



# 2025 Year End Ridership

Transportation Committee



March 2026

# Modernized Method for Ridership

Now using Automatic Passenger Counter (APC) as primary source for all fixed route reporting



## APC

- 100% of bus coverage
- 2/3 of trains covered
- Less than 5% of bus trips are missing data
- Can be systematically cleaned and filled



## Fares

- Contains data from GFI Farebox, Cubic card readers, Ticket vending machines at LRT and BRT stations, Mobile App
- Missing data due to reliance on keying by operators

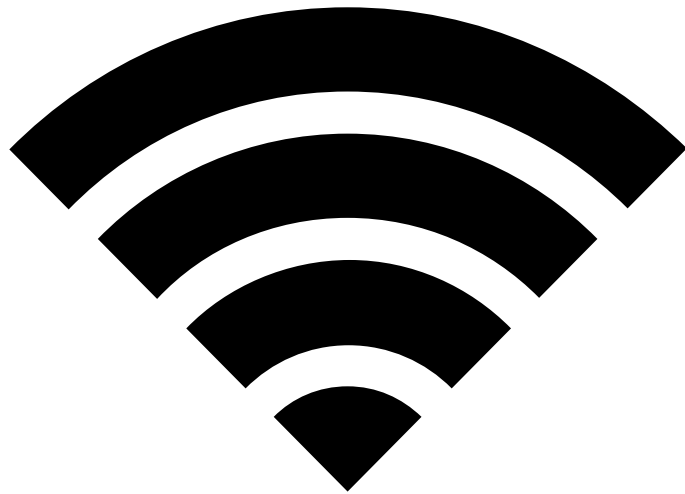


## Human Counts

- Relatively few samples
- Best used to validate systems

# Introducing the ‘Unified APC Method’

**Our data and reporting teams developed a common and automated method to clean and fill APC data called “Unified APC Method”**



- We recertified our APC devices and method with the FTA for Metro Transit and MTS 2025 reporting
- Ridership and Passenger Miles Travelled Data using the Unified APC Method is available for Metro Transit, Maple Grove and MTS Fixed Route starting in **2023**
- Data in this presentation is using the Unified APC Method for fixed route ridership (**all new figures!**)
- NTD Ridership data using the Unified APC Method begins in **2025**

