

ROUTE 91

SCI - Phoenix to Norristown Transportation Center

KEY SERVICE CHARACTERISTICS, ISSUES, AND OPPORTUNITIES

- *Route 91 provides access to the State Correctional Institute (SCI) - Phoenix, with service limited to Saturdays with six daily trips.*
- *The route serves 41 riders per day by providing a connection for people making visits to SCI.*
- *The route could be improved by operating as an express route and/or adjusting the trip schedule to increase flexibility for visitors to SCI.*

ROUTE OVERVIEW

Route 91 is a suburban route that operates Saturdays between the Norristown Transportation Center and the State Correctional Institution (SCI)-Phoenix (see Figure 1).

SERVICE OVERVIEW

Schedule

Route 91 operates Saturdays with six daily trips (three in each direction). The bus departs from the Norristown Transportation Center at 8:20 AM, 10:20 AM and 2:20 PM. Departures from the SCI-Phoenix are at 9:10 AM, 11:10 AM and 3:10 PM.

Service Patterns

Route 91 operates with a single service pattern that is the same in both directions.

RIDERSHIP

In the fall of 2019, Route 91 carried 41 passengers on Saturdays (see Table 1).

Figure 1 | Route Map

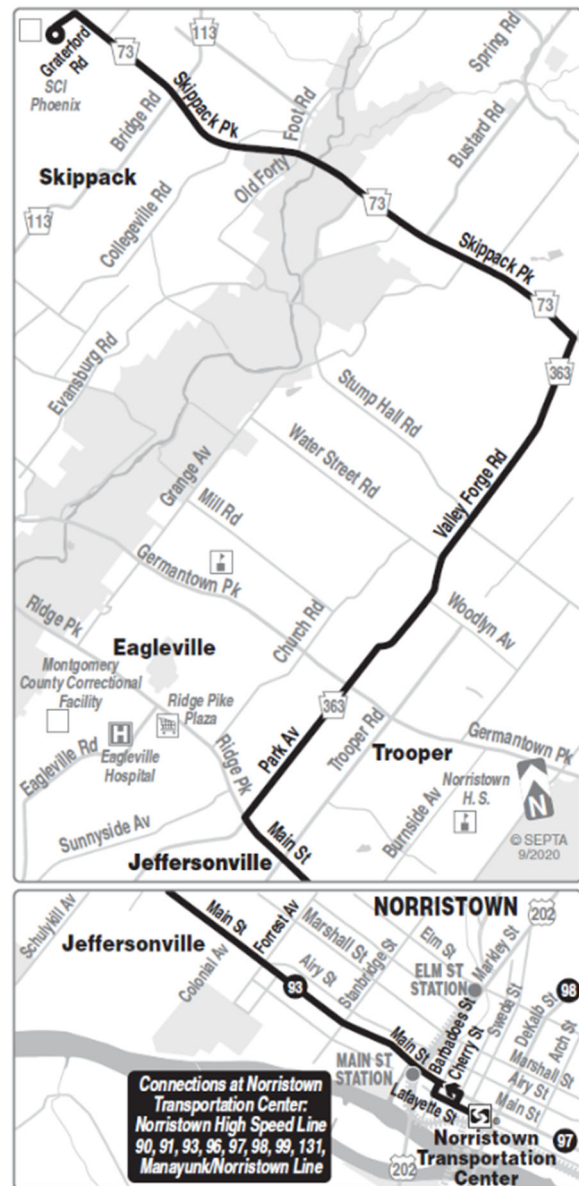


Table 1 | Fall 2019 Ridership and Productivity

	Weekdays	Saturdays	Sundays
Daily Ridership	N/A	41	N/A
Rank			
Passengers per Revenue Vehicle Hour	N/A		N/A
Rank			

Transfer Patterns

The largest transfer volumes on Route 91 are to and from:

- The Norristown High Speed Line (37.2% of all trips)
- Route 97 Chestnut Hill to Norristown Transportation Center (7.0%)
- Route 93 Pottstown to Norristown Transportation Center (5.8%)
- Route 98 Blue Bell or Plymouth Meeting Mall to Norristown Transportation Center (3.5%)
- Route 96 Lansdale to Norristown Transportation Center (2.3%)

Ridership by Stop

Route 91's primary function is to carry people between the Norristown Transportation Center and SCI-Phoenix and most riders travel between the Norristown Transportation Center and the prison. Ridership patterns on westbound trips are shown in Figure 2. Besides its terminals, the only other stop that serves more than one rider is at Matin Street and Trooper Road.

