

**Massachusetts Bay
Transportation Authority**

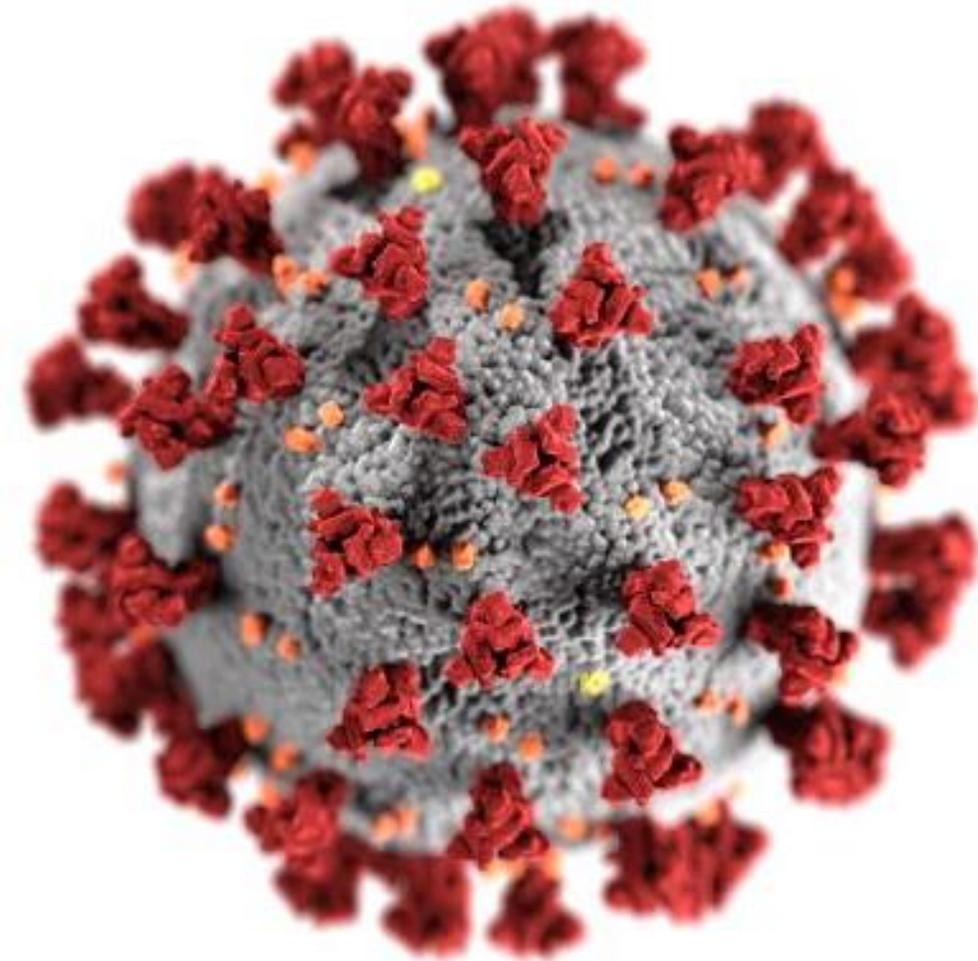
Fall 2020 Bus Service Changes

August 2020

Fall 2020 Bus Service Changes

We are changing MBTA service in response to the impacts of COVID-19. These changes will:

- Accommodate changing ridership patterns
- Support physical distancing for both riders and employees
- Optimize service with finite resources

