

Improved Saturday service would include operating weekday alignments on all Middletown routes between 8 am and 6 pm (package #3), extending service on key Middletown routes beyond 6 pm until 11 pm (package #4), or operating on all Shoreline routes rather than just the 641 and 642. In Middletown, package #3 would involve a transition from special Saturday route alignments to operating regular weekday alignments on all routes, meaning that Routes 581 Expanded, 582-583, and 584-585 would be discontinued along with the Route 590 Saturday alignment serving Meriden Mall. Instead, all routes would operate on Saturdays using the same alignments as weekdays.

New Sunday service is considered for key routes in both Middletown and the Shoreline area. In Middletown (package #5), Sunday service would operate similar to Saturdays on Routes 581, 584, 585 and 590, but would not be introduced on Routes 582, 583 and 586. In the Shoreline area, Sunday service would be introduced only on Routes 641 and 644. Sunday service in the Shoreline area have a shorter span (9 am to 5 pm) than Middletown service (8 am to 6 pm).

Figure 4 | Service Span Increases Considered

Service Span Package	Routes Affected	Day Type	Service Span Improvement
Middletown Routes			
1	Key Routes (581, 584, 585, 590)	Weekday Evening	Expand weekday evening service to all key routes, operating until 11 PM. Evening service on other routes would continue to operate.
2	All Routes	Weekday Evening	Expand weekday evening service to all Middletown routes, operating until 11 PM.
3	All Routes	Saturday	Saturday service on all Middletown routes from 8 AM to 6 PM
4	Key Routes (581, 584, 585, 590)	Saturday Evening	Saturday evening service on key routes, operating until 11 PM.
5	Key Routes (581, 584, 585, 590)	Sunday	Sunday service on key routes from 8 AM to 6 PM.
Shoreline Routes			
6	Key Routes (641 and 644)	Weekday Evening	Expand weekday service on key routes from 6 AM to 11 PM
7	All Routes (including Old Saybrook XtraMile)	Saturday	Saturday service on all routes from 9 AM to 5 PM. Route 641 would continue to operate 7 AM to 7 PM.
8	Key Routes (641 and 644)	Sunday	Sunday service on key routes from 9 AM to 5 PM.

Potential Changes to Service Frequency/Pulse Changes

Two changes are considered in terms of service frequency.

Adjustments to Weekday Service Frequency in Middletown

Today, all Middletown area routes operate on a 50-minute cycle, meeting or “pulsing” at the downtown passenger terminal at the same time. Operating service every 30 or 60 minutes would provide for more logical “clockface” scheduling, which would be easier for customers to

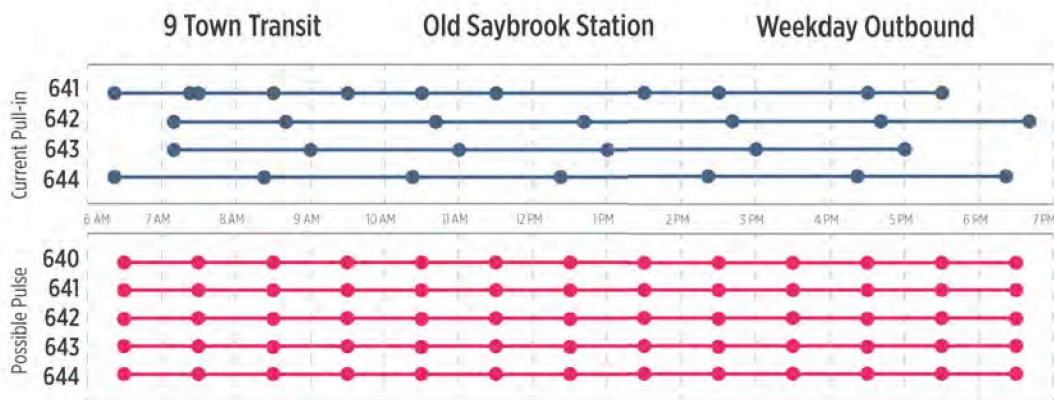
remember. Not all routes have demand for 30-minute service at this time, and some routes have been identified by riders as sometimes running late. For this reason, a switch to 60-minute service in Middletown should be considered as a method to improve overall reliability. Transitioning to a 30-minute frequency would be a large investment requiring more drivers, vehicles, and funding.

