

**Municipality of Anchorage
Public Transit Advisory Board
Meeting Agenda
November 9, 2023; 5:30-7:00 P.M.**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of the Agenda**
- 4. Public Involvement Announcement:**

Audience participation at this meeting is limited to the Public Comments section of the agenda. However, the Chair may open any agenda item for public comment. Written comments will be addressed first, then verbal comments on a first-recognized basis by the Board Chair. Each commenter should state their name so it can be recorded in the minutes. Commenters will have two minutes to speak on each agenda item they wish to comment on. If you used the call-in number, please mute yourself when not speaking by dialing *6. A recording is being made of this meeting and will be posted on the Municipal website.

- 5. Action / Information Items**

1. Minutes of October 12, 2023, Meeting (Action Item) [2 Minutes]
2. Director's Update (Info Item) [5 Minutes]
3. Operations Update (Info Item) [5 Minutes]
4. Transit Center Study Update & Three Site Recommendation (Action Item) [60 Minutes]
5. SFY2025 Alaska Mental Health Trust Grant (Action Item) [5 Minutes]
6. Ridership Update (Info Item) [5 Minutes]

- 6. Public Comments** [2 minutes each]
- 7. Member Comments**
- 8. Adjournment**

Next PTAB Meeting Date:

PTAB Regular Meeting – Thursday, December 14, 2023

Public Transit Advisory Board (PTAB)

Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2023, 5:30–7:00 p.m.



Call to Order

Ms. Sarah Preskitt called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call

PTAB Members Present

CB Brady
Doug Miller
Michael J. Williams
Michael Williams
Nathaniel Lackey
Peter Hill
Ric Nelson
Sarah Preskitt

PTAB Members Absent

N/A

Citizens Present

Daniel Costantino (JWA)
Stewart Nagel

After the roll call, it was identified that a quorum was present.

Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Nathaniel Lackey moved to approve the October 14, 2023, agenda.

Mr. Peter Hill seconded.

The motion passed without objection.

Public Involvement Announcement

Ms. Sarah Preskitt read the public involvement announcement.

Action/Information Items

1. Minutes of the September 14, 2023, meeting (Action Item)

Mr. Peter Hill moved to approve the minutes of September 14, 2023.

Mr. Doug Miller seconded the motion.

The motion passed without objection.

2. Director's Update (Information Item)

Information was provided by Mr. Wes Renfrew in Ms. Jamie Acton's absence.

3. Operations Update (Information Item)

Information provided by Mr. Wes Renfrew.

4. Transit Center Study Update (Information Item)

Information was provided by Mr. Daniel Costantino.

5. September Rider Survey Results (Information Item)

Information was provided by Mr. Randy Brown.

6. Budget Resolution (Information Item)

Information was provided by Mr. Bart Rudolph.

7. Ridership Update (Information Item)

Information was provided by Mr. Nicholas Abugel and Mr. Bart Rudolph.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Member Comments

Mr. C.B. Brady welcomed Mr. Michael J. Williams to the board and thanked Mr. Daniel Costantino for his presentation. He added, "The screens in the buses are great! However, the detour messaging can be a bit hard to see."

Mr. Doug Miller said that he thought today's meeting was good. He added that he looks forward to a time when we have an indoor transit center and wondered how we got by without one for so long. He also requested a time estimate for each agenda item.

Mr. Peter Hill welcomed Mr. Michael J. Williams and echoed Doug Miller's statement about getting an indoor transit center.

Mr. Michael J. Williams thanked everyone for welcoming him to the board and expressed his pleasure to be a part of it. He added that he had been riding People Mover for the past 20 years and raised a concern about a broken screen at the transit center.

Mr. Michael Williams expressed excitement about the positive results of the rider survey.

Mr. Nathaniel Lackey welcomed Mr. Michael J. Williams and thanked Mr. Daniel Costantino for his presentation.

Mr. Ric Nelson said he had no comments for this meeting and would be unable to attend the November PTAB meeting.

Ms. Sarah Preskitt welcomed Mr. Michael J. Williams to the board and expressed excitement about the rider survey results.

Adjournment

Mr. Peter Hill moved to adjourn the PTAB meeting of September 14 at 7:08 PM.

Mr. Michael J. Williams seconded.

