

WATER EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Pandemic Recovery

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December 8, 2021



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WETA Overview

- Formed by State Legislature, first as *San Francisco Bay Area Water Transit Authority* (1999)
- Reformed as *San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority* (2009)
- Five state-appointed directors
- Tasked with operating and expanding Bay Area ferry service and managing waterborne emergency response

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WETA HISTORY

Assumed municipal ferry services
effective 2011

Increased service in 2014, 2015

Reduced service to
minimum in March 2020

Restored, increased
service in July 2021

Launched Richmond
service in 2019

Launched South San Francisco
service in 2012

Opened maintenance facilities
in 2016, 2018

Opened Downtown SF,
Seaplane Lagoon in 2021



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IMPACTS OF COVID-19

- Sharp ridership drop (~90%), as seen across operators
- WETA quickly reduced service to minimal levels in March
 - Modest service additions in June and November
- Enormous fiscal impact as pre-pandemic 60% of WETA's revenue came from passenger fares
- No reduction in staffing for maritime jobs
 - CARES Act and CRRSAA funding covered FY20 and FY21 gaps
- Ridership increases in spring (June 2.5x higher than Jan.)

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PANDEMIC RECOVERY PROGRAM

- Based on core principles adopted by WETA Board
- Focus on broadening ridership base and preparing for changing travel/commute patterns in wake of COVID-19
- Enhancing access, equity and relevance of the system
- Identifying operational efficiencies
- Temporary lower fares (15-40% depending on route)

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Vallejo Fare Reduction

| Pre-Pandemic | | Pandemic Recovery Program | |
|--|---------|--|---------|
| STANDARD FARES | | STANDARD FARES – FY 2022 | |
| Adult | \$15.10 | Adult | \$11.25 |
| Adult (Clipper Only) | \$11.30 | Adult (Clipper Only) | \$9.00 |
| Adult (Clipper START) | \$7.50 | Adult (Clipper START) | \$4.50 |
| Youth (5-18 years) | - | Youth (5-18 years) | \$5.50 |
| Youth (5-18 years) (Clipper Only) | \$7.50 | Youth (5-18 years) (Clipper Only) | \$4.50 |
| Seniors (65+), Disabled | - | Seniors (65+), Disabled | \$5.50 |
| Seniors (65+), Disabled (Clipper Only) | \$7.50 | Seniors (65+), Disabled (Clipper Only) | \$4.50 |
| Children under 5 | FREE | Children under 5 | FREE |
| DISCOUNT FARE PRODUCTS | | DISCOUNT FARE PRODUCTS | |
| School groups* | \$5.00 | School groups* | \$3.50 |
| Monthly Pass | \$388 | Monthly Pass | \$388 |

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PANDEMIC RECOVERY PROGRAM

- Took effect on July 1, 2021
- Lower fares for one year
 - We plan to bring a longer-term fare program to the WETA Board in spring
- Enhanced weekday schedules with more midday and evening departures
- Resumption of weekend service on three routes
- Harbor Bay resumed July; South S.F. in October

