

SMART

SOUTH METRO AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT

SEPTEMBER 2023 REPORT

Transit/Fleet



I believe life is an ornate carousel with a forever changing vista. I also believe the fall season to be one of life's best examples of inevitable change. The smells, the vibrant colors, the unmistakable feel of summer slowly slipping away, serves to make fall, some would argue, the best season of them all.

September, October, November, and December contain fall in unequal measure. Sentinels of the season, watch over fall with unrelenting focus. They ensure chlorophyll is extracted from each leaf with care and precision. Like an artist capturing a breathtaking landscape with brush and paint, fall's beauty can only be matched by the falls yet to come.

“From sea to shining sea,” we welcome you, fall 2023.

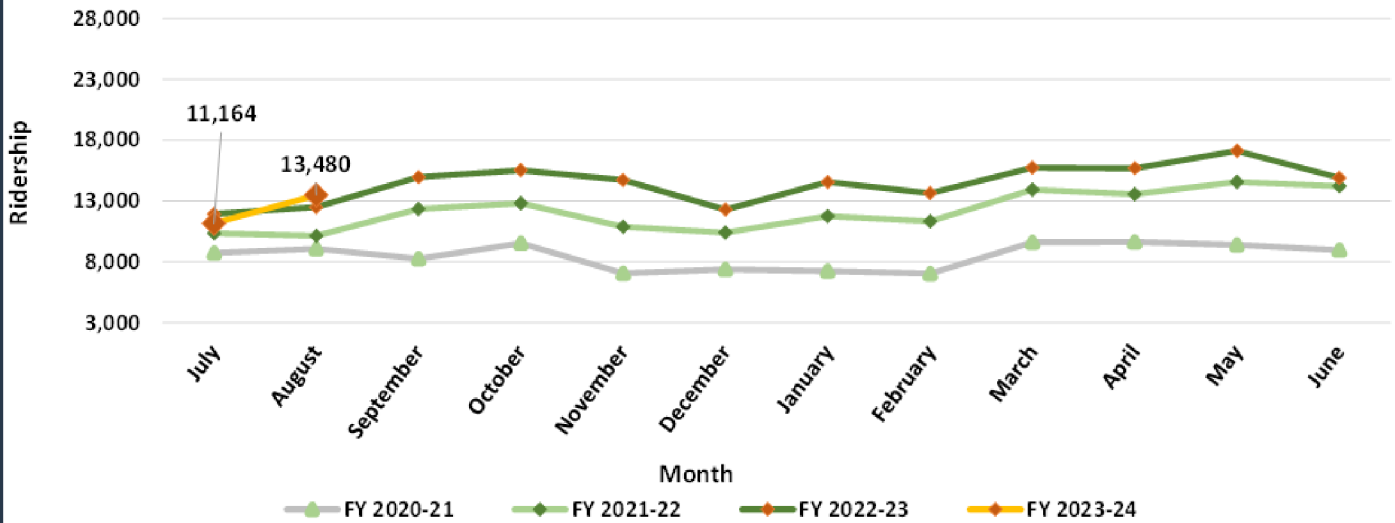
Dwight Brashear
Transit Director



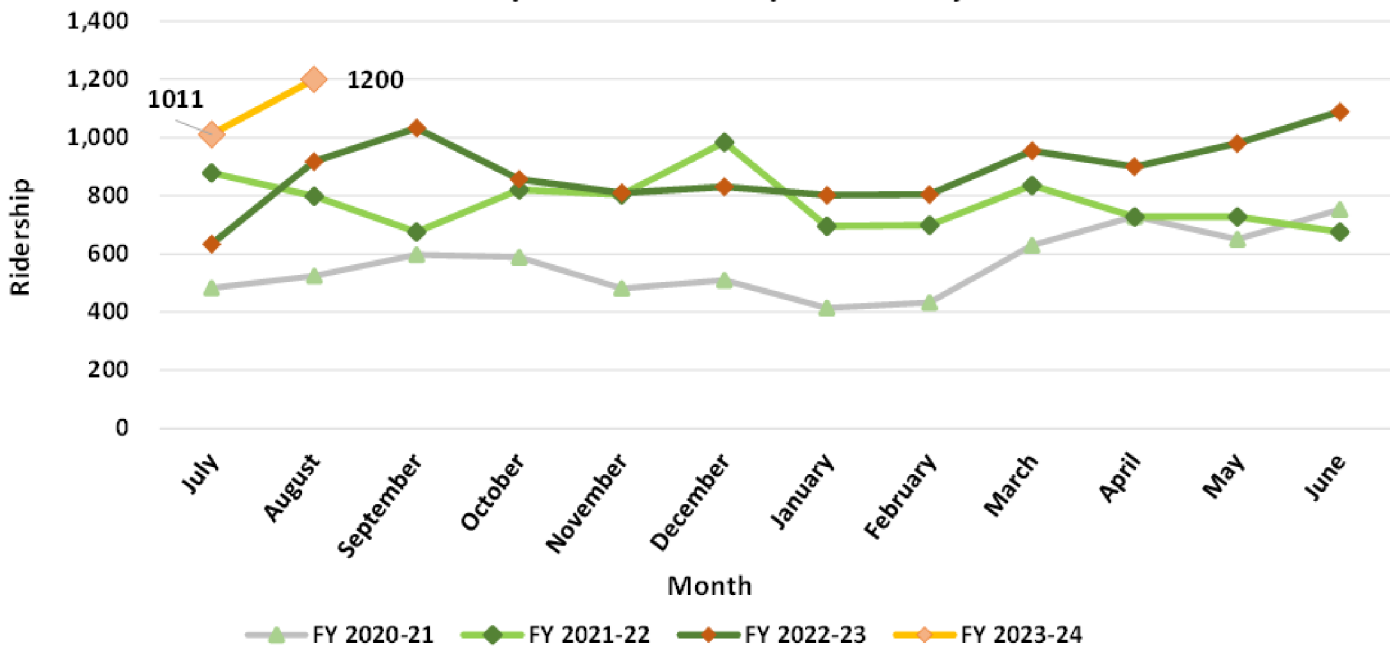
RIDERSHIP TRENDS

Anne MacCracken

Fixed Route Ridership Trends by Month



Demand Response Ridership Trends by Month



GRANTS & PROGRAMS

Kelsey Lewis

This month we closed out two small federal grants that came from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) legislation in 2021. These small grants went towards the cost of ADA paratransit operations. While they covered only a little bit of our operating cost, these grants along with all of the pandemic funding has helped SMART pay for the present costs of providing transit service and be able to focus our local funds on strategic goals for the future.

While receiving a grant award in the beginning is always exciting, close out is my favorite part of the grant lifecycle. It means that we have completed a project that adds value to our community, provided the necessary documentation to warrant the funds, and now we have a little bit more capacity available to start on another project or program that will help our community thrive. This is an immensely satisfying part of public service.

FLEET SERVICES

Scott Simonton

Three new 21 passenger buses arrived in Wilsonville in September. This has been a very long wait, as these vehicles were originally ordered May 10, 2021. We typically estimate 9-12 months to receive vehicles of this type, but shortages and slow production extended the timeline to over two years in this case.

As with all new buses, there is quite a bit of work to do before they are ready for passenger service, including exterior wraps, and installation of electronic equipment.



COMMUTE OPTIONS

Michelle Marston

