

AGENDA ITEM 1C  
Consent Item

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** September 2, 2021

**TO:** El Dorado County Transit Authority

**FROM:** Brian James, Planning and Marketing Manager

**SUBJECT:** July 2021 Ridership Report

**REQUESTED ACTION:**

**BY MOTION,**

**Receive and File the July 2021 Ridership Report**

**BACKGROUND**

The El Dorado County Transit Authority (El Dorado Transit) staff typically reports monthly and fiscal year-to-date ridership at each Board meeting. As July is the first month of the fiscal year, the July 2021 monthly report also represents the 2021/22 fiscal year-to-date.

**DISCUSSION**

As is typical of public transit across the country and the world, El Dorado Transit continues to experience significant ridership deficits compared to pre-pandemic levels. Systemwide passenger trips in July were down approximately seventy percent (70%) compared to 2019.

Sacramento commuter service ridership was all but eliminated when statewide stay-at-home restrictions were put into effect in March 2020 and service was cut from eleven (11) daily roundtrips down to four (4) round trips at present. Work from home continues to be the norm in the region and traditional commuter route ridership remains down approximately 95% compared to July 2019. On a positive note, ridership has increased 28% over the last three (3) months and the new South Lake Tahoe route added another 606 trips in its first month of operations.

Local fixed route ridership remained the most resilient of all the services through the peak of the pandemic but still lost around 20% due in part to school and business closures, high unemployment, and availability of home delivery and telehealth services. Monthly local route ridership was 37% lower in July 2021 than in July 2020. This is primarily because El Dorado Transit was still operating fare free in July 2020, which temporarily bolstered the number of one-way boardings. This is evidenced by the fact that local route ridership immediately dropped about 30% when fares were reinstated the following month and it has hovered at similar levels since.

In addition, significant local route changes were implemented in mid-July of 2020. These changes had the benefit of improving operational efficiency without reducing overall service levels but had the adverse effect of reducing one-way boarding statistics, particularly on Route 20 in Placerville and on Route 60 in Pollock Pines.

Regarding demand-response services, the County's Senior Day program remains closed and the Mother Lode Rehabilitation Enterprises (M.O.R.E.) program is continuing to significantly limit in-person attendance. Although still down from pre-pandemic, day-to-day ridership on the Dial-A-Ride service was up 1% year over year and ADA Paratransit demand jumped 130% compared to July 2020.

Following is the July 2021 ridership report, comparing the current fiscal year to the previous fiscal year.

