

# Metro Ridership Snapshot

March 2023



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 three 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. Rail ridership and parking utilization is from the farebox system.

# Overall Ridership in March

## Rail

- Weekday and Sunday tap ridership have increased by more than 50% compared to March 2022.

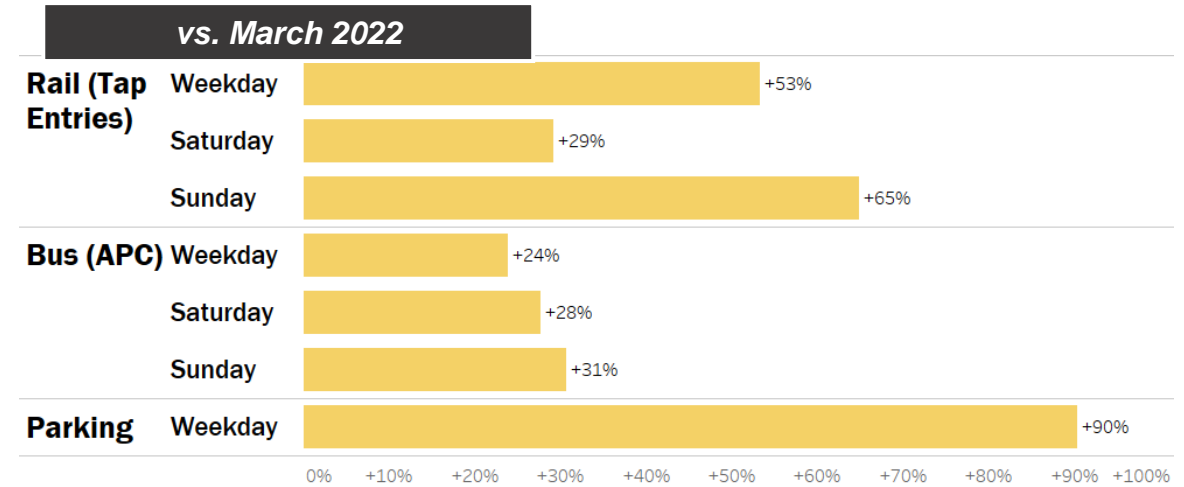
## Bus

- Ridership has increased by 24% on weekdays and about 30% on weekends compared to March 2022.

## Parking

- Usage has almost doubled compared to March 2022.

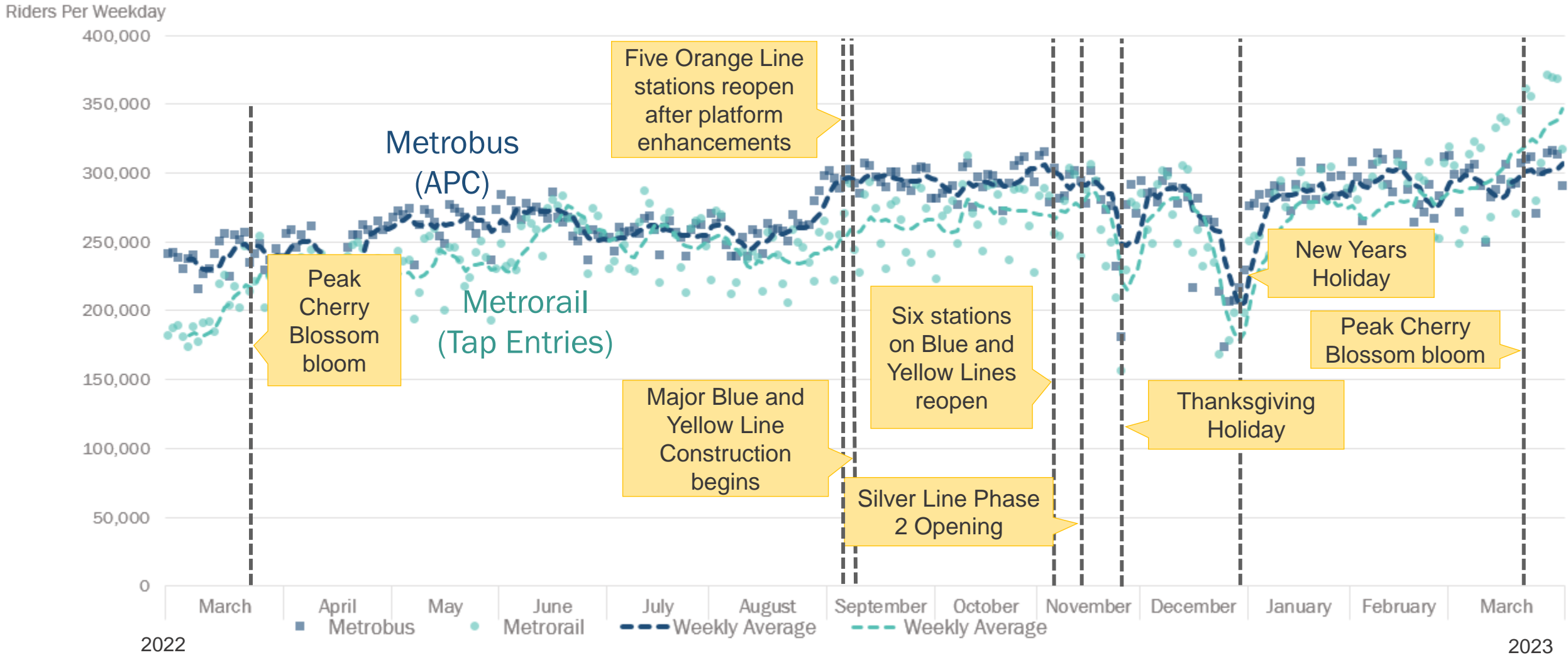
**Rail and bus ridership both grew over the month of March 2023, rail at a higher rate than bus. Compared to the previous year both rail and bus ridership grew, particularly on Sundays.**



