

Sumner Tunnel Closure: Multimodal Analysis

October 16, 2024



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Key Findings

Diverted Sumner Tunnel trips

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Driving:

- Extent of congestion seemed tempered, compared to last summer
- Slightly **more people stayed in their cars than last year** (79% vs. 77%)

Transit:

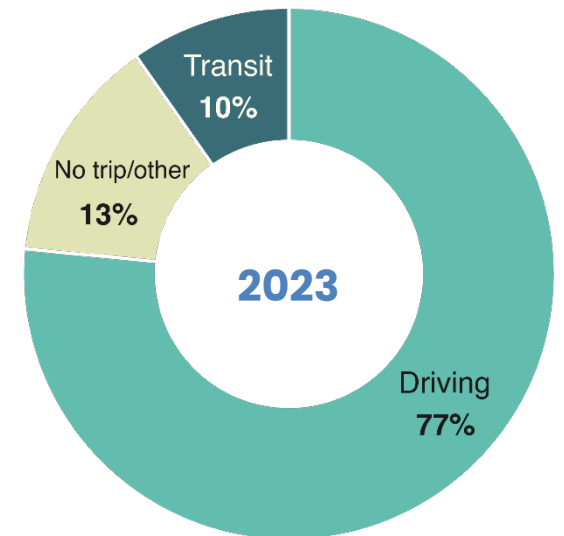
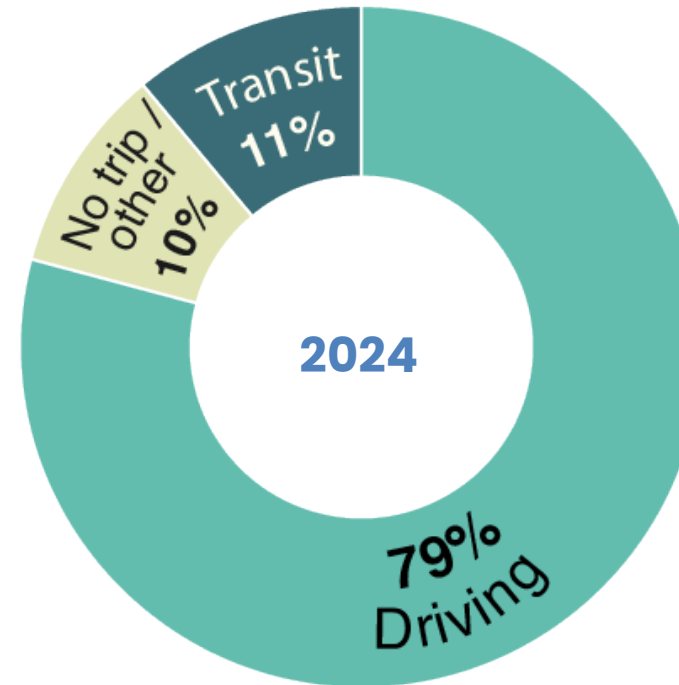
- Overall **ridership and parking increases**, both compared to last year *and* over our estimated baseline for the summer (reflecting general ridership increases over the past year *and* some mode shift)
- Except on Commuter Rail, all modes saw **ridership grow most on weekends**
- Unlike last year, **Commuter Rail did not follow other transit patterns**
 - Only mode where ridership did not decline after reopening
 - Most growth on weekdays with very little growth on weekends
- Mode shift did not stick when traffic lessened – generally, transit **ridership declined once the Sumner Tunnel reopened**

Mode Share

Diverted Sumner Tunnel trips

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- Slightly **more people stayed on the road this year**, and slightly fewer avoided their trip
- Transit served a similar share of travelers as last year
- Pricing mitigations were the same, and operational improvements from last year remained since the 2023 closure

