

# St. Paul Climate Justice Advisory Board Transit Update

February 10, 2022

Presented by  
Scott Thompson  
Senior Transit Planner  
Metro Transit Service Development

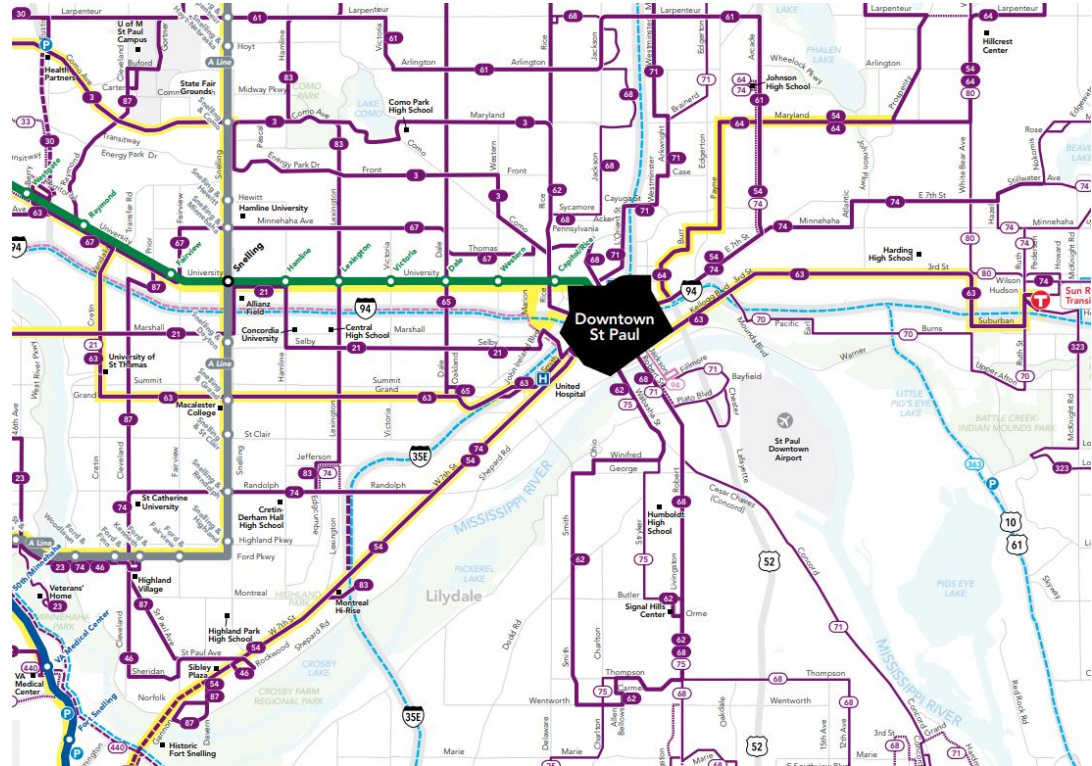
Cyndi Harper  
Senior Manager, Route Planning  
Metro Transit Service Development

# Tonight's agenda

- Overview of fixed route service in St. Paul
  - Facilities
  - Service Design, Levels and Ridership
- Challenges of COVID
  - Ridership
  - Operator shortage
- Recent and future improvements
  - Downtown St. Paul
  - Transitways
- Other initiatives
  - St. Paul Public Schools partnership
  - Zero Emissions Bus Transition Plan
  - TAP card

