

# **Rail and Transit Report**

## **Administrator Meredith Slesinger**

*November 15, 2023*



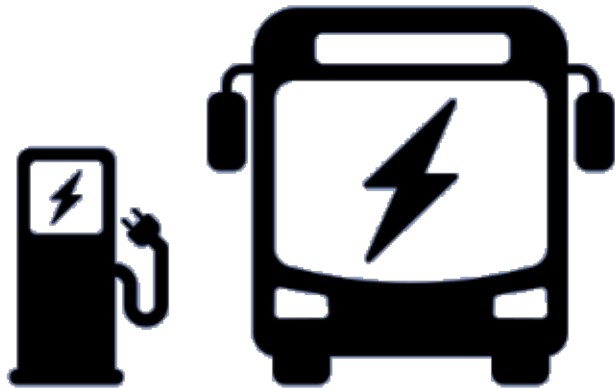
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# Transit Update

## Regional Transit Innovation Grant program

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- \$15 million in discretionary operating and capital funding to award to transit providers, \$3.75 million rural set aside.
- Any transit provider providing public transportation in MA is eligible.
- MassDOT is looking to fund projects that include, but are not limited to, the following categories and subcategories:
  1. Enhancing and Expanding Transit Service
  2. Transit Electrification

# Rail Capital

## Knowledge Corridor Fiber Optic Cable Design

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- Design awarded for Fiber Optic Cable (FOC) installation on Knowledge Corridor rail line.
- Survey is complete, and base mapping has begun. Design kick-off meeting held this month.
- Will be designed to facilitate and support future installation of Positive Train Control (PTC),
- PTC will improve safety of railroad operations and create opportunity for increased railroad capacity.
- The Project FOC will be connected to the adjacent MassDOT Highway Division FOC installed along the I-91 corridor for mutual redundancy.

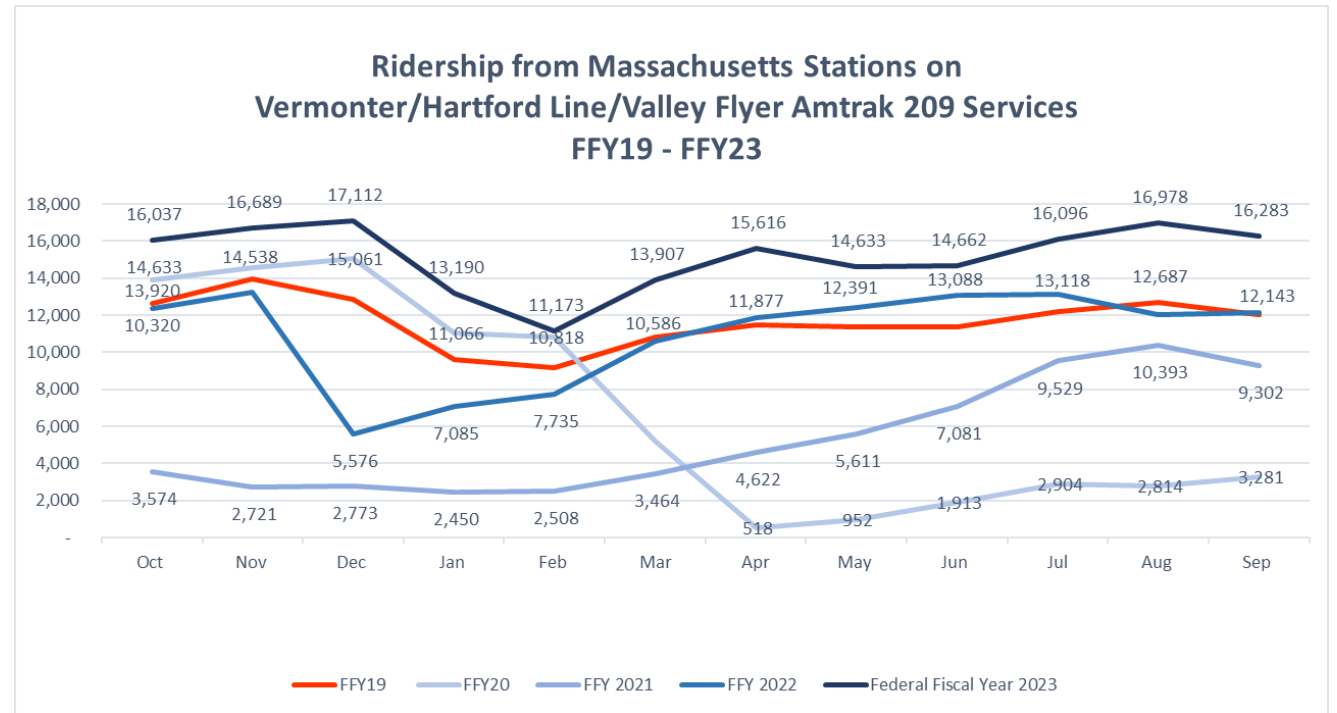
*Rail Bridge 47.90 in  
Bernardston, MA*

# Rail Operations

## MassDOT-Supported Passenger Rail Ridership

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- Knowledge Corridor ridership was over 180,000 for the year. (32% over pre-pandemic levels)
- Vermonter ridership is 3% above 2019 levels.
- Valley Flyer had ~19,000 riders this year with little growth in summer – possibly related to inconsistent service due to mechanical issues and weather.
- Ridership on the new Northeast Regional that began in June has ~1,800 riders per month at SPG.
- Berkshire Flyer had 1,261 riders this season which was short of 1,600 goal. Schedule for next season will run from June 21 through Labor Day to match demand.



# Thank You