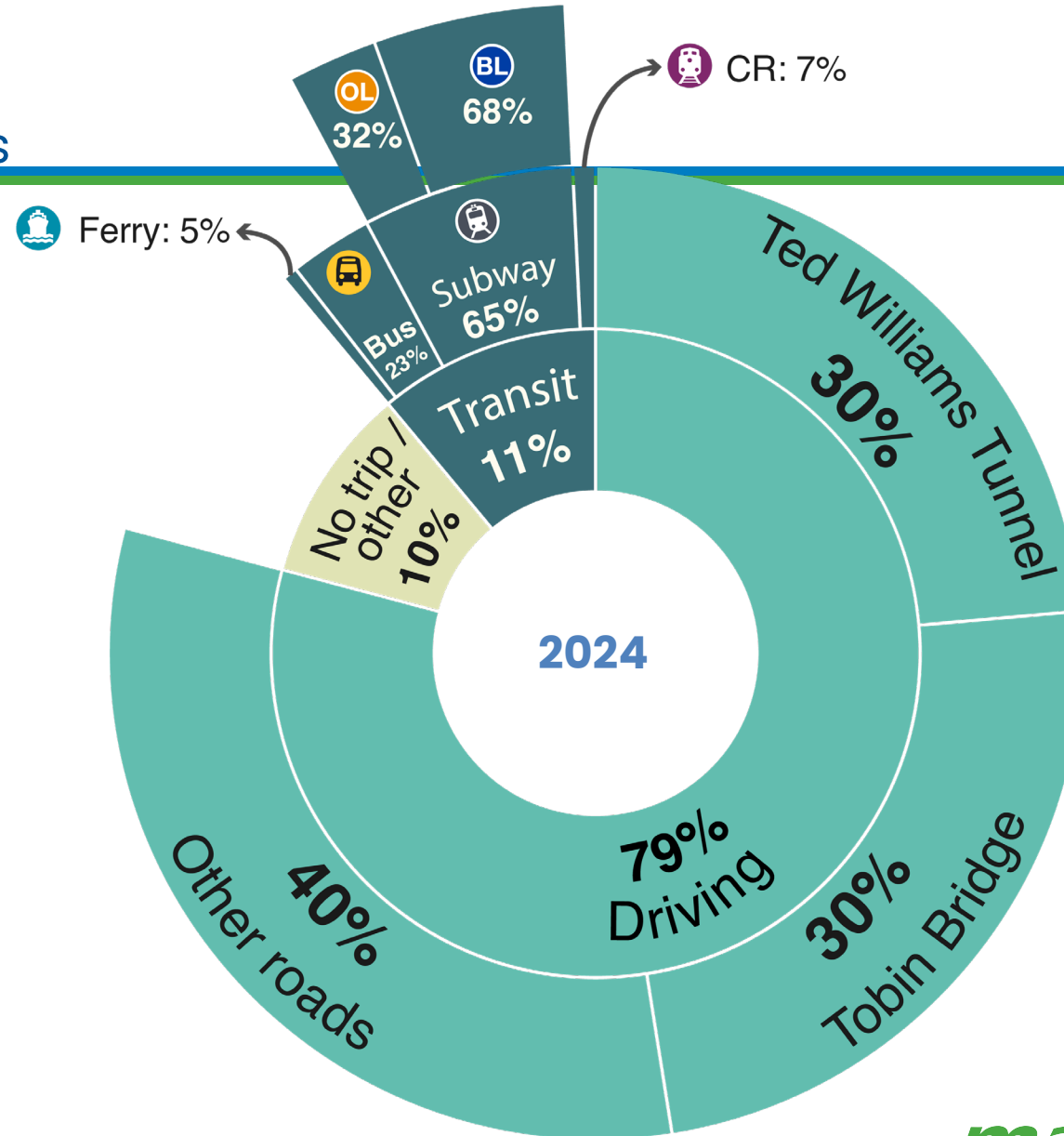


Mode Share

Diverted Sumner Tunnel trips

5

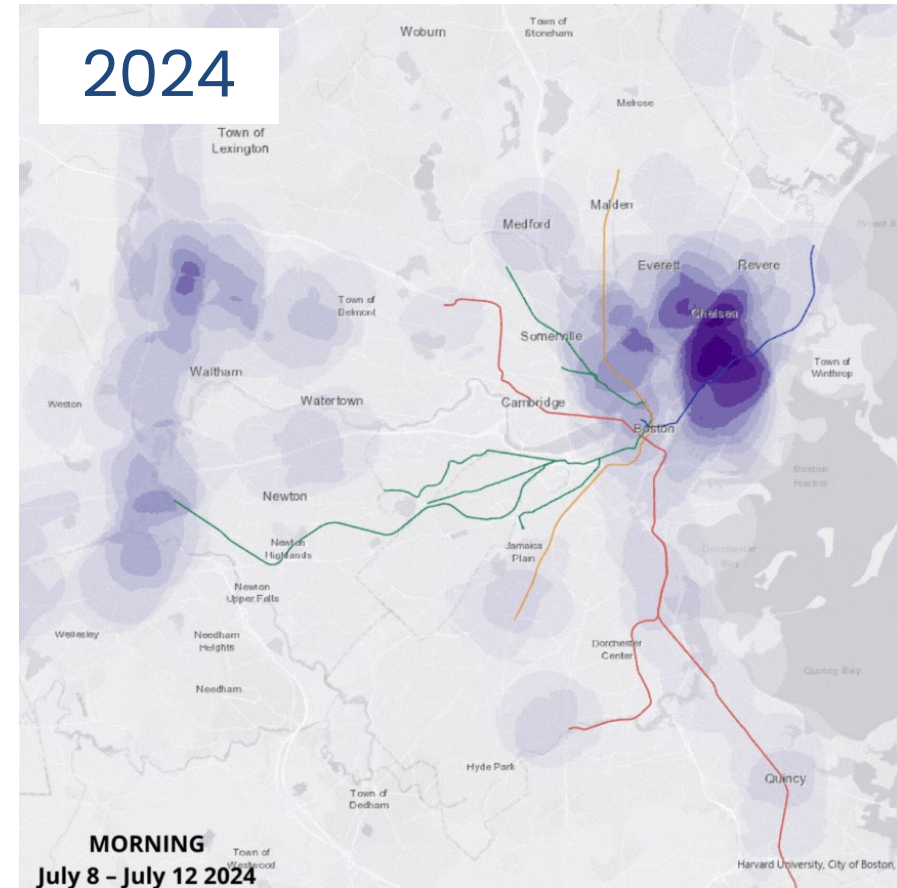
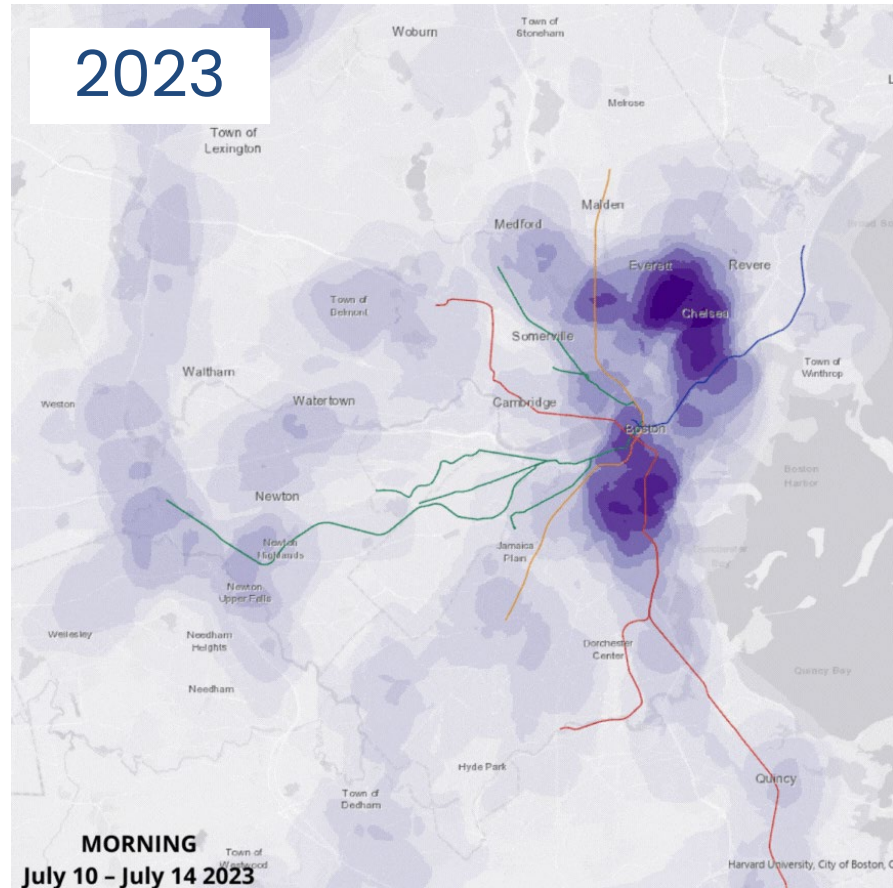
- Slightly **more people stayed on the road this year**, and slightly fewer avoided their trip
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Congestion: Road Traffic Lower Than in 2023