# 43 Routes Serve St. Paul

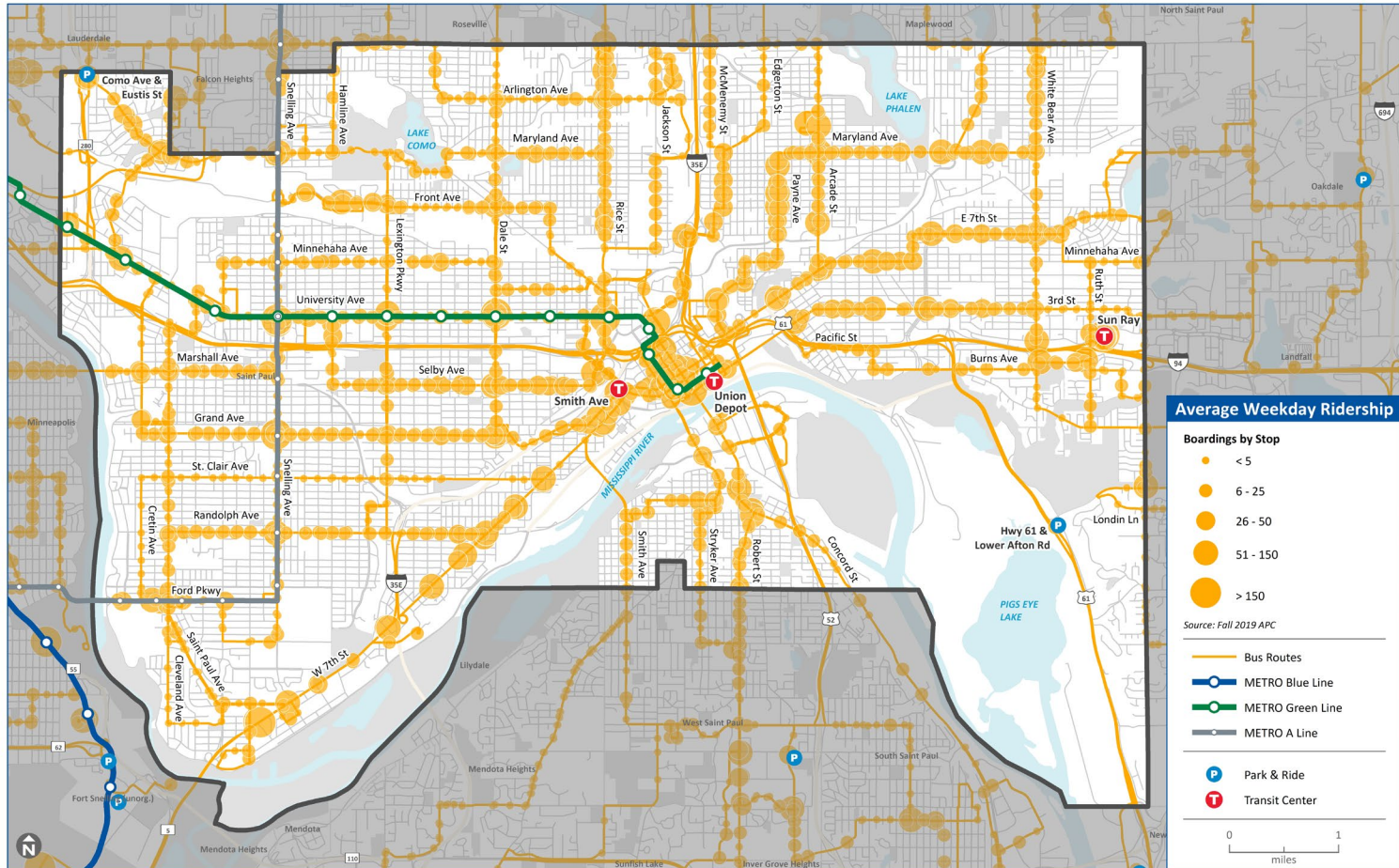
- Green Line LRT
- A Line Arterial BRT
- 26 local routes
  - Urban core and supporting locals
  - 5 fully or partially suspended
- 15 Commuter express
  - Serve downtown, U of M commuters
  - 10 suspended