# Modernized method (Unified APC) doesn't change ridership trends previously reported

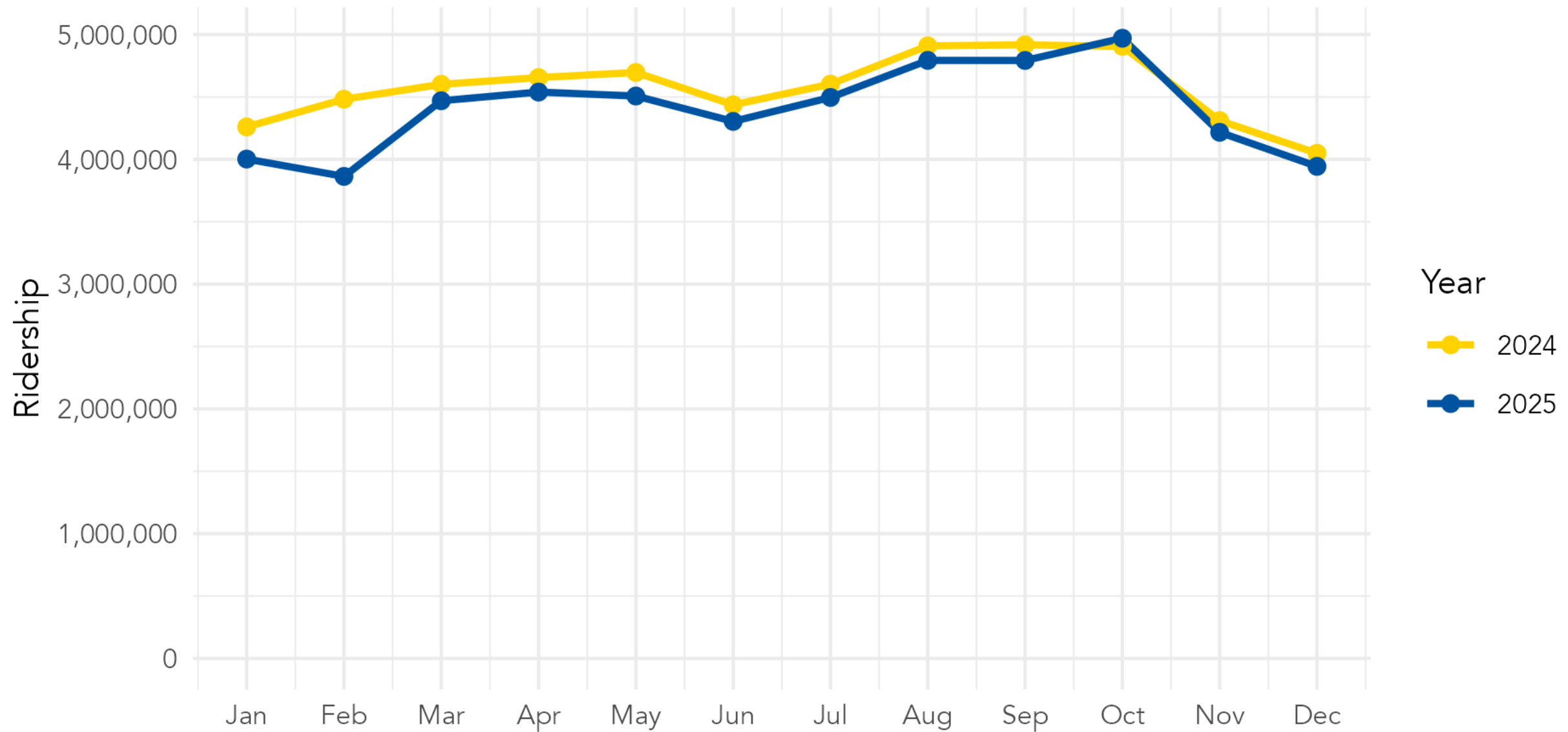
## Metro Transit NTD Ridership in 2025 was lower than 2024

This presentation uses the Unified APC Method for 2024, and 2025 allowing us to make year-over-year observations. This does not match NTD reported figures (precise numbers in table below) since we are making the switch effective Jan. 2025.

| NTD Method         | 2025 Metro Transit Rides | 2024 Metro Transit Rides | % Change             |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Previous method    | ~ 45,000,000             | 47,558,455               | Approx. 3-4% decline |
| Unified APC Method | 50,101,867               | ~ 52,000,000             |                      |

