

STRATEGIC AREA LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE



MVTA Board Chair Jon Ulrich (with scissors), who also serves as chair of the Scott County Transit Review Board, cut a ceremonial ribbon at Southbridge Crossings Park & Ride to celebrate the beginning of the BlueXpress Bus Service from Prior Lake and Shakopee to downtown Minneapolis. Other MVTA Board members in attendance included Jane Victorey (Savage Councilmember), Bill Droste (Rosemount Mayor), Barbara Marschall (Scott County Alternate) and Beverley Miller (Executive Director).

STA Legislative Committee to Meet at BTS on Aug. 2

The next meeting of the Legislative Committee of the Suburban Transit Association Providers (STAP) will be at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 2 at the Burnsville Transit Station. Committee members are asked to rsvp to Patrick Murray at Messerli & Kramer.

Finance Committee Meeting set for Aug. 7

The Finance Committee will meet at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, August 7 at the Burnsville Transit Station. KDV will attend the meeting to review the 2007 audit/financial statements, which are in the process of being finalized. The 2008 Operating Budget and 2008-2012 Capital Improvement Plans are also under way. The first draft of the 2008 Operating Budget will be presented to the Finance Committee.

Special Board Meeting is Aug. 8; MVTA Board Meeting is Aug. 22

A special meeting of the MVTA Board of Directors is scheduled for **Wednesday, Aug. 8 at 8:30 a.m.** at the Burnsville Transit Station to discuss Apple Valley. The next regular meeting is **Wednesday, August 22 at 4:30 p.m.** at the Eagan Bus Garage.

MVTA Calls for Transit Summit

The MVTA recently submitted a "Commentary" from MVTA Board Chair Jon Ulrich to area newspapers, calling for a transit summit to resolve regional funding issues. The piece was submitted to both the Star Tribune and the Pioneer Press, as well as local newspapers including the SunCurrent (which published a modified version), ThisWeek, Rosemount Town Pages, Farmington Independent, Savage Pacer, Prior Lake American and Shakopee News (the latter three also publishing a modified version of the original article.) Anyone wishing to see the original piece or what has been published to date in area newspapers should contact Robin Selvig at the MVTA (952-882-7504 or rselvig@mvta.com).

STRATEGIC AREA SERVICE PLANNING AND DELIVERY

MVTA Drivers Participate in Local, State Rodeo

The Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) sponsored its fourth annual Bus Rodeo at the Dakota County Technical College on Saturday, June 23. Winning drivers from each of MVTA's providers then traveled to the statewide event on July 21 in Willmar. 23 drivers participated in the competition, which included both written and driving components.

Winners of the MVTA 2007 Rodeo are: First Place – Paul Ericksen, Schmitt & Sons Transit Services; Second Place – David "Chuck" Palmer, Schmitt & Sons Transit Services; and Third Place



Eduardo Espinoza of Laidlaw Transit won third place at the MVTA Bus Rodeo.



Schmitty & Sons won the first place (Paul Ericksen, second from left), second place (Chuck Palmer, fourth from left) and the Team trophy at the MVTA Bus Roadeo.

– Eduardo Espinoza, Laidlaw Transit Services. Ericksen and Espinoza competed in the Statewide Roadeo. The First-Place team traveling trophy went to Schmitty & Sons Transit; the Second-Place team traveling trophy went to Laidlaw Transit.

“The Bus Roadeo is designed to be a fun day for the drivers,” said MVTA Operations Manager Samantha Porter. “But, it also tests their skills and written knowledge in a competitive environment of their peers. The competition, camaraderie, and rivalry sharpen everyone’s skills,” she said.

Laidlaw Wins National Safety Award

The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) recently awarded Laidlaw Transit Services (LTS) with the Gold Award for its safety program, at the annual APTA Bus and Paratransit Conference in Nashville, TN. This award recognized transit organizations and transit contractors for their positive safety records and dedication to safety. The top honor is the Gold Award, which is given to the bus system with the best overall safety program. This was the first year APTA allowed private contractors to submit their safety programs for the award. Laidlaw was judged on its safety record, its success in building a safety-oriented culture within its organization, and strategic safety initiatives. Laidlaw competed against other contractors for this honor.