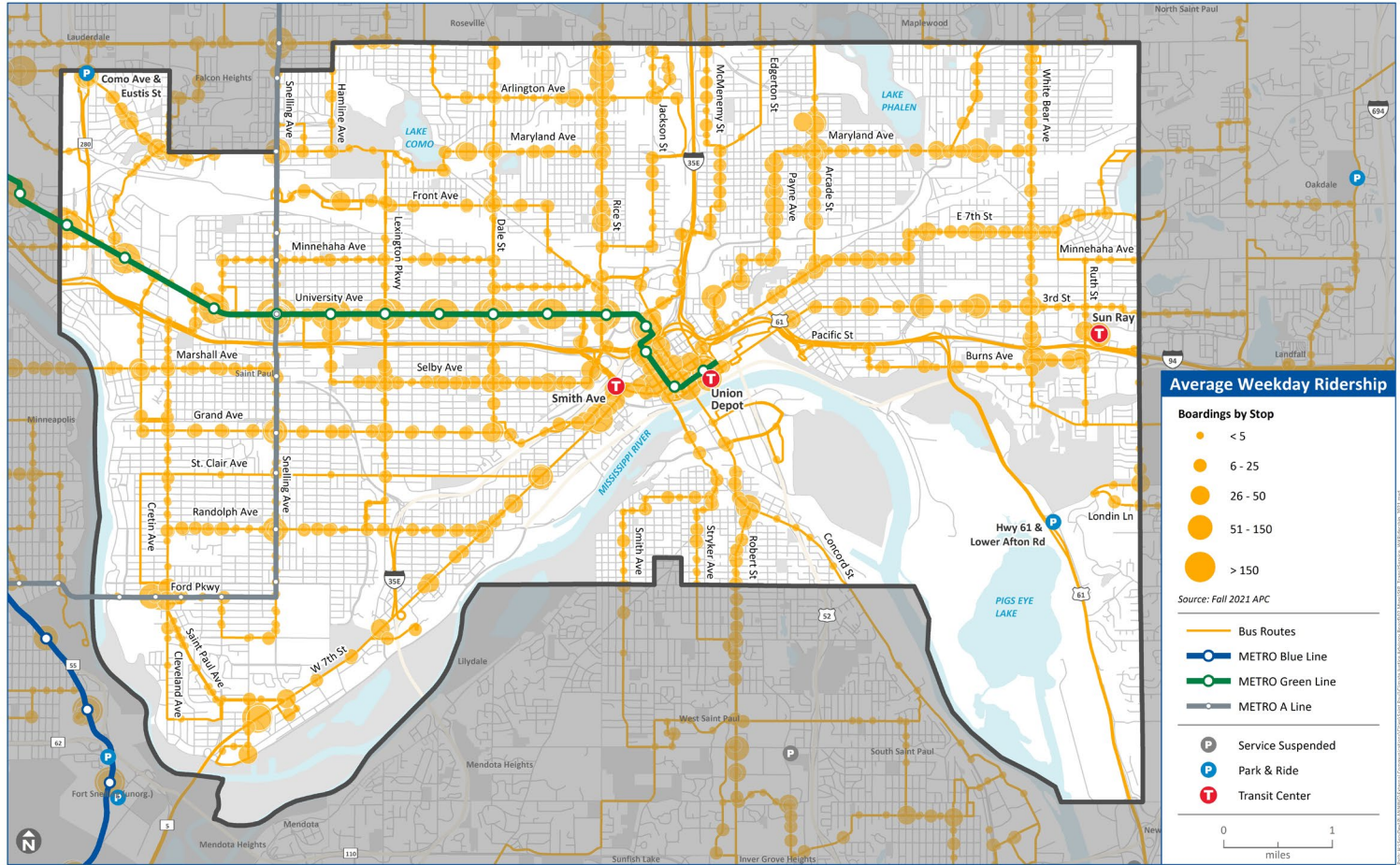
# Transit System Overview

- Facilities
  - Two Park and Rides
  - About 1,700 stops (plus LRT)
    - 250 Shelters
    - 25% have heat, nearly 50% have light
    - 30 Real time signs









