


To: Board of Directors

Date: 5/10/2021

From: Melody Reeb, Manager of Planning

Reviewed by:



SUBJECT: Regional Transit Ridership Trends

Background:

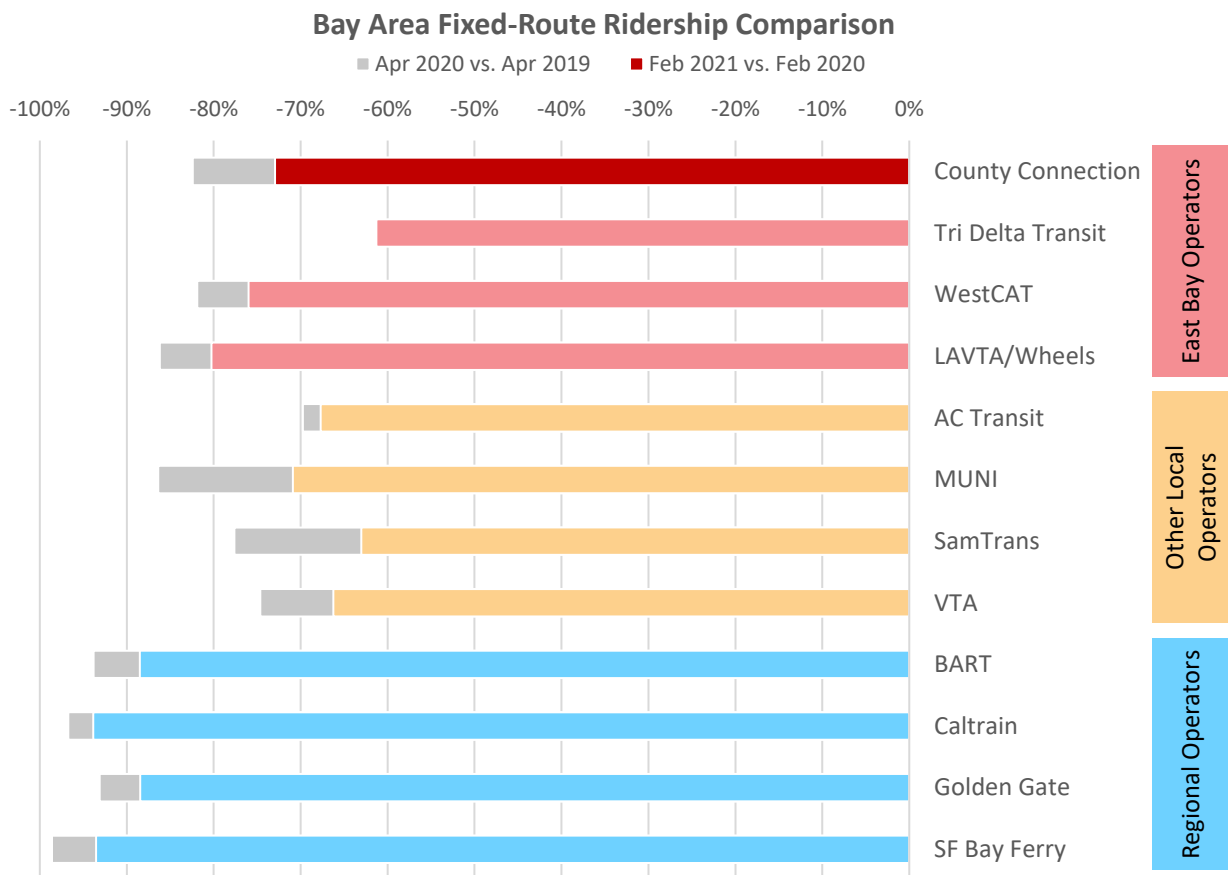
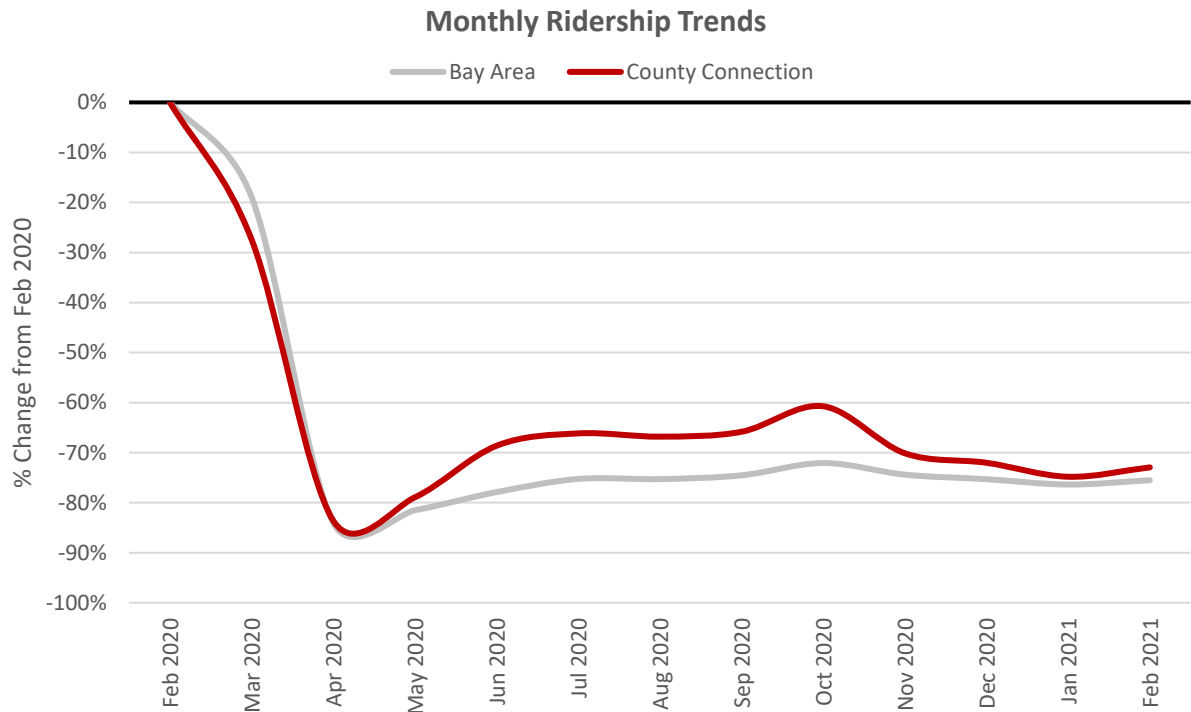
Following the first shelter-in-place order that took effect in March 2020 in response to COVID-19, transit ridership dropped nationwide as non-essential businesses and activities were shut down. On County Connection, average weekday ridership dropped as low as 85% below normal levels through most of April. Since then, ridership has generally fluctuated in response to case numbers and the level of restrictions in place, with some slight growth between June and October before another decline starting in November. As restrictions have lifted again over the past couple months, ridership has grown slightly but still remains down about 70%.

Regional Trends:

In the San Francisco Bay Area, overall transit ridership was down 75.5% in February 2021 compared to the same month last year, just prior to the start of the pandemic. The first chart shows the change in monthly fixed-route ridership on County Connection versus the region as a whole. While there was slightly more ridership recovery on County Connection routes last summer, ridership levels are now relatively consistent with the rest of the region.

The second chart shows the year-over-year change in ridership for various operators in the region in February 2021, as well as at the height of the pandemic in April 2020 in order to illustrate how much ridership has recovered since then. County Connection's overall ridership declines have been on par with other local transit operators in the region, but ridership recovery since last April has been slightly more significant, particularly compared to the other East Bay operators. In contrast, regional transit operators have continued to sustain more substantial drops in ridership and much slower rates of recovery.

This is consistent with the fact that regional transit services such as BART and Caltrain tend to serve more of a traditional commute market, and many of those commuters are still working from home as offices remain closed. On the other hand, the types of businesses that have reopened over the past few months, including restaurants and retail, tend to generate more local transit trips.



Source: NTD Monthly Module Adjusted Data Release

Financial Implications:

None.

Recommendation:

None, for information only.

Action Requested:

None, for information only.