



Network Now

Public In-Person Workshops

Sophia Ginis | Director of Community Affairs

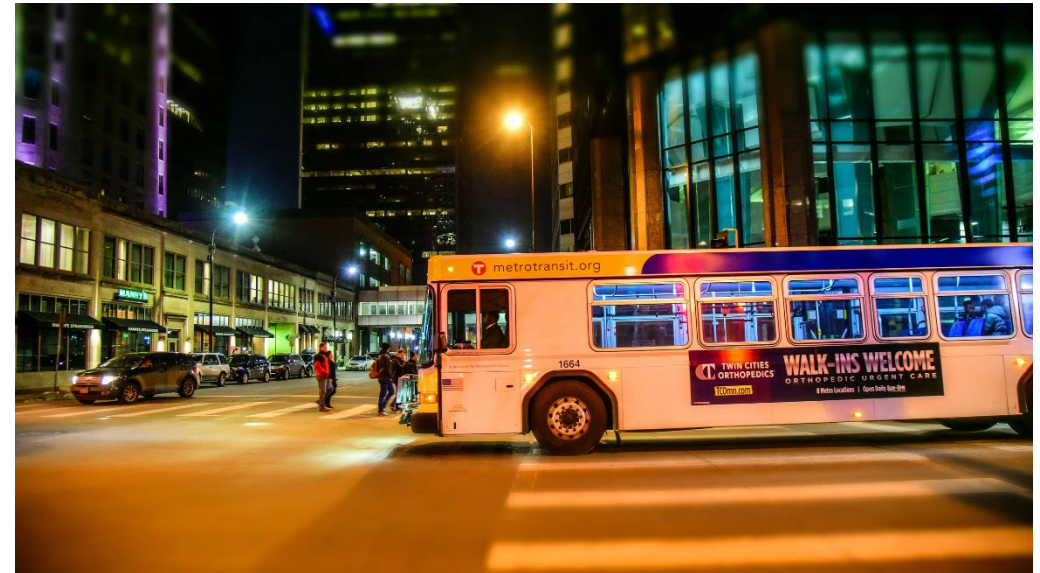
Cyndi Harper | Manager of Route Planning, Service Development



What is Network Now?

Setting the course for the next five years

- Metro Transit network and level of service over the next five years
 - priorities
 - scenarios
- Framework for decision-making recognizing *constraints*

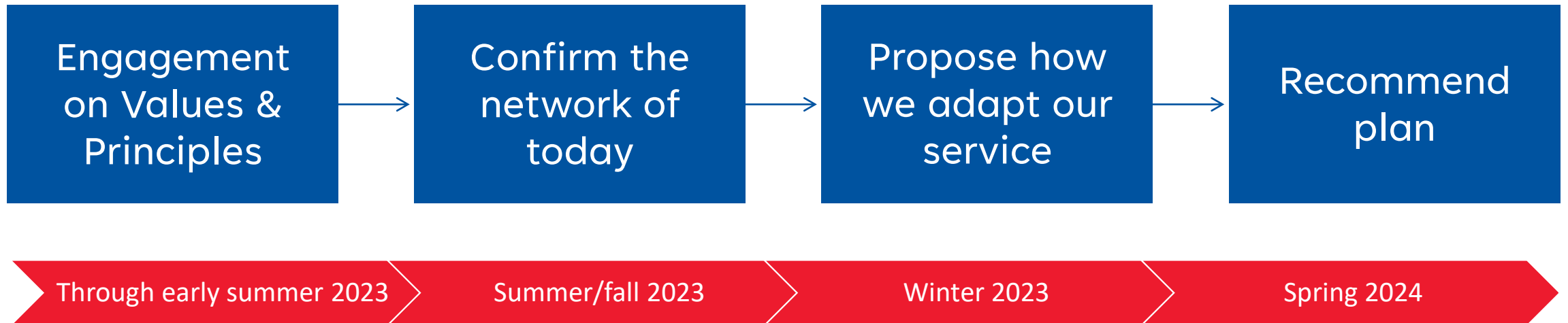


Over the next year we will:



- Conduct a regional discussion of values and principles for transit service
- Tell the story of adaptation and resilience in transit service, 2020-2022
- Identify plans for improving transit service and service changes through 2027

Project phases



What is included

- Changes to existing route service
- Frequency or span of existing and planned METRO lines
- Discontinued service and facility closures
- New or redesigned routes
- Speed and Reliability actions

What is *not* included

- Changes to the construction or alignment of planned METRO lines
- Northstar commuter rail
- New capital projects
- Fare policy changes
- Projects outside Metro Transit service area
- Long-term or regional planning
- Transportation Policy Plan revisions



How has transit changed since March 2020?

