

To: Advisory Committee

Date: October 29, 2025

From: Pranjal Dixit, Manager of Planning

Reviewed by: AMS

SUBJECT: Winter Bid Update

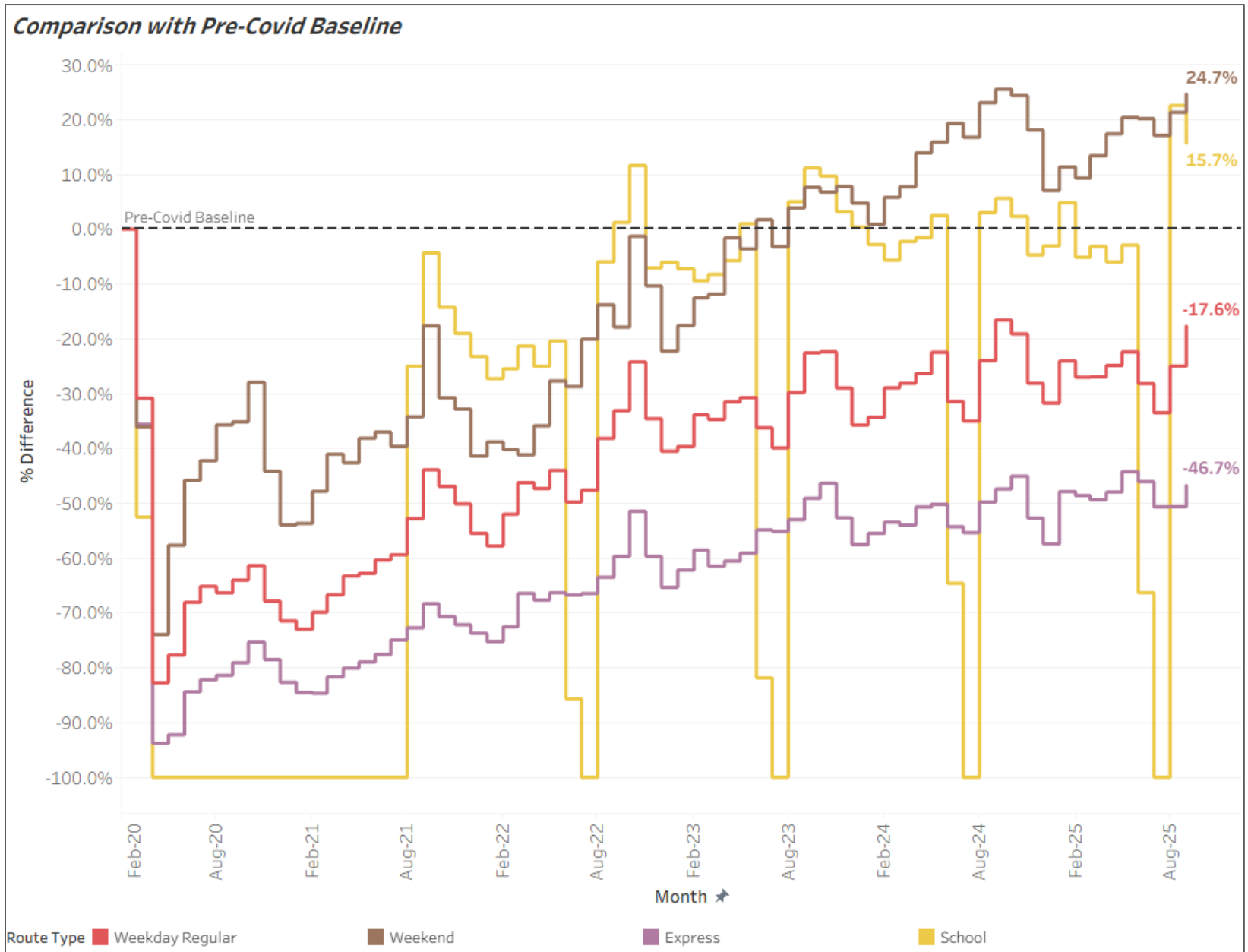
Background:

The COVID-19 pandemic necessitated significant service changes to maintain transit accessibility across the service area in response to fluctuating ridership. As businesses have reopened and more in-office work has resumed, ridership has shown steady growth. This growth has been further supported by system-wide and regional fare promotions like Monument Free, Pass2Class, and Clipper START. However, despite dedicated recruitment and training efforts, a shortage of operators remains a significant barrier to expanding service levels. Additionally, continually increasing traffic congestion has necessitated frequent schedule adjustments to ensure reliable service delivery.

