

## 2024 SYSTEM REPORT

#### A YEAR OF REFINEMENT AND RIGHT-SIZING

In 2024, the Public Transportation Department (PTD) made very challenging decisions - with valuable feedback from a robust public comment process - to reduce service for the first time in almost a decade. Staffing challenges continue to affect the department, but improvements have been made to right-size operations, so the system is more reliable. The department thanks each and every person who submitted their feedback and voted on the reduction scenarios through that campaign, as that strongly influenced the decisions that had to be made, in order to right-size operations and make the system more useful and reliable for the community as a whole.

After finalizing all technological upgrades from 2022-23, People Mover implemented 3 schedule changes in 2024. Some route alignments changed based off of Transit on the Move project priorities, and others from feedback from the community from the triannual rider survey. Moving forward, the department will have 2 schedule changes a year, a summer schedule (May implementation) and a winter schedule (October implementation), to better adapt to road and travel conditions throughout the seasons.

In September 2024, an on-board origin destination (OD) study was conducted to better understand ridership patterns on the People Mover system. The primary goal of this study is to provide Anchorage Metropolitan Area Solutions (AMATS) and PTD with insights into

Stop ® 25 Tudor

Service changes implemented (January, May, October)

2,547 Responses collected from Triannual Rider Survey

12/3
The Downtown Trans

The Downtown Transit Center reopens its doors to riders in December.

how riders use the transit system. Highlights include:

- 94% have access to a smart phone with internet access
- 64% have zero vehicle households
- 42% do not have drivers licenses

The data collected will aid in developing transportation plans that address the diverse needs and preferences of the community.

In addition, the department welcomed 26 new buses into the People Mover fleet to further our commitment and dedication to our riders with a quieter, more comfortable and reliable transportation experience. This now means more than half of our fleet has been upgraded to newer technology and improved amenities with plans to continue this into the latter half of this decade.

Moving further and further beyond the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, PTD continues to see ridership approach 2019 levels of service (the benchmark of most transit agencies across the country). While ridership has increased 11% compared to 2023 (which was 14% higher than 2022), it still lags behind pre-pandemic levels by about -8%.

PTD's goals remain to deliver safe, reliable and efficient transportation options for the community. By continuing to engage, listen to rider feedback, embrace innovation and technology, and investing in modernizing the fleets, PTD strives to provide accessible, inclusive mobility options for the community.

# **2024 SERVICE CHANGES**

People Mover implemented 3 schedule changes in 2024.

- The January Service Change featured the implementation of Route 51 with direct service between Muldoon and Centennial Village, service to the VA clinic
  added on Route 92, extended service and coverage on Route 85, frequency
  increase on Routes 41 & 65, and expanded the Core service area of AnchorRIDES.
- The May Service Change consisted of schedule changes to improve on-time performance and transfer opportunities system-wide.
- The October Service Change saw a reduction in frequency on Route 25 from 15 minutes to 30 minutes. Service was cut by an hour in the late evenings on Routes 11, 31, 41, 51, and 85. Route 65 was also religned to offer a one-seat ride between the Dimond Transit Center and Downtown Transit Center.

## **DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS**

#### 2024 Public Transportation Department Achievements

#### **OPERATIONS**



Hired 31 new bus operators and maintained a 76% retention rate.



Reduced total Workers' Compensation claims from 16 (2023) down to nine in 2024.



Transit Security resolved 124 calls for assistance without the need for APD, AFD, or ASP to respond. This effort saves resources on taxpayer dollars.

#### **ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE**

Created and filled three new positions: Grants Accountant, Project Analyst, and Finance Supervisor.



At close of 2024 the team is 62.5% staffed with three positions remaining to be filled: Admin & Finance Associate, Finance Coordinator, and Procurement Specialist.



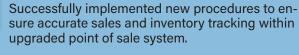
The Administration & Finance team saw an increase in workload to include: 47% increase in use of grant funds, 86% increase in capital expenses (e.g. vehicles, facilities, equipment, bus stop improvements), 45% increase of project activities, 10% reduction in labor expenses.

\*Calculations are approximate until 2024 financials are final.

#### **CUSTOMER SERVICE**



Fielded 10,512 phone calls resulting in a total of \$1,456,611.70 in bus pass sales and approved 1,025 half-fare rider applications.





Welcomed new team members to fully staff the division.



Safely and efficiently navigated challenges related to the office relocation to the Downtown Transit Center.

#### **RIDESHARE**



Renewed for another seven years with vanpool contractor, Commute with Enterprise.



Increased to peak of 103 vanpools.

94.7% of van/carpool participants maintained their participation in the program for the duration of 2024

#### **MAINTENANCE**



Received 26 new buses to further enhance the overall experience for Anchorage's public transit users.



Launched a rigorous cleaning program routine for the indoor bus parking facility, significantly reducing airborne and surface dust.



Grew the Site Enhancement team by adding two positions to improve maintenance and cleanliness of bus stops.



Donated four decommissioned Cummins diesel engines to UAA's Diesel Power Technology Program. Instead of being scrapped, these engines can serve an educational purpose contributing to a program that has provided our community with skilled and knowledgeable technicians.

#### PLANNING/MARKETING



Restructured UPass fares to promote inclusion of non-profits and smaller businesses.



Concluded the Transit Center Study and received final recommendations to relocate the Downtown Transit Center to the Chinook Parking Lot on 3rd Avenue. The Department awaits further direction from the Administration in order to proceed.



Introduced branded holiday sweaters to the public with opportunities to win one. Winners were selected from among mStop/mTicket app users, social media audiences, e-newsletter subscribers, and in-person entries.

#### **AnchorRIDES**



Improved service efficiency by 83% through a reduction of missed trips from 54 (2023) to nine (2024).



Demonstrated strong commitment to the community with regular outreach at senior facilities, Job Center, and Adult Community Transition program.

Implemented training initiatives to ensure effective use of software, efficient eligibility determination proceses, and maintain FTA standards.

#### **PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY BOARD**

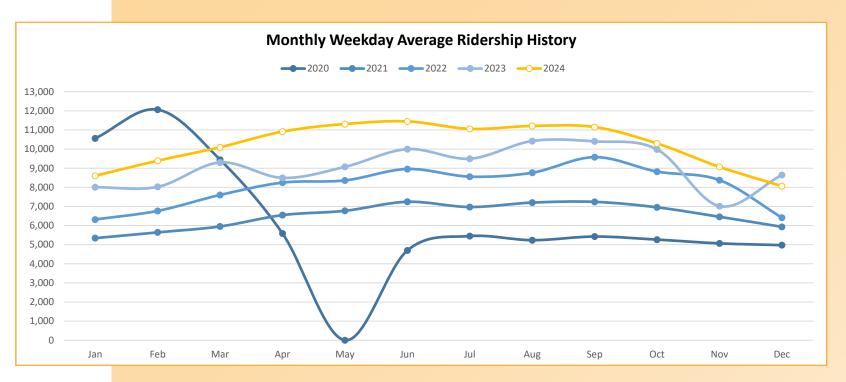
Passed two resolutions supporting:



 Application for SFY2026 Alaska Mental Health Trust Grant (for AnchorRIDES services)

 Public Transportation Department Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2025

## **RIDERSHIP**



The chart above illustrates average monthly weekday ridership on People Mover from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2024.

Kev insights include:

- Growth pre-pandemic: After a system redesign in 2017, People Mover experienced a sustained period of growth in ridership, with each month exceeding levels from the previous year.
- COVID-19 Impact: The pandemic caused a dramatic plunge in ridership beginning in March 2020. Service was suspended for nearly eight weeks between April and June. Once service was reinstated, ridership remained consistently low throughout the remainder of the year.
- Partial Recovery: While 2021 showed improvement over 2020, weekday ridership remained significantly below pre-pandemic levels. Despite this, there was an overall increase in ridership from 2021 to 2024.

**Note:** The chart might provide a limited picture. Factors like the specific system redesign changes, evolving pandemic conditions, and other local circumstances could further explain these trends.

## HOW TO USE THIS REPORT

**This report** presents the various metrics used to help gauge the effectiveness of public transportation in the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA). Throughout the report, each metric is represented by an icon and is defined here. Pages 8 and 9 summarize the entire People Mover (fixed route) bus system. Each route is summarized independently on the following pages. AnchorRIDES (paratransit) and RideShare are summarized on pages 38 - 40.

#### Cost per Rider

Transit fares partially cover public transportation costs. The PTD is reliant on federal and local funding to fill this gap and fund operations. The actual cost per rider is determined by the total annual operating cost divided by the total annual boardings.



#### **Annual Operating Cost per Route**

The annual operating cost is based on the 2022 cost per Vehicle Revenue Hour (VRH) and the cost per Vehicle Revenue Mile (VRM).