| March 2023 Averages  | Weekday | Saturday | Sunday  |
|----------------------|---------|----------|---------|
| Rail (Tap Entries)   | 315,000 | 216,000  | 187,000 |
| Rail (Total Entries) | 359,000 | 247,000  | 214,000 |
| Bus (APC)            | 296,000 | 173,000  | 148,000 |
| Parking              | 17,000  |          |         |
| MetroAccess          | 4,800   | 1,800    | 1,500   |



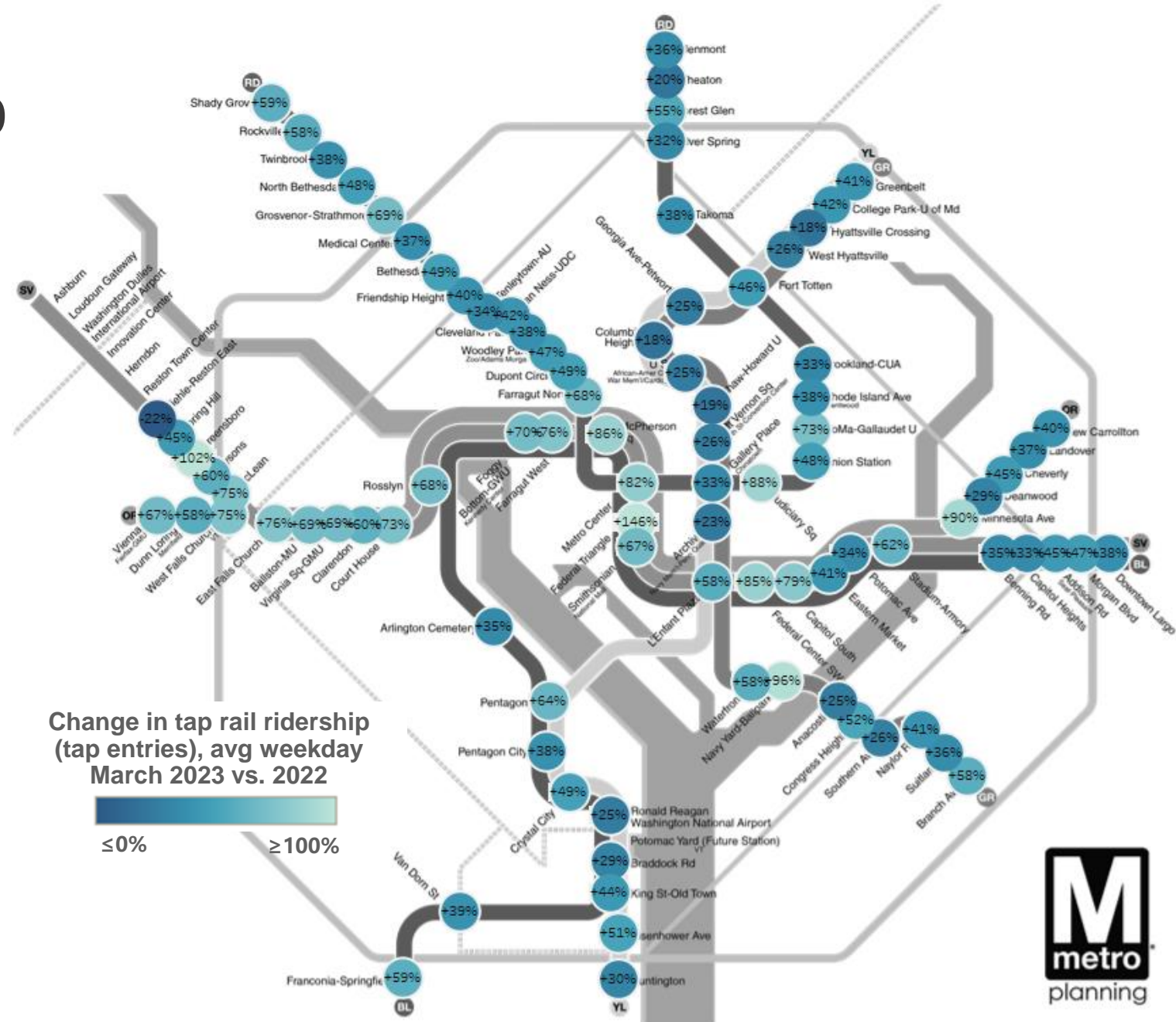
# Ridership Trends Over the Past Year





# Metrorail Ridership

- Tap ridership is up more than 50% on weekdays and more than 60% on Sundays compared to March 2022.
- About 1% of customer time was crowded on average with most crowding occurring on weekdays
- Notes:
  - Weather shifted cherry blossom ridership from Saturday to Sunday compared to prior years
  - Rail service is increasing as the 7000-series rail cars are phased back into service, but remains lower than before the suspension