2020 COVID 19 response

- Adjusted to State and industry guidance
 - Followed executive orders
 - Operational changes
 - Required face masks
- Balanced equity, health and travel needs
 - Essential trips only
 - Prioritized service for people most reliant on transit



Service changes due to COVID-19

Spring 2020 – Summer 2021

62 routes suspended

Bus & rail service
reduced by 40%

Overnight service discontinued

Riders on-board limited to
25% capacity

Rear-door boarding and no on-
board fare collection

LRT returns to every
10 minutes

Local bus back to 90-100%
of former service levels

Governor's peacetime
emergency order ends

11 routes restored

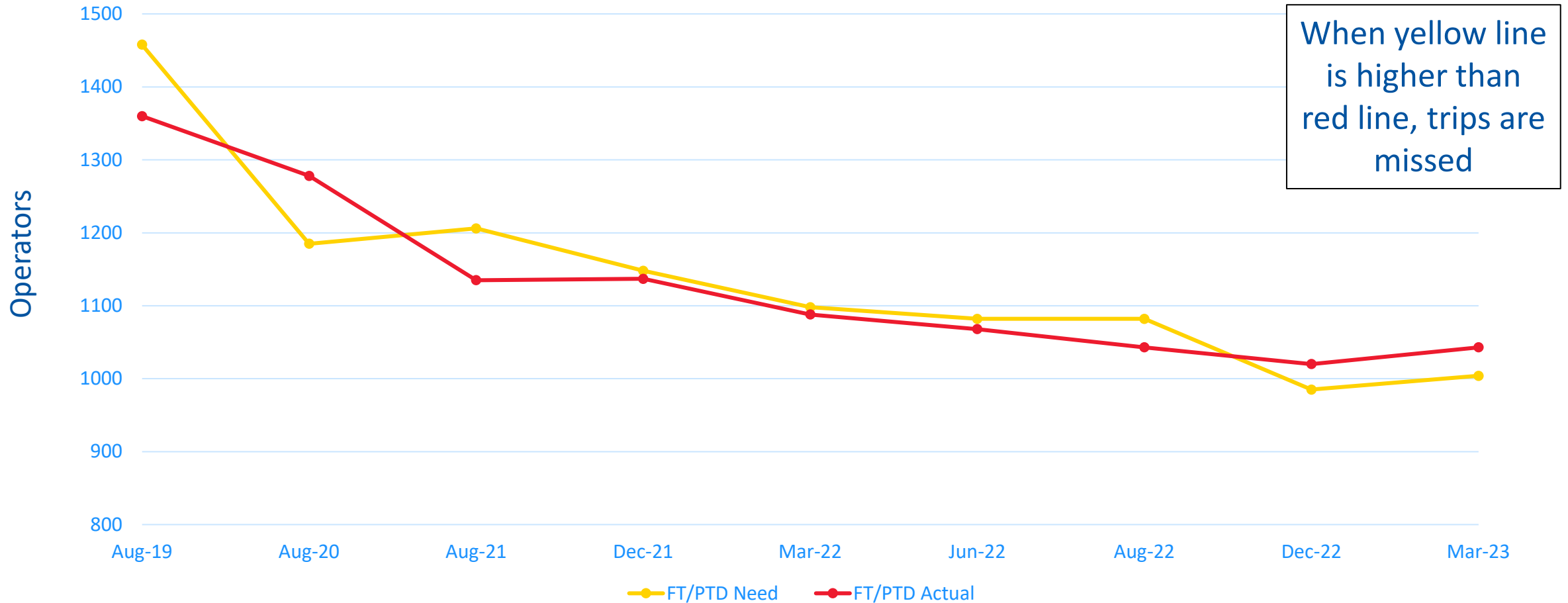
Service improved
throughout the region

Spring 2020

Fall 2020

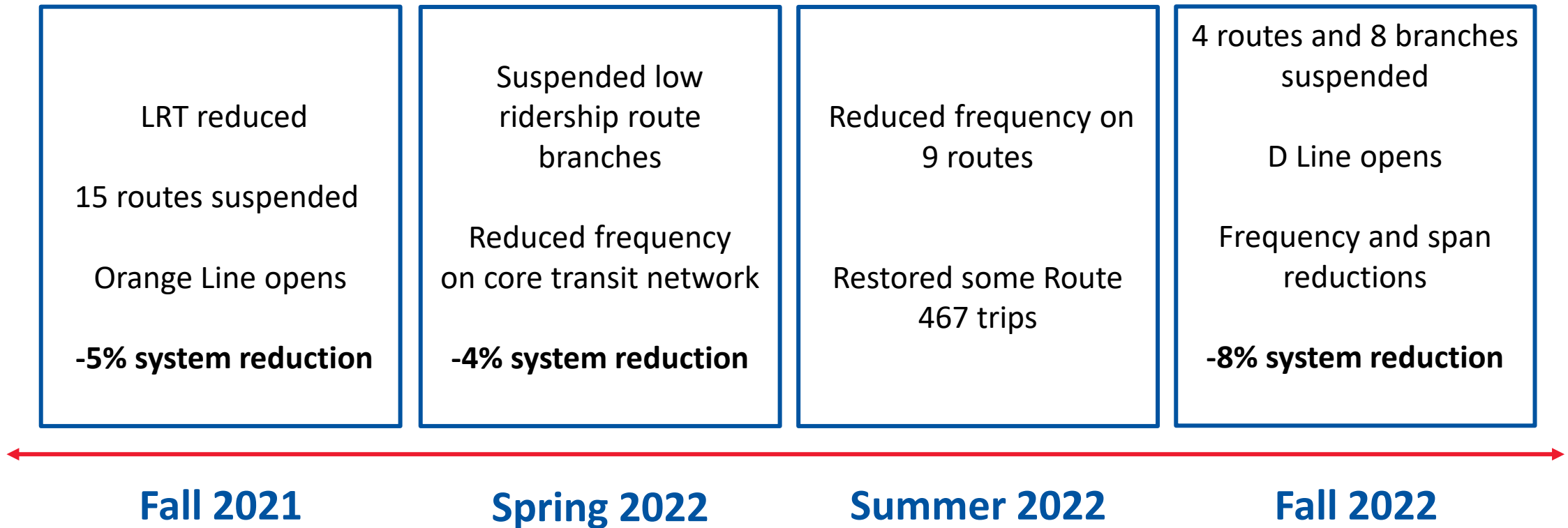