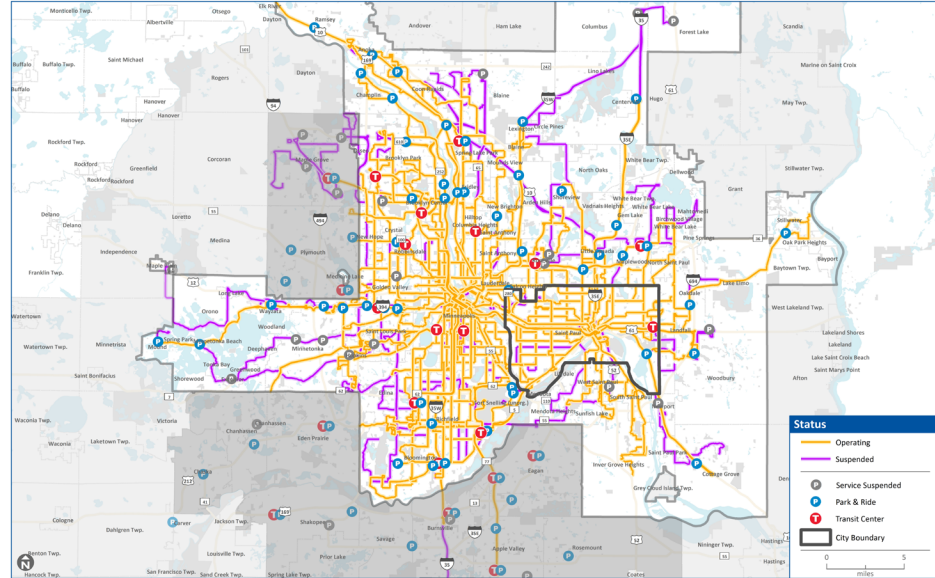
## Route Comparison

Route	Span	Freq (min)		
		Peak	Mid	Eve
3	4:00a-2:00a	10	15	20
21	4:00a-2:00a	15	20	20
23	4:30a-12:00a	60	60	60
30	5:15a-11:00p	30	30	30
33	Peaks	30	---	---
46	6:30a-11:00p	30	30	30
54	3:00a-1:00a	15-30	15-30	15-30
61	5:00a-11:30p	20-30	30	60
62	4:30a-1:45a	15-30	15-30	15-30
63	4:30a-1:45a	15	15	30
64	3:30a-1:45a	15-30	15-30	30
65	5:00a-12:30a	30	30	30
67	6:00a-10:15p	30	30	60
68	4:30a-2:00a	15-20	20-30	30-60
70	4:30a-10:15p	60	60	60

Route	Span	Freq (min)		
		Peak	Mid	Eve
71	4:30a-12:30a	15-30	15-30	30-60
74	3:30a-1:45a	20	20	30
75	6:15a-8:45p	30	30	30
80	6:45a-7:30p	30	60	30
83	6:00a-7:15p	30	30	30
87	5:00a-10:00p	30	30	30
94	5:00a-7:30p	15	30	---
219	6:00a-10:00p	60	60	60
275	Peaks	30	---	---
294	Peaks	2 trips	---	---
323	5:00a-1:00a	30	30	30
353	Peaks	30	---	---
363	Peaks	30	---	---
A Line	4:00a-1:30a	12	12	12
Green Line	4:30a-12:00a	12	12	12

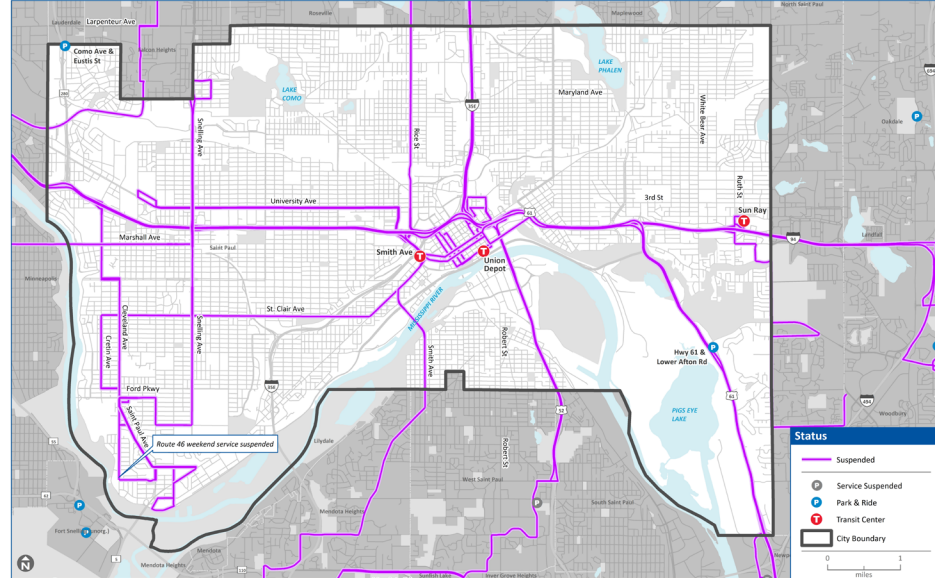
Routes 16, 46 (weekend), 53, 70 (west of downtown Saint Paul), 84, 134, 262, 265, 272, 350, 351, 361, 364, 417 and 860 suspended