The next PTAB meeting will be held on November 9, 2023, from 5:30–7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas Abugel
Transit Planning Technician

For details of the board's discussion, please refer to the recording of this meeting on the municipal website at <http://www.muni.org/Departments/transit/Pages/PublicTransitAdvisoryBoard.aspx7>

Municipality of Anchorage
Public Transportation Department



MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 2, 2023
TO: Public Transit Advisory Board
FROM: Randy Brown, Senior Transit Planner
SUBJECT: **Transit Center Study: Project Advisory Committee Recommendation of Three Sites**

On October 27, 2023, the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) met for the third time to review feedback from stakeholders, the general public, and to recommend three (3) sites to advance to the next phase of this study. When considering location, ease of access and acquisition, the needs of transit riders, and feedback from the public and stakeholders, the PAC is recommending these sites:

- The existing site (700 W 6th Ave)
- The ConocoPhillips lot (6th Ave & I Street)
- The Chinook lot (3rd Ave & E Street)

All three sites are located downtown. Feedback from the stakeholder workshop, online open house, and the PAC indicate a greater level of support for a downtown location over one in midtown.

The Public Transportation Department (PTD) is requesting that the Public Transit Advisory Board (PTAB) recommend three sites to advance to the next phase of project. Once the Board's recommendation has been received, the Department Director and the Administration (Mayor's office) will make a final decision on which three sites advance. The final decision is anticipated by no later than November 17, 2023.

In the next phase of the project, detailed site layouts, financial and operational plans, and a feasibility report will be completed. The study is still on schedule and is expected to conclude late spring/early summer of 2024.

Anchorage Transit Center Study
Sites Recommended and Not Recommended for Further Study
Based on Discussion with Project Advisory Committee (PAC) on 10/27/2023

Site	Key Positive Factors	Key Negative Factors	PAC Recommendation
Existing Transit Center <i>(West 6th Ave, between G and H)</i>	<p>Strong Public Support (65% first or second choice in survey)</p> <p>Central location within Downtown</p> <p>Good accessibility for pedestrians</p> <p>Demonstrated ability to function in existing network</p>	<p>Weak stakeholder support (4 votes in favor in workshop)</p> <p>Limited ability to support future growth</p> <p>Reduced availability of indoor space, compared to pre-COVID facility</p> <p>Constraints on redevelopment of garage site</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Proceed with detailed study</p>
ConocoPhillips Lot <i>(Between 6th and 7th, H and I)</i>	<p>Medium Public Support (45% first or second choice in survey)</p> <p>Medium Stakeholder Support (12 votes in favor in workshop)</p> <p>Same location and accessibility benefits as existing transit center</p> <p>Potential for transit center as part of a larger redevelopment into office, housing, commercial or other uses</p>	<p>Potentially complicated acquisition and redevelopment. Requires coming to an agreement with ConocoPhillips, taking account their business needs.</p> <p>Potentially expensive, for the reasons above.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Proceed with detailed study</p>
Chinook Lot <i>(225 E Street)</i>	<p>Medium Stakeholder Support (11 votes in favor in workshop)</p> <p>Easy acquisition. Site already belongs to the Municipality.</p> <p>Lots of ongoing nearby redevelopment.</p> <p>Potential for intermodal transfers (rail, buses).</p> <p>Very large site, many layouts possible.</p>	<p>Weak Public Support (25% first or second choice in survey)</p> <p>High-risk seismic zone, limits building possibilities</p> <p>Farther from existing center of activity than other sites being examined in Downtown</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Proceed with detailed study</p>

Anchorage Transit Center Study
Sites Recommended and Not Recommended for Further Study
Based on Discussion with Project Advisory Committee (PAC) on 10/27/2023