  - The Yellow Line bridge and tunnel between L'Enfant Plaza and Pentagon closed on September 10th for scheduled maintenance.
  - Six new Silver Line Phase 2 stations opened on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Since there is not year-over-year data for these stations yet they do not appear on this map



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

# Silver Line Phase 2 Opening

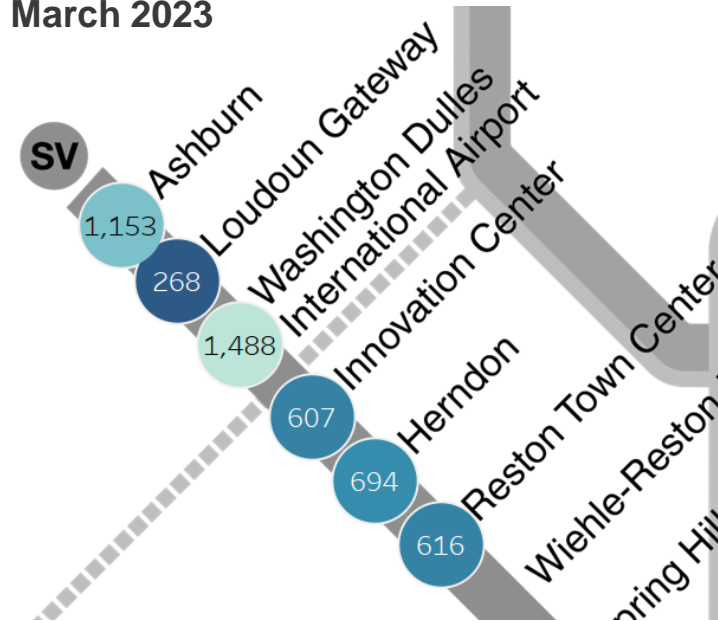
## Ridership

- Compared to February 2023, average weekday tap ridership in March 2023 is up 20%, average Saturday tap ridership is up 33%, and average Sunday tap ridership is up 77%
  - Weekday ridership and weekend tap ridership increased month-over-month at all stations

## Parking

- In March 2023 the most popular station for Weekday parking among Silver Line Phase II stations was Ashburn at 25% utilization (utilization = average daily transactions / parking capacity)
  - Loudoun Gateway – 20% utilization
  - Herndon – 6% utilization

