

Metro Ridership Snapshot

March 2020



Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

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Rail Ridership



Bus Ridership



Parking Utilization



[Online Ridership Data Portal](#)

Note: Bus ridership data shown in this report for March 2020 is based on the farebox system only, and drops to near-zero beginning in late March when fares were waived and rear-door boarding began. Metro is still able to monitor bus ridership using raw data from Automatic Passenger Counters installed on both front and rear doors. Future monthly reports will include some estimates using this data source.

More ridership data related to COVID-19 is available on www.wmata.com/covidstats

Note: all percentage changes in this document represent year-over-year changes in farebox-based ridership, compared to the same time, location, and day type last year. For more details, see [How to Use and Interpret Metro Ridership Data](#)

Overall Ridership in March

▪ Severe impacts from COVID-19

- Monthly totals shown here are net result of a steep decline in ridership over the month

▪ Rail

- First week of month: up 3%
- Last week of month: down 92%
- Stations closed, reduced hours + frequencies

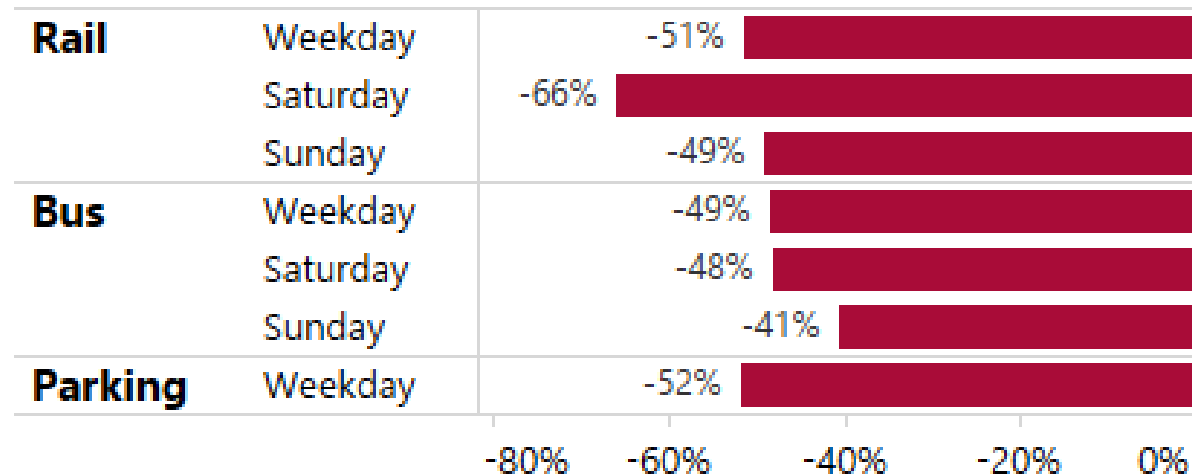
▪ Bus

- First week of month: up 3%
- Last week of month: down 75%
- Reduced hours + frequencies, fares waived beginning March 24
- *Note: This report and the online portal show bus farebox data only*

