

To: Operations & Scheduling Committee

Date: 05/23/2022

From: Pranjali 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 more businesses have opened back up and employers have required employees to return to the office, ridership has seen a steady increase, aided by systemwide and regionwide fare promotions like Monument Free, Summer Youth Pass, Pass2Class, Clipper START, etc. However, despite extensive recruitment and training efforts, the ongoing operator shortage remains a key hurdle to increasing service.

Ridership Trends:

Ridership has been growing steadily on a year-over-year basis with weekend ridership showing the strongest recovery. As of May 2023, buoyed by the expansion of Monument Free program, weekend ridership has recovered 96% compared to pre-pandemic levels, followed by school routes at 85%, regular local routes at 67%, and express routes lagging at 40% of pre-pandemic levels.

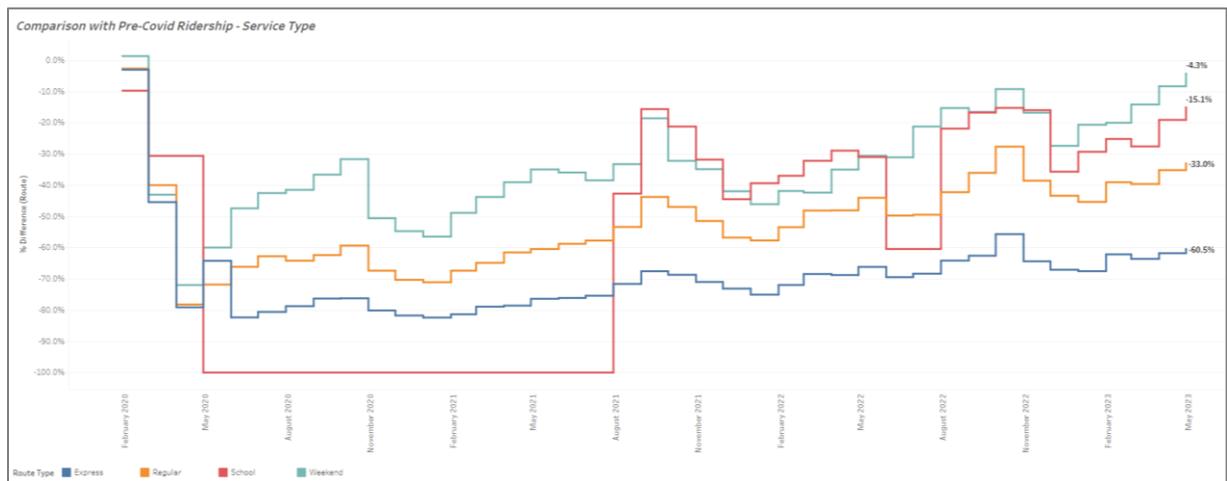


Figure 1: Comparison with Pre-Covid Ridership

Fall Bid:

The Fall bid will be implemented on August 6th and will include several service adjustments. Along with an analysis of current schedule and ridership levels, these changes were also guided by changes in BART schedules and school bell times.

BART will be implementing schedule changes in September that include higher frequency on weekdays and more consistently frequency on weekends on the Yellow Line. The Blue Line will have lower frequency on weekdays and higher frequency on weekends.

The changes for Fall bid include the following:

- Shifting trip times on six weekday and eleven weekend routes to facilitate seamless connection with BART's new schedule.
- Implementing the new alignment on Route 99X connecting Martinez Amtrak and North Concord BART, which includes limited trips serving sections of Route 27 that will be eliminated.
- Adjusting service frequencies on two weekend routes to align with the ridership demand and BART's new schedule.
- Extending Route 316 to serve Walmart in Martinez on weekends.
- Optimization of schedule times on several routes to improve on-time performance and reliability, in response to changing traffic conditions.

Financial Implications:

None. The service levels for the Fall bid are consistent with the proposed FY 2024 budget.

Recommendation:

None, for information only.

Action Requested:

None, for information only.

Attachments:

None