



WHERE COMMUNITY AND SPIRIT MEET™

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*For Immediate Release*

## **Amtrak & Kirkwood Train Station Receive State Support in FY 2023 State Budget**

July 13, 2022

**Kirkwood, Missouri:** With Governor Mike Parson’s signature on House Bills 3004 and 3020, Amtrak and the Historic Kirkwood Train Station will receive state investment in travel and tourism and the first full renovation of the Historic Kirkwood Train Station since 1941.

House Bill 3004 includes \$13 million to bring back full Missouri River Runner Amtrak service across the state. This funding restores the Missouri River Runner service to two trains per day as it connects Kansas City to St. Louis with stops at eight cities in between. This is a much-needed investment in a unique transportation asset that connects communities across the state and generates \$208 million annually in economic activity, according to a 2021 Economic Impact Study conducted by the Missouri Department of Transportation.

House Bill 3020 makes historic investments in Missouri communities, among them \$2.5 million in state matching funding for the Historic Kirkwood Train Station. This federal money distributed by the state is in addition to the private funds raised by the Historic Train Station Foundation and the \$1.5 million Transportation Alternatives Grant from the East-West Gateway Council of Governments awarded in 2021 for the estimated \$5 million project.

These funds will support various interior and exterior renovations to the train station such as; a new roof, heating and cooling system, window and door restoration, ADA-compliant restrooms and ticket counter, and an accessory storage building, as well as a covered exterior platform, similar to the original platform, for train passengers. Together these investments will promote commercial and residential development and encourage more efficient mobility options in our community and others.

“We are grateful for the support of our State Representatives Dean Plocher, Barbara Phifer, and all of our legislative partners who played an integral role in making this happen for our community,” said Mayor Tim Griffin. “We are also very grateful for the work of Council Member Liz Gibbons who worked with the local and state Chambers of Commerce, the Missouri Rail Advisory Committee, and various others to demonstrate how critical these investments are to our community and local economies, and we’re thankful for the support of the Governor and State Legislature.”

Community members are invited to join Kirkwood City Council and staff to celebrate the return of the round-trip Amtrak service at 8:30 am on Monday, July 18, 2022, at the Kirkwood Train Station.

More information about the renovations to the Historic Kirkwood Train Station can be found online at [www.kirkwoodtrainstationfoundation.org](http://www.kirkwoodtrainstationfoundation.org).

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