Site	Key Positive Factors	Key Negative Factors	PAC Recommendation
5th Avenue Garage <i>(West 5th Ave, between B and C)</i>	<p>Central location within Downtown</p> <p>Relatively easy acquisition. Site belongs to ACDA, who is willing to make it available.</p> <p>Medium accessibility for pedestrians (good sidewalks but high/fast traffic on 5th)</p>	<p>Very Weak Public Support (15% first or second choice in survey)</p> <p>No Stakeholder Support</p> <p>Significant year-round and seasonal operating challenges (buses can't turn right on C and D, 4th Ave closures for Iditarod and Fur Rondy)</p> <p>High-risk seismic zone</p>	<p>Do not proceed</p>
Former Northern Lights Inn <i>(598 W Northern Lights)</i>	<p>Relatively easy acquisition and/or redevelopment. Existing owner wants to redevelop, wants to do it with transit and combine with other development possibilities, e.g. housing.</p> <p>Central site within Midtown.</p>	<p>Strong Public Opposition (59% fifth or sixth choice in survey)</p> <p>Weak Stakeholder Support. (3 votes in favor in workshop)</p> <p>Significant pedestrian access challenges and safety hazards due to high traffic, high speeds, narrow sidewalks, no safe crossings on Northern Lights and Benson. Previous attempts to remediate have not been successful.</p> <p>Midtown sites have larger impact on transit network than Downtown.</p>	<p>Do not proceed</p>
Former DMV Site <i>(1300 W Benson)</i>	<p>Good pedestrian access to site on Spenard, medium on Benson.</p>	<p>Medium Public Opposition (45% fifth or sixth choice in survey)</p> <p>Midtown sites have larger impact on transit network than Downtown.</p> <p>Relatively far from many Midtown activities and destinations.</p> <p>Acquisition potential unclear. Site owner has not responded to e-mails to date.</p>	<p>Do not proceed</p>

Municipality of Anchorage
Public Transit Advisory Board Resolution #2023-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD SUPPORTING AN APPLICATION
FOR THE SFY2025 ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST GRANT

WHEREAS, the Alaska Mental Health Trust (AMHT) has provided funding to the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) to support AMHT activities in the Region; and

WHEREAS, the Board is charged with making recommendations to the Assembly and Mayor on municipal policy with respect to budget review, capital improvement programs and funding of the public owned and operated transit system, and

WHEREAS, DOT&PF has issued a call for grant application for SFY2025; and

WHEREAS, provision of AMHT funding to the Municipality of Anchorage Public Transportation Department (PTD) would support the AnchorRIDES paratransit program and the service it provides to the target populations of elderly, disabled and AMHT beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, PTD provides a program of AnchorRIDES services as part of the SFY 2025 AMHT grant application; and

WHEREAS, DOT&PF is to staff, support, and administer the AMHT grant program requiring a 20% match of local funds; and

WHEREAS, A resolution of the Board is required as part of the AMHT grant application by PTD; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Public Transit Advisory Board strongly supports the AnchorRIDES program and the services it provides to the target populations of elderly, disabled, and AMHT beneficiaries in the Anchorage area; and

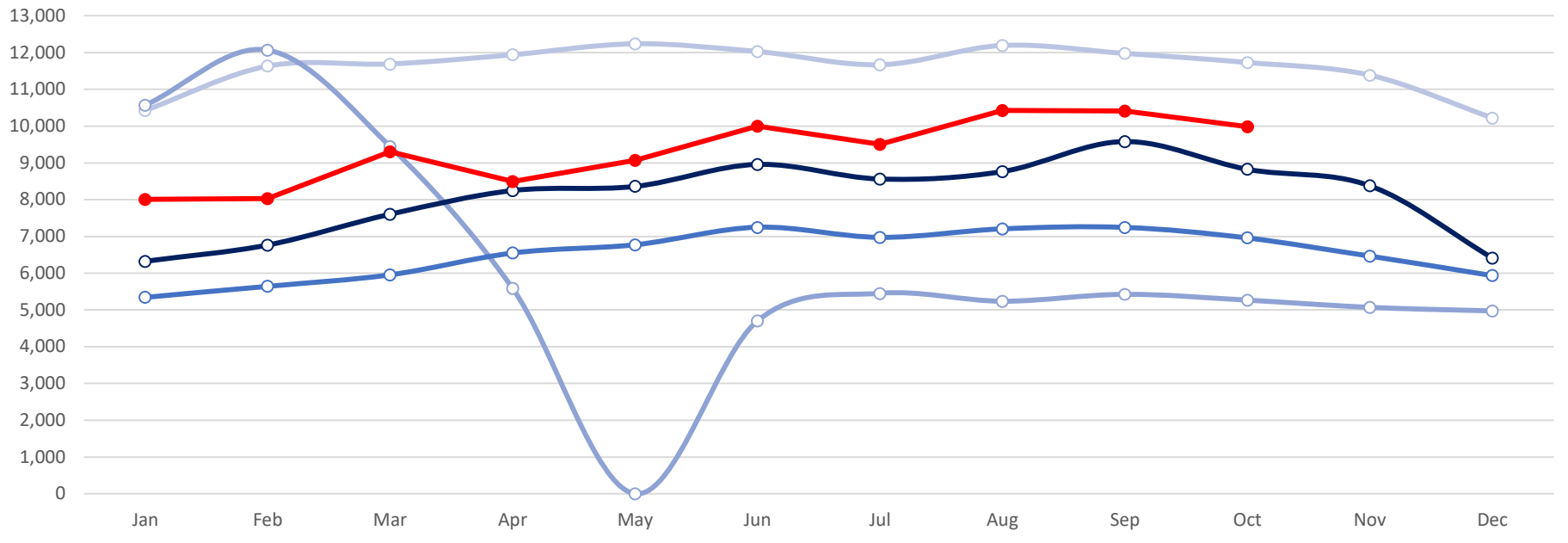
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Anchorage Public Advisory Board supports the application by PTD for SFY2025 funding under the AMHT grant program.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Public Transit Advisory Board
this 9th day of November 2023.