# Suspended Services



Currently Operating and Suspended Bus Routes

DATE: 10/1/2022



Currently Suspended Bus Routes

DATE: 10/1/2022

*Service will be evaluated as market continues to develop.*

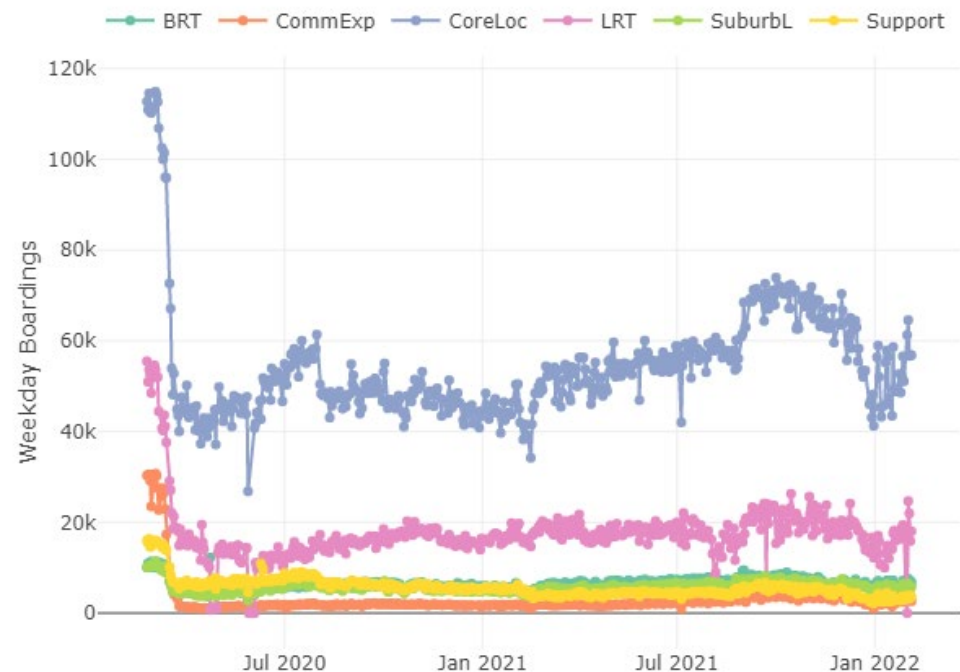


# COVID-19 Response

- Governor Executive Orders, State and Industry Guidance
- March-August 2020 – 65% network
  - Essential Trips Only
  - Capacity restrictions on buses/trains
  - Back door boarding, face mask requirement
- Sept 2020-March 2021 – 80+% network
  - Restrictions lifted/reduced
  - TSA mask mandate
- Highest ridership on routes serving those most reliant on transit
- Equity lens