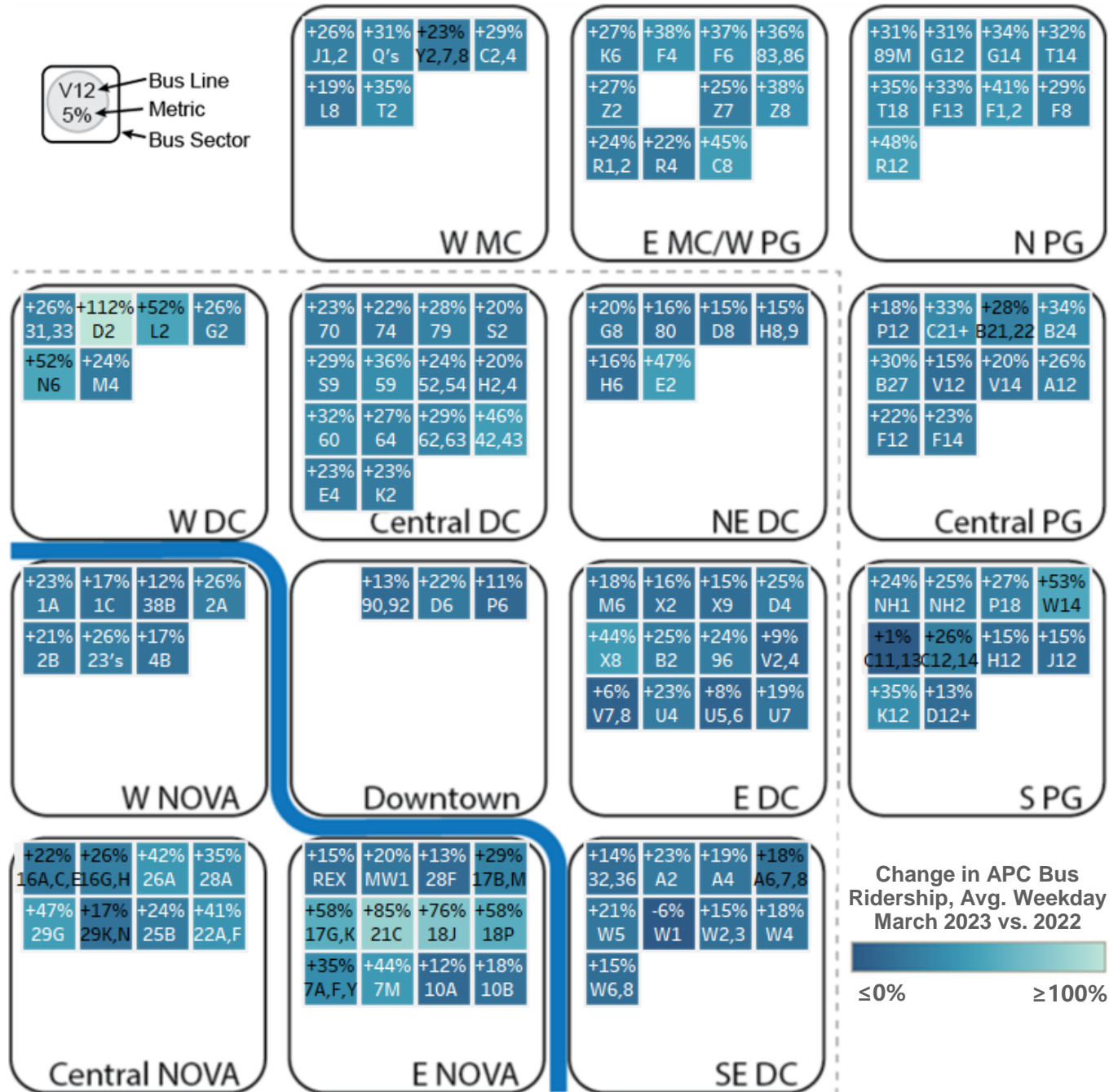
**SVII Average Weekday Ridership (Tap Entries)  
March 2023**



| March 2023 SVII Averages | Weekday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------------------------|---------|----------|--------|
| Rail (Tap Entries)       | 4,800   | 4,000    | 4,600  |
| Parking                  | 1,000   |          |        |

# Metrobus Ridership

- Ridership is up 24% on weekdays and about 30% on weekends compared to March 2022.
- About 3.4% of stop events were above crowding thresholds with more crowding on weekdays.
- There were 38,000 total shuttle rides made in March 2023, with 1,700 average daily weekday rides.
- Notes:
  - In January 2022, bus service was reduced to less than 50% of normal service levels due to covid-related staffing shortages. Current bus service levels are 101% of pre-Covid levels on weekdays, 117-133% on weekends.

