

Casco Bay Lines

Casco Bay Lines is a network of ferries providing year-round passenger, freight, postal and vehicle ferry service to the islands of Casco Bay from Portland.

Service Description and Fares

Casco Bay Lines consists of eight ferry routes operating from Portland to multiple inhabited islands in Casco Bay. These unbridged islands depend on ferry service for access to supermarkets, appointments, and other needs. Services are generally operated on approximately two-hour headways and generally between the hours of 5:00 AM and 10:00 PM.¹ Levels of service and schedules differ based on the time of year. Casco Bay Lines additionally operates multiple cruises for tourism purposes. Casco Bay Lines operates out of the Casco Bay Lines Ferry Terminal. This provides a transfer point for Greater Portland Metro bus service and access to additional transit services in Portland.

Select fare information for scheduled peak ferry services is shown in Table 1. Fares vary based on the specific route and time of the year.

Table 1 **Fare Information**

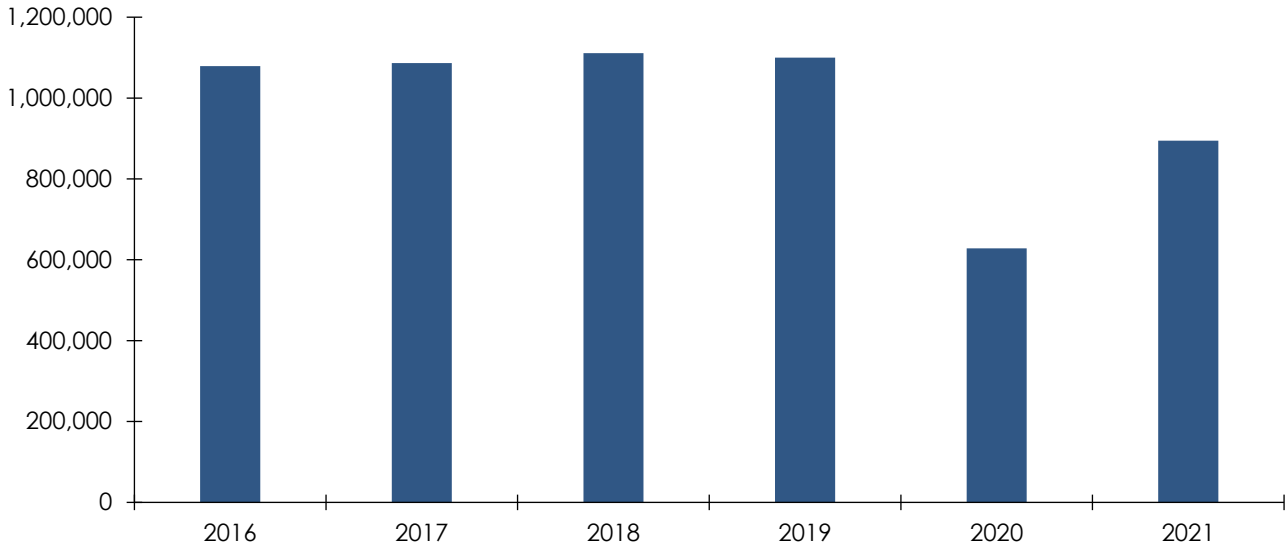
General	
Round Trip General Public	\$7.70–\$11.55
Half Fare	\$3.85–\$5.75
Children (0–5)	Free
Additional Passes/Tickets (Peak Season)	
Commuter Pass (5 Round Trip Tickets)	\$23.95–\$38.20
Bicycle Rates—Adult Round Trip	\$6.50
Animal Rates—Adult Round Trip	\$4.10
Annual Pass	\$906.95–\$1,376.65

¹ Based on the Winter 2021-2022 schedule. Headways may vary during the spring and summer months.

Ridership

Total ridership for 2016 through 2021 is shown in Figure 1. From 2016 through 2019, ridership was approximately 1.1 million. With the onset of COVID-19 in 2020, ridership dropped by over 40 percent to around 600,000. Ridership rebounded to just under 900,000 in 2021.

Figure 1 Casco Bay Lines Annual Unlinked Trips (2016–2021)



Modal Operating Characteristics

Revenue miles and revenue hours are shown in Figure 2 and Figure 3. From 2016 through 2019, revenue miles were between 80,000 and 85,000, but dropped to just over 70,000 in 2020. Revenue miles rebounded to a high of approximately 90,000 in 2021. Revenue hours dropped from over 16,000 to under 14,000 in 2020, before also rising to a high of approximately 17,000 in 2021.