Location of roads that became **more congested** during closure, 2023 vs. 2024

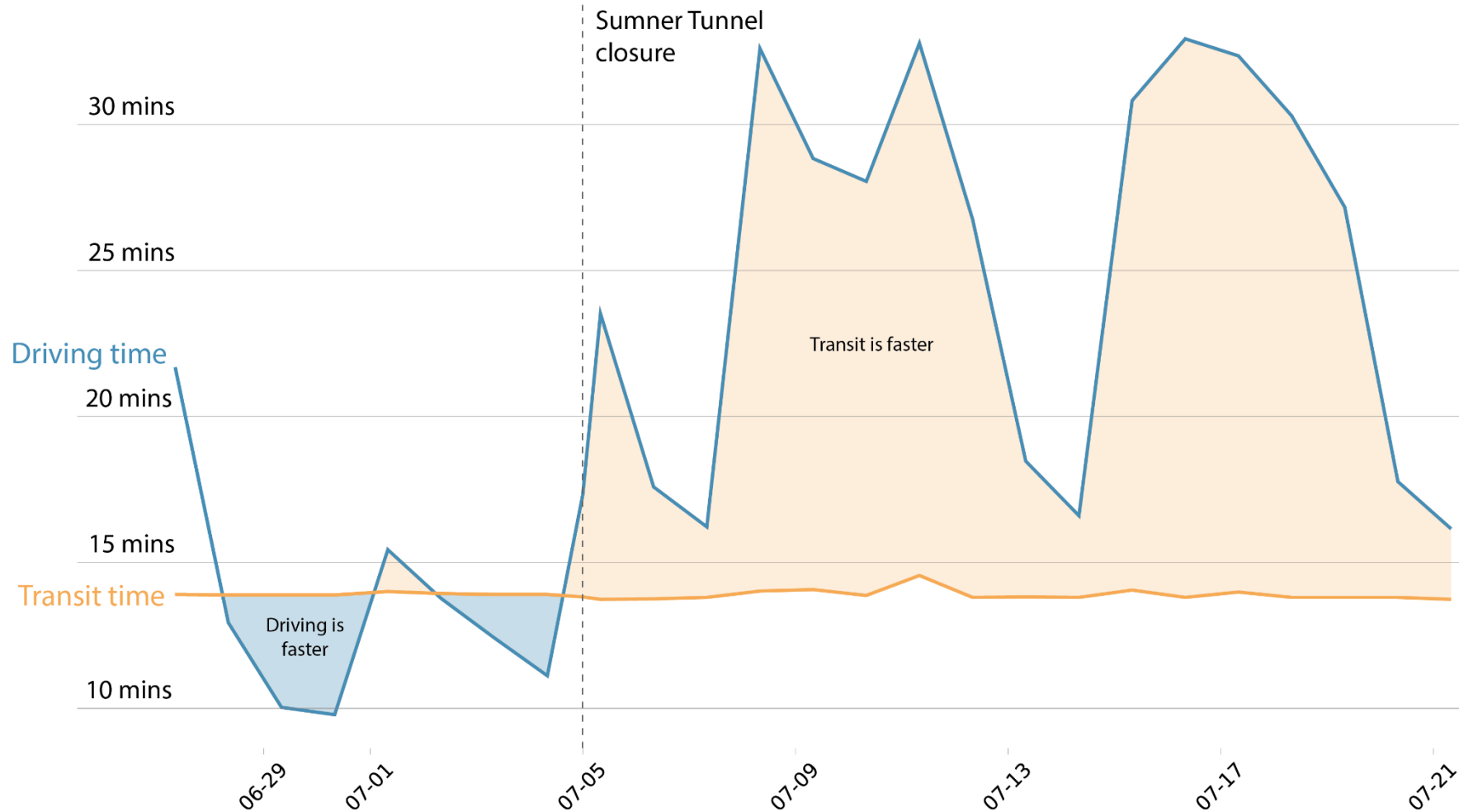
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Congestion: Transit Competitiveness from East Boston

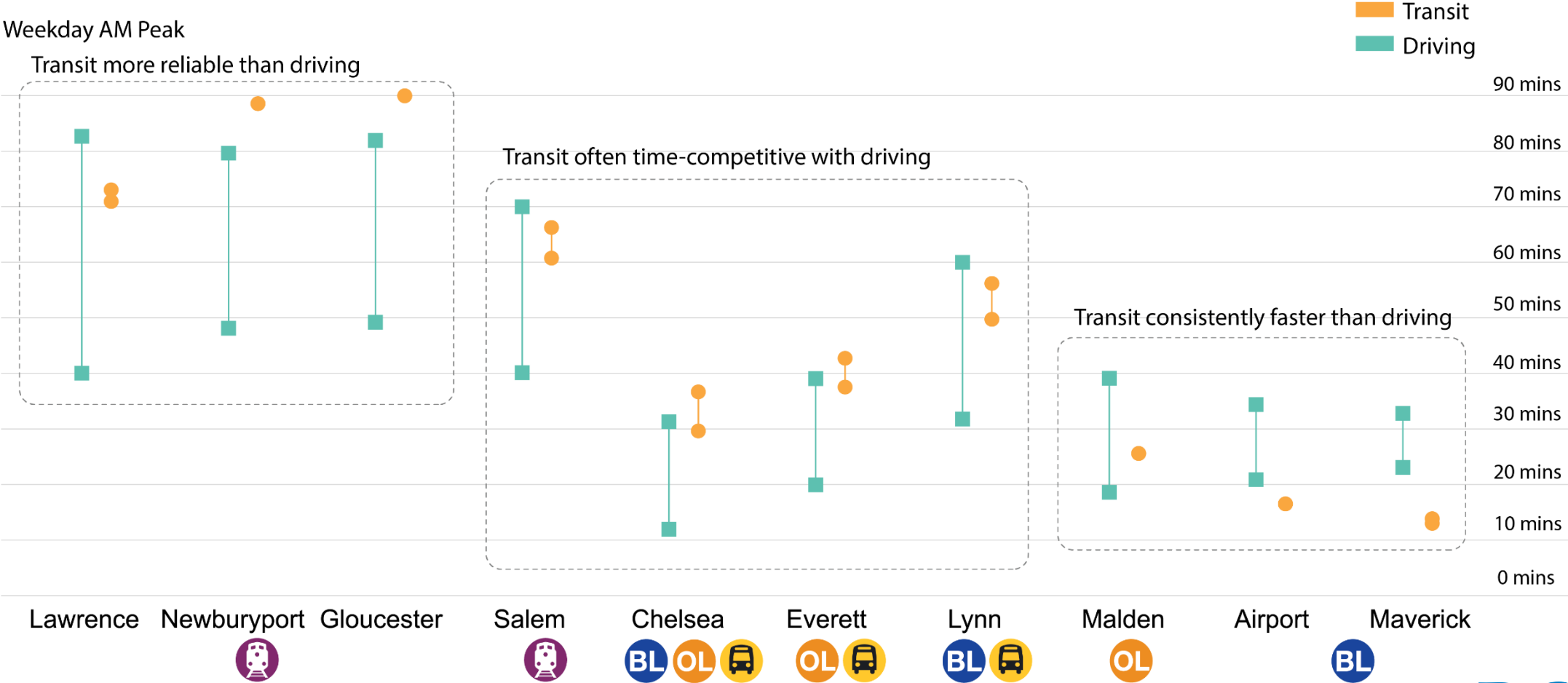
Blue Line trip times vs. driving trip times

