

9 Town Transit

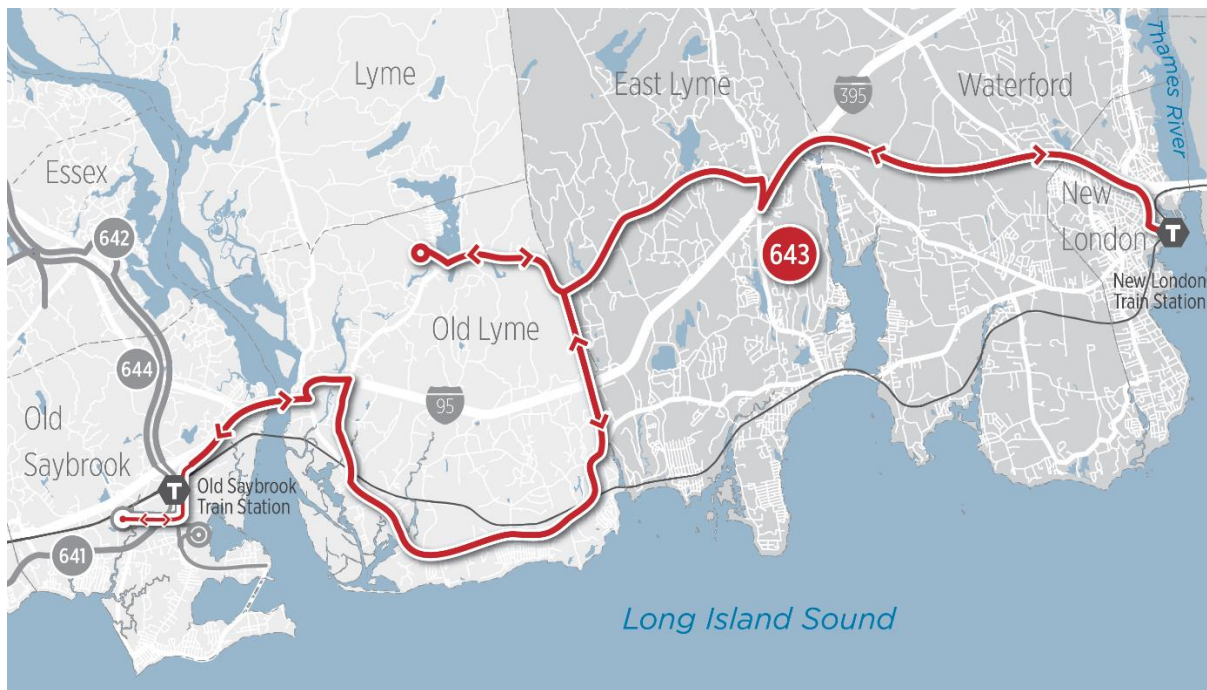
# Route 643

## New London to Old Saybrook via Route 156

### Route Overview

Route 643 (formerly known as the Southeast Route) serves Old Saybrook, Old Lyme, East Lyme, and New London. The route operates primarily along Shore Road and Boston Post Road. The route serves the Old Saybrook Train Station, Old Lyme Marketplace, and New London Train Station. Route 643 is largely bidirectional, however, there is a deviation that serves communities around Rogers Lake in northern Old Lyme.

Figure 1: Route 643 Map



Route 643 operates on weekdays only. Service operates from 7:10 AM until 6:00 PM, with trips running every 120 minutes.

Table 1: Schedule Statistics

Service Day	Span of Service	Frequency (Minutes)	Daily Trips (Eastbound/Westbound)
Monday – Friday	7:10 AM to 6:00 PM	120	6 / 6
Saturday	–	–	–

9 Town Transit, June 2019 Schedule

## Connections to Other Services

Route 643 begins and ends its trips at the Old Saybrook Train Station, where riders can connect to Amtrak and Shore Line East rail services, most other 9 Town Transit routes (except for Route 645), and CT*transit* Route 921 (Hartford Express). In addition, Route 643 riders can also connect to a number of other services from the New London Train Station. In New London, customers can connect to Amtrak and Shoreline East rail services, South East Area Transit (SEAT) service, as well as Greyhound buses. These services connect Route 643 riders to greater New London and Norwich and to points outside of the region (see Table 2).