Figure 2 Casco Bay Lines Vehicle Revenue Miles (2016–2021)

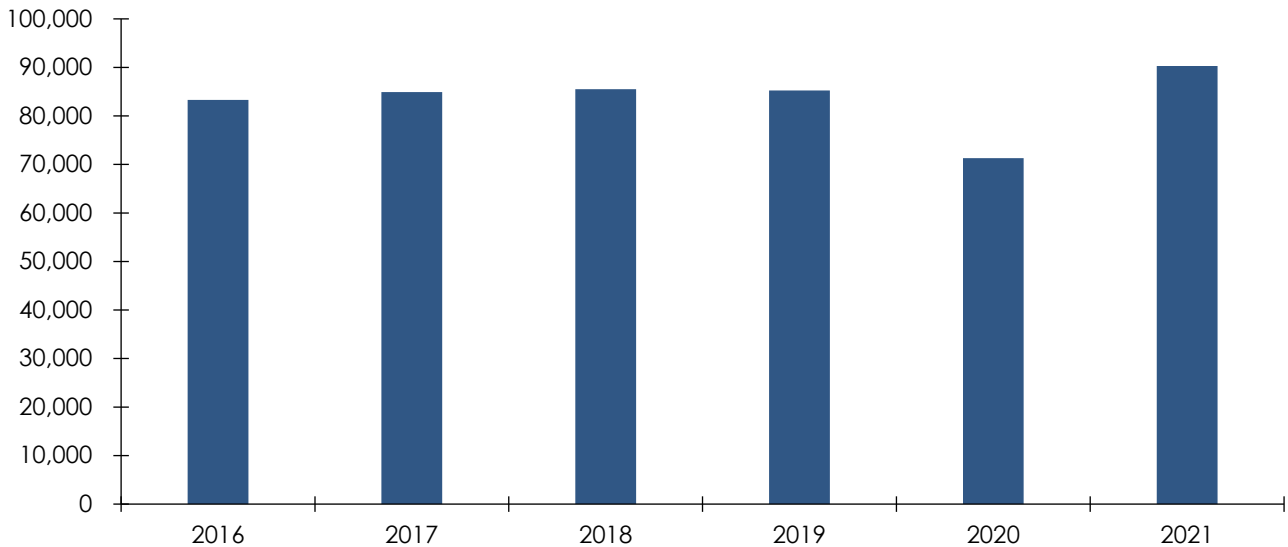
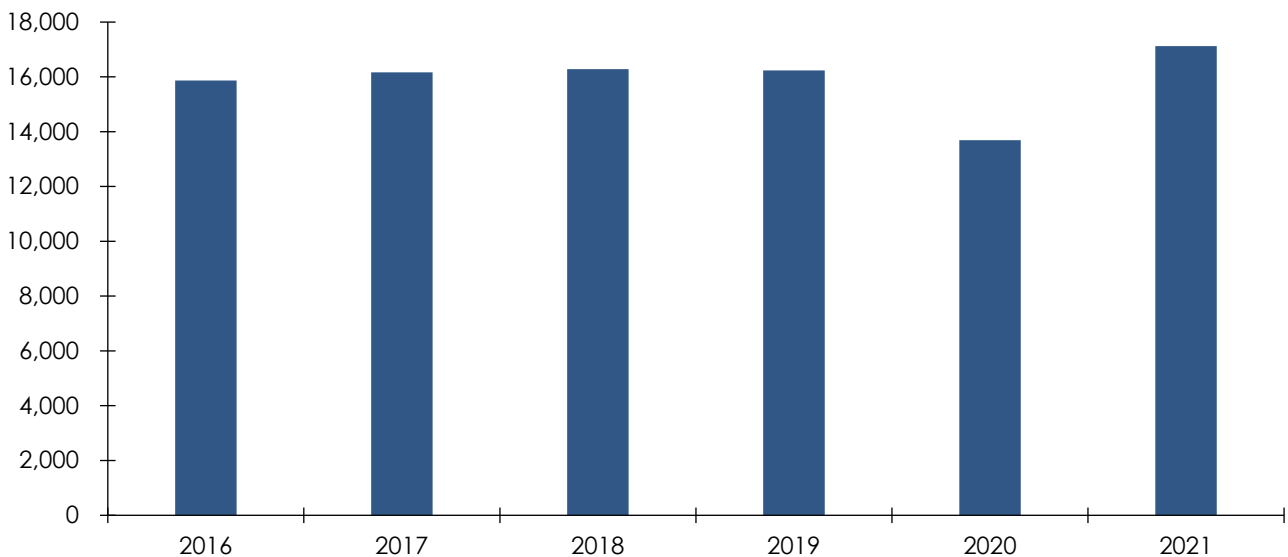


