

9 Town Transit

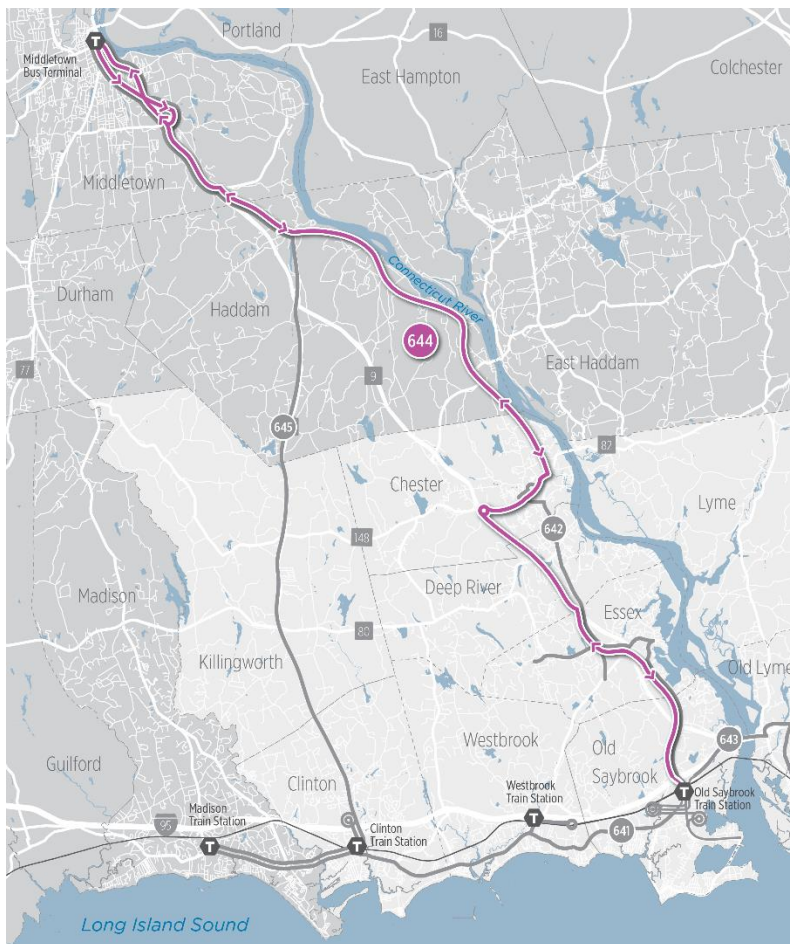
Route 644

Middletown to Old Saybrook via Route 154

Route Overview

Route 644 (formerly known as Route 4 Midshore) serves Old Saybrook, Essex, Deep River, Chester, Haddam, and Middletown. The route operates primarily along Saybrook Road and Route 154, connecting Old Saybrook and Middletown. Route 644 provides service to the Old Saybrook Train Station, Park & Rides in Essex and Chester, Chester and Higganum Centers, Middlesex Community College, and downtown Middletown.

Figure 1: Route 644 Map



Route 644 operates on weekdays only. Service begins at 6:20 a.m. until the last trip of the day beginning at 7:00 p.m., with trips operating every 120 minutes.

Table 1: Schedule Statistics

| Service Day | Span of Service | Frequency (Minutes) | Daily Trips (Northbound/Southbound) |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|--|
| Monday – Friday | 6:20 AM to 7:00 PM | 120 | 7 / 7 |
| Saturday | – | – | – |

9 Town Transit, June 2019 Schedule

Connections to Other Services

Route 644 begins and ends all trips at the Old Saybrook Train Station, where riders can connect to most other 9 Town Transit routes excepting Route 645. In addition, Route 644 riders can also connect to the Shore Line East Rail service at the Train Station, Middletown Area Transit (MAT) Routes A, and 9 Town Transit Route 645 at Middlesex Community College, and all MAT routes at the Middletown Bus Terminal along with 9 Town Transit Route 645 and CTtransit Route 55. Route 644 passengers can connect to CTtransit Route 921 (Hartford Express) at Old Saybrook Train Station and the Essex and Chester Park & Rides (see Table 2).