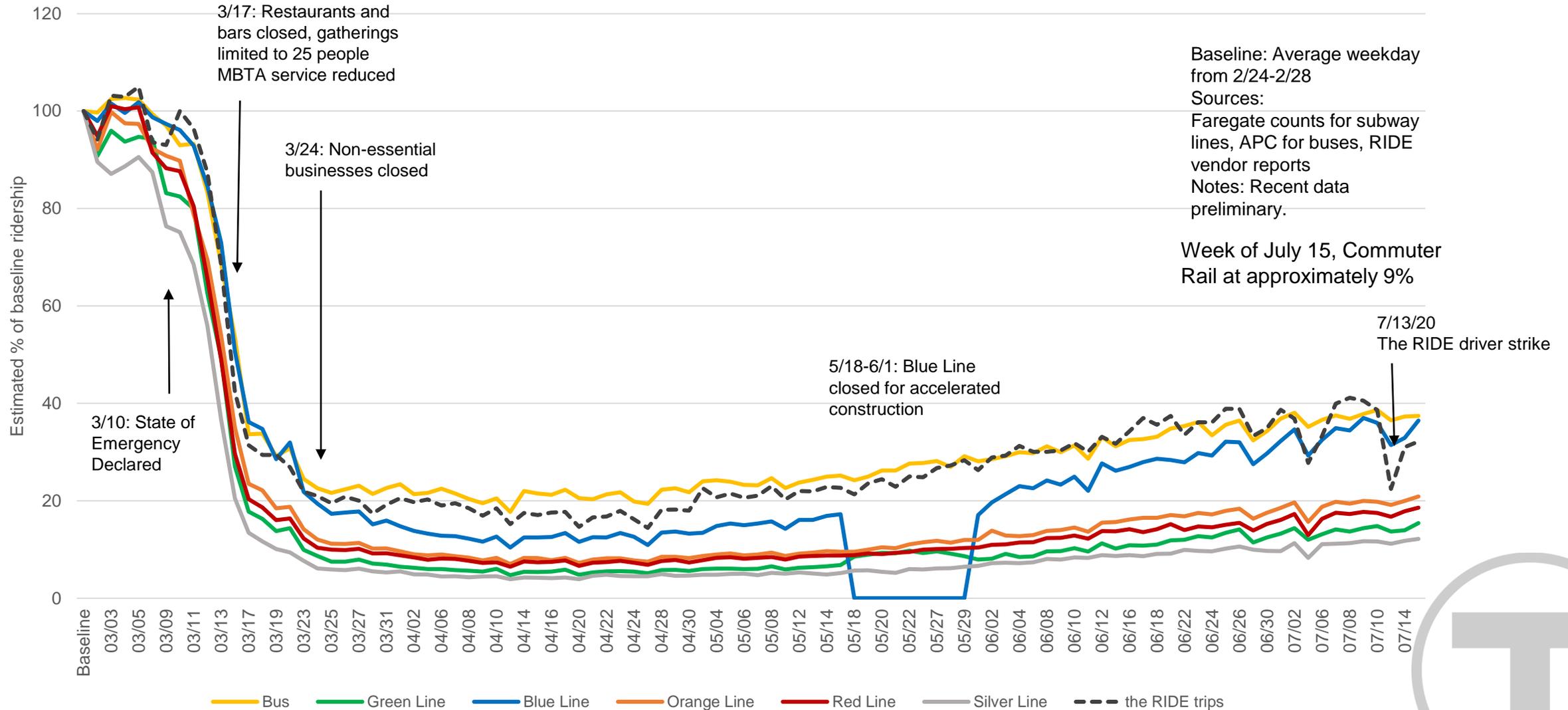


Changing ridership patterns

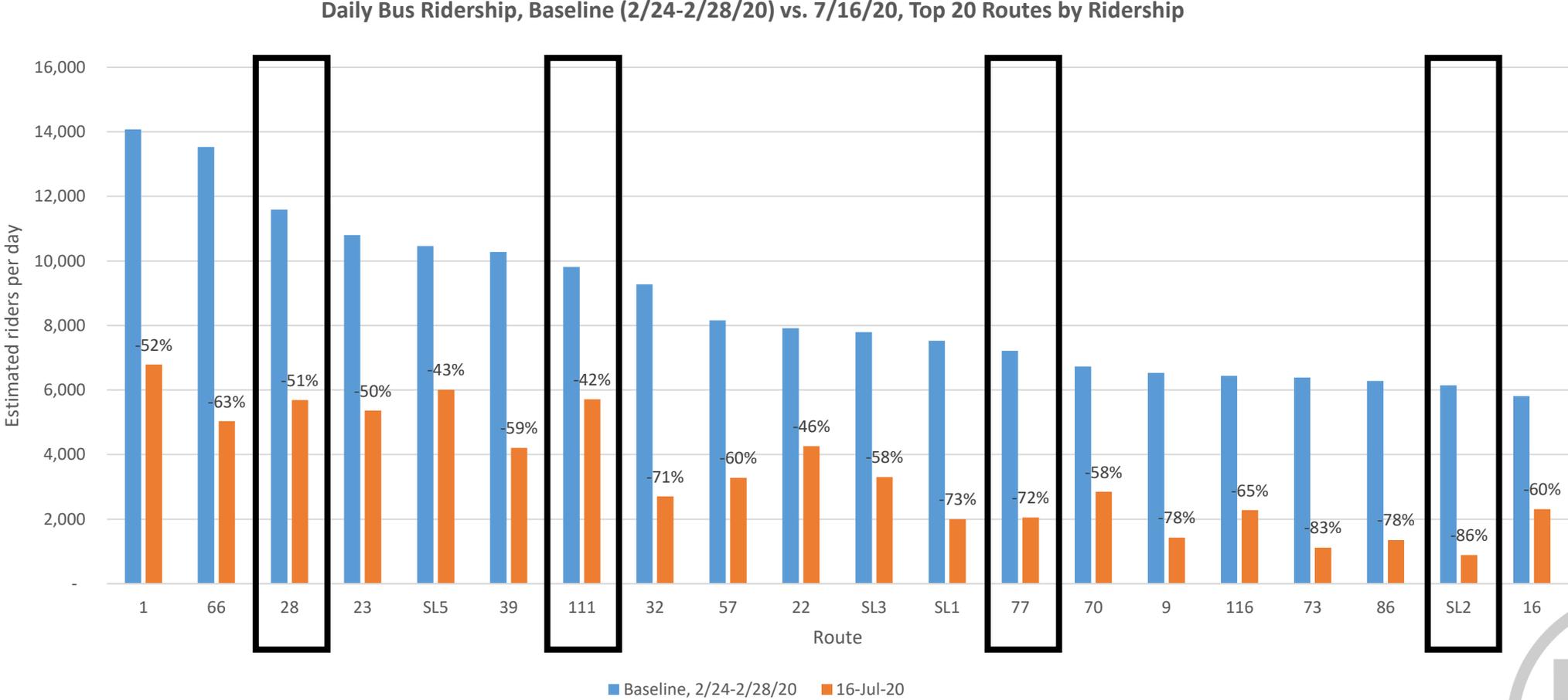
- Ridership has remained most steady on bus routes compared to other modes; bus ridership dropped less during the early weeks of the pandemic, and it is rebounding faster than on other modes.
- Ridership has been highest on routes that serve:
 - Essential trips
 - Minority and low-income communities
 - Areas with geographic barriers (like Boston Harbor) that make walking and biking difficult
 - Communities with fewer residents who can work from home
- Ridership has been lowest on routes that serve:
 - Primarily work commuters
 - Communities with more residents who can work from home
 - Communities with more access to vehicles or other modes of transit