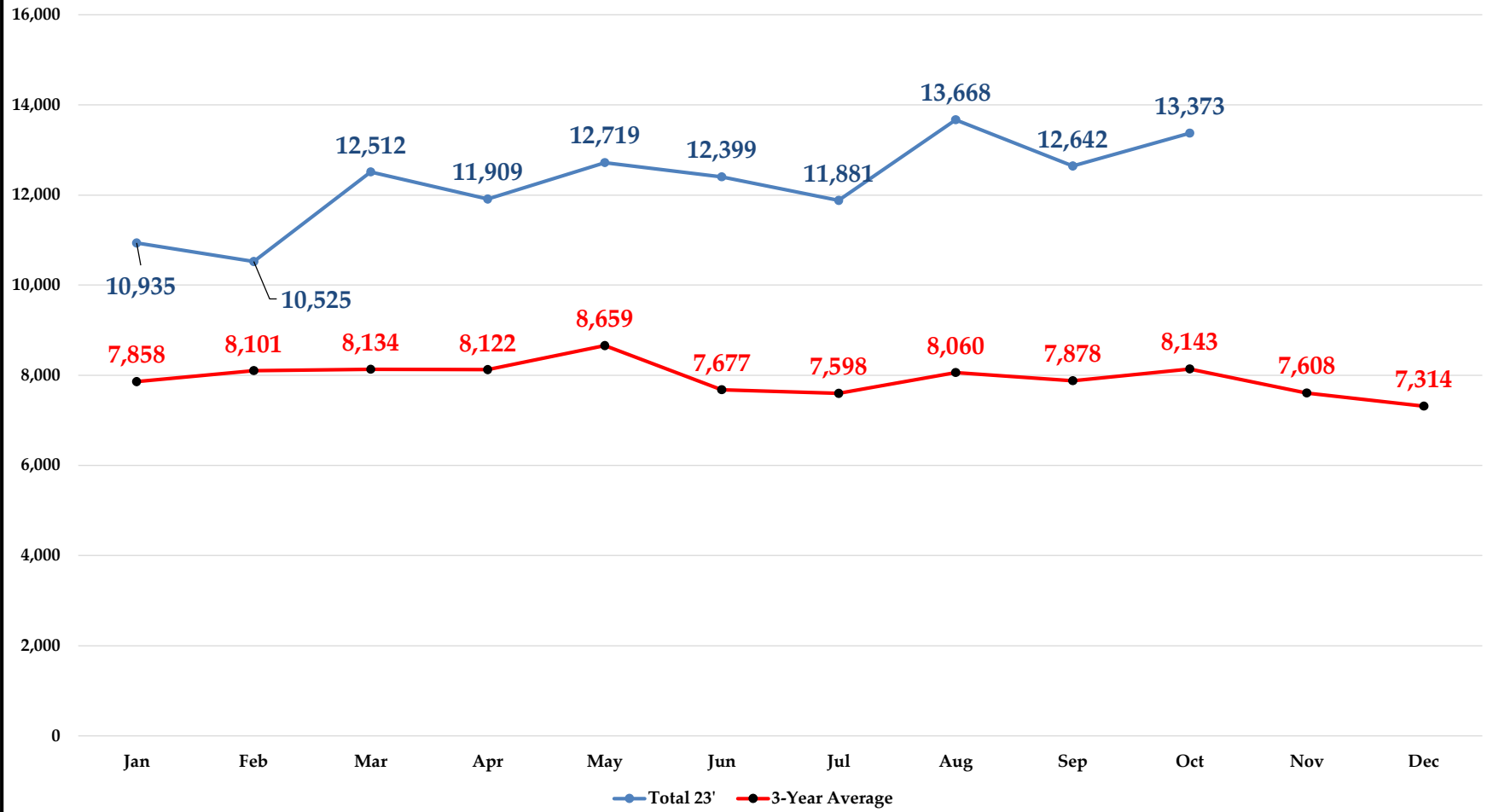
Sarah Preskitt
Chair

Monthly Weekday Average Ridership History