Estimated cost of service = (Cost per VRM \* Annual VRM) + (Cost per VRH \* Annual VRH)

This does not include the PTD's "fixed costs" for non-vehicle maintenance and general administrative support.

#### Jobs and Residents within 1/4 Mile per Route

This report shows the percent of the MOA population (by Census Block Group) and jobs (by Traffic Analysis Zone) that are within 1/4 mile of the

bus stops along each route. In this report, resident data is pulled from the 2020 (5-Year estimates) American Community Survey (ACS) dataset and job data is pulled from the 2016 (5-Year estimates) Census Transportation Planning Products (CTPP) dataset. CTPP data gives us a more accurate account of jobs by actual location.



#### **Travel Time Ratio**

on the Move Transit Plan.

### **Route Productivity**

For this report, productivity is calculated by the average number of passengers per time-table revenue hour.



This measures ridership relative to cost and helps evaluate how well the system (or route) is maximizing potential ridership. In other words, productivity is strictly a measure of achievement towards obtaining higher ridership. Routes that are designed to provide coverage or have lower seating capacity, like the neighborhood and commuter routes, will expectedly have lower productivity.

#### **Span of Service and Frequency**

The span represents the hours of operation (when service starts in the morning and when it ends in the evening), while the frequency is how often the buses arrive throughout the day.

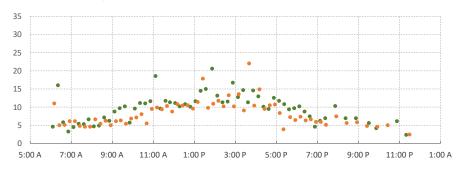
#### Ridership per Route

This reports the average number of riders traveling the route on a single day for weekday, Saturday, and Sunday service. Average ridership is total ridership divided by the number of days in service.



#### Ridership by Trip

The graphs compare the average weekday ridership throughout the day per trip. The averages for both inbound and outbound trips are displayed.



#### **On-Time Performance**

This is measured by the percent of time a bus arrives at a published timepoint as printed, up to five minutes later. This does not factor in missed trips.



#### Missed Trips

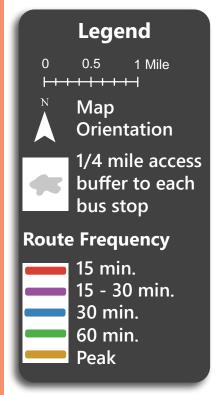
A trip is considered missed if the vehicle arrives outside of the pickup window and the rider does not take the trip.

Travel time is a major consideration for reasons people may not travel by transit. The PTD measures commute efficiency as the ratio between transit commute times (often the longest commutes) and single occupancy vehicle times (often the shortest commute). A ratio of two (2) indicates that, on average, transit commuters take twice as long to get to work than commuters who drive alone. The PTD has an established performance target of 1.5 in the Transit

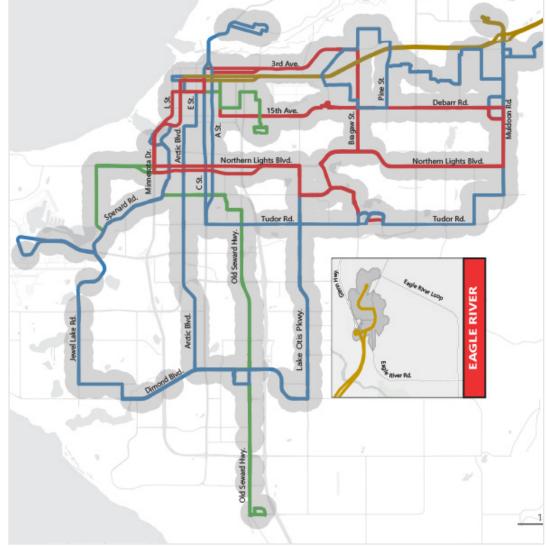
Why do we report daily average ridership and not total ridership?

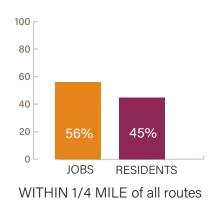
The number of weekdays each month vary from years have more operating days than others. To compare "apples to apthan the year before, it just because it benfited from an extra day of service. PTD wants to know about how many people are using People Mover and Sunday.

# PEOPLE MOVER



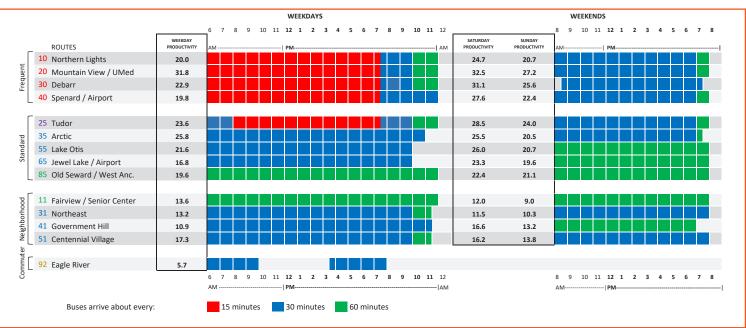




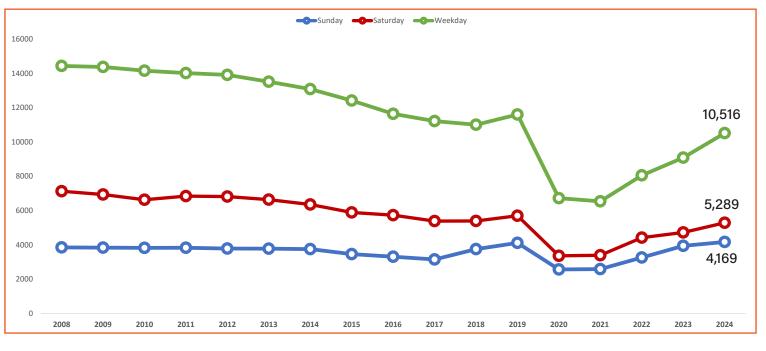




#### **BUS ROUTE SPAN AND FREQUENCY**



#### **AVERAGE RIDERSHIP 2008 - 2024**



# 10 NORTHERN LIGHTS

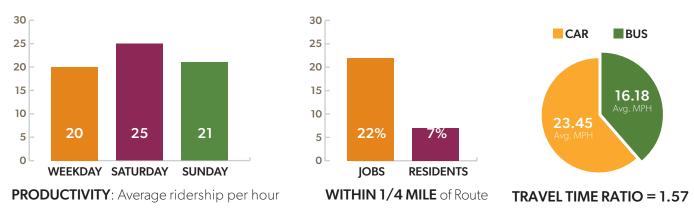
## **ROUTE DETAILS**

Frequent Route: 15 min. peak frequency

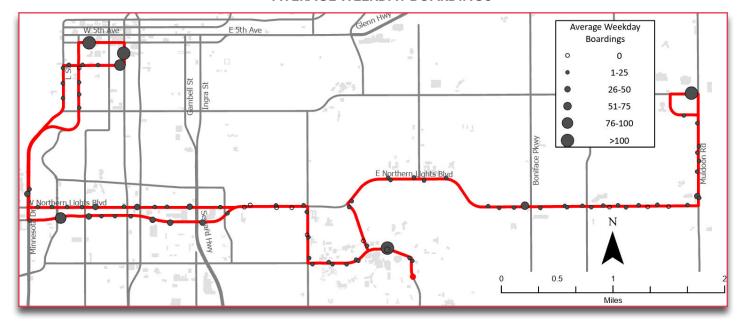
Route Length  $\approx$  24 miles

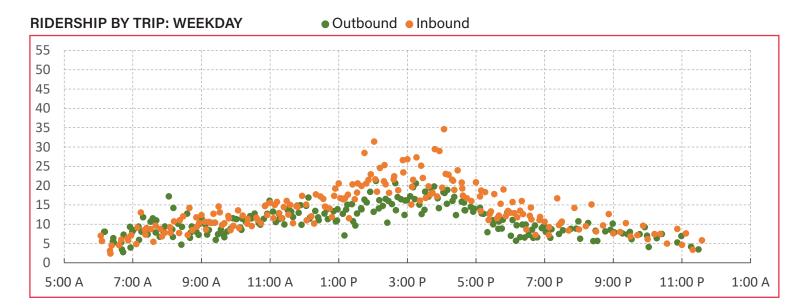
This route travels between the Downtown Transit Center and the Muldoon Transit Hub via Midtown, UMed, and Northern Lights Boulevard.