Changing ridership patterns: weekday ridership indexed to week of 2/24

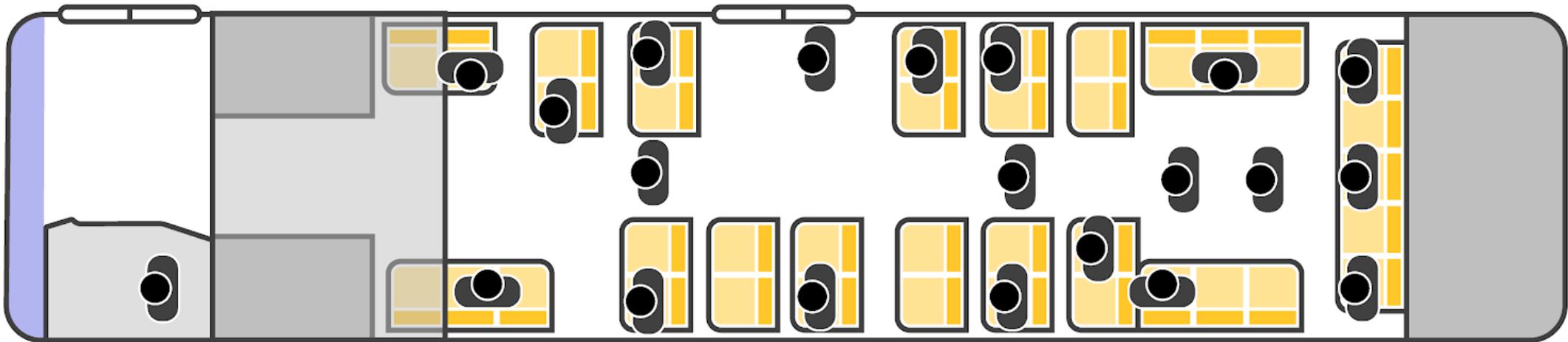


Changing ridership patterns: bus ridership top 20 routes



Support physical distancing

- The design loads that we use to set service frequencies have changed.
- Pre-COVID, we assumed 46-52 passengers per 40-foot bus.
- Now, we plan for 20 passengers per 40-foot bus—less than half of our pre-COVID capacity.



Optimize service with finite resources

- For the short term, we have the same number of buses and operators.
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- With new distancing design loads, we have less than half the capacity that we provided pre-COVID, so we want to be strategic with where we do provide capacity.
 - Maintain capacity—sometimes with better frequency than pre-COVID—on routes with most ridership and crowding.
 - Reduce capacity in areas where ridership is lower, even if this means less frequency, route structure changes, span changes or continued suspensions.



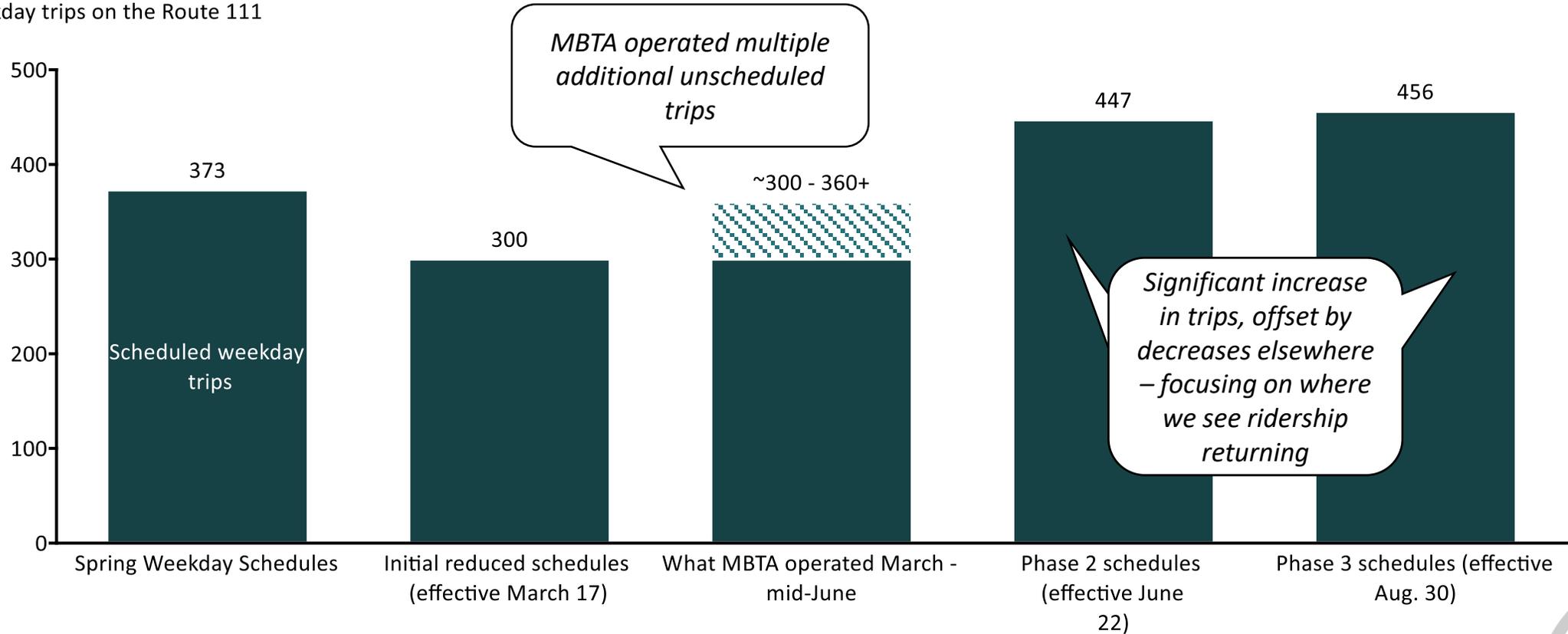
Fall service change details—starting August 30/31