○ 2019 ○ 2020 ○ 2021 ○ 2022 ● 2023

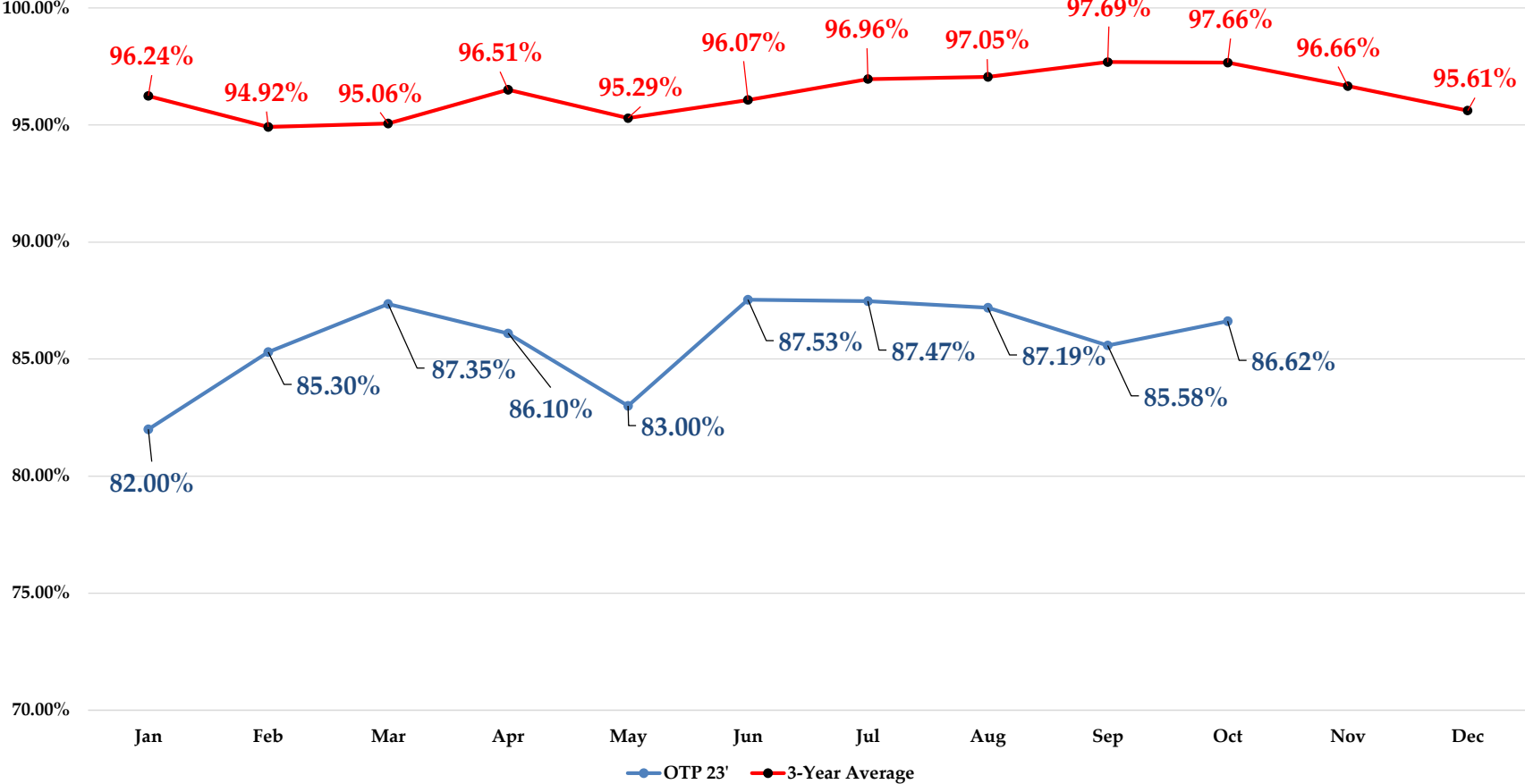


AnchorRIDES 2023 Ridership

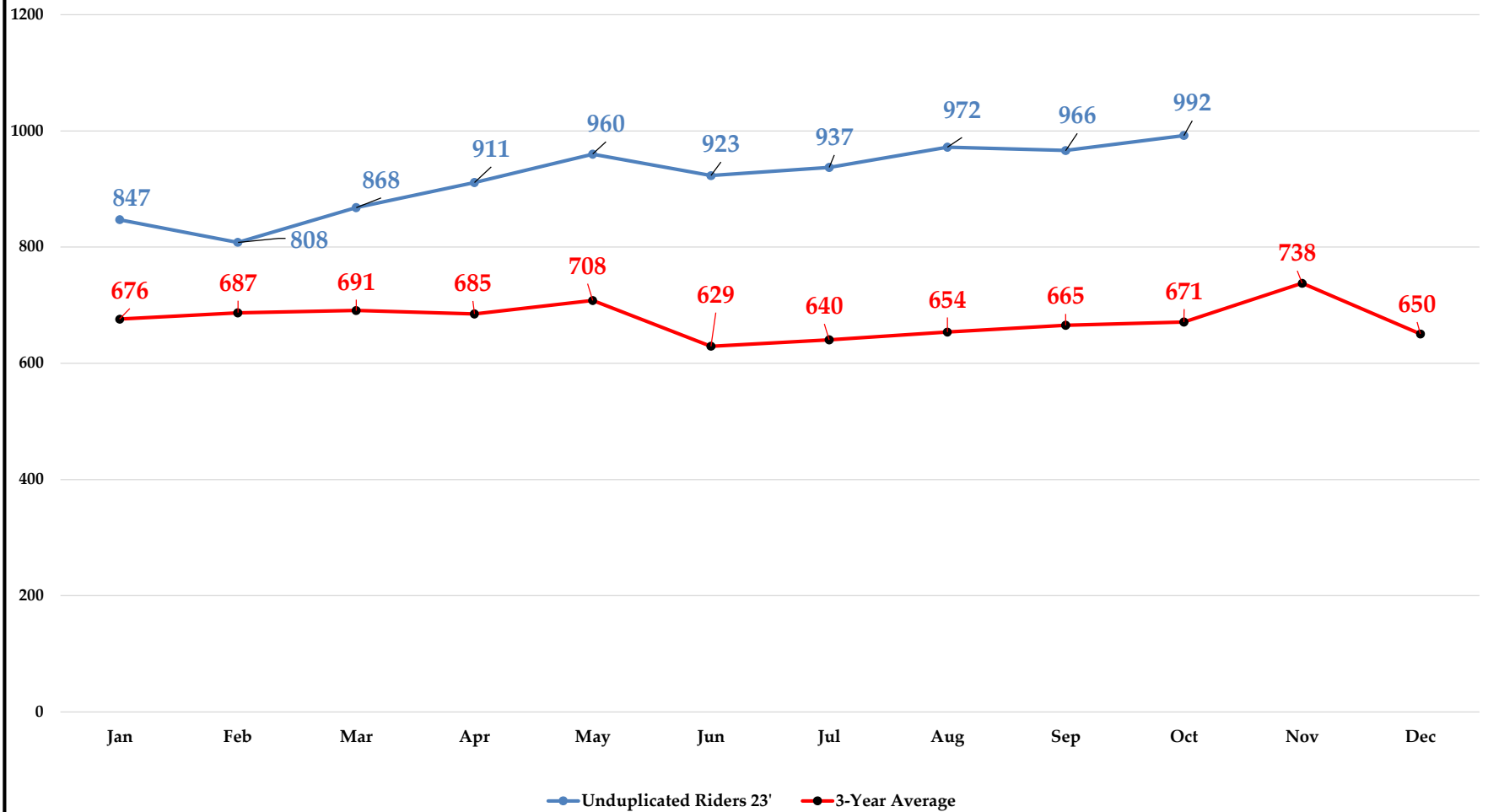


