PedNet’s vision is towns built for people, where it’s easy to walk, bike, and ride transit, and everyone can get where they want to go.

PedNet’s mission is to provide walking, biking, and transit solutions to meet people’s everyday transportation needs.

**Who is PedNet?**

**Annette Triplett | CEO**
Annette decided to buy her first house within a 2-mile radius of her office so she could walk to work. Her easy commute each day reminded her that not everyone has the privilege of choosing where they live. Annette sees transportation as the great connector to everything we want and need.

**Lawrence Simonson | Chief Strategy Officer**
Lawrence’s first job required a 40-minute drive that focused his attention on how many people are held back when having to own and drive a car is the only option. Lawrence believes that when a transportation system serves the needs of the most vulnerable people, it works best for everyone.

**Heather Marriott | Community Engagement Director**
Heather started biking and using public transit to get where she wanted to go after she sold her car. Heather wants to help more people understand that transportation access is critical to breaking the cycle of poverty.

**Erica Ascani | Communications Coordinator**
Erica discovered her lifelong passion for the environment and social change while studying conservation at Virginia Tech. Erica wants to build deep and lasting connections to our community and environment.

**Kathleen McKinney | Operations Manager**
Kathleen is from a rural community with no real alternatives to driving, and has found it very eye-opening to notice how much transportation impacts our lives. Kathleen wants to make sure everyone has accessible and affordable transportation options no matter where they live.

**Ron Bentch | Project Director | MRT**
Ron worked for years as a construction contractor in rural Missouri, but one night was woken by his wife, saying, “Contracting is going to kill you!” Ron now uses the community-building skills he developed as a missionary to help leaders who want to improve walking, biking, and transit options for all.

**Michael Amantea | Community Engagement Specialist | MRT**
Originally from the suburbs of St. Louis, Michael felt driven to make a positive contribution to society, so he joined MRT. He builds connections to fight for transportation choices so vulnerable people can meet their needs.

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Hey, Striker here! You may have seen my person, Angela, at PedNet events or behind the counter at Cyclex. Any activity promising the wind through my hair, and you can count me in. Riding the bike boulevard in my chariot is the perfect way to de-stress after a trip to the vet. And don’t get me started on the MKT trail. I LOVE the trail. Not only does it take me to Twin Lakes where I can romp with my friends, but it’s also a safe place to run with Angela. I mean, I know I’m cute all the time, but you should see me on the go.
Your PedNet Membership at Work

ADVOCACY

Hinkson Creek Trail extension (Stephens Lake Park to Clark Lane)

We advocated for this 1.1-mile trail that will extend the trail system farther north and pass under I-70. This connection will provide an important link for trail users to north Columbia.

Consulting

We provide technical assistance to communities around the state to help ensure that their kids can grow up healthy. In September, we attended a ribbon cutting for a new skatepark in Willow Springs, MO.

Neighborhood Grassroots Organizing

This was the first year of our grassroots organizing work in Columbia’s Vision Zero Priority Neighborhoods. We identified community leaders, surveyed residents about their transportation needs, and identified infrastructure that needs to be added or repaired so everyone can get where they want to go.

Transit

We are members of CoMo Transit Justice, a group of concerned people and organizations that advocate for a more just transit system in Columbia.

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Events

Virtual Bike, Walk & Wheel Week

Bike, Walk & Wheel Week looked a little different this year, but we still helped get people outside to walk their dogs, hike, play, and even wash their bikes!

Hindman Junction IPL

PedNet and Sudwerk Brewing came together to create this limited edition “Hindman Junction” beer to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the Katy Trail. The beer’s namesake, Darwin Hindman, was one of PedNet’s founders and a staunch trail advocate.

Giving Rides

This is Emma Jean.

She is 95. This former Mizzou librarian still lives in the house she built with her late husband, enjoys reading, drinking a glass of wine every day, and baking treats for visitors! Emma Jean lives near the new Shepard to Rollins Trail. When her neighbors told her there was a chance she could visit the new trail on our Giving Rides bike, her eyes lit up. For a few minutes, she was able to leave her walker behind and feel the wind in her hair.
Complete Streets is a policy to ensure that streets are designed for all forms of transportation, including people walking and biking. In 2004, PedNet led Columbia to be the first Missouri city to adopt Complete Streets.