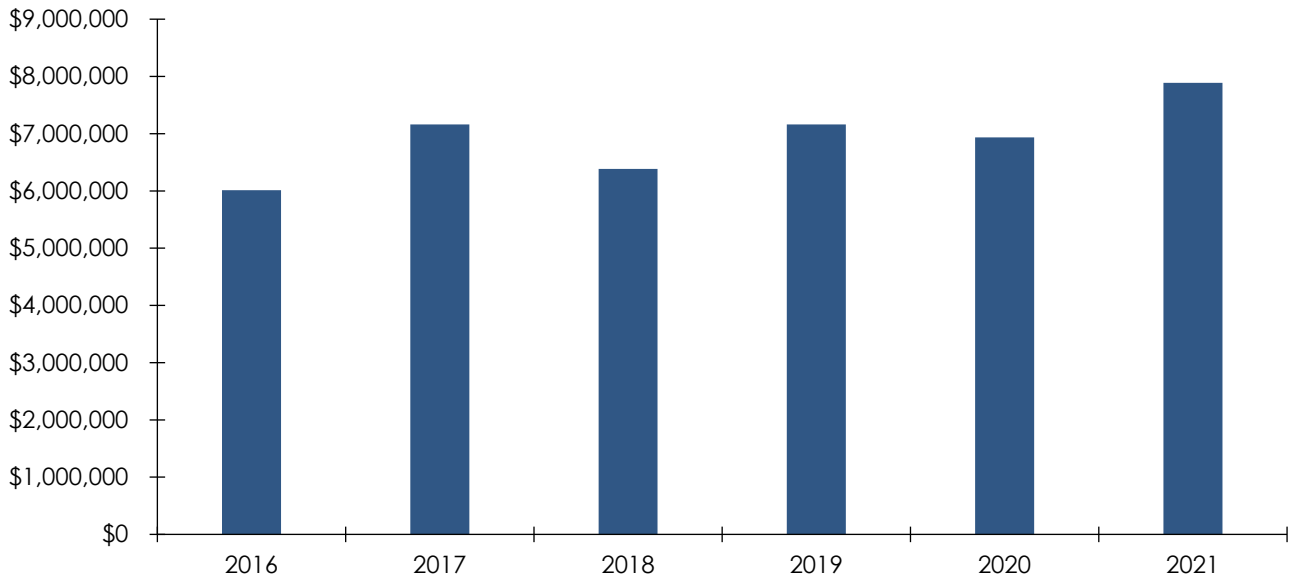
Figure 3 Casco Bay Lines Vehicle Revenue Hours (2016–2021)



Budget Metrics

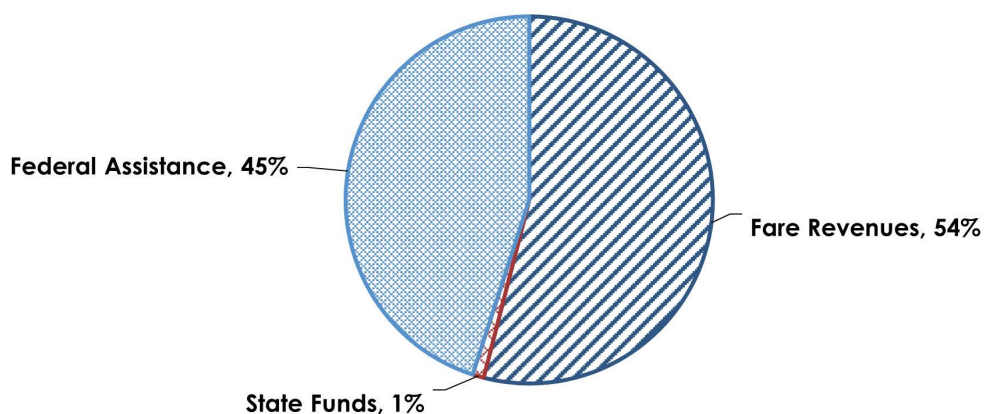
Annual operating expenses for 2016 through 2021 are shown in Figure 4. Between 2016 and 2020, operating expenses fluctuated between around \$6 million and \$7 million. In 2021, operating expenses rose to a high of nearly \$7.9 million.

