

# Managing Urban – Rural Transit Transitions

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# Manhattan, Kansas UZA Example



**Problem:** Rural transit agencies lack capacity to ramp up for the requirements that come with Urbanized Area Funding.

**Solution:** KDOT provided funding and resources to the transit agency and City of Manhattan to prepare them for the transition.

## Manhattan, Kansas Region

*Home to:*

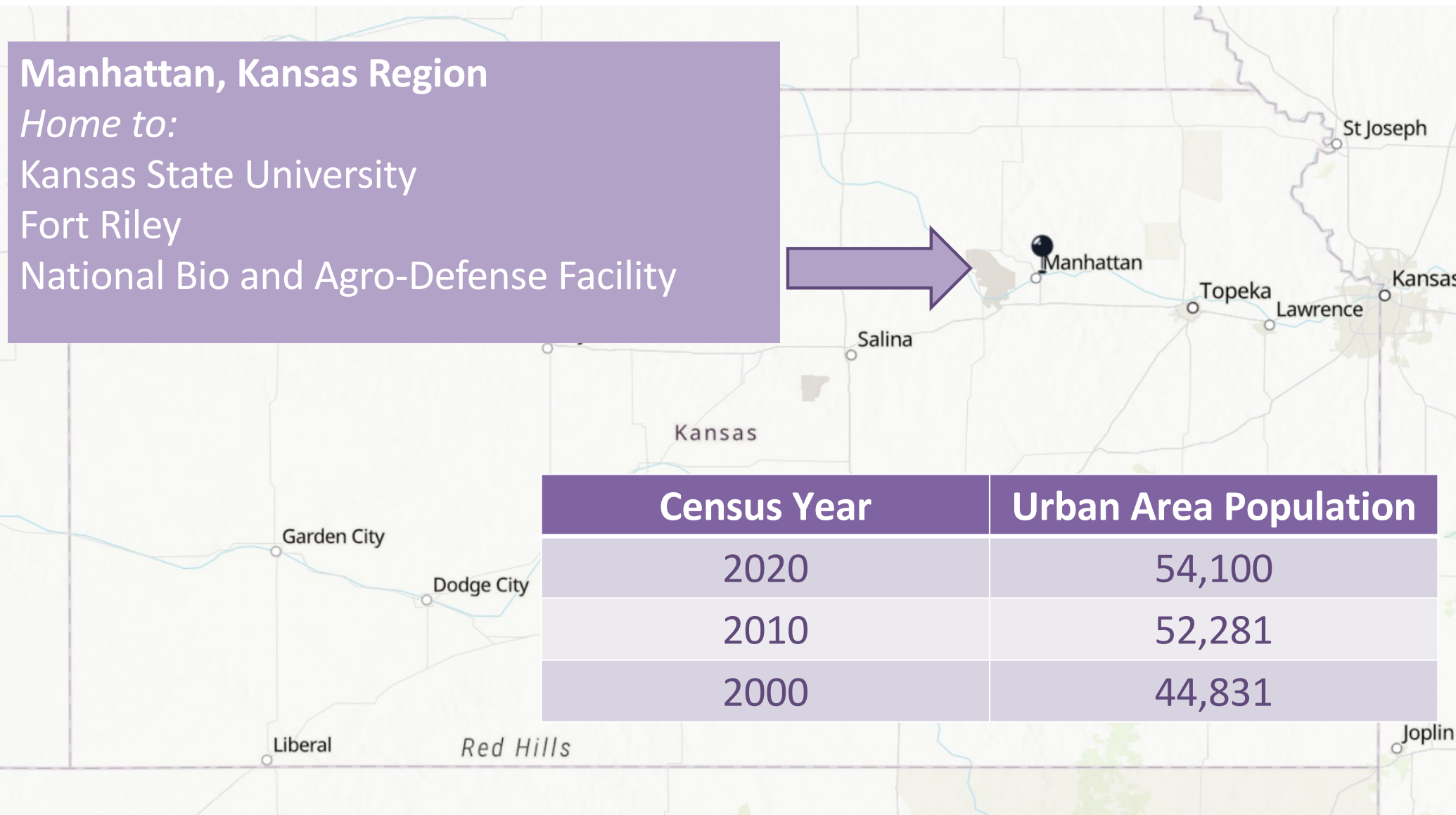
Kansas State University

Fort Riley

National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility



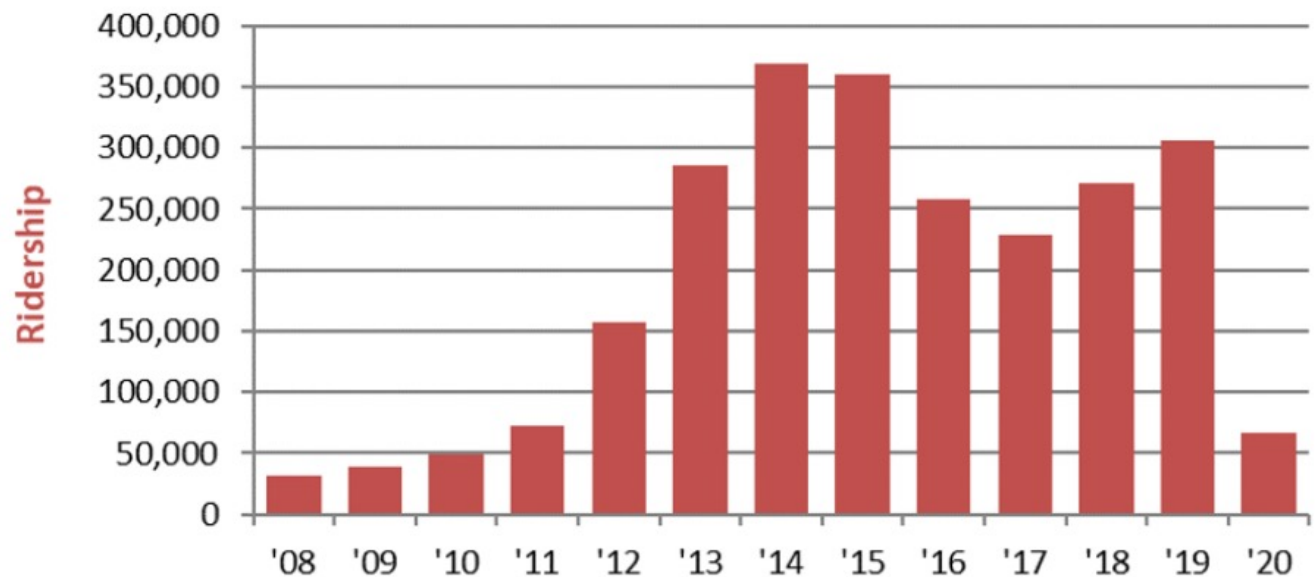
Census Year	Urban Area Population
2020	54,100
2010	52,281
2000	44,831



# Flint Hills (Riley County) ATA

## Annual Ridership

The Flint Hills Area Transportation Agency (ATA or aTa Bus) has been providing public transportation in the Flint Hills since 1976.



Source: Flint Hills MPO

# Making the Transition

KDOT Public Transportation staff started working with the agency in 2007 to begin preparations for a transition to 5307 for some or all the service area.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was a huge help - the agency got a new transit facility and cutaway vehicles



# Key Takeaways on the Transition!

- The "map" was important! They had a regional service area...what would be 5311 and what would be 5307 funded.
- Planning for a fixed route service in the urbanized area...this took funding from KDOT before the transition to 5307
- Designated Recipient Status – needed staff capacity!
- Governance and Coordination – two boards and coordination with the MPO
- City of Manhattan funding has always been a challenge

# Regional Coordination & Mobility Management

The greater region (both urban and rural) partners with KDOT on funding for a mobility manager. This has improved the relationship between regional transit agencies



