

# Metro Ridership Snapshot

March 2024



Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

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Note: Percentage changes in this document represent year-over-year changes in ridership, compared to the same time, location, and day type **one year ago** unless noted as ‘pre-pandemic’ which then represents a comparison to five years ago. For more details, see [How to Use and Interpret Metro Ridership Data](#).

Bus ridership shown here is from Metro’s automatic passenger counters (APCs), in both current and baseline months. Beginning September 2023, Metro shifted the method for processing APC data that is shown in this report. All historical data was reprocessed, and reports going back to July 2023 have been restated with the updated data. For Metrorail ridership prior to January 2023, Metro reported only tap ridership, which understated the total number of riders. The completion of the installation of new faregates in January 2023 enabled Metro to report total (tap and non-tap) ridership. As of January 2024, year-over-year and pre-pandemic comparisons on rail are made with total ridership. Prior to January 2024, these comparisons were made using tap-only ridership. Parking utilization is from the farebox system.



# Overall Ridership in March

## Total Ridership

- Compared to March 2023, ridership increased by 16% overall, 16% on weekdays, 17% on Saturdays, and 12% on Sundays.

## Rail

- Compared to March 2023, ridership increased by 24% overall, 20% on weekdays and Saturdays, and 11% on Sundays.

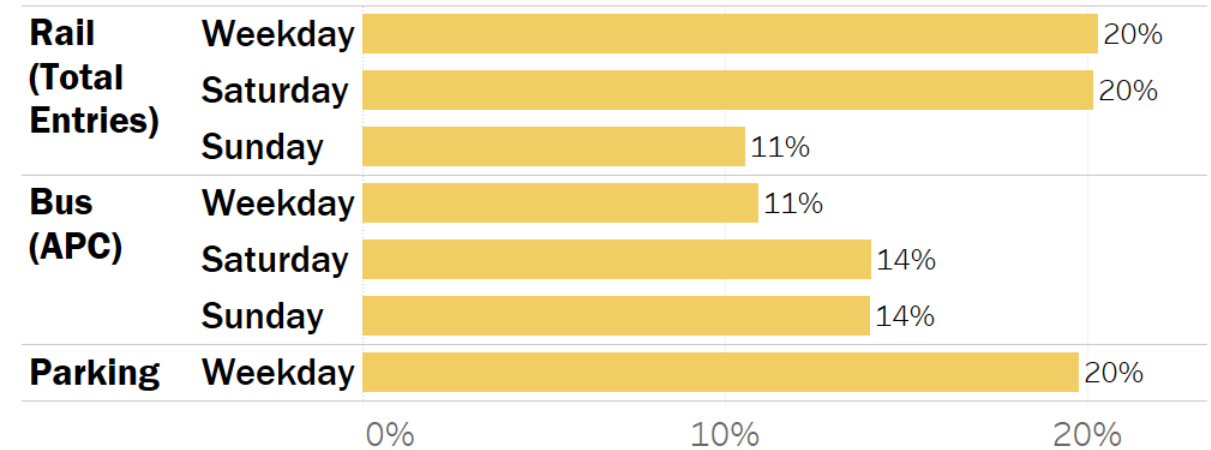
## Bus

- Ridership has increased 8% overall, 11% on weekdays and 14% on weekends compared to March 2023.

## Parking

- Usage has increased by 20% compared to March 2023.

vs. March 2023



March 2024 Averages	Weekday	Saturday	Sunday	Total Ridership
Rail (Tap Entries)	403,000	276,000	218,000	10,937,000
Rail (Total Entries)	428,000	294,000	234,000	11,623,000
Bus (APC)	372,000	225,000	190,000	9,848,000
Parking	21,000			436,000
MetroAccess	5,000	2,000	2,000	118,000



# Ridership Trends Over the Past Year

Riders Per Weekday

600,000

500,000

400,000

300,000

200,000

100,000

0

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

November

December

January

February

March

■ Metrobus

● Metrorail

— Weekly Average

- - - Weekly Average

2023

2024

Yellow Line reopened with turnback at Mt. Vernon Sq.

