

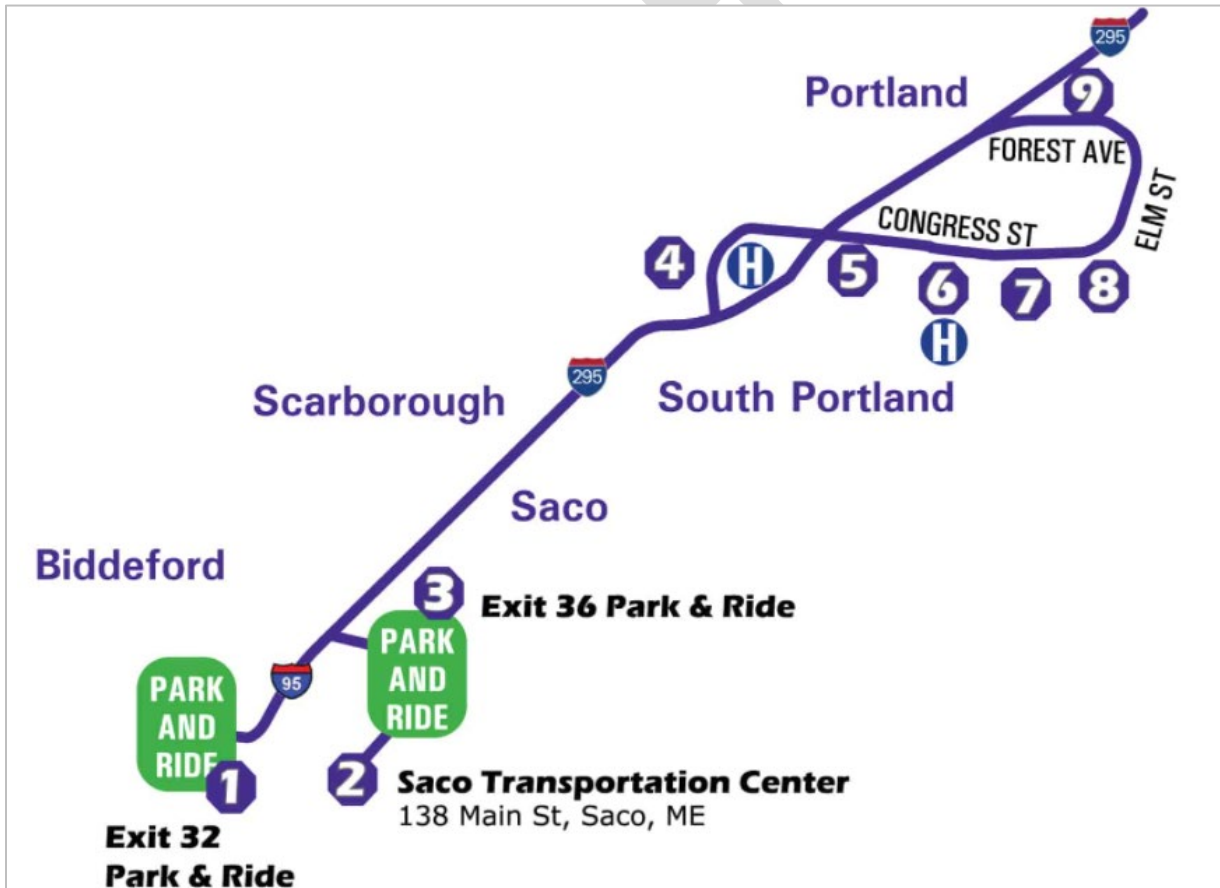
## BIDDEFORD-SACO-OLD ORCHARD BEACH TRANSIT

# 70 PURPLE/ZOOM

## Route Overview

Route 70 Purple/ZOOM is a peak-period express route that provides service between Biddeford, Saco, and Portland.

### Route Map



## Alignment

Route 70 operates with two patterns. The first pattern serves the Exit 32 Park-and-Ride in Biddeford and the Exit 36 Park-and-Ride in Saco. The second serves the Saco Transportation Center and the Exit 36 Park-and-Ride. North of Saco, both patterns operate on I-95 and I-295 to a terminal loop in Portland that operates counterclockwise on Congress Street, Elm Street, and Forest Avenue. Major destinations include downtown Portland and Maine Medical Center.

## Connections

In Portland, transfers to all bus routes that serve Portland (except METRO Route 3, although this route does interline with Route 5) can be made at the PULSE. Transfers to other BSOOB Transit routes, the YCCAC Southern Maine Connector, and the Downeaster can be made at the Saco Transportation Center.

## Schedule

Route 70 provides weekday peak-only service. On both patterns, service is focused on providing AM inbound trips to Portland and PM outbound trips. All trips also operate in the reverse direction, but mostly to get the buses to and from the garage.

To and from Exit 32 in Biddeford, there are three AM inbound trips spaced 75 minutes apart that depart at 6:00 AM, 7:15 AM, and 8:00 AM, and three outbound trips that depart from Monument Square in Portland 70 to 103 minutes apart at 3:35 PM, 4:45 PM, and 6:28 PM.