#### BY THE NUMBERS

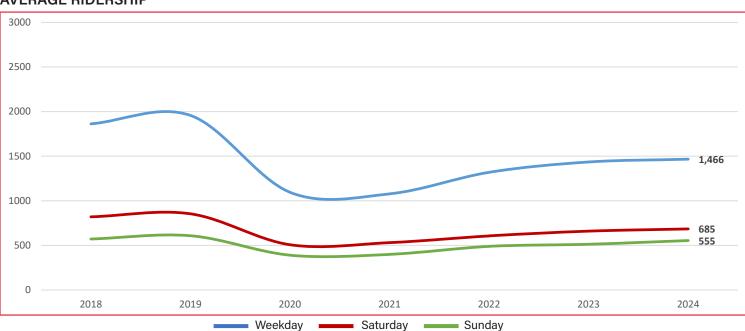


#### **AVERAGE WEEKDAY BOARDINGS**





#### **AVERAGE RIDERSHIP**







7 buses
needed to operate the route at peak





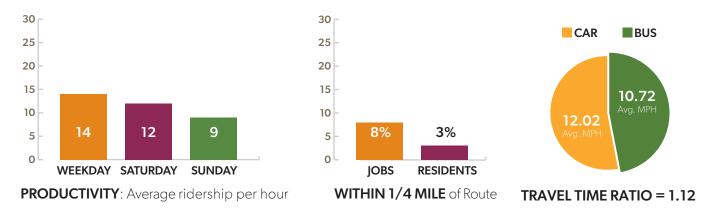
# 11 FAIRVIEW | SR. CENTER

# **ROUTE DETAILS**

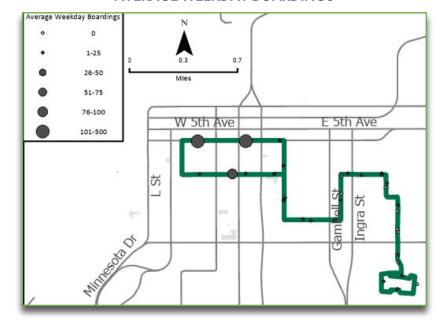
Neighborhood Route: 60 min. peak frequency Route Length  $\approx 6$  miles

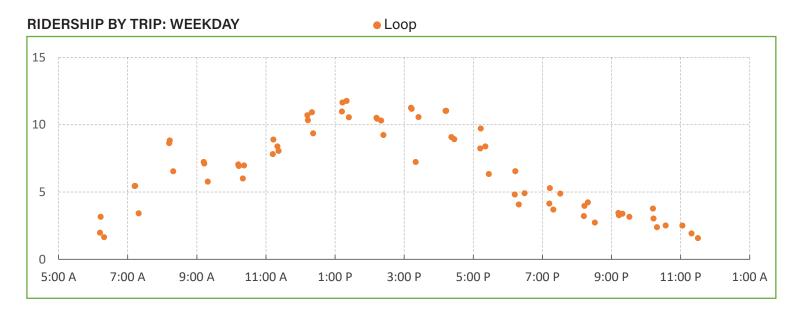
This route travels between City Hall and the Anchorage Senior Center via Medfra Street, 9th Avenue, Hyder Street, 13th Avenue, and Cordova Street.

#### BY THE NUMBERS

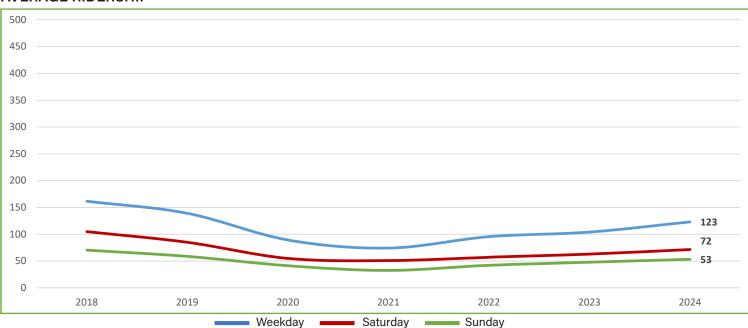


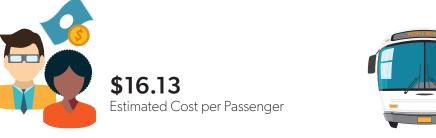
#### **AVERAGE WEEKDAY BOARDINGS**





#### **AVERAGE RIDERSHIP**











# 20 MOUNTAIN VIEW | UMED

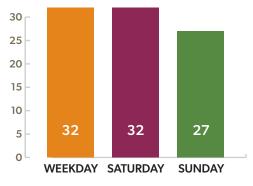
## **ROUTE DETAILS**

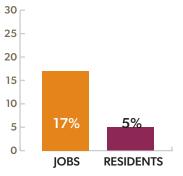
Frequent Route: 15 min. peak frequency

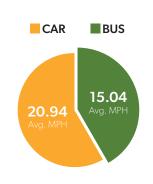
Route Length ≈ 7.9 miles

This route travels between the Downtown Transit Center and the Alaska Native Medical Center via 3rd & 4th Avenues, Mountain View Drive, East High School, and UMed.

#### BY THE NUMBERS





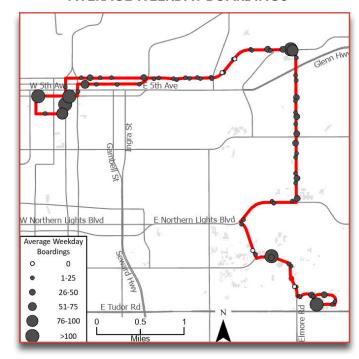


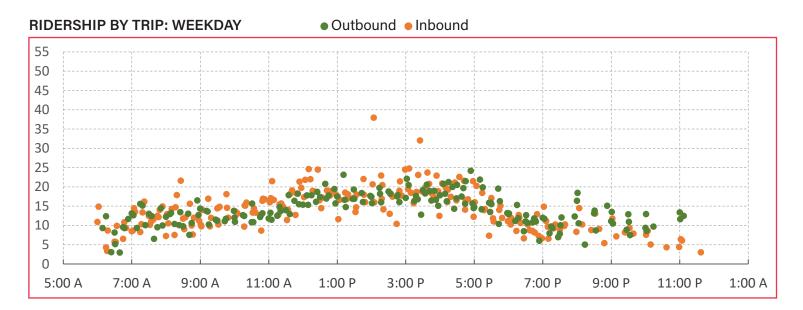
**PRODUCTIVITY**: Average ridership per hour

WITHIN 1/4 MILE of Route TRA

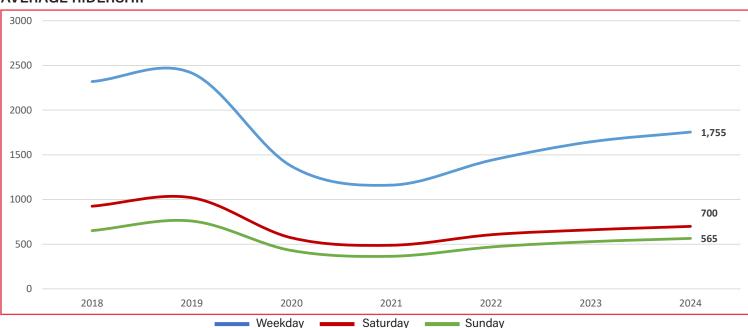
TRAVEL TIME RATIO = 1.39

#### **AVERAGE WEEKDAY BOARDINGS**





#### **AVERAGE RIDERSHIP**





**\$7.65**Estimated Cost per Passenger



**5 buses** needed to operate the route at peak





**74%** of buses were on time

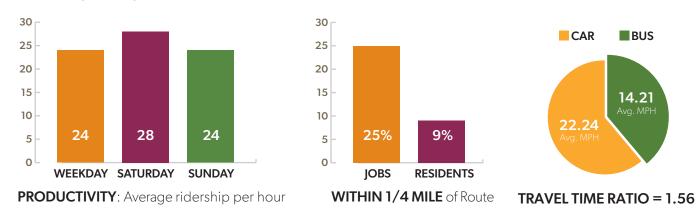
# 25 TUDOR

# **ROUTE DETAILS**

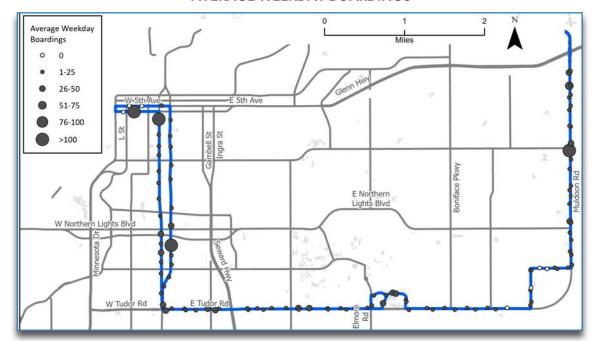
Standard Route: 15-30 min. peak frequency\* Route Length ≈ 25 miles

This route travels between the Downtown Transit Center and the V.A. Clinic via A & C Streets, Tudor Road, the Alaska Native Medical Center, and Muldoon Road.