**Table 2: Service Connections**

Location	Connect To
<b>Old Saybrook Train Station</b>	9 Town Transit Routes: 641, 642, 644 Shore Line East Amtrak CT <i>transit</i> Route 921 (Express)
<b>New London Union Station</b>	SEAT Routes: 1, 2, 3, 12, 13, 14, 15, 108 Shore Line East Amtrak Greyhound

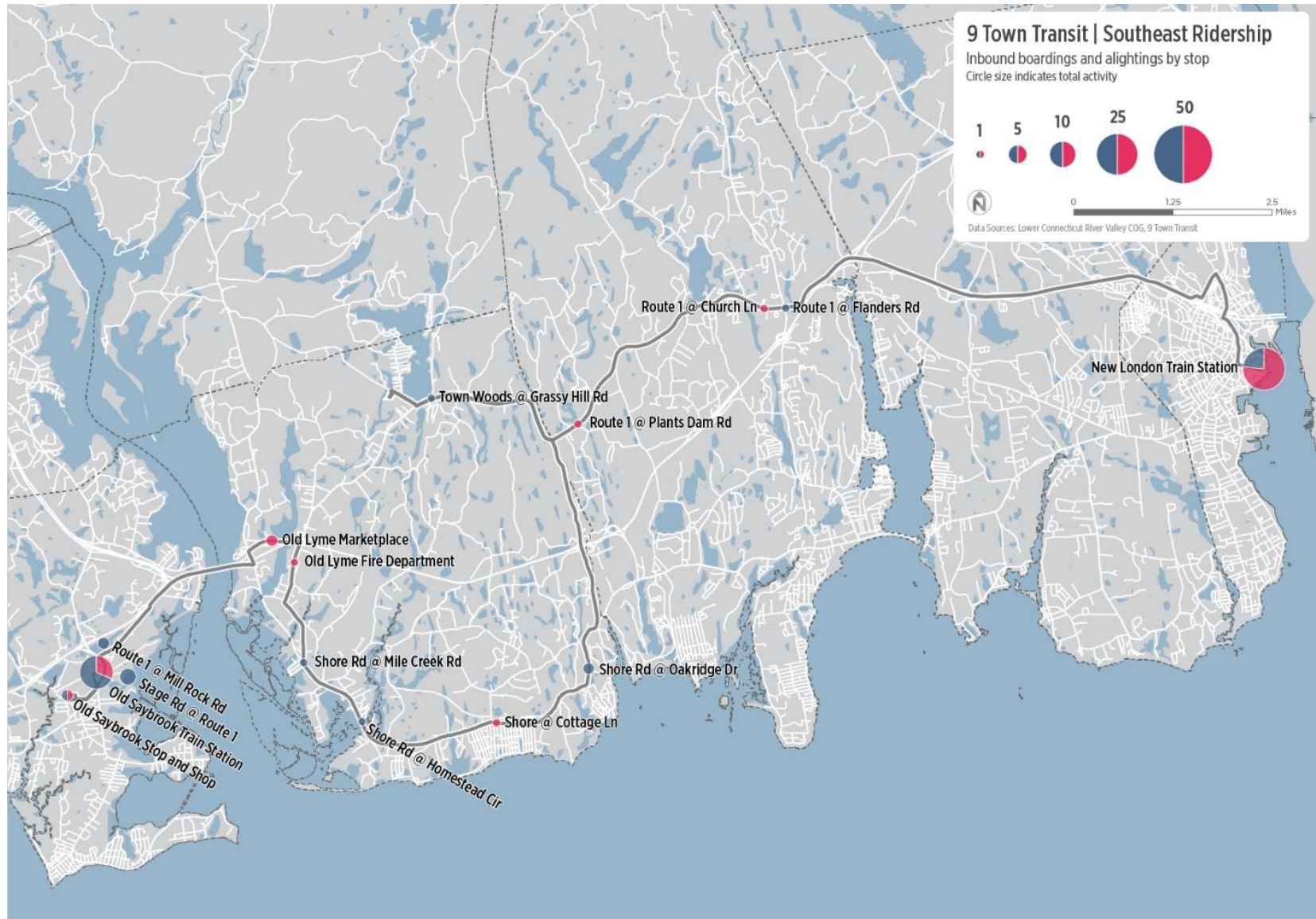
## Ridership by Stop

Route 643's highest ridership stop is at New London Train Station, with 20 daily boardings and 6 daily alightings. Old Saybrook Train Station is the only other stop with moderately high ridership, with 5 daily boardings and 11 daily alightings. All other