Peak Cherry Blossom bloom

Potomac Yard station opens

Red Line downtown shutdown began, ended 12/29

Thanksgiving Holiday

New Years Holiday

Peak Cherry Blossom bloom

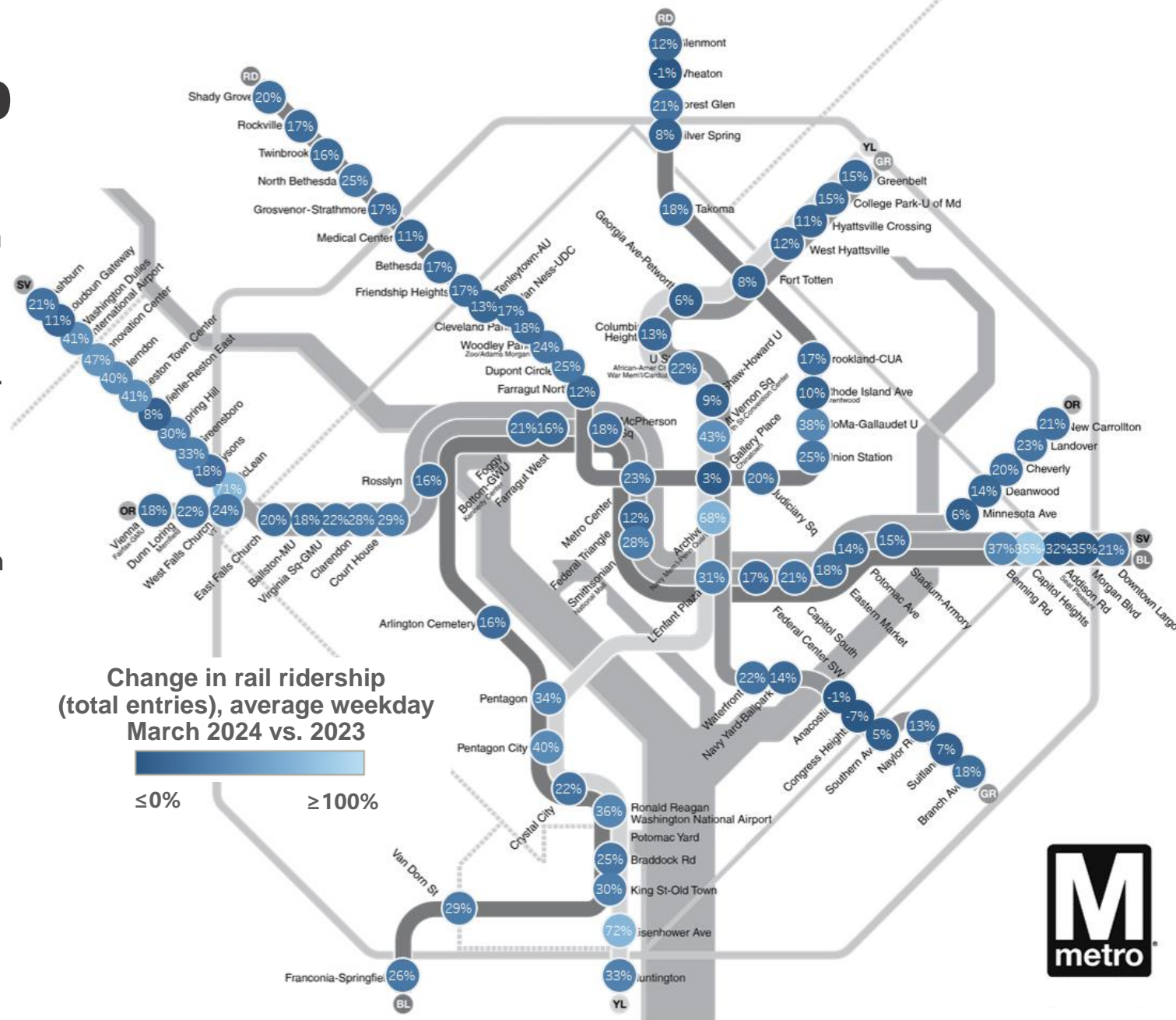
Metrorail  
(Total Entries)

Metrobus  
(APC)