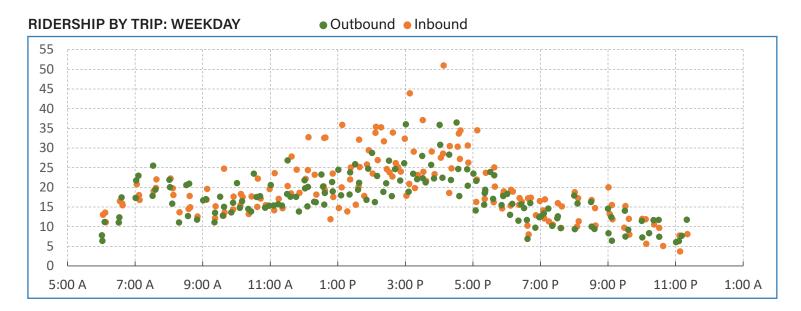
#### BY THE NUMBERS



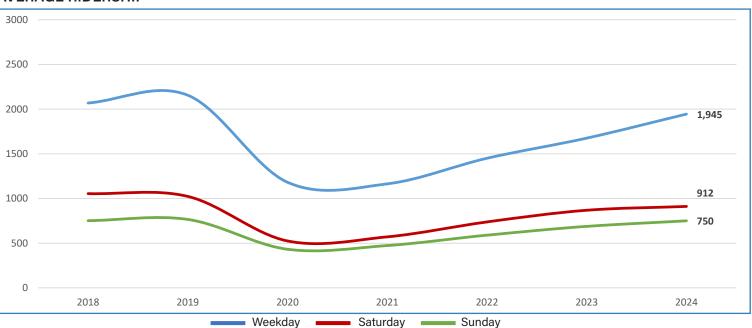
#### **AVERAGE WEEKDAY BOARDINGS**



\*Effective 10/28/24, due to service reduction Route 25 operated 30-minute peak frequency, reducing buses needed to operate from 9 to 5.



#### **AVERAGE RIDERSHIP**





**\$8.74**Estimated Cost per Passenger



**5 buses** needed to operate the route at peak





**71%** of buses were on time

# 30 DEBARR

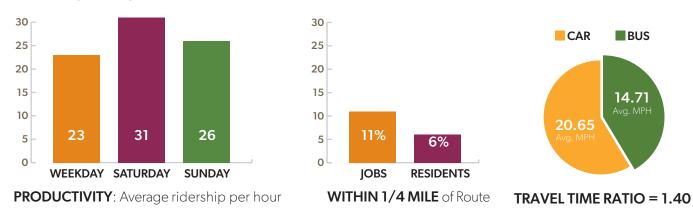
# **ROUTE DETAILS**

Frequent Route: 15 min. peak frequency

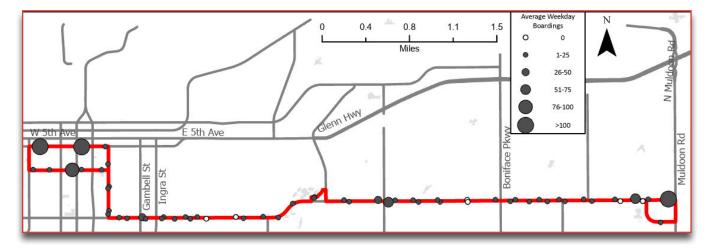
Route Length  $\approx$  13 miles

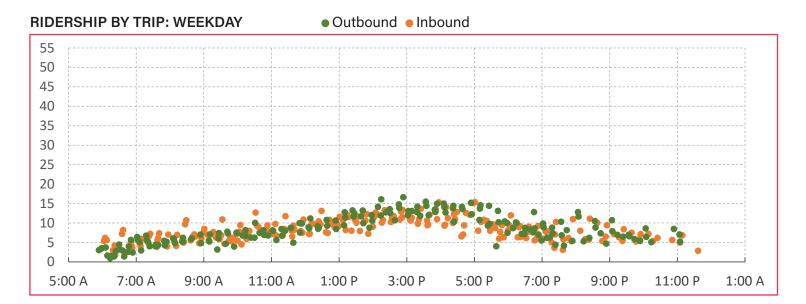
This route travels between the Downtown Transit Center and the Muldoon Transit Hub via Cordova Street, 15th Avenue, Alaska Regional Hospital, and Debarr Road.

#### BY THE NUMBERS

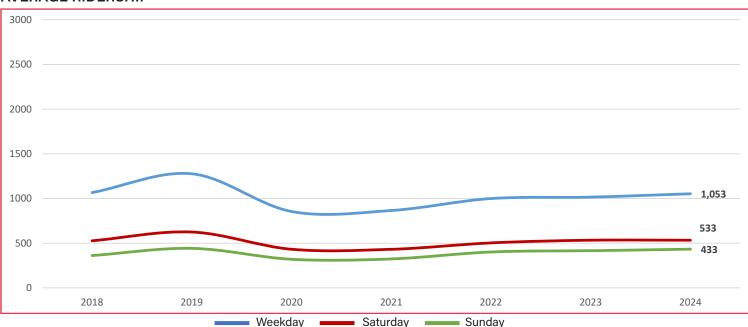


#### **AVERAGE WEEKDAY BOARDINGS**





#### **AVERAGE RIDERSHIP**





**\$7.99**Estimated Cost per Passenger



**5 buses** needed to operate the route at peak





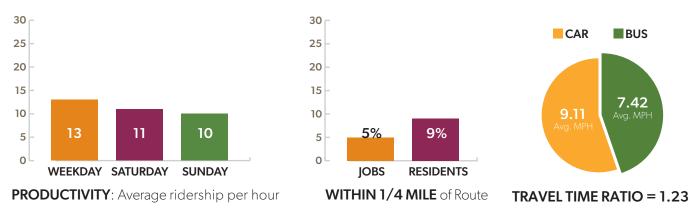
# 31 NORTHEAST

# **ROUTE DETAILS**

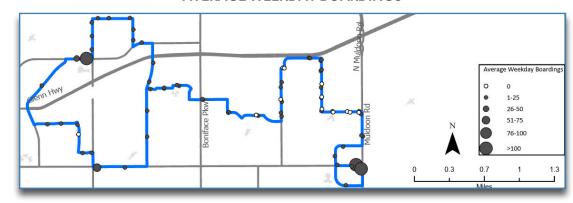
Neighborhood Route: 30 min. peak frequency Route Length ≈ 14 miles

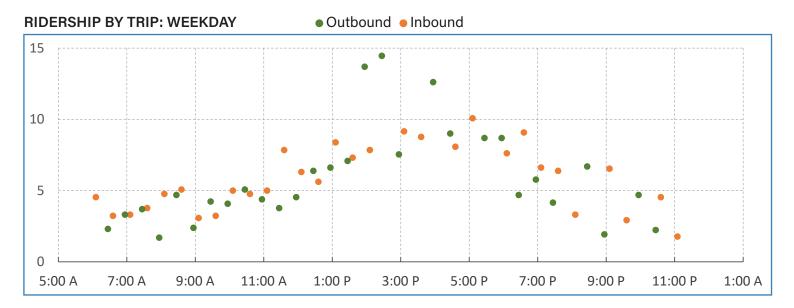
This route travels in a loop from the Muldoon Transit Hub through Northeast Anchorage, via Turpin Street, Oklahoma Street, 6th Avenue, Muldoon Road, Creekside Center Drive and North Mountain View, Penland Parkway and Northway Drive.

#### BY THE NUMBERS

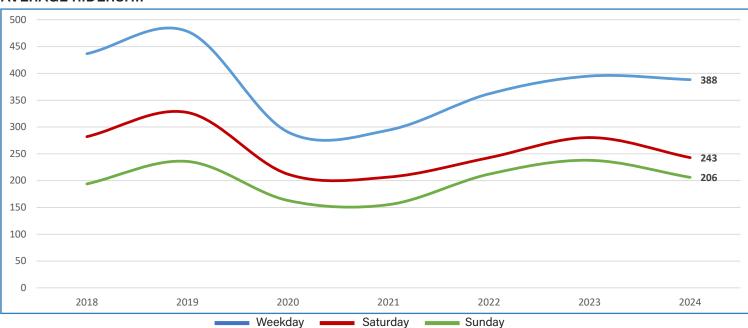


#### **AVERAGE WEEKDAY BOARDINGS**





#### **AVERAGE RIDERSHIP**





**\$16.42**Estimated Cost per Passenger



3 buses needed to operate the route at peak





# 35 ARCTIC

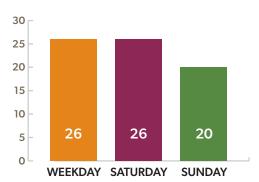
## **ROUTE DETAILS**

Standard Route: 30 min. peak frequency

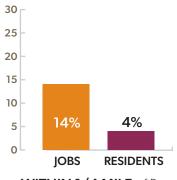
Route Length ≈ 13 miles

This route travels between the Downtown Transit Center and the Dimond Transit Center via Valley of the Moon Park and Arctic Boulevard.

