

9 Town Transit

# Route 645

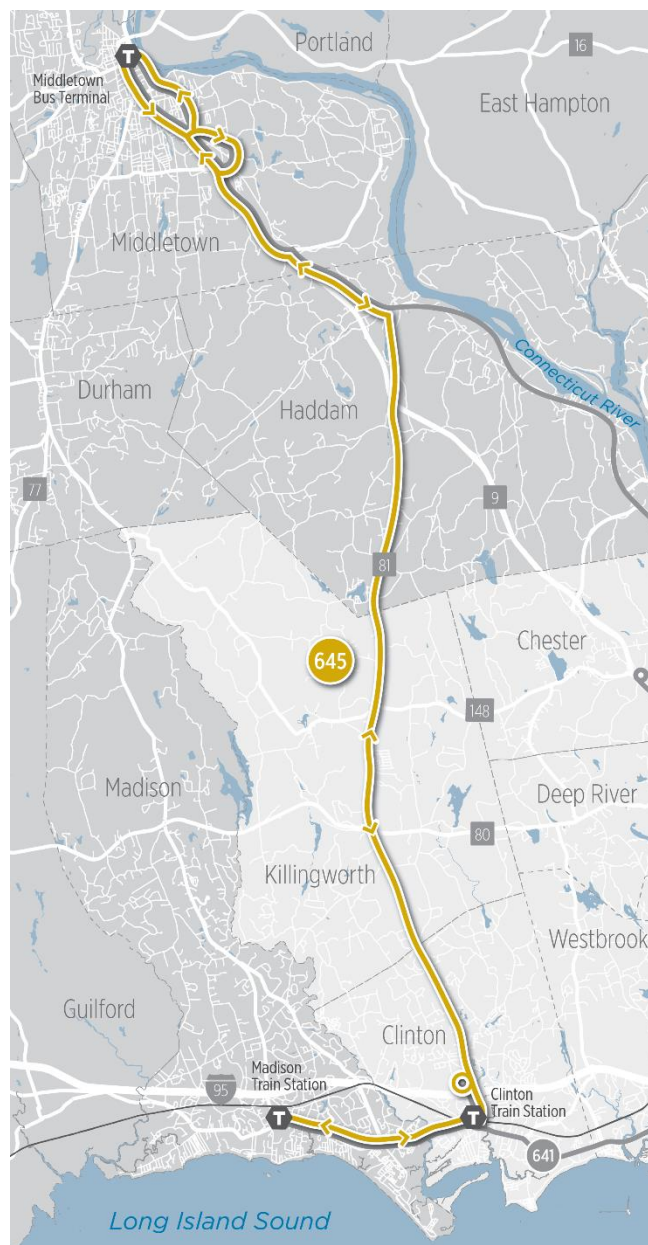
## Madison to Middletown via Route 81

### Route Overview

Route 645 serves Madison, Clinton, Killingworth, Haddam, and Middletown. The route operates primarily along Route 81, connecting Madison and Middletown. The route serves downtown Madison, the Clinton Crossing Mall, Killingworth Village, Middlesex Community College, and downtown Middletown. Route 645 began operation in August 2018 to meet growing interest in serving the Route 81 corridor.

Route 645 operates only on weekdays. Service operates from 6:10 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., with trips operating every 120 minutes (see Table 1). There is one more southbound trip to Madison than northbound to Middletown.

Figure 1: Route 645 Map



**Table 1: Schedule Statistics**

| Service Day     | Span of Service    | Frequency (Minutes) | Daily Trips<br>(Northbound/Southbound) |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|--|
| Monday – Friday | 6:10 AM to 6:00 PM | 120                 | 6 / 7                                  |
| Saturday        | –                  | –                   | –                                      |

9 Town Transit, June 2019 Schedule

## Connections to Other Services

Route 645 begins and ends its trips at the Scranton Gazebo in Madison, where riders can connect to Route 641 and CT*transit* Route 201 to New Haven. In addition, Route 645 riders can connect to Route 644 at Higganum Center and in Middletown. In Middletown, riders can also connect to CT*transit* Route 55 to Hartford, and Middletown Area Transit (MAT) services. At the Clinton Train Station, just east of Madison, riders can transfer to Shore Line East rail service to New Haven or New London. (see Table 2).

