

**UPPER MERION
RAMBLER REPORT**



THE FIGURES

2020 investment

\$268,522.82 = \$1,074,091.28
economic return

2015 - 2020:

- Total **Ridership** = **54,052**
- Total Vehicle **Miles Saved** = **524,304**
- Total Saved **Gallons** of Gasoline = **65,538**
- Total **Tons** of CO2 Prevented = **347**

ESTIMATED AVERAGE RIDERSHIP 2020:
879 RIDES PER MONTH, OVER 10,500



HEAR FROM THE RIDERS

“I have been riding the Rambler for 20 years. I do not know what I would do without it. TransNet is the best company we have had. The drivers are good and are like friends. I have made a lot of passenger friends whom I have met up with for lunch or coffee.”

- Upper Merion Resident

“Very very good steady service. The staff are wonderful and take care of us.”

- Upper Merion Resident

“Always a pleasant ride with the Rambler for the past 4 years. I always feel safe and enjoy my ride getting to go shopping. The bus drivers are good safe drivers.”

- Upper Merion Resident



CLIMATE



Motor vehicles are a leading source of air pollutants that affect human health. Vehicle emissions contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone (smog), which can trigger health problems such as aggravated asthma, reduced lung capacity, and increased susceptibility to respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19, pneumonia, and bronchitis.

Public transit reduces air pollution by moving people more efficiently, public transit produces significantly less air pollution per passenger mile than a standard car carrying a single driver.

Transit options reduce traffic-related air pollution and improve air quality.

Upper Merion Rambler 5 Year Environmental Savings

Year	Annual Ridership	Vehicle Miles Saved	Saved Gallons of Gasoline	Tons of CO2 Prevented
2015	10,022	97,213	12,152	64
2016	10,437	101,239	12,655	67
2017	9,730	94,381	11,798	63
2018	8,542	82,857	10,357	55
2019	9,793	94,992	11,874	63
2020	5,528	53,622	6,703	36
Total	54,052	524,304	65,538	347

ECONOMY

Public transit in your community helps to further support your local economy

Public transportation contributes to both the economical and physical health of individuals, it brings financial benefits to communities, and it provides not only jobs in the industry itself but is also a key component of a healthy business ecosystem by increasing mobility options for both job commuters and customers alike.

\$1 = \$4

For every dollar invested in public transportation, approximately \$4 in economic returns are generated.

National Express Transit

**2020 RAMBLER INVESTMENT:
\$268,522.82 = \$1,074,091.28
ECONOMIC RETURN**

For every \$1 billion in investments in the sector, 50,000 jobs are created and supported. According to APTA, an investment of \$10 million in public transportation generates about \$32 million in increased business sales, and residential property values for homes located near public transit with high-frequency service “performed 42% better on average.”





EQUITY

Negative health effects related to the transportation system can fall hardest on vulnerable members of the community, such as low-income residents, minorities, children, persons with disabilities, and older adults.

Households in low-income areas typically own fewer vehicles, have longer commutes, and have higher transportation costs.

Suburban areas also have larger percentages of elderly residents and people with disabilities, two groups that have an increased need for accessible public transit options.

For over 20 years, the Upper Merion Rambler has played a vital role in providing equitable transportation to the community. Many Upper Merion residents rely solely on the Rambler as their main source of transportation. Taking them to doctor appointments, grocery store trips, and to and from work.