Summer 2021

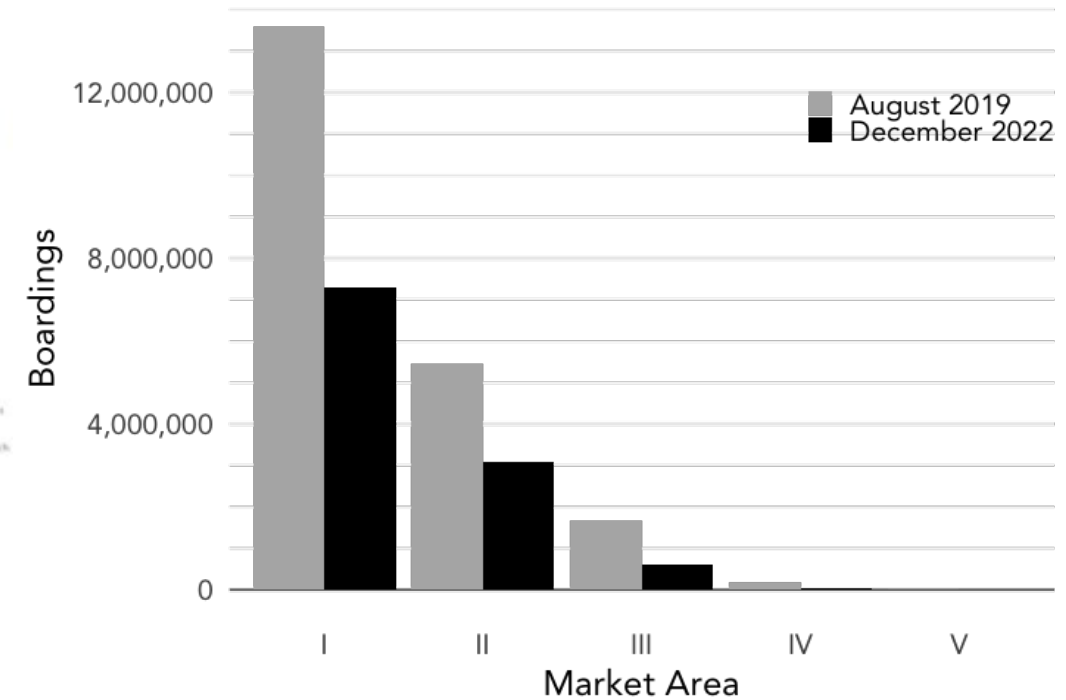
A new challenge: workforce shortage



Service changes due to workforce issues

Fall 2021 – Fall 2022





Guiding principles for service changes

- Maintain the reliability of our scheduled service
- Identify service where customers have an alternative
- Minimize ridership loss
- Minimize impacts on low-income communities and communities of color
- Balance network frequency and coverage

Today's transit network

38.8 million TOTAL RIDES

118,609 AVERAGE WEEKDAY RIDERSHIP

| | TOTAL | AVERAGE WEEKDAY |
|------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| BUS | 22,999,396 | 72,885 |
| GREEN LINE | 6,954,678 | 20,641 |
| BLUE LINE | 5,411,954 | 14,801 |
| BRT | 3,351,537 | 9,979 |
| NORTHSTAR | 77,077 | 303 |

