



COVID-19 Travel Monitoring Snapshot

An Analysis of Monthly Traffic and Enplanement Data, Pre-Pandemic - July 2021

Published: September 2021

These charts were developed to illustrate how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting travel in the Metropolitan Washington Region. The charts were prepared by COG/TPB staff using Continuous Count Station (CCS) data collected by the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia as well as enplanement data provided by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) and BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport. The intention is to update these charts on a regular basis as data become available.

The first set of charts display the traffic observed at CCS in the TPB Modeled Region during the COVID-19 outbreak. The analysis is further broken down by the jurisdictional groupings of the Core, Inner, and Outer Rings. A map showing the location of each station is provided for each jurisdictional grouping. The analysis is limited to the CCS that were operating and producing reliable data in both 2020/2021 and 2019.

MONTHLY AVERAGE PERCENT CHANGE

The bar charts show the average percent change in traffic volumes compared to the equivalent pre-pandemic month beginning in March of 2020. The percent change is calculated for each station and those are averaged for the TPB Region and each of the Core, Inner, and Outer Rings.

MONTHLY AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC

The Monthly Average Daily Traffic charts show average weekday traffic volumes using lines and average daily traffic on weekends using columns. Current traffic is displayed in purple and pre-pandemic traffic for the corresponding months is shown in green. Total daily traffic volumes are calculated for each station and the results are averaged by month for the TPB Region and each of the Core, Inner, and Outer Rings.

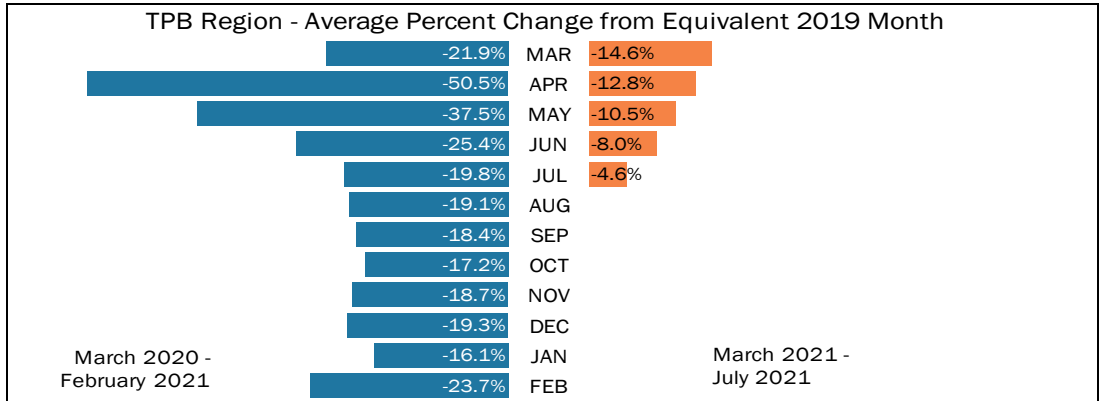
AVERAGE HOURLY TRAFFIC

The average hourly traffic charts show weekday hourly traffic volume trends for two-month groupings of the most recent 2021 data compared with the latest equivalent 2019 monthly grouping. The 2019 data are shown in gray, the beginning months of the pandemic are shown using a dashed gold line, and the most recent months are shown in the darkest gradient of gold. The average weekday hourly volume by two-month group is calculated for each station and these are averaged for the TPB Region and each of the Core, Inner, and Outer Rings.