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Congestion: Travel Time Predictability During Closure

Various Transit Modes vs. Driving




Transit Ridership: Closure Summary (July 2024)

Growth across all Sumner-impacted modes

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Weekday

 **+ 8%** 3,700 pax


 **+ 4%** 1,800 pax
State and points north


 **+ 5%** 1,900 pax


 **+ 11%** 2,700 pax


 **0%** No change


Saturday

 **+ 16%** 5,800 pax


 **+ 8%** 2,300 pax
State and points north


 **+ 4%** 1,000 pax


 **+ 3%** 500 pax


 **+ 16%** 220 pax


Sunday

 **+ 21%** 6,100 pax

 **+ 5%** 1,200 pax
State and points north

 **+ 11%** 2,200 pax

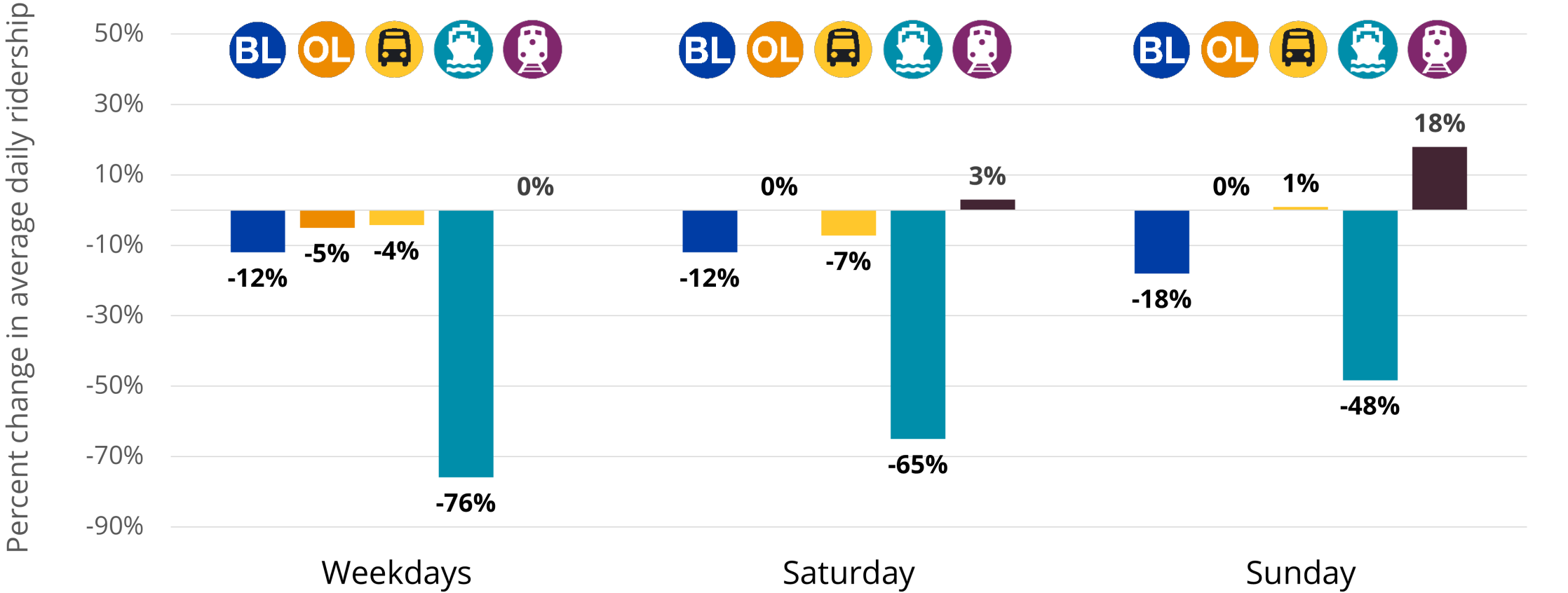
 **+ <1%** Slight change

 **+ 37%** 290 pax

Mitigations: fare-free on Blue Line, bus, ferry; Zone 1A fare for Commuter Rail; no mitigation for Orange Line. Baselines unavailable for Commuter Rail and Ferry; growth shown is vs. July 2023.