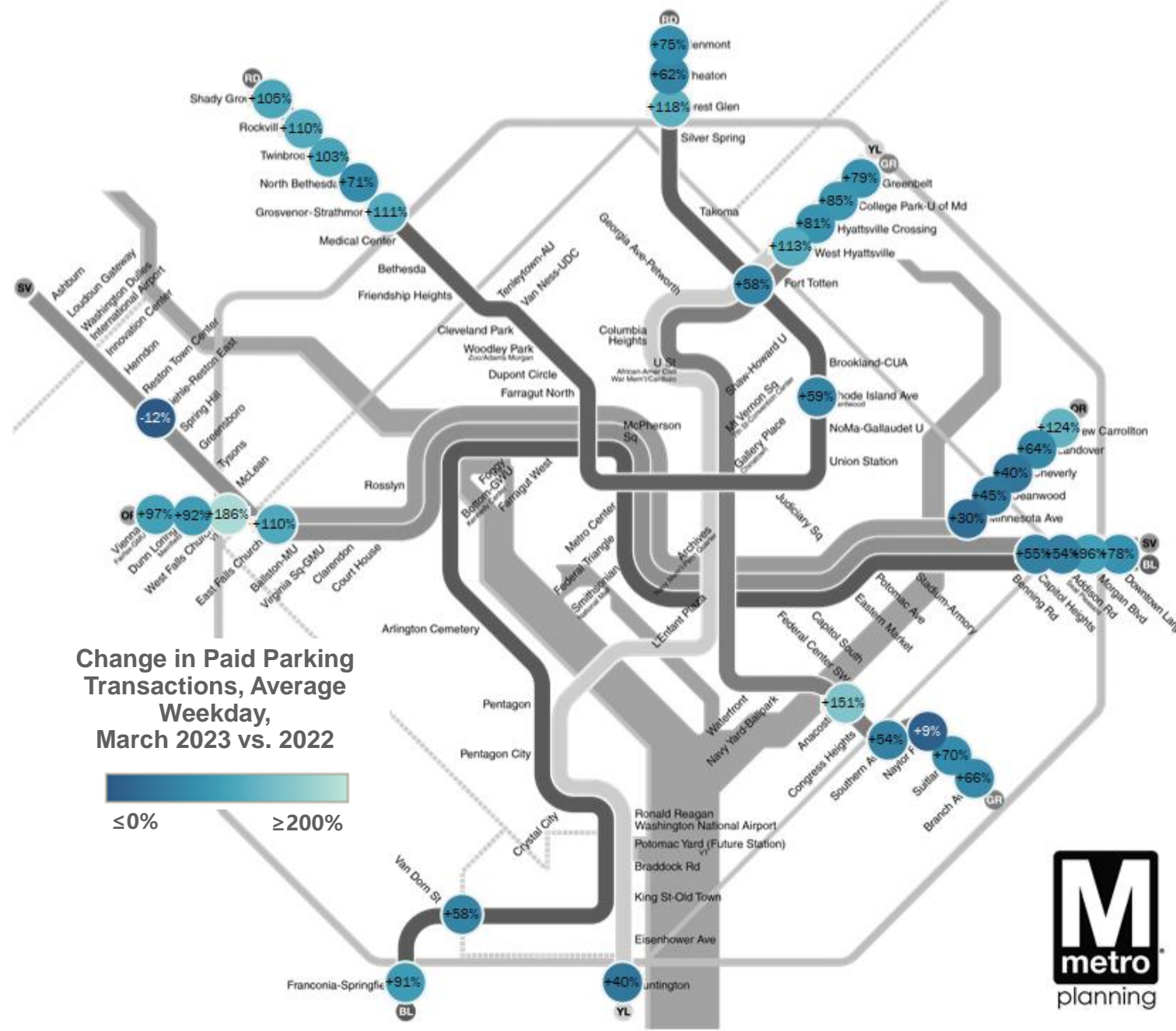


For more nuanced bus line information, additional data can be found on the [WMATA Ridership Data Portal](#). Bus ridership based on Automatic Passenger Counter data.