2023 AnchorRIDES On-Time Performance

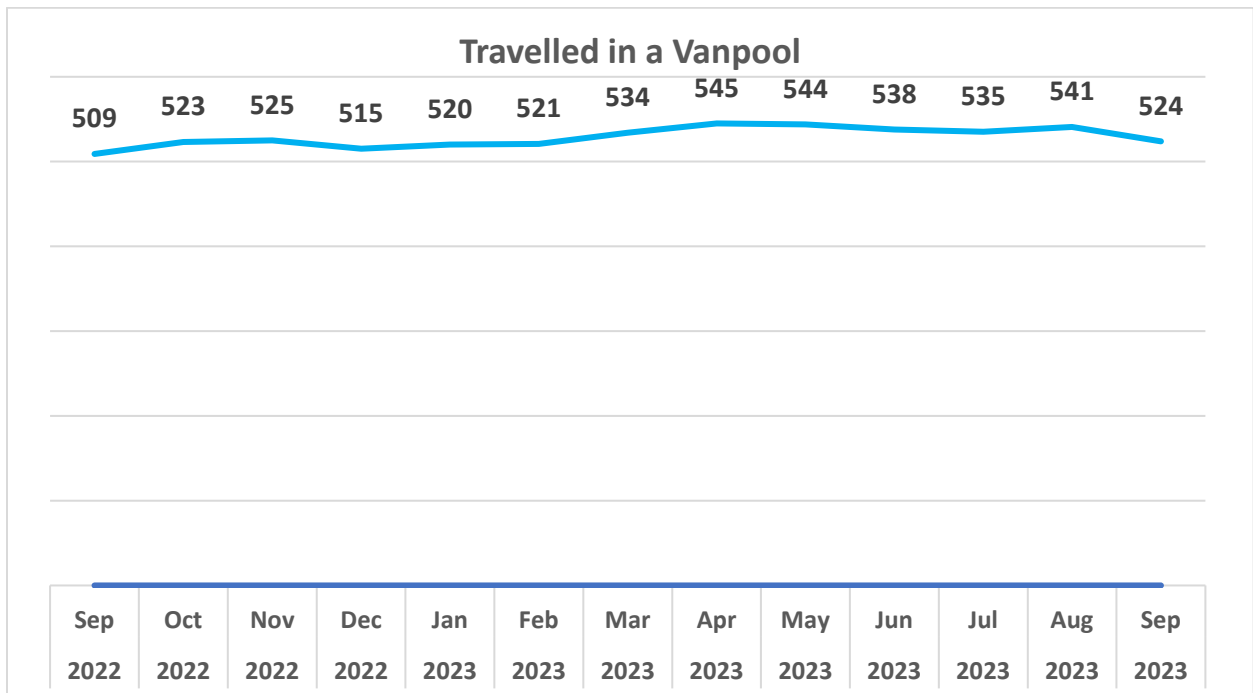
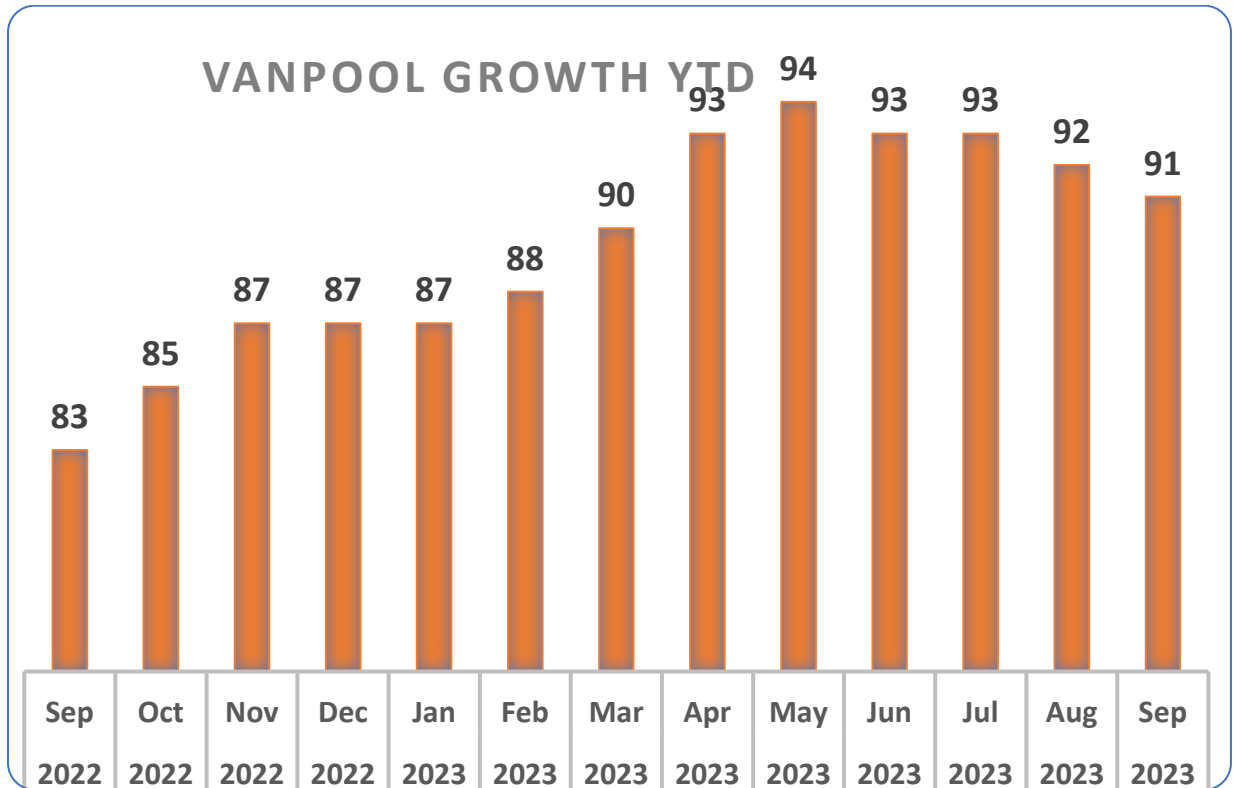