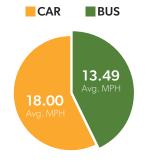
#### BY THE NUMBERS



**PRODUCTIVITY**: Average ridership per hour

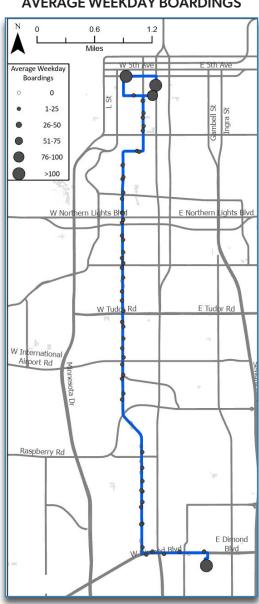


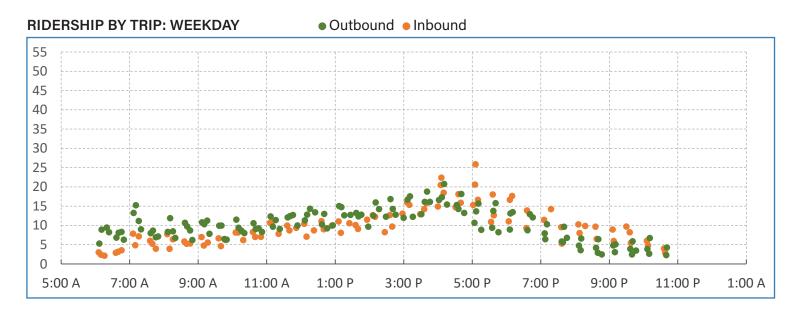
WITHIN 1/4 MILE of Route



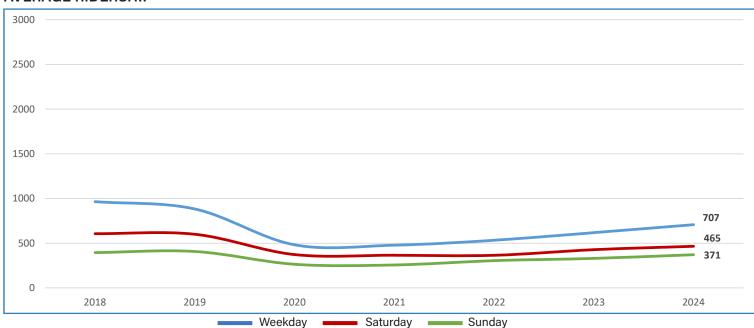
TRAVEL TIME RATIO = 1.33

#### **AVERAGE WEEKDAY BOARDINGS**





#### **AVERAGE RIDERSHIP**





\$7.43 Estimated Cost per Passenger



3 buses needed to operate the route at peak





77% of buses were on time

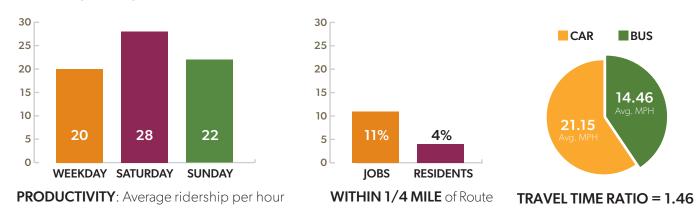
# 40 SPENARD | AIRPORT

## **ROUTE DETAILS**

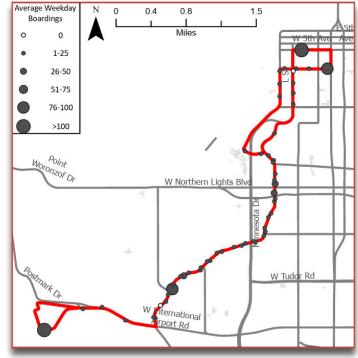
Frequent Route: 15 min. peak frequency Route Length ≈ 16 miles

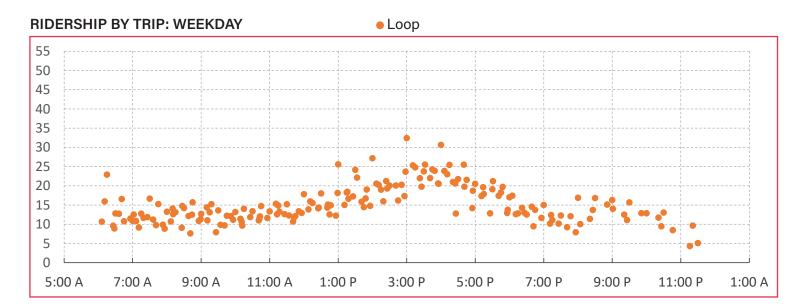
Route 40 travels in a loop between the Downtown Transit Center and the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport via Spenard Road. The route begins and ends at the Downtown Transit Center.

#### BY THE NUMBERS

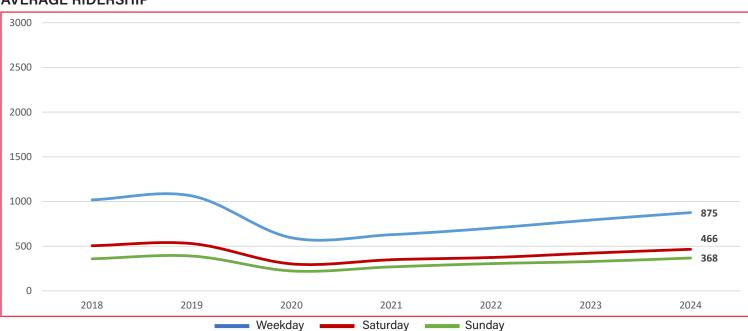


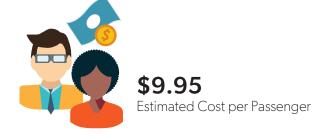
#### **AVERAGE WEEKDAY BOARDINGS**





#### **AVERAGE RIDERSHIP**







2 buses
needed to operate the route at peak





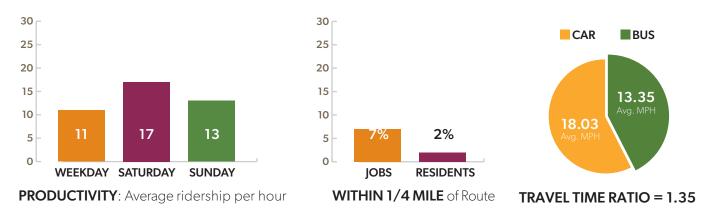
# 41 GOVERNMENT HILL

# **ROUTE DETAILS**

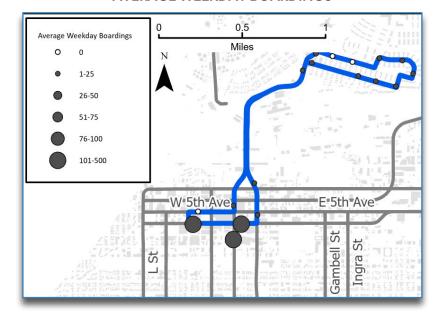
Neighborhood Route: 30 min. peak frequency Route Length ≈ 4.5 miles

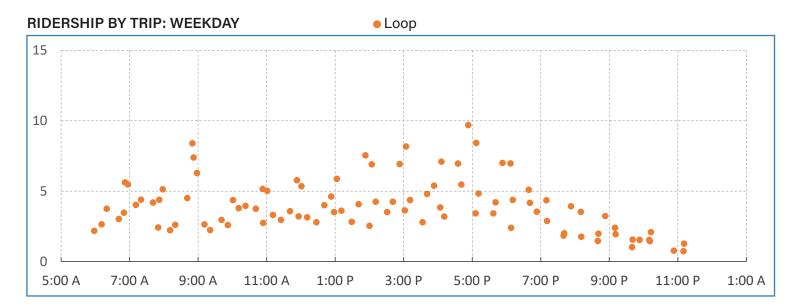
This route travels from City Hall to the Anchorage Museum, Bluff Drive, Richardson Vista Road, Ivy Street, Hollywood Driver and returns to City Hall.