**Table 2: Service Connections**

| Location                | Connect To  |
|-------------------------|---|
| Scranton Gazebo         | 9 Town Transit Route 641<br>CT <i>transit</i> Route 201                   |
| Clinton Train Station   | 9 Town Transit Route 641<br>Shore Line East                               |
| Middletown Bus Terminal | 9 Town Transit Route 644<br>MAT: All Routes<br>CT <i>transit</i> Route 55 |

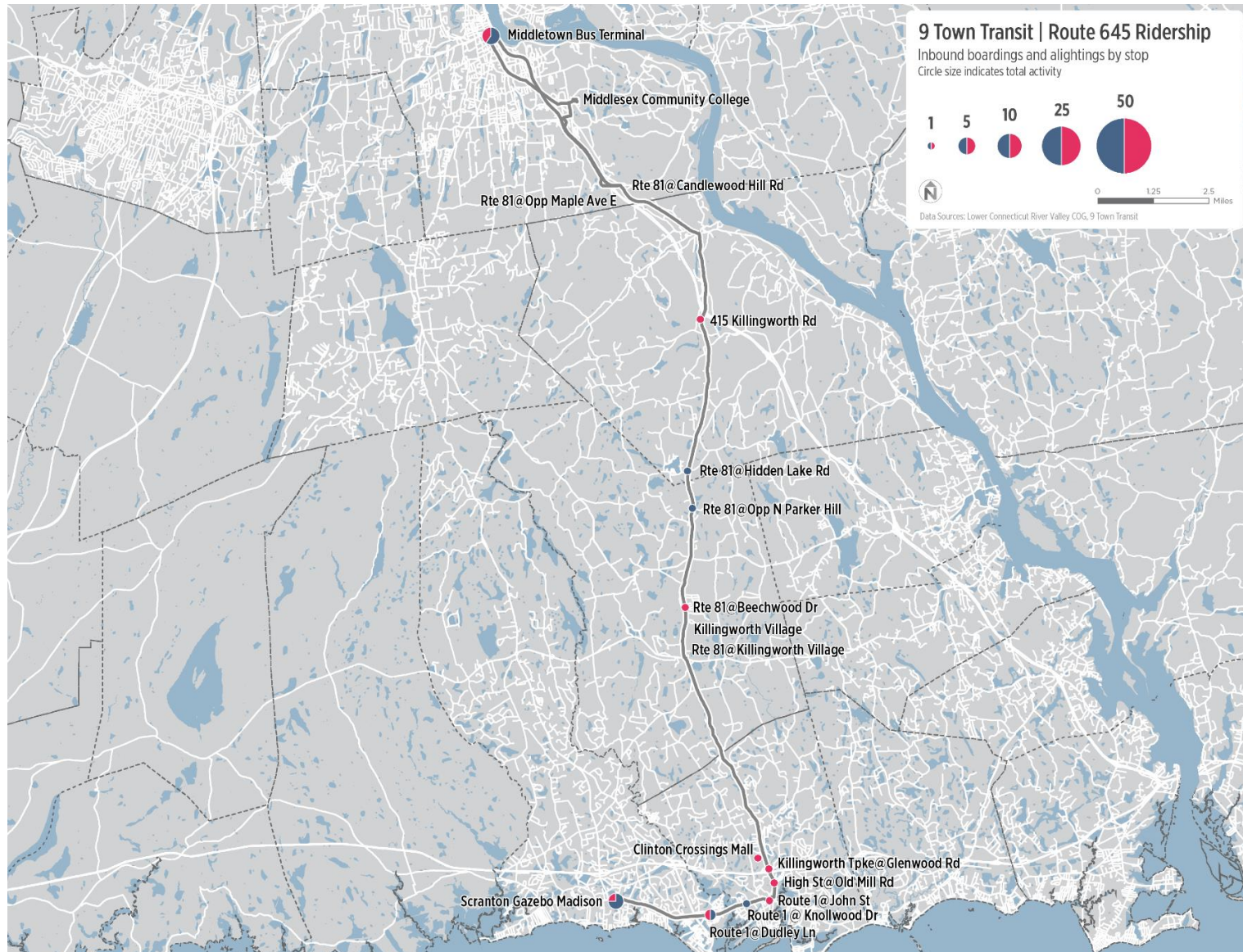
