



Public Transit Advisory Committee

Collier Area Transit

Hybrid Meeting

Collier County Human Resources, 3303 Tamiami Trail E, Naples, FL 34112

April 20, 2021

3:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. February 16, 2021 Minutes
 - b. March 16, 2021 Minutes
5. Committee Action
 - a. Membership Renewal – Sonja Samek
6. Reports and Presentations
 - a. Update on CAT Ridership impact
7. Member Comments
8. Public Comments
9. Next Meeting Date – May 18th, 2021 (Location TBD)
10. Adjournment

Two or more members of the Board of County Commissioners may be present and may participate at the meeting. The subject matter of this meeting may be an item for discussion and action at a future BCC meeting.

Collier Area Transit operates in compliance with Federal Transit Administration, (FTA) program requirements and ensures that transit services are made available and equitably distributed and provides equal **AGENDA** access and mobility to any person without regard to race, color, or national origin, disability, gender or age. Title VI of the *Civil Rights Act of 1964*; FTA Circular 4702.1A, "Title VI and Title VI Dependent Guidelines for Federal Transit Administration Recipients.

Anyone who required an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or other reasonable accommodations in order to participate in this proceeding, should contact the Collier County Facilities Management Department located at 3335 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, Florida 34112 or 239-252-8380 as soon as possible, but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event. Such reasonable accommodations will be provided at no cost to the individual.

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

February 16, 2021

LET IT BE REMEMBERED, the Public Transit Advisory Committee in and for the County of Collier, having conducted business herein, met on this date at 3:00 P.M. in REGULAR SESSION via hybrid video/teleconference/in-person at the Collier County Museum, Lecture Hall, 3331 Tamiami Trail East, Naples FL 34112, with the following members present:

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman: Mr. John DiMarco

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Arthur Dobberstein - Zoom

Mr. James Bennett

Mr. Peter Berry

Mr. Devon Browne

Mr. James Caton

Ms. Sonja Lee Samek - Zoom

ALSO PRESENT:

Ms. Michelle Edwards-Arnold, Director, Public Transit and Neighborhood Enhancement

Mr. Omar DeLeon, Public Transit Manager, Collier Area Transit

Mr. Zachary Karto, Senior Planner, Collier Area Transit

Ms. Tamarin Kirby, Planning Technician, Collier County Government

Marirka Maldonado, ParaTransit Manager, MV Transit

I. Call to Order

Mr. Dobberstein called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was taken, and an in-person quorum established.

III. Approval of Agenda

Requested topics of discussion to add to the agenda:

- a. Update on ridership in ongoing Covid environment.
- b. Status update on paratransit grant funding.

Mr. Bennett entered a motion to approve the February 16, 2021 meeting agenda. Mr. Berry seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes

- a. October 20, 2020 Minutes
- b. November 17, 2020 Minutes
- c. January 19, 2021 Minutes

It was clarified that no formal actions were taken during the noted meeting dates due to lack of an in-person quorum. A vote of acceptance of the documents is now requested due to an in-person Advisory Committee quorum at the February 16, 2021 meeting.

Mr. Bennett entered a motion to approve the October 20, 2020, November 17, 2020, and January 19, 2021 Advisory Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Berry seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.

V. Committee Action

- a. Membership Renewal – Devon Browne

An application for renewal of membership of the Public Transportation Advisory Committee was submitted for consideration by Mr. Devon Browne.

Mr. Caton entered a motion to approve the application for Public Transportation Advisory Committee membership for Mr. Devon Browne. Mr. Berry seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion was passed unanimously.

It was noted that there is a vacancy on the Advisory Committee, specific to a representative of the School District. Ms. Samek is pending re-application for this position, or for the submission of an application for membership by a new candidate within the School District.

VI. Reports and Presentations

There were no reports or presentations for discussion.