Transit Ridership: After Summer Re-opening

July 2024 vs the first two weeks of August 2024



Thank You



Appendix

Transit Ridership: Blue Line

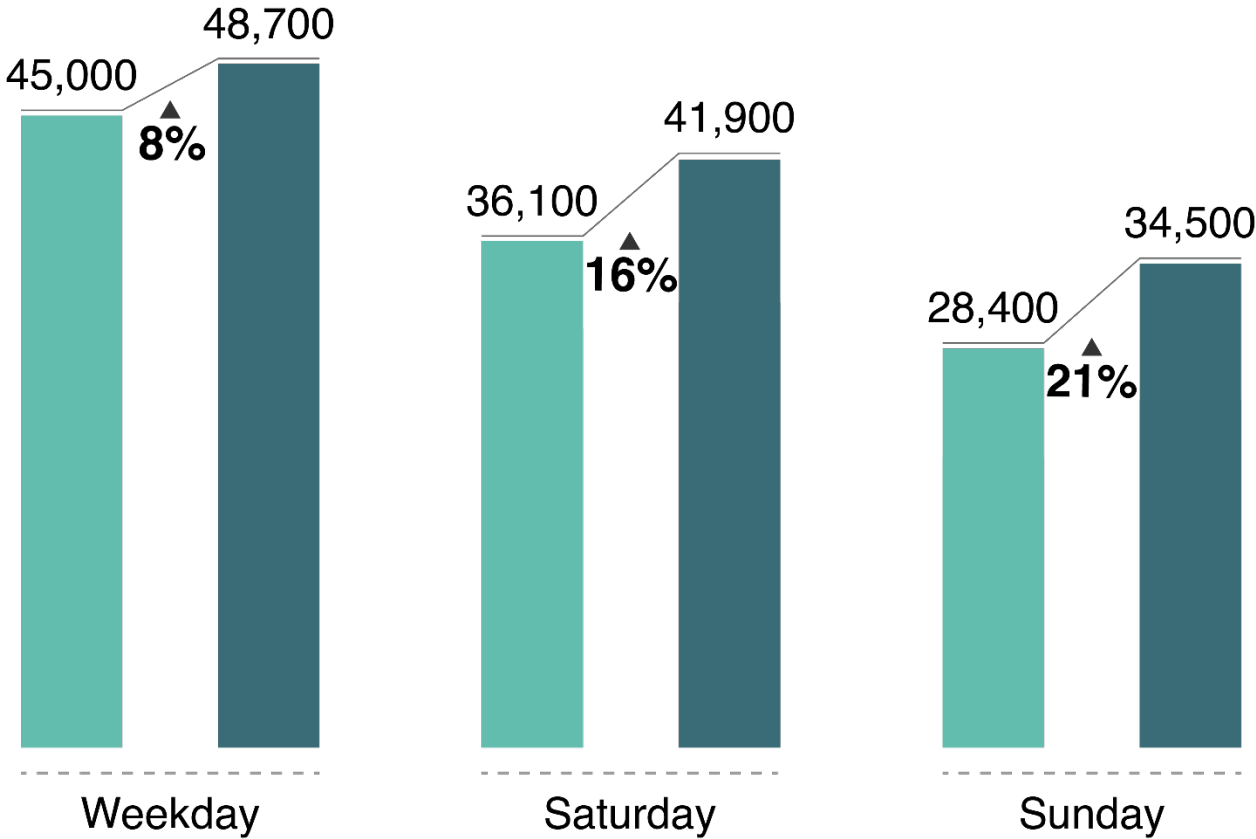
Growth in ridership over estimated baseline

Blue Line

Daily ridership growth against estimated baseline



■ Estimated baseline ridership ■ Ridership during shutdown



Transit Ridership: Blue Line by Station

Growth in ridership over estimated baseline

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Transit Ridership: Orange Line

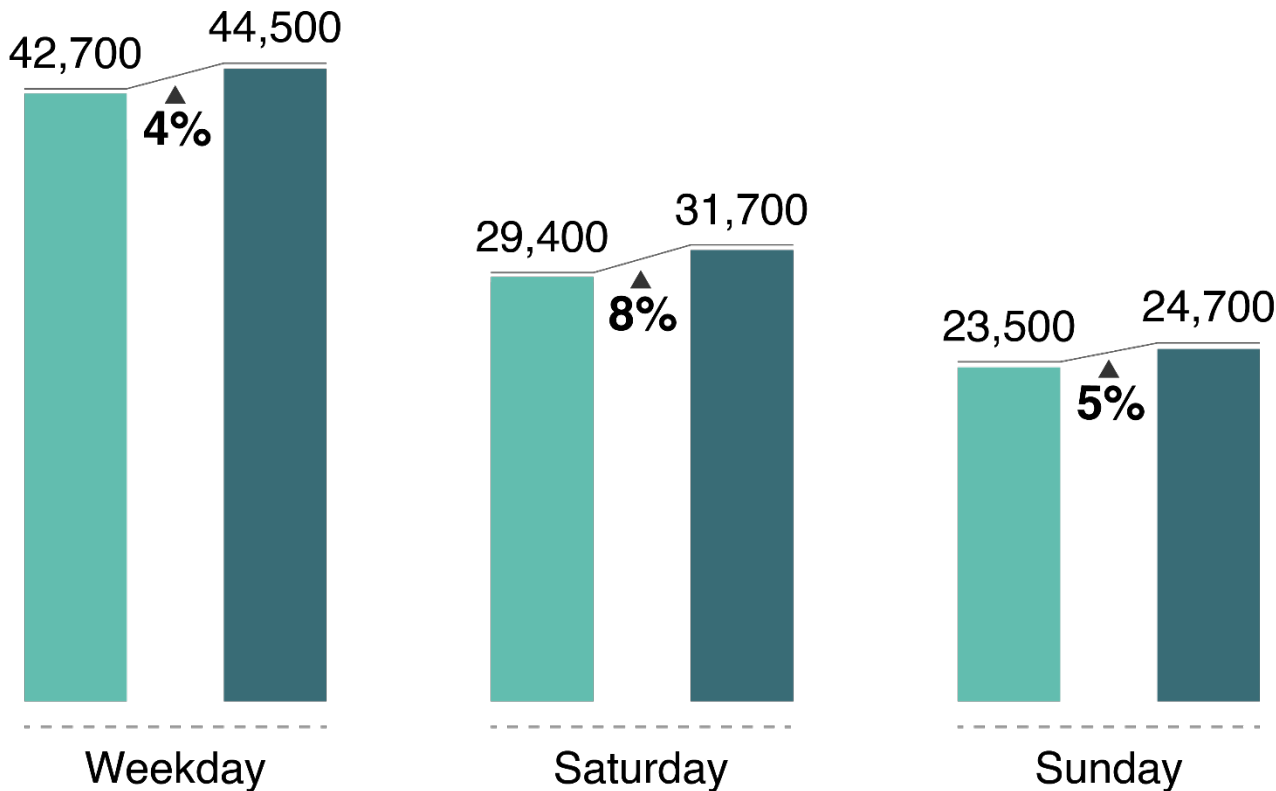
Growth in ridership over estimated baseline