159 ROUTES
95 ACTIVE, 64 SUSPENDED

22.9 million
IN-SERVICE MILES

31 CORE LOCAL



47 SUPPORTING LOCAL



5 BUS RAPID TRANSIT



2 LIGHT RAIL



1 COMMUTER RAIL



73 COMMUTER EXPRESS

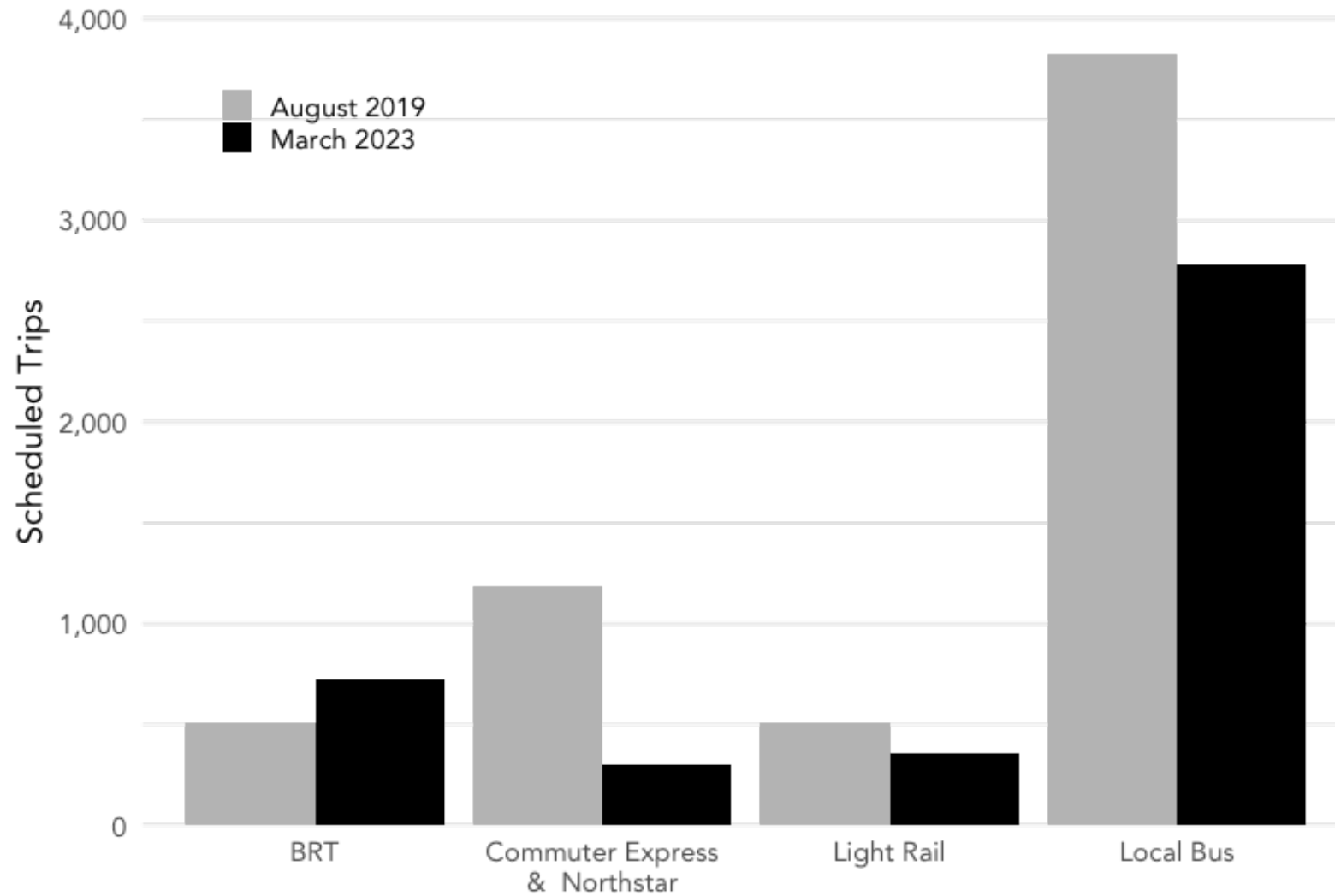


 = Temporarily suspended as of 12/31/22

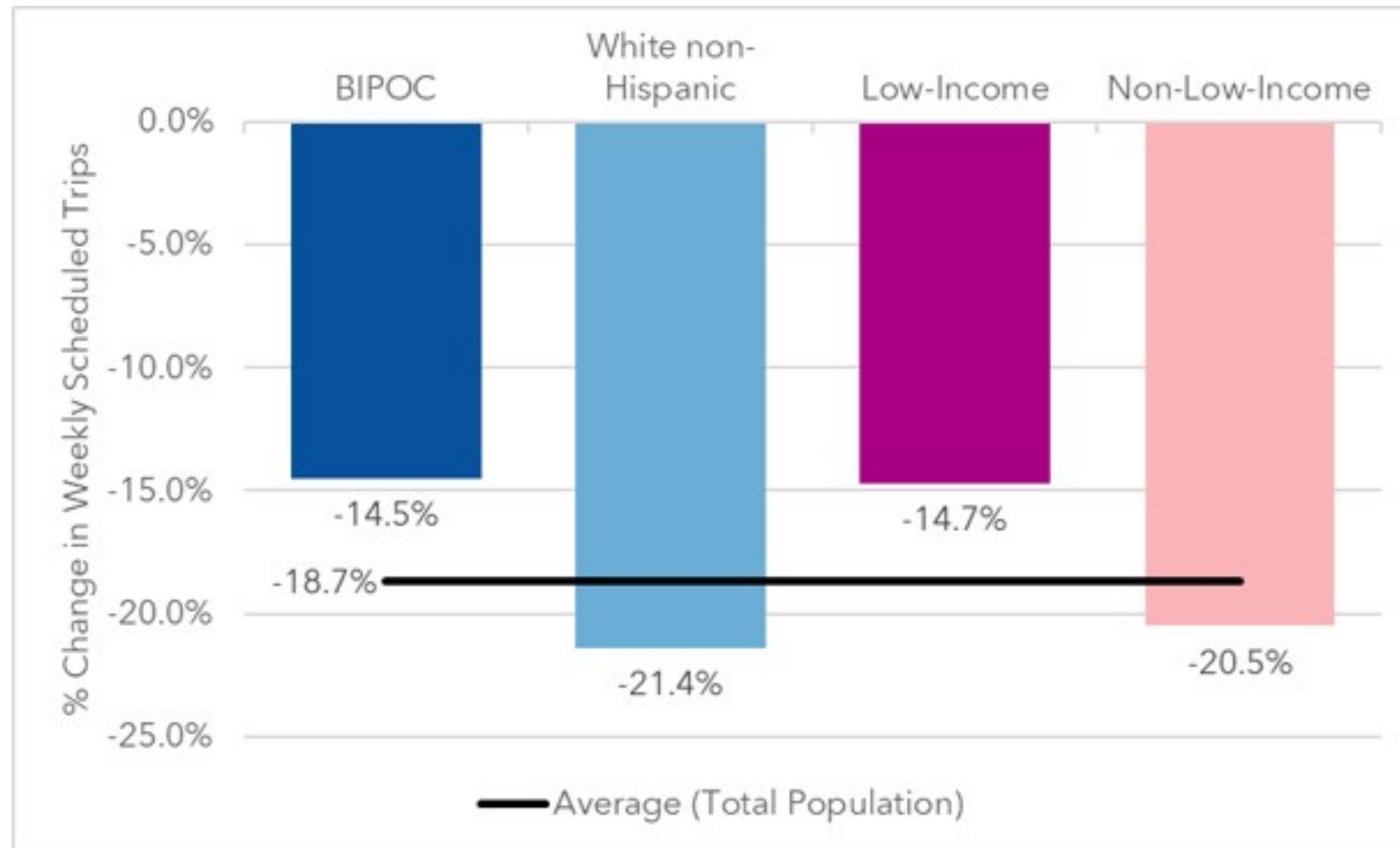
Significant changes to supply and demand in transit

