



SMART

SOUTH METRO AREA  REGIONAL TRANSIT

April 2023 Report

Is it truly April? Where is the smell of spring? Questions many of us are asking right now. Questions that deserves a definitive answers.

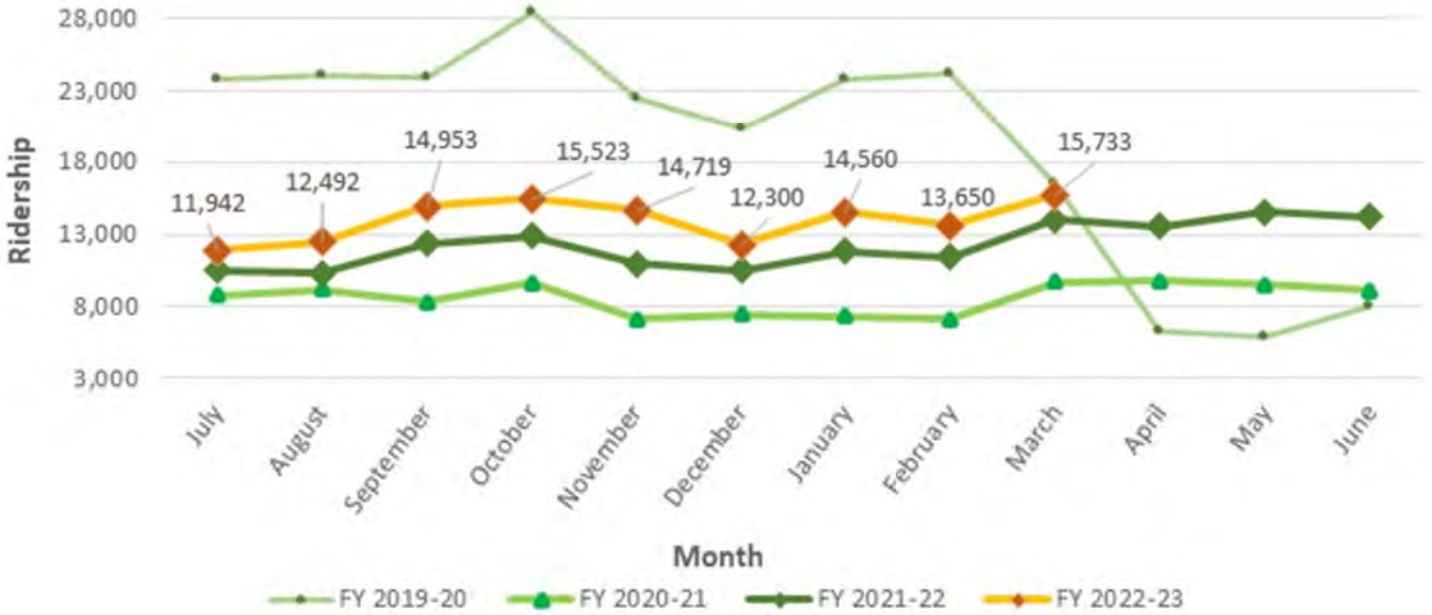
As I alighted the Route 3X at the Wilsonville Transit Center this early April morning and prepared for my anxiously anticipated quarter mile walk to the office, I felt an all-too-familiar chill taunting me just like it had for the previous six months. No more. No less. As I placed one foot in front of the other, I spied Old Man Winter grinning from frigid ear-to-ear and blowing a tune I just assume forget. Appearing unapologetic as he refused to yield the high throne of the seasons to the melodic days of spring. Then it struck me, this must be what T.S. Eliot meant when he wrote the opening words to the epic poem *The Waste Land* - *"April is the cruellest month, breeding lilacs out of the dead land, mixing memory and desire, stirring dull roots with spring rain."*

