

SMART

SOUTH METRO AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT

May 2023 Report



Although there are many variations of the old adage – *“Find a job you enjoy doing, and you will never have to work a day in your life.”* Whether you’re a fan of intellectual giants Confucius or Mark Twain, it matters not. You don’t need to choose. They both uttered similar words into our collective consciousness.

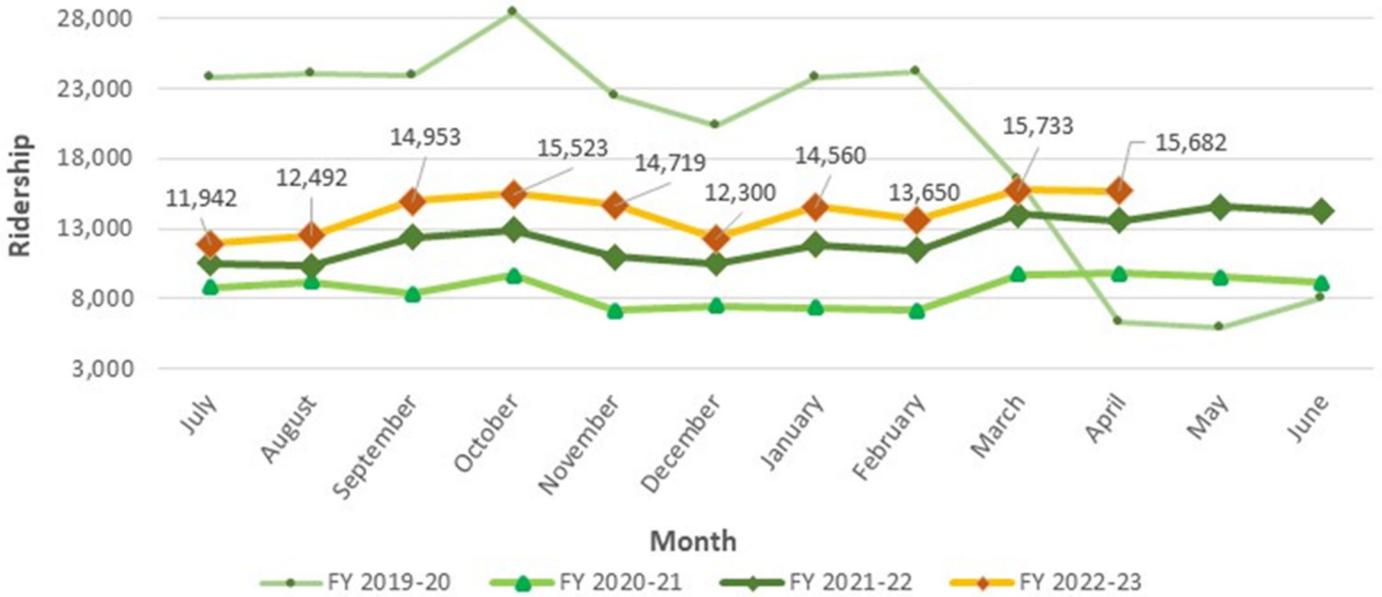
What I love most about this near perfect, simple collection of words is its prima facie orientation. It has absolutely nothing to hide; no covert meaning. If you want to be happy in your work life, find something you enjoy, something fun. I am convinced that life is much too short to spend it toiling in a field of regrets.

