



Secretary Stephanie Pollack's Report to the MassDOT Board

May 11, 2020

Overview

- Update on travel
- Planning for reopening
- Update on Safety
- Other Updates

Update on Travel:

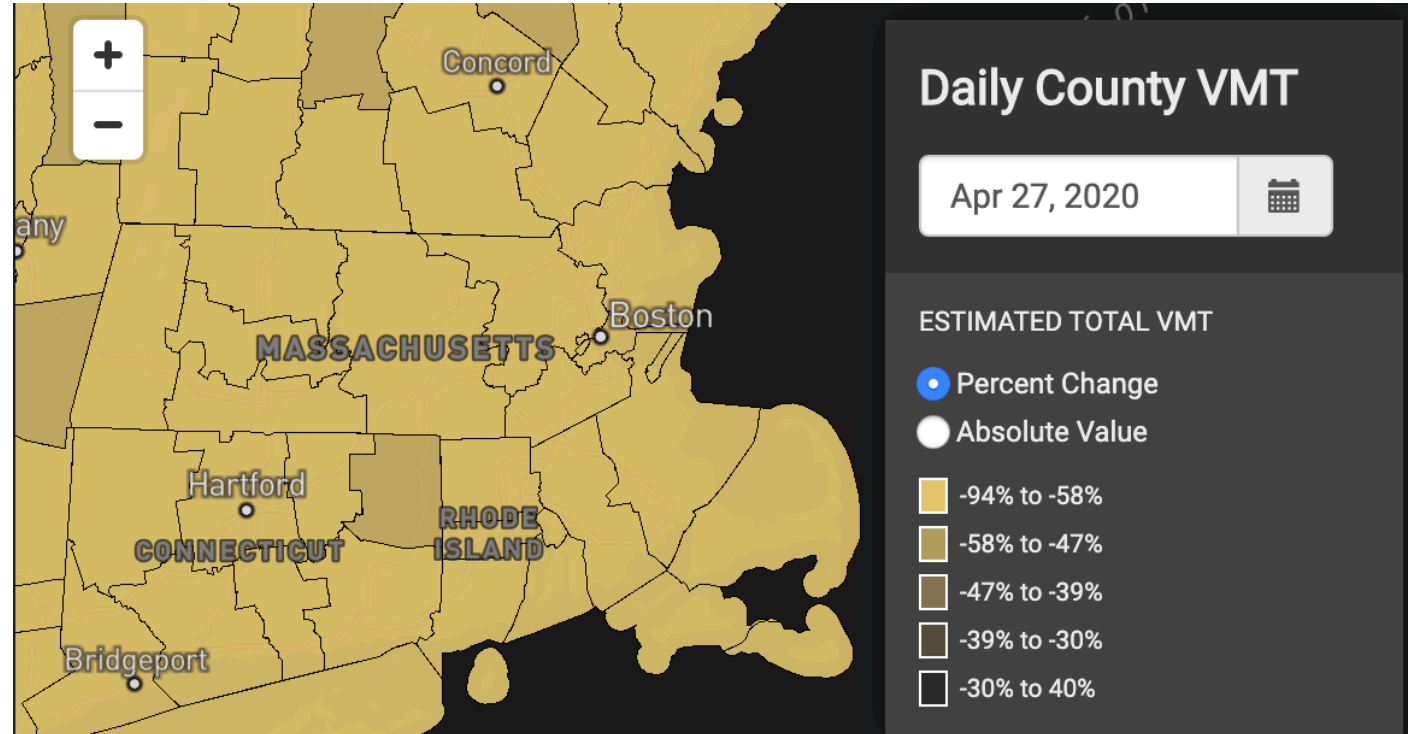
April: 2020 vs 2019 Traffic Comparison

<u>Toll Facilities</u>	
Location:	% Reduction:
I-90 Extension - Newton	72.8%
I-90 - Exit 20 - Allston	75.1%
I-90 - Hopkinton (2 Way)	65.6%
I-90 - Westfield (2 Way)	54.3%
Ted Williams Tunnel (2 Way)	75.1%
Tobin Bridge (2 Way)	57.6%
Sumner & Callahan Tunnels	75.5%

<u>Other Locations</u>	
Location:	% Reduction:
I-93 SB @ I-495 - Andover	54.5%
I-95 @ Rte 138 - Woburn	56.6%
I-95 # Rte 138 - Canton	52.8%
I-290 @ Swanson Rd - Auburn	51.0%
Rte 24 @ Pond St	47.8%

