Metro Ridership Snapshot

September 2022

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

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Rail Ridership

Bus Ridership

Parking Utilization

[Online Ridership Data Portal](#)

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 September

Rail

- Weekday ridership has increased 40% compared to September 2021.
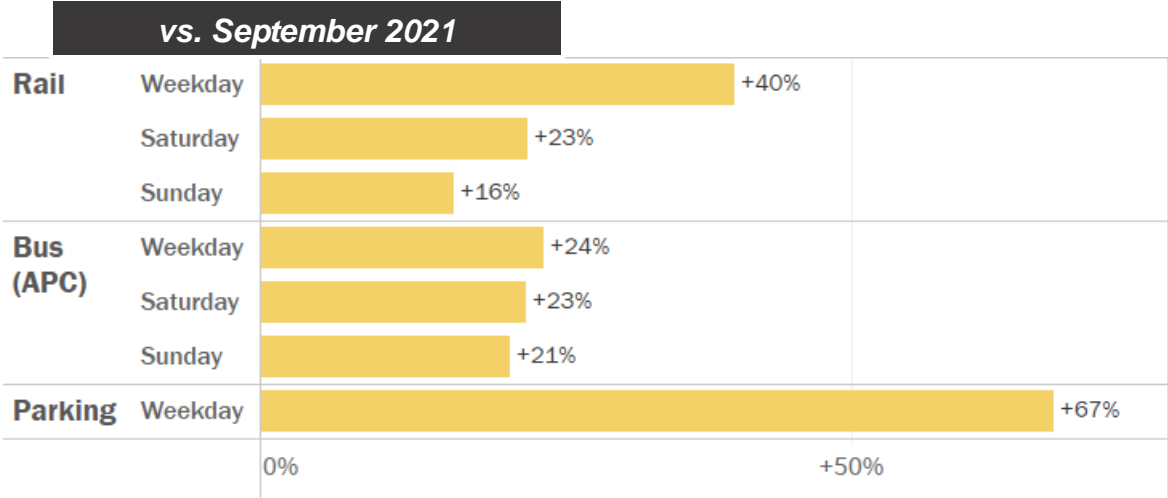
Bus

- Ridership has increased 20-25% across all service types compared to September 2021.

Parking

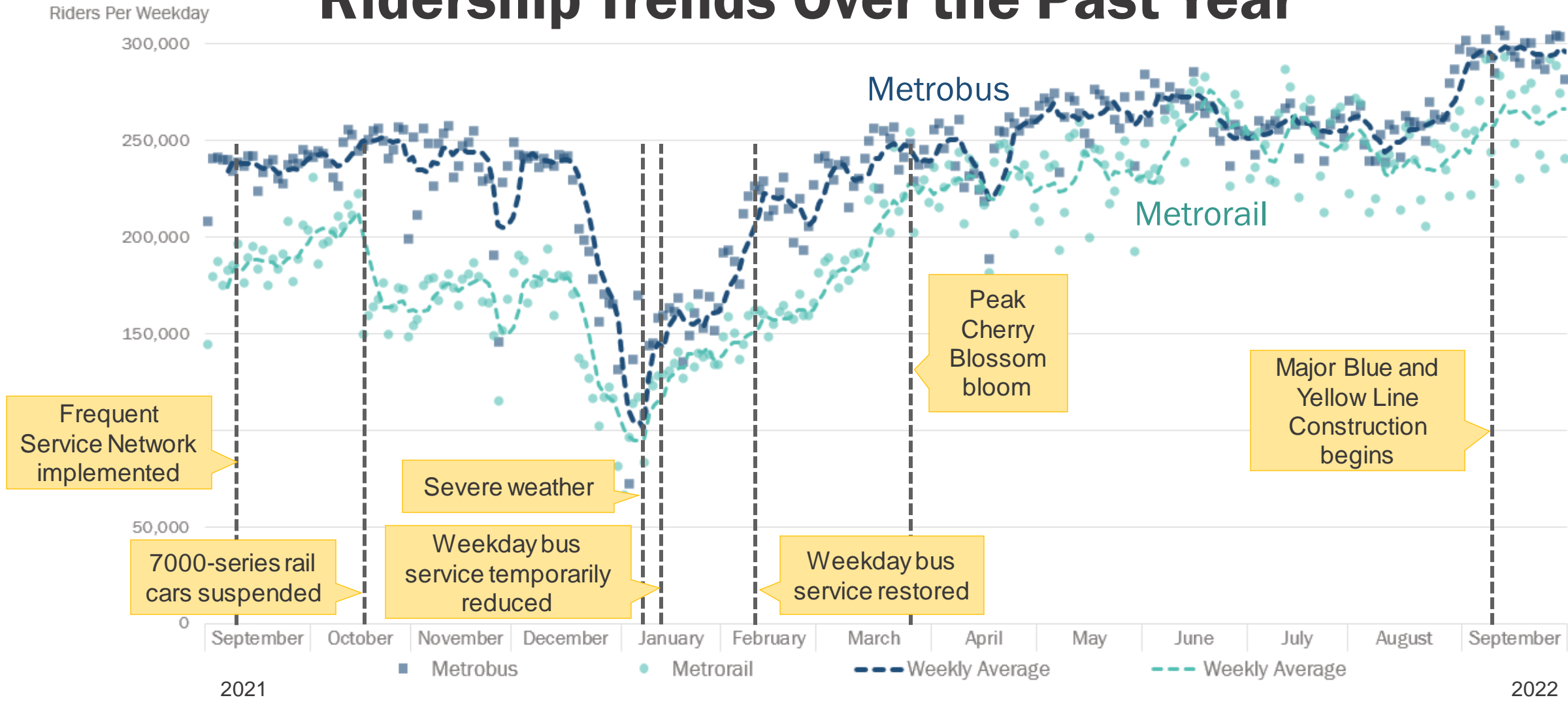- Usage has increased 67% compared to September 2021