VII. Member Comments

+ **Florida Development Disabilities Council (FDDC) Grant Update:** Transit Staff received an invitation in August 2020 from the Florida Development Disabilities Council (FDDC) to participate in a 12-month pilot, grant transportation voucher project for \$150,000. The grant has been awarded, with funding originating from the Department of Health and Human Services. The purpose of the service is to provide increased transportation options for residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities which are currently not being met through the Collier Area Transit (CAT) paratransit system. The service would allow for same day scheduling of either a taxi or Uber. An agreement has been received from Uber, with details being finalized. The approved agreement is scheduled to be presented to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) at the March 23, 2021 meeting. Following BCC approval, implementation of the program and marketing strategies will be coordinated with Uber. It was noted that the FDDC grant funding was for a one-year pilot program, approved through September 2021, however with the potential for a second year of funding.

It was noted by Mr. Browne that Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) has participated in a similar partnership with Uber and taxi services and inquired whether there has been any information sharing between Collier Transit Staff and PTSA to avoid pitfalls and to enhance the overall service. Mr. DeLeon stated that discussions have been had with Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART) Staff, who operate a similar program utilizing a taxi service. The benefit of discussion with PSTA was acknowledged and will be pursued due to PTSA having previously contracted with Uber. Information sharing with Uber is included within the agreement, with the ability for Collier Transit Staff to access ridership information within the Uber application.

5339B Grant: The 5339B competitive grant has been awarded and is moving forward. An update will be brought to the Advisory Committee pending an initial review of the facility, with consideration being given for the use of solar panels and other cost savings measures which tie-into the use of electric buses, as well as coordination with the local electric company. The grant application in its entirety will be presented to the BCC for final approval at the February 23, 2021 meeting.

+**Staff Updates:** Mr. Zachary Karto, Senior Planner, has resigned, with a Senior Planner vacancy currently available.

+**Ridership status update:** January 2021 fixed route ridership was 47,948, down 32% compared to January 2020. Paratransit ridership was also down 38% compared to January 2020, with approximately 6,000 trips. While ridership remains down in comparison to the previous year, a steady increase has slowly been demonstrated across all routes, with higher ridership especially noted in routes traveling from Immokalee and Ave Maria (routes 19 and 28) into Naples. The reduction in ridership allowed for adequate social distancing, circumventing the need for additional buses on most routes, but with additional buses added for social distancing on the 19 and 28 routes.

As a result, ridership increased with the availability of the additional buses on these two routes. On-time performance across all fixed routes is at 86%. The off-season schedule will begin on May 2, 2021.

Mr. Browne inquired as to whether surveys have captured information regarding the use of alternative transportation options utilized during Covid-19 and ways to recapture lost ridership following the availability of vaccines and the decline of the pandemic. It was noted that a Comprehensive Operating Analysis, a short-term evaluation of the route system, is being compiled by Kimley-Horn and recapture of lost ridership can be included within this study. The results of the project will be shared with the Advisory Committee as it becomes available.

The beach service has been implemented and operates on a Thursday through Sunday schedule, utilizing two trolley style buses.

+A new Federal mandate states that transit agencies must require the use of face masks by passengers on the buses, as well as inside and on the exterior of transit facilities.

+ Collier Area Transit (CAT) will celebrate 20 years of service in Collier County with a special celebration which will be held at CAT's headquarters at 8300 Radio Road on February 26, at 10:00 a.m. The event will be publicly advertised, and Transit Advisory Committee members are invited to attend.

+Mr. Dobberstein inquired as to whether further consideration has been given to a potential partnership with the Big Red Bus service, as discussed in the past. Ms. Arnold noted that approval has been received from the Hearing Examiner to allow for a zoning amendment for conditional use of the Radio Road facility in support of this effort. The next step is to draft agreements with three potential participating entities. An update on this topic will be given at the next Advisory Committee meeting.

+The contract for updated software which will be installed on paratransit vehicles is being completed with the vendor, which will be an account-based program that will include a trip request application, as well as the ability to pay for and monitor the trip. The final agreement will be presented to the BCC for approval and execution, with a target implementation date in June 2021.

VIII. Public Comments

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

IX. Next Meeting Date – March 16, 2021, Collier County Museum

X. Adjournment

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned.