stops along Route 643 have low ridership. No stop has more than four total boardings and alightings.

## Ridership by Trip

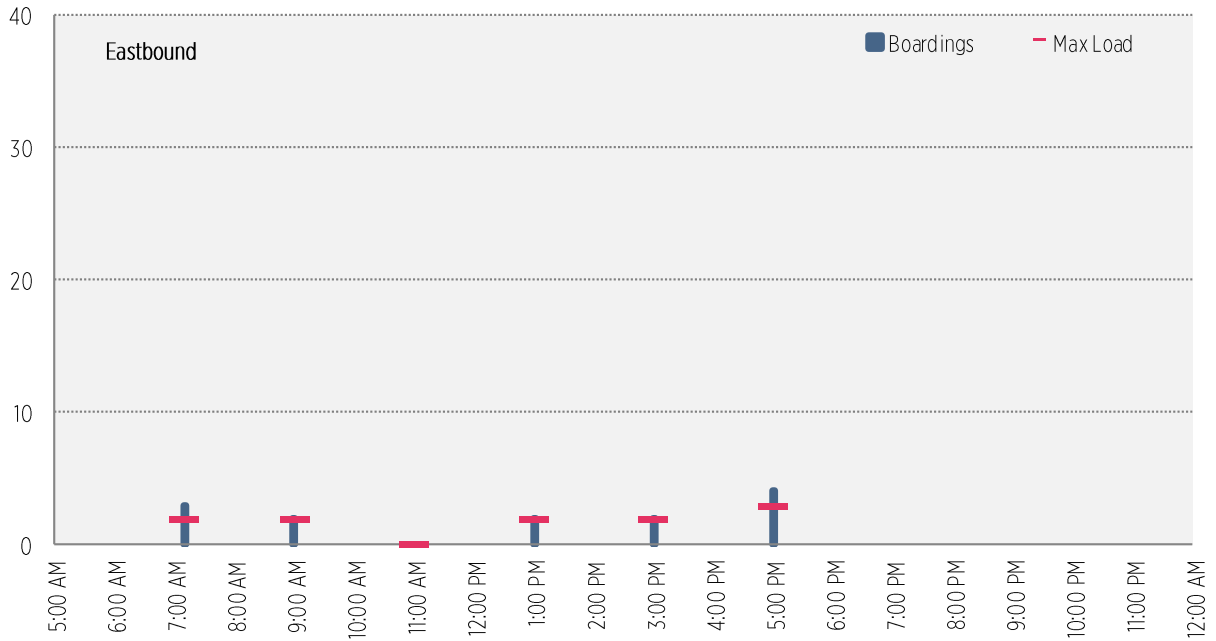
Route 643 ridership is highest on the first morning westbound trip at 8 a.m., with 9 passengers, followed by the next westbound trip at 10 a.m. with 6 passengers. All following trips carry between 1 and 5 passengers. Eastbound ridership is consistently low on all trips, with the highest ridership trip at 5 p.m. carrying just 4 riders. On most trips, boardings align with maximum loads, indicating that there is little rider turnover along the route.