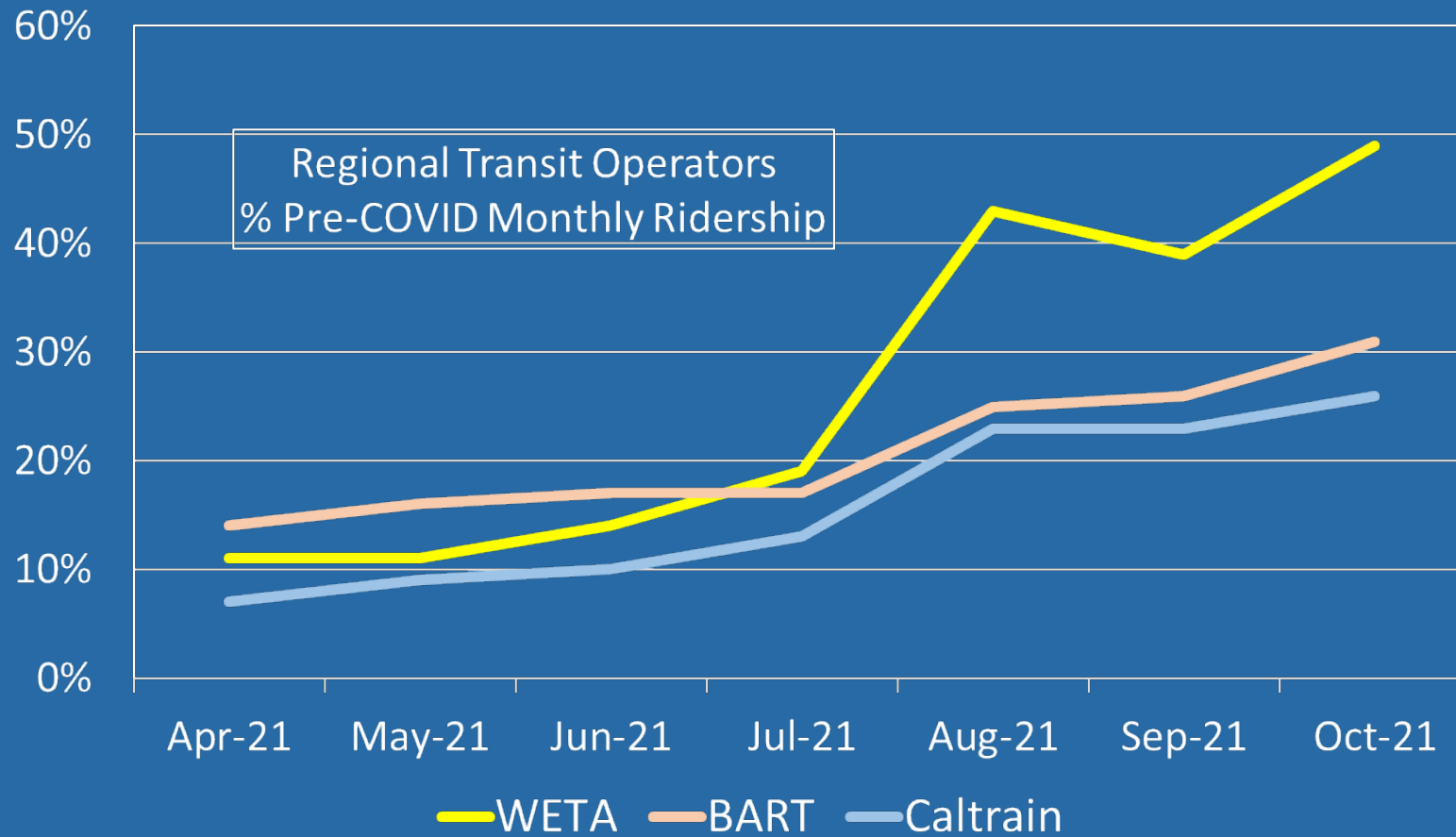


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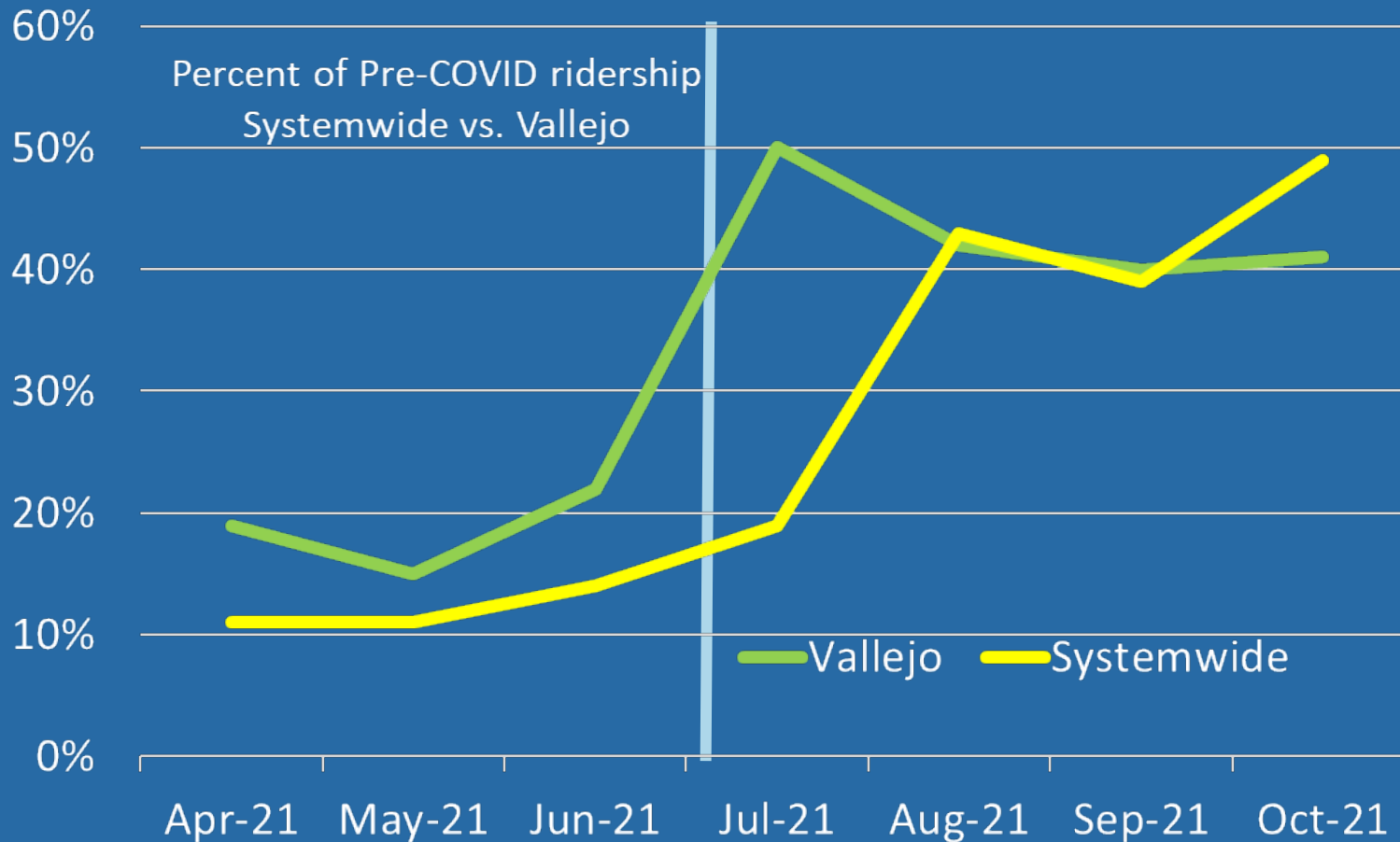
EARLY RESULTS

- July 1 was biggest non-holiday since March 2020
- Weekday ridership rose 77% from June to July 2021
- Weekend ridership from July through September was about 60% of pre-pandemic
- After Delta dip, weekday commute ridership has continued to climb
- For October: 104% of pre-pandemic seasonal average on weekends and 35% on weekdays

WETA has outpaced other regional operators in percent ridership recovery



Vallejo ridership has trended upward, mirroring the WETA system



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October Passenger Survey

- Opt-in digital survey conducted in late October focused on current and lapsed riders
- 999 responses, two-thirds current riders
- **Current riders** cite ride quality, safety and cleanliness and avoiding traffic and parking as the biggest reasons for are choosing the ferry
- Increase in riders who report annual household incomes of less than \$50,000 compared to prior surveys (6% in 2017, 10% in this survey).

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October Passenger Survey

- Most **lapsed riders** aren't currently commuting. Those who are largely drive alone and cite convenience and COVID fears as their rationale.
- Most **new riders** have come on board since July 2021, a strong indication of the impact and good timing of the PRP.
- Both **current and lapsed riders** expect to cross the Bay more frequently in 2022. The majority of lapsed riders say they will use the ferry to make these trips.

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LOOKING AHEAD

- Year of experimentation and analysis with PRP
- Regional Measure 3
 - Approved by voters in 2018, held up in court, resolution in 2022/2023
 - \$300 million in capital funding and \$35 million per year in operational support
- Terminal reconfiguration study
- Decisions regarding service, fares for FY2023

WETA