Table 2: Service Connections

| Location | Connect To |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Old Saybrook Train Station | 9 Town Transit Routes: 641, 642, 643 ShoreLine East Amtrak CTtransit Route 921 (Express) |
| Essex Park & Ride | CTtransit Route 921 (Express) |
| Chester Park & Ride | CTtransit Route 921 (Express) |
| Middlesex Community College | 9 Town Transit Route 645 MAT Route A |
| Middletown Bus Terminal | 9 Town Transit Route 645 MAT: All Routes CTtransit Route 55 |

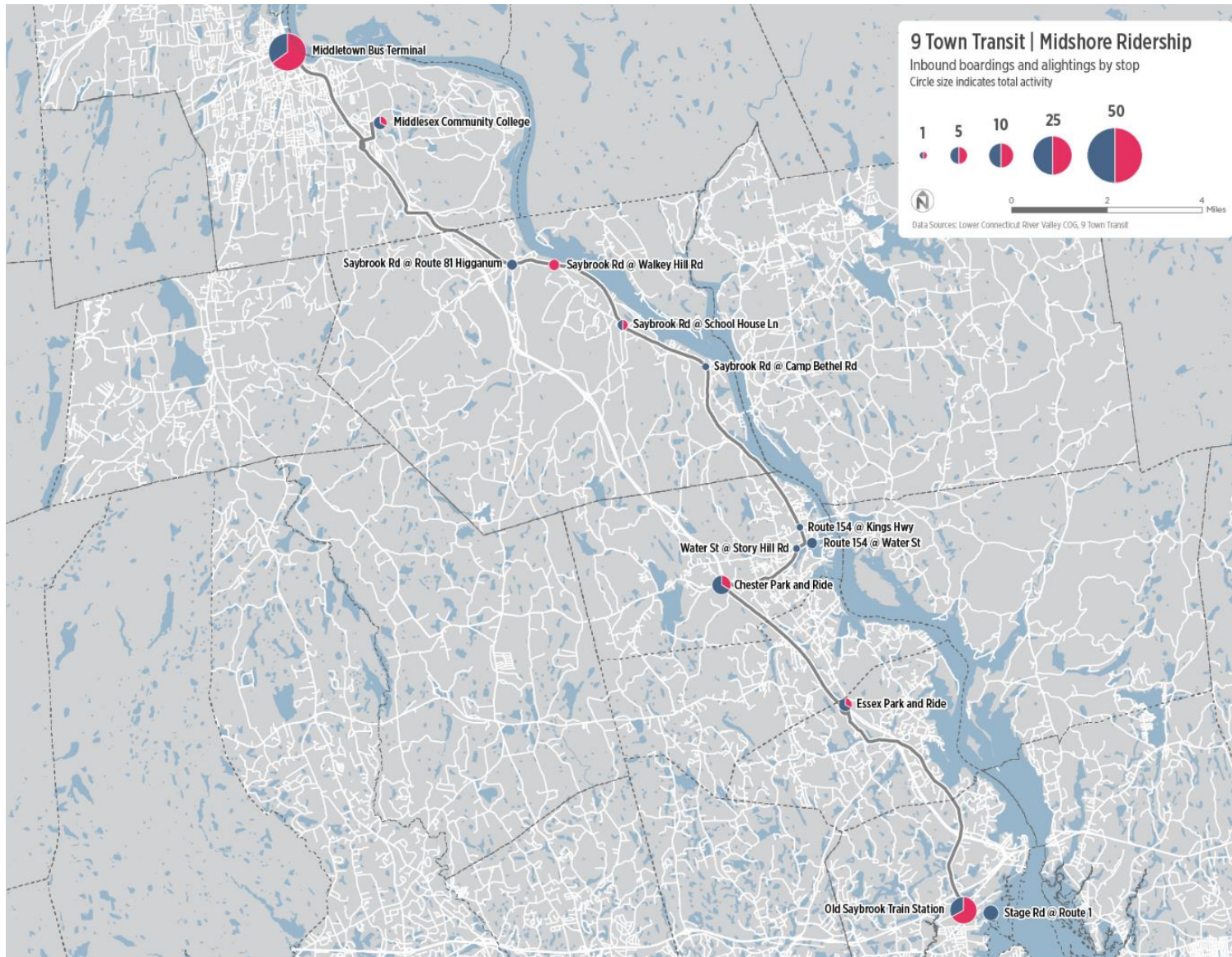
Ridership by Stop

