

<b>TOPIC</b>	VRT Update – FY 2021 Ridership
<b>DATE</b>	November 1, 2021
<b>STAFF MEMBER</b>	Alissa Taysom

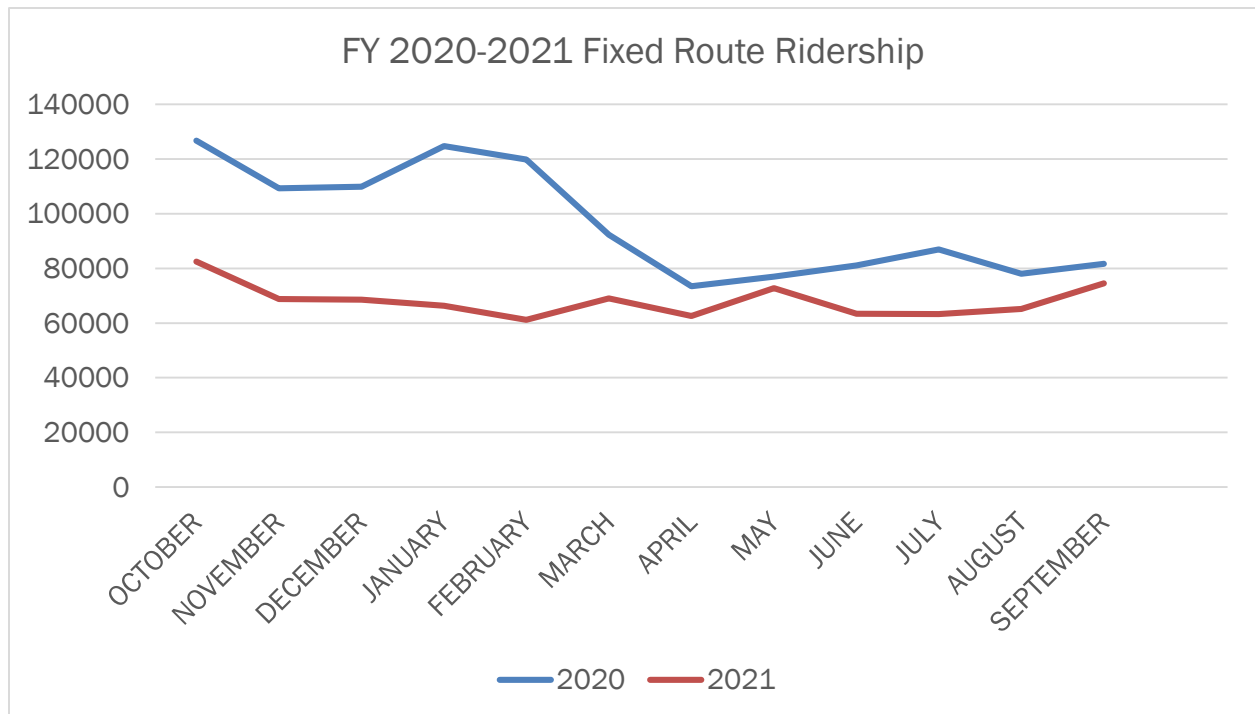
### Highlights

- Launch of the route 30 Pine delayed due to impacts of pandemic on ridership
- Ridership is no longer going down and is trending up
- Routes 40 and 42 had significant growth in September 2021
- 908 Harvest Transit boardings in September 2021
- 14 VA Shuttle boardings in September 2021