- Supply is the amount of service provided
 - Service hours operated by route type, demographics, geography
- Demand is reflected in ridership and in changes to the transit market
 - Ridership by type of service, time of day, day of the week
 - Impacts of telecommuting, especially on commuter routes
 - Park and ride usage has plummeted

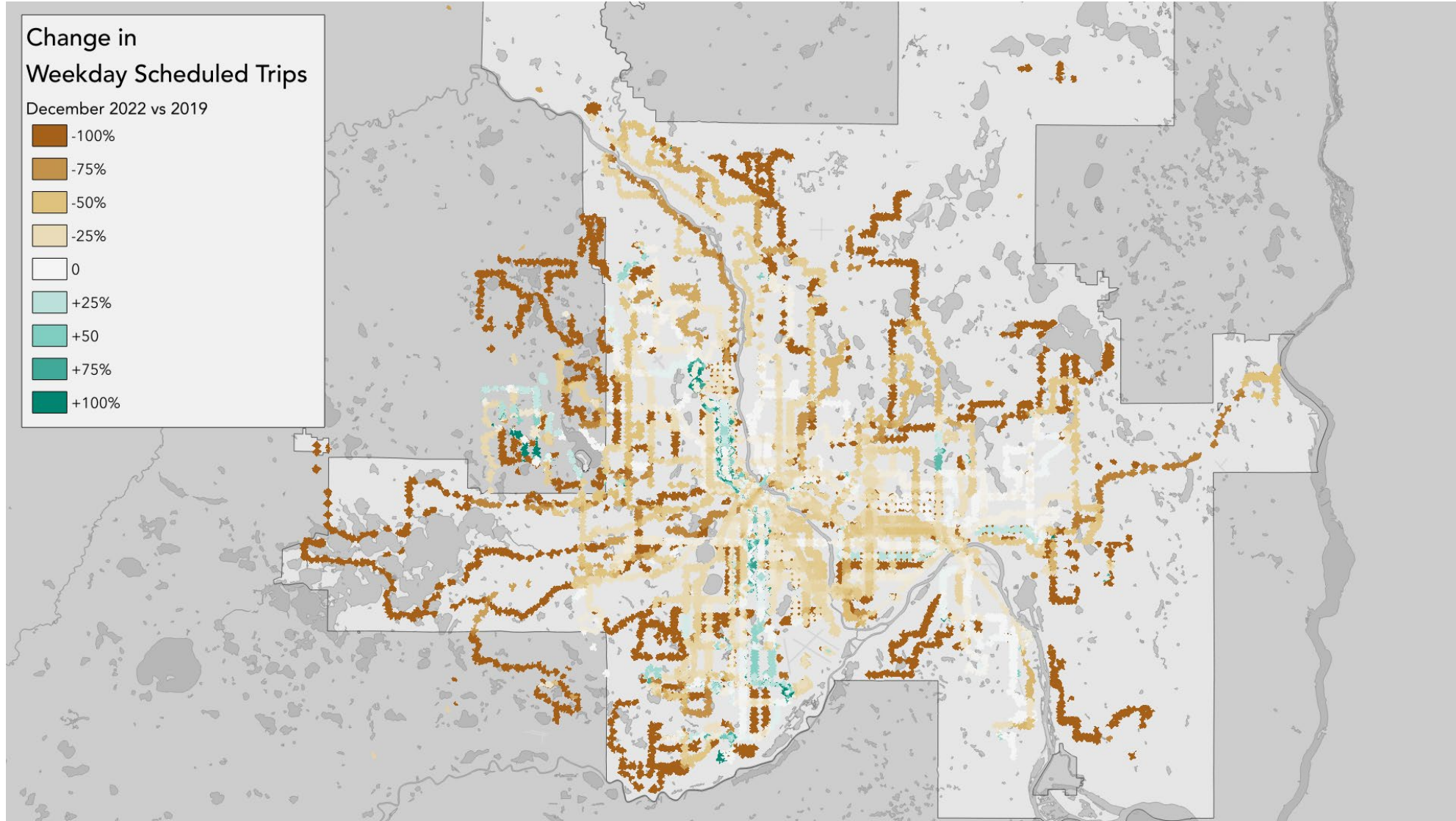
Service changes by route type



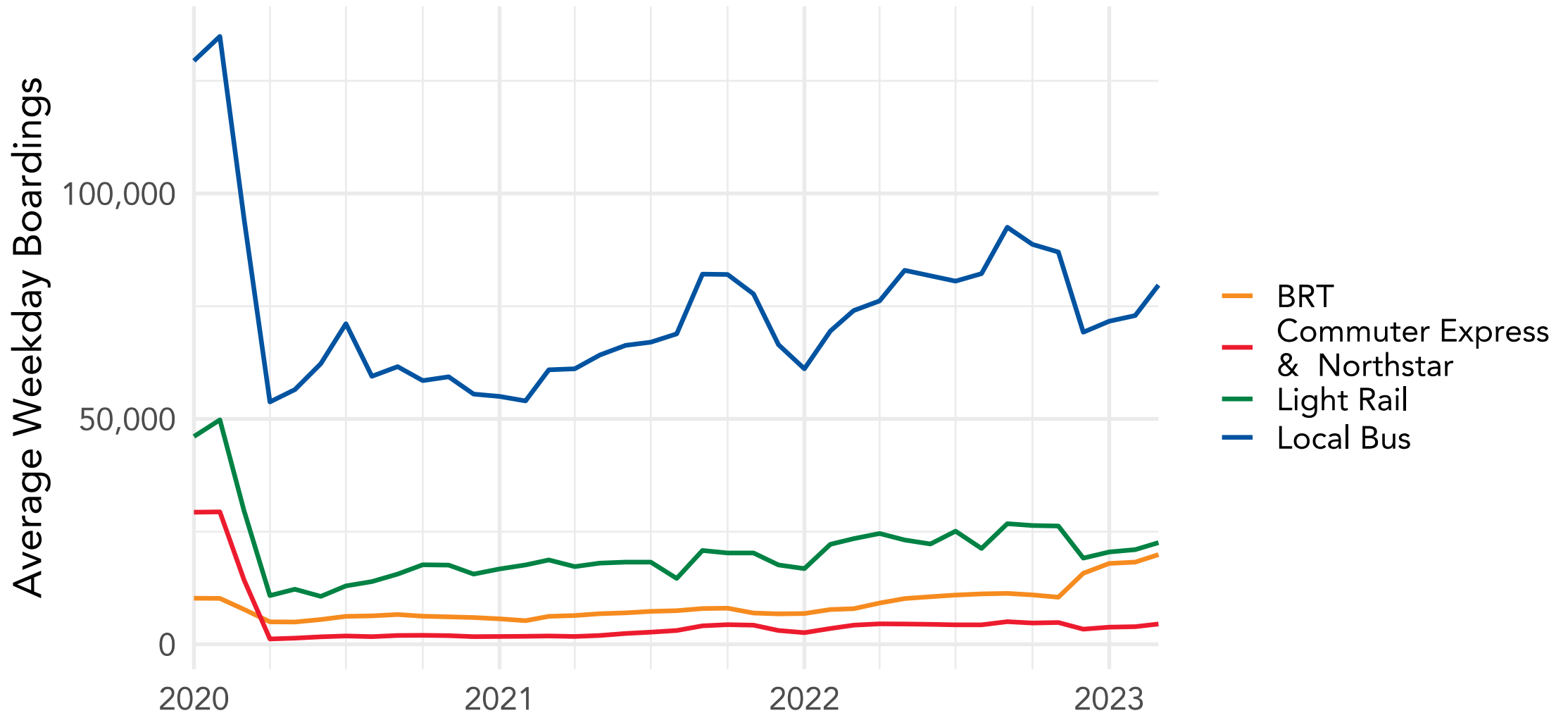
Minimized impact on low-income communities and communities of color (Dec. 2019 vs Dec. 2021)