STRATEGIC AREA IMAGE

State Fair is Less than a Month Away!

MVTA staff are busy working on activities for the 2007 bus service to the Minnesota State Fair. State Fair schedules have been printed, advertisements are in process, and a final planning meeting for Hop On Transit Day (Aug. 29) is scheduled for Aug. 8 at the Burnsville Transit Station. The MVTA will operate a schedule identical to last year, with one change: weekday service will operate from both Burnsville High School (600 E. Highway 13) and the Burnsville Transit Station. Weekend service (including Labor Day) will operate from both the Burnsville and Eagan Transit Stations.



Hop on. Transit Day will be on Wednesday, Aug. 29. That day, bus fare will be \$3 (down from the regular \$5) and all riders will receive a transfer good for \$2 off their State Fair admission (not good with other discounts). There will be a “green” theme for “Hop On. Transit Day” and activities will include “how to ride the bus” classes onboard Metro Transit’s hybrid bus, demonstrations of how to load bicycles in the bike racks, and an opportunity to sign up for the “Go Greener Challenge” - where visitors sign a pledge to use an alternate mode of transit at least once between Aug. 29 and Sept. 30 (entrants can win prizes including bikes supplied by Erik’s Bike Shop). Also on display will be SouthWest



Transit’s 1947 classic bus, there will be activities for children, and Rich Wieber’s Bicycle Stunt Show will perform on the stage at 10 a.m., 12 Noon, 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. MVTA, SouthWest Transit and Metro Transit will also participate in the parade that day, as well.

STRATEGIC AREA ASSET MANAGEMENT

Facilities Update

Burnsville Transit Station

Proposals are being sought for exterior painting work at the Burnsville Transit Station. The work will include pressure-washing and/or sandblasting and repainting of existing metalwork and lettering on the parking deck and transit station, tubular metal fencing surrounding the site, and exterior light poles. The epoxy paint will reflect MVTA's recent change in logo color.



LSA Design Conducting Garage Study for Region

LSA Design Inc. is reviewing bus garage needs on behalf of the Metropolitan Council. This study is a companion to the bus garage study done for Metro Transit last year, and focuses on non-Metro Transit needs in the seven county metro region. The MVTA has been asked to participate in a survey to update and supplement the Council's data. Questions include estimates of the number of buses to be stored on site with reorganization, remodeling or expansion, as well as a general wish-list.

Burnsville, Eagan Bus Garages

Proposals are being sought for concrete repair work at the Burnsville and Eagan Bus Garages. At the Burnsville Bus Garage, more work will be done to repair areas of the interior garage floor which are subject to deterioration due to age, corrosion, and the exceeding original design specifications. At the Eagan Bus Garage, a portion of the sidewalk approaching and abutting the bridge over the circulation road will be replaced due to dynamic movement and compaction of sub-surface soils.

North Metro Landscaping recently replaced a number of dead or dying shrubs and trees at the Eagan Bus Garage under the direction of MVTA and the City of Eagan. MVTA's Facilities Manager had been working with a City Planner (the City held a landscaping bond from the contractor) to motivate the North Metro to fulfill its obligations per the original construction contract.

Pigeon Control Options Reviewed at Burnsville Transit Station

The MVTA had been contacted by a rider regarding the growing pigeon problem at the Burnsville Transit Station. As a member of the City of Burnsville's Natural Resources Committee, he was proposing addition of peregrine falcon nesting boxes to control the pigeon population. Mayor Elizabeth Kautz also requested that we look into the possibility of having a peregrine falcon nest at the Transit Station. MVTA Facilities Manager Tom Bright contacted the U of M Raptor Center, and learned they do not work on any relocation projects. They suggested a call to the DNR. The DNR strongly advised that no bird of prey be introduced at the Transit Station facility. They recommended a product called 'Nix-Align.' This is similar to a roll of springing spikes of aluminum to be attached to the surfaces where pigeons roost, discouraging them from landing. It works, but is labor intensive to install and maintain. Therefore MVTA's facilities manager will implement another pigeon abatement program to remove the nests from the deck at the Transit Station.