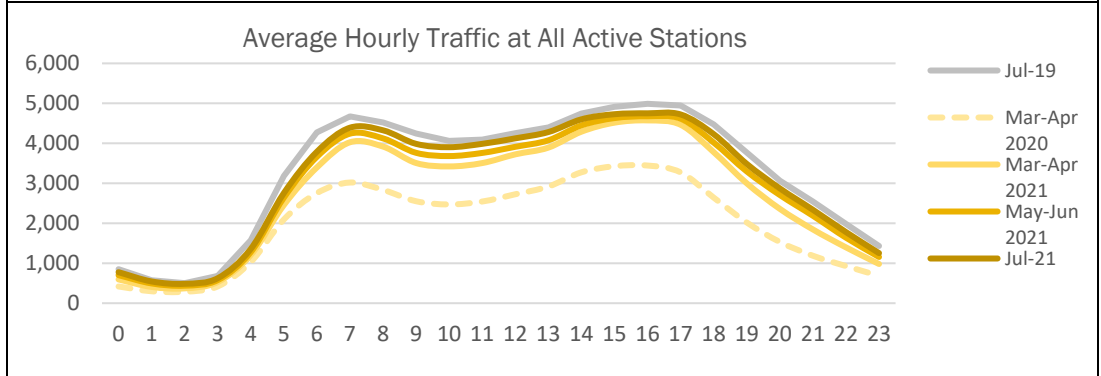
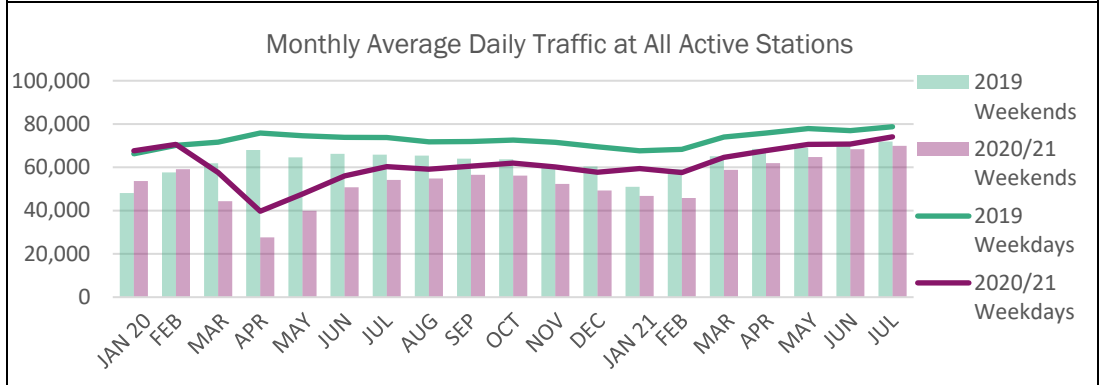
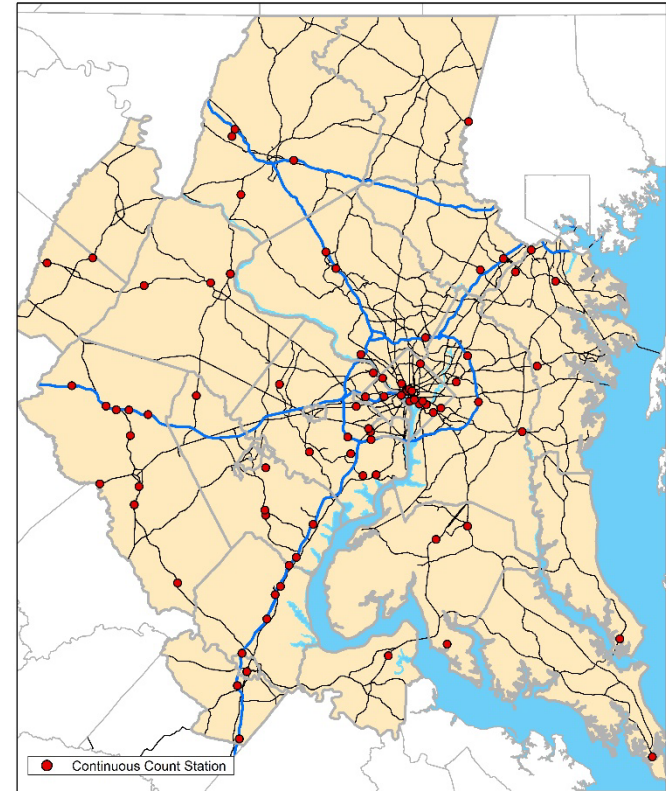
MONTHLY ENPLANEMENT DATA

The monthly enplanement charts show the total number of enplanements at each of the Washington/Baltimore area major airports including Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA), Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD), and Baltimore Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI). Total monthly enplanements are shown in gray for each month of 2019, in orange for each month of 2020, and in blue for 2021.

