

SMART

SOUTH METRO AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT

January 2023 Report

A New Year's wish for all who call me friend, and especially, for those who don't. May your life be long and productive. So long that you never wonder where the time went. May your next wait in line be short and pleasant. So short that you have no time to complain or vent. May you meet someone who makes you a better human being. So much better than anyone has ever seen. Finally, may your dreams and your tomorrows be totally void of deferrals and sorrows.

Happy New Year!

Dwight Brashear
Transit Director



Fleet Services – Scott Simonton Fleet Services Manager

As we continue to navigate vehicle shortages, and extremely long lead times, there is finally some good news to report. Three cutaway buses, for SMART, have finally gone into production. These vehicles were originally scheduled to arrive in Wilsonville February, 2022.

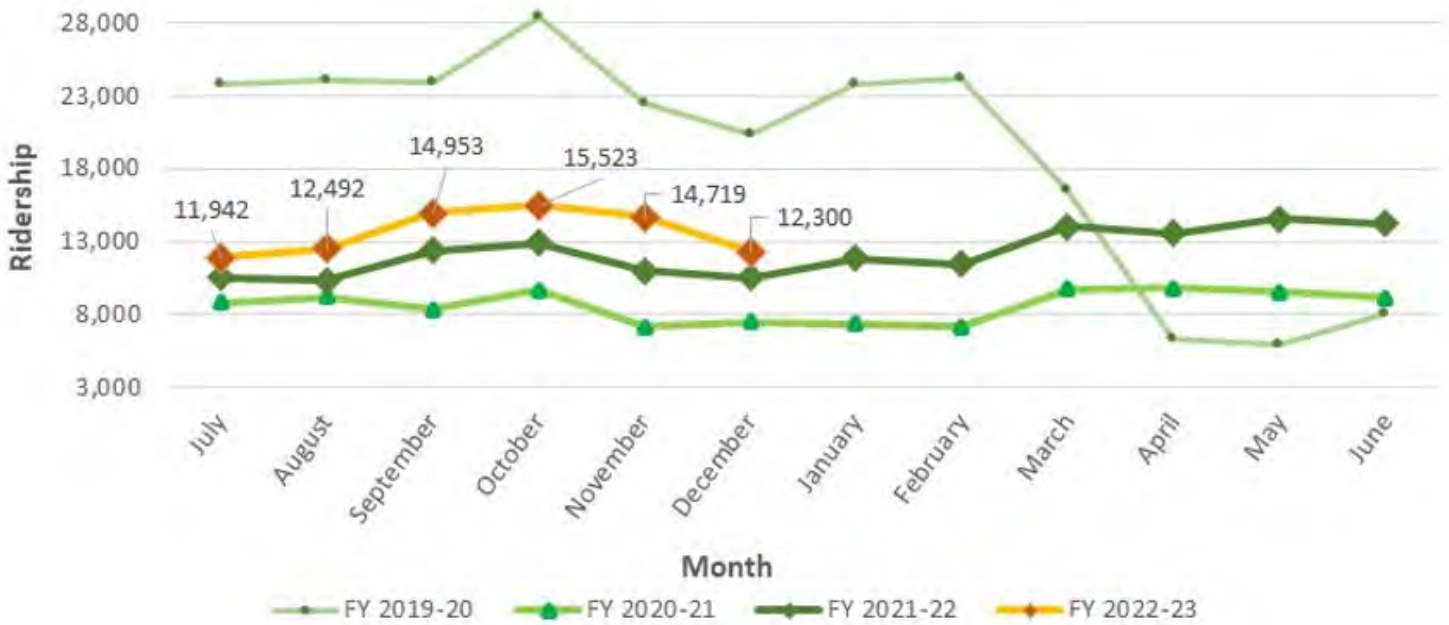
We worked with the vendor to overcome factory closures, component shortages, and labor shortages, arriving at a new delivery schedule.

We now anticipate arrival of the buses in late March.