## Ridership by Stop

Route 645 has low overall ridership, and no stop with a high concentration of riders. Its highest ridership stop is Middletown Bus Terminal, with three daily boardings and two daily alightings. Scranton Gazebo in Madison has three daily boardings and one alighting. All other stops have one or no riders per day.

## Ridership by Trip

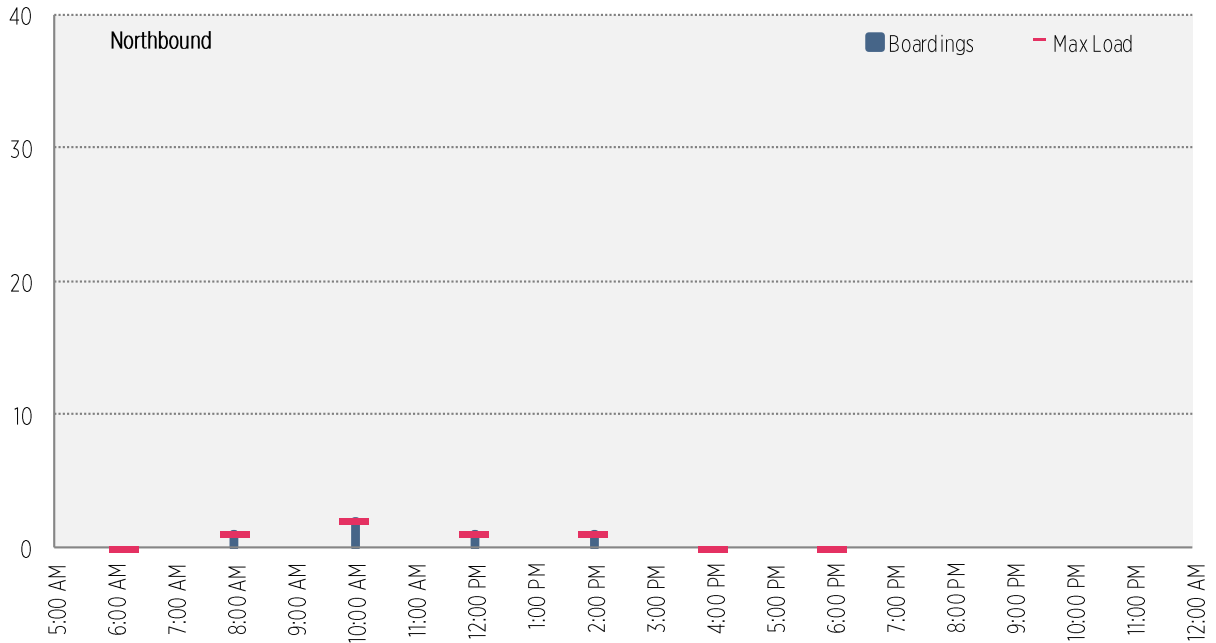
On weekdays, Route 645 ridership is low throughout the day, with a maximum of 2 passengers on the 10 a.m. northbound trip and 5 p.m. southbound trip. Five trips have no recorded passengers.

