

METRO

HUSKY LINE

Route Overview

The Husky Line operates between University of Southern Maine (USM) in Gorham to downtown Portland via Westbrook. The route provides limited-stop service, with stops only at USM Gorham, downtown Gorham, the Westbrook Hub, Rock Row, Stevens Avenue, USM Portland, and the PULSE in downtown Portland. The route primarily serves USM students.

Route Map



Alignment

From Gorham, the Husky Line mostly operates via Main and Conant streets to Westbrook, Main Street, the Westbrook Arterial, and Larrabee Road to Rock Row. It then operates via Brighton Avenue to USM Portland and Bedford and Preble streets into downtown Portland. Between Westbrook and Portland, the Husky Line’s alignment is similar to that of Route 4 Westbrook, but with differences in downtown Portland and between Rock Row and the Westbrook Hub.

Connections

Transfers with all other METRO routes (except Route 3 Westbrook Crosstown), all SPBS routes, RTP’s Lake Region Explorer, and BSOOB Transit routes 60 Green and 70 Purple/ZOOM can be made at the PULSE. Transfers can also be made with Route 3 Westbrook Crosstown and Route 4 Westbrook at the Westbrook Hub.

Schedule

The Husky Line operates every 30 minutes for most of the day on weekdays and every 45 minutes for most of the day on Saturdays and Sundays. Service operates with a long span of service on weekdays and only slightly shorter hours on Saturdays, and for fewer hours on Sundays.

Schedule Summary

	Span of Service	Headways (mins.)	On-Time Performance
Weekdays	6:20 AM to 10:44 PM	30-55	83%
Saturday	8:00 AM to 11:18 PM	45-75	
Sunday	8:05 AM to 7:10 PM	45	

Note: Span and frequency are from February 2022 data, while revenue hours, ridership, and OTP are from October 2019 data.

On-Time Performance

Husky Line on-time performance is above the METRO system’s route average of 76% but does not meet the agency’s standard of 90%. Traffic congestion impacts on-time performance on Main Street in Gorham, in downtown Westbrook, on Brighton Avenue at the I-295 overpass, and at USM.

Ridership and Productivity

Ridership and Productivity

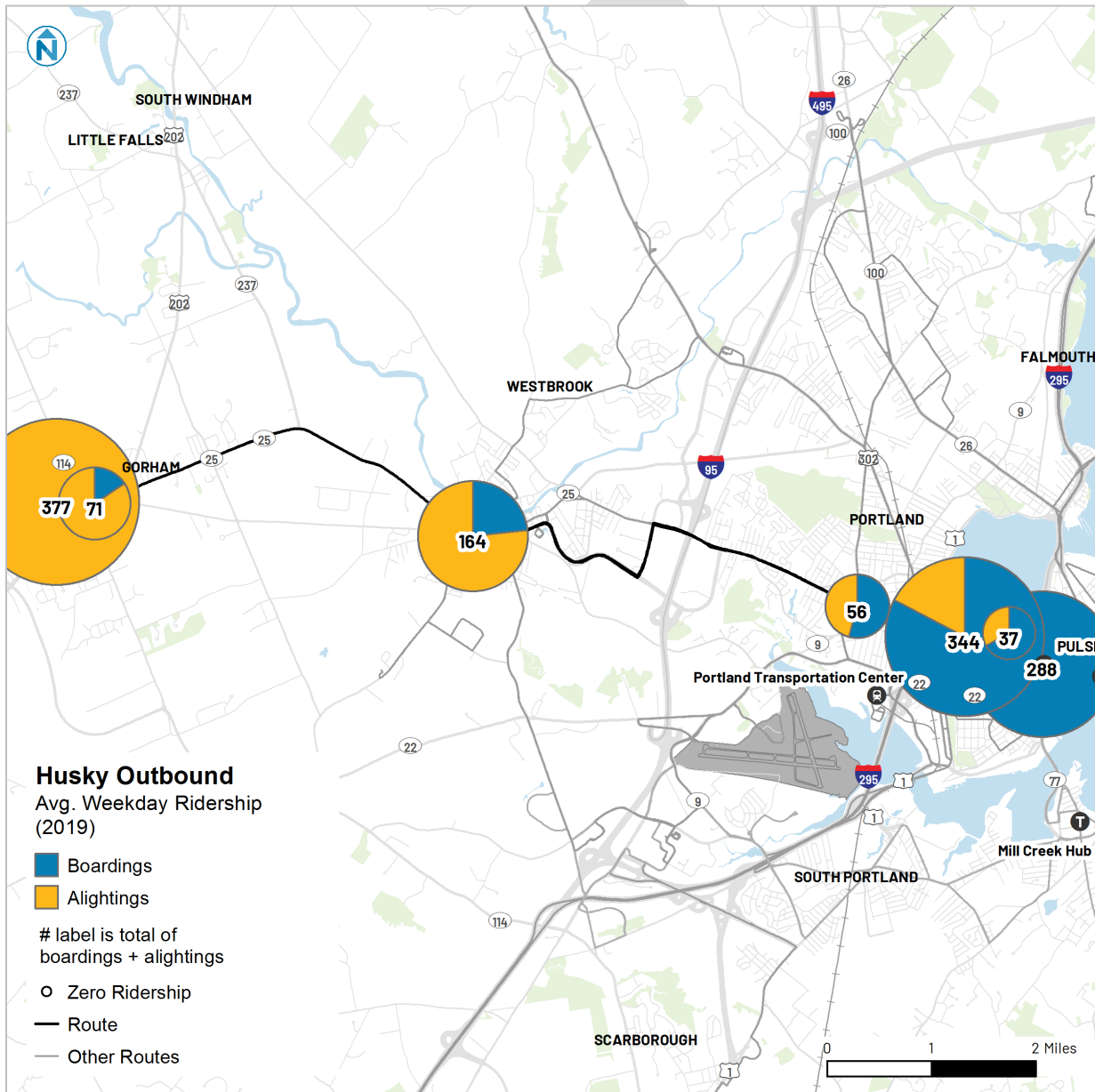
In October 2019, the Husky Line carried an average of 1,050 passengers on weekdays, 267 on Saturdays, and 178 on Sundays. It is METRO’s second-highest ridership route on weekdays, and fourth-lowest on Saturdays and Sundays. Productivity, in terms of boardings per revenue hour, was 24 on weekdays but low on weekends, at 10 on Saturdays, and eight on Sundays. Among all METRO routes, the weekend productivity figures are the lowest.