157th St. Station

MVTA's Facilities Manager has met recently with 157th Street Station architect James Lasher (LSA Design, Inc.) and representatives from Prairie Restorations, the prairie land design and management company that created the original prairie installation at the site. The installation, which is in its first full growing season (the site was seeded in the spring of 2006), requires unique care to survive and prosper, and has been an object of curiosity amongst MVTA riders and City of Apple Valley inspections staff. Prairie Restoration has recently used a special reel mower to remove weeds and allow sunlight and nutrients to reach the



natural grasses and plants growing on the site. They will provide a proposal to MVTA for continued advice and/or management of the site which has the unique challenge of being without water to irrigate and sustain the more typical sod, flowers and trees found at other MVTA transit sites.

MVTA staff has attended several meetings with representatives of Ryan Companies (developer of the Super Target store being constructed immediately east of 157th Street Station), and Dakota County and City of Apple Valley staff. The developer, with the support of MVTA and the City of Apple Valley, has worked to convince County staff of the need to fully signalize the intersection at 157th and Pilot Knob Road before the opening of the Target store in April of 2008. County staff believes however, that the current traffic volume as measure by traffic counts and gap analysis does not warrant a signal at the intersection at this time. The County has agreed to review its analysis shortly after Target opens the store in 2008, and to allow the developer to install underground infrastructure this summer to accommodate a quick installation of the signal in the future when authorized by the County.

STRATEGIC AREA PERSONNEL

Temporary Accounting Assistant Hired to Work with Finance Director

A temporary employee, Terry Krei, has been hired through Accountemps to assist with the day-to-day accounting activities for three months.

Laidlaw Manager Selected as Center of Excellence Instructor

Tom Knier, MVTA Project Manager with Laidlaw Transit Services, was selected as one of the 2007 Center of Excellence Fixed Route Instructor. Don Johnson of the Laidlaw Spring Street operation was also selected as a Center of Excellence DDS instructor. Mr. Johnson has also worked with Burnsville staff over the years.

STRATEGIC AREA FINANCE

MVTA Operating Budget to Break Even in 2007

Met Council recently distributed the allocation of state revenues for the remainder of 2007. With the expected supplemental state appropriations and NTD operating money, MVTA should be revenue neutral for 2007, ending the year with no deficit.

RFP Process Continuing; Proposals Due Aug. 14

The Operations and Maintenance Request for Proposal process is continuing. The MVTA received written questions from two potential proposers. Written responses to these questions will be completed by July 31, 2007. Proposals are due to MVTA on August 14, 2007.

Transit Ridership Continues to Grow

According to the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), Americans took 10.1 billion trips on local public transportation in 2006 – the first time in 49 years. During the last decade, the public transportation's growth rate has outpaced the growth rate of the population and the growth rate of vehicle miles traveled on our nation's highways.