# Metrorail Ridership

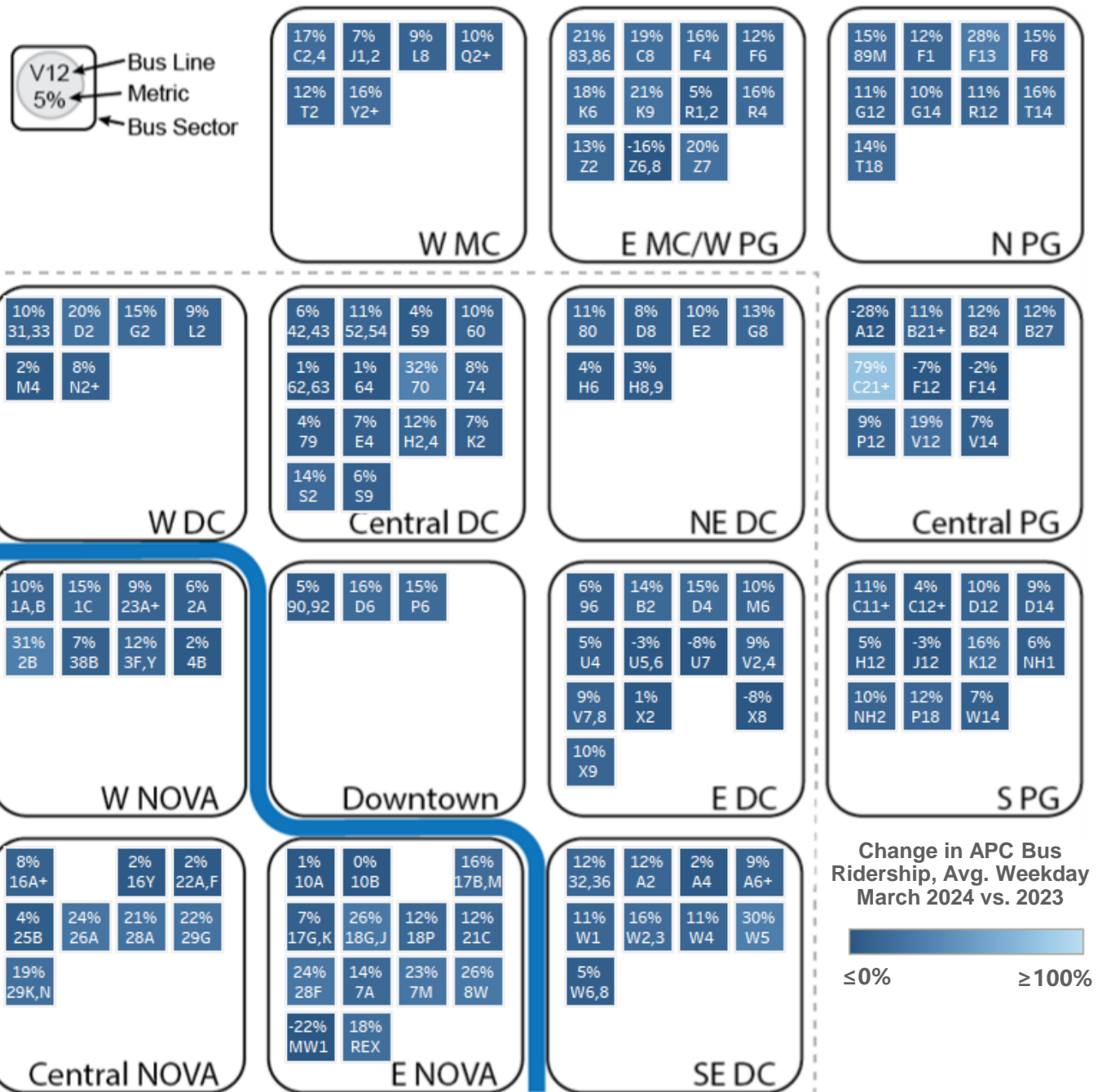
- Metrorail ridership is up 20% on weekdays and Saturdays and 11% on Sundays compared to March 2023.
- Less than 1% of customer time was crowded on average with most crowding occurring on weekdays.
- Notes:
  - Potomac Yard station opened on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023. In March, the station saw 1,500 entries per weekday. Since there is not year-over-year data for this station yet it does not appear on this map.
  - The Yellow Line Tunnel and Bridge Rehabilitation Project began 11/6/2022. There was no Yellow Line service between Pentagon and L'Enfant Plaza stations in March 2023. The Yellow Line remained suspended through May 2023, until these critical tunnel and bridge repairs were completed.



For more nuanced station information, additional data can be found on the [WMATA Ridership Data Portal](#).