Comparison of Traffic at all Continuous Count Stations in the TPB Modeled Region



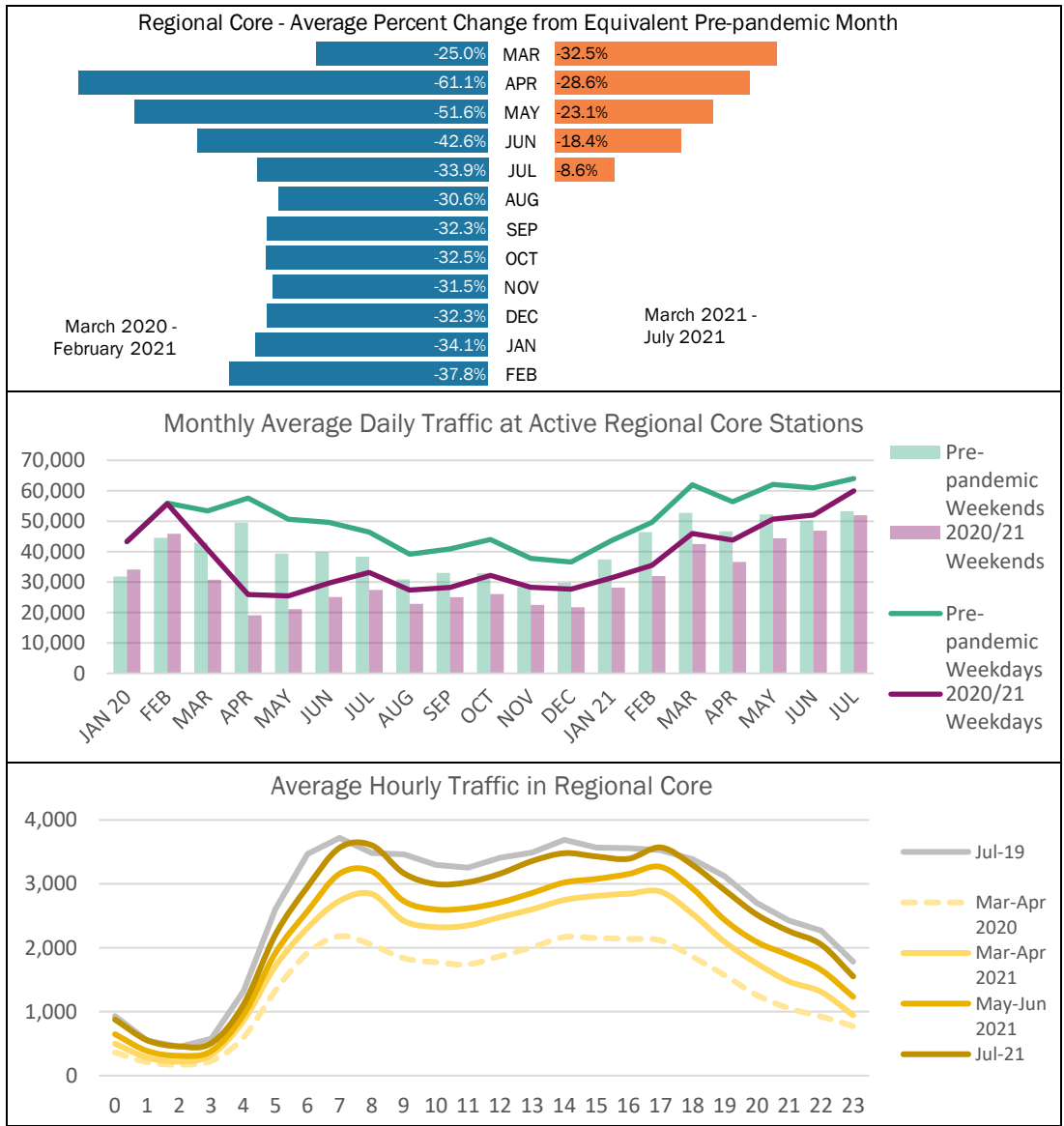
2020/21 Active Continuous Count Stations in the TPB Modeled Region



