

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 23, 2018
To: CRCOG Policy Board
CRCOG Transportation Committee
From: Jennifer Carrier, Director of Transportation
Subject: **CTfastrak TIP Amendment and Supporting Information**

At the January 24th the Policy Board meeting, the Board will be considering TIP Amendments related to additional CT **fastrak** operating funds (Items #4a-4b). The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) will be in attendance at the upcoming meeting to answer any questions. Here is some background information for this item:

- The intention of CTDOT was to fund the first three years of CT **fastrak** operating expenses using a combination of federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and state money beginning March 2015. CTDOT was then planning to transition to state only funding for CT **fastrak** and use CMAQ for Hartford Line rail service operations.
- In 2014, CTDOT estimated the CT **fastrak** annual operating costs at \$22.5 million (\$67.5 million for 3 years) which included labor, station maintenance, and roadway maintenance. Annual CMAQ subsidies approved for CT **fastrak** to date are \$18.5 million (\$55.5 million for 3 years).
- With the delayed start of the Hartford Line to May 2018, CTDOT has an opportunity to allocate additional CMAQ funding to CT **fastrak** operations.

TIP Amendment Items #4a-4b were brought before the CRCOG Transportation Committee at their meeting on January 8th. Because specific details were not available for that meeting, the Transportation Committee unanimously approved an action stating their support of the CT **fastrak** Amendments (Items #4a-4b) in principle and noting that they would support the Policy Board acting favorably on the items if supporting information is received.

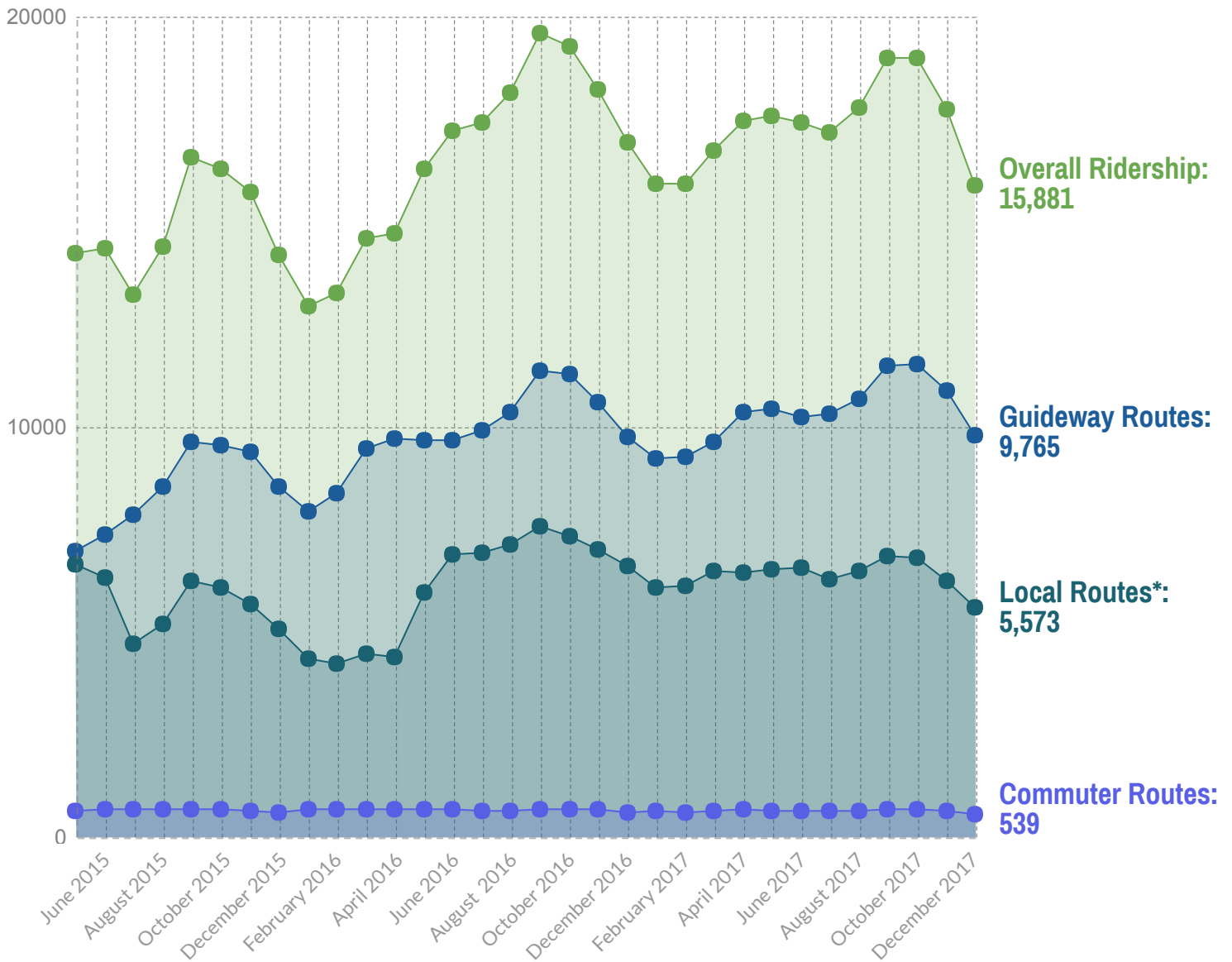
It is important to note that since its opening in March 2015, CT **fastrak** has become a critical transportation asset within the Capitol Region. The service has enhanced access to jobs to such a large extent that the Hartford Metro area has become one of the ten fastest growing regions in terms of the number of jobs accessible by public transportation.¹ In terms of ridership, CT **fastrak** has continually exceeded expectations, in part due to its ability to attract both existing and new transit users alike. By the third anniversary in March more than 8 million rides will have been provided by CT **fastrak**.