Missourians for Responsible Transportation (MRT)

PedNet is a founding organization of MRT, an advocacy network addressing transportation needs at the state level. MRT is based out of PedNet’s office. Together we are raising the voices of Missourians to state legislators and policymakers.

Walking School Bus

PedNet operated the nation’s largest Walking School Bus program from 2005-2013.

Vision Zero is a policy and data-driven strategy to eliminate all traffic deaths and serious injuries. In 2016, PedNet led Columbia to adopt the first Vision Zero policy in Missouri and one of the first in a small US city.

What a year for walking, cycling, and getting outdoors as we all try to be safe and healthy—physically and emotionally. I am so thankful for our trails and grateful for the significant contributions of PedNet. Trails are popular once they are in but many would not be built without the support and leadership of PedNet.”

- Axie Hindman, advocating with PedNet since 2000

Missourians for Responsible Transportation (MRT)

PedNet is a founding organization of MRT, an advocacy network addressing transportation needs at the state level. MRT is based out of PedNet’s office. Together we are raising the voices of Missourians to state legislators and policymakers.

“You guys really do a lot of good for the community and make Columbia a place I have been happy to be born and raised in. The Walking School Bus was one of the best parts of my week as a kid.”

— Veronica Fritz, Walking School Bus student and PedNet member since 2005
Our Core Values at Work

**We are advocates, not activists.**
We are transportation professionals with data-driven, research-based policy positions.

![City of Columbia](image)
Our CEO, Annette Triplett, advocated to City Council for Columbia’s first protected bike lane.

**We prioritize equity.**
Transportation affects everyone, but it doesn’t affect everyone equally. We focus our efforts on raising the voices of people who may be overlooked in transportation decision-making.

![Community Engagement Director](image)
Community Engagement Director, Heather, spoke to the Disabilities Commission about our neighborhood-based grassroots organizing project.

**We make very intentional, data-driven decisions.**
We make no decision lightly. We research, analyze, discuss, debate, and finally come to a strategic conclusion.

![Bike lane design](image)
When Ash St. was repaved, we shared a better bike lane design that would have created a safer, parking-protected bike lane at no additional cost.

**We practice what we preach.**
We live the mission by getting around town by walking, biking, or riding the bus.

![Bike rack](image)
We needed more bike parking for our growing team. We installed new bike racks that can hold up to 16 bikes!

**We do good work.**
We are reliable, follow through on what we say we’ll do, and produce quality work.

![Bike rack](image)
We’ve advocated for every single trail proposed in Columbia since 2000. This year, we successfully advocated for the first phase of the Perche Creek Trail.

**We operate like a business because we are a business.**
We diversify our income, keep clean financial records, and are transparent with our donors.

![Small Business of the Year](image)
This year we were a Small Business of the Year Finalist!

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**Finances**

**Does my $100 (or $1,000 or $10,000) really matter?**
Sometimes people wonder if their donation actually matters in comparison to grant funding. Grants almost always come at a cost. Grants rarely cover the full expenses of the project they’re funding, which leaves a big financial gap. Accepting a grant usually means losing money. If PedNet is awarded a $200,000 grant, we need to raise an additional $10,000 just to cover our costs. Your $100 (or $1,000 or $10,000) allows us to fill this gap.

When you make a donation, you support PedNet’s advocacy work, give us the flexibility to be responsive to issues as they come up, and make it possible for us to accept larger sources of income. We couldn’t do any of this without your help.

**Didn’t PedNet get a big $28 million grant a few years ago?**
We wish! In 2005, PedNet helped win a federal grant for non-motorized transportation. The funding went to the City of Columbia, not PedNet, and created GetAbout Columbia, a program housed within the City. Through the grant, the City of Columbia has built trails, sidewalks, and bike lanes, and offered bike education classes.
Missourians for Responsible Transportation (MRT) is an advocacy network addressing transportation needs at the state level. MRT is led by PedNet and three other advocacy organizations, and is based out of the PedNet office. Together we are raising the voices of Missourians to state legislators and policymakers.