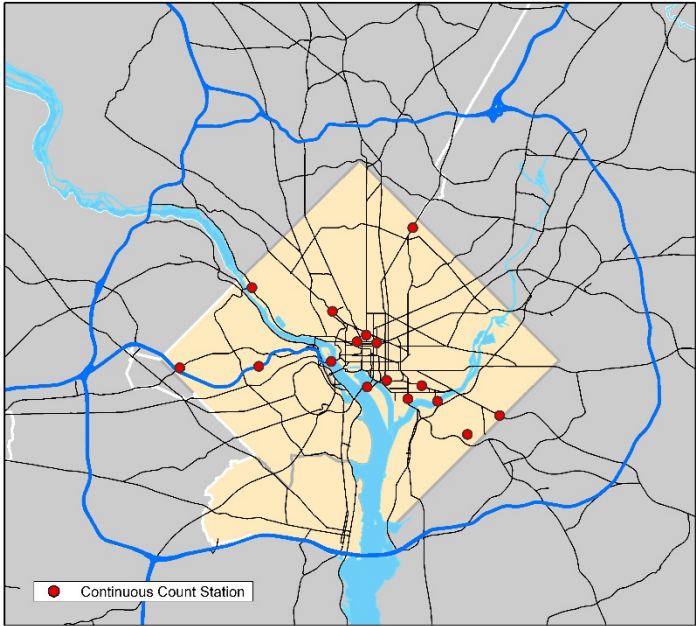
Regional traffic volumes had recovered to over 80 percent of 2019 volumes by July 2020 and had remained fairly steady through December. In February 2021, traffic levels decreased as compared to their pre-pandemic levels but have since been steadily rebounding to over 95 percent of 2019 levels in July.

Hourly traffic volumes region-wide are once again showing clear AM and PM peaks, with hourly traffic levels edging closer to 2019 levels.

Comparison of Traffic in the Core Jurisdictions of the TPB Modeled Region



2020/21 Active Continuous Count Stations in the Regional Core Jurisdictions of the TPB Modeled Region