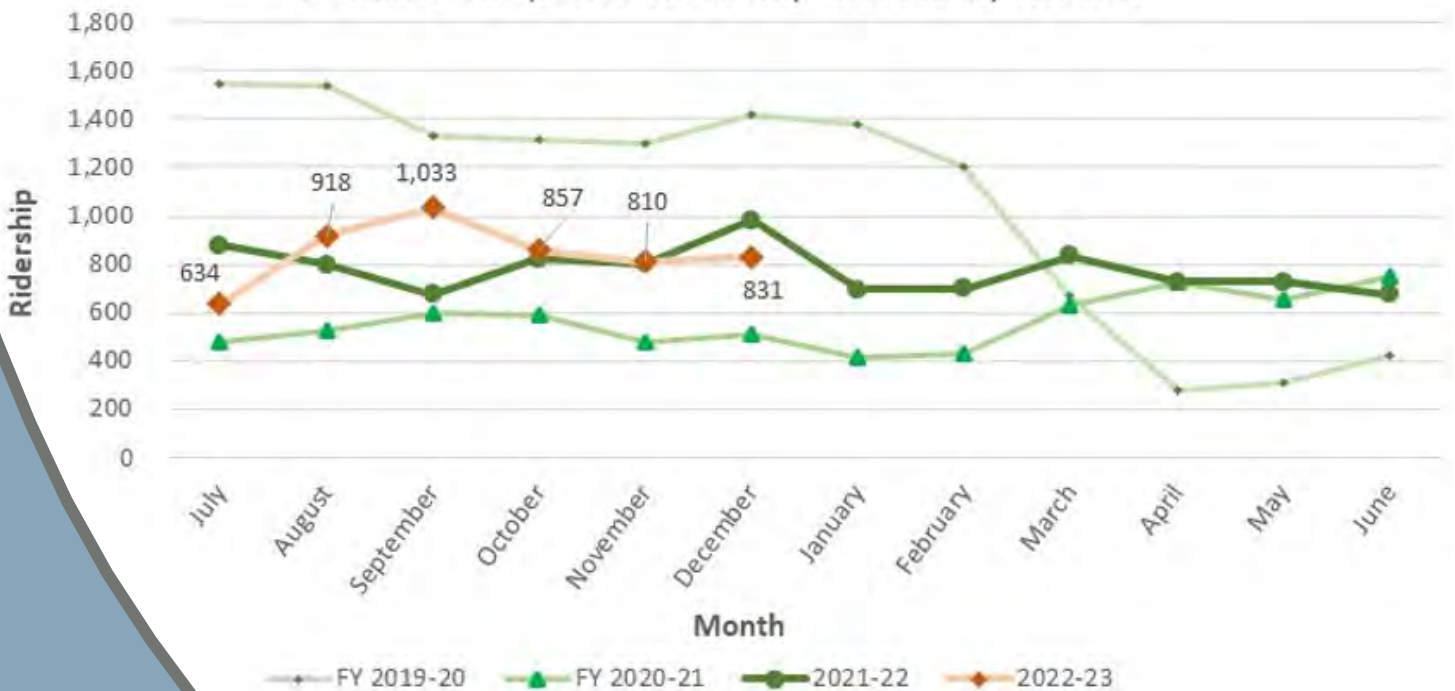


Operations - Eric Loomis Operations Manager

Fixed Route Ridership Trends by Month

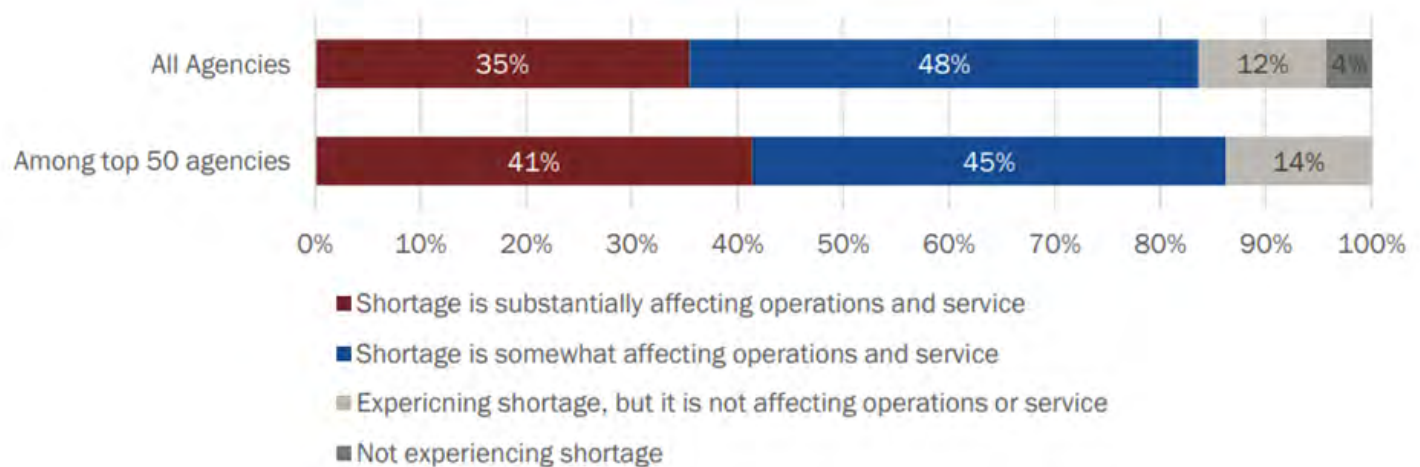


Demand Response Ridership Trends by Month



Operations - Eric Loomis Operations Manager

FIGURE 1: SEVERITY AND IMPACT OF TRANSIT WORKFORCE SHORTAGE BY AGENCY SIZE



Nationwide, SMART is among the 48% of transit agencies where the shortage is somewhat affecting operations and service. A study prepared for American Public Transportation Association (APTA) breaks down the causes behind the transit workforce shortage.