**Distracted Driving Legislation**
Missouri is one of only two states that don’t have a law that bans texting and driving for all drivers. Missouri is also one of only nine states that don’t have a law requiring that phones and other devices be used only in hands-free mode while driving. MRT started the Hands Free Missouri Coalition, which includes 15 different organizations that support hands-free legislation and laws against texting while driving.

**Rock Island Trail**
This proposed 144-mile statewide trail would connect to the Katy Trail and create a world-class 450-mile trail loop. When the future of the Rock Island Trail was under threat, MRT was instrumental in changing Missouri State Parks’ position on the trail. Missouri State Parks has now signed an interim trail agreement, giving MRT and a coalition of other organizations until 2021 to raise $10 million, ensuring the trail will be built as a State Park.

**Rural Towns**
MRT is a resource for Missouri towns that want to have a fiscally responsible transportation system that serves the needs of their community members. This year alone, MRT worked with 24 rural towns across the state.

**Missourians would support a hands-free driving law**

**Community & Member Highlights**

**This is Caritas.**
She is one of the neighborhood leaders working with us in Columbia’s Vision Zero Priority Neighborhoods. Caritas moved to Columbia as a refugee from Rwanda 26 years ago. She is a mother, translator, caretaker, driver, social worker, and support system for over 100 African refugees in Columbia. Caritas doesn’t get paid for the countless hours she spends helping her community. In fact, she works nights to be free during the day to help the people she empathizes with so much. Refugees that come to the United States are given three months of financial help and then are expected to know how to support themselves, including their own transportation to jobs, appointments, and basic needs.

We wanted Caritas to be one of our neighborhood leaders because she spends hours every week, using her own money, driving fellow refugees around Columbia. Some refugees are people with disabilities, some can’t get their license due to language barriers, others have emergencies that public transit can’t accommodate. The transportation issues within Caritas’ community are tough and complex. But we’re determined to help her and the people that she serves because if you learn a few things from talking with Caritas, it’s determination, kindness, and an assurance that anything can be done.

**Jesse Estevez | PedNet Member since 2017**
“I commuted from Columbia to a company in Macon, MO for 17 years. I was hired at an entry level and worked my way into senior management. We got a new General Manager who reorganized the corporate structure and as a result I was laid off - 17 years gone in a morning!

I was lucky enough to find a new job one week after I got let go. After 17 years of commuting my plan was immediate - get a bike and ride it to work. So that is what I did.

Before my first day I looked up PedNet and started donating monthly. You advocate for something that helped save me from some troubling times - you helped get me reconnected to nature and off the 1 hour commute.

I took a temporary pay cut during COVID-19. But I still gave and will continue to give monthly to PedNet to say thanks for your work and help further the cause.”
**Upcoming Projects**

- Advocate for an update to Columbia’s outdated Complete Streets policy to create streets safe for everyone
- Partner with CoMo Transit Justice to advocate for improvements to Columbia’s transit system
- Raise up the voices of people in Columbia’s Vision Zero Priority Neighborhoods, so their transportation needs are heard
- Pass state-level distracted driving legislation (Missourians for Responsible Transportation)

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**Join Nearly 8,000 PedNet Members**

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**All membership levels:**

- Our team of advocates representing you at the local, state, and federal levels
- Advocacy Alerts about urgent policy issues and how you can help
- PedNet email newsletter with updates on current projects
- Invitations to Member-only events

**Impact of Your Investment:**

- Bolster advocacy for expanding Columbia’s trail system
- Invest in kids walking to school through advocacy for filling gaps in the sidewalk network
- Ensure bike commuting is safe by supporting advocacy for protected bike lanes
- Give the experience of a Giving Rides bike ride to older adults and people with disabilities
- Attract and retain young professionals by growing community support for transportation options
- Build thriving businesses by supporting advocacy for walkable and bikeable places