#### BY THE NUMBERS

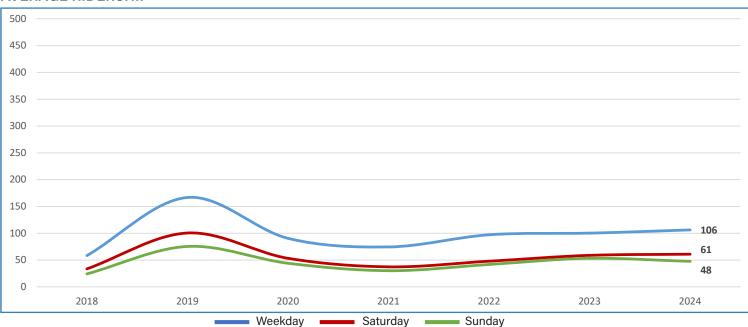


#### **AVERAGE WEEKDAY BOARDINGS**





#### **AVERAGE RIDERSHIP**







1 bus needed to operate the route at peak





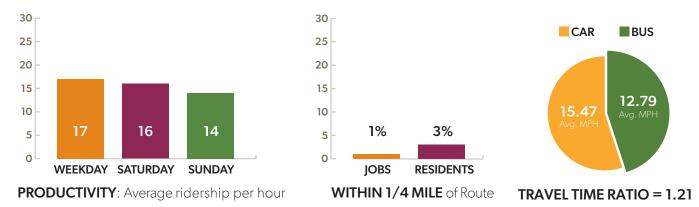
# 51 MULDOON | CENTENNIAL

# **ROUTE DETAILS**

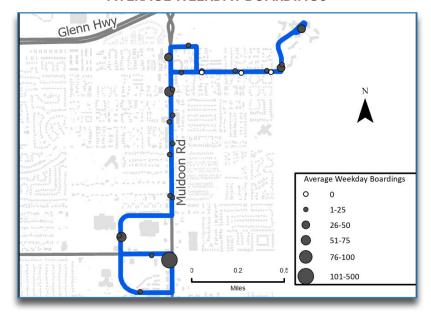
Neighborhood Route: 30 min. peak frequency Route Length ≈ 5 miles

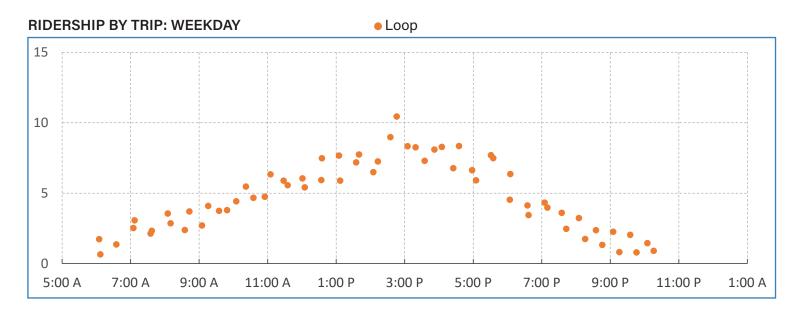
This route travels between the Muldoon Transit Hub and Centennial Village via Muldoon Road, Peck Avenue, Boundary Avenue, and Creekside Center Drive.

#### BY THE NUMBERS

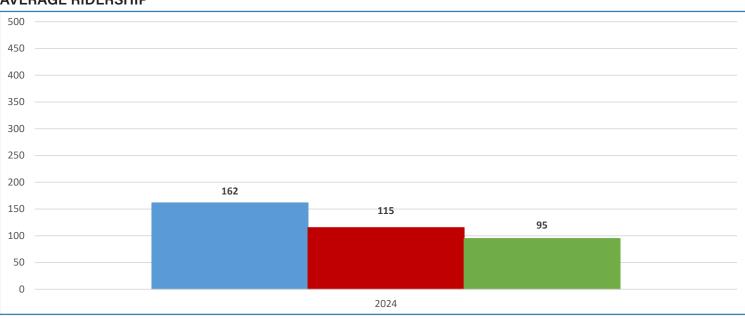


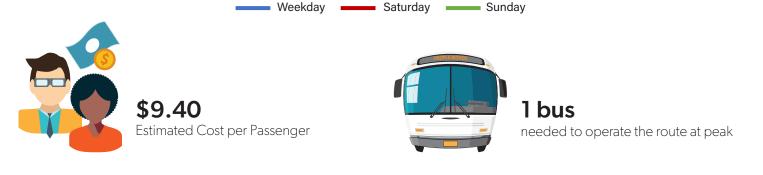
#### **AVERAGE WEEKDAY BOARDINGS**





#### **AVERAGE RIDERSHIP**









# 55 LAKE OTIS

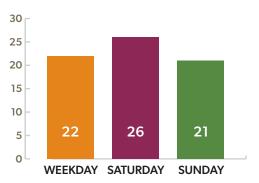
## **ROUTE DETAILS**

Standard Route: 30 min. peak frequency

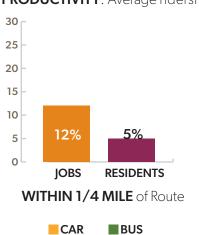
Route Length ≈ 14 miles

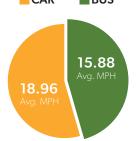
This route travels between the Dimond Transit Center and Alaska Native Medical Center via Abbott Road, Lake Otis Parkway, Providence Drive, and Tudor Centre Drive.

#### BY THE NUMBERS



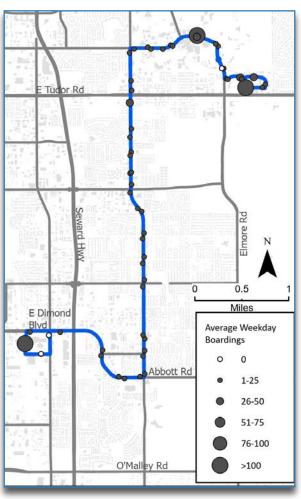
**PRODUCTIVITY**: Average ridership per hour

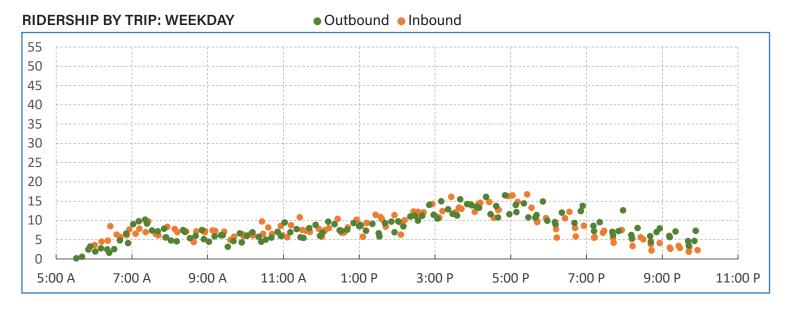




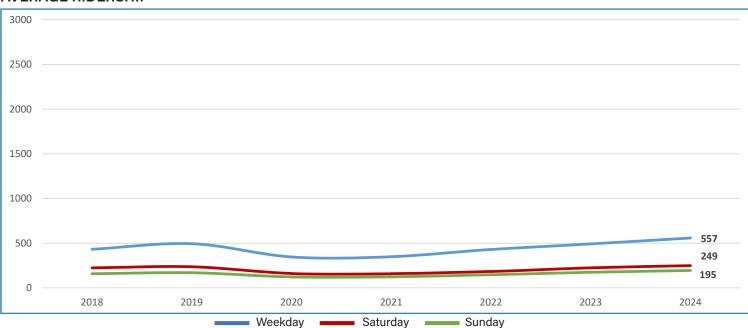
TRAVEL TIME RATIO = 1.19

#### **AVERAGE WEEKDAY BOARDINGS**





#### **AVERAGE RIDERSHIP**







3 buses
needed to operate the route at peak





# 65 JEWEL LAKE

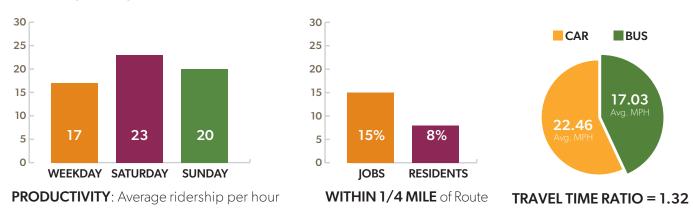
## **ROUTE DETAILS**

Standard Route: 30 min. peak frequency

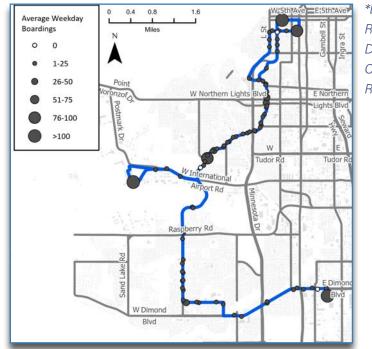
Route Length ≈ 14 miles

This route travels in a loop between the Dimond Transit Center and the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport via Dimond Boulevard, 88th Avenue, Jewel Lake Road, and International Airport Road. The route begins and ends at the Dimond Transit Center.