To and from the Saco Transportation Center, there are two AM inbound trips spaced 70 minutes apart that depart at 6:15 AM and 7:35 AM, and two outbound trips that depart from Monument Square in Portland 88 minutes apart at 4:04 PM and 5:32 PM.

Note that all peak direction trips on both patterns serve the Exit 36 Park-and-Ride, and as a result, there are five AM inbound and five PM outbound trips to this park-and-ride.

### Schedule Summary

	Span of Service	Headways (mins.)	Trips
To/from Exit 32 Park-and-Ride (Biddeford)			
Weekdays	6:00 AM to 9:41 AM 2:45 PM to 7:10 PM	75 70 - 103	3 3
To/from Saco Transportation Center			
Weekdays	6:15 AM to 8:56 AM 3:15 PM to 6:15 PM	70 88	2 2

Note: Span, frequency, and trip counts from February 2022 schedules. Ridership from October 2019 data.

## Ridership and Productivity

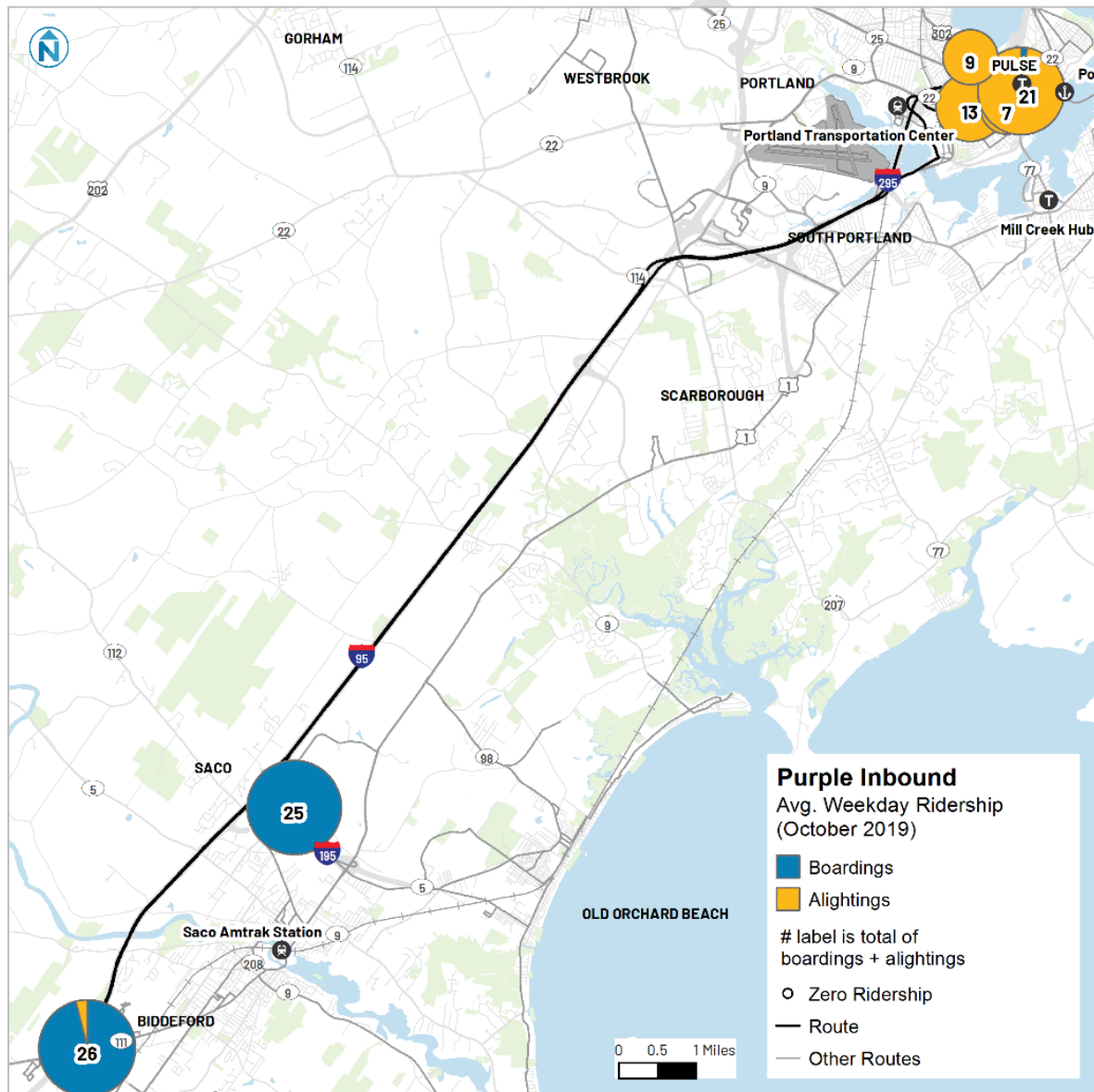
### Ridership and Productivity by Day

In October 2019, Route 70 averaged 106 weekday boardings, which was the second lowest of all BSOOB Transit routes.