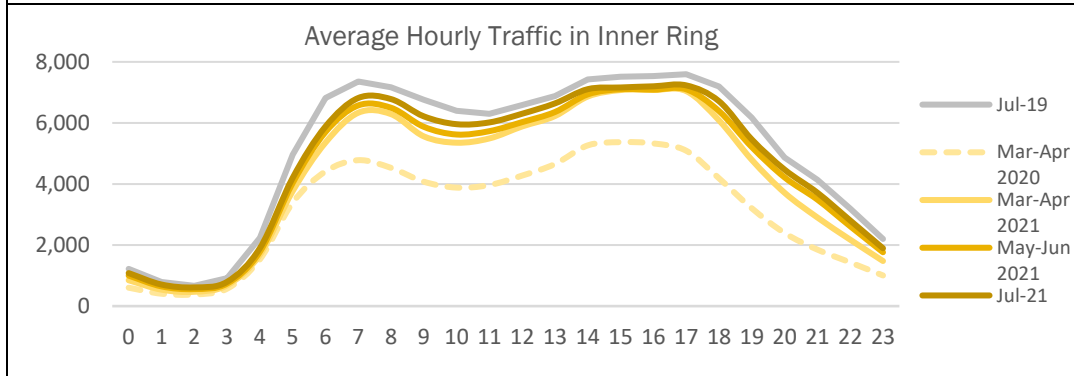
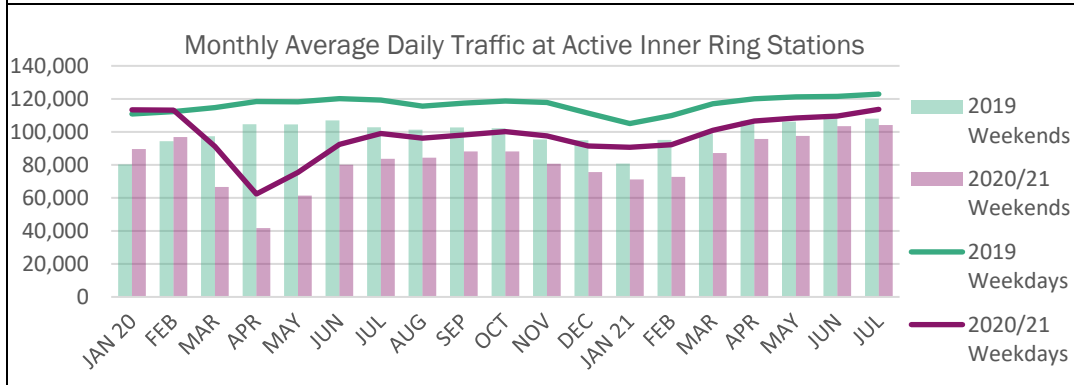
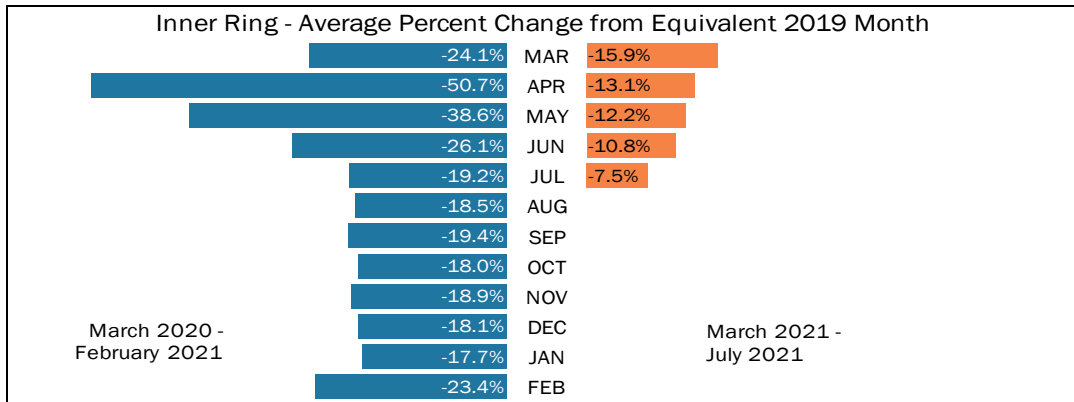


Traffic in the Regional Core decreased more than that of the region as a whole, reaching a low of over 60 percent less than 2019 levels in April 2020. Regional Core traffic continues to experience a slower recovery than the region overall, but it saw notable increases during the summer months. By June 2021, traffic had recovered to over 80 percent of 2019 levels and in July 2021, traffic levels were over 90 percent of 2019 levels in the regional core.

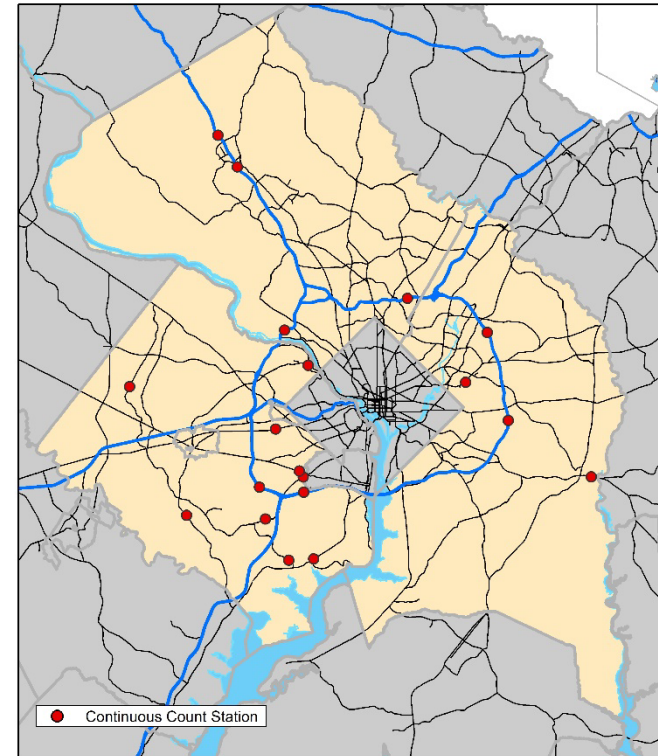
Hourly weekday traffic levels which had been relatively flat throughout much of the pandemic, are beginning to show patterns which are similar to 2019.