Dwight Brashear

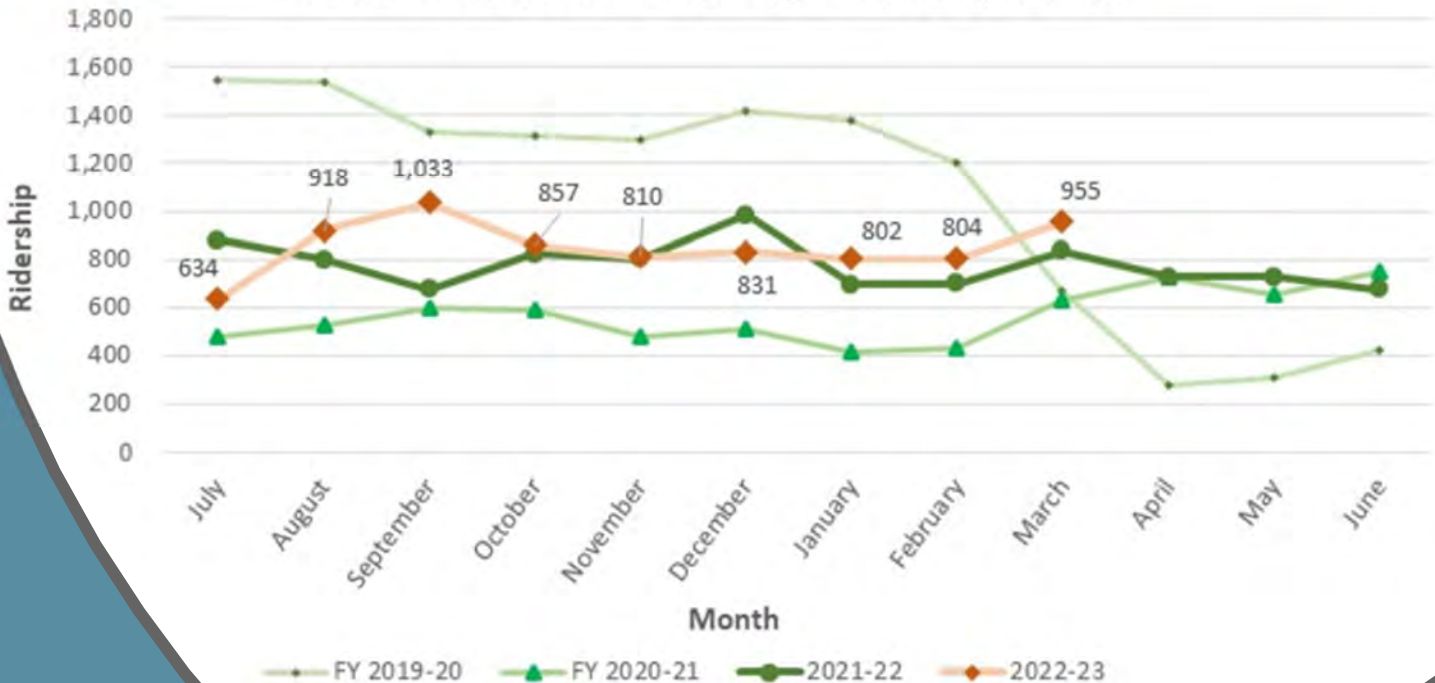


Operations - Anne MacCracken Management Analyst

Fixed Route Ridership Trends by Month



Demand Response Ridership Trends by Month



Operations - **Eric Loomis** Operations Manager

Every job has its perks and driving a bus gives you views that an office just cannot compete with. Rain, snow, or shine, the scene from a bus driver's seat is picturesque – where the parks meet the landscaped pavement, a driver gets a front row seat to all the beauty Wilsonville has to offer. Throughout a SMART driver's day, they may begin in the dark hours of the morning, only to see the sunrise over the city while dropping off some sleepy middle schoolers at Meridian Creek. Later they might move over to a Route 3X and enjoy the country drive to Canby helping folks connect to Oregon City and Woodburn. To wrap up the day, that same driver could pick up some of our more rowdy customers from the Community Center after a hot game of Bingo. All this while enjoying the company of our customers. The smiling faces, the laughter, and the appreciation for the freedom to travel throughout Wilsonville and beyond.

Throughout the day our drivers have much to look for while they enjoy the view. Safety is always the priority here at SMART, which means

a driver is always on alert for hazards or potential hazards; such as a bicyclist in the roadway, children playing near the bus stop, a jogger with headphones in, or the driver on their cell phone in the next lane. 39,600 pounds of steel does not stop on a dime. Proper following distance is crucial. Observation and scanning ahead is crucial. Checking mirrors every 8-10 seconds is a bus driver's norm. Driving requires a clear focus and 100% of attention to the tasks at hand. This is what keeps our passengers safe. This is what keeps our community safe. Our drivers do it with a welcoming smile on their face, because they know the reward is a returned smile; a smile of gratitude, and a genuine thank you, as the passenger alights the bus.