Rail saw the greatest growth on weekdays while bus ridership grew equally across service types compared to the same month the year prior.

Rail and bus ridership remained stable throughout September 2022. Wednesday, September 14th set highest day of ridership since the start of the pandemic at ~292,900 station entries.

vs. September 2021

Rail	Weekday	+40%
	Saturday	+23%
	Sunday	+16%
Bus (APC)	Weekday	+24%
	Saturday	+23%
	Sunday	+21%
Parking	Weekday	+67%

September 2022 Averages	Weekday	Saturday	Sunday
Rail	261,000	173,000	120,000
Bus (APC)	296,000	186,000	145,000
Parking	12,000		

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Ridership Trends Over the Past Year

Riders Per Weekday

300,000
250,000
200,000
150,000
50,000
0

Metrobus

Metrorail

Frequent Service Network implemented

7000-series rail cars suspended

Weekday bus service temporarily reduced

Severe weather

Weekday bus service restored

Peak Cherry Blossom bloom

Major Blue and Yellow Line Construction begins

September | October | November | December | January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September

2021

2022

■ Metrobus   ● Metrorail   – – Weekly Average   – – Weekly Average

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Metrorail Ridership

- Ridership is up 40% on weekdays compared to September 2021

- 1.2% of customer time was crowded on average with higher crowding on weekdays

- Notes:

  - Rail service remains reduced due to the suspension of the 7000-series rail cars.

  - Orange Line stations between Stadium Armory and New Carrollton were closed September 1st through September 5th for the Platform Improvement Project.

  - Six stations (Braddock Road, King St. - Old Town, Eisenhower Ave, Huntington, Van Dorn St, Franconia-Springfield) closed on September 10th for Potomac Yard prep work.

  - The Yellow Line bridge and tunnel between L'Enfant Plaza and Pentagon closed on September 10th for scheduled maintenance.

  - In 2021, Shady Grove and Rockville were closed for repairs and shuttle buses were operating at Twinbrook from mid-September until early December, affecting the prior year comparison for those three stations.

  - Four stations on the Green and Yellow Lines north of Fort Totten reopened in early September 2021

Change in rail ridership, average weekday September 2022 vs. 2021

0%   +100%

Metrobus Ridership

- Ridership is up between 20-25% on weekdays, Saturdays, and Sundays compared to September 2021, with the highest recovery on weekdays.

- About 3.7% of stop events were above crowding thresholds with more crowding on weekdays.

- Notes:

  - In September 2021, bus service levels were around 85% of pre-Covid. Current bus service levels are around 93% of pre-Covid levels on weekdays and 110-125% on weekends.

Change in APC Bus Ridership, Avg. Weekday September 2022 vs. 2021

Metro Parking Transactions

▪ Parking usage has increased significantly at all stations without closures compared to September 2021.

  • Most stations grew between 70-170%

▪ Notes:

  • Orange Line stations between Stadium Armory and New Carrollton were closed September 1st through September 5th for the Platform Improvement Project.