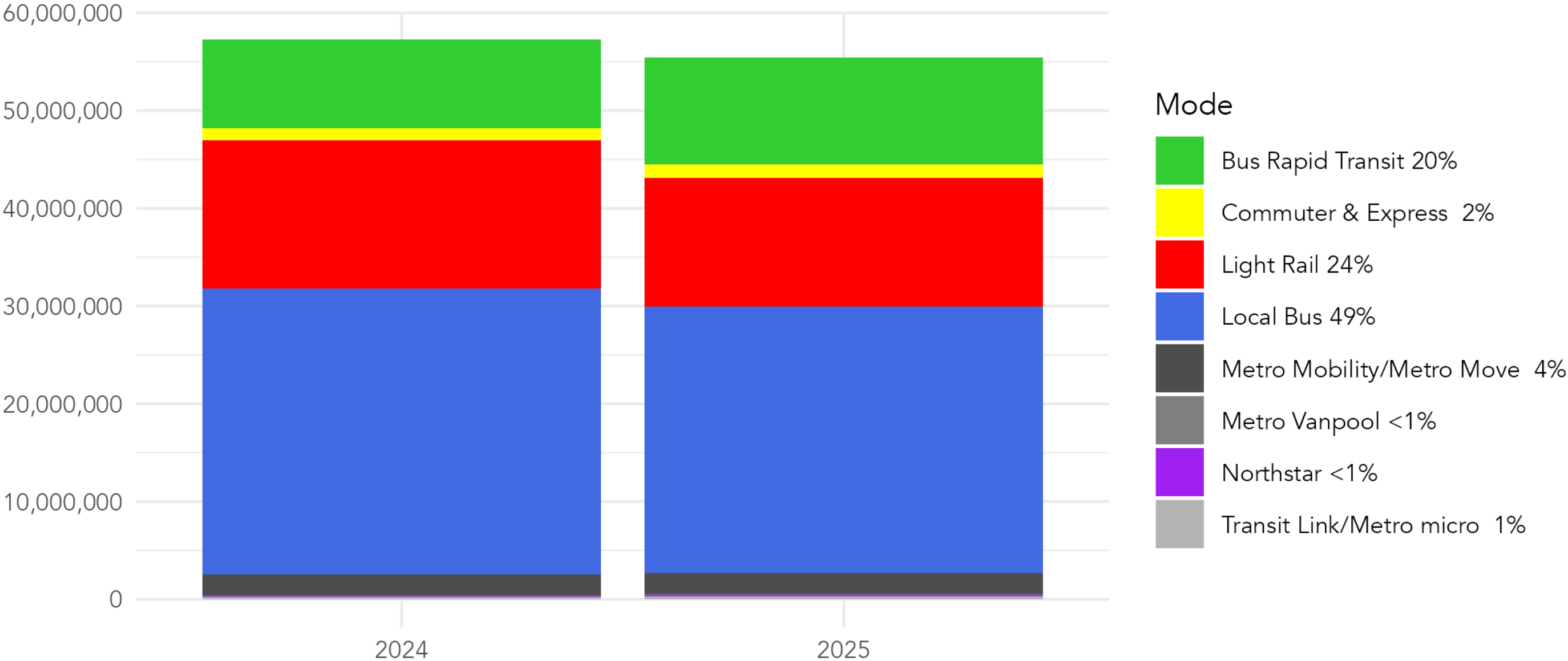
# Council Ridership – Year End 2025

2024 Total: 57,276,147    2025 Total: 55,442,595 (-3%)



# Council Ridership by Mode – Year End 2025

2024 Total: 57,276,147    2025 Total: 55,442,595 (-3%)



# Council Ridership by Mode – Year End 2025

2024 Total: 57,276,147    2025 Total: 55,442,595 (-3%)

| Mode   | 2024              | 2025              | Nominal Change    | % Change   |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Bus  | 39,509,675        | 39,642,928        | 133,253           | 0.3%       |
| Light Rail   | 15,191,193        | 13,134,782        | -2,056,411        | -14%       |
| NorthStar  | 127,372           | 121,754           | -5,618            | -4%        |
| Metro Mobility / Metro Move (Spec. Transp)         | 2,171,702         | 2,137,610         | -34,092           | -2%        |
| Transit Link/Metro micro (gen pub demand response) | 198,399           | 327,421           | 129,022           | 65%        |
| Vanpool  | 77,806            | 78,100            | 294               | 0%         |
| <b>Council Total</b>                               | <b>57,276,147</b> | <b>55,442,595</b> | <b>-1,833,552</b> | <b>-3%</b> |

# Bus Ridership – Year End 2025

2024 Total: 39,509,675    2025 Total: 39,642,928 (0%)

| Bus Mode             | 2024              | 2025              | Nominal Change | % Change  |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Local                | 28,981,837        | 27,086,789        | -1,895,048     | -6.5%     |
| Bus Rapid Transit    | 9,071,050         | 10,960,367        | 1,889,317      | 21%       |
| Express*             | 1,456,788         | 1,595,772         | 138,984        | 9.5%      |
| <b>Council Total</b> | <b>39,509,675</b> | <b>39,642,928</b> | <b>133,253</b> | <b>0%</b> |

\* Includes Maple Grove express operated by Metro Transit

# Demand Response Ridership – Year End 2025

2024 Total: 2,370,101

2025 Total: 2,465,031 (4%)

| Program                         | 2024             | 2025             | Nominal Change | % Change  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Transit Link                    | 131,112          | 139,158          | 8,046          | 6%        |
| Metro micro                     | 67,287           | 188,263          | 120,976        | 180%      |
| Metro Mobility (Special Transp) | 2,070,985        | 1,930,543        | -140,442       | -7%       |
| Metro Move (Special Transp)     | 100,717          | 207,067          | 106,350        | 106%      |
| <b>Council Total</b>            | <b>2,370,101</b> | <b>2,465,031</b> | <b>94,930</b>  | <b>4%</b> |