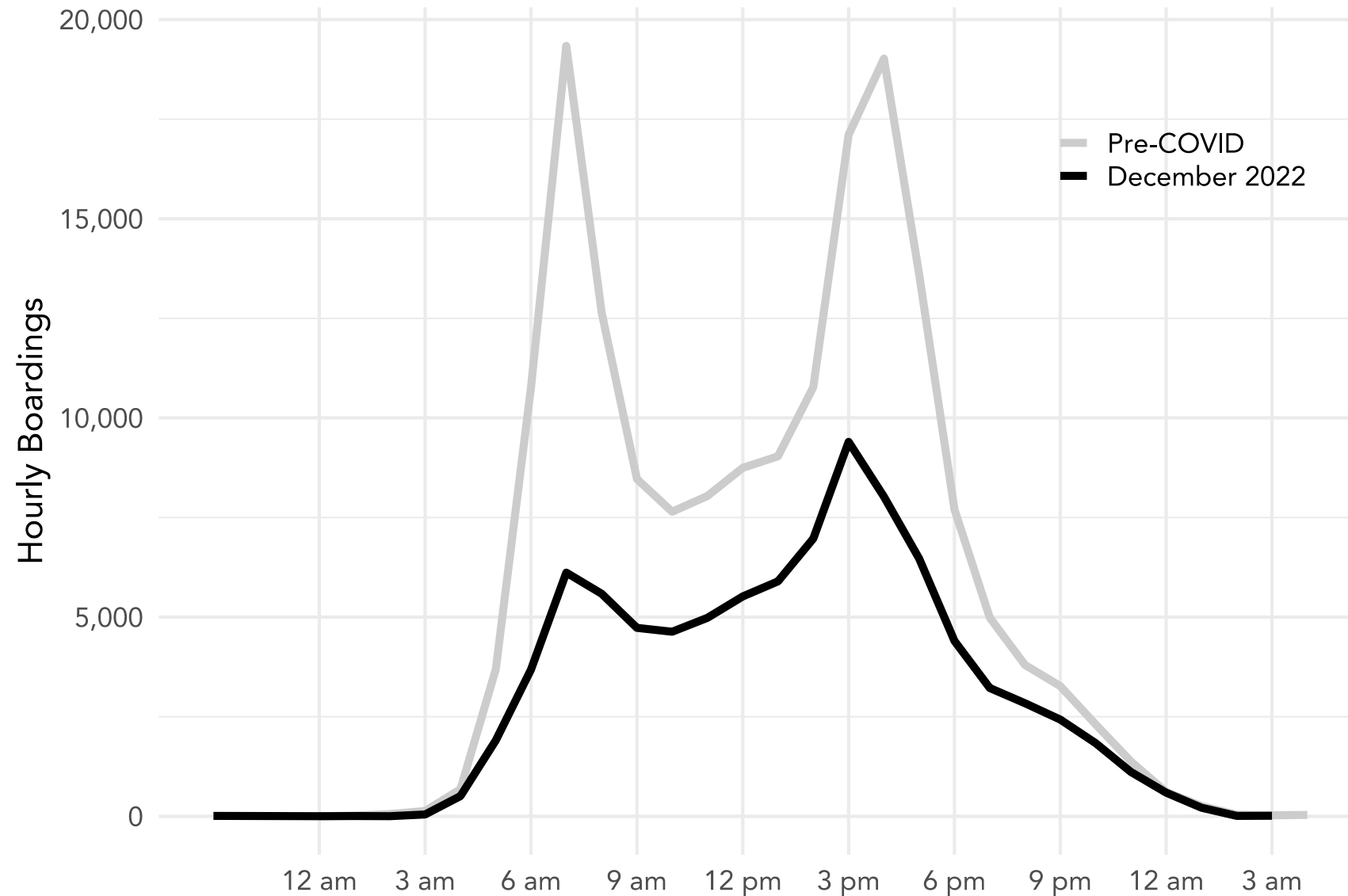
The amount of service dropped a lot in the suburbs and increased slightly in core areas



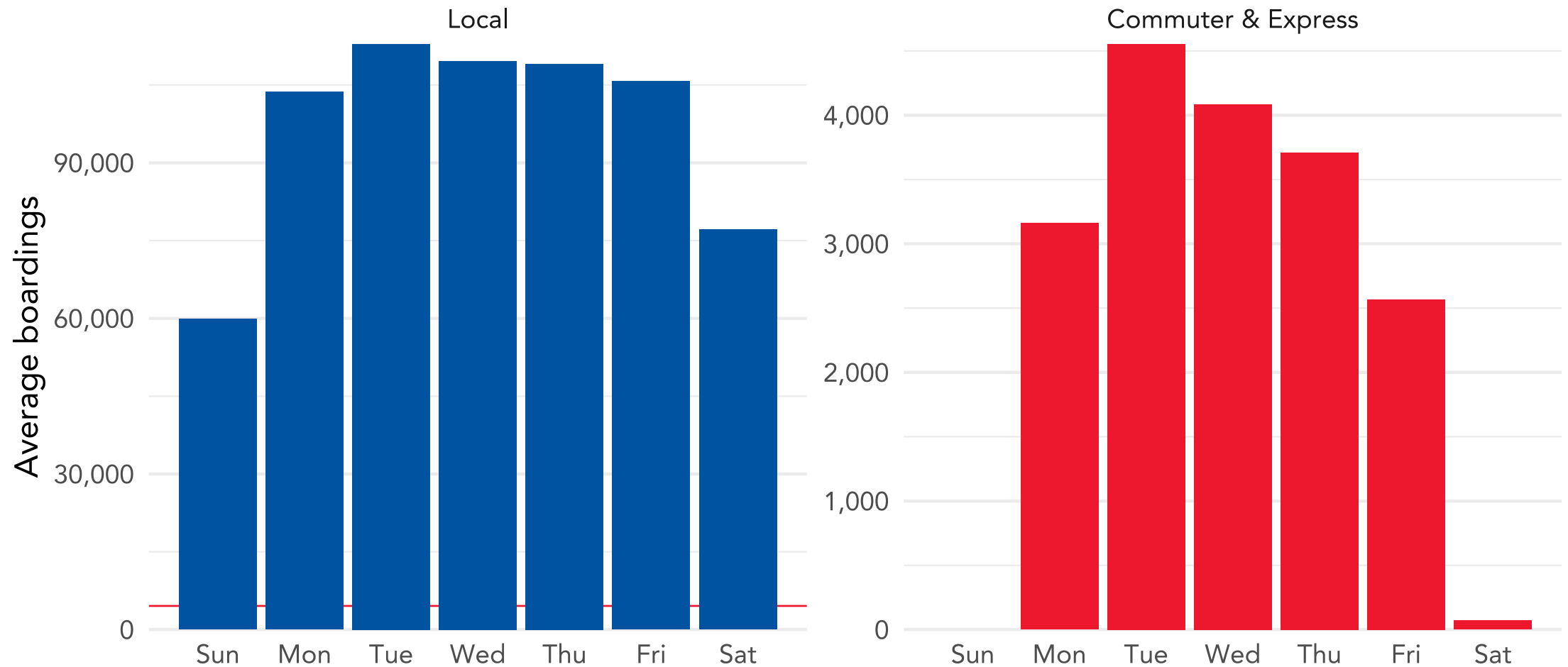
Ridership dropped significantly but is growing again