What's changing	Routes affected
<p>Many routes that were not operating on weekdays resume service again—but they may have other schedule adjustments.</p>	<p>4, 27, 52, 67, 68, 72, 79, 85, 114, 121, 131, 202, 214, 217, 221, 424, 439, 501, 554, 556, 558, CT2, CT3.</p>
<p>Weekday service resumes <u>same or better than</u> pre-COVID frequency levels on some routes that were operating with reduced Saturday schedules; these had more durability of ridership and essential travel.</p>	<p>1, 9, 14, 22*, 23*, 28, 32, 39, 47, 57*, 65*, 66*, 70*, 71*, 75, 80*, 86*, 104*, 106*, 108*, 109*, 111*, 112*, 116*, 117*, 134, 212, 238*, 240, 350*, 504*, 553*, SLW.</p>
<p>Weekday service resumes <u>nearly</u> pre-COVID schedule levels on some routes that were operating with reduced Saturday schedules; these generally had lower durability of ridership and more projected work from home.</p>	<p>7, 11, 16, 38, 59, 60, 62, 73, 77, 87, 88, 90, 94, 105, 136, 137, 426, SL1, SL2, SL3</p>

* = route will have at least 7% more additional service versus pre-COVID

Example: Weekday service on the Route 111

Weekday trips on the Route 111



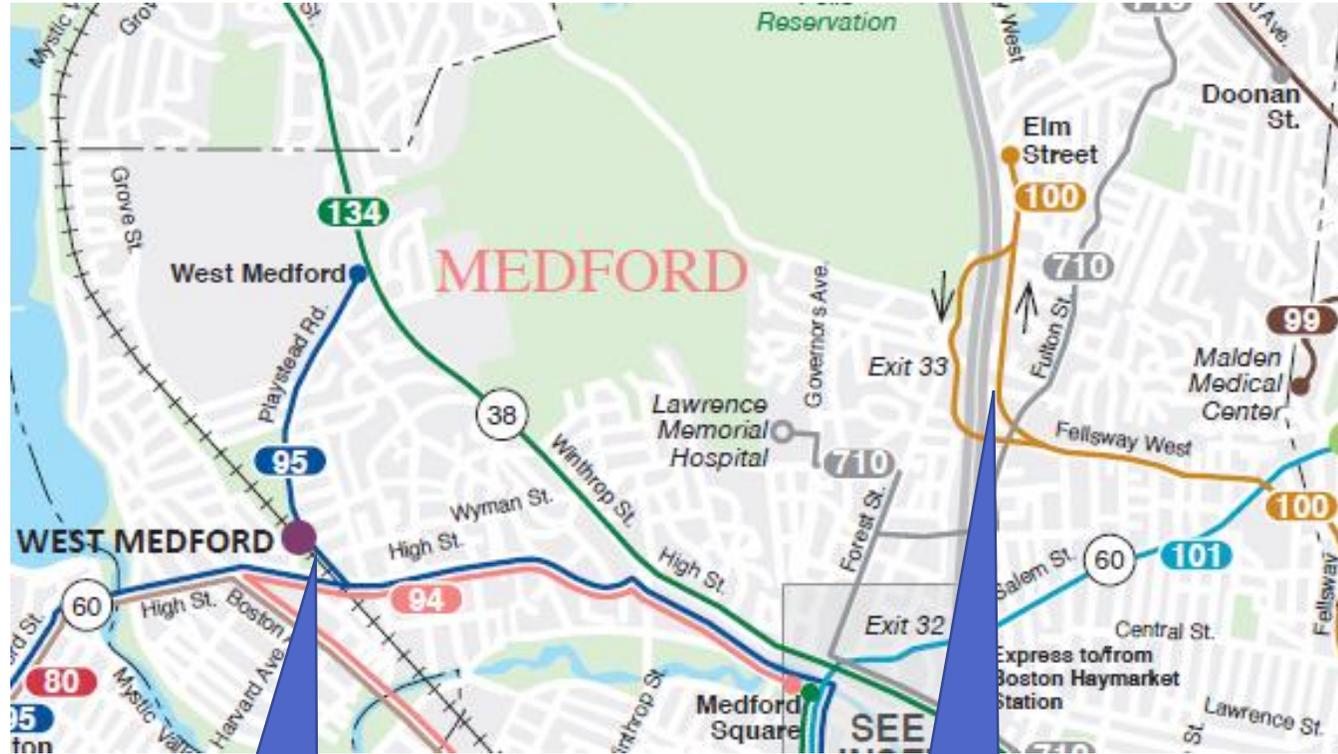
Fall service change details—starting August 30/31