Public Transit Advisory Committee

John DiMarco, Chairman

These minutes approved by the Committee on _____ as presented ____ or as amended ____.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Committee Action
Item 5a

Renewal Membership for the Public Transit Advisory Committee (PTAC)

Objective:

To obtain endorsement for the renewal of a member for the Public Transit Advisory Committee (PTAC).

Considerations:

PTNE staff submits for the Public Transit Advisory Committee consideration, a renewal of Sonja Samek as a member of the PTAC. Ms. Samek was previously selected based on her potential contribution to the PTAC and has been an important contributor to the overall success of CAT over her time with the committee.

Ms. Samek has applied to serve as representatives consistent with the PTAC governing ordinance established by the Collier County Board of County Commissioners (BCC).

Ms. Sonja Lee Samek has been designated by the Collier County School District to serve as representative consistent with the PTAC governing ordinance established by the Collier County Board of County Commissioners (BCC). Based on her position in the community, this member will be an asset to this committee by providing feedback and advice as it pertains to coordination with the School District and contribute to improving transit operations and efficiencies in Collier County.


Applicant	Affiliation	Term	Status
Sonja Samek	Collier County School District	3 years	Resident

Recommendation:


That PTAC selects to renew Sonja Samek as a member for the PTAC which will be taken to the next available BCC meeting for final approval.

Attachments:

Applications

Prepared by: 
Omar De Leon, Public Transit Manager

Date: 4/16/21

Approved by: 
Michelle Arnold, PTNE Division Director

Date: 4-16-21

Advisory Board Application Form

Collier County Government
3299 Tamiami Trail East, Suite 800
Naples, FL 34112
(239) 252-8400

Application was received on: 3/2/2021 9:48:38 AM.

Name: Sonja Samek **Home Phone:** 2395370333

Home Address: 8366 Rimini Way

City: Naples **Zip Code:** 34114

Phone Numbers

Business: 2393774779

E-Mail Address: sameks@collierschools.com

Board or Committee: Public Transit Advisory Committee

Category: Not indicated

Place of Employment: Collier County Public Schools

How long have you lived in Collier County: more than 15

How many months out of the year do you reside in Collier County: I am a year-round resident

Have you been convicted or found guilty of a criminal offense (any level felony or first degree misdemeanor only)? No

Not Indicated

Do you or your employer do business with the County? No

Not Indicated

NOTE: All advisory board members must update their profile and notify the Board of County Commissioners in the event that their relationship changes relating to memberships of organizations that may benefit them in the outcome of advisory board recommendations or they enter into contracts with the County.

Would you and/or any organizations with which you are affiliated benefit from decisions or

recommendations made by this advisory board? No

Not Indicated

Are you a registered voter in Collier County? Yes

Do you currently hold an elected office? No

Do you now serve, or have you ever served on a Collier County board or committee? No

Not Indicated

Please list your community activities and positions held:

I am a current member of the Public Transit Advisory Committee

Education:

M.Ed in Educational Leadership from Loyola University Chicago Ed.S in School Psychology from Loyola University Chicago M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from University of West Florida

Experience / Background

14 years with Collier County Public Schools

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPLICANT
ROUTING MEMORANDUM**

FROM: Wanda Rodriguez, Office of the County Attorney

DATE: March 2, 2021

APPLICANT: Sonja Samek
8366 Rimini Way
Naples, FL 34114

APPLYING FOR: Public Transit Advisory Committee

We currently have vacancies on the above referenced advisory committee. The vacancies were advertised and persons interested in serving on this committee were asked to submit an application for consideration.

TO ELECTIONS OFFICE: Attn: Shavontae Dominique

Please confirm if the above applicant is a registered voter in Collier County, and in what commissioner district the applicant resides.