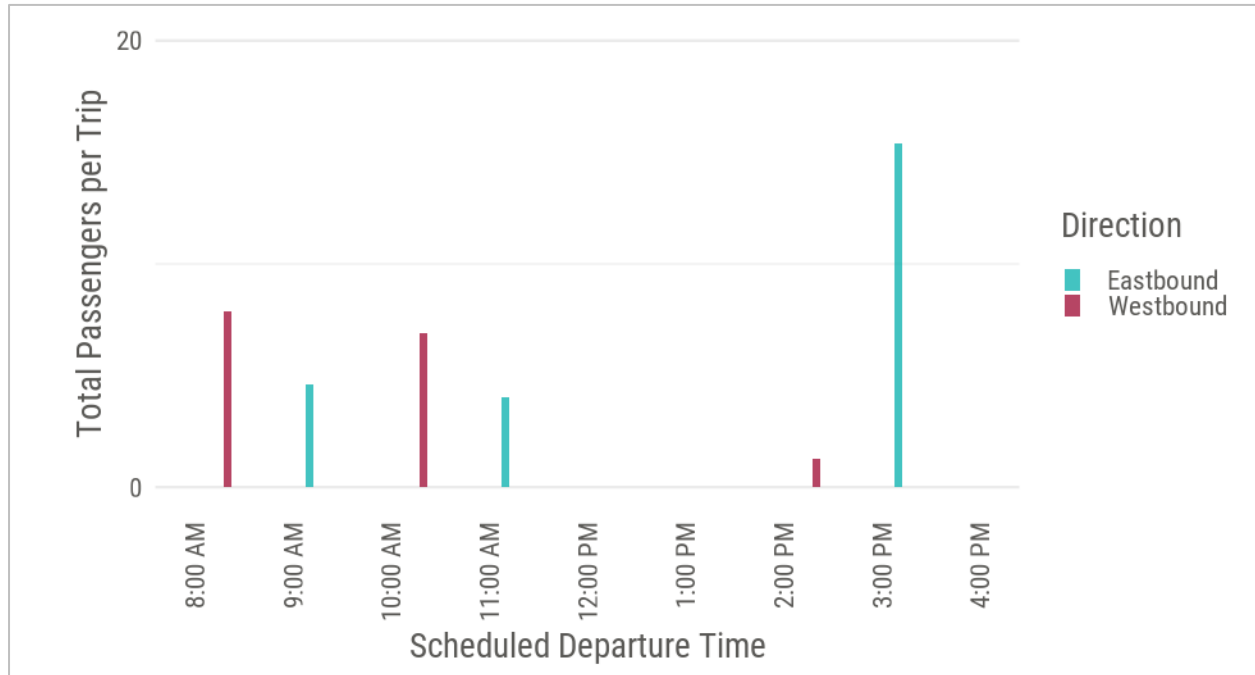
Figure 2 | Weekday Westbound Ridership by Stop


Ridership by Time of Day

Ridership by Hour

Route 91 has three trips per day. Riders tend to travel to SCI-Phoenix in the morning and return to Norristown Transportation Center in the afternoon. As a result, the last trip of the day (heading eastbound) has the highest number of riders with about 15 riders (see Figure 3). No trips exceed seated capacity.

Figure 3 | Saturday Ridership by Trip



ON-TIME PERFORMANCE AND RUNNING TIMES

On-Time Performance

In the fall of 2019, Route 91’s on-time performance was 80.8% (see Table 2). Trips are more likely to be late than early. Dropped trips are not an issue.

Table 2 | Fall 2019 On-Time Performance

	Early (>2 Mins Early)	On Time (<2 Mins Early to 6 Mins Late)	Late (>6 Mins Late)	Missed Trips
Goal		80%		
Fall 2019 Actual				
Saturday	5.8%	80.8%	13.4%	0.0%

Note: On-time percentages are for trips that are run (do not include dropped trips)

AVERAGE SPEEDS AND STOP SPACING

Route 91 is a fast route (see Figure 4). Stops are well spaced, except along West Main Street where there are between 8 and 10 stops per mile (see Figure 5).