What's changing	Routes affected
<p><u>Service remains suspended on selected commuter-oriented or express routes; some are replaced by new combined routes or by other local services.</u> Commuter and express routes have seen some of the largest reductions in ridership.</p>	<p>62, 76—Use combined 62/76 instead, now with better frequency. New service pattern; selected trips omit Hanscom Civil Air Terminal for more direct trip for Bedford riders. [not shown on map]</p> <p>84—Use 78 instead, which operates via Arlmont on all trips.</p> <p>170—Use 61, 70 or other Waltham bus or commuter rail routes, or 128 Business Council shuttles instead. [not shown on map]</p>



Fall service change details—starting August 30/31

What's changing	Routes affected (continued)
<p>Service remains <u>suspended</u> on selected commuter-oriented or express routes; some are replaced by new combined routes or by other local services. Commuter and express routes have seen some of the largest reductions in ridership.</p>	<p>325—Use 100 or 101 and Orange Line instead.</p> <p>326—Use Commuter Rail or 94, 95, or 134 and Red or Orange Line instead.</p>



326 express remains suspended

325 express remains suspended

Fall service change details—starting August 30/31

What's changing

Service remains suspended on selected commuter-oriented or express routes; some are replaced by new combined routes or by other local services. Commuter and express routes have seen some of the largest reductions in ridership.

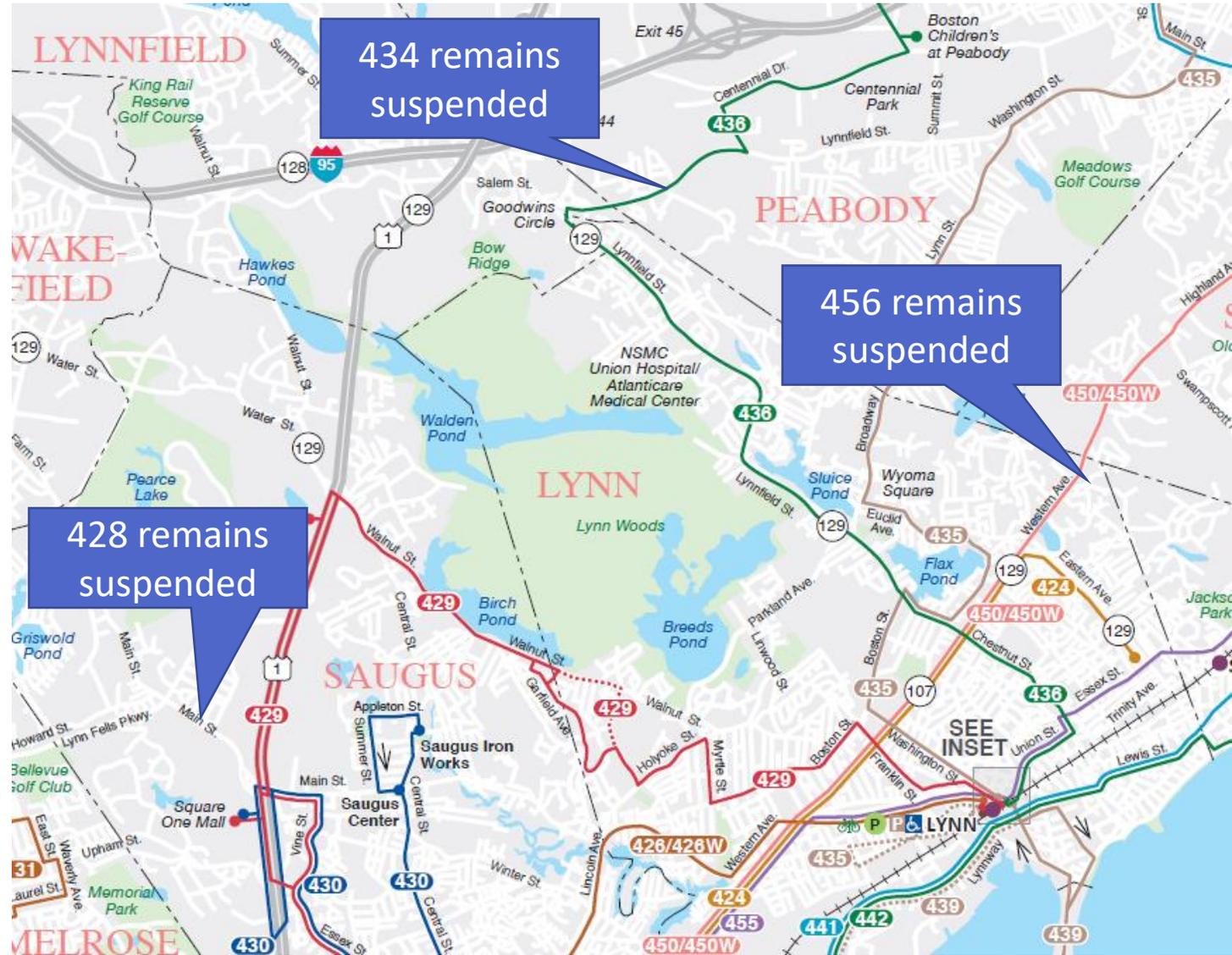
Routes affected (continued)