Weekday Ridership by Stop

In October 2019, the Husky Line's highest average weekday-ridership stops were:

- USM Gorham, with 502 boardings and alightings
- USM Portland, with 447 boardings and alightings
- Downtown Portland, with 363 boardings and alightings
- The Westbrook Hub, with 206 boardings and alightings

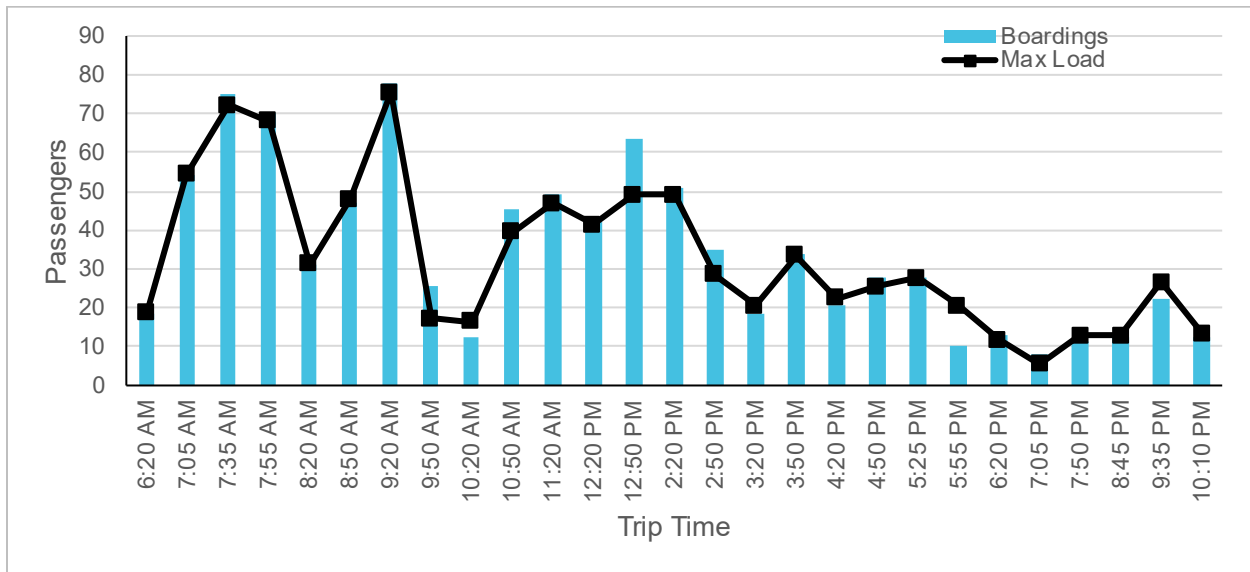
Weekday Outbound Ridership by Stop Map



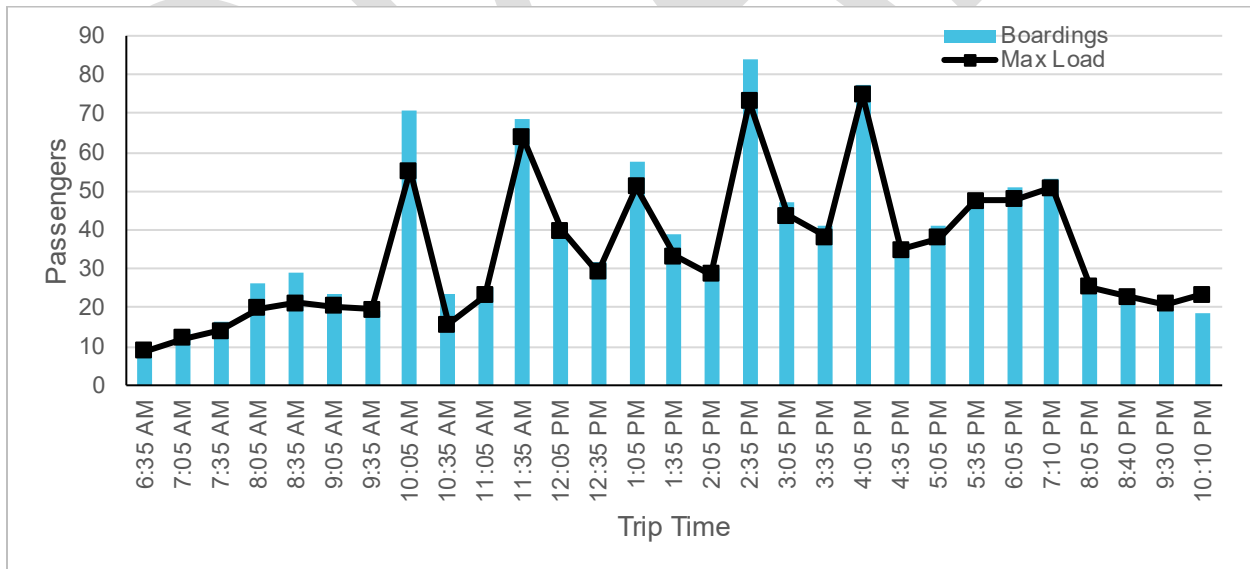
Weekday Ridership by Trip

In October 2019, Husky Line ridership was peaked directionally, with inbound ridership peaking in the morning and afternoon, and outbound ridership peaking from afternoon to evening, but with some earlier trips carrying high ridership.

Weekday Boardings by Trip: Inbound (October 2019)



Weekday Boardings by Trip: Outbound (October 2019)



Overall Service Assessment

Strengths

- The Husky Line is direct and due to its limited-stop design, fast.
- Weekday ridership is high.
- Weekday and Saturday spans of service are very good.
- Combined with the Route 4 Westbrook, service frequencies between the Westbrook Hub and downtown Portland are very good, and the best in Greater Portland.

Weaknesses

- Weekend ridership and productivity is low.
- On-time performance is below standard.

Opportunities

Opportunities to strengthen the Husky Line are listed below. Some suggestions may be contradictory, as there is usually more than one approach to improving a route.

- Consolidate the Husky Line with Route 4 Westbrook to develop a frequent service corridor between Westbrook and Portland. This would require several changes, including unifying alignments and stop consolidation, and increases in travel times to and from USM Gorham. This consolidated service could be a precursor to future rapid transit in the corridor.
- Coordinate Route 4 and Husky Line schedules to provide outbound service in the AM every 15 minutes from the PULSE and inbound service in the PM every 15 minutes from the Westbrook Hub.
- Shift alignment in Westbrook from Main Street to William Clarke Drive to potentially reduce travel times.