



Pittsburgh Regional Transit

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (June 22, 2023) - Pittsburgh Regional Transit is celebrating a successful holiday weekend, with several major events in downtown Pittsburgh contributing to the highest weekend ridership since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

PRT's light-rail system transported an estimated 85,000 people to and from music superstar Taylor Swift's concerts at Acrisure Stadium on Friday and Saturday nights, nearly four times the average for a Friday and Saturday.

Several Juneteenth-related events in downtown Pittsburgh contributed to even more rides unaccounted for in the estimates.

"We knew there would be a lot of demand for public transit this past weekend, and I'm extremely proud of the way our teams stepped up," said PRT CEO Katharine Kelleman. "In addition to our employees, I want to thank riders for choosing to use public transit. The crowds this weekend, especially with so many young people, give us a lot of hope for the future of our industry."

On Friday, light rail cars made 60 trips in addition to regular service to take an estimated 48,000 fans to and from Swift's sold-out show at Acrisure Stadium. Sixty-two extra trips and regular service took an estimated 37,000 fans to and from her Saturday concert.

PRT ridership has begun to rebound since April 2020, when total ridership averaged less than 52,000 rides per day. Today, bus ridership is up 76% compared to May 2020 and 10% over May 2022. Rail ridership is up 380% compared to May 2020 and 88% over May 2022. Overall, ridership is slowly increasing but remains 40% below pre-pandemic levels.

The weekend's success falls on the heels of the American Public Transportation Association's 2023 Rail Conference held earlier in the week at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in downtown Pittsburgh. More than 1,600 transit professionals from around the country attended the three-day conference.

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