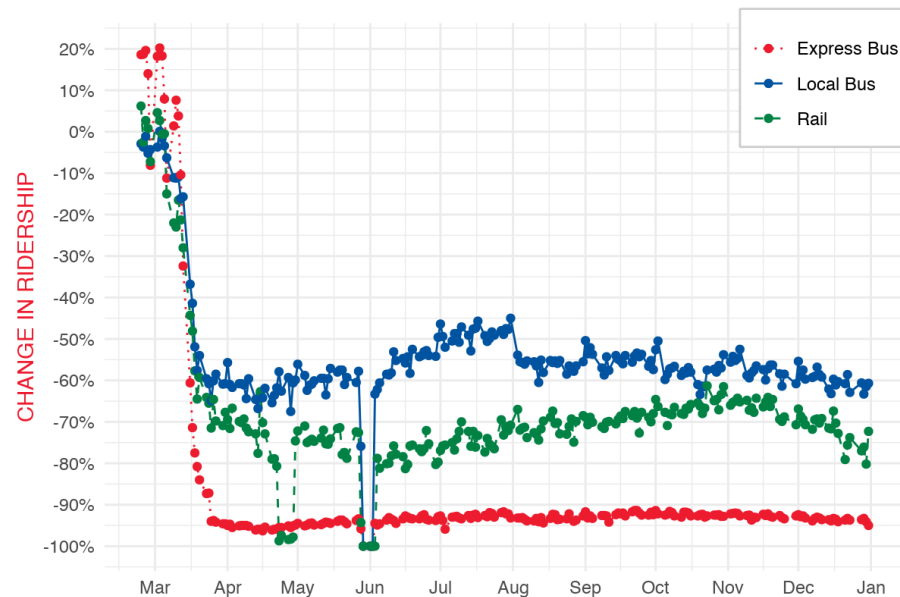


# COVID Ridership Trends



## Percent Change in Weekday Ridership

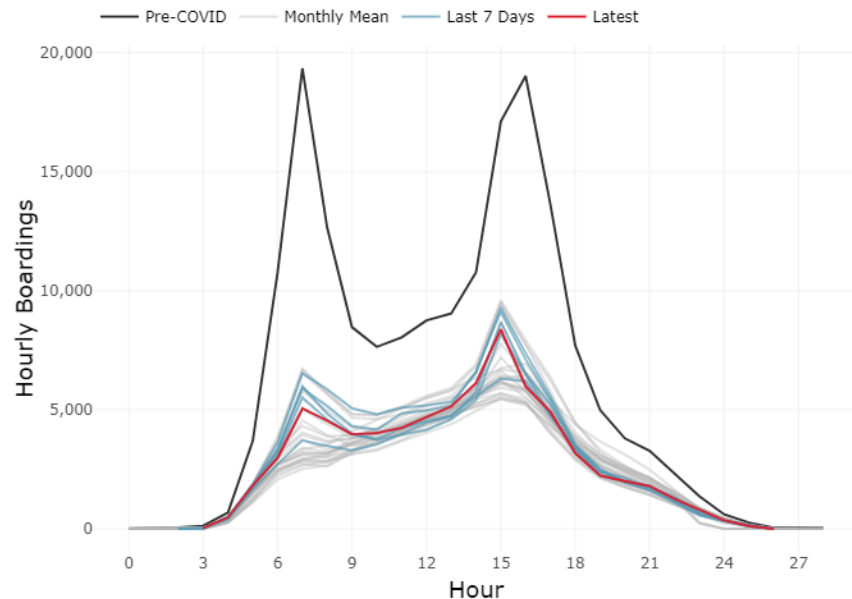
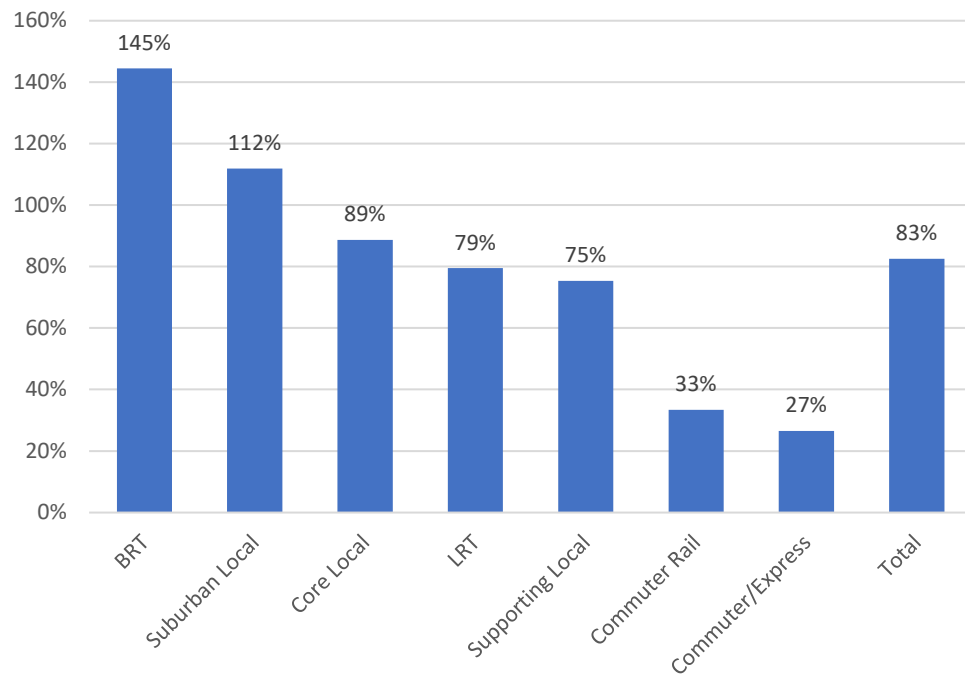
(Compared to average weekday ridership 2/24–2/28)