  • Six stations (Braddock Road, King St. - Old Town, Eisenhower Ave, Huntington, Van Dorn St, Franconia-Springfield) closed on September 10th for Potomac Yard prep work.

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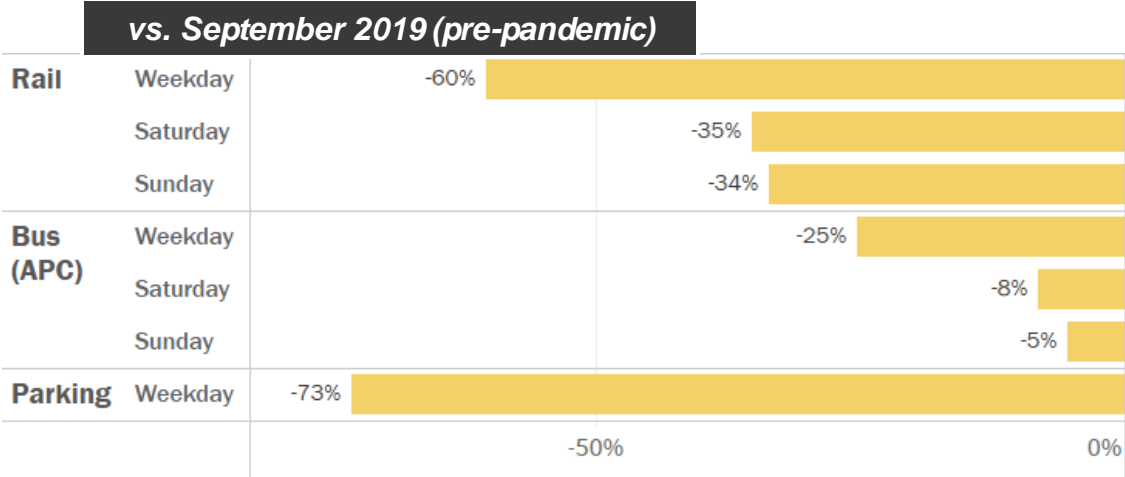