Ridership is not as concentrated in traditional rush hours



Ridership now varies more by day of week



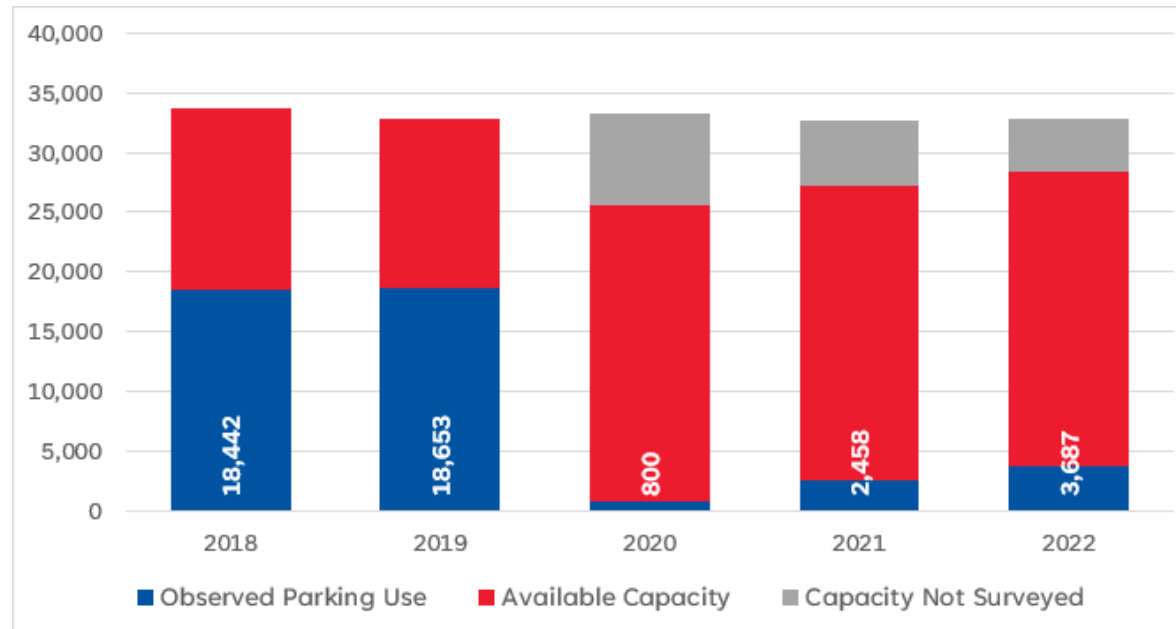
Why have commuter routes changed so much?

- Role of telecommuting
- Parking costs and availability/ease of driving
- Riders tend to have other alternatives
- Small share of overall transit riders



Underutilized transit stops and facilities

- 11,000 signed stops
 - 1,500 have all service suspended
- 60+ park and rides of varying capacity
 - 17 have all service suspended
 - Another 10 have local service only





How to participate

We want to hear from you!

- Take the [survey](#) (public)
 - The feedback we receive will help inform a decision-making framework
 - The framework will help us make service decisions for the next five years



Interactive Activity

- Act as a bus service planner for Metro Transit
- Round 1: Eliminate 2 bus trips out of 10 options
 - Result: The route still exists but buses come less often
- Document the results
 - Which 2 trips did you eliminate
 - Why you chose those trips
 - Takeaways from the activity

Information about trips

- Service type: core local, BRT, suburban local or commuter
- Ridership: high, medium or low
- Distance to closest alternative route
- Average rider income: high, medium or low
- Number of trips per hour

Types of service

- **Commuter** express service runs between suburbs and downtown or other significant destinations where parking is limited and expensive. Runs primarily in the rush hours. Often supported by park and rides. Limited stops between the residential areas served and the primary destination.
- **Bus Rapid Transit** serves Minneapolis/St. Paul and inner-ring suburbs. Runs all-day in both directions to serve multiple travel purposes. Stations are generally 1/3-1/2 mile. Significant capital investments provide faster trips with off-board fare payment, all-door boarding, transit advantages and extra amenities at stations.
- **Local service** runs all-day in both directions to serve multiple travel purposes. Stops are generally 1/8-1/4 mile apart.
 - **Core local** serves Minneapolis/St. Paul and first-ring suburbs
 - **Suburban local** service travels only within the suburbs

Interactive Activity

- Act as a bus service planner for Metro Transit
- Round 2: Add 3 bus trips
 - Start with all trip options again
 - You may add three of just one type of trip, two of one type and one of another, or one each of three different options
- Document the results
 - Which 3 trips did your group add?
 - Why did you choose those trips?
 - Takeaways from the activity



Questions?



Project e-mail: NetworkNow@metrotransit.org

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