Please note: Due to data availability issues, traffic in January and February 2021 was compared with the pre-pandemic months of January and February 2020 rather than January and February 2019 in the Regional Core only.

Comparison Traffic in the Inner Jurisdictions of the TPB Modeled Region



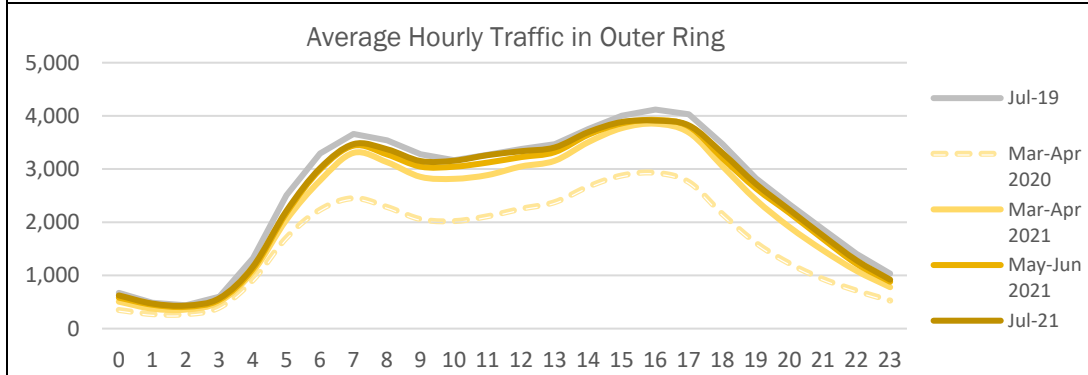
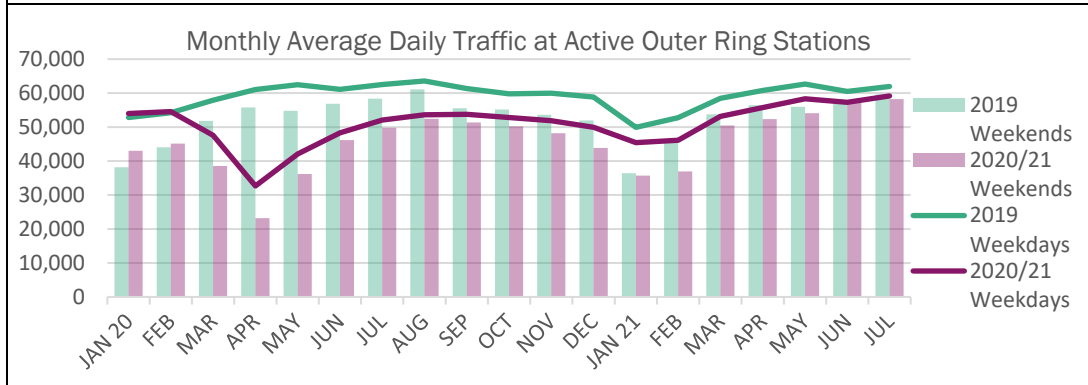
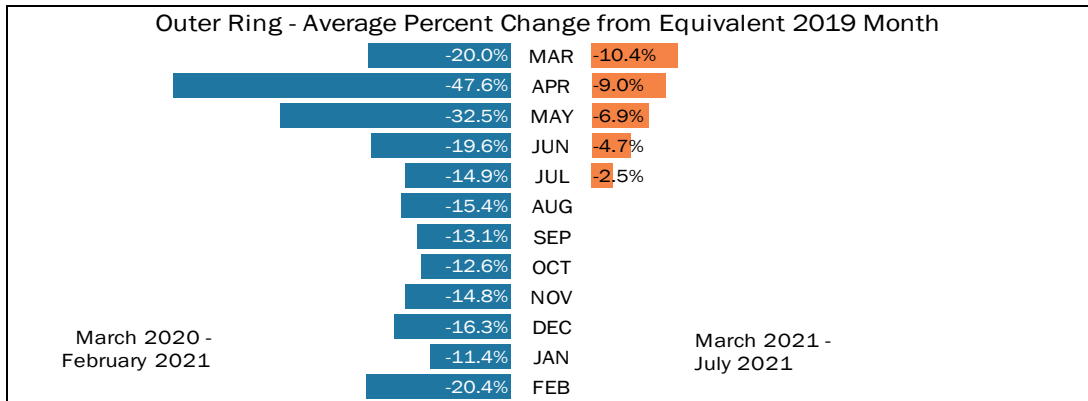
2020/21 Active Continuous Count Stations in the Inner Ring Jurisdictions of the TPB Modeled Region



