

## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, December 28, 2016

### **CTfastrak** Ridership Remains Strong

RIDERSHIP THROUGHOUT THE CORRIDOR CONTINUES TO GROW

**Hartford, Connecticut** - The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is pleased to announce that ridership on **CTfastrak** is showing significant year-over-year growth. According to data provided by the Connecticut Department of Transportation, in November of 2016, on an average weekday, there were 10,573 trips taken on **CTfastrak** buses. Compared to the November 2015 figure of 9,394 trips, ridership has grown by over 12%.

Regional leaders have cited **CTfastrak**'s success as contributing to renewed interest in their communities and improved access to jobs. New Britain Mayor Erin Stewart said: "New Britain has seen an upswing in developer interest, and much of that can be attributed to the success of **CTfastrak**." East Hartford Mayor Marcia Leclerc noted that: "Providing expanded **CTfastrak** service east of the river would provide better access to jobs for East Hartford residents and provide new opportunities for development."

Ridership in the **CTfastrak** corridor overall, which includes local buses that do not run on the busway and express buses, also remained strong. Michael Sanders, Transit Administrator for the Connecticut Department of Transportation noted that: "Prior to **CTfastrak**'s opening in March of 2015, on average an estimated 8,000 to 9,000 trips were taken per day in the corridor. In November, the estimated number of average weekday trips was 18,224 in the corridor. And thirteen times since the first of September the daily passenger count in the corridor exceeded 20,000 daily boardings."

"The big story", noted Stewart (Chip) Beckett, Chairman of CRCOG, "is that ridership throughout the corridor is growing. What we are seeing is an increase in overall transit use, not just existing riders shifting over to the new service." In fact, the ridership data shows that non-**CTfastrak** buses operating in the corridor also saw an estimated increase in ridership of over 24% from November 2015 to November 2016.

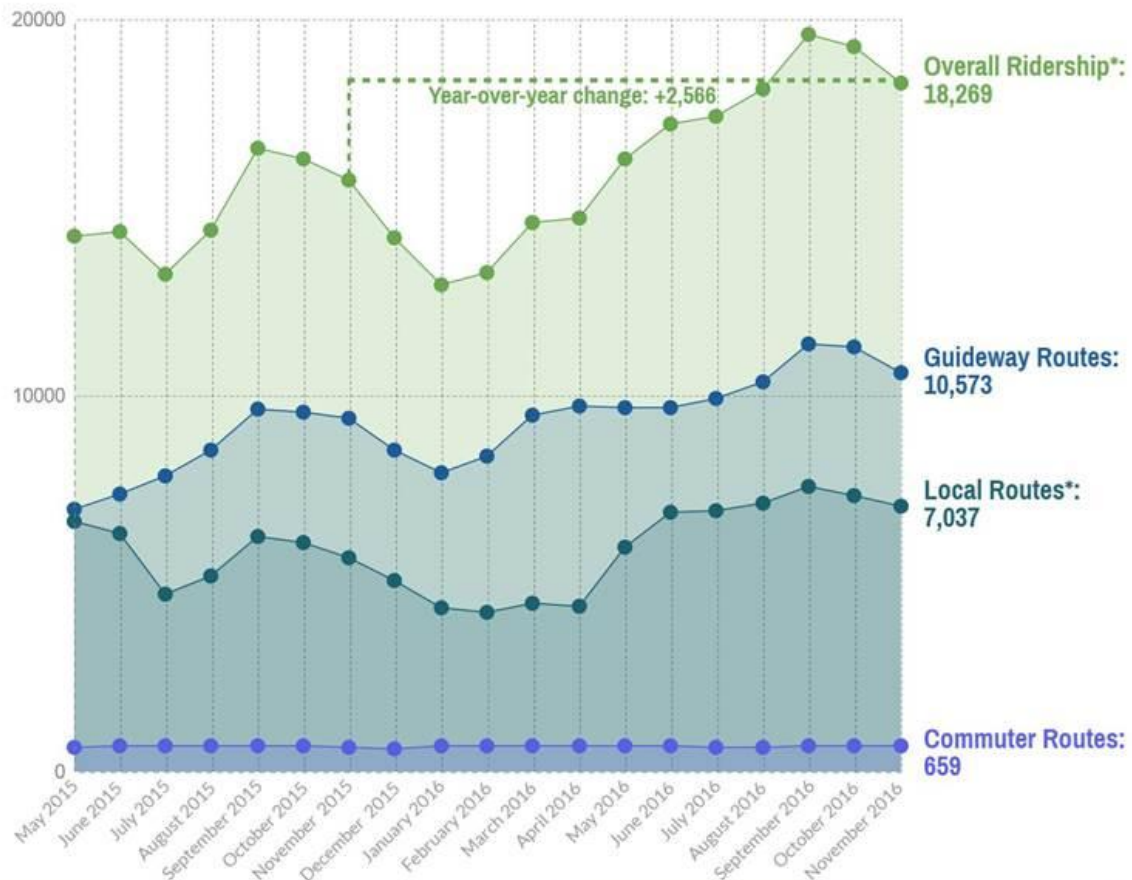
The corridor reached an all-time high of 19,562 average weekday rides in September and has already exceeded initial projections. Lyle Wray, Executive Director of CRCOG noted that: "When you look at the data, you see normal seasonal variation, such as ridership declining in the winter, but overall **CTfastrak** is continuing to exceed expectations and to encourage more transit use."

Wray added that: "The continued success of **CTfastrak** shows that smart investments in high-quality service will attract people to transit. We look forward to seeing **CTfastrak** ridership continue to grow in the new year."

More information on ridership data can be found at: <http://www.ct.gov/dot/ctfastrak>



## Average Weekday Ridership May 2015 - November 2016



### Legend

#### Guideway Routes:

New or revised routes that use the CTfastrak guideway. These routes provide service along the guideway, as well as to local destinations.

#### Local Routes:

These are the "blue" buses that operated in the corridor prior to the opening of CTfastrak. They include the following routes: 31/33, 37/39, 41, 69.

#### Commuter Routes:

Buses operated under the CTtransit Express brand. These routes existed prior to the opening of CTfastrak, but provide complementary service.

### About the data

This infographic presents passenger trip data for the CTfastrak service. The data comes directly from the Connecticut Department of Transportation and is not the product of the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG). CRCOG provides this visual resource to make the data more accessible.

Due to rounding errors, the sum of Guideway, Local, and Commuter routes may not equal total corridor ridership.

\*Due to an outage of data collection equipment on the Route 41 baseline local route from Saturday, November 19 through Wednesday, November 30, Saturday and weekday average ridership from the previous month was used.

Data current as of: 12/5/2016  
<http://www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?a=1386&Q=504888>