▪ Parking

- First week of month: up 1%
- Last week of month: down 95%

March 2020 Change in Ridership



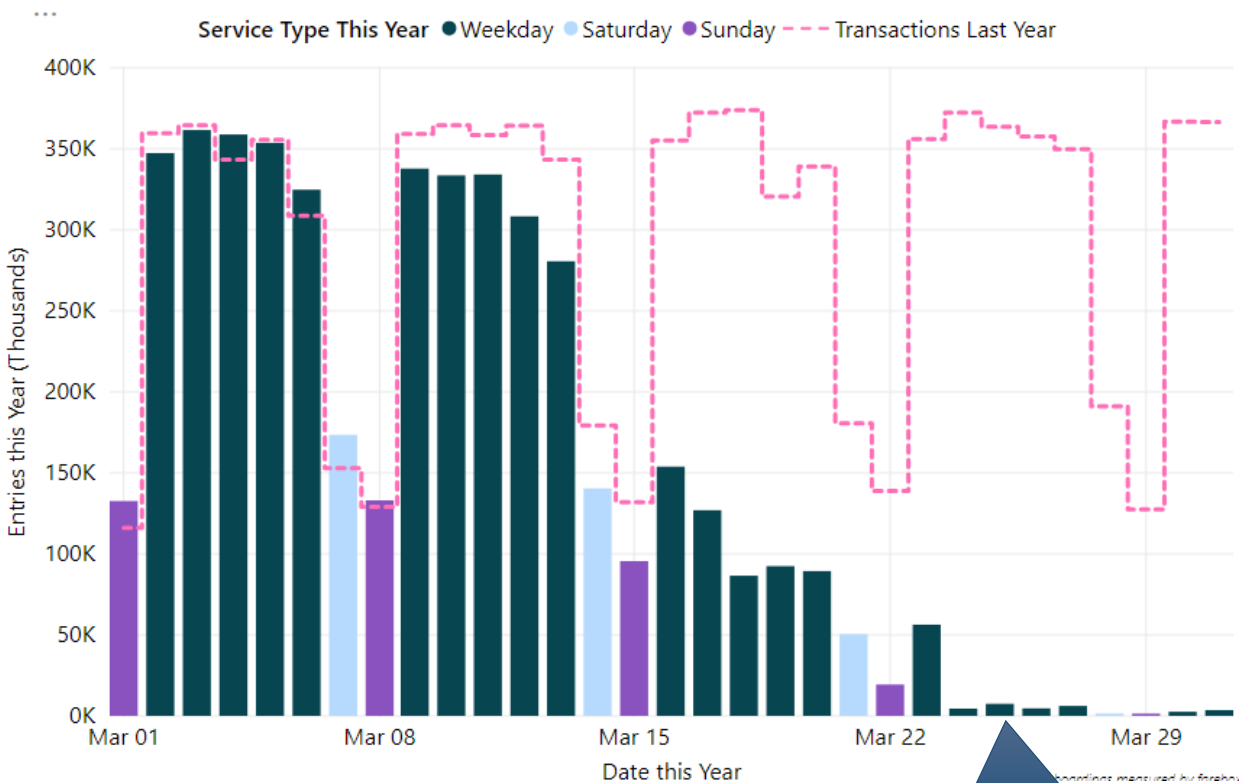
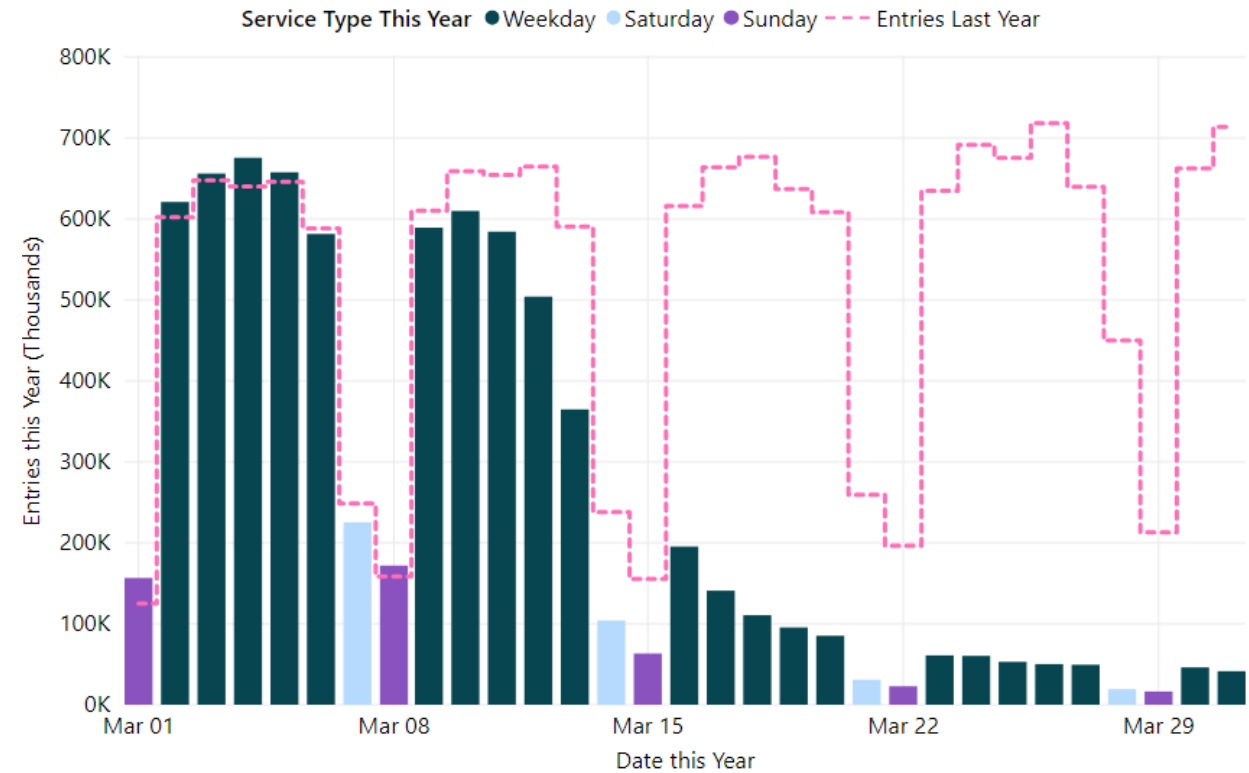
vs. March 2019