Traffic Sharply Down Statewide: % Change Jan. to April 27

Monday, April 27, 2020		
	Total VMT	% Change from Baseline (Jan 2020)
Barnstable	1,020,000	-80%
Berkshire	650,000	-71%
Bristol	3,360,000	-77%
Dukes	17,500	-90%
Essex	2,740,000	-84%
Franklin	309,000	-72%
Hampden	3,030,000	-70%
Hampshire	517,000	-81%
Middlesex	4,330,000	-87%
Nantucket	5,410	-94%
Norfolk	2,030,000	-88%
Plymouth	2,480,000	-81%
Suffolk	1,630,000	-89%
Worcester	5,110,000	-75%

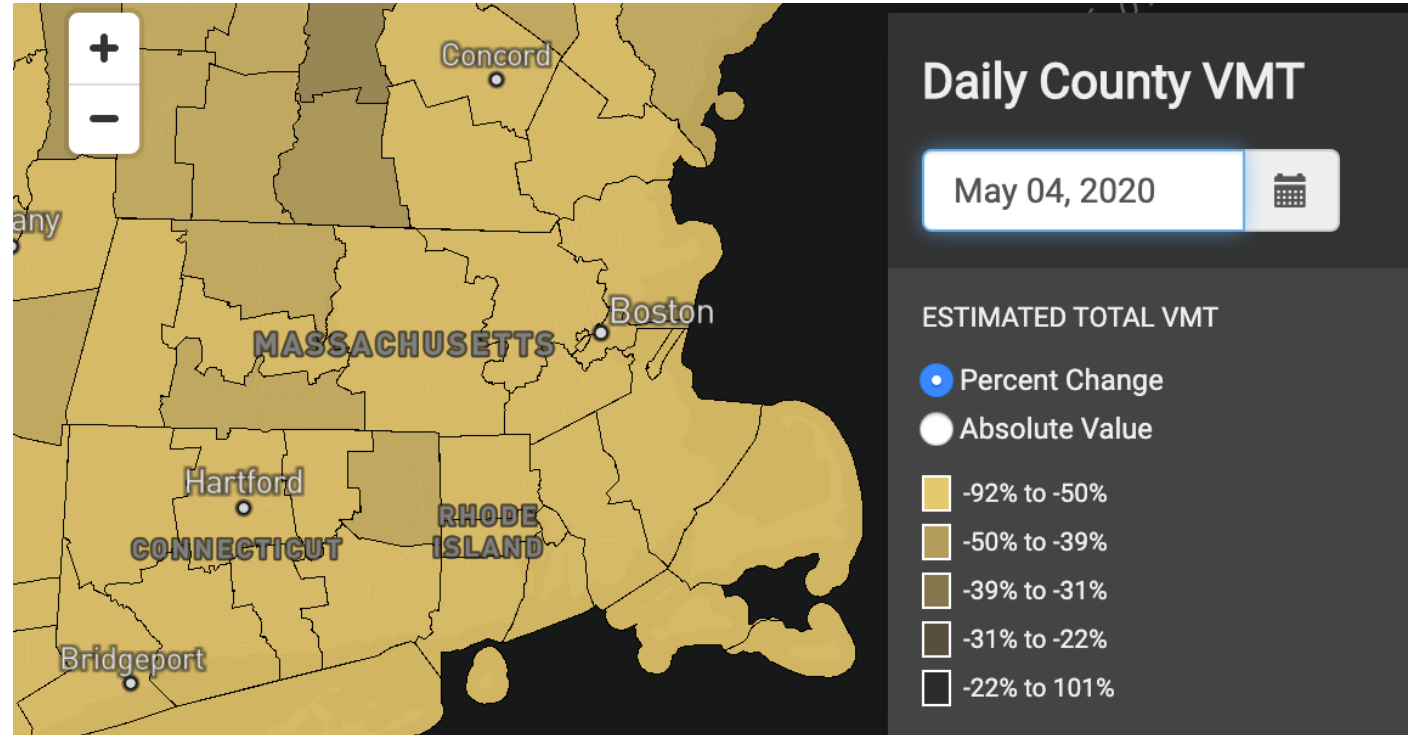


Data is from StreetLight's VMT Monitor, which provides an estimate of total vehicle miles travelled (VMT) by residents of each county, each day since the COVID-19 crisis began, as well as a change from the "baseline, defined as the average daily VMT of January 2020.