Figure 1 illustrates the severity and impact of the transit workforce shortage by agency size. The assessment gives a background as to why a shortage is occurring, including reasons such as a strong labor market, complex regulatory framework, and access to childcare.

The top reason is retirements due to an aging workforce.

With this information in mind, the

City has been working diligently the last several months to set itself apart from the national trend by painting a picture of fulfillment and meaningful contribution to a team full of strong values and culture. Expedited recruitment practices such as conducting interviews as soon as applications are submitted has helped keep the attention of prospective candidates. In January SMART was able to hire three new drivers in January, alleviating the stresses felt by a national workforce shortage in transit and bringing our driver workforce up to 84% of our goal.

You can see more details of the APTA study at <https://www.apta.com/wp-content/uploads/APTA-Transit-Workforce-Shortage-Report.pdf>.

Grants & Program Manager - Kelsey Lewis

We are finalizing a Request for Proposals to design our Transit and Fleet yard expansion at our current SMART facility. This project will include the engineering work to move underground the electrical bus charging, expand the area for bus parking, make space for an automated bus wash station, and reconfigure our security gate. The expansion would take place within our current property area so there is no need for land purchase. These changes will help us continue to transition to alternative fuels and add bus service to Clackamas Town Center. We plan for this design process to take place in 2023 with potential construction in 2024.



Transportation Options - Michelle Marston Program Coordinator



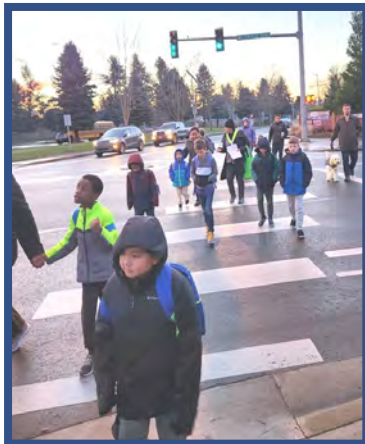
January brought fresh interest in our vanpool program. SMART staff and Commute with Enterprise hosted online meetings with DW Fritz to organize and develop possible vanpool solutions for those employees with long commutes. We also worked to develop a new updated 2023 Trip Reduction Plan to meet the DEQ ECO requirements.

In addition we worked to update the SMART Emergency Ride Home program and made it available to all employees who chose alternatives to driving alone at DW Fritz.

The SMART Emergency Ride Home (ERH) program provides part or full-time employees of ERH-registered businesses who either use SMART services, vanpool, carpool, bike or walk to work with four (4) free emergency rides home a year in the event of an unexpected emergency or unscheduled overtime. A SMART supervisor will provide the emergency ride home or schedule a ride for the commuter through a taxi or ride sourcing company.



Transportation Options - Patty Tiburcio Mobility Technician



Before Wilsonville schools went on winter break, SMART and Northwest Housing Alternatives (NHA) staff executed two Walking School Buses (WSB) to Boones Ferry Primary School (BFPS) to expose families to the

idea of walking to school as a group. In January, with kids back in school, SMART and (NHA) staff resumed Autumn Park's Walking School Bus to BFPS. SMART and NHA aim to increase the number of BFPS families walking to school and to alleviate the drop-off congestion that occurs in the morning. SMART staff posted flyers on apartments that have children attending BFPS. All flyers and messaging were made available in Spanish.

In January, SMART staff worked to promote upcoming events such as RideWise Travel

Training, Spring Learn-to-Ride Bike Clinics and Winter Walk+Roll to School Day. SMART staff promoted these events through social media, the Boones Ferry Messenger, school newsletters, West Linn Wilsonville School District Community Bulletin Board, and via emails to local groups/ organizations and school parent-teacher association groups. All flyers and messaging were made available in both English and Spanish.

In 2023, SMART is looking to expand community programs by adding a Summer Bike Adventure Camp and weekly summer Neighborhood Bike Rides. The Bike Adventure Camp is a weeklong program where campers learn to ride safely on streets, do minor mechanical maintenance on their bikes, and do a lot of riding and having fun. The goal is to create lifelong cyclists because of the fun and skills they learn at camp.

The Neighborhood Bike Rides are short, neighborhood-friendly rides for all ages in the community. This is a healthy and fun way for locals and visitors to explore the community.



Villebois Neighborhood Bike Ride