Route 644's highest ridership stop is at Middletown Bus Terminal, with 15 daily boardings and 8 daily alightings. Old Saybrook Train Station, which is served by Shore Line East Rail in addition to other 9 Town Transit routes, has 8 boardings and 4 alightings.

Ridership by Trip

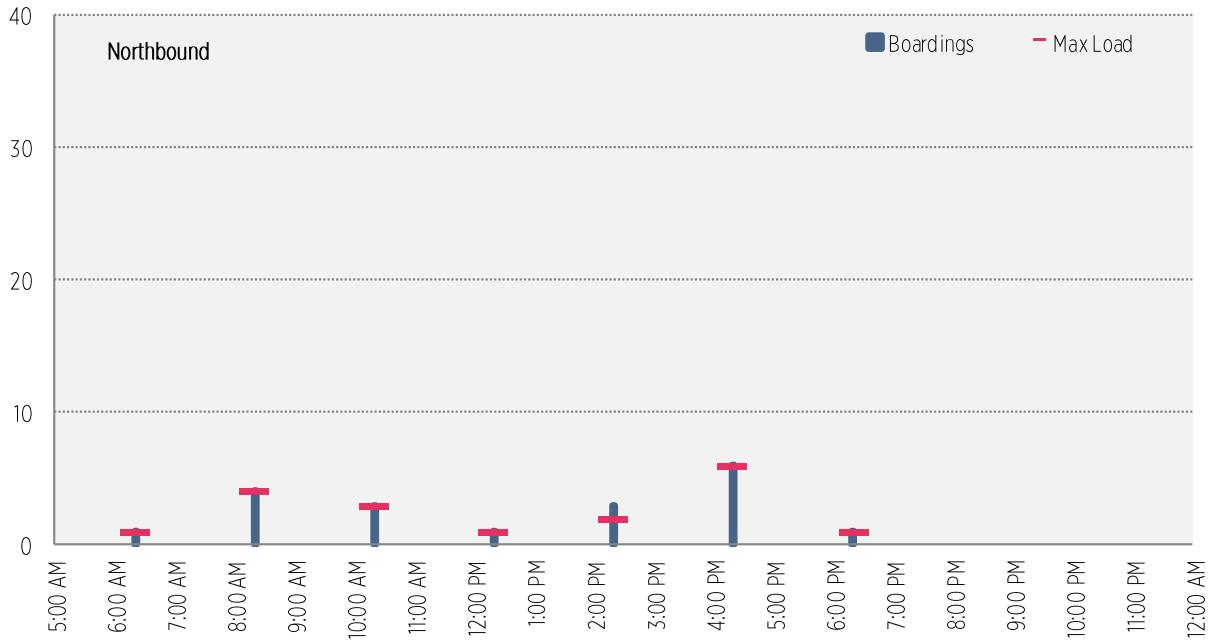
Route 644 trips each carry fewer than 10 boardings. Ridership is highest on the 7:20 a.m. southbound trip and the 4:20 p.m. northbound trip, with 6 boardings each. Ridership is largely uniform throughout the day, with more boardings taking place during the morning and evening, except for the 1:20 PM southbound trip. Due to the low number of boardings each trip, most trips have maximum loads equal to the number of boardings.