Dwight Brashear
Transit Director

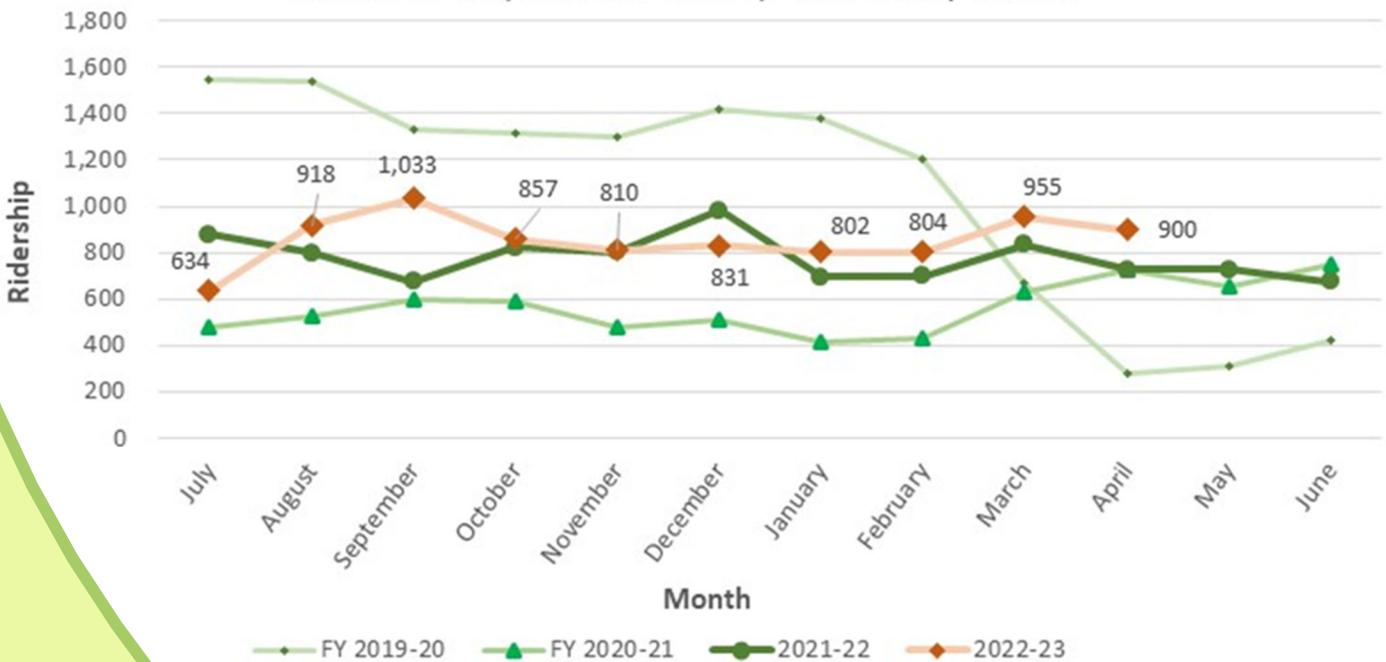


Operations - Anne MacCracken Management Analyst

Fixed Route Ridership Trends by Month



Demand Response Ridership Trends by Month



Operations - Eric Loomis Operations Manager

May has been a busy month of training and certifying drivers. With the support of Human Resources, SMART has increased the number of drivers to normal operating levels after a long span of critical shortages. In 2023, SMART hired and retained seven drivers, four of which were hired in April and completed training in May. Four of the seven also went through SMART's rigorous entry level driver training program to secure a commercial driver license (CDL).

The City of Wilsonville is also uniquely set apart from other cities in the region with SMART offering CDL training to all City departments where a job description requires it. This gives the City an advantage in hiring and

training folks eager to serve the public that may not have the preferred qualifications, but have the passion and drive that fits Wilsonville's customer focused culture. In addition to the four drivers, SMART has trained and certified two Public Works employees and one Parks & Recreations employee in the month of May.

Congratulations to all of these employees who passed the CDL tests and the transit supervisors who made it happen!



Operations - Scott Simonton –Fleet Manager

Although it arrived a year late, we have finally received our new bucket truck. The cost of this equipment was shared between Parks and Public Works, as it will be utilized by both crews. This equipment has the capability of raising an employee up to 40' in the air. Owning this truck will eliminate the need to rent equipment for routine tasks such as tree trimming, the changing of banners and holiday decorations, and a multitude of facility maintenance tasks. The manufacturer will be conducting an eight hour training session for staff prior to the equipment being placed in service.



Grants & Program Manager - Kelsey Lewis

In February we reported about two grant applications we submitted for Statewide Transportation Improvement Funds (STIF) competitive grants.

Good news! We have been awarded grant funding for both. In this two-year cycle we will receive \$320,000

from the STIF discretionary program for a mobile battery back-up unit to charge our electric vehicles in the event of loss of power for an extended period, and \$120,000 from the STIF Intercommunity program



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to conduct a study of our transit system for implementing battery electric buses on our longer routes. We will begin planning these projects once grant agreements are signed after July 1. Along with these grants and implementing our new Transit Master Plan, we will have many exciting projects to work on in the next few years.

Transportation Options - Michelle Marston Program Coordinator



On May 12,

SMART hosted a transportation information table at Wilsonville business ESS for their wellness fair.

Approximately 300 people are employed at ESS and roughly 100 attended the wellness fair. Employees expressed much interest in forming vanpools. A week after the fair, SMART and Enterprise presented the new vanpool program to the ESS Human Resources (HR) team.

In the coming weeks we plan to analyze the commute

patterns of ESS employees. Since there are many shifts varying from 7 am to 11pm it could pose a challenge to find commute van/carpool groups from the location that work the same shift.

In addition to the vanpool information SMART has shared information on our Emergency Ride Home (ERH) program with this new ESS HR team and aims to get them registered. SMART's ERH program currently has nine participating employers. You can learn more about this program by RideSMART.com/ERH



Transportation Options - **Patty Tiburcio** Mobility Technician



May 4 is National Bike+Roll to School Day.

Wilsonville students were encouraged to Bike+Roll because SMART's bike fairies were visiting all Wilsonville schools on this day.

SMART's bike fairies visited

six schools and left fairy bags on 92 bikes and 14 scooters.

Each fairy bag included green reflective helmet stickers, reflective white or black shoelaces, and a note encouraging recipients to visit SMART's social media for upcoming bike events.

SMART staff assisted Northwest Housing Alternatives (NHA) staff with their first Bike Rodeo/Bike Repair at Autumn Park Apartments. The event transpired over a two-hour period on May 10. NHA staff provided treats and helmets free of charge. SMART staff assisted with helmet adjustments and brought in bicycles borrowed from the City of Tigard for attendees with no bicycle. SMART also helped create a small obstacle course for attendees to test their bicycle skills and knowledge. The bike repair mechanic provided free minor bike repairs (i.e., air in tires, oil on chain, minor brake adjustments) to the Autumn Park community.

SMART supported Wilsonville schools with their May Walk+Roll to School events. SMART staff worked with a Boones Ferry Primary parent representative to schedule and advertise a Walking School Bus for May 17 that began at Walt Morey Park. Students and parents joined at the beginning of the walk

and along the route by walking, riding a bike, using a scooter, and rollerblading.

As part of Fit Week, Boeckman Creek Primary School (BCPS) held a Walk+Roll event May 18, which included their first Walking School Bus. SMART staff helped the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) schedule their event and provided advertising materials. To prepare for the event, SMART staff and parent volunteers fitted students in need with helmets. Before the start of the school day, students, parents, and the BCPS mascot met at Hathaway Park and walked to Boeckman Creek together. The SMART bike fairy also paid BCPS a visit for their special event and left fairy bags on 10 bikes and 2 scooters.

SMART staff held two after-school Learn to Ride Bike Clinics at Lowrie Primary for students that do not know how to ride a bike but would like to learn. The bike clinics provide an effective, low-stress way for kids to learn to ride a bicycle. SMART's clinics teach students to ride while providing safety education and support to encourage biking to school.

