

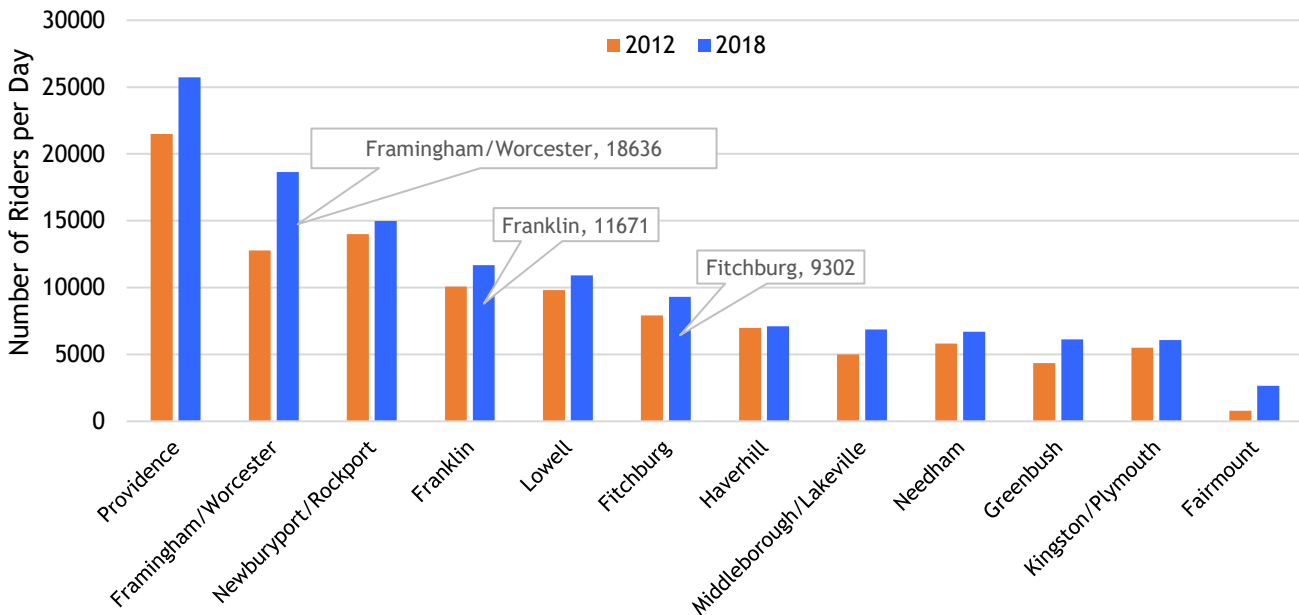


200 FRIBERG PARKWAY, WESTBOROUGH, MA 01581
 PHONE: (774) 760-0495 FAX: (774) 760-0017
WWW.495PARTNERSHIP.ORG

ISSUE BRIEF: Commuter Rail Ridership (2012 - 2018)

The Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS) of the Boston Regional Metropolitan Planning Organization conducted a manual commuter rail passenger counting study in 2018, as it did in 2012. Some of the results of the survey are presented here, and demonstrate how ridership has grown in the 495/MetroWest Region. Information is based on a [presentation](#) to the MBTA Fiscal Management and Control Board in January 2019.¹ The 495/MetroWest region is served by three commuter rail lines: Fitchburg, Framingham/Worcester, and Franklin.²

Commuter Rail Ridership (Daily Average)				
Line	2012	2018	Growth	Percentage
Fitchburg	7,924	9,302	1,378	17.4%
Framingham/Worcester	12,787	18,636	5,849	45.7%
Franklin	10,080	11,671	1,591	15.8%



¹ <https://cdn.mbta.com/sites/default/files/fmcb-meeting-docs/2019/01-january/2019-01-28-fmcb-commuter-rail-ridership-original.pdf>

² <https://www.495partnership.org/assets/495MWSECC/CommutingPatterns/495mwpartnership%20regional%20commuting%20profile.pdf>

Overall Results

Commuter rail ridership grew by 21.2% between 2012 and 2018—from 104,574 to 126,754. The majority of ridership (over 75%) happens during the peak period in the peak direction. Most trips on the commuter rail end at terminal stations during the morning peak period and start at terminal stations during the evening peak period. The MBTA reports that the increase in ridership aligns with the regional population and employment growth, and commuter rail revenue has also increased.¹

Fitchburg Line

- Of north-side lines, the Fitchburg Line experienced the largest real increase and percentage increase for riders.
- Since 2012, two inbound trains and two outbound trains were added to increase service.

Franklin Line

- The Franklin Line is the fourth most heavily-used line in the system.
- Since 2012, three inbound trains and one outbound train were added to increase service.

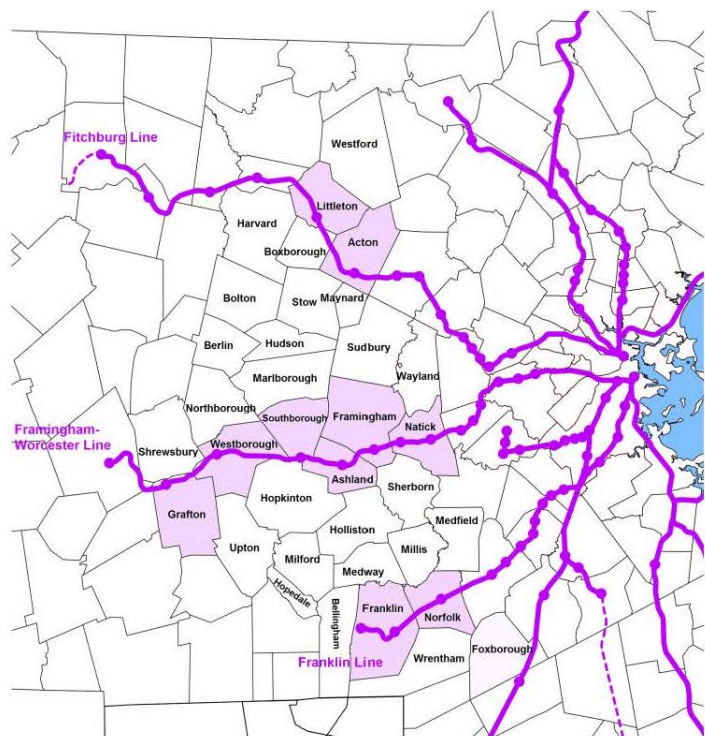
Framingham/Worcester Line

- The Framingham/Worcester Line experienced the largest passenger growth in the system and the second-largest percentage growth.
- It is the second most heavily-used line in the system.
- Since 2012, seven inbound trains and seven outbound trains were added to increase service.

About the Survey

The study is based on manual counts of people boarding and exiting taken at each stop on each train for each line.^{1,3} The results of the study are intended to help the MBTA and Keolis shift the number of coaches in trainsets to provide sufficient seating for expected demand, plan schedule changes for spring 2019, analyze train crew staffing, prioritize investment in parking or other first-mile/last-mile solutions, and procure additional coaches.¹

Map of Commuter Rail Lines and the 495/MetroWest Cities and Towns²



³ <https://www.mass.gov/lists/2018-commuter-rail-counts>