Introduce a Shoreline Area Pulse Point at Old Saybrook Train Station

Creating a system pulse point or “hub” in the Shoreline area would make transfers significantly faster and more convenient and would improve service in the southern part of the LCRV region. Realigning Shoreline-area service so that routes meet for a timed connection at Old Saybrook Station would allow passengers to easily transfer to other Shoreline routes, similar to the current pulse at the passenger terminal in Middletown. The presence of a central hub also highlights the visibility and presence of local transit and helps attract new riders to the system.

In order to have an hourly pulse, Shoreline routes meeting at Old Saybrook Station routes need to have complementary cycle times of 60 or 120 minutes. The changes needed to introduce these timed connections are depicted graphically in Figure 5 and include:

Figure 5 | Current Bus Service at Old Saybrook Station Compared to Possible Timed Pulse



- Realign Routes 641, 642, 643, and 644 to follow the new alignments described previously, streamlining service to achieve necessary cycle times.
- Introduce Route 640 to serve local destinations in Old Saybrook, relieving Routes 641 and 642 from serving Stop & Shop and Old Saybrook Center and giving them the ability to meet the timed pulse point at the train station.
- Interline Route 640 with the realigned Route 642 which currently operates every two hours. By adding a second vehicle, both routes would operate on an hourly basis and meet every pulse.
- Deploy three vehicles on Route 641 all day (currently three vehicles are in use only during morning hours). Together with the introduction of Route 640 to serve local Old Saybrook destinations, this will allow Route 641 to operate hourly.

- Add a second vehicle to Routes 643 and 644 to increase their frequency to one-hour frequency to meet every pulse.

These changes would mean that Routes 640, 642, 641, 643, and 644 meet hourly at the station. Riders could make a single timed transfer to reach Old Saybrook Center, other Shoreline destinations, or to make regional connections to Middletown and New London.

Meeting Other System Pulses

Routes 641, 643, and 644 serve regional transfer points in Madison, New London, and Middletown, connecting with CT *transit*, SEAT and MAT services. Transitioning these routes to a 60-minute frequency would allow for *either* 641 and 643 to make timed connections in Madison and New London, *OR* 644 to make a timed connection in Middletown, but not both.

- CT *transit*: Route 201 serves the Scranton Gazebo in Madison, arriving on the hour from New Haven. Route 641 takes 90 minutes to travel between Old Saybrook and Madison, requiring it to leave on the half hour to meet CT *transit*. For example:
 - Route 641: Depart Old Saybrook at 9:30 am, arrive in Madison to connect with CT *transit* Route 201 to New Haven departing at 11:00 am
- Southeast Area Transit (SEAT): SEAT buses currently pulse on the hour at New London's Union Station. Realignment of Route 643 would allow it to pulse with SEAT, as it takes 30 minutes to reach New London from Old Saybrook, but it would require leaving Old Saybrook on the half-hour. For example:
 - Route 643: Depart Old Saybrook at 9:30 am, arrive in New London for 10:00 am SEAT pulse
- Middletown: A 60-minute pulse on the hour is proposed for the Middletown Bus Terminal. Route 644 could pulse with Middletown area routes, as it takes 1 hour to reach Middletown from Old Saybrook, but it would require leaving Old Saybrook on the hour. For example:
 - Route 644: Depart Old Saybrook at 10:00 am, arrive in Middletown for 11:00 am MAT pulse

The LCRV Transit Study Steering Committee recommends that an Old Saybrook pulse occur on the half hour, enabling Shoreline area routes to make timed connections with CT *transit* and SEAT in Madison and New London. Furthermore, due to limited capacity at the Middletown passenger terminal, there is not enough room to accommodate both the 644 and 645 as part of the hourly pulse. With an Old Saybrook pulse occurring on the half hour, Route 644 would arrive in Middletown on the half hour. If Route 645 (which would operate every two hours) also arrived in Middletown on the half hour, it would make it easy for customers to remember that Shoreline routes arrive at the time. It would also mean that 645 would meet the Madison pulse every other hour.