

To: Board of Directors

Date: 06/22/2022

From: Pranjal Dixit, Manager of Planning

Reviewed by: MR

SUBJECT: Fall Bid Update

Background:

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, staff implemented major service changes to ensure transit availability throughout the service area based on changes in demand. Over the past year, as the shelter-at home orders were lifted, mask mandates were relaxed, and schools came back in-person, ridership has seen a steady increase, aided by systemwide and regionwide fare promotions. However, despite extensive recruitment and training efforts, operator shortage remains a key hurdle to increasing service.

Ridership Trends:

Ridership grew through the Spring, and showed strong year-over-year growth, boosted by declining Covid cases. However, ridership has seen large swings in the last couple of months due to school closures during Spring break, and Easter and Memorial Day holidays. As of May, weekday regular routes were down 44% from pre-Covid baseline levels, school routes were down 31%, express routes were down 66%, and weekend routes were down around 31%.

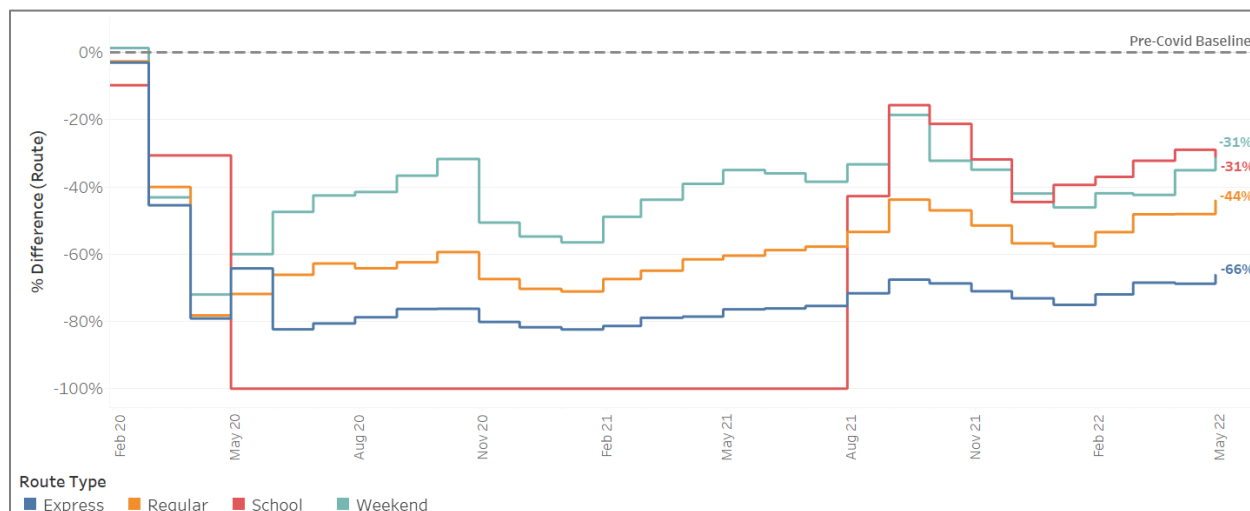


Figure 1: Comparison with Pre-Covid Ridership

Fall Bid:

The Fall bid will be implemented on August 7th. Along with the analysis of current schedule and ridership levels, staff's decisions were also guided by changes in BART schedules and school bell times.

BART will be implementing schedule changes in September that include shifts to weekday and weekend trips. Particularly, the Sunday schedule, which operates on a lower frequency compared to Saturday, has been modified to have similar trip start times as Saturdays.

The changes for Fall bid include shifting weekend trips on one route to facilitate seamless connection with BART's new schedule and shifting school trips on seven routes to match the new school bell time schedule for the upcoming school year. Due to Senate Bill 328, many schools had to change their bell schedules for the fall, which resulted in several schools now having differing end times depending on the day of the week. To accommodate those changes, schedules were modified to at least meet the latest afternoon bell time. Finally, in response to changing traffic conditions, additional time has been built into the schedule on four routes to improve on-time performance and reliability.

Financial Implications:

None.

Recommendation:

None, for information only.

Action Requested:

None, for information only.