## Weekday Ridership by Segment

In October 2019, ridership was equally distributed between the Exit 32 (Biddeford) and Exit 36 (Saco) park-and-rides. Most Portland ridership was to and from the Maine Medical Center area and the Monument Square segment of the route. Fewer riders used the Congress Street at High Street and USM segments of the route.

## Weekday Ridership by Segment Map: Inbound<sup>1</sup>



Note: Due to data limitations, maps do not show every stop.

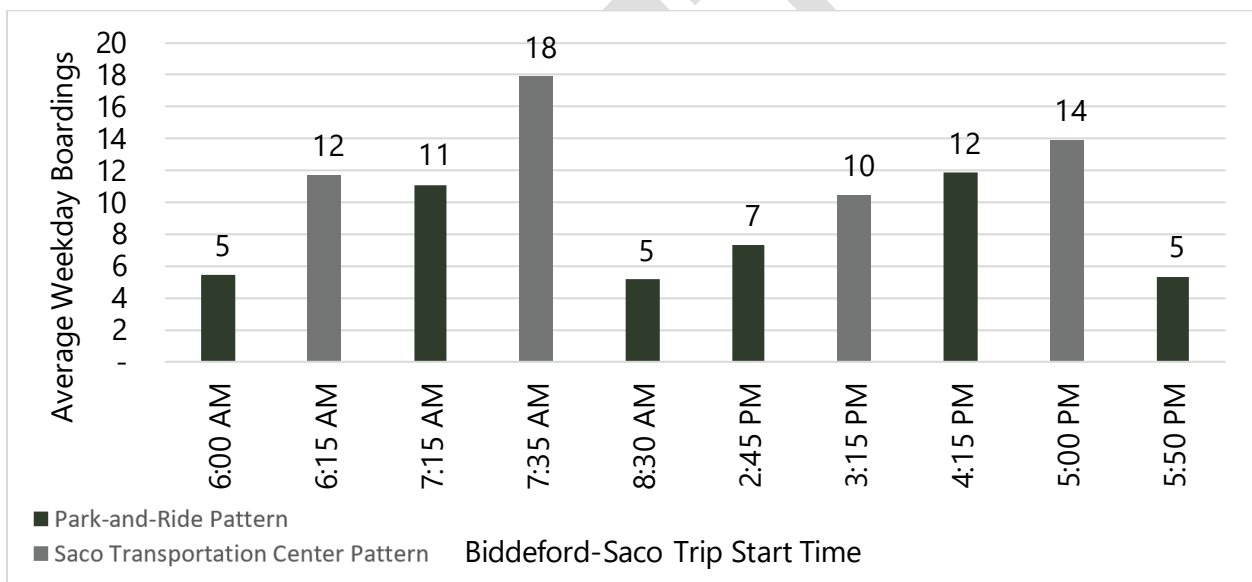
<sup>1</sup> The maps shows ridership by segment, where the size of the bubble indicates the average weekday boardings that occur on the segment of the route near the location of the bubble.

Pass data shows that a high percentage of Route 70 riders are MaineHealth employees, likely commuting to Maine Medical Center. Outbound ridership mirrored inbound ridership.

### Weekday Ridership by Trip

In October 2019, Route 70 averaged 11 passengers per round trip. The first, last, and latest AM round trips had very low ridership. The highest-ridership round trips somewhat matched a nine-to-five AM peak/PM peak commuting pattern, although the 5:50 PM round trip, which departs Monument Square at 6:28 PM, had low ridership. In general, the Saco Transportation Center pattern had higher-ridership than the Exit 32 park-and-ride pattern.

### Weekday Boardings by Trip: (October 2019)<sup>2</sup>



## Overall Service Assessment

### Strengths

- Route 70 provides fast peak-period service between Biddeford, Saco, and Portland.

### Weaknesses

- Ridership is low on select trips.
- Trips to and from the Exit 32 Park-and-Ride in Biddeford are spaced widely apart, which limits passenger flexibility.

<sup>2</sup> All data are for round trips, and the times are departure times from the southern end of the route. Departure times from downtown Portland (Monument Square) are approximately 35 minutes later.

## Opportunities

Opportunities to strengthen Route 70 are listed below. Some suggestions may be contradictory, as there is usually more than one approach to improving a route.

- Operate all service with a single pattern, inbound from the Saco Transportation Center to the Exit 32 Park-and-Ride, to the Exit 36 Park-and-Ride, and then to Portland to provide more consistent service and additional service to and from the Exit 32 Park-and-Ride.
- Operate all service with a single pattern inbound from the Saco Transportation Center to the Exit 36 Park-and-Ride, and then to Portland. This would shorten the route and reduce operating costs but require users of the Exit 32 Park-and-Ride to drive to and from the Exit 36 Park-and-Ride. This may not be feasible if the Exit 32 Park-and-Ride is consistently at capacity.
- Reduce the number of AM and PM round trips from five to four to better reflect ridership levels.
- The Congress Street at High Street stop in downtown Portland is walking distance from both the Congress Street at Bramhall Street and Monument Square stops, and so could be eliminated to increase speed for some riders, with relatively low impact to walking distance for riders that currently use the Congress Street at High Street stop.