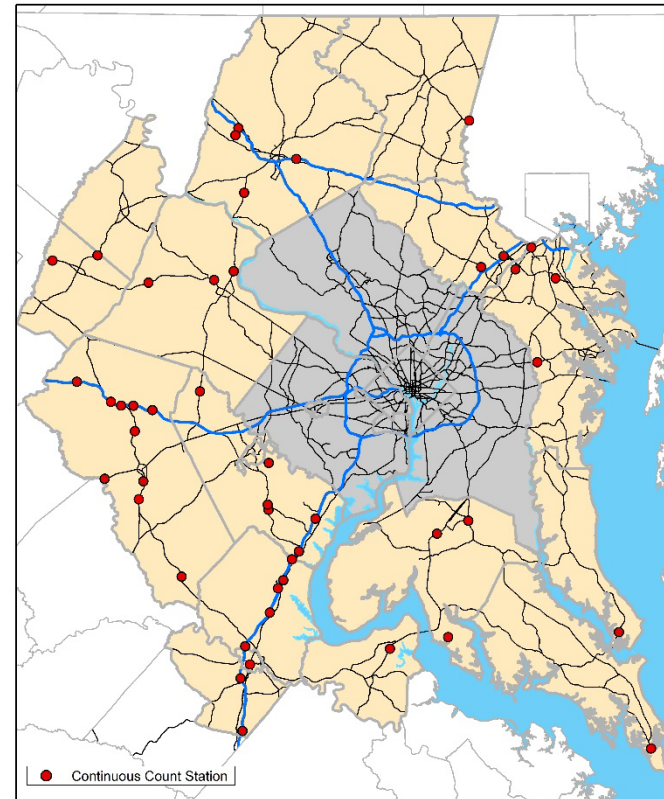
Traffic in the inner suburbs had been fairly steady for several months at about 80 percent of 2019 levels beginning in July of 2020. Similar to the region as a whole, traffic decreased in February 2021 as compared with 2019, but by July 2021 had rebounded to over 90 percent of 2019 levels.

Weekday traffic is once again showing clear AM and PM peaks in the inner suburbs, although the hourly traffic levels are still lower than those of 2019.

Comparison of Traffic in Outer Jurisdictions of the TPB Modeled Region



2020/21 Active Continuous Count Stations in the Outer Jurisdictions of the TPB Modeled Region



In the outer ring within the TPB Modeled Area, traffic volumes have experienced a notable recovery. The July 2021 traffic levels had rebounded to 97 percent of the July 2019 levels.

Weekend traffic in the outer suburbs registered levels similar to those of 2019 in the spring and summer months.

The weekday hourly traffic in the outer ring is showing similar patterns to 2019 and levels close to 2019.

Monthly Enplanements at Washington/Baltimore Area Airports

Air travel decreased precipitously at the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak. Enplanements at Washington/Baltimore area regional airports in April 2020 were only four percent of those during April of 2019.

Regional air travel made a notable recovery in the summer months. The June 2021 enplanements were 64 percent of June 2019 levels and July 2021 enplanements at DCA and IAD were 70 percent of 2019 levels.