Source: StreetLight Data, <https://www.streetlightdata.com/VMT-monitor-by-county/#emergency-map-response>

Traffic is Beginning to Return: May 4th Snapshot

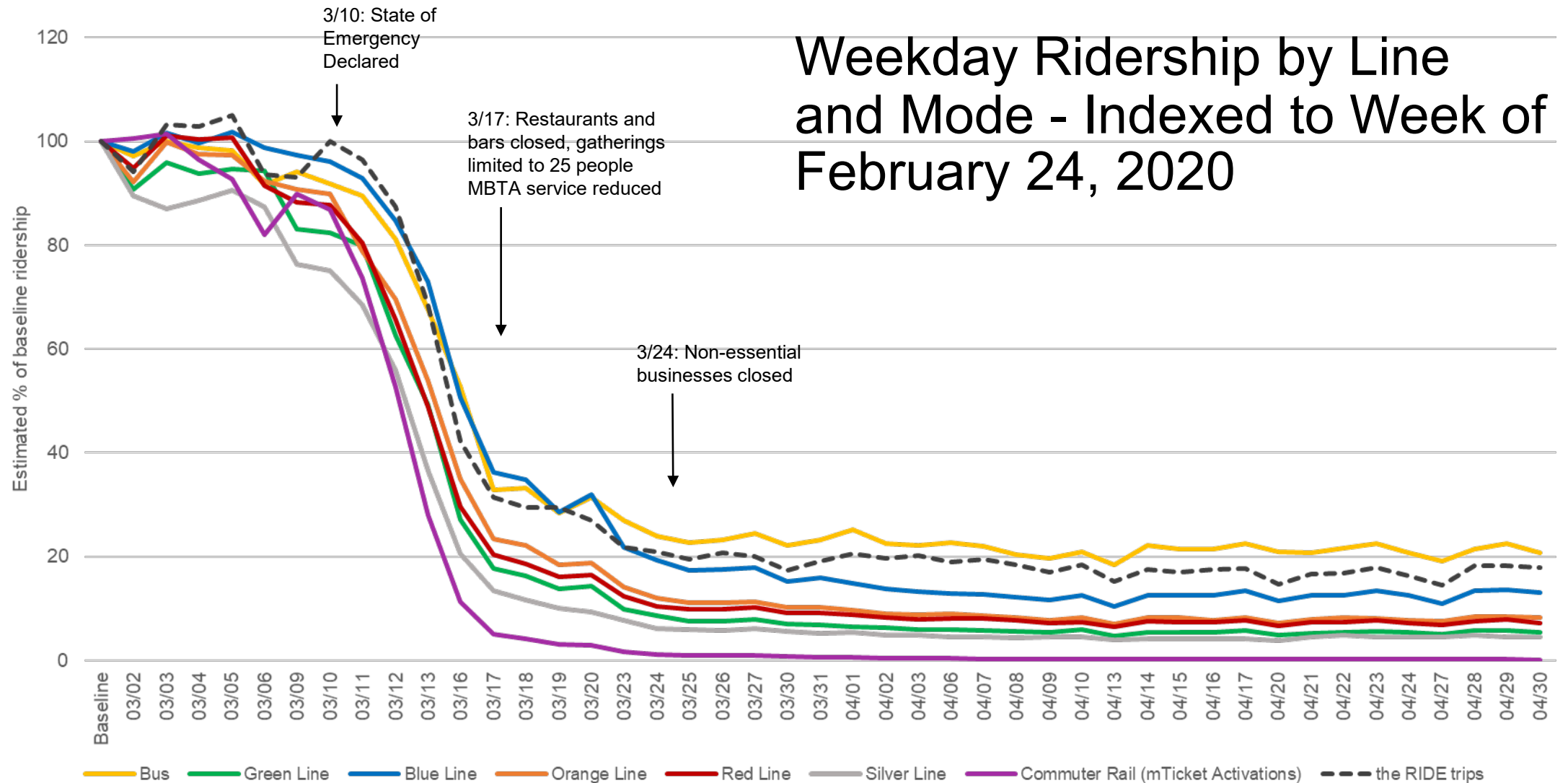
	Monday, May 4, 2020		
	Total VMT	% Change from Baseline (Jan 2020)	% Increase May 4 from April 27
Barnstable	1,670,000	-68%	64%
Berkshire	797,000	-65%	23%
Bristol	5,050,000	-65%	50%
Dukes	34,200	-81%	95%
Essex	4,290,000	-75%	57%
Franklin	454,000	-59%	47%
Hampden	4,480,000	-56%	48%
Hampshire	676,000	-75%	31%
Middlesex	7,150,000	-79%	65%
Nantucket	8,360	-91%	55%
Norfolk	3,300,000	-80%	63%
Plymouth	3,680,000	-72%	48%
Suffolk	2,860,000	-81%	75%
Worcester	7,170,000	-65%	40%



Data is from StreetLight's VMT Monitor, which provides an estimate of total vehicle miles travelled (VMT) by residents of each county, each day since the COVID-19 crisis began, as well as a change from the "baseline, defined as the average daily VMT of January 2020.