Operations - **Scott Simonton** –Fleet Manager

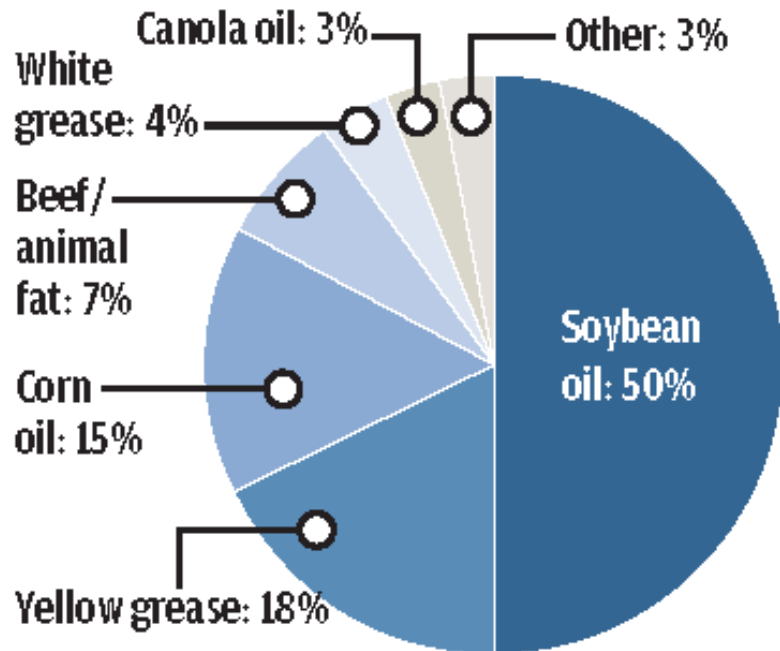
Petroleum based diesel is no longer being used in Wilsonville’s vehicle fleet. We have now moved to a renewable fuel product, known as “R99”.

Renewable diesel is not a fossil fuel. Instead, it is made of nonpetroleum renewable resources such as natural fats, vegetable oils, and greases. Much of the stock used to produce renewable diesel is considered agricultural waste, which is the result of food production. We have been tracking the price and availability of R99 for the past few years, after learning of the success Eugene Water & Electric experienced with this fuel in their fleet.

The main problem had been the limited supply within Oregon, while a secondary concern was pricing.

Our fuel supplier is now able to guarantee consistent availability as well as price parity. The ability to move to renewable, with no increase in price over petroleum diesel, resulted in an easy decision to make the switch.

Where renewable diesel comes from



Source: A 2022 report by Cerulogy, a green energy consultant research group

Lee Enterprises graphic

Grants & Program Manager - Kelsey Lewis

Our long awaited order of three small “cutaway” buses is finally on its way to us. This is a relief for our fleet staff and operations, as well as good news for our grant management, as the delay has required explanations in ongoing reporting on three separate grants since these buses were ordered in 2021. SMART staff are happy to see that many of the supply chain issues have improved. As the pandemic has loosened its grip, we have also used the majority of our emergency transit operations assistance funds that came through the American Rescue Plan Act.



Transportation Options - Michelle Marston Program Coordinator

We created a short video to help folks transition to using the mySMARTbus app to get real time information and any real time bus alerts.

Find the video on the City’s YouTube channel, on our social media pages, and on our website.



Planning for the 2023 summer Walk at Lunch series is now complete. We have a full calendar of walks scheduled for the summer with many returning business partners and even some new ones!

Join us May 17, at Nichols Family Agency near Town Center park and meet like minded folks who like to get out and walk for short trips.

Find our full calendar at rideSMART.com/walkatlunch



Transportation Options - **Patty Tiburcio** Mobility Technician

After Wilsonville schools returned from Spring Break, SMART and Northwest Housing Alternatives (NHA) staff resumed the Walking School Bus to Boones Ferry Primary School (BFPS). Thus far, the Walking School Bus has established consistent participation from a number of families. SMART and NHA continue to work on increasing the number of BFPS families walking to school and to alleviate the drop-off congestion that occurs in the morning.



At the end of April, SMART and Ride Connection staff held the final session of a four part travel training series. Session four included a group transit trip to/from Washington Square Mall. During the trip, participants experienced traveling on SMART's 2X bus route to get to the Tualatin Park and Ride. From here, the group transferred onto TriMet's Bus 76. Participants learned about using TriMet's HOP system; using a paper fare ticket and the plastic HOP card; and Transit Tracker which provides real-time arrival information for buses and trains. During the trip, participants also experienced a fare inspection and learned the importance of holding onto a paper ticket, which once torn is no longer valid. The fare inspection led to an impromptu question and answer session with the fare inspectors.