Orange Line (State and points north)

Daily ridership growth against estimated baseline

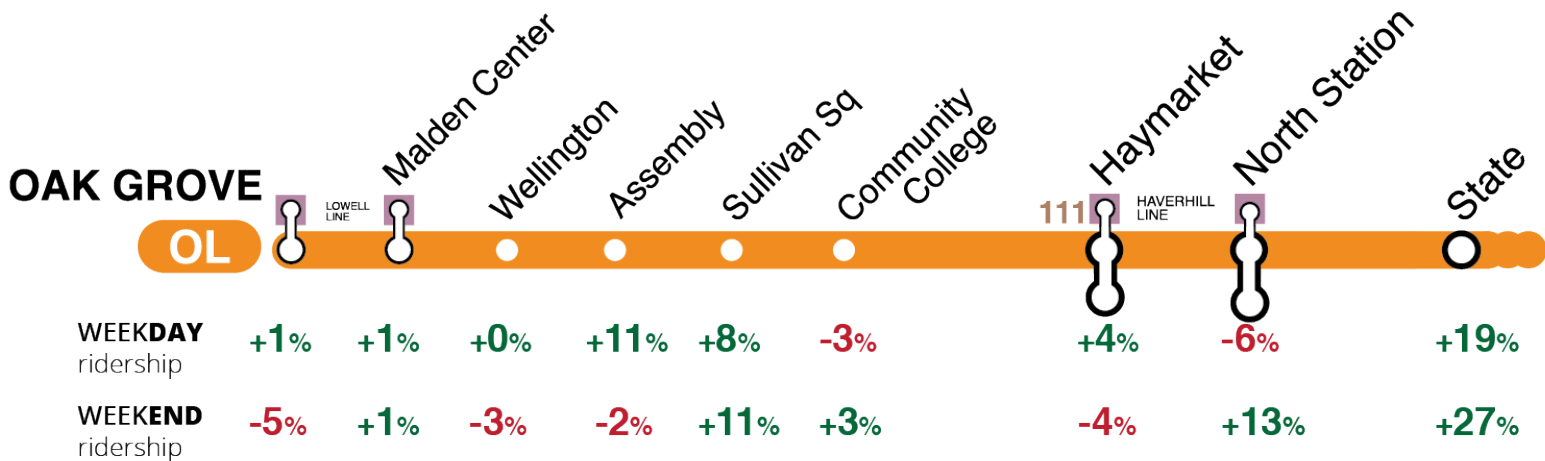


Estimated baseline ridership Ridership during shutdown



Transit Ridership: Orange Line by Station

Growth in ridership over estimated baseline



Transit Ridership: Bus

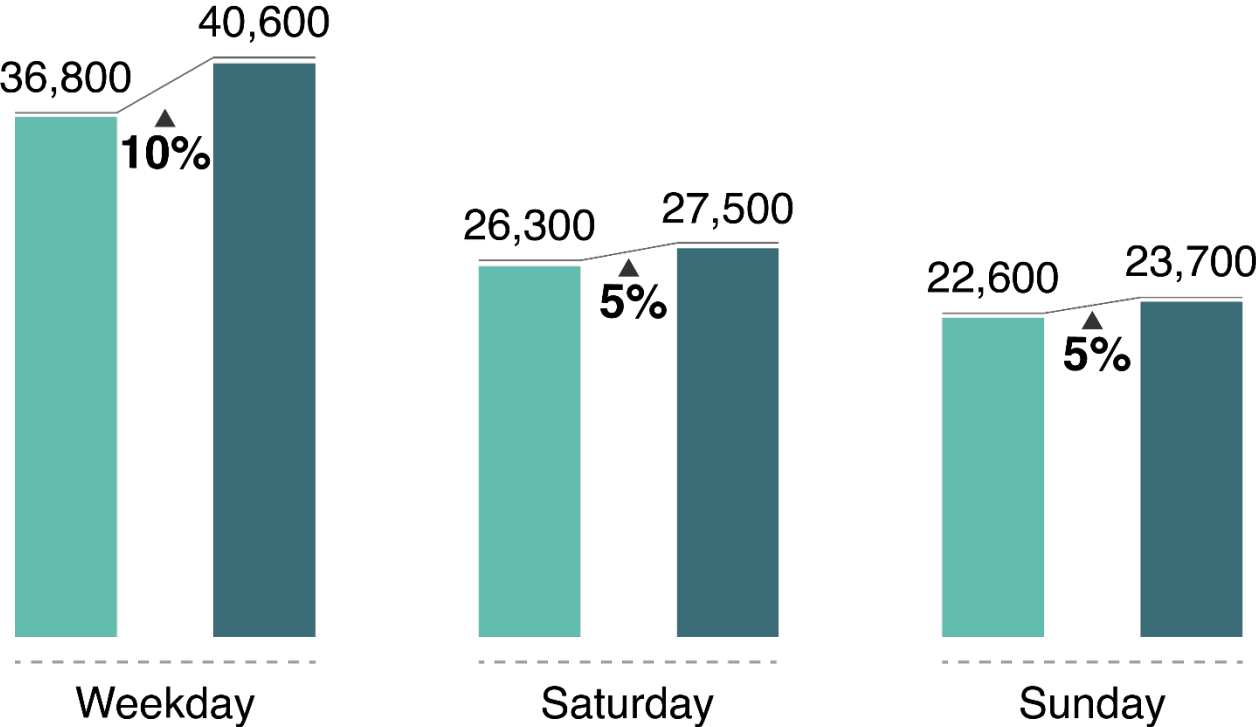
Growth in ridership over estimated baseline