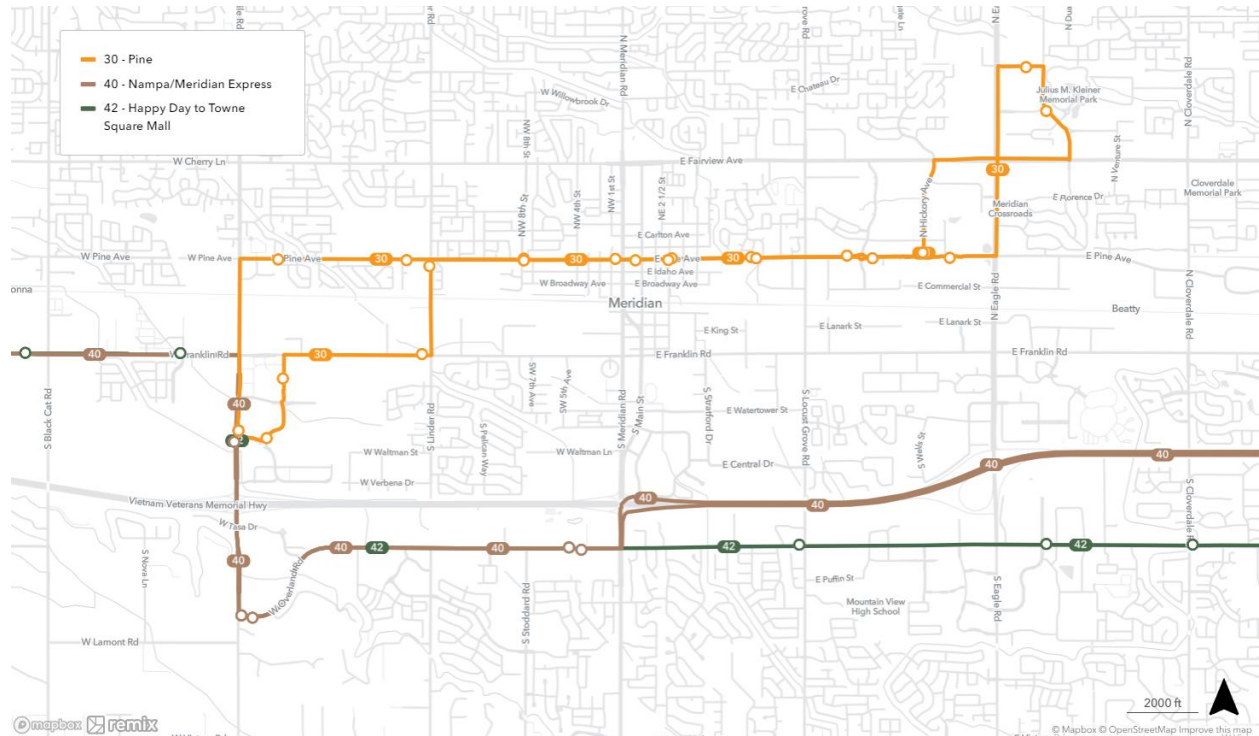
### Summary

The COVID-19 pandemic caused a significant drop in ridership from pre-pandemic levels. Although ridership is still far below pre-pandemic levels, there are signs on recovery. In September 2021, VRT fixed route ridership improved by 14% over the previous month. The intercounty routes that serve Meridian (the 40 and 42) saw even more significant improvement, with 23% growth over August's.

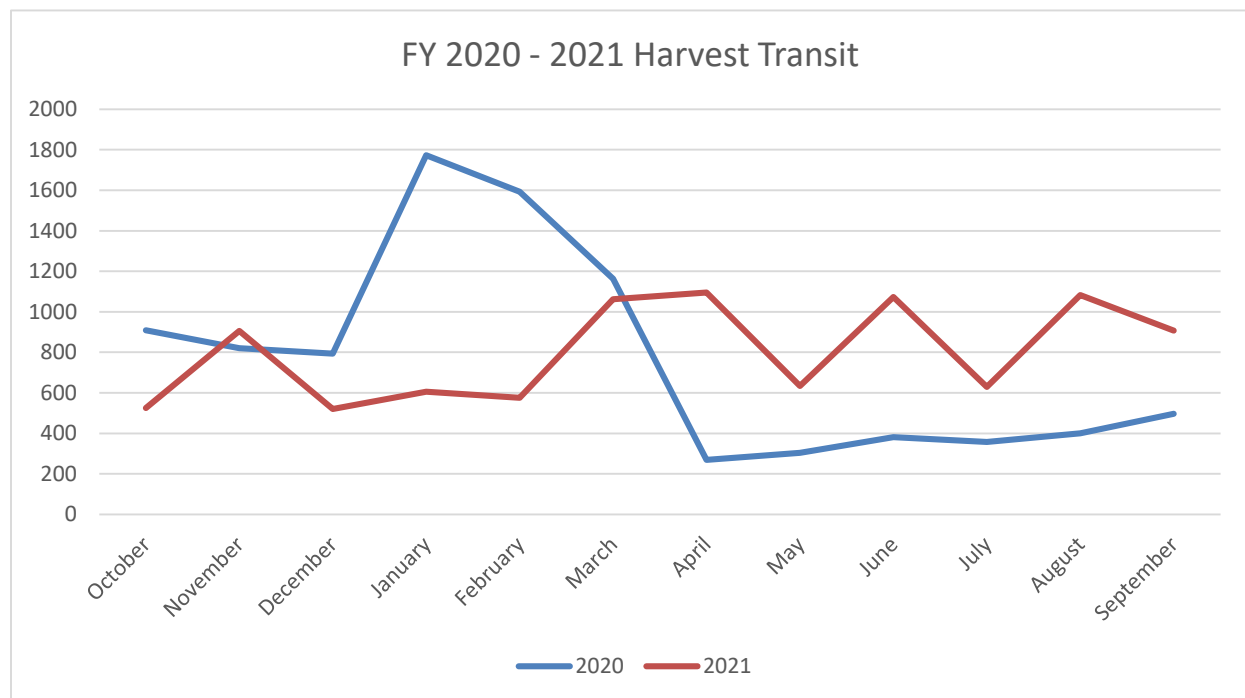
The routes 40 and 42 carried 3,227 passengers in September, and more than 8,300 in the fourth quarter of FY 2021. Approximately 20% of the activity on the routes 40 and 42 occurred in Meridian.



The slow recovery has led to the delay in the start of the Route 30 Pine, however the last few months of growth are encouraging signs, which are being considered as discussion goes forward on when the service will officially start.



In September 2021, Harvest Transit had 908 total riders, a decrease from the month before. However, from FY 2020 to FY 2021, ridership is slowly recovering and has increase over the same month the previous year.



The Meridian VA Shuttle launched in May 2021, and is growing slowly. In May, the VA shuttle had a total of 6 trips, and in September of this year, the total number of trips was 14.

### **More Information**

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