Registered Voter: Yes

Commission District: 1

TO STAFF LIAISON: Attn: Michelle Arnold

cc: Tessie Sillery, Omar Deleon

An application is attached for your review. Please let me know, in writing, the recommendation for appointment to the advisory committee. In accordance with Resolution No. 2006-83, **your recommendation must be provided within 41 days of the above date.** Your recommendation memo should include:

- _____ The names of all applicants considered for the vacancy or vacancies.
 - _____ The committee's recommendation for appointment or non-appointment.
 - _____ The category or area of qualification the applicant is to be appointed in.
 - _____ If the applicant is a reappointment, please include attendance records for the past two years.
-

TO ADVISORY BOARD COORDINATOR: Attn: Wanda Rodriguez

- _____ This applicant is **not** recommended for appointment. –OR–
- _____ This applicant **is** recommended for appointment. A recommendation memo is attached, please prepare an agenda item for the next available BCC agenda.

If you have any questions, please call me at 252-8123. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Committee Action
Item 6a

Update on CAT Ridership impact

Objective:

Evaluate COVID-19 Pandemic effects on Ridership.

Considerations:

Overview of how unemployment rates and tourism due to COVID-19 have impacted CAT ridership. Brief update of performance measures regarding current standing of fixed route services.


Recommendation:

None.

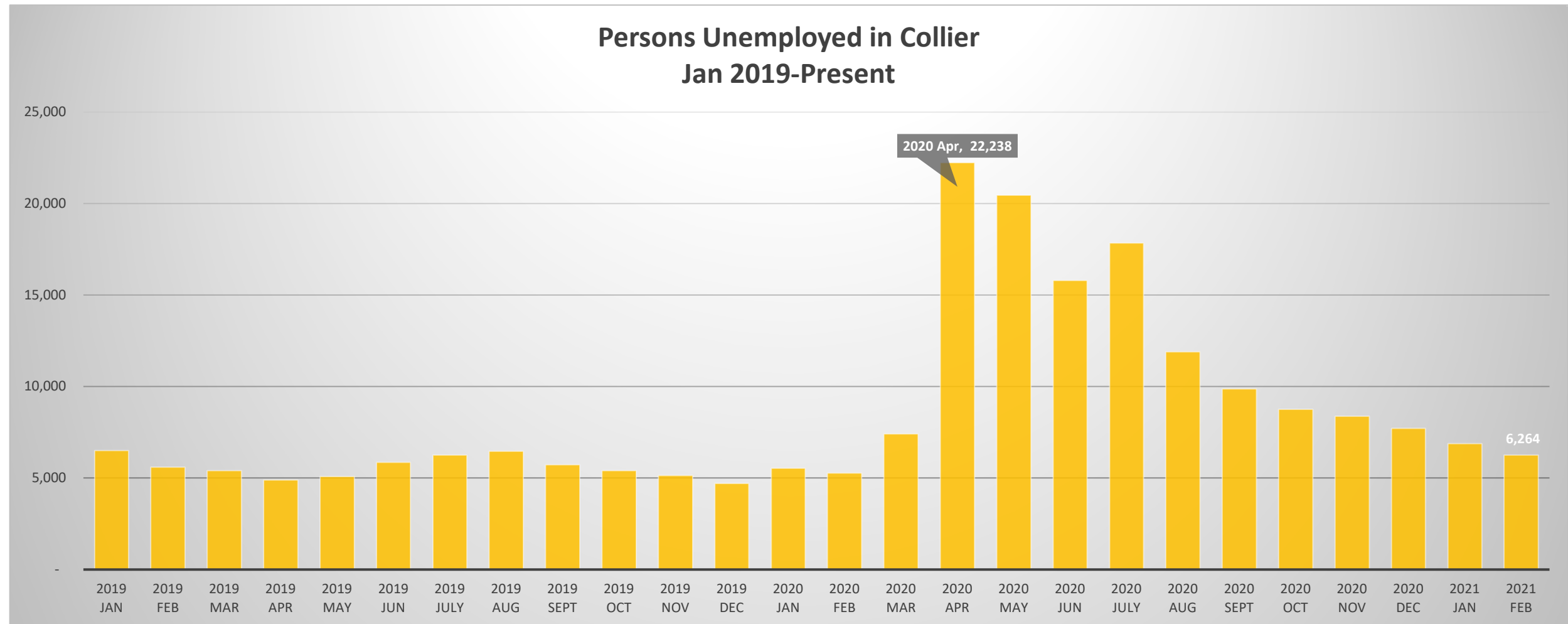
Attachment:

