Capital Metro
Monthly Ridership Report

March 2017
(Fiscal Year 2017)

METRO

Ridership Summary

This is a summary of Capital Metro system-wide ridership statistics for the month of March 2017 by mode of service.

Total Boardings by Mode

Mode	Mar-16	Mar-17	Mar 16 to Mar 17	YTD 2016	YTD 2017	YTD Change
Total Fixed Route	1,929,787	1,973,974	2.3%	11,177,820	11,200,715	0.2%
Total Special Events	11,839	2,593	-78.1%	196,314	143,953	-26.7%
Total MetroAccess	59,178	59,802	1.1%	336,476	331,611	-1.4%
Total UT Shuttle	322,103	258,478	-19.8%	2,032,637	1,554,852	-23.5%
Total Rideshare	37,237	41,598	11.7%	203,181	223,879	10.2%
Total MetroRail	120,018	117,380	-2.2%	424,813	439,611	3.5%
Total MetroRapid	262,870	348,840	32.7%	1,391,923	1,585,683	13.9%
Total System	2,743,031	2,802,665	2.2%	15,763,164	15,480,304	-1.8%

Average Daily Boardings by Mode

	Weekday			Saturday			Sunday		
Mode	Mar-16	Mar-17	Mar 16 to Mar 17	Mar-16	Mar-17	Mar 16 to Mar 17	Mar-16	Mar-17	Mar 16 to Mar 17
Total Fixed Route	70,009	72,115	3.0%	46,611	45,586	-2.2%	33,283	33,246	-0.1%
Total Special Events	376	89	-76.2%	800	134	-	-	-	-
Total MetroAccess	2,233	2,258	1.1%	1,017	1,027	1.0%	938	939	0.1%
Total UT Shuttle[1]	17,725	14,236	-19.7%	-	-	-	763	744	-2.4%
Total Rideshare	1,201	1,342	11.7%	1,201	1,342	11.7%	1,201	1,342	11.7%
Total MetroRail[2]	4,242	4,232	-0.2%	4,588	4,099	-10.7%	4,109	3,653	-11.1%
Total MetroRapid	9,554	12,731	33.3%	6,723	8,305	23.5%	4,061	5,701	40.4%

[1] UT Shuttle only operated 18 weekdays and 3 Sundays

[2] Rail operated one Sunday

All tables reflect ridership data as of April 19, 2017.

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	March 2016	March 2017	Impact
Calendar Mix (FR, Rail, Rapid)	Weekday	23	23	**0**
	Saturday	4	4	**0**
	Sunday	4	4	**0**
Calendar Mix (UT Shuttle Full Service)	Weekday	18	18	**0**
	Sunday	4	4	**0**
Weather Impact	Weekday	11	4	**-7**
	Saturday	0	2	**2**
	Sunday	0	2	**2**
Special Events (SXSW)	Fixed Route	0	0	**0**
	MetroRail	13	13	**0**
	MetroRapid	5	5	**0**
Fuel Prices*	All	1.86	2.18	**17%**

* 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

March 2017

System-wide ridership was up 2.2% compared to March 2016. Average weekday showed an increase of 2.4%. There were the same number of weekdays this March compared to last and weather was more favorable. Fuel prices are also beginning to increase, up 17.2% from 2016. Several UT Shuttle routes continue to be on detour which was not the case last March. Excluding UT Shuttle effects, ridership would have been up 5.1%. Austin Community College ridership has also declined over the past few years with the implementation of a $25 transit pass fee in fall semester 2014. Ridership declines in this category have begun to somewhat level out in recent months.

Connections 2025 plan was adopted by the board and will be moving into implementation phase with much more public input expected.

Fixed Route

Total month Fixed Route ridership was up 2.3% from March 2016. Average weekday was up 3.0%.

MetroAccess

MetroAccess showed an increase for March 2017 and was up 1.0% compared to last year. MetroAccess is making an effort to manage this high cost service through eligibility evaluations, travel training, and pathway assessment.

UT Shuttle

For March 2017, UT Shuttle showed a 19.8% decrease from last March. Service levels remain relatively unchanged from fall semester. Other contributing factors are (1) in April 2016, UT Shuttle routes introduced new buses equipped with fareboxes requiring non-UT ID holders to begin paying a local fare on this service; (2) UT ID holders also now required to swipe their card; (3) Major detour on several UT routes continues.

RideShare

The vRide program showed an 11.7% increase for March. Rideshare (aka vanpool) saw its highest single month ridership of 41,598 since September 1997 when it was over 44,000.

MetroRail

MetroRail ridership was down 2.2% from March 2016 while average weekday ridership was down only 0.2% from the same period.

MetroRapid

MetroRapid saw a major increase of 32.7% from March 2016. Average weekday was also up 33.2%. This is related to the fare reduction, eliminating the Premium fare with an additional boost from SXSW Festival.

SXSW

While SXSW attendance numbers are not available yet, SXSW Festival was described as scaled back from previous years according to a Billboard article (http://www.billboard.com/articles/events/sxsw/7717322/sxsw-2017-smaller-crowds-fewer-brands). More riders decided to use MetroRapid this year as well most likely due to the reduced fare. Fixed Route was up slightly as well. MetroRail saw a bit of a decline over SXSW in March 2016. However, with these services combined, ridership was up close to 2%.

Comment [JC1]: 2017? Or from March 2016?