Source: StreetLight Data, <https://www.streetlightdata.com/VMT-monitor-by-county/#emergency-map-response>

Reduction in MBTA Ridership thru April 30

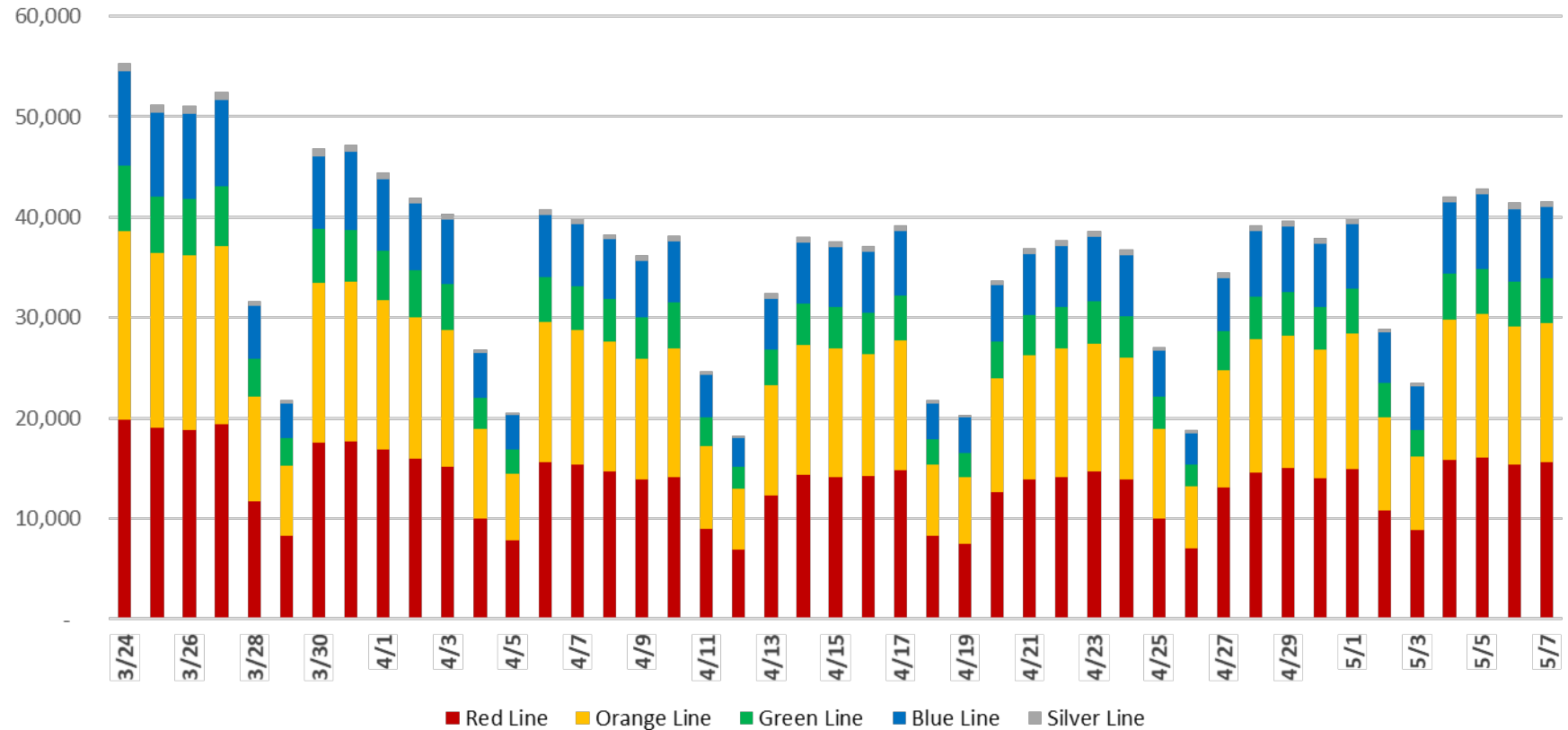


MBTA Ridership Very Low But Starting to Increase

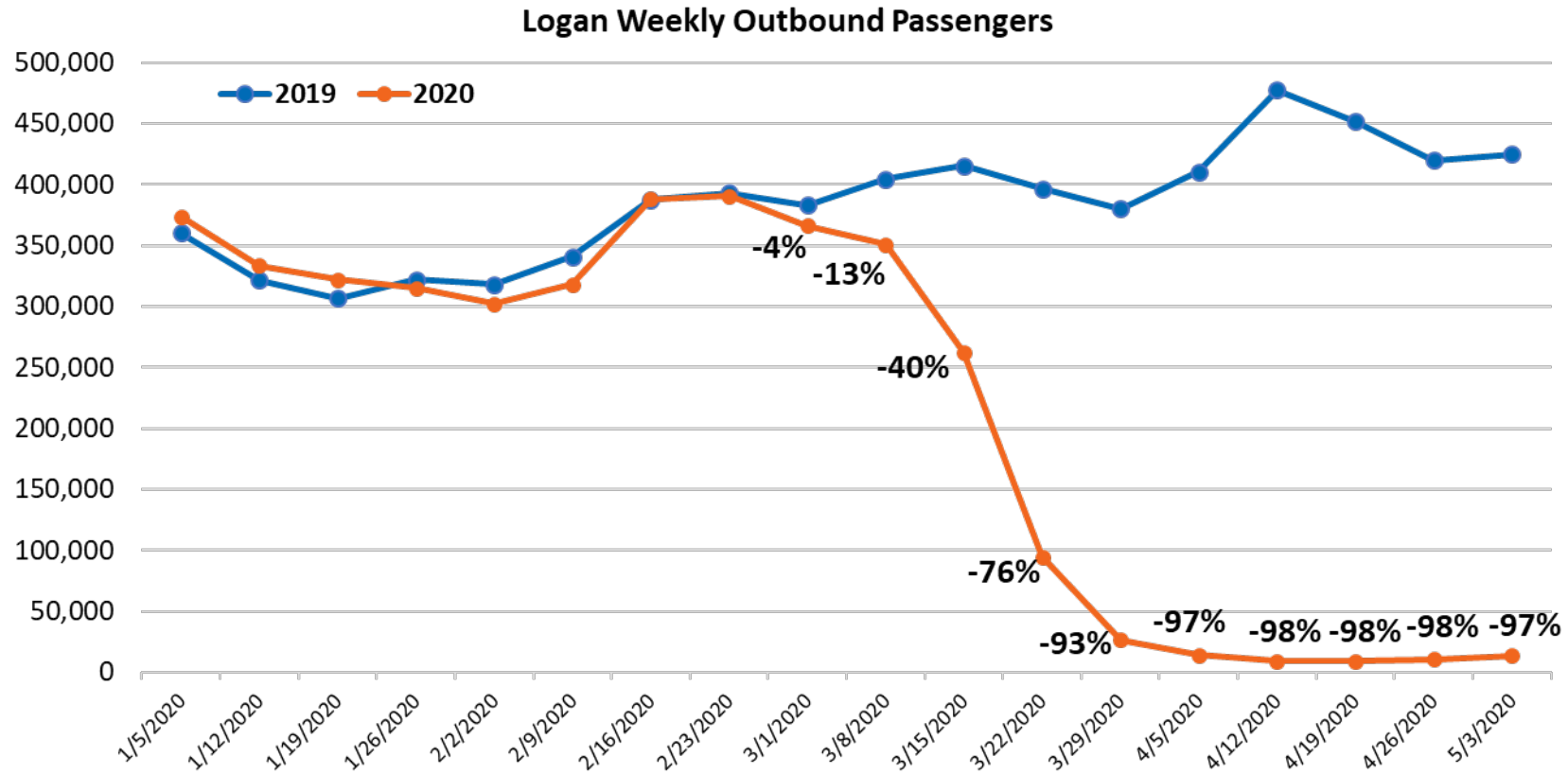
- Subway and bus ridership increased in recent days, though it remains very low (just 15% of normal, combined).
- Gated Stations averaged about 42,000 validations Mon. 5/4 – Thurs. 5/7, about 7% higher than last week
- Weekday bus ridership averaged about 93,000 riders this week, about 10% higher than last week.