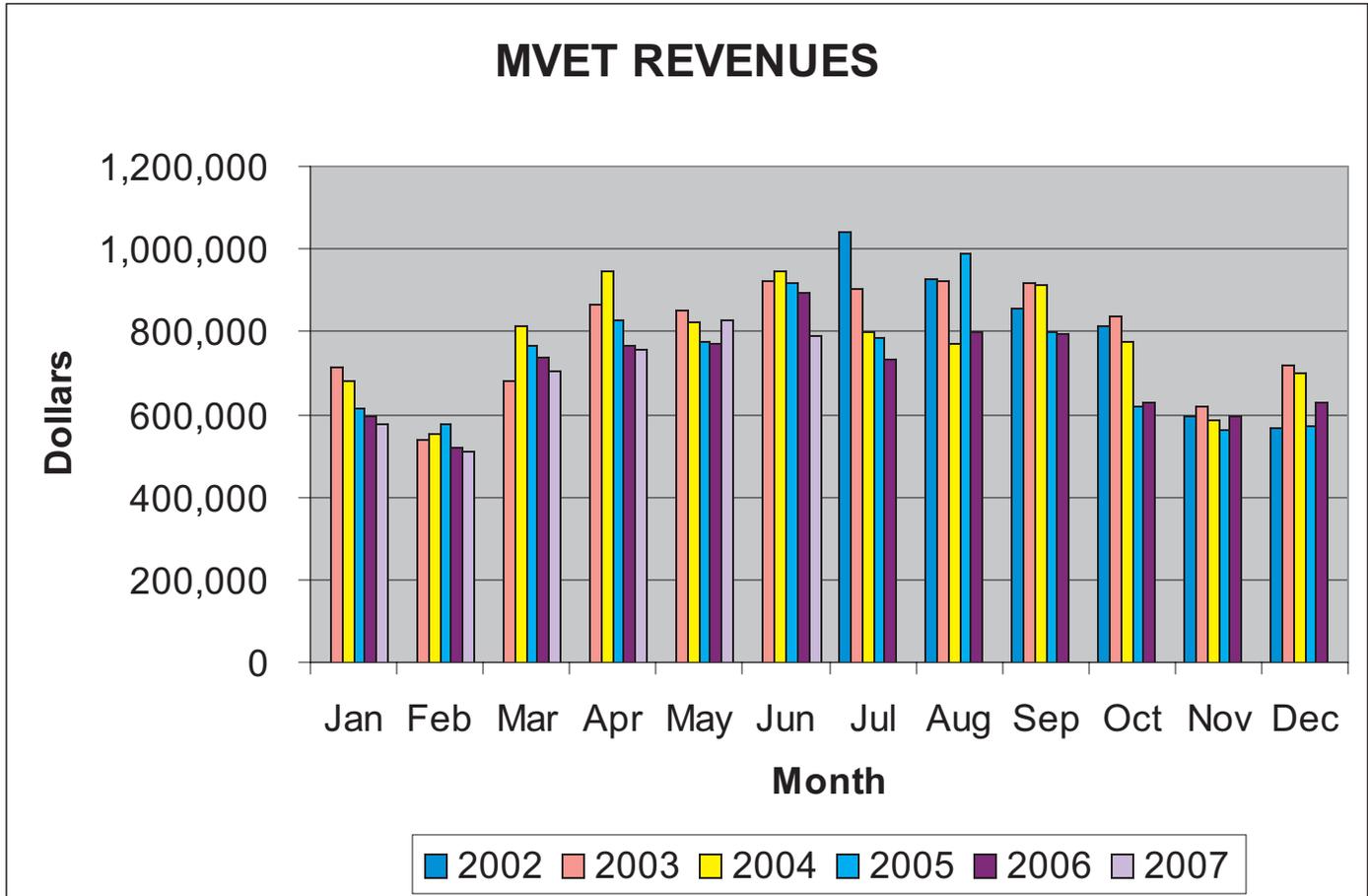
“This significant ridership milestone is part of a multi-year trend as more and more Americans ride public transit to get to destinations important to them, while realizing the benefits of saving money and avoiding congestion,” said William W. Millar, president of APTA. “Public transit ridership helps reduce America's dependence on foreign oil and decreases our contribution to global warming; but ultimately, this milestone represents 10 billion reasons to increase local and federal investment in public transportation.”

Public transit use is up 30 percent since 1995. That is more than double the growth rate of the population (12 percent) and higher than the growth rate for the vehicle miles traveled on our roads (24 percent) during that same period. In 2006, public transit ridership grew 2.9 percent over 2005. To put the 10.1 billion public transportation trips in perspective, transit trips outnumber domestic airline trips by 15 to one.

MVTA's ridership information is attached.