Figure 2: Ridership by Stop



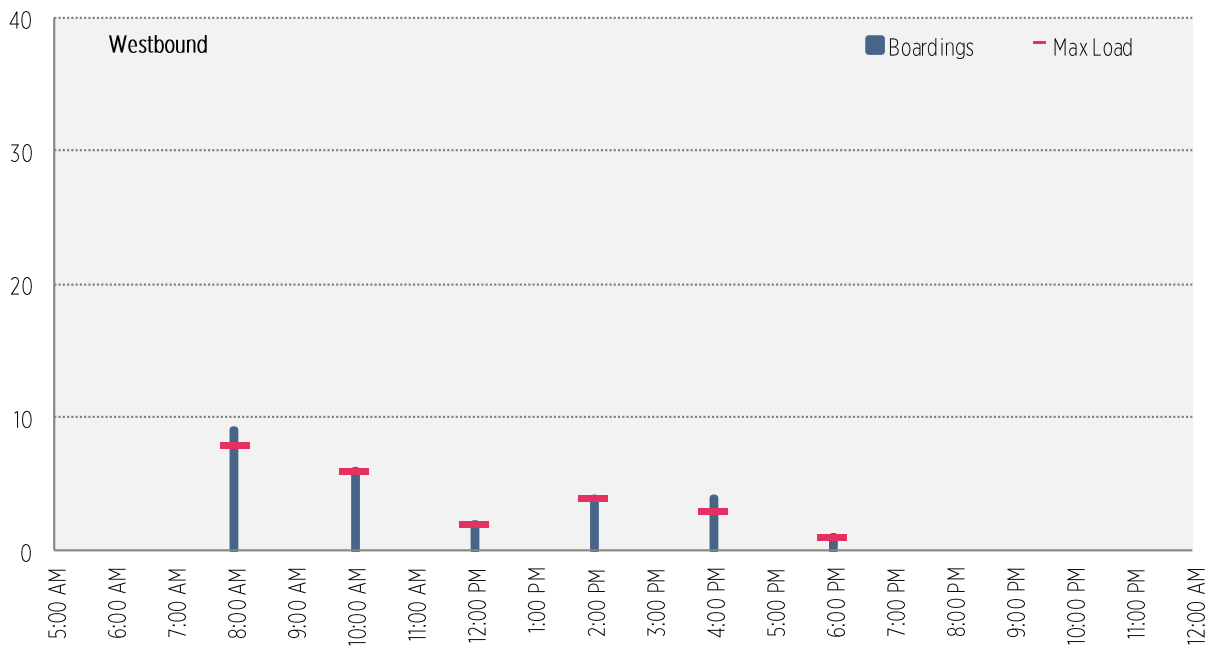
Source: 9 Town Transit, 2017 Route 643 Ridership Data

Figure 3: Ridership by Trip - Eastbound



Source: 9 Town Transit, May 2019 Route 643 trips

Figure 4: Ridership by Trip - Westbound



Source: 9 Town Transit, May 2019 Route 643 trips

## Service Performance

On weekdays, Route 643 carries an average of 32 passengers per day, or 2.9 passengers per revenue hour (see Figure 3). In terms of productivity, Route 643 performs just below the 9 Town Transit averages for riders per revenue hour and riders per trip.

**Table 3: Productivity Statistics**

	Average Weekday Ridership	Riders per Revenue Hour	Riders per Trip
<b>Route 643</b>	32	2.9	2.7
<b>9 Town Transit Average</b>	58	3.0	3.2

9 Town Transit, June 2019

## Service Improvement Opportunities

Opportunities to strengthen Route 643 are listed below and are included for discussion purposes only. Some suggestions may be contradictory, as there is usually more than one approach to improving a route. No specific changes are recommended at this time.

- Discontinue branch serving Rogers Lake/northern Old Lyme.** Deviating from the route's main alignment to serve this branch adds five miles to every trip, but serves only one recorded daily passenger. High ridership at Old Saybrook and New London and low turnover along the route indicates that the core market for Route 643 is providing a direct connection to and from New London. Focusing service on Shore Road and through South Lyme would provide faster and more direct service between Old Saybrook and New London.
- Operate on I-95 between Old Lyme and New London.** Route 643 currently operates on I-95 through Waterford to reach New London. Buses could get on I-95 after serving Old Lyme to provide faster service to and from New London.