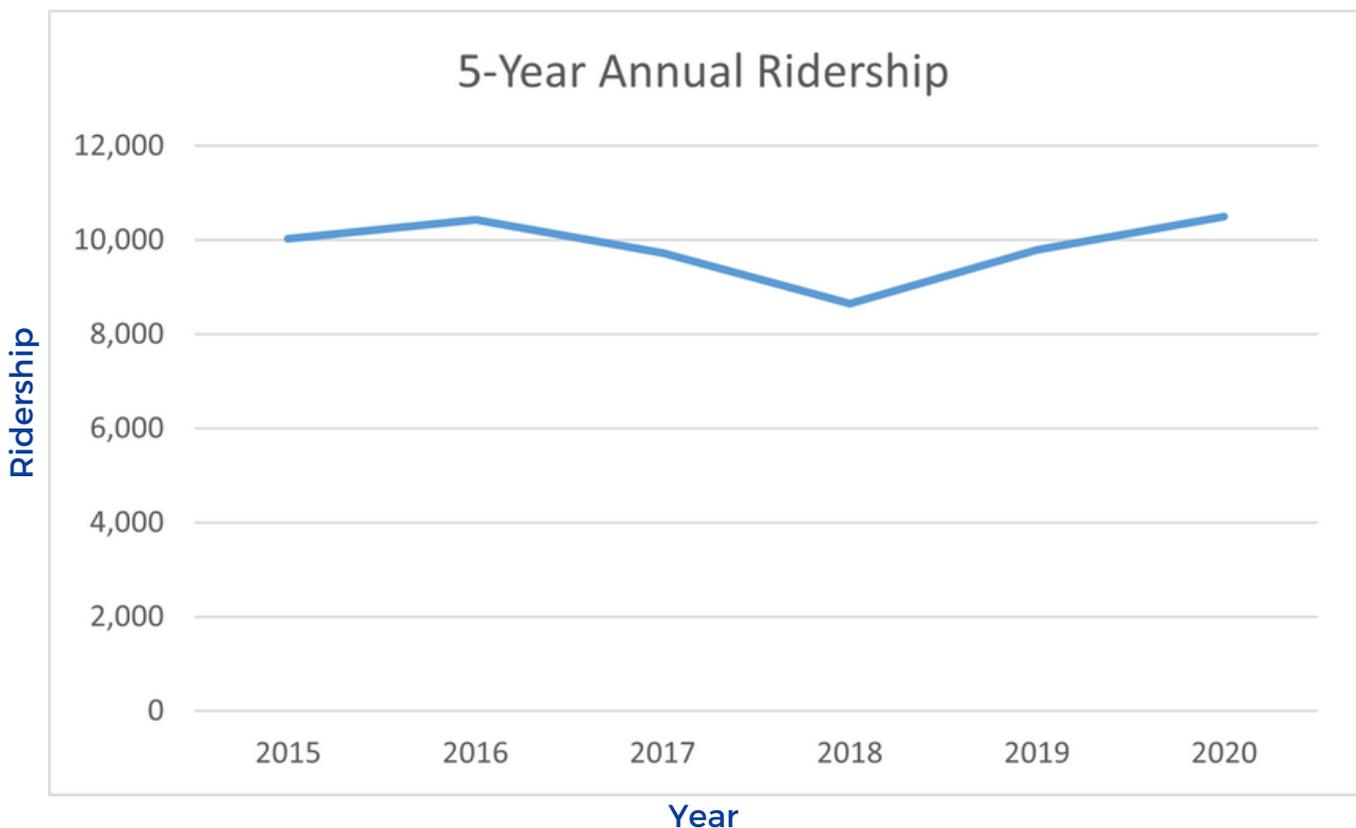
By providing this type of transit option the overall quality of life improves for the community.

FUTURE RIDERSHIP

During 2020, we saw a decrease in Rambler ridership due to the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. However, ridership did not drop as low as expected due to those who solely rely on the Rambler as their main source of transportation.

As we start to return to normal life, it is important to note that the 2020 ridership numbers do not show a true representation. The stay at home and limited travel orders contributed greatly to the decrease. It is also important to note that members of our community rely heavily on the service and would lose access to their community if the service were no longer provided.

Based on January and February 2020 ridership the estimated monthly average ridership should have been 879 riders per month, estimating over 10,500 for the year. The highest it has been in 5 years.



*Graph includes estimated ridership for 2020

BACKGROUND

The Upper Merion Rambler is a low-cost transit service for residents of Upper Merion Township. The Rambler has an established route and schedule and is wheelchair accessible.

In partnership with GVF, Upper Merion Township started the service in 2000. For over 20 years it has served as a lifeline to many, connecting people to their community, while reducing congestion, and having a positive impact on the environment.

Who does the Rambler serve?

The majority of the Rambler's passengers are senior citizens. However, children, students, persons with disabilities, and commuters also ride the bus.

As we begin to return to normal life, it is important to note that 2020's ridership numbers do not show a true representation of ridership. The pandemic's stay-at-home order contributed greatly to the decrease. Prior to the pandemic, we anticipated ridership for 2020 to be the highest it has been in the last five years.



References:

- [transportation.gov/mission/health/](https://www.transportation.gov/mission/health/)
- nationalexpresstransit.com/blog/9-benefits-of-public-transportation/