MVET Through June is at 48 Percent of Budget; Trending Downward

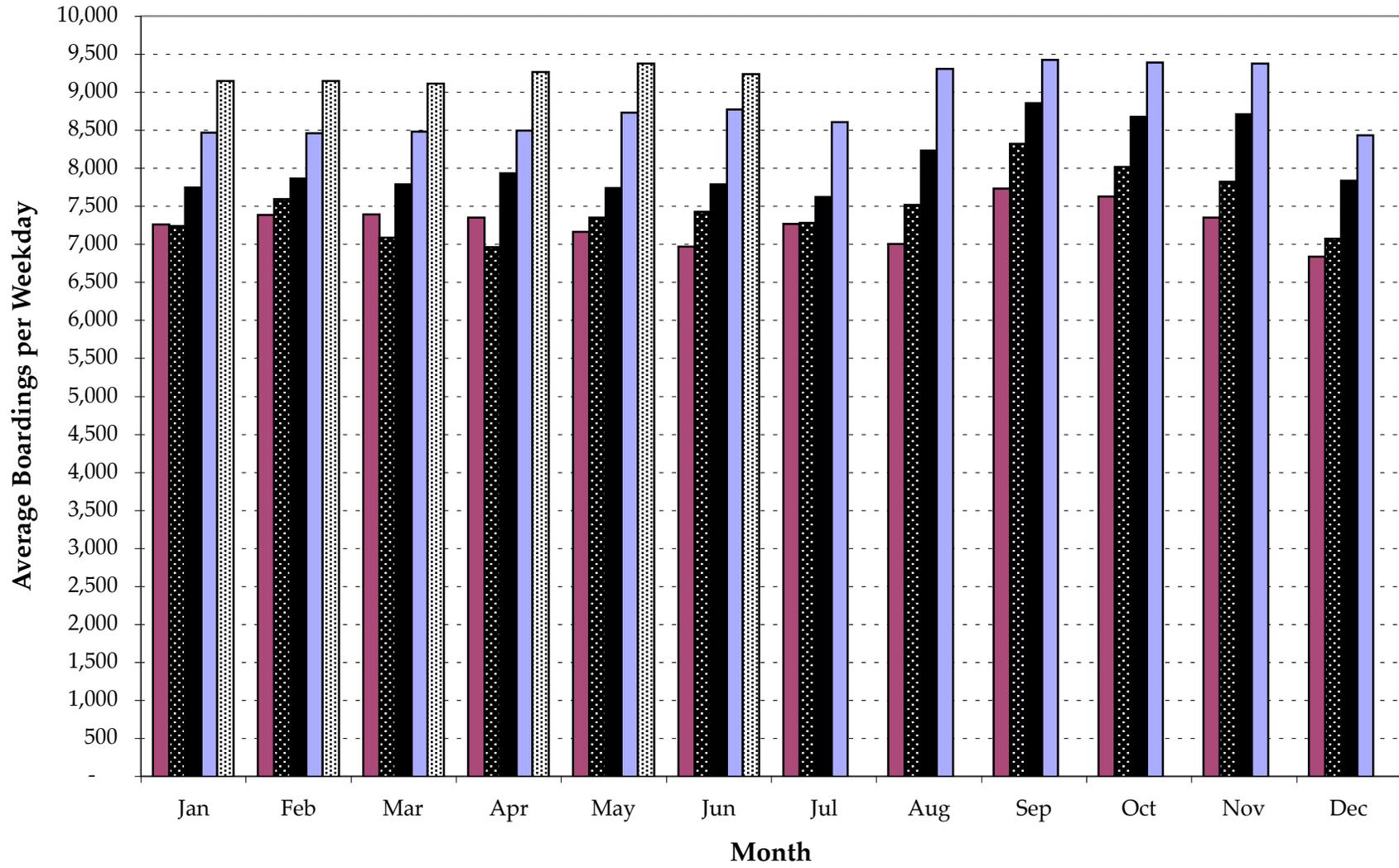
June YTD MVET is \$4.2 million or 48 percent of budget. MVET is still trending downward in 2007. This June year-to-date is the lowest amount MVTA has received since funding was transitioned from property taxes in 2002. The MVET chart is attached.



