trail Summit on Friday, May 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the LeClaire Room, on the N.O. Nelson campus of Lewis & Clark Community College in Edwardsville.

The Summit will bring together thought leaders from across the country to speak on how the presence of trails in a community and efforts to cultivate a vibrant bike and pedestrian culture can have far reaching quality of life and economic benefits for the entire region. The sessions and panels include guests from the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, as well as notable bike-friendly communities such as Davis, CA and Bentonville, AR. The three main sessions are: 1). Overview of Regional Trail Projects; 2). Benefits of Building a Bike and Pedestrian Culture; and 3). How to Build a Bike and Pedestrian Culture.

The Summit will also provide detailed information about the extensive MCT Trails system (including future projects), the Agency for Community Transit (ACT) Community Action Grants Program, Metro East Park and Recreation District (MEPRD) grant programs, St. Clair County Transit District Trails, and Great Rivers Greenway projects on the Missouri side. The Summit concludes at the end of the day with an optional bus tour of MCT Trails facilities.

“The MCT Trails system is already making a positive impact on our communities and has made Madison County unique in the region,” said MCT Managing Director SJ Morrison. “This Summit not only gives MCT an opportunity to highlight what we’ve built and what we’re working on, but also to discuss how communities can enhance their access to the MCT Trails and leverage bike and walkability to improve the quality of life while enhancing the local economy.”

While direct invitations have been sent to local officials, members of the public who are interested in learning more or helping to build a bike/ped culture in their community, are welcome to attend, but must register in advance, as seating is limited. To register, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mct-2022-trail-summit-registration-306024105337>

“The MCT Board of Trustees is committed to expanding and enhancing the MCT Trails system throughout Madison County,” said Morrison. “We’re looking forward to bringing everyone together at this Summit to cast a vision for how this network of trails can positively transform our communities.”

For more information about the MCT 2022 Trail Summit, please email [ecarrow@mct.org](mailto:ecarrow@mct.org) or visit [www.mcttrails.org](http://www.mcttrails.org).

*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 curb-to-curb service. MCT is also responsible for the construction and maintenance of more than 137 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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