Figure 4 | Average Speeds: Saturday Day Westbound

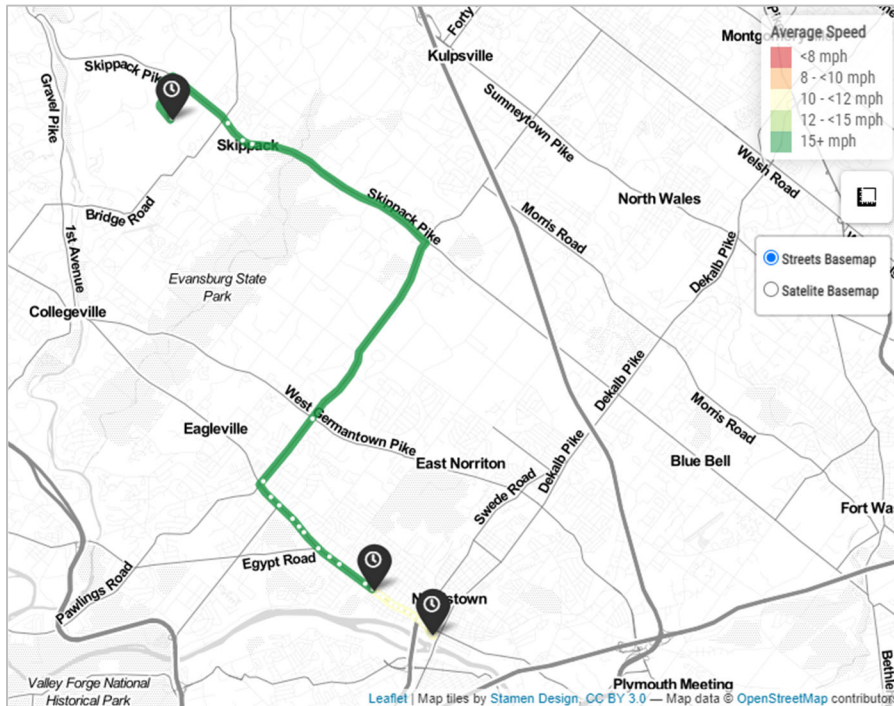
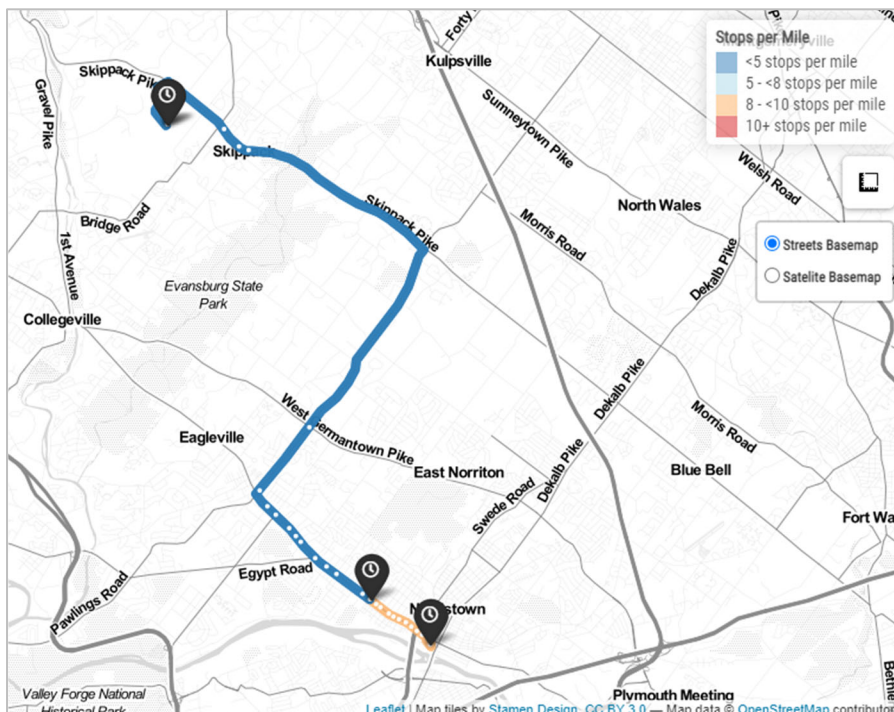


Figure 5 | Stop Spacing by Route Segment



RIDER CHARACTERISTICS

In many respects Route 91’s service area is typical of SEPTA’s service area (see Table 3). A notable difference is a higher percentage of Black riders and lower percentage of white riders.

Table 3 | Rider Characteristics

	Route 91 Riders	Systemwide Average
Median Household Income	\$31,684	\$32,713
Share in Poverty	34%	30%
Ethnicity		
White	31%	38%
Black	55%	46%
Hispanic	11%	10%
Other	3%	7%
Without a Vehicle	39%	37%
Seniors	15%	15%
With a Disability	5%	2%

SERVICE IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Route 91 provides service to SCI-Phoenix from Norristown. Potential ideas to improve the service include:

- **Discontinue Service:** Ridership on Route 91 is low and has been declining over the past few years. The route did not operate during the pandemic. There are also competing private services that provide service to the facility, so riders have alternatives to get to/from the facility.
- **Operate “Express” between Norristown Transportation Center and the SCI-Phoenix:** Most riders use Route 91 to travel to the State Prison. One potential improvement opportunity would be to operate directly between these two destinations. Creating an express option may not dramatically improve travel times, but there may be marketing value for potential riders knowing the trip is direct.
- **Add a Midday Trip:** Route 91 departs from Norristown at 8:20 AM, 10:20 AM and 2:20 PM. Adding a trip at 12:20 PM would give riders more opportunities to schedule visits for different lengths of time, increasing the attractiveness of using the bus to get to/from the prison.