

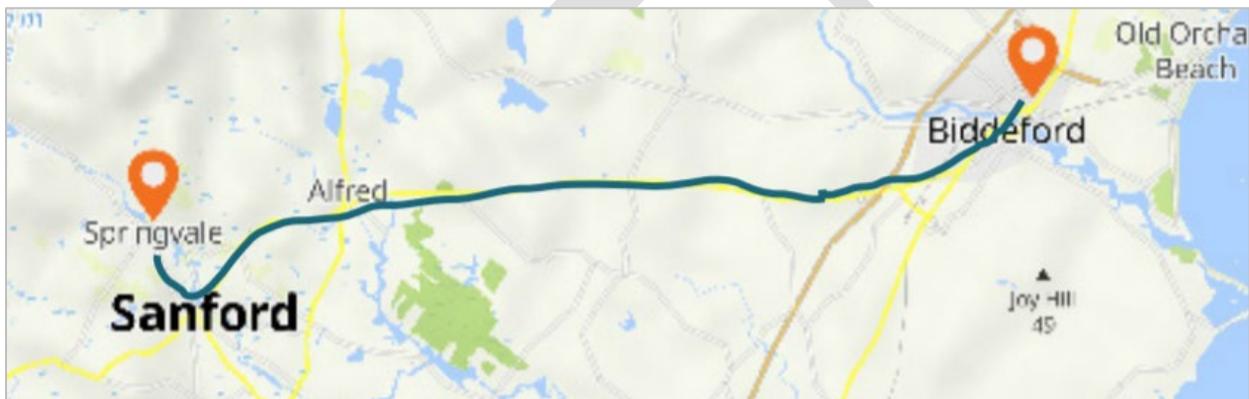
YCCAC

SOUTHERN MAINE CONNECTOR

Route Overview

The York County Community Action Corporation (YCCAC) Southern Maine Connector connects Springvale, Sanford, Alfred, Biddeford, and Saco, serving key destinations at Southern Maine Health Care Sanford, York County Courthouse, Biddeford Crossing shopping center, Southern Maine Health Care Biddeford, downtown Biddeford, and the Saco Transportation Center.

Route Map



The alignment of this route is straight and direct, while still serving key destinations. The route primarily operates bi-directionally on U.S. Route 202 and Alfred Street (Route 111).

Connections

Transfers to the YCCAC Orange Line can be made at the School Street Lot in Sanford, to YCCAC Sanford Transit at several stops in Sanford, and to all BSOOB Transit routes (except for one pattern of Route 70) and the Downeaster at the Saco Transportation Center.

Schedule

The Southern Maine Connector is operated by only one vehicle, so headways are more than 2.5 hours. The route operates one eight-hour span on weekdays, from morning to late afternoon. YCCAC recently submitted an American Rescue Plan Act funding request to GPCOG to increase the frequency of this route.¹

Schedule Summary

	Span of Service	Headways (mins.)	Revenue Hours
Weekdays	7:30 AM to 3:41 PM	157-171	8
Saturday	No Service		
Sunday	No Service		

Span and frequency data are from February 2022 and ridership data are from March 2021. This route did not operate pre-pandemic.