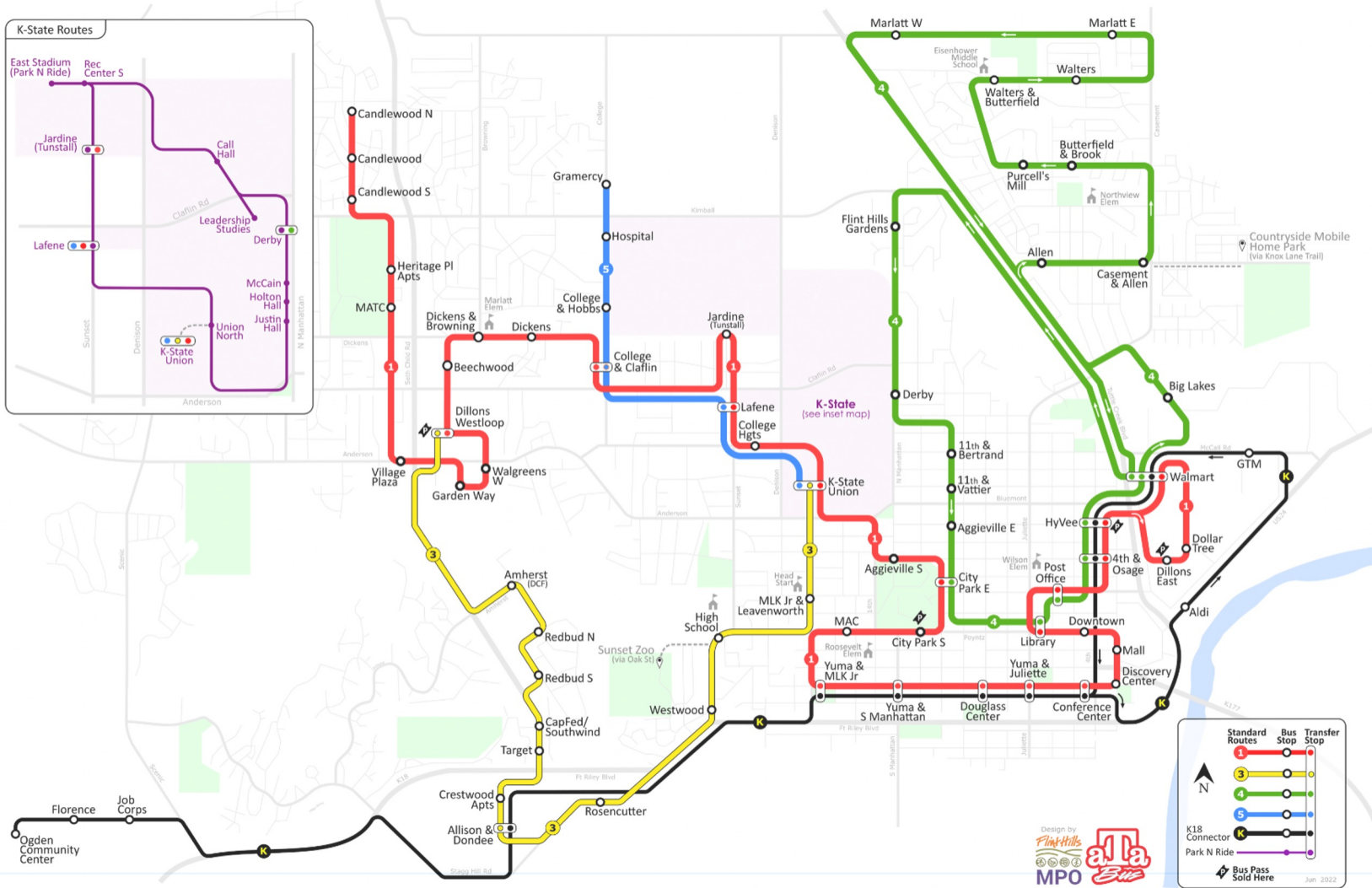
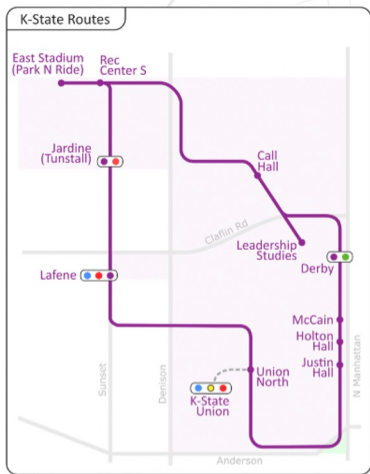
The advertisement features a blue sky background with green trees and a purple and white bus. The bus has 'aTla Bus' and 'GENERAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION' written on it, along with the phone number '785-537-6345'. The text 'FLINT HILLS TRAVEL TRAINING PROGRAM' is prominently displayed in the center. Logos for 'Kansas mobility' and 'aTla Bus' are in the top corners.

**FLINT HILLS  
TRAVEL TRAINING PROGRAM**

Our expert travel trainer is your partner in removing community barriers by helping passengers travel independently, safely, and confidently. If you are unfamiliar with transit options, need help with schedules/paperwork, or need any other assistance please contact our travel trainer, Mike Wilson at 785-422-5657.







**Standard Routes**

- 1 (Red)
- 3 (Yellow)
- 4 (Green)
- 5 (Blue)

**Bus Stop**

**Transfer Stop**

**K18 Connector**

**Park N Ride**

**Bus Pass Sold Here**

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# Continuous Improvement!

- New website and enhanced marketing!
- New Bus Shelters – design by KSU students
- Figuring out Fort Riley
- Resilience!