Ready to win prizes, save money, boost your health, and reduce your carbon footprint by improving your commute? Join the first-ever team-based Oregon Get There Challenge from Oct. 1-15!

You can join an existing community or worksite team or create a team of up to 10 coworkers, friends, and/or neighbors.

Teams will compete for recognition and prizes by logging trips taken by bike, foot, carpool, vanpool, and transit, and remote workdays during the two-week challenge.

How to join:

Create an account for free on Get There Connect.

Join a team or create one.

Log your trips and/or remote work on Get There Connect from Oct. 1-15 to win prizes!

Prizes include:

- \$25 Cafe Yumm gift card and Get There swag
- \$25 VISA gift card
- \$100 River City Bicycles gift card
- \$100 Clever Cycles gift card and a water bottle

The grand prize of \$1,000 and top honors will go to the team with the highest score (average trips per team member) at the end of the Challenge.



Ready to defeat the competition and win prizes for driving less?

The Get There Challenge | Oct. 1-15

 **get there**
challenge

GETTHEREOREGON.ORG/CHALLENGE

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Patty Tiburcio

September marks the beginning of a new school year and with it the opportunity to re-establish SMART's relationships with our local public schools and Parent-Teacher Associations (PTA). SMART staff attended PTA meetings, school Curriculum Nights and Multi-Cultural Nights to share information about safe routes to school programming and SMART's bus services.

In a continued effort to encourage students and families to walk to school, SMART and Northwest Housing Authority (NHA) have renewed their partnership and are organizing Walking School Buses from Autumn Park Apartments to Boones Ferry Primary.

SMART and Library staff hosted a Fall Bike Rodeo at the Library. A deputy from Clackamas County Sheriff's Office joined the event and helped guide kids through the agility course.



SMART provided helmets, free of charge, to those in need. Attendees with no bicycle were welcome to use one of the bicycles brought in from Cycle Oregon.

SMART provided helmet adjustments and hosted a bike repair mechanic to provide free minor bike repairs to participants and community members.

Ride Connection and SMART staff initiated the Fall Travel Training sessions in which participants learned about safe, independent travel for older adults and people with disabilities. Upcoming sessions will include group transit trips to Salem and Bridgeport Village.