MVTA Average Weekday Ridership

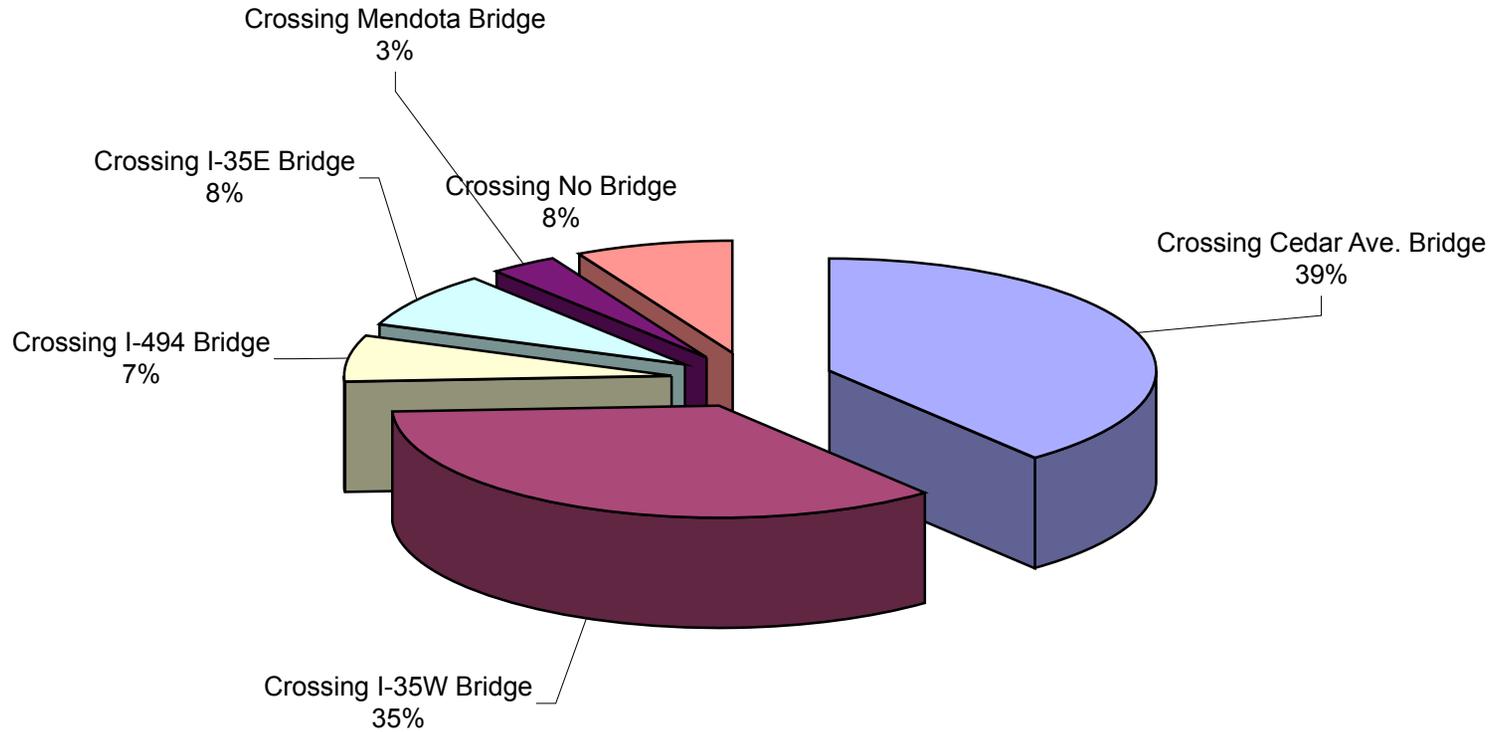
by month, 2002-2007

2003 2004 2005 2006 2007



MVTA Ridership by Bridge Used

June 2007



Note: These are estimates based on overall ridership by route and estimated on/off patterns for each route
These splits were updated effective March 1, 2007 based on more current information

MVTA Average Weekend Ridership

by month, 2003-2007
Excludes State Fair ridership

■ 2003 ■ 2004 ■ 2005 ■ 2006 ■ 2007