Change in Paid Parking Transactions, Average Weekday, September 2022 vs. 2021

0%   +200%
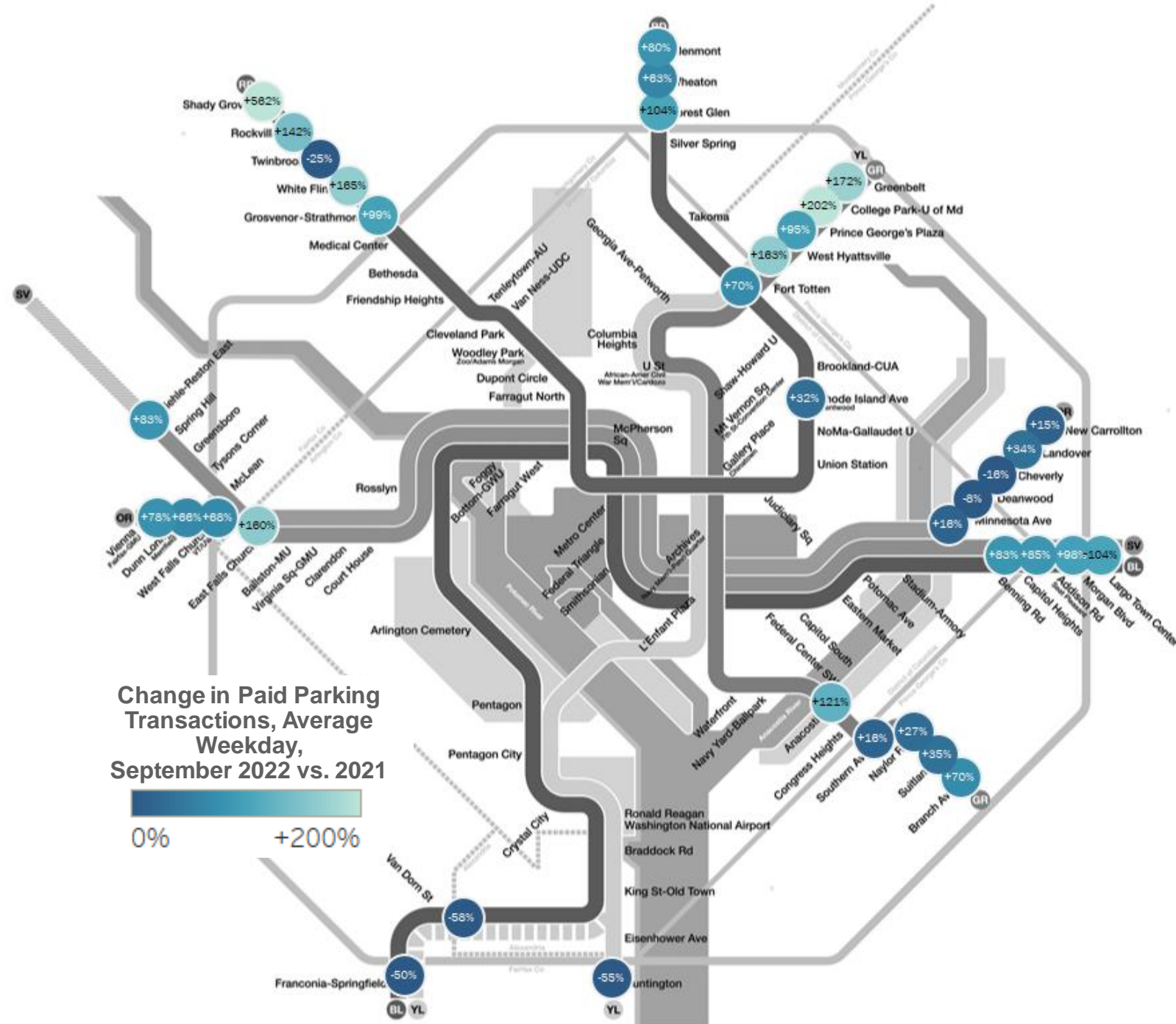
For more nuanced parking information, additional data can be found on the WMATA Ridership Data Portal.
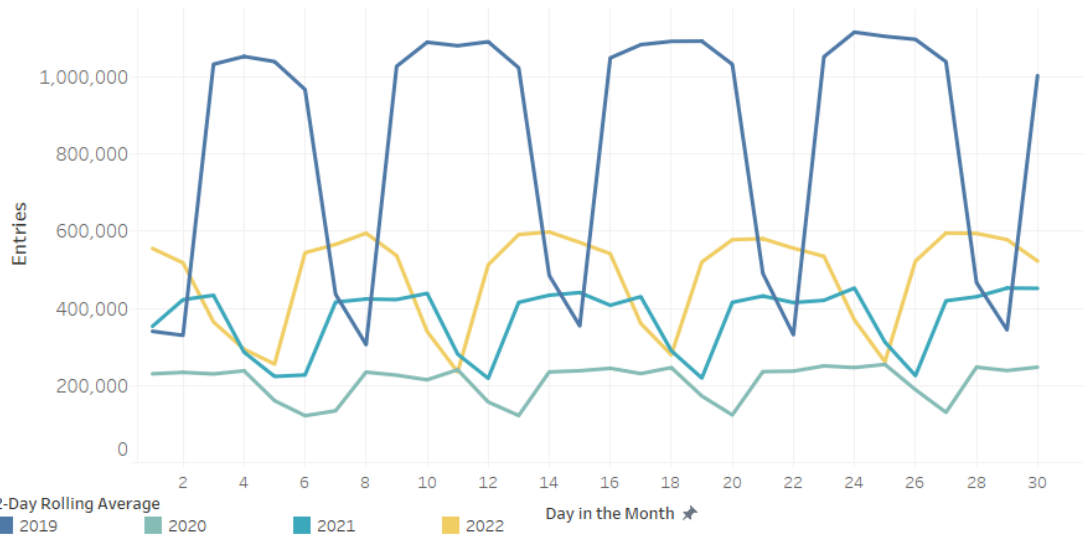
Pre-Pandemic Ridership Comparison

Current vs. pre-pandemic levels (September 2022 vs. September 2019):

- September **Rail** ridership was at 40% of pre-pandemic levels on weekdays and about 65% of pre-pandemic levels on weekends

- September **Bus** ridership was at 75% of pre-pandemic levels on weekdays

- September **Parking** usage was at 27% of pre-pandemic levels

		vs. September 2019 (pre-pandemic)
Rail	Weekday	-60%
	Saturday	-35%
	Sunday	-34%
Bus (APC)	Weekday	-25%
	Saturday	-8%
	Sunday	-5%
Parking	Weekday	-73%

September Ridership over the Past Four Years

2-Day Rolling Average: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 — Day in the Month

September 2019 Averages	Weekday	Saturday	Sunday
Rail	661,000	267,000	180,000
Bus (APC)	397,000	202,000	154,000
Parking	45,000		