Ridership and Productivity

Ridership and Productivity by Day

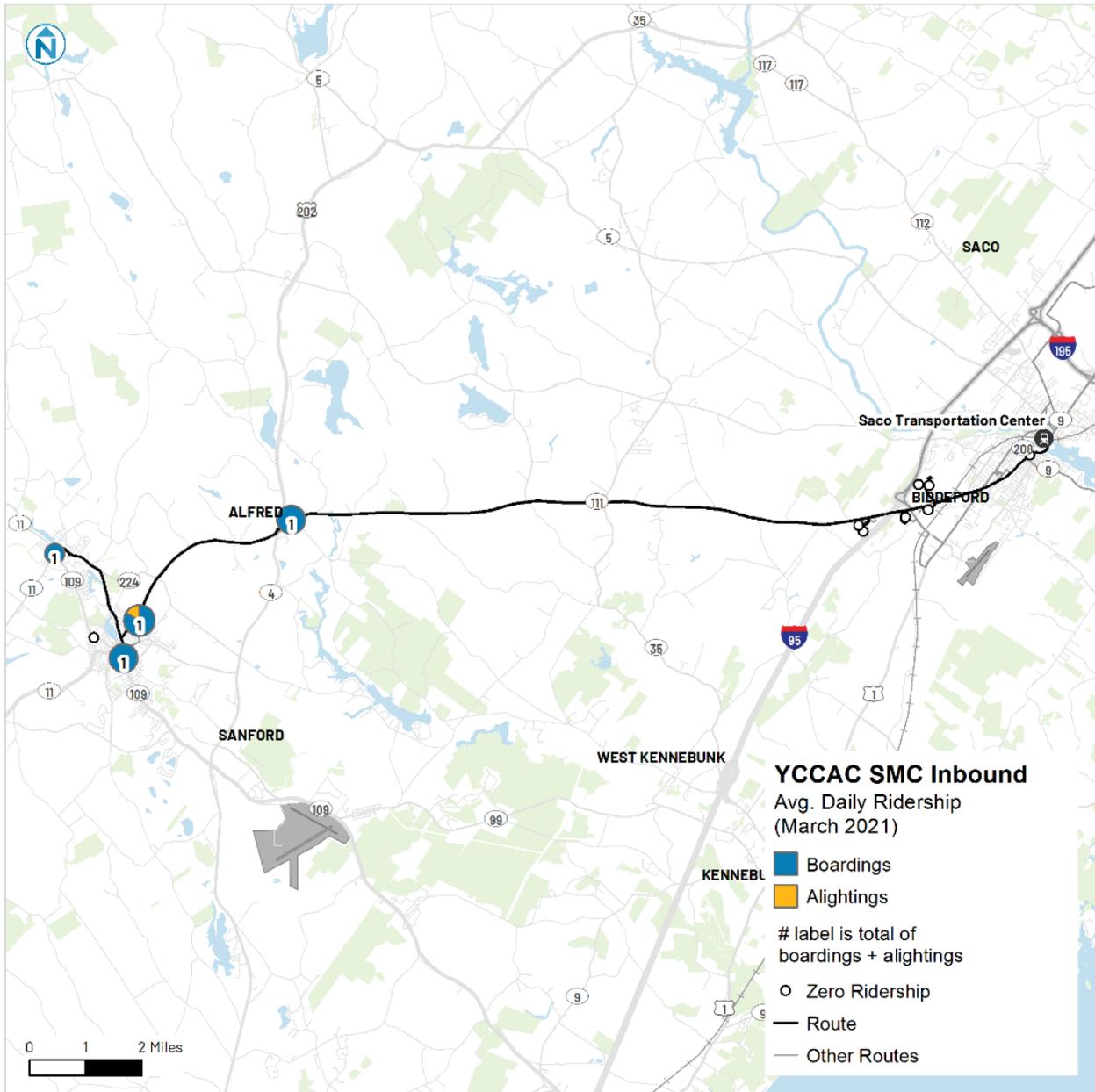
Ridership on the Southern Maine Connector is very low, likely due to the low-density service area, limited span of service, and infrequent departures. In addition, the service has only operated during the COVID-19 pandemic, which may contribute to low ridership. In March 2021, the route had an average of five boardings per weekday and carried fewer than one passenger per revenue hour.

¹ York County Community Action Corporation. *Southern Maine Connector Service Expansion*.
 <<https://www.gpcog.org/DocumentCenter/View/2236/ARPA-Project-Application---Southern-Maine-Connector-Service-Expansion-PFD>>

Weekday Ridership by Stop

Most activity on the route occurs in Springvale and Sanford. Anecdotal evidence suggests some riders use the Southern Maine Connector for one direction of their commute and the YCCAC WAVE for the other direction.

Weekday Ridership by Stop Map



Overall Service Assessment

Strengths

- The Southern Maine Connector has a simple, direct alignment connecting the centers of Sanford, Alfred, and Biddeford.

Weaknesses

- The limited span of service and highly infrequent service make the route inconvenient for riders.

Opportunities

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

- The Southern Maine Connector only runs three trips per day. Increasing the number of trips may increase ridership on the route. Increased frequency could allow the schedule to better coordinate transfers with Sanford Transit, BSOOB Transit, and the Downeaster.
- The new York County Judicial Center may increase transit demand between Sanford and Biddeford. An alignment change may be needed to serve this complex.
- Increased frequency on the Southern Maine Connector that could be funded through YCCAC's ARPA request would achieve 60-minute headways on the route, which could provide coverage in Biddeford that allows BSOOB Transit to eliminate low-ridership and duplicative coverage service.
- The YCCAC WAVE provides curb-to-curb service connecting Sanford and Biddeford, as well as Sanford and Wells. This service could become an on-demand microtransit service that is designed to serve communities along the Southern Maine Connector so it can operate more directly.
- The regional DiriGO fare program could be enhanced so the Southern Maine Connector could accept the farecard for riders transferring between other regional transit providers. Joining a unified fare system would make regional travel simpler for residents and tourists.
- The Southern Maine Transit Tracker app provides customers with real-time information for other providers in the region. Integrating Southern Maine Connector into this tool for riders would promote more seamless travel throughout the region.