# System Ridership – Year End 2025

2024 Total: 61,946,204

2025 Total: 60,055,133 (-3%)

| Mode                  | 2024              | 2025              | Nominal Change    | % Change   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Metropolitan Council* | 57,276,147        | 55,442,595        | -1,833,552        | -3%        |
| Maple Grove**         | 39,563            | 44,399            | 4,836             | 12%        |
| MVTA                  | 1,335,758         | 1,326,927         | -8,831            | -1%        |
| Plymouth              | 212,969           | 214,136           | 1,167             | 1%         |
| Southwest Transit     | 537,877           | 614,062           | 76,185            | 14%        |
| U of MN               | 2,543,890         | 2,413,014         | -130,876          | -5%        |
| <b>Regional Total</b> | <b>61,946,204</b> | <b>60,055,133</b> | <b>-1,891,071</b> | <b>-3%</b> |

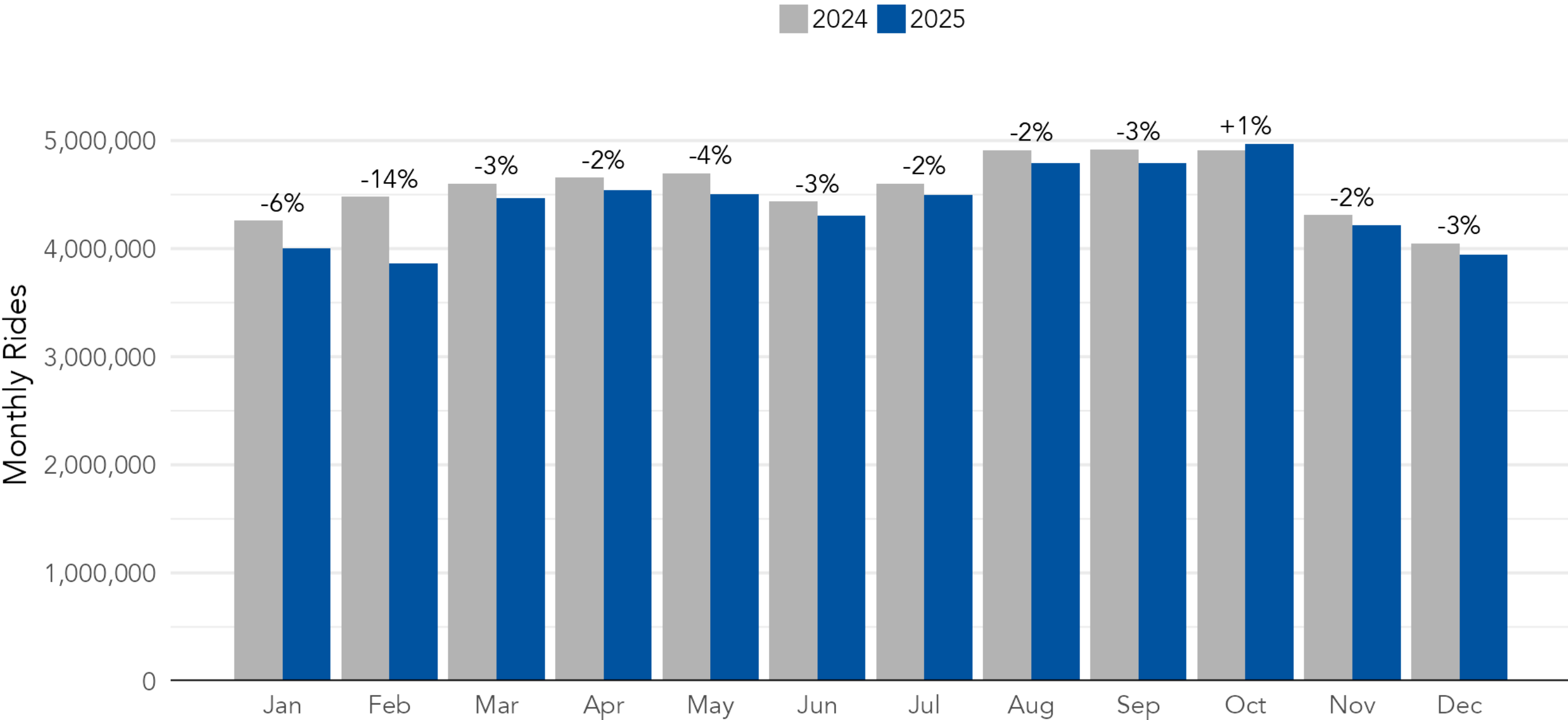
\*Metropolitan Council includes all services reported to National Transit Database by Metro Transit and Metropolitan Council.