March 2020 Averages	Weekday	Saturday	Sunday
Rail	311,000	95,000	86,000
Bus	183,000	92,000	77,000
Parking	22,000		

Impacts to Farebox Ridership from COVID-19

Rail

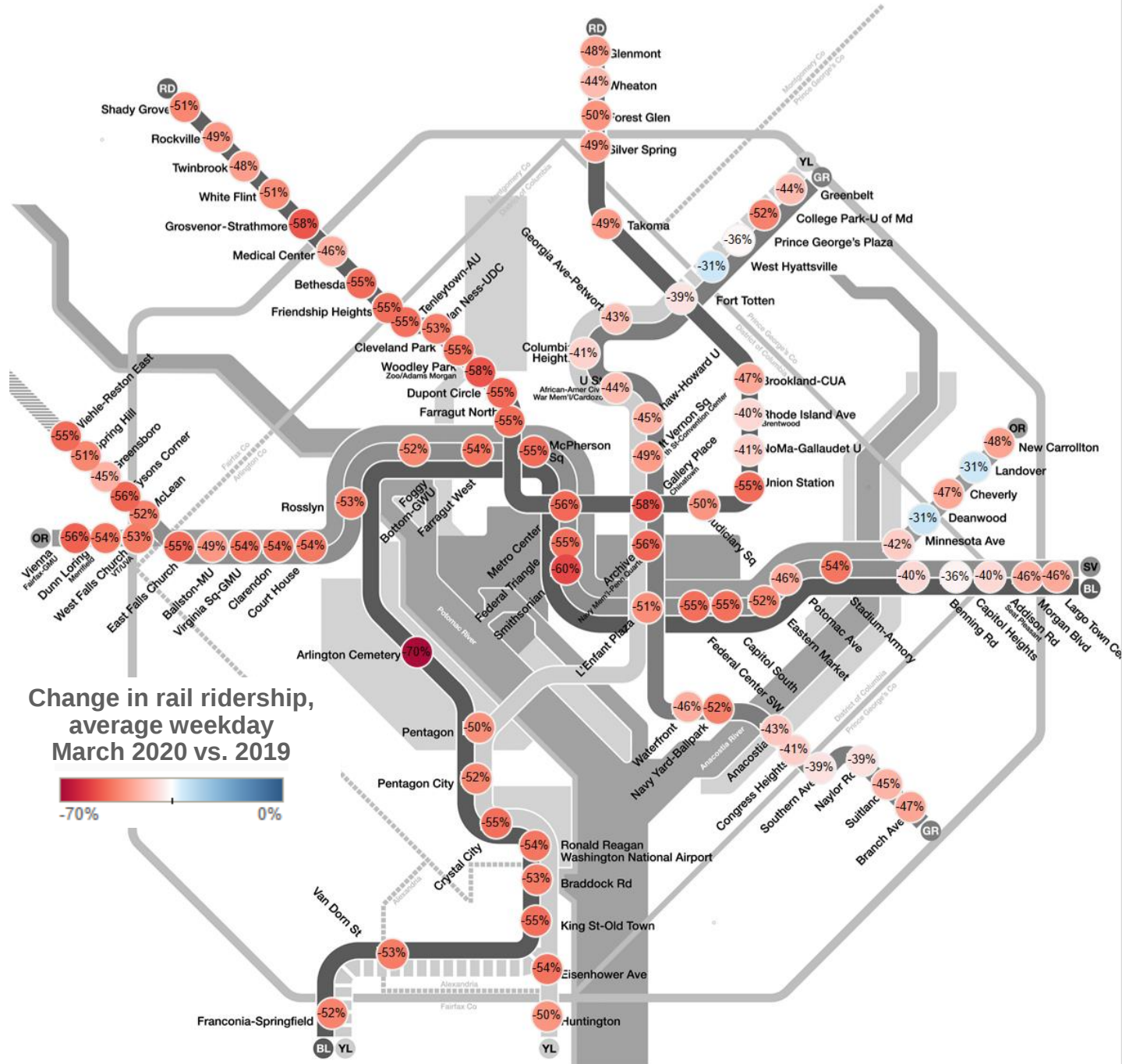
Bus



Rear-door boarding
began: Near-zero
farebox data

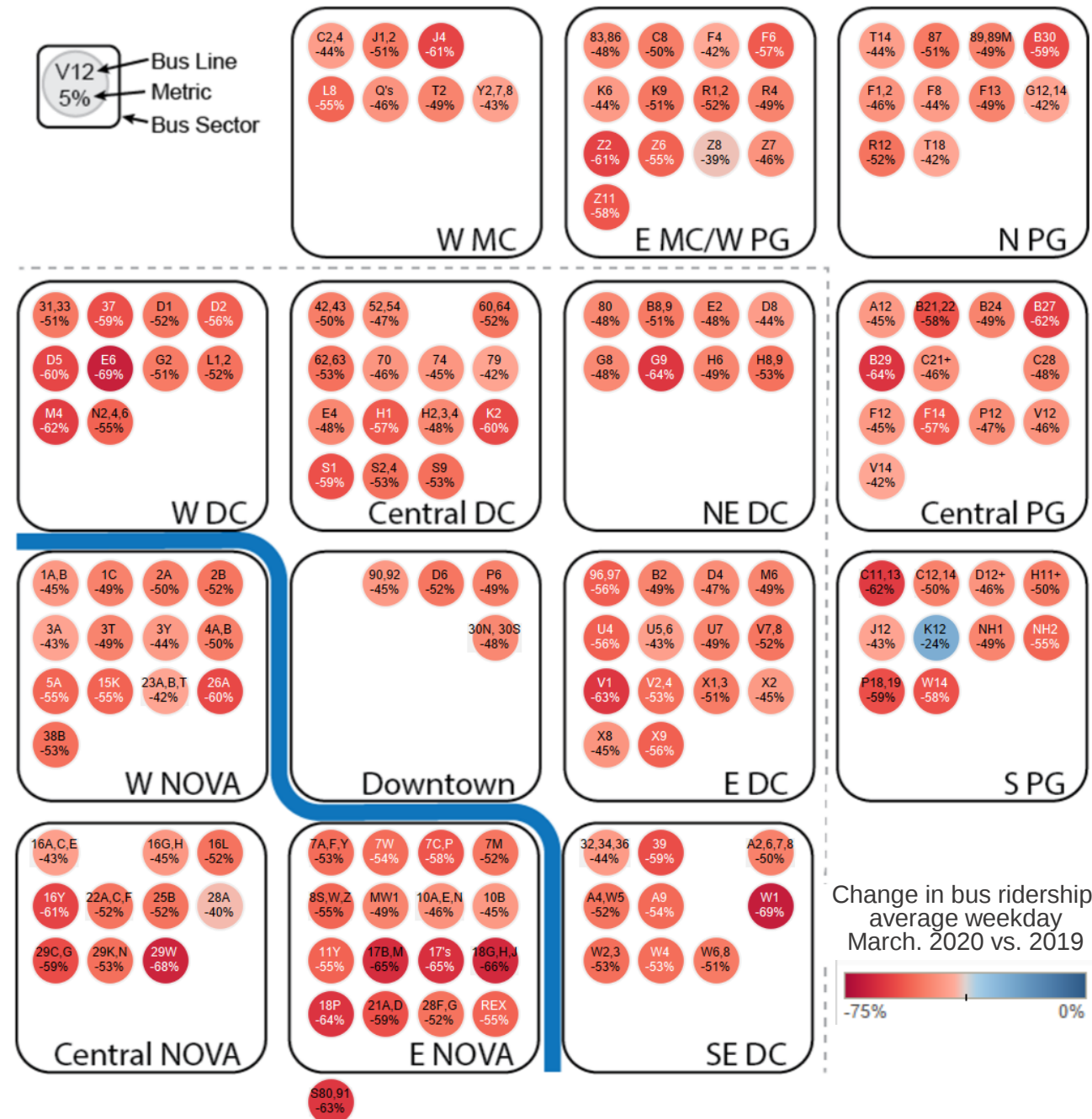
Metrorail Ridership

- **Ridership declined significantly due to COVID-19**
 - More persistent ridership on the eastern side of the region
 - The Green Line had the highest ridership retention of any line
- **Ridership declined significantly throughout the month**
 - Weekday ridership peaked at 675,000 on March 4, and declined to 41,000 by March 31
- **Notes:**
 - March 19: Smithsonian and Arlington Cemetery closed
 - March 26: 17 additional stations closed, plus some mezzanines
 - Significant reductions in frequencies and hours of operation



Metrobus Ridership

- **Weekday bus ridership fell 49% for the month**
 - First week of month: up 3%
 - Last week of month: down 75%
 - Rear-door boarding began March 24; farebox readings fall to near zero
- **Ridership in Prince George's County and Southeast DC dropped less, relatively**
- **Reductions in service began March 16th. By end of month:**
 - Approximately 50% of normal service operating
 - Weekdays operating Sunday Modified schedule (94 of 159 lines operating)
 - Weekends operating lifeline service only
 - Reduced hours of operation



Metro Parking Utilization

March 2020 Change in
Utilization, average weekday

- Overall utilization **35%**
 - Down from 73% last year
- Parking transactions **53% lower** than last year