Figure 2: Ridership by Stop



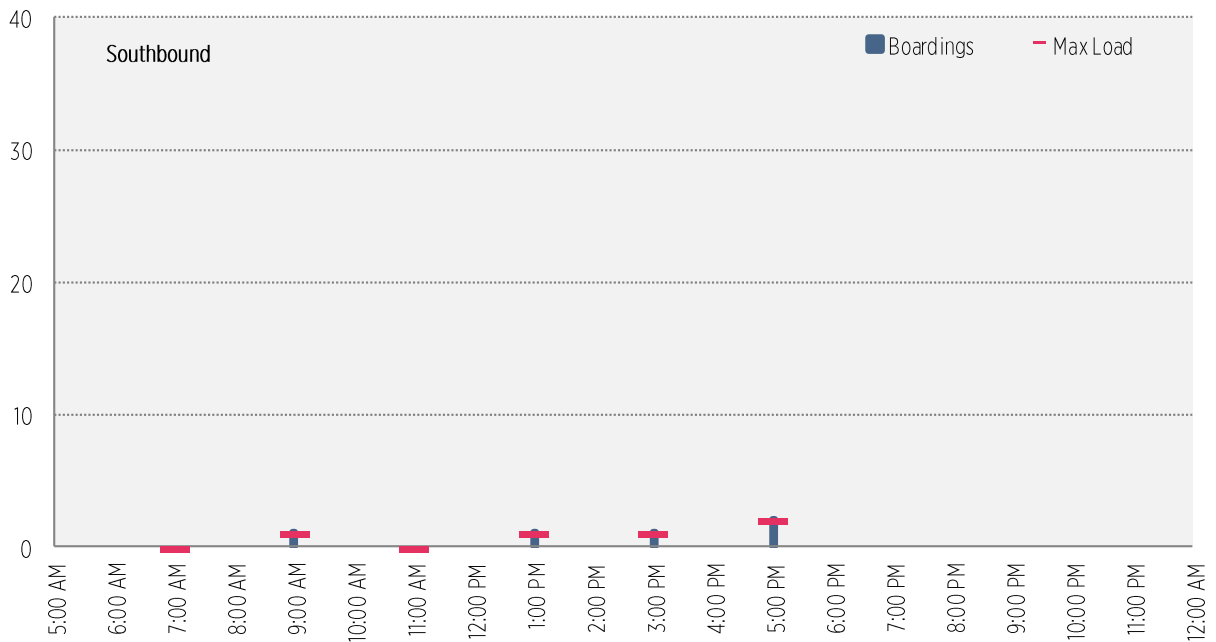
Source: 9 Town Transit, 2019 Route 645 Ridership Data

Figure 3: Ridership by Trip - Northbound



Source: 9 Town Transit, June 2019 Route 645 trips

Figure 4: Ridership by Trip - Southbound



Source: 9 Town Transit, June 2019 Route 645 trips



## Service Performance

On weekdays, Route 645 carries an average of 12 passengers per day, or one passenger per revenue hour (see Figure 3). In terms of productivity, Route 645 performs well 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 645</b>              | 12                        | 1.0                     | 0.9             |
| <b>9 Town Transit Average</b> | 58                        | 3.0                     | 3.2             |

9 Town Transit, June 2019

## Service Improvement Opportunities

Opportunities to strengthen Route 645 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 route between Middletown and Clinton Train Station.** Route 645 is one of the longer routes in the 9 Town Transit system. Discontinuing service between the Scranton Gazebo in Madison and Clinton Train Station would provide more time for drivers to meet the tight time points on this route, especially in the event of off-route pickups within the  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile request zone. Terminating at Post Office Square/Clinton Transit Station would provide an opportunity for riders to transfer to Route 641, which already serves Scranton Gazebo.
- **Add an additional southbound trip at the end of the day.** Most MAT weekday services end just before 7 p.m. A final southbound trip at this time would serve MAT riders who need to connect with service back towards Madison.
- **Continue to evaluate Route 645's performance.** Route 645 began operation in August 2018, and currently ranks last among 9 Town Transit routes in terms of ridership and productivity. Ongoing evaluation of the route as the service becomes more established will inform whether the route should be significantly redesigned or discontinued.