



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 7, 2018

Media Contact: Donna Mandelbaum, KC Streetcar Authority, 816.627.2526,
dmandelbaum@kcstreetcar.org

THE KC STREETCAR MARKS ITS SECOND ANNIVERSARY

Ridership Exceeds 4 Million Passenger Trips in Two Years

(Kansas City, Missouri) - Sunday, May 6, 2018, marked the KC Streetcar's second anniversary, or birthday, in downtown Kansas City.

Two years earlier, the downtown KC Streetcar service opened to much fanfare after five years of planning, designing and construction. With four vehicles and 2.2 miles of route, the KC Streetcar completed 4,037,499 trips since opening day.

"In two short years, downtown residents, employees, and visitors have embraced the KC Streetcar and have ridden at record numbers. The transformation of downtown and the excitement it generated is nothing but remarkable," said Tom Gerend, executive director of KC Streetcar Authority. "We thank Kansas City and greater downtown, including our partners with the City of Kansas City and the KC Area Transportation Authority for the amazing support and believe the best is yet to come," continued Gerend.

During the first two years of service, the KC Streetcar traveled 257,840 miles and logged 32,550 vehicle hours. The KC Streetcar team (operations and maintenance) has 30 employees who keep the streetcar running 7 days a week, 365 days a year. In addition to providing free, reliable and efficient public transit, the KC Streetcar also supports local businesses, events and the arts community by supporting programs such as Art in the Loop, National Travel & Tourism Week, Downtown Dazzle, Tech Week, etc.

The KC Streetcar is not the only thing seeing an increase in numbers. Downtown Kansas City is also booming. Since the downtown streetcar project was approved by the voters, there has been more than \$2.1 billion dollars invested in the Greater Downtown Kansas City area, with more than \$1.1 billion still planned. This includes residential, commercial, retail and hotel developments. Other downtown growth facts include:

- 25,078 residents
- 16,630 residential units (this includes multi-family and single-family homes)
- 90,595 employees
- 2,221 hotel rooms

"The KC Streetcar has continued to make a positive impact in the City Market," said Deb Churchill, City Market property manager. "Our tenants saw an increase in sales the first year of service and the momentum has continued. The Streetcar has proven to be instrumental in creating a connectivity with downtown and the Crossroads that we had been lacking for years," continued Churchill.

The KC Streetcar has made a difference for visitors, employees, businesses and residents. "I work in the Crossroads Arts District and live in Columbus Park. Every day I walk from home to the City Market streetcar stop and take the streetcar to the Kauffman Center stop. Having the streetcar has allowed my family to support public transit and become a one-car family," said AJ Harbison, downtown resident.

Since streetcar service began, there has been at least twenty new businesses pop-up along or near the Main Street route. "We opened a year ago in the City Market and the KC Streetcar has been instrumental for our business," said Robin Luther, owner of Hawthorne 109. "The streetcar connects our boutique to people who live and work downtown with the convenience of having a stop at 5th & Main," continued Luther.

As response to the demand in ridership, the KC Streetcar Authority ordered two more streetcar vehicles for the downtown route. Those vehicles should arrive in 2019. Additionally, the KC Streetcar Authority, along with the City of Kansas City, the KC Area Transportation Authority and Port KC, are planning for future streetcar extensions north towards Berkley Riverfront as well as south to UMKC. More information on both of those projects can be found on the KC Streetcar website.

For KC Streetcar inquiries, contact Donna Mandelbaum with the KC Streetcar Authority at 816.627.2526 (office), 816.877.3219 (cell) or by email at dmandelbaum@kcstreetcar.org. The KC Streetcar is also online at www.kcstreetcar.org and on Twitter (@kcstreetcar), Facebook (@kcstreetcar) and Instagram.

###