Attached please find graphics demonstrating this strong ridership in terms of average weekday and cumulative monthly numbers. These charts, as well as information on weekend ridership, are updated on a monthly basis using CTDOT data and are posted on CRCOG's website at: <http://crcog.org/ctfastrak-ridership/>.

¹ *Access Across America: Transit 2016*, Accessibility Observatory at the University of Minnesota, <http://access.umn.edu/research/america/transit/2016/>



Average Weekday Ridership May 2015 - December 2017



Overall Ridership:
15,881

Guideway Routes:
9,765

Local Routes*:
5,573

Commuter Routes:
539

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. They operate in the corridor but not on the guideway.

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

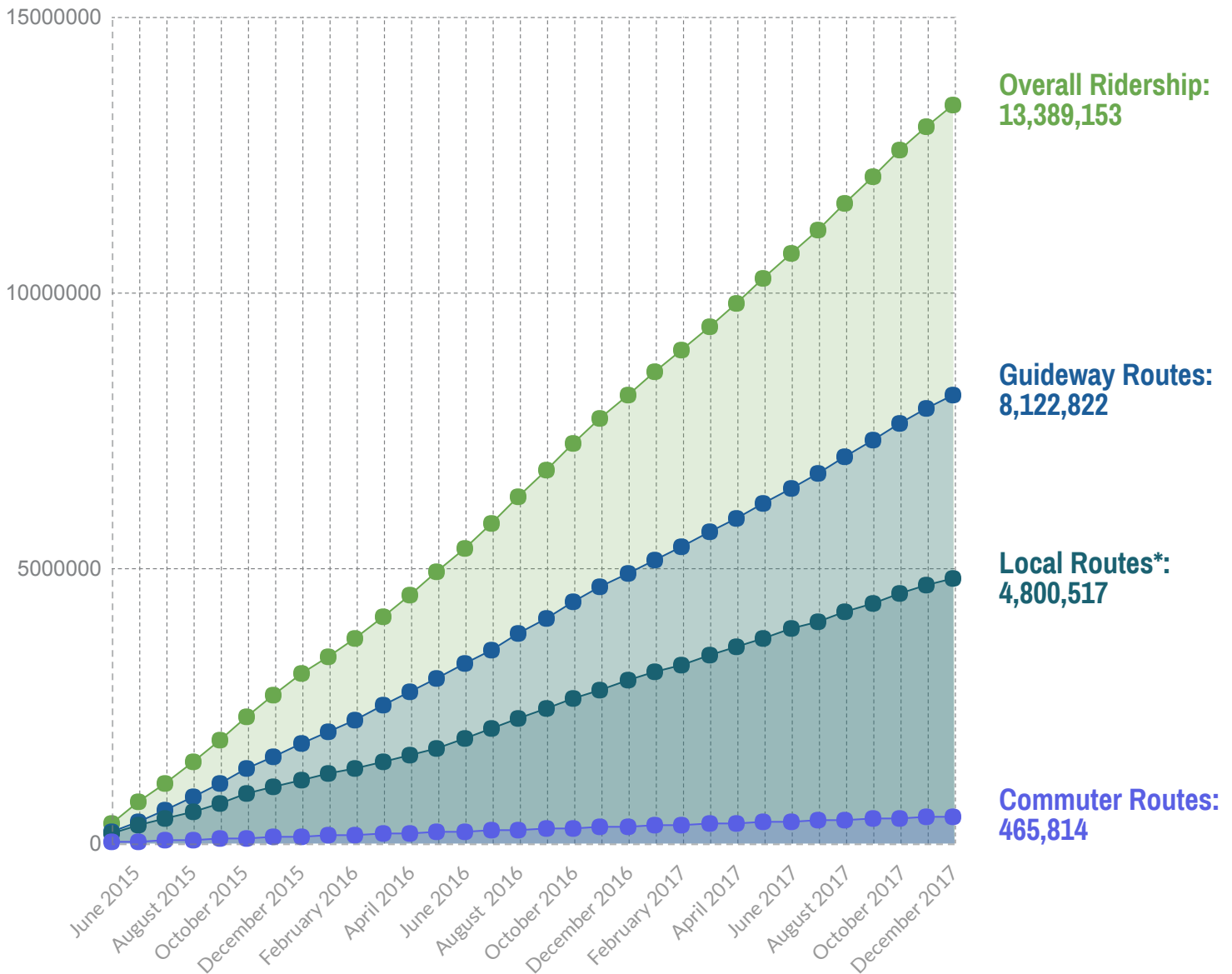
This infographic presents passenger trip data for the CTfastrak service. The data comes directly from the Connecticut Department of Transportation and is not the product of the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG). CRCOG provides this visual resource to make the data more accessible.

* Technical issues that occurred in February through April of 2016 may have resulted in artificially low ridership numbers for those months.

Data current as of: 1/5/2018
<http://www.ct.gov/dot/ctfastrak>



Cumulative Monthly Ridership May 2015 - December 2017



Legend

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