# Metrobus Ridership

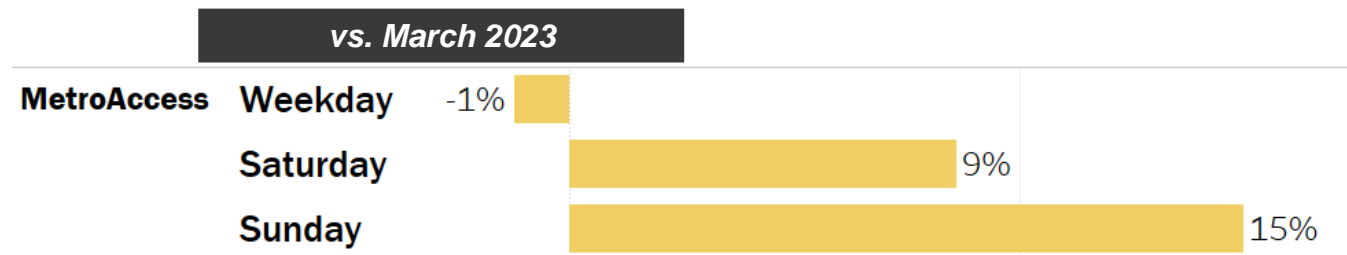
- Metrobus ridership is up 11% on weekdays and 14% on weekends compared to March 2023.
- About 3% of stop events were above crowding thresholds with more crowding on weekdays.
- There were approximately 20,000 total shuttle rides made in March 2024, serving customers on the Red Line between Grosvenor-Strathmore and Friendship Heights on the weekends of 3/9 - 3/10 and 3/16 – 3/17.



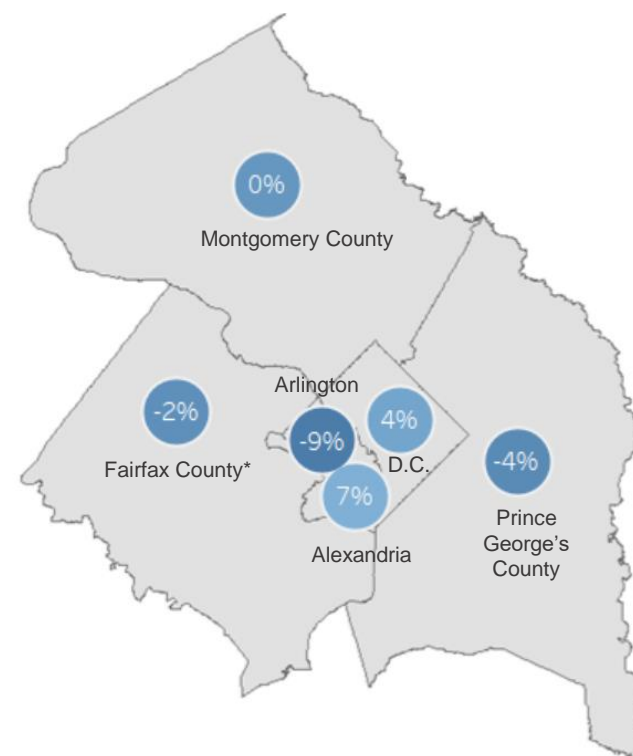
For more nuanced bus line information, additional data can be found on the [WMATA Ridership Data Portal](#). Bus ridership based on Automatic Passenger Counter data.

# MetroAccess Ridership

- In March 2024, MetroAccess provided on average 4,700 paratransit rides on weekdays, 1,900 on Saturdays, and 1,800 on Sundays.
- Ridership is down 1% on weekdays and up 9% -15% on weekends compared to March 2023.
- Notes:
  - This slide shows only rides made via our MetroAccess paratransit service. Trips provided through our Abilities-Ride program are not reflected in these numbers. MetroAccess-eligible customers' rail and bus rides are counted in overall rail and bus ridership.



Change in MetroAccess Ridership, Avg. Weekday  
March 2024 vs. 2023



\*Fairfax City and Falls Church are counted here as a part of Fairfax County



For more nuanced station information, additional data can be found on the [WMATA Ridership Data Portal](#).