# July 2021 Ridership Report

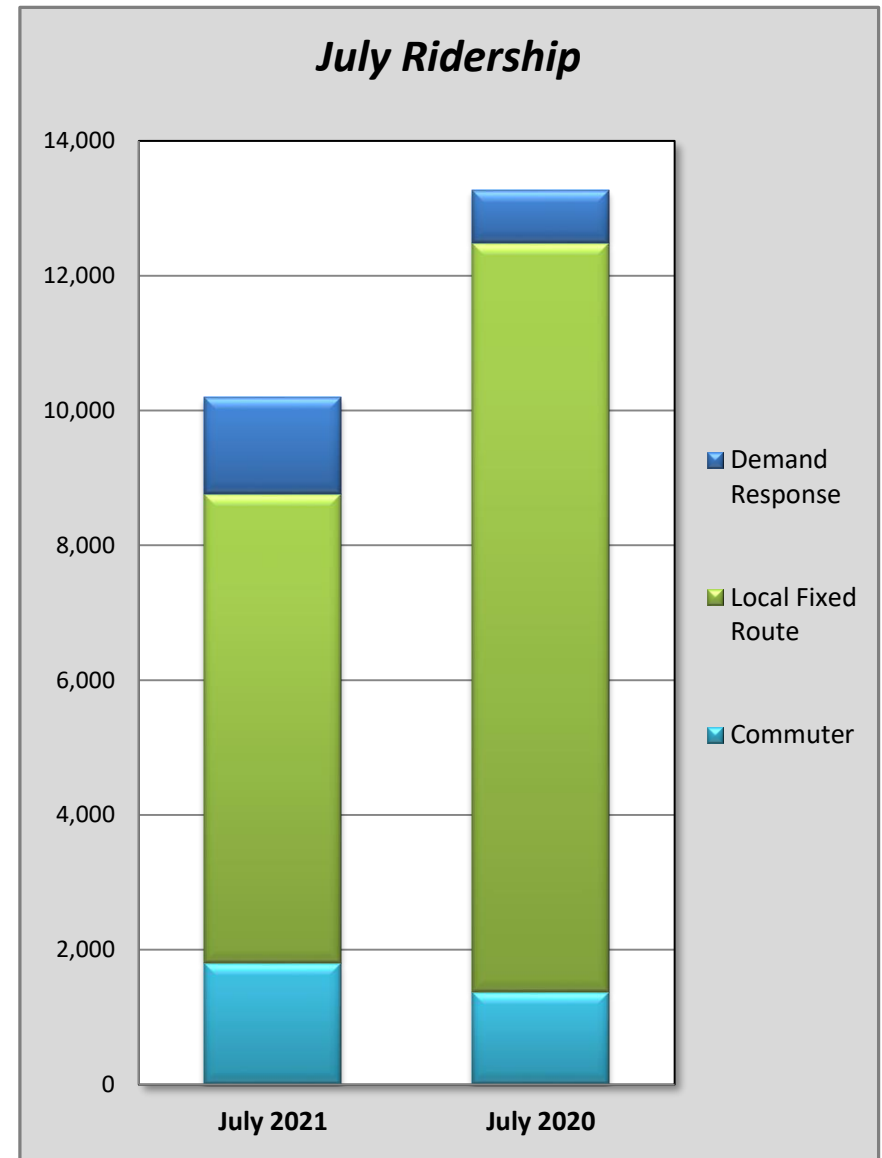


| Demand Response              | July 2021    | July 2020  | % Change     |
|------------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Dial-a-Ride                  | 561          | 556        | 0.9%         |
| Sac-Med                      | 26           | 18         | 44.4%        |
| ADA Paratransit              | 241          | 105        | 129.5%       |
| M.O.R.E.*                    | 602          | 102        | 490.2%       |
| Senior Day Care*             | 0            | 0          | -100.0%      |
| <b>Total Demand Response</b> | <b>1,430</b> | <b>781</b> | <b>83.1%</b> |

| Local Fixed Route              | July 2021    | July 2020     | % Change      |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| 20 - Placerville               | 1,003        | 2,160         | -53.6%        |
| 25 - Saturday Express          | 335          | 277           | 20.9%         |
| 30 - Diamond Springs           | 618          | 1,105         | -44.1%        |
| 35 - Diamond Springs Saturday  | 84           | 47            | 78.7%         |
| 40 - Cameron Park              | 765          | 1,237         | -38.2%        |
| 50x - 50 Express               | 2,830        | 3,797         | -25.5%        |
| 60 - Pollock Pines             | 1,327        | 2,496         | -46.8%        |
| <b>Total Local Fixed Route</b> | <b>6,962</b> | <b>11,119</b> | <b>-37.4%</b> |

| Commuter                   | July 2021    | July 2020    | % Change      |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Sacramento Commuter        | 1,192        | 1,352        | -11.8%        |
| Reverse Commuter           | 5            | 11           | -54.5%        |
| Sacramento/Tahoe Connector | 606          | 0            | 6059999900.0% |
| <b>Total Commuter</b>      | <b>1,803</b> | <b>1,363</b> | <b>32.3%</b>  |

|                             | July 2021     | July 2020     | % Change      |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Systemwide</b>           | <b>10,195</b> | <b>13,263</b> | <b>-23.1%</b> |
| Passengers per Revenue Hour | 3.3           | 4.4           | -24.6%        |



\*Contracted Services - Ridership Determined by Client Enrollment