

# **Capital Metro Monthly Ridership Report**

**September 2016  
(Fiscal Year-end 2016)**



# Ridership Summary

This is a summary of Capital Metro system-wide ridership statistics for the month of September 2016 by mode of service. This also represents fiscal year-end 2016.

## Total Boardings by Mode

Mode	Sep-15	Sep-16	Sep 15 to Sep 16	YTD 2015	YTD 2016	YTD Change
Total Fixed Route	2,032,254	2,014,579	-0.9%	22,950,992	22,342,768	-2.7%
Total Special Events	177	9,325	5168.4%	219,216	215,850	-1.5%
Total MetroAccess <sup>1</sup>	58,920	56,043	-4.9%	664,781	672,825	1.2%
Total UT Shuttle	516,359	394,794	-23.5%	3,872,842	3,297,794	-14.8%
Total Rideshare	30,272	39,421	30.2%	343,023	432,537	26.1%
Total MetroRail	67,612	69,931	3.4%	792,333	807,816	2.0%
Total MetroRapid	248,328	255,475	2.9%	2,740,415	2,712,657	-1.0%
<b>Total System</b>	<b>2,953,922</b>	<b>2,839,567</b>	<b>-3.9%</b>	<b>31,583,602</b>	<b>30,482,246</b>	<b>-3.5%</b>

<sup>1</sup> MetroAccess is up-to-date through end of year

## Average Daily Boardings by Mode

September 2016

Mode	Weekday			Saturday			Sunday		
	Sep-15	Sep-16	Sep 15 to Sep 16	Sep-15	Sep-16	Sep 15 to Sep 16	Sep-15	Sep-16	Sep 15 to Sep 16
Total Fixed Route	78,855	77,963	-1.1%	49,491	49,956	0.9%	35,668	35,507	-0.5%
Total Special Events	5	443	8597.2%	-	2	#DIV/0!	14	3	-81.4%
Total MetroAccess <sup>1</sup>	2,371	2,268	-4.4%	807	803	-0.5%	827	688	-16.9%
Total UT Shuttle	23,833	18,670	-21.7%	-	-	#DIV/0!	780	546	-30.0%
Total Rideshare	1,009	1,314	30.2%	1,009	1,314	30.2%	1,009	1,314	30.2%
Total MetroRail	2,834	2,990	5.5%	2,027	1,783	-12.0%			
Total MetroRapid	9,962	10,369	4.1%	5,376	5,034	-6.4%	3,523	3,519	-0.1%

<sup>1</sup> MetroAccess is up-to-date through end of year

FY 2016

Mode	Weekday			Saturday			Sunday		
	FY2015	FY2016	FY15 to FY16	FY2015	FY2016	FY15 to FY16	FY2015	FY2016	FY15 to FY16
Total Fixed Route	72,886	71,065	-2.5%	47,219	44,680	-5.4%	33,123	31,742	-4.2%
Total Special Events	242	208	-13.8%	1,485	2,509	69.0%	1,362	361	-73.5%
Total MetroAccess <sup>1</sup>	2,213	2,231	0.8%	994	1,008	1.5%	860	886	3.0%
Total UT Shuttle <sup>2</sup>	18,265	15,596	-14.6%	573	350	-39.0%	680	622	-8.5%
Total Rideshare	943	1,184	25.6%	933	1,171	25.5%	933	1,182	26.8%
Total MetroRail	2,774	2,837	2.3%	1,533	1,450	-5.4%	86	81	-5.2%
Total MetroRapid	8,976	8,923	-0.6%	4,993	4,835	-3.2%	3,350	3,103	-7.4%

<sup>1</sup> MetroAccess is up-to-date through end of year

<sup>2</sup> UT Shuttle full class days only

***All tables reflect ridership data as of October 21, 2016.***

The table below shows the factors that have potential impacts on ridership in the current month. Other peer agencies have shown that this type of information is useful to explain ridership changes.

