

*Madison County Transit adds bus trips St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri) July 2, 2008  
Wednesday*

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St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

July 2, 2008 Wednesday  
THIRD EDITION

**SECTION:** METRO; Pg. B7

**LENGTH:** 266 words

**HEADLINE:** Madison County Transit adds bus trips

**BYLINE:** By Terry Hillig St. Louis Post-Dispatch

**DATELINE:** HIGHLAND

**BODY:**

Madison County Transit will add three trips both mornings and evenings on its Highland Express route, where lately many rides have been standing-room-only.

**MCT officials said ridership has soared on the route, which provides commuter service from Highland, St. Jacob and Troy to MetroLink stations and downtown St. Louis.**

**Ridership on the route was up 25 percent in June compared with June 2007**, resulting in daily overloads and forcing dozens of riders to stand, officials said.

MCT Managing Director Jerry Kane said increased fuel prices have sparked a dramatic increase in demand for transit services.

"With fuel prices on the rise, demand for this premium service has outgrown capacity," Kane said. "Never in my career has the transit industry experienced this type of ridership growth."

Beginning Aug. 18, Highland Express buses will leave for St. Louis at 10-minute intervals for part of the morning with comparable return service in the afternoon. The route currently offers 15-minute departures.

MCT's director of marketing and planning, S.J. Morrison, said preliminary figures indicate an **unprecedented overall increase of 23 percent in the agency's bus ridership in June**, but no

other service adjustments are currently planned.

**Morrison said ridership was up 51 percent compared to a year ago on MCT's River Bend Express route, which serves Godfrey, Alton and downtown St. Louis. MCT increased service on that route in August, he said.**

Metro, which operates MetroLink trains and buses that serve most of the bistate region, reported a 9.5 percent ridership increase in May compared with May 2007.

**LOAD-DATE:** July 2, 2008

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Source: **Combined Source Set 3**  - US Newspapers

Terms: **bus and (ridership increases) or (increasing ridership or increased commuters) and not Asia and not Europe and not India and not China and not Mexico and date(geq (June 18, 2008) and leq (August 18, 2008))** ([Edit Search](#) | [Suggest Terms for My Search](#))

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Date/Time: Tuesday, August 19, 2008 - 12:22 AM EDT