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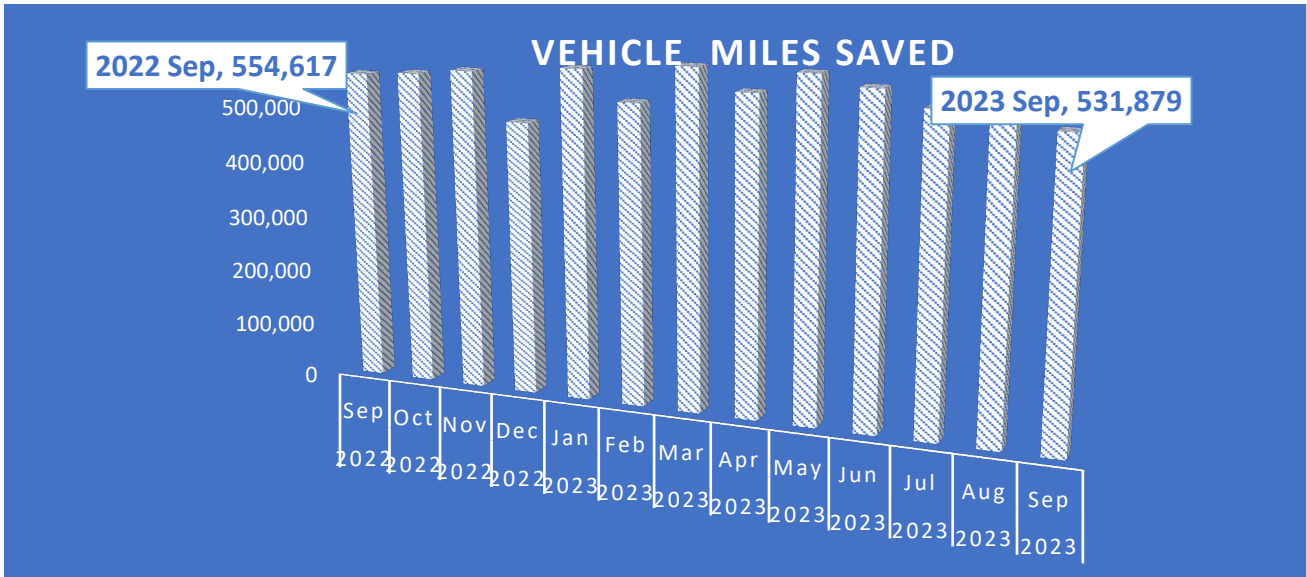


2023 Unduplicated Customers



November 9, 2023, PTAB Meeting RideShare Report





Program Goal is to reduce CO2 emissions

