

# Justin E. Chick

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## Biography

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I come from a digital marketing and journalism background, both of which shine through in every venture I embark upon. Holding a BA in Public Relations, I'm familiar with traditional media outlets, but being a geek at heart I've successfully transferred those principles into the digital realm.

Throughout my career, I've been privileged to have worked with organizations of sizes ranging from locally owned and operated small businesses to nationally recognized brands. This has truly afforded me a unique experience and helped galvanize my understanding that in this day and age, cookie-cutter solutions just don't cut it.

Above all, I believe in building relationships. Take for instance the relationship I've built with the St. Louis community via my love, interest, and devotion to public transportation. Perhaps no other urban activity connects more neighbors with each other and more neighbors with their community than public transportation - it truly is the lifeblood of the urban environment.

Transit Turning Point, a blog which I started in January of 2011, I share many of my views on the state of public transit in the St. Louis region. After being engaged in the transit community, I couldn't help but note transit riders themselves being omitted from many discussions. This prompted myself along with fellow bloggers and urbanists alike to form the Transit Riders Union of St. Louis.

Though hardly a year in age, the Transit Riders Union has been well received by Metro St. Louis administration and the community at large. We've had numerous small victories all enabling us to become a vehicle for change guided by the community and reflecting those communal needs.

I hold seats on Mayor Slay's Vanguard Cabinet's Transit Committee, Citizens for Modern Transit's Riders Advocacy Committee, and have spoken on Transit Oriented Development at City Affair alongside representatives from Metro, Citizens for Modern Transit and the City of Maryland Heights' Urban Planning Department.

Whether I'm working with a local business developing their Internet presence or examining and strengthening the regions public transit system, it's all for the same goal of improving our community through stronger, healthier relationships.