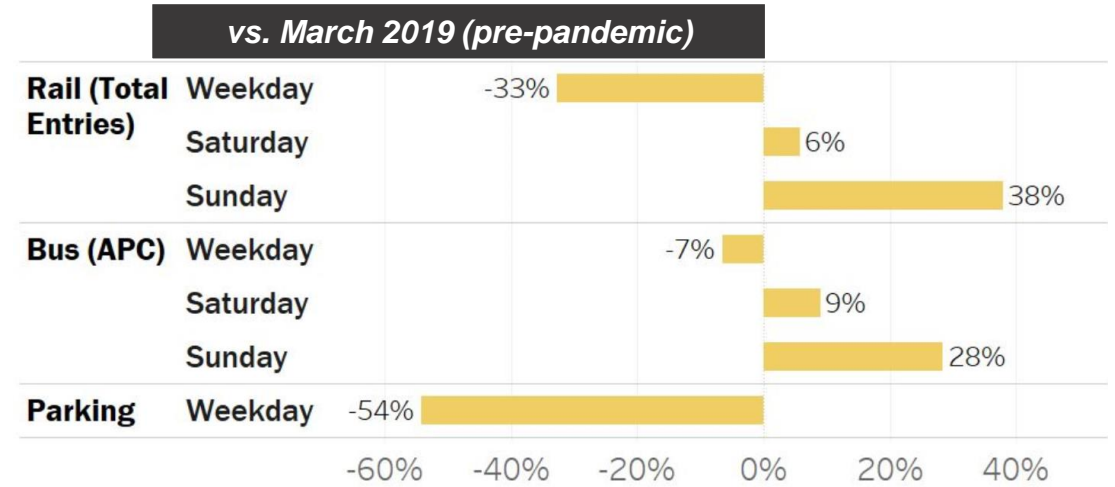




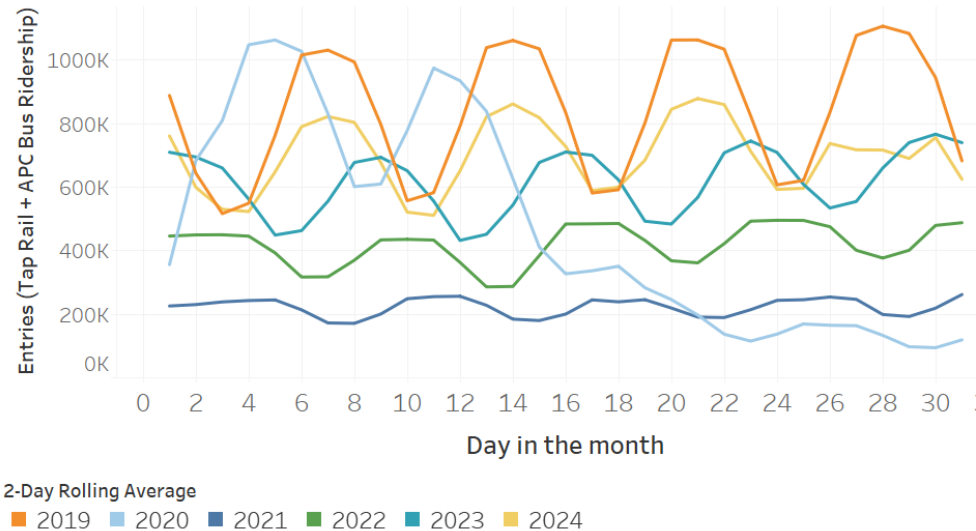
# Pre-Pandemic Ridership Comparison

## Current vs. pre-pandemic levels (March 2024 vs. March 2019):

- **Total** ridership was at 84% of pre-pandemic ridership overall, 77% of pre-pandemic levels on weekdays, 7% above pre-pandemic levels on Saturdays, and 34% above pre-pandemic levels on Sundays.
- **Rail** ridership was at 75% of pre-pandemic ridership overall, 67% of pre-pandemic levels on weekdays, 6% above pre-pandemic levels on Saturdays, and 38% above pre-pandemic levels on Sundays.
- **Bus** ridership was 98% of pre-pandemic ridership overall, 93% of pre-pandemic levels on weekdays, 9% above pre-pandemic levels on Saturdays, and 28% above pre-pandemic levels on Sundays.
- **Parking** usage was at about 46% of pre-pandemic levels.



March Ridership over the Past Six Years



March 2019 Averages	Weekday	Saturday	Sunday	Total Ridership
<b>Rail (Total Entries)</b>	636,000	278,000	169,000	15,595,000
<b>Bus (APC)</b>	398,000	207,000	148,000	10,081,000
<b>Parking</b>	45,000			941,000
<b>MetroAccess</b>	8,000	3,000	3,000	204,000