Performance Measures Statistic

Prepared by:  **Date:** 4/16/21
Omar De Leon, Transit Manager

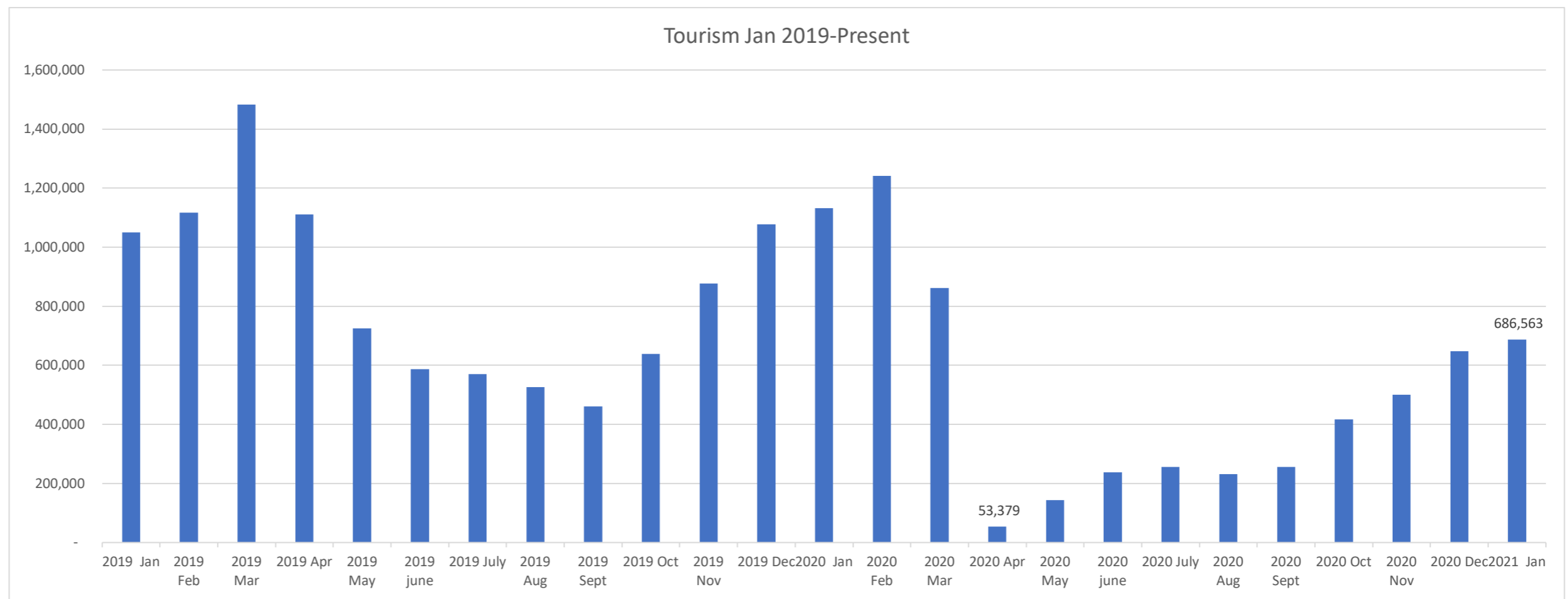
Approved by:  **Date:** 4-16-21
Michelle Arnold, PTNE Division Director

Year	Persons Unemployed
2019 Jan	6,502
2019 Feb	5,599
2019 Mar	5,408
2019 Apr	4,895
2019 May	5,080
2019 Jun	5,867
2019 July	6,260
2019 Aug	6,463
2019 Sept	5,719
2019 Oct	5,401
2019 Nov	5,133
2019 Dec	4,704
2020 Jan	5,531
2020 Feb	5,277
2020 Mar	7,408
2020 Apr	22,238
2020 May	20,467
2020 Jun	15,805
2020 July	17,853
2020 Aug	11,897
2020 Sept	9,866
2020 Oct	8,766
2020 Nov	8,385
2020 Dec	7,718
2021 Jan	6,891
2021 Feb	6,264



