

## Puget Sound region has fastest-growing transit ridership in U.S.

Transit boardings in the central Puget Sound region have grown faster than any other large metropolitan area in the United States since 2005. In all, transit boardings have been growing at 3.6% per year since 2005 in the region. The next fastest growing area is Tampa-St. Petersburg at around 3.1%.

Puget Sound's annual transit growth is three times faster than the Portland Metro region. Puget Sound's total boardings in 2015 were the 8th highest out of the following 20 metropolitan areas.

### Annual transit growth

METRO AREA	2014 METRO AREA POPULATION	2015 ANNUAL BOARDINGS	2005 – 2015 ANNUAL GROWTH IN TRANSIT BOARDINGS
<b>Central Puget Sound Region</b>	<b>3,671,478</b>	<b>185 million</b>	<b>3.6%</b>
Tampa-St. Petersburg	2,915,582	30 million	3.1%
Las Vegas	2,069,681	72 million	2.9%
Phoenix	4,489,109	71 million	2.2%
San Diego	3,263,431	110 million	1.9%
Denver	2,754,258	101 million	1.9%
Minneapolis	3,495,176	88 million	1.3%
Dallas – Fort Worth	6,954,330	77 million	1.1%
Portland	2,348,247	113 million	1.1%
New York City	20,092,883	4.2 billion	0.9%
San Francisco	4,594,060	450 million	0.7%
Boston	4,732,161	401 million	0.5%
Chicago	9,554,598	626 million	0.4%
Philadelphia	6,051,170	355 million	0.3%
Miami	5,929,819	157 million	0.1%
Washington D.C.	6,033,737	447 million	0.1%
Baltimore	2,785,874	111 million	-0.2%
Los Angeles	13,262,220	629 million	-0.5%
Atlanta	5,614,323	142 million	-0.8%
Houston	6,490,180	86 million	-1.1%

## Vanpool capital of the country

The Puget Sound region continues to have the largest vanpool usage in the country — exceeding the next closest region of Los Angeles County by over 1 million vanpool trips a year. When you consider the relative population of the region — Los Angeles County is over 10 million people and we are about 3.9 million, our vanpool boardings per capita are almost three times higher than Los Angeles. The trend has continued into 2016 and vanpool usage in the first two months of 2016 is up slightly over 2015.

## How is Puget Sound transit ridership faring in 2016?

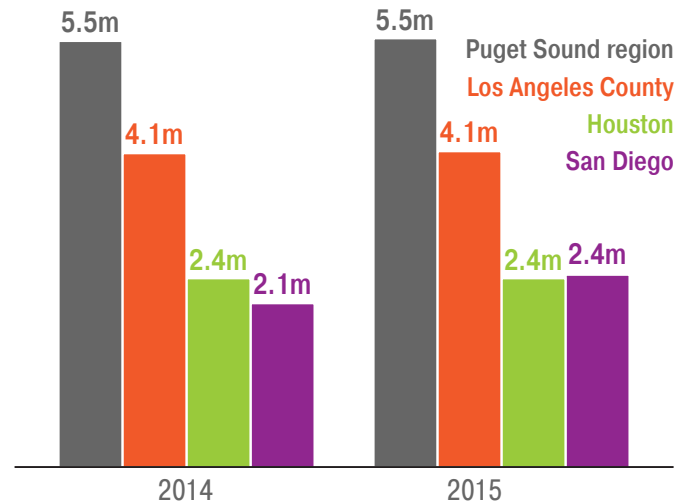
Monthly boardings on the region’s transit system were up a little more than 2% in the first two months of 2016. After a fairly flat January, ridership in February was up over 5% compared to 2015. It should be noted that we did benefit from an extra day this February — but the estimated ridership from one extra day does not account for the overall increase of 5%.

All modes of public transit (bus, light rail, street car and commuter rail) were up in February 2016.

## Coming up in June

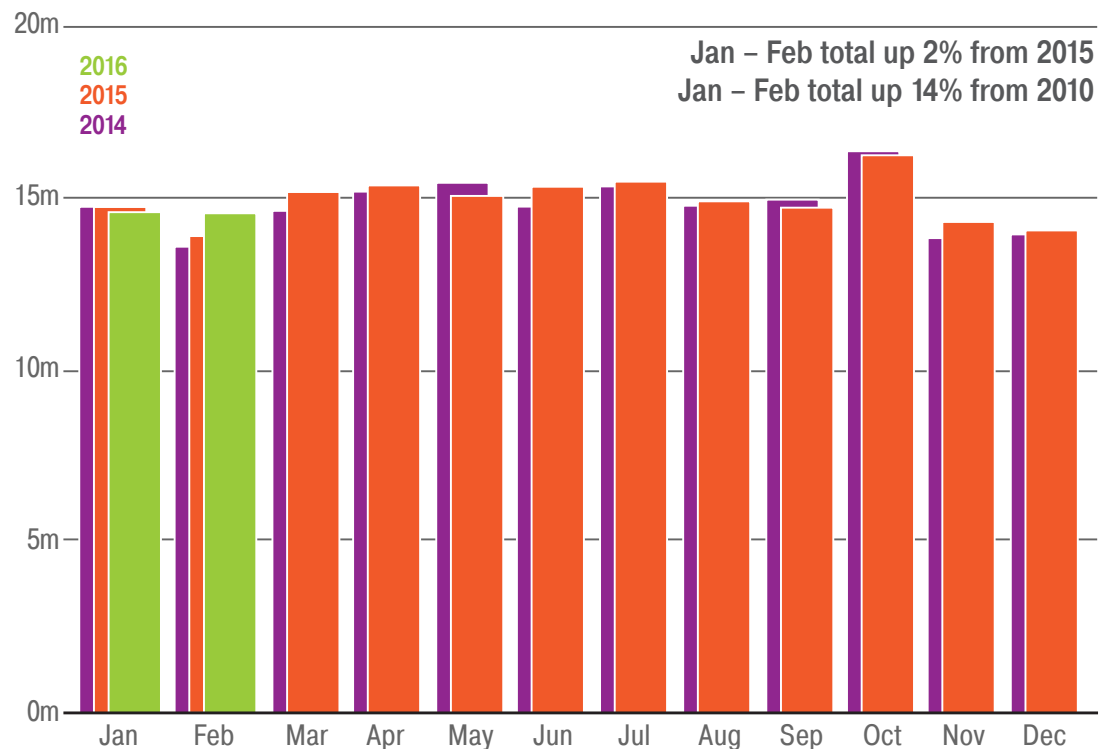
Next month we will see what ridership looked like in March — the first month of data with light rail serving Capitol Hill and the University of Washington. Although the majority of the month’s data will be prior to the light rail expansion, it should provide an initial glimpse at the change. We will also see the ridership totals for the first quarter of 2016.

## Vanpool usage



Source: National Transit Database, February 2016 Data.

## Puget Sound transit ridership



Source: National Transit Database, February 2016 Data.