Figure 4 Casco Bay Lines Operating Expenses (2016–2021)



The breakdown of operating expense funding sources for 2020 is shown in Figure 5. In 2020, funding sources were largely split between fare revenues (54 percent) and federal funds (45 percent). Despite the high rate of farebox recovery, the rate of 54 percent represents a drop from 80 percent in 2018. Additionally, 2016 and 2017 also saw the availability of 'Other Funding' which no longer appears to be a source.

Figure 5 Casco Bay Lines Operating Funding Sources (2020)



Service efficiency metrics are shown in Figure 6 and Figure 7. Vehicle revenue mile operating expenses were steady from 2016 through 2018, before rising in 2019 and 2020 to a high of nearly \$100. Vehicle revenue hour operating expenses rose in 2019 and 2020 to a high of over \$500. Both metrics dropped in 2021.

Figure 6 Casco Bay Lines Operating Expenses per Vehicle Revenue Mile (2016–2021)

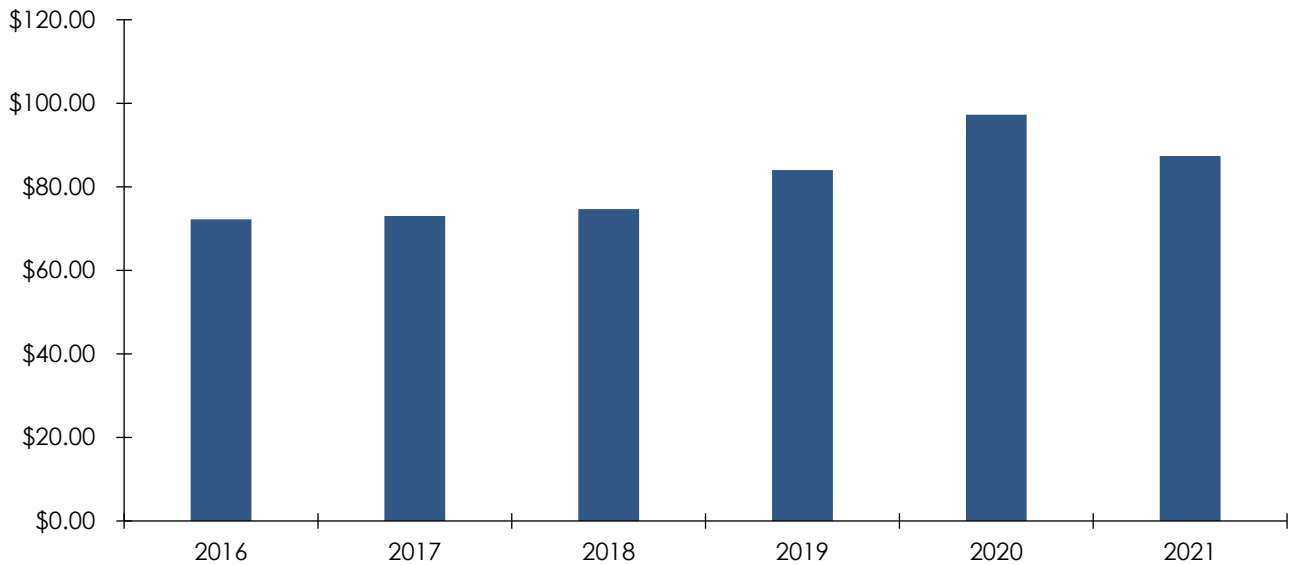
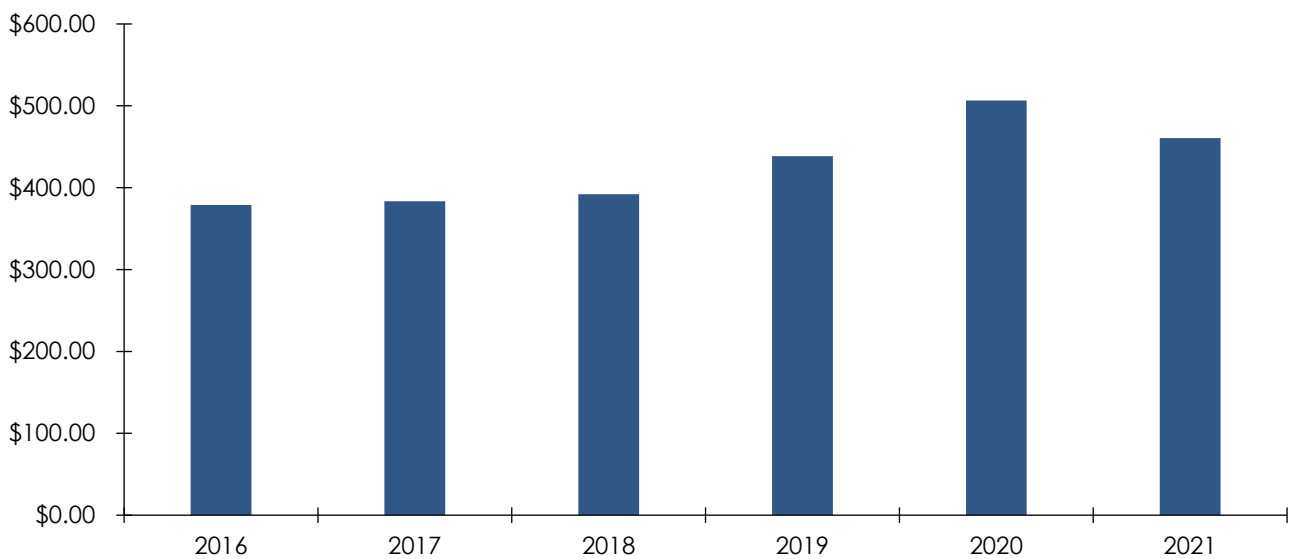