428—Use 119, 411, 426, 429 or 430 and/or Orange or Blue Line instead.

434—Use 435 or 436 instead.

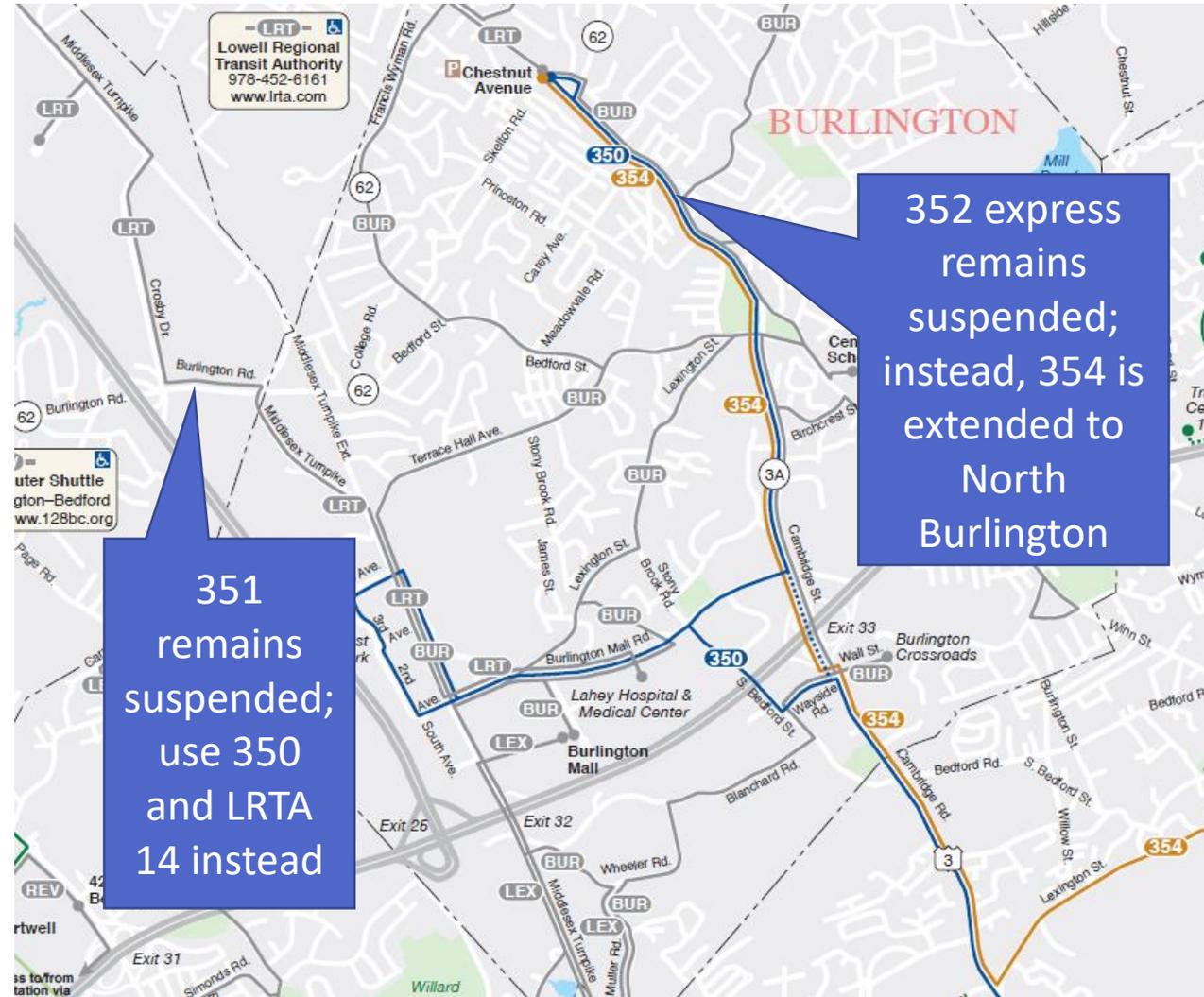
451—Use Commuter Rail or Beverly Local Bus instead. **[not shown on map]**