Line	Change in validations from baseline week (2/24-2/28) to May 7
Blue Line	-85.1%
Green Line	-94.1%
Orange Line	-91.1%
Red Line	-91.8%
Silver Line	-95.3%
Total Gated Stations	-91.4%

Daily Validations at Gated Stations



Logan's weekly outbound passengers were 3% of last year's volume



Planning for Reopening Transit Riders May Return Cautiously

	YES	NO	UNDECIDED
Would you be comfortable riding buses, subways and commuter trains when it is allowed?	18.0%	79.2%	2.8%
Would you be comfortable riding buses, subways and commuter trains if there were an effective treatment but NOT a vaccine for COVID-19?	41.2%	56.6%	2.2%
If there were a vaccine for COVID-19, would you be comfortable riding buses, subways and commuter trains?	72.4%	25.4%	2.2%

SOURCE: Suffolk University PRC/WGBH/Boston Globe Poll of Massachusetts residents conducted April 29-May 2, 2020

Transit Riders May Return Cautiously

Once the government provides information that the spread of the virus is flattening, how long will it take for you to take public transportation (e.g., subway, busses, trains).

	3/21 - 3/23	3/28 - 3/30	4/3 - 4/5	4/11 - 4/13	4/18 - 4/20	4/27
Immediately through 3 months	54%	51%	50%	47%	39%	43%
4 – 6 months	16%	16%	15%	17%	18%	17%
7 – 11 months	7%	11%	9%	10%	12%	10%
A year or longer	14%	14%	15%	14%	21%	19%
Never	9%	8%	10%	11%	10%	10%
Sub-total greater than 3 months	46%	49%	49%	52%	61%	56%

Source: Harris Poll weekly tracking poll (data obtained from Amtrak)

IBM Institute for Business Value polled 25,000 US consumers in April, 2020 “and found shifting attitudes toward personal mobility, event attendance, retail, and remote work. . . . More than 20% of respondents who regularly used public transit said that they no longer would, with a further 28% saying they would use public transportation less often.”

Source: Consulting.us

<https://www.consulting.us/news/4185/ibm-covid-19-greatly-altering-consumer-preferences-and-behavior>

Traffic Congestion Will Be Worse if Riders Abandon Transit

Medium/High transit
(5%+ transit, 2018)

Sort
order:

Alph.

2018

Predicted

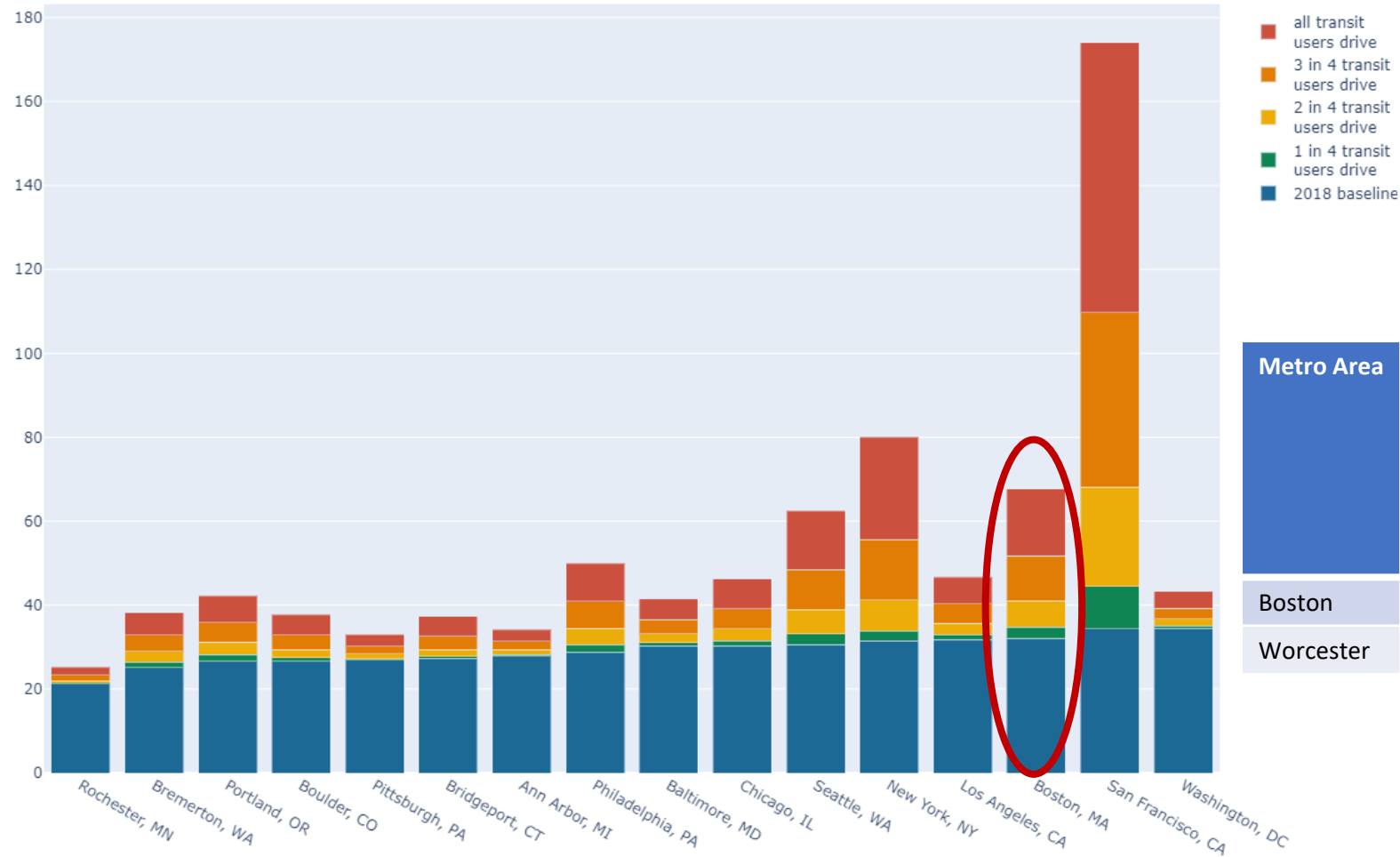
Metro
select:

small

medium

large

med/high transit



Metro Area	2018 Transit %	2018 One Way Travel Time (Minutes)	Travel Time if 1 in 4 transit users drive	Travel Time if 2 in 4 transit users drive	Travel Time if 3 in 4 transit users drive	Travel Time if all transit users drive
Boston	14.9%	32.05	34.71	38.37	42.77	48.01
Worcester	1.9%	26.30	25.63	25.83	26.05	26.28

Source: Rebound — How Covid-19 could lead to worse traffic by Yue Hu, Will Barbour, Samitha Samaranayake and Dan Work
<https://medium.com/@barbourww/the-rebound-how-covid-19-could-lead-to-worse-traffic-cb245a5b1da2>

Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) and Reopening

- MassDOT Transit is engaging each of the 15 Regional Transit Authorities in Massachusetts to discuss a re-opening strategy that focuses on topics including route planning, such as how the RTAs will coordinate with local businesses/institutions, how they will use the data they have, and how they will work with those entities to plan on helpful transit services as the reopening pattern evolves.
- Planning is underway to hold a virtual meeting with the RTAs in the next several weeks.

Safety Update: Drivers Urged To Limit Distractions, Travel Speed Limit

- MassDOT recently joined State Police and the Office of Public Safety to remind drivers not to exceed the speed limit, hands-free and no distractions.
- The rate of fatalities doubled in April 2020: with 50% less traffic on the roads, there were 28 deaths. In April 2019, there were 27 deaths resulting from crashes.
- On May 8th, State Police in Central MA made 40 stops & issued 35 citations/warnings for speeding. 11 drivers were clocked at speeds over 90 mph.

In April RMV Had Seen a Significant Decrease in Citations

- Significant Decrease in Overall (Criminal, Civil, Arrest, Warning) Citations Issued by Law Enforcement
- But Rate of Speeding Violations in Excess of 100 MPH **INCREASED**.

	March 2019	March 2020	April 2019	April 2020
Total Citations	53,670	36,590	47,211	5,127**
Total Speeding Violations	17,622	11,677	14,447	2,024
Exceeding 100 MPH	199	129	150	140
Exceeding 90 MPH	1,183	805	1005	500