\*Preliminary estimates, subject to change

# Service Trends

Change in Weekday Trip Count, Aug 19 - Dec 21



## The Philadelphia Inquirer

SIG

### SEPTA bus riders are frustrated by persistent delays. Officials say a shortage of drivers is to blame.

The regional transit agency was not able to hire at the rate of attrition and has to play catch up.



FILE PHOTO / SEPTA has a deficit of 105 bus operators, a lingering effect of the

### TriMet faces driver shortage as it looks to rebuild from pandemic

Updated: Sep. 18, 2021, 12:10 p.m. | Published: Sep. 18, 2021, 8:00 a.m.



### Capital Metro reduces route frequency as it faces staffing shortages

by Ricardo Lewis | Tuesday, September 7th 2021



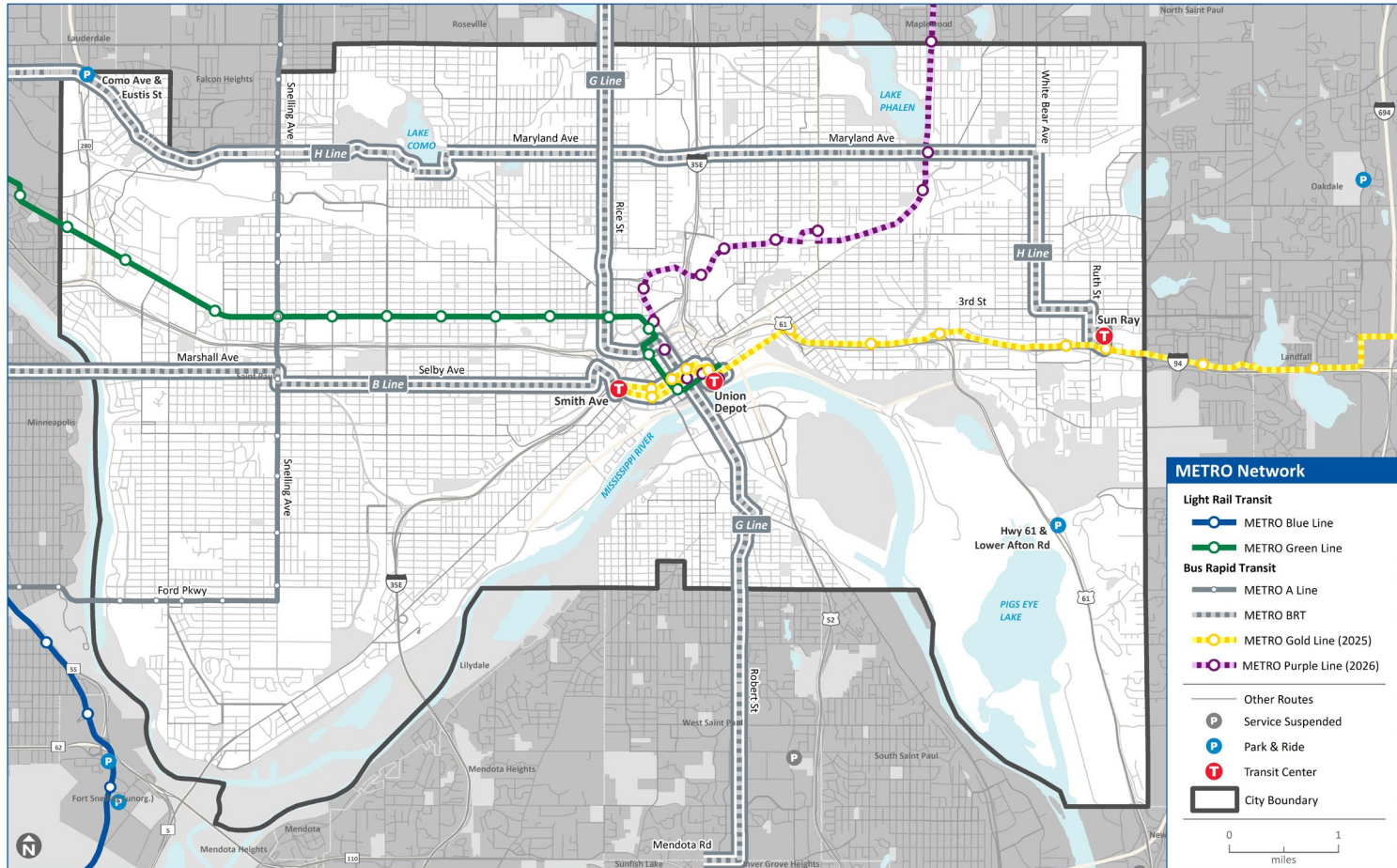
Capital Metro is facing staffing shortages due to the pandemic which is disrupting bus services throughout Austin. (Photo: CBS Austin/Telemundo Austin)