Bus

Daily ridership growth in July 2024 compared to July 2023

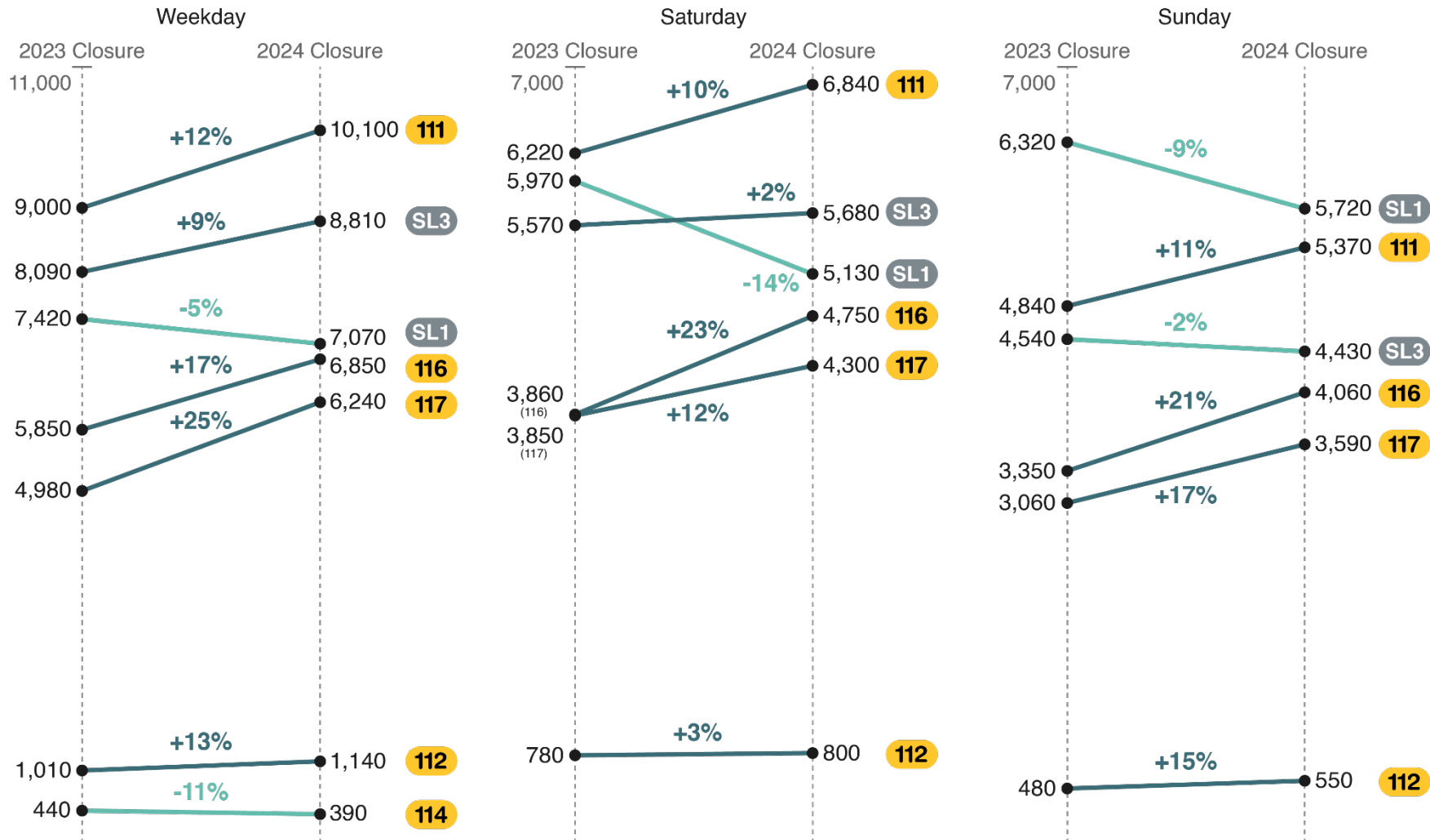


2023 closure ridership 2024 closure ridership



Transit Ridership: Bus by Route

Growth in ridership: July 2023 vs. July 2024



Transit Ridership: Ferry

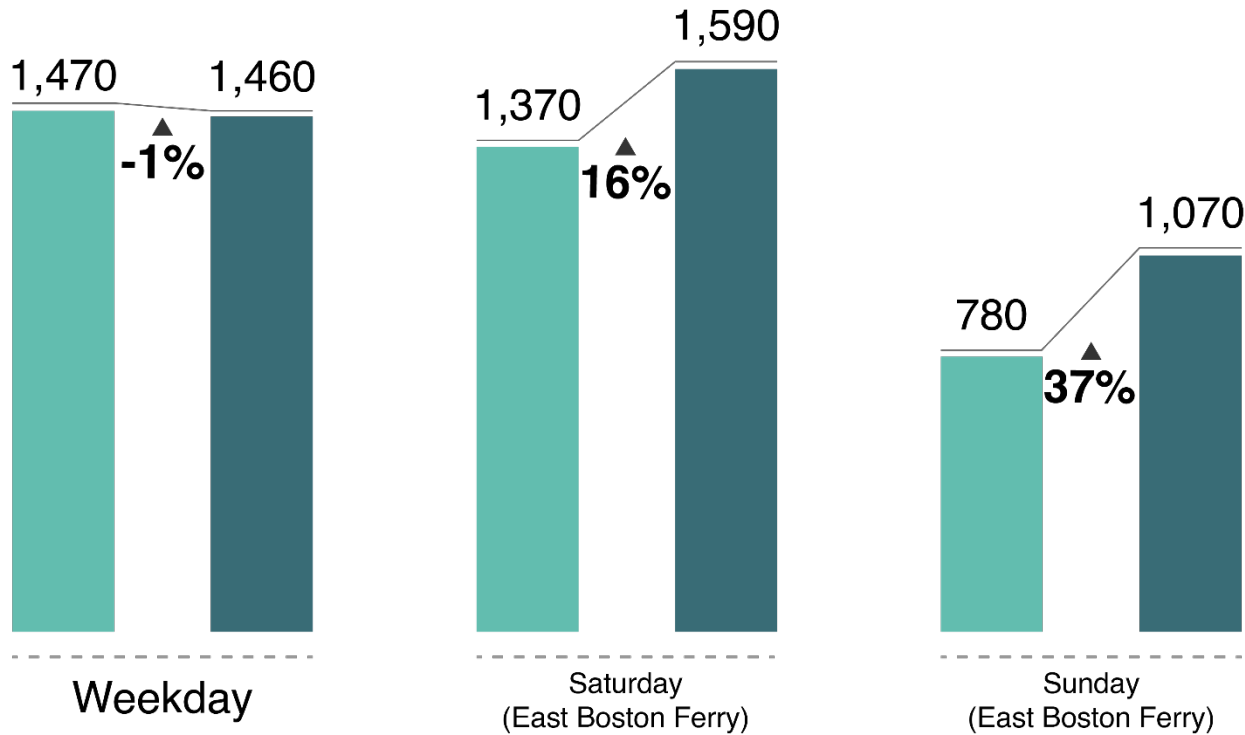
Growth in ridership over estimated baseline