***April 2020 statistics should be considered incomplete due to citation submission and processing timeframes.

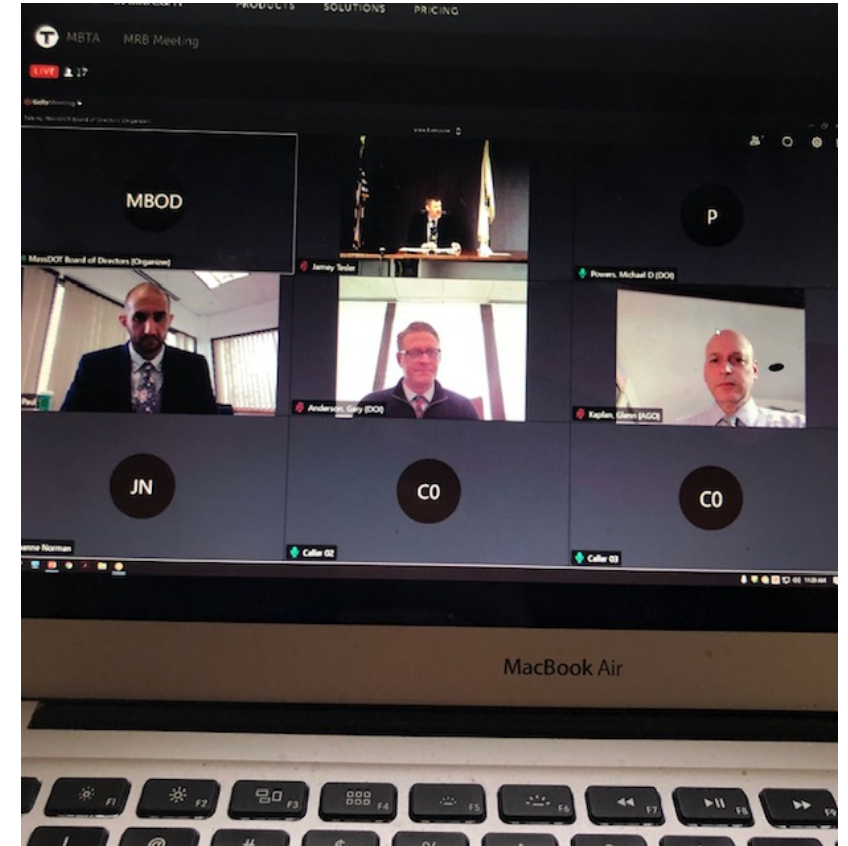
- Total Distracted Driving Citations (Since Feb. 23rd) 10,794
 - 1st Fineable Offense 225
 - 2nd Fineable Offense / Safety Class Requirement 1
 - 3rd Fineable Offense / Class & Surcharge 0

Mandatory Face Coverings Executive Order

- Governor Baker issued an order effective Wednesday, May 6, requiring individuals to wear face covering in public places where it is impossible to stay more than 6 feet apart from others, this includes when riding the MBTA.
- Last week, MassDOT Human Resources issued face covering guidelines to managers: the mandate to wear a **face covering** includes MassDOT work locations, although does not apply when one is working alone in a private office. It does, however, apply if they are meeting others in that office, moving around their unit's workspace and in common areas such as corridors, elevators, lobbies and restrooms within office locations. Individuals who cannot wear a face covering due to a medical condition or other guidance from DPH are exempt from this mandate.

Merit Rating Board: New Permanent Director

- April 16: Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) Merit Rating Board (MRB) unanimously approved the recommendation of the Preliminary Screening Committee to name Paul Franzese permanent MRB Director. In total, Committee reviewed 120 resumes and applications and interviewed 11 candidates.
- Mr. Franzese was named MRB Interim Director in August 2019, when the Director was terminated.



Photograph taken during MRB live-stream public meeting in April when Paul Franzese was voted permanent Director.

Capital Investment Plan (CIP)

- MassDOT and the MBTA plan a one-year CIP for Fiscal Year 2021 only, with a focus on the maintenance and preservation of the transportation system.
- New revenue realities have to be evaluated in the weeks and months ahead, so there will be a “reset” of future fiscal years out, as soon as more is known about sources of revenue from federal and state sources.
- Fiscal Year 2021 continues investments already underway, and those that had planned to start in Fiscal Year 2021.
- Despite the current public health crisis, the work of MassDOT and the MBTA continues, both to provide the essential trips needed by many and to support the gradual and safe reopening of businesses and services across the Commonwealth.

Community Transit Grants

- Next round of the Community Transit Grant Program (CTGP) for Fiscal Year 2021 is underway.
- The Community Transit Grant Program is the consolidated competitive grant for Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities funds and State Mobility Assistance Program funds.
- Because of COVID-19, training sessions for potential applicants are being held remotely instead of in-person this year. Attendance at one of the trainings is mandatory for all new applicants; previous CTGP awardees are also welcome to join.
- The application period is scheduled to close at 5:00 p.m., June 26.