# Downtown St. Paul

- Routes 62, 67, 75 relocated from Wabasha to Minnesota St in March
- Minnesota/Robert St Study
- 6<sup>th</sup>/ Minnesota improvements





# St. Paul Public Schools

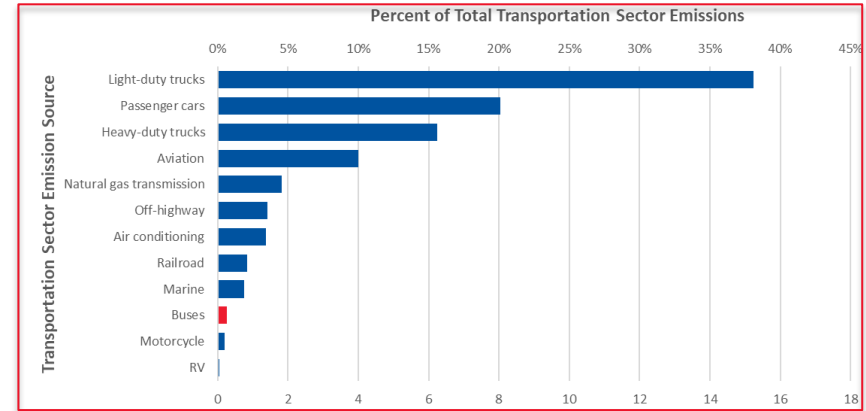
- 6,100 bus cards used for 225,000 rides since Sept. 2021
- All high school except Highland Park, Humboldt and Open World Learning
- Pass can be used for non-school trips



# Zero-Emission Bus (ZEB) Transition Plan

***Framework to continue planning for transition to ZEB fleet, including battery-electric buses***

- Guiding Principles:
  - Technical viability
  - Equity/environmental justice
  - Fiscal impact
- Quickly evolving technology
- Still has issues, especially in extreme climates





# Transit Assistance Program (TAP)

- \$1 rides on all regular route buses, LRT
- Over 600,000 eligible in the region
- 6000 unique cards, used 30x/month
- Ways to enroll:
  - [metrotransit.org/tap](https://metrotransit.org/tap)
  - Visit a Transit Service Center
  - Via one of our 70+ community partners
  - Attend an open enrollment event or community gathering





## Contact Us

- Phone: 612-373-3333
- Online: [www.metrotransit.org](http://www.metrotransit.org)
- Text for Transit Information: 612-444-1161
- Text for Safety: 612-900-0411
- Subscribe to Rider Alerts <https://www.metrotransit.org/rider-alerts>

# Speed and Reliability Program

- Route-level changes
  - Comprehensive review of single local bus route
  - Improvements beyond speed and reliability alone
- Corridor-level changes
  - Improvements to a single corridor, often shared by many routes
  - Focus primarily on speed and reliability of service



# Recent Project Highlights

- Route 63 (2020/2021)
  - Removal of low-ridership branch; route now ends at transit center
  - Frequency improvement to high frequency network status
  - New Route 323 link to Woodbury jobs, services
- Route 3 (2021)
  - Realignment through downtown via Washington
  - Extension to North Loop
  - New Route 33 connects at Westgate Station