Figure 2: Ridership by Stop



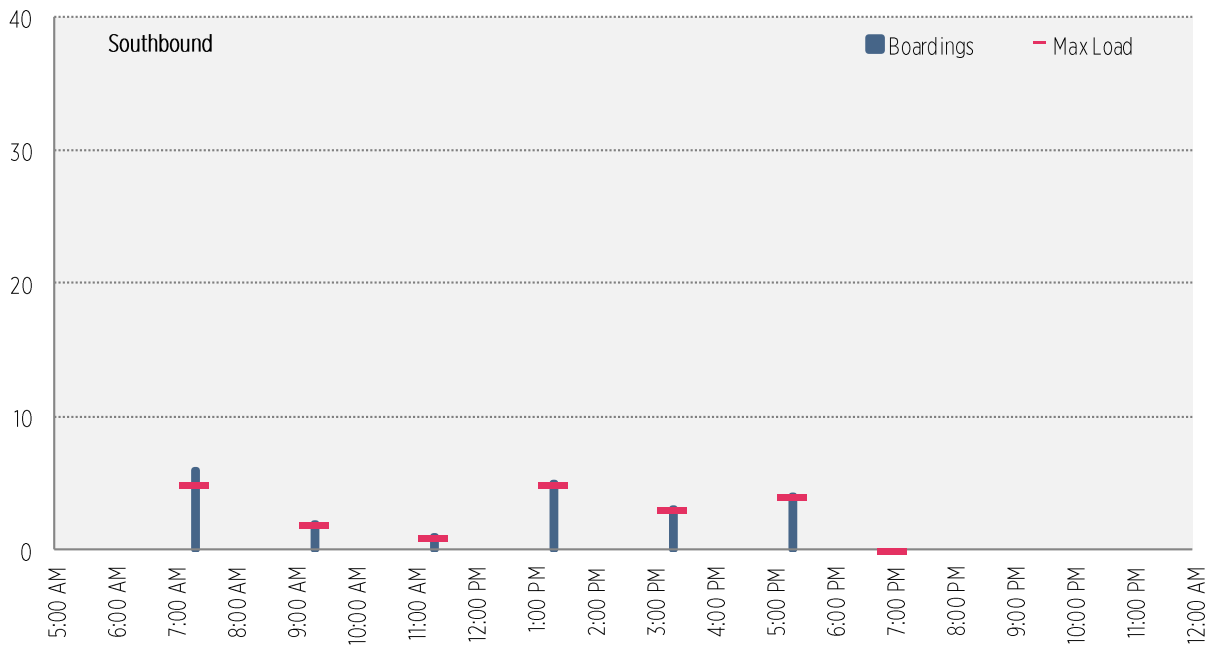
Source: 9 Town Transit, 2017 Route 644 Ridership Data

Figure 3: Ridership by Trip - Northbound



Source: 9 Town Transit, June 2019 Route 644 trips

Figure 4: Ridership by Trip - Southbound



Source: 9 Town Transit, June 2019 Route 644 trips

Service Performance

On weekdays, Route 644 carries an average of 27 passengers per day, or 2.2 passengers per revenue hour (see Table 3). In terms of productivity, Route 644 performs 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 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Route 644 | 27 | 2.2 | 1.9 |
| 9 Town Transit Average | 58 | 3.0 | 3.2 |

9 Town Transit, June 2019

Service Improvement Opportunities

Opportunities to strengthen Route 644 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.

- Operate along Route 9 instead of Route 154.** Route 644 and Route 642 both operate along Route 154 between Old Saybrook and Chester, providing redundant service with limited resources and likely contributing to each route's low ridership. Route 644 provides longer-distance service to Middletown and a number of park-and-rides, and limited-stop service via Route 9 would provide a faster and more direct trip for riders. Route 642 can focus on providing more local-oriented service in Essex, Deep River, and Chester without having ridership split between two routes.
- Coordinate schedule with MAT in Middletown.** In order to make connecting to other bus routes easier, 9 Town Transit and MAT should synchronize schedules so that riders do not have long wait times when transferring. In the morning, shifting the 7:20 a.m. southbound trip to 7:30 a.m. would provide more time for riders on arriving MAT routes to connect to Route 644 toward Old Saybrook. The 5:30 p.m. currently meets the MAT pulse in Middletown.