\*\* Microtransit service only. 223,901 regular route rides included in Metropolitan Council.

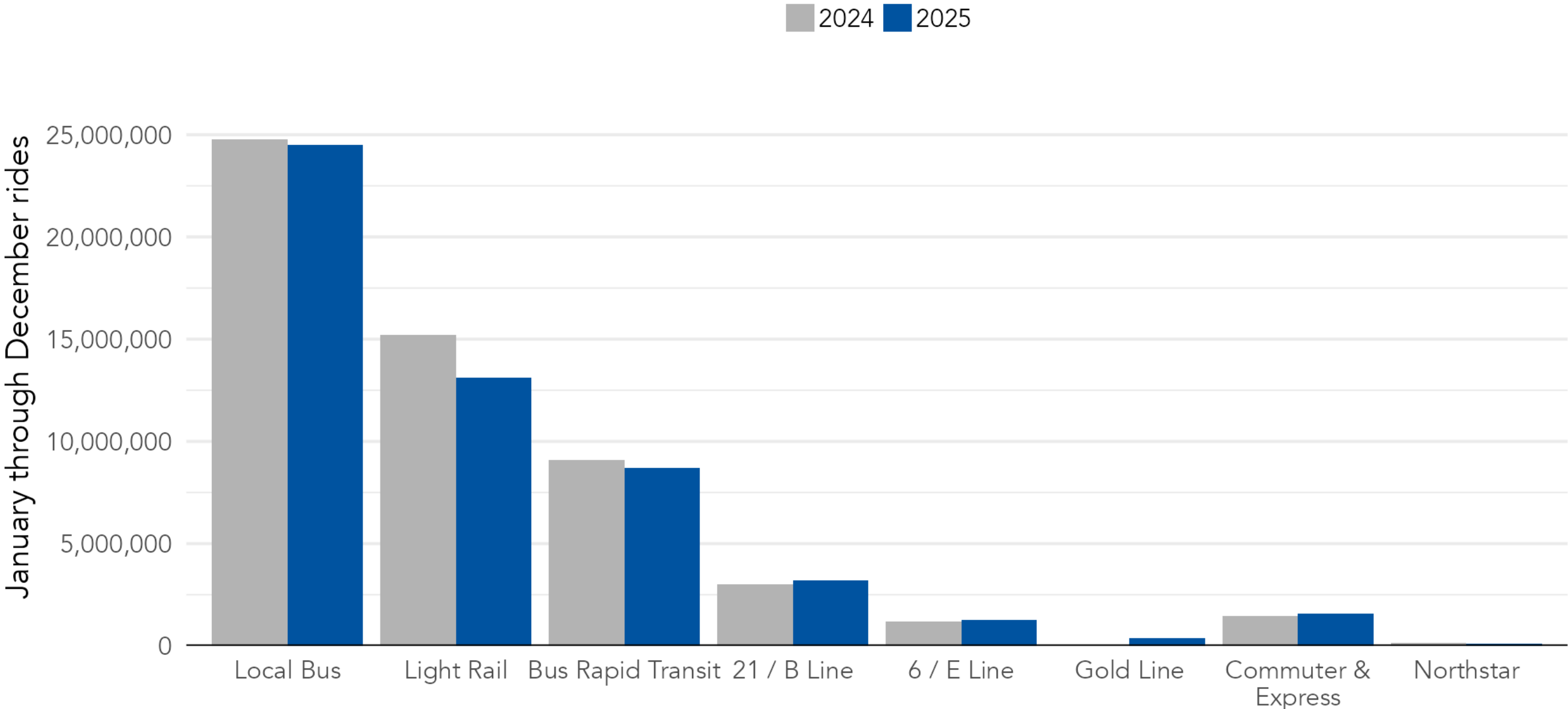
# Understanding Ridership Trends



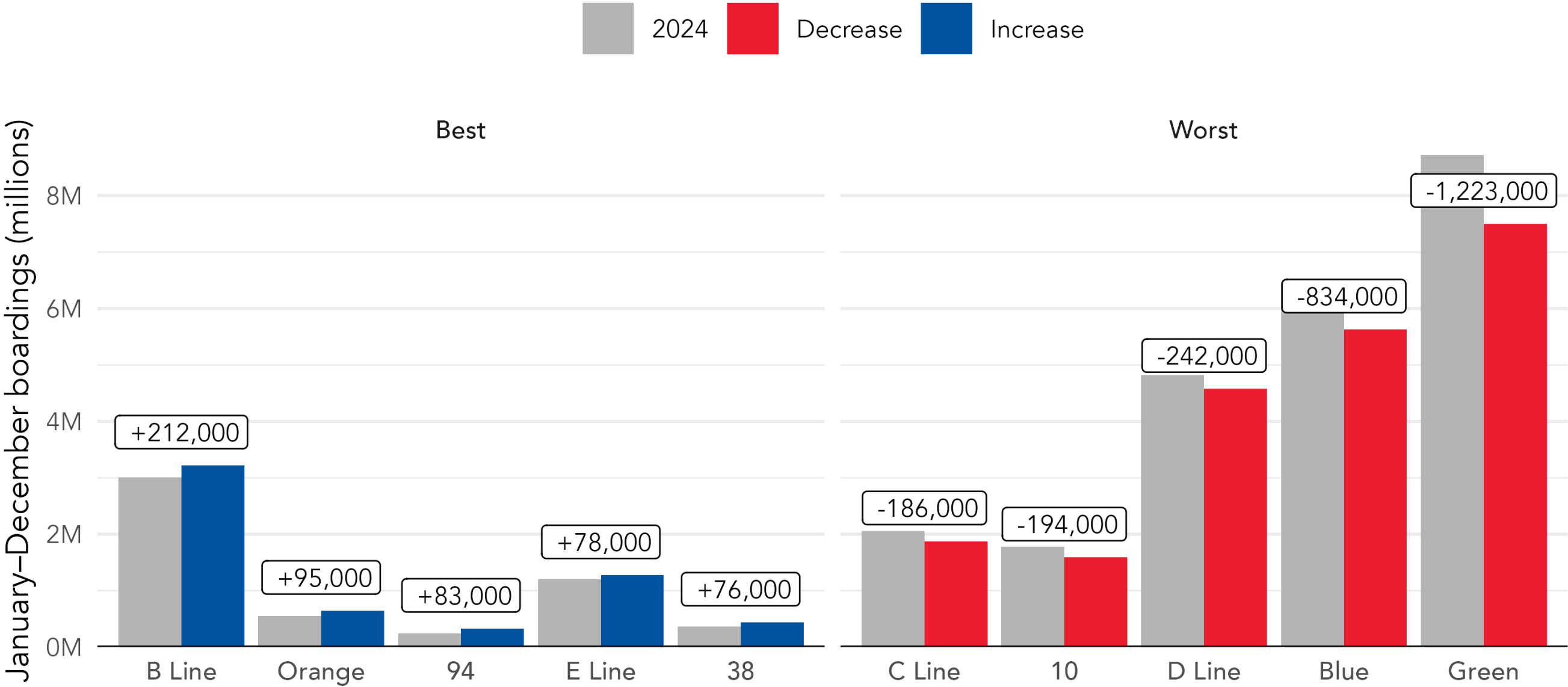
# Council Ridership slightly below 2024 levels



# Growth in new BRT and Commuter Express



# Biggest changes since 2024



# Key Take-Aways



- Ridership down slightly over 2024
- Light Rail ridership declines driving overall trend
- B Line, E Line and Gold Line leading growth
- Small gains in Commuter & Express lead by Route 94



# Questions