### Factors Affecting Ridership this Month

Factor	Service Level	September 2015	September 2016	Impact
<b>Calendar Mix (FR, Rail, Rapid)</b>	Weekday	21	21	<b>0</b>
	Saturday	4	4	<b>0</b>
	Sunday	5	5	<b>0</b>
<b>Calendar Mix (UT Shuttle Full Service)</b>	Weekday	21	21	<b>0</b>
	Sunday	3	3	<b>0</b>
<b>Weather Impact</b>	Weekday	6	3	<b>-3</b>
	Saturday	0	2	<b>2</b>
	Sunday	0	2	<b>2</b>
<b>Special Events (Rail-Pecan St/ACL; Rapid-ACL)</b>	Fixed Route	0	0	<b>0</b>
	MetroRail	1	2	<b>1</b>
	MetroRapid	0	1	<b>1</b>
<b>Fuel Prices*</b>	All	2.15	2.05	<b>-5%</b>

\* Average monthly Gulf Coast All Grades Reformulated (<http://www.eia.gov/petroleum/gasdiesel/>)

**Red** indicates potential negative impact on ridership

**Green** indicates potential positive impact on ridership

### Ridership Overview

#### September 2016

System-wide ridership was down 3.9% compared to September 2015. Average weekday showed a decrease of 4.1%. Service levels on UT Shuttle continue to be reduced due to budget challenges of the university and thus having the most effect on ridership decline. Other Texas transit agencies are experiencing similar ridership declines over the past year or more, including DART, VIA and The-T (Fort Worth). Houston Metro has seen positive

ridership numbers with a recently redesigned system. Capital Metro is moving forward on Connections 2025 in the comprehensive review of the system including other factors that may be contributing to ridership changes. Connections 2025 is in the final phase prior to board adoption.

### **Fixed Route**

Total month Fixed Route ridership was down 0.9% from September 2015. Average weekday was down 1.1%.

### **MetroAccess**

MetroAccess showed an increase for September 2016 and was down 4.9% compared to last September.

### **UT Shuttle**

For September 2016, UT Shuttle showed a 23.5% decrease from last September. Service levels on UT Shuttle continue to be reduced due to budget challenges of the university and thus having the most effect on ridership decline. Another contributing factor is that back in April 2016, UT Shuttle routes began rolling out new buses equipped with fareboxes requiring non-UT ID holders to begin paying a local fare on this service.

### **RideShare**

The shining star continues to be the vRide program. Ridership was up 30.2% from last September. The program is successfully attracting new groups with a fare structure more attractive to "regional" riders. There are now over 215 vehicles in the RideShare program.

### **MetroRail**

MetroRail ridership was up 3.4% from September 2015. One Austin City Limits day fell in September this year compared to none in 2015, boosting ridership. Average weekday ridership was up 5.5% from the same period.

### **MetroRapid**

For the month of September MetroRapid was up 2.9% from 2015. One Austin City Limits day fell in September this year compared to none in 2015. Average weekday was up 4.1%.

## *Fiscal Year 2016*

System-wide ridership is down 3.5% for the year. Discounting the challenges with UT Shuttle, system ridership would be down only 1.9% for the year. Average weekday was down 3.6%.

### **Fixed Route**

Total annual Fixed Route ridership was down 2.7% from FY2015. Average weekday was down 2.5%.

### **MetroAccess**

MetroAccess showed an increase FY2016 and was up 1.2% compared to FY2015.

### **UT Shuttle**

For FY2016, UT Shuttle showed a 14.8% decrease from FY2015. Service levels on UT Shuttle continue to be reduced due to budget challenges of the university and thus having the most effect on the system ridership decline. Another contributing factor is that in April 2016, UT Shuttle routes began rolling out new buses equipped with fareboxes requiring non-UT ID holders to begin paying a local fare on this service.

### **RideShare**

The stand out service for FY2016 was the vRide program. Ridership was up 26.1% from FY2015. The program continues to successfully attract new groups with a fare structure more attractive to "regional" riders. There are now over 215 vehicles in the RideShare program.

### **MetroRail**

MetroRail ridership was up 2.0% from FY2015. Average weekday was up 2.3%. Peak service is at maximum capacity.

### **MetroRapid**

For FY2016 MetroRapid was down 1.0% from FY2015. Average weekday was down just 0.6%, mostly unchanged.