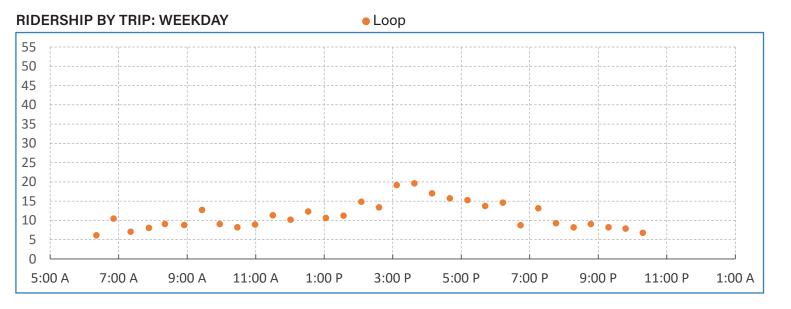
#### BY THE NUMBERS



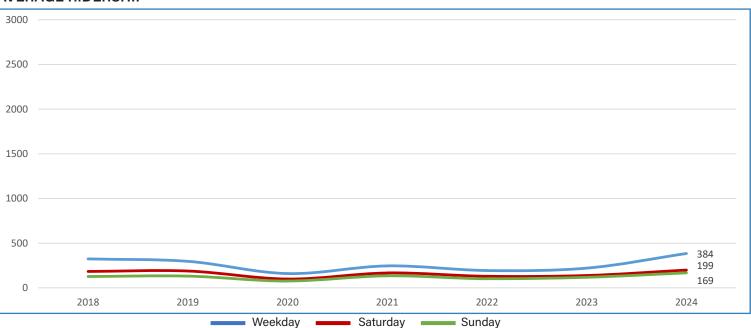
#### **AVERAGE WEEKDAY BOARDINGS**



\*Effective 10/28/24
Route 65 services the
Downtown Transit
Center via Spenard
Road.



#### **AVERAGE RIDERSHIP**





**\$11.88**Estimated Cost per Passenger



4 buses
needed to operate the route at peak





**82%** of buses were on time

# 85 OLD SEWARD

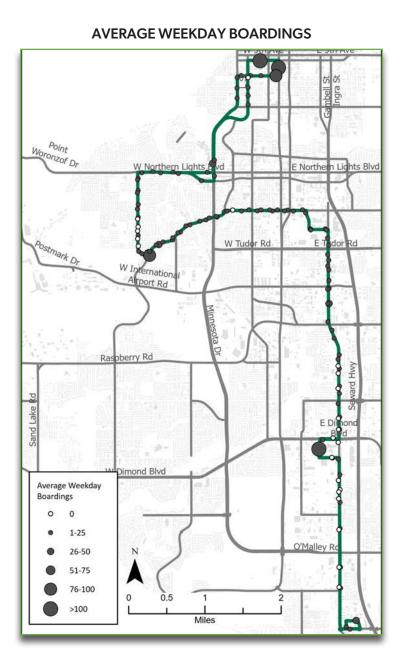
## **ROUTE DETAILS**

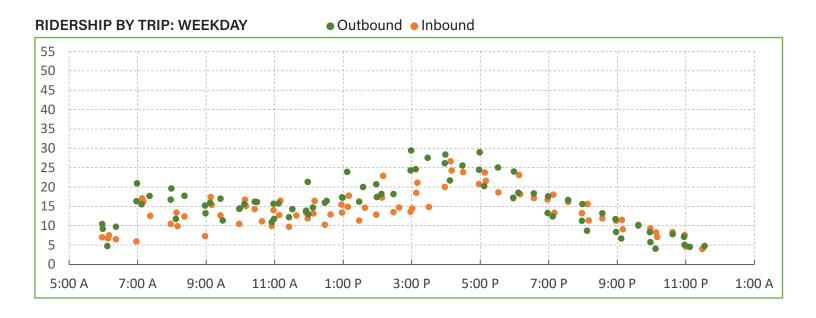
Standard Route: 60 min. peak frequency Route Length  $\approx$  13.8 miles

This route travels between City Hall, the Anchorage Museum, and the Huffman Business Park via Wisconsin Street, 36th Avenue, the Loussac Library, and the Old Seward Highway.

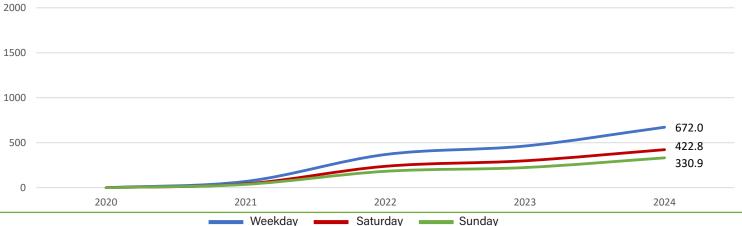
## BY THE NUMBERS 30 25 20 15 10 22 WEEKDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY **PRODUCTIVITY**: Average ridership per hour 25 20 15 10 8% 23% **RESIDENTS JOBS** WITHIN 1/4 MILE of Route CAR BUS 20.42

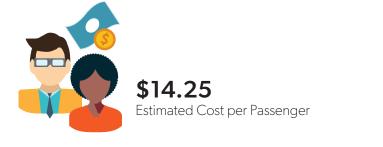
TRAVEL TIME RATIO = 1.35

















# 92 EAGLE RIVER

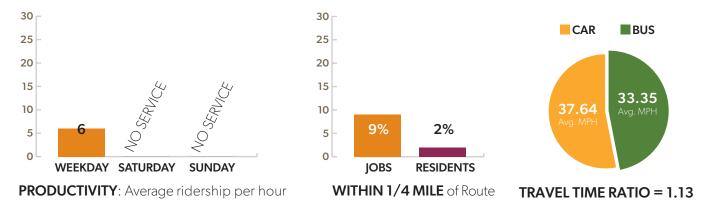
# **ROUTE DETAILS**

Commuter Route: Peak Service Only

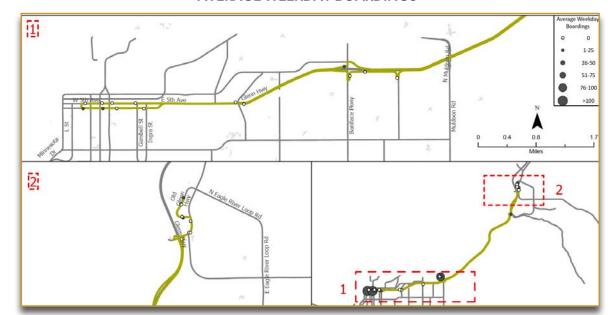
Route Length  $\approx$  17 miles

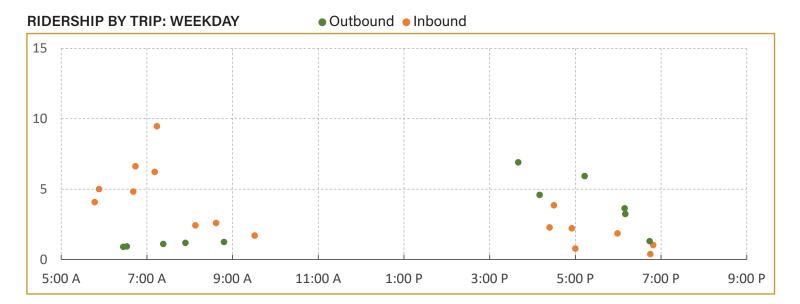
This route is a commuter express route that stops at Downtown Transit Center and the Eagle River Transit Center via the Glenn Highway.