Ridership Trends:

After sustained ridership growth for the past three years, ridership has started to stabilize since August on a year over year basis, as shown in Figure 1. The positive trend is particularly pronounced for our weekend and school services. Notably, weekend ridership has exceeded pre-pandemic levels for over a year, likely due a shift in travel patterns. As of September 2025, ridership on our 600-series school routes has reached 116% of pre-pandemic levels, while ridership on weekday local routes sits at 82% of pre-pandemic levels, and weekday express routes are at 53% of pre-pandemic levels. Systemwide ridership is at 82% of pre-pandemic level year-to-date.

Figure 1: Comparison with Pre-Covid Ridership



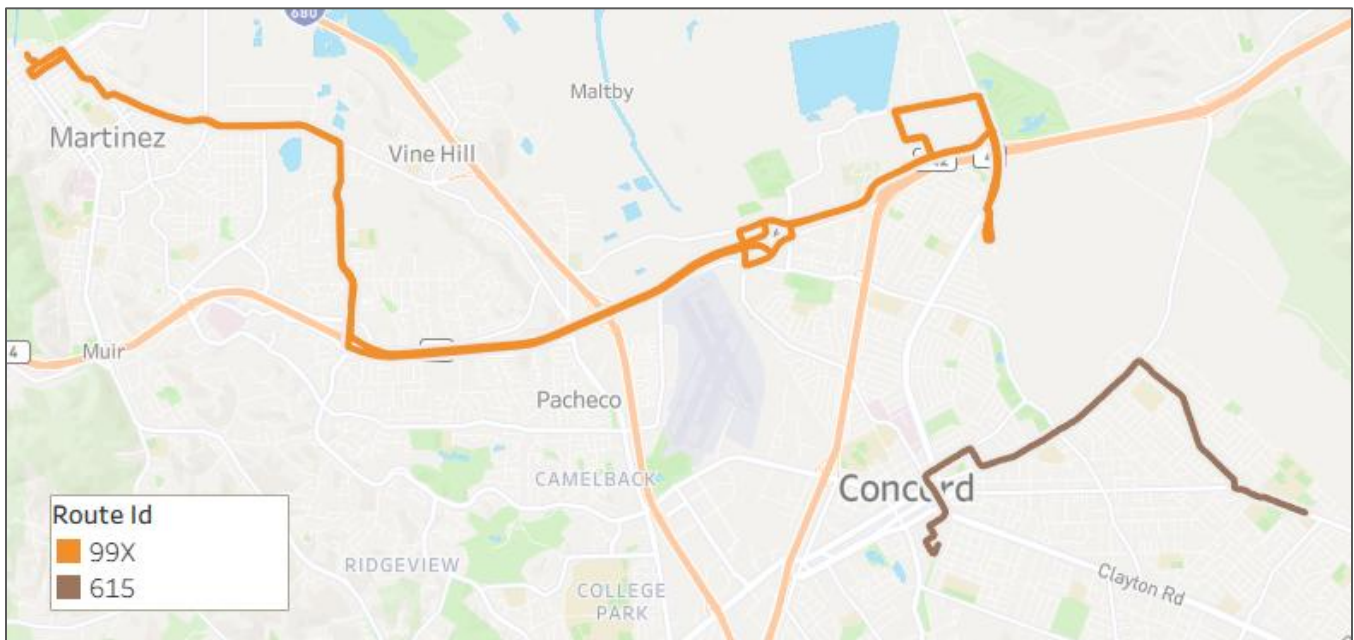
Fall Bid Results:

During the Fall Bid, effective August 10, 2025, we successfully implemented service changes on routes serving San Ramon and Danville to significantly improve bus-to-bus connections at the San Ramon Transit Center and connections with BART at the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station. These adjustments were a direct outcome of the Bay Area TRANSFER Plan, a regional initiative spearheaded by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). Launched in December 2023, this plan aims to optimize transfer timings at critical transit hubs and involved collaboration between various transit agencies, MTC staff, and consultants from Jarrett Walker + Associates. Additionally, several 600-series school routes were adjusted to align with the new bell schedules.

Winter Bid Changes:

The Winter Bid, effective November 9, 2025, will see minor adjustments to the schedule as shown below:

- **Route 99X (Concord and Martinez):** Minor changes to departure times are being made that will improve connections with Capital Corridor trains at the Martinez Amtrak station.
- **School Route 615:** Wednesday schedule is being adjusted align with the new bell schedule.



Financial Implications:

None. The service levels for the Winter Bid are consistent with the proposed FY 2026 budget.

Recommendation:

None, for information only.

Action Requested:

None, for information only.

Attachments:

None.