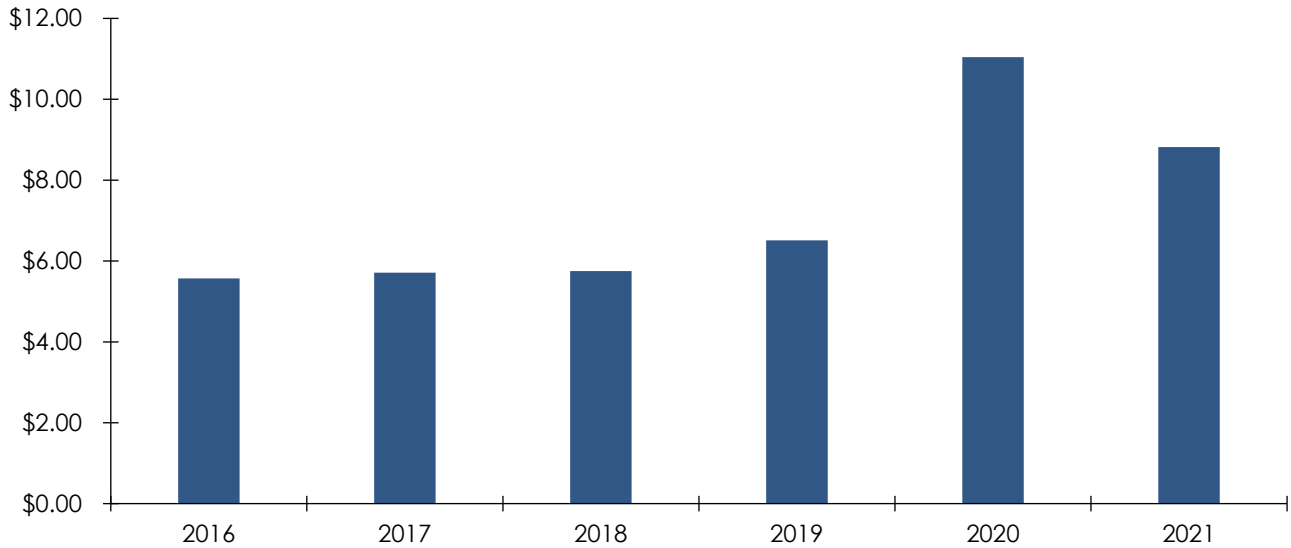


Figure 7 Casco Bay Lines Operating Expenses per Vehicle Revenue Hour (2016–2021)



Operating expenses per unlinked passenger trip are shown in Figure 8. From 2016 to 2019, per passenger operating expenses were at or under \$6.00. In 2020, per passenger operating expenses rose to over \$11.00, before dropping back to under \$9.00 in 2021.

Figure 8 Casco Bay Lines Operating Expenses per Unlinked Passenger Trip (2016–2021)



Organizational Management Structure

The Casco Bay Island Transit District (CBITD) Board is composed of 12 Directors—10 elected from the islands, one appointed by the City of Portland, and one appointed by the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Transportation.

Asset Management

Asset management is conducted through the CBITD Transit Asset Management Plan. In 2020, the Casco Bay Lines fleet utilized for maximum service consisted of:

- » 5 ferryboats
- » 3 service vehicles

The Casco Bay Lines fleet utilized for maximum service consisted of:

- » 4 ferryboats