456—Use 424 or 450 instead.



Fall service change details—starting August 30/31

What's changing	Routes affected (continued)
<p>Service remains <u>suspended</u> on selected commuter-oriented or express routes; some are replaced by new combined routes or by other local services. Commuter and express routes have seen some of the largest reductions in ridership.</p>	<p>351—Use 350 and LRTA 14 instead.</p> <p>352—Use 354 instead.</p>



Fall service change details—starting August 30/31

What's changing	Routes affected (continued)
<p><u>Service remains suspended on selected commuter-oriented or express routes; some are replaced by new combined routes or by other local services.</u> Commuter and express routes have seen some of the largest reductions in ridership.</p>	<p>502—Use 504 instead. Nearly all 504 trips extended to Copley/Back Bay area.</p> <p>503—Use 501 instead. All 501 trips extended to Copley/Back Bay area.</p> <p>505—Use Commuter Rail or 57 and 553, 554, 556, or 558 instead. [not shown on map]</p> <p>553, 554, 556, 558—Local service only. No service on turnpike east of Newton Corner. Transfer via 57, 501, or 504 for continued service to/from Boston. No midday service on 554, 556, 558.</p>



501, 504 extended to Copley/Back Bay and replace 502/503

553, 554, 556, 558 local service only



Fall service change details—starting August 30/31

What's changing – categories of changes	Routes affected
<p>Some routes are combined or extended to replace other routes</p>	<p>136, 137—Midday service 10am-2pm operates inbound as 137 and outbound as 136; some passengers may need to ride through end of the line.</p> <p>214, 216—Midday service 10am-2:30pm operates as combination 216 Hough's Neck via Germantown, similar to weekend service pattern.</p>
<p>Weekday service operates only during morning/afternoon peak periods with reduced frequency on selected routes with lower ridership levels</p>	<p>18, 43, 52, 55, 79, 236, 245</p>
<p>Frequency is reduced on selected routes with lower ridership levels</p>	<p>Weekdays: 4, 91, 92, 99, 216, 354, 426, CT2, SL1, SL2. Weekends: 10, 11, 44, 45, 89, 91, 94, 95, 96, 99, 101, 211, 216, 504, 553.</p>
<p>Other weekend service frequency is improved to respond to crowding</p>	<p>10, 11, 44, 45, 89, 91, 94, 95, 96, 99, 101, 211, 216, 504, 553.</p>

Next steps

- **August 12th & 13th:** Public meeting on upcoming changes
- **Throughout August:** Share content on upcoming changes via MBTA-owned platforms (e.g. MBTA.com)
- **August 30th/31:** New fall schedules take effect
- **September:** review new ridership, crowding, public feedback and internal feedback and recommend further changes for Winter schedule changes