# Metro Parking Transactions

- Weekday parking usage increased 90% compared to March 2022.
  - Most stations grew between 50-100%.
  - Parking usage increased more at a handful of stations, like West Falls Church (186%) and Anacostia (151%).
- Notes:
  - Six new Silver Line Phase 2 stations opened on November 15<sup>th</sup>, four of which have commuter parking (Herndon, Innovation Center, Loudoun Gateway, and Ashburn). Since there is not year-over-year data for these stations yet they do not appear on this map



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



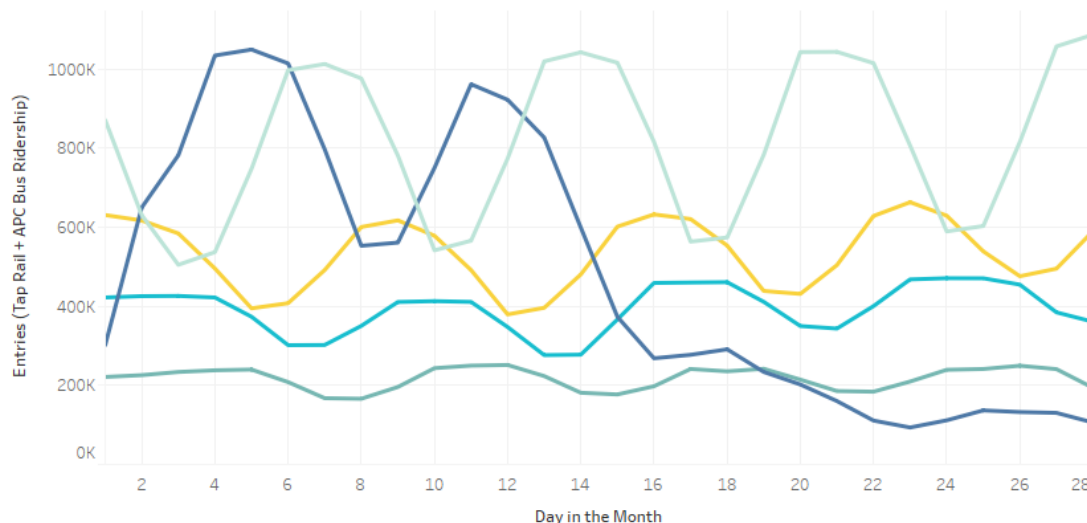


# Pre-Pandemic Ridership Comparison

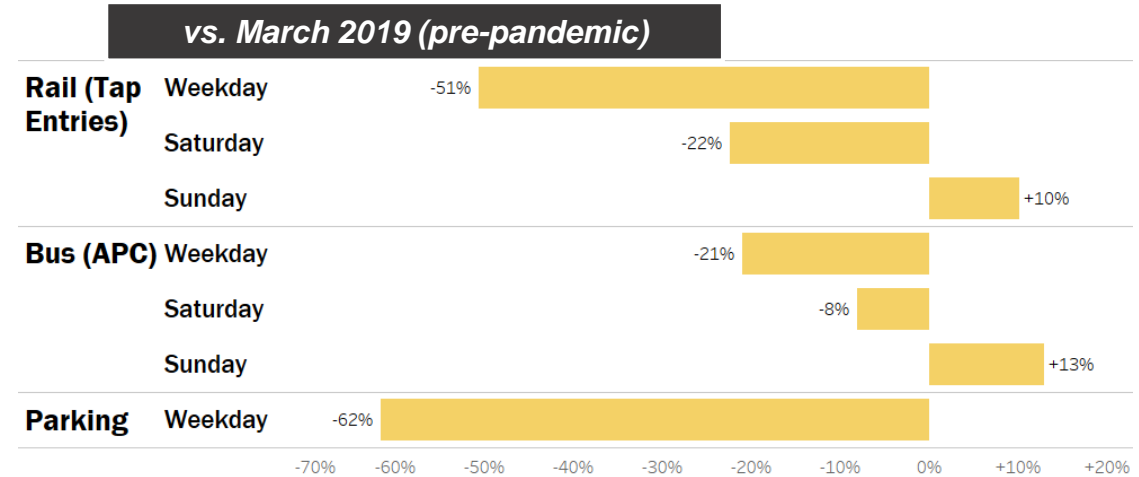
## Current vs. pre-pandemic levels (March 2023 vs. March 2019):

- **Rail tap ridership** was at 49% of pre-pandemic levels on weekdays, 88% of pre-pandemic levels on Saturdays, and 10% *above* pre-pandemic levels on Sundays
- **Bus ridership** was at 79% of pre-pandemic levels on weekdays and 13% *above* pre-pandemic levels on Sundays
- **Parking usage** was at 38% of pre-pandemic levels

March Ridership over the Past Five Years



2-Day Rolling Average  
 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023



| March 2019 Averages | Weekday | Saturday | Sunday  |
|---------------------|---------|----------|---------|
| Rail (Tap Entries)  | 638,000 | 278,000  | 170,000 |
| Bus (APC)           | 374,000 | 188,000  | 132,000 |
| Parking             | 45,000  |          |         |