Ferry

Daily ridership growth in July 2024 compared to July 2023



■ 2023 closure ridership ■ 2024 closure ridership



Transit Ridership: Commuter Rail

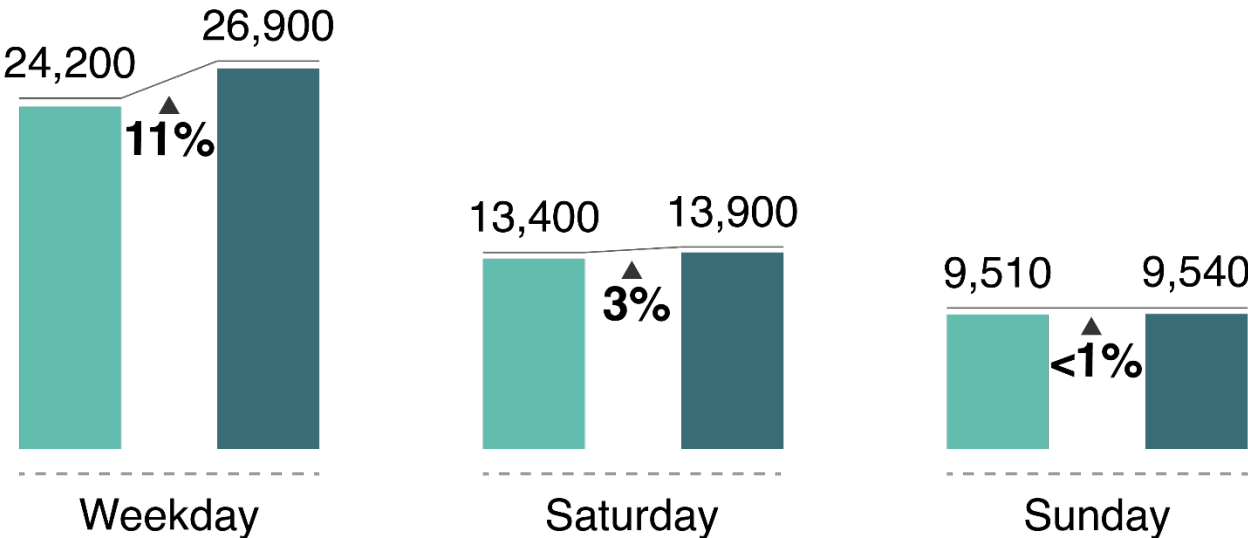
Growth in ridership over estimated baseline

Commuter Rail

Daily ridership growth in July 2024 compared to July 2023
Newburyport/Rockport, Lowell, and Haverhill lines

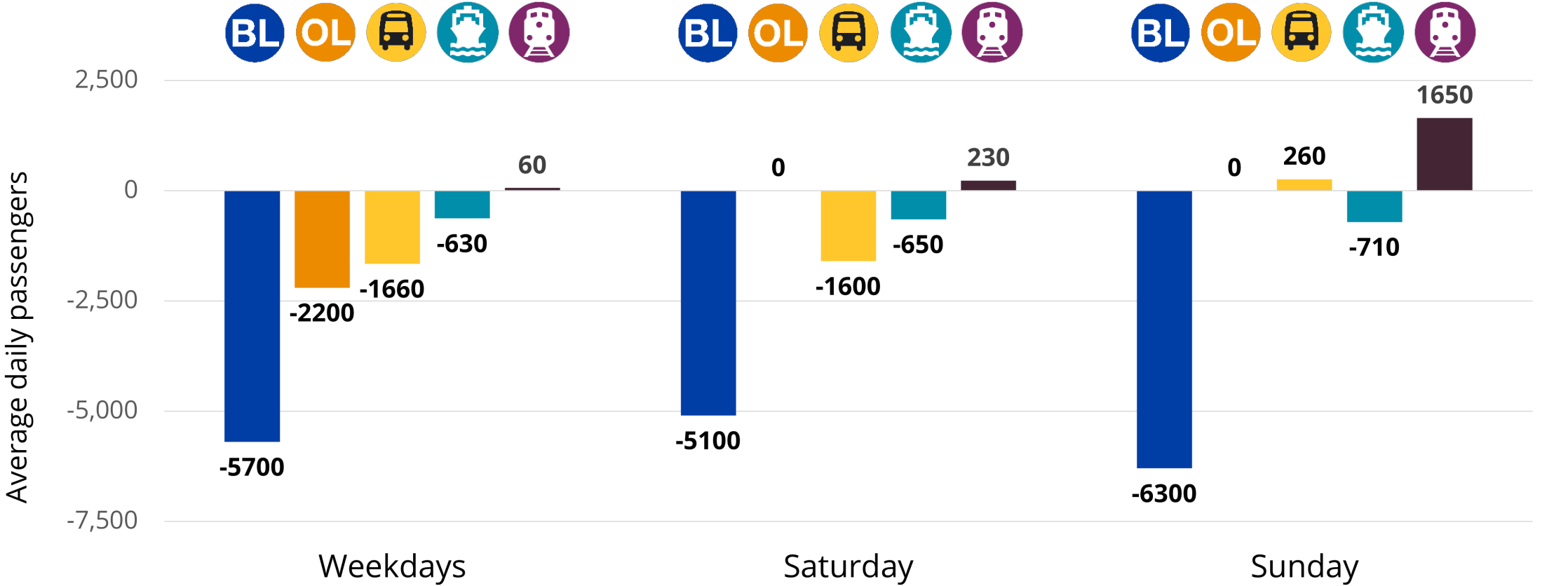


2023 closure ridership 2024 closure ridership



Transit Ridership: Trends After Sumner Re-opening

July 2024 vs the first two weeks of August 2024



MBTA Station Parking

Growth in station parking usage, July 2023 vs. July 2024

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MBTA Station Parking

Daily usage growth, July 2023 Summer Tunnel closure to July 2024
Newburyport/Rockport and Blue Line lots