#### BY THE NUMBERS

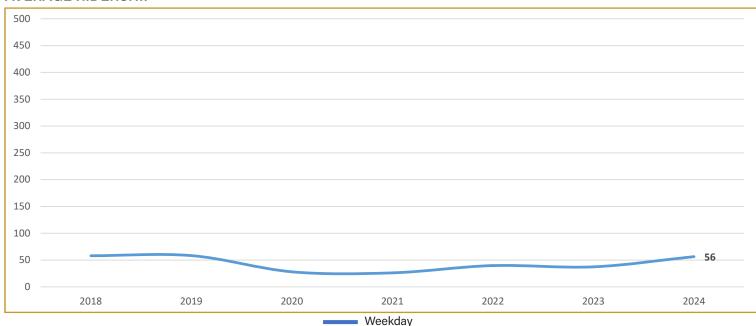


#### **AVERAGE WEEKDAY BOARDINGS**





#### **AVERAGE RIDERSHIP**





**\$34.85**Estimated Cost per Passenger



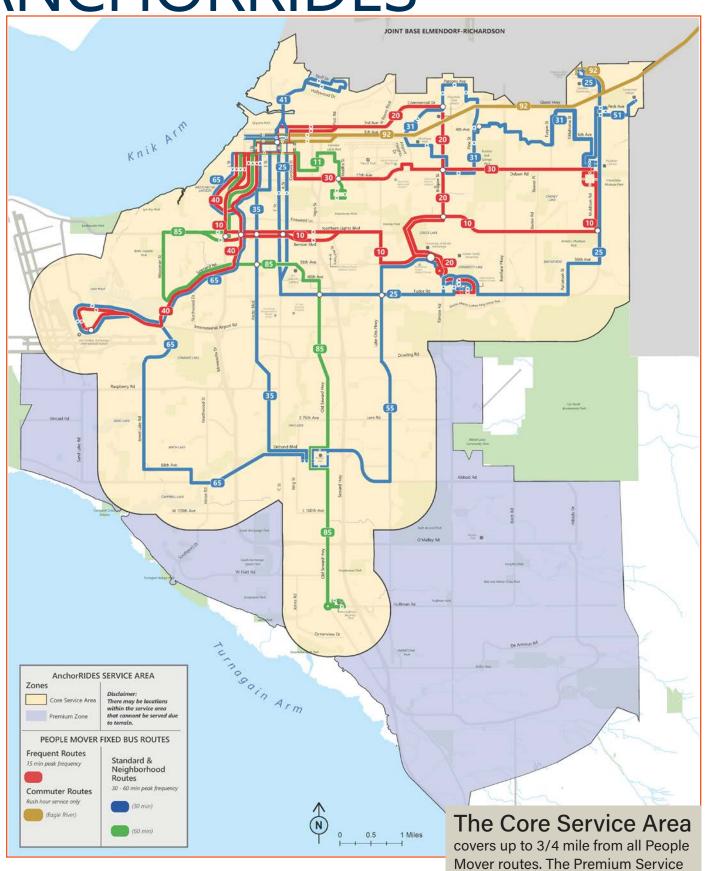
2 buses needed to operate the route at peak





**87%** of buses were on time

# **ANCHORRIDES**



# 2024 SYSTEM REPORT

AnchorRIDES is a shared ride service that provides trips from origins to destinations by advanced reservations. Eligible riders include people with disabilities that prevent them from using People Mover bus service, senior citizens (60+), and Medicaid recipients authorized for NEMT or HCB Waiver trips. The core service area covers up to 3/4 mile from People Mover routes. The premium service area covers most outlying areas in Anchorage.

# ANCHORRIDES BY THE NUMBERS







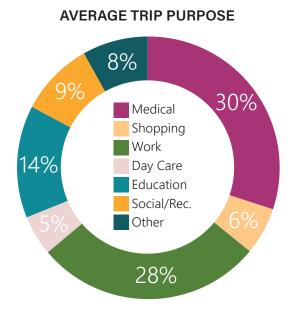
85% of rides were on time

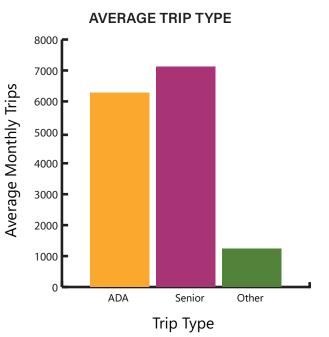


Zone extends beyond this boundary

to selected areas.

\$31.74
Operational Cost per Trip as recorded in the 2024 National Transit Database





# **RIDESHARE**

RideShare provides carpool group subsidies and oversight of a contract with Commute with Enterprise, hired to manage and operate carpooling services. A carpool is a group of five or more riders who work and travel at agreed upon times, days and locations. Carpool members receive a variety of benefits in one low, monthly rate plus fuel costs.

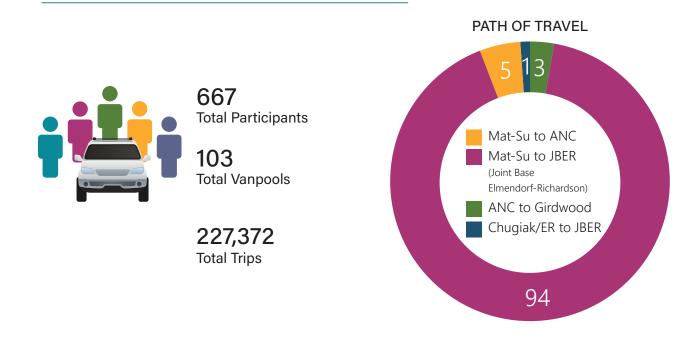
The purpose of this program is to improve air quality and reduce the number of single occupancy vehicles traveling to and/or through the Municipality of Anchorage.

#### **Major Supporting Employers**

- ▶ Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson
- Providence Alaska Medical Center
- ► TSA/Alaska Airlines
- The Hotel Alyeska



# RIDESHARE BY THE NUMBERS

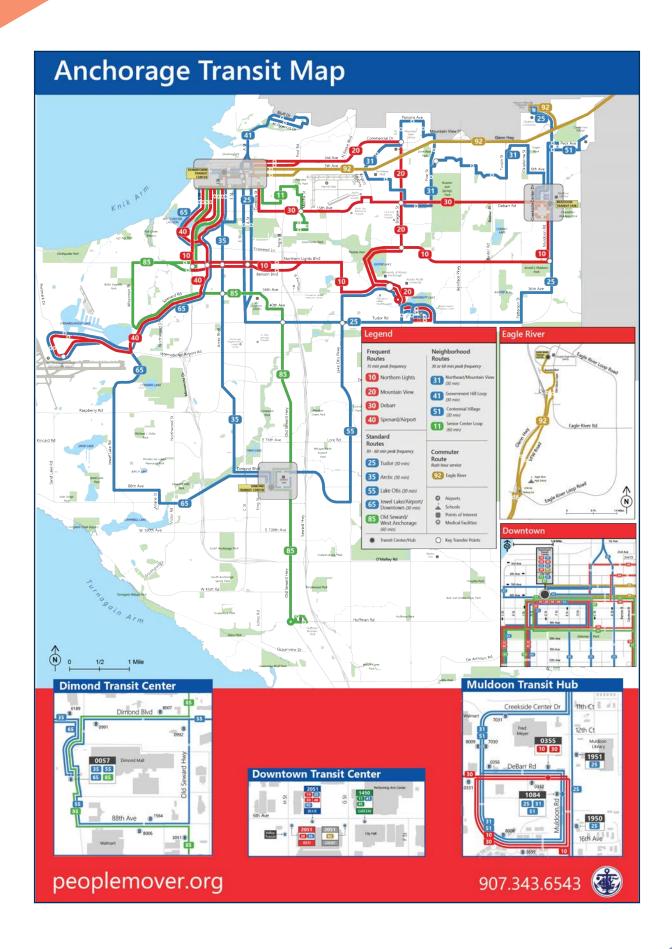




5,355,702 lbs.
Carbon Dioxide reduction



**7,027,677** Vehicle Miles Saved



# **NOTES**

## TRANSLATIONS

If you would like to receive a translated copy of this report, please email transitplanning@muni. org or call 907-343-6543, option 1, then option 2. A translator can then be made available to help speak with the customer service agent.

Yog tias koj xav tau daim ntawv qhia no txais lub hmoob luam ntawm rau koj, thov email transit-planning@muni.org lossis hu rau 907-343-6543, xaiv 1, ces kev xaiv 2. Ib tug neeg txhais lus tuaj yeem pab tau koj tham nrog tus neeg sawv cev pabcuam.

만약 귀하께서 이 보고서의 번역본을 받아보기 원하신다면, transitplanning@muni.org 으로 이메일을 보내시거나 혹은 907-343-6543 로 전화해, 옵션 1, 그런다음 옵션 2를 선택합니다. 그런 다음 통역사가 소비자 서비스 에이전트와의 대화를 도와드릴 수 있습니다.

Si desea recibir una copia traducida de este reporte, por favor mande un correo electrónico a transitplanning@muni.org o llame al 907-343-6543, opción 1, después opción 2. Un traductor estará disponible para ayudarle a hablar con un agente de servicio al cliente.

Afai e te mana'o i se kopi o lenei ripoti ua uma ona fa'aliliu, fa'amolemole imeli mai se talosaga ia transitplanning@muni.org pe vala'au mai i le 907-343-6543, filifili ile numera 1, ona filifili lea ile numera 2. E maua se tagata fa'aliliu upu e mafai ona fesoasoani atu ia te oe pe a e talanoa ma se auaunaga i tagata.

Kung nais ninyo ng kopya ng ulat na ito na isinaling wika mag-email lamang sa transitplanning@muni.org o tumawag sa 907-343-6543, Opsyon 1, at saka sa opsyon 2. .Ang isang taga-saling wika ay maaaring tumulong na makipag-usap sa ahente na tagapagbigay ng serbisyo sa kustomer/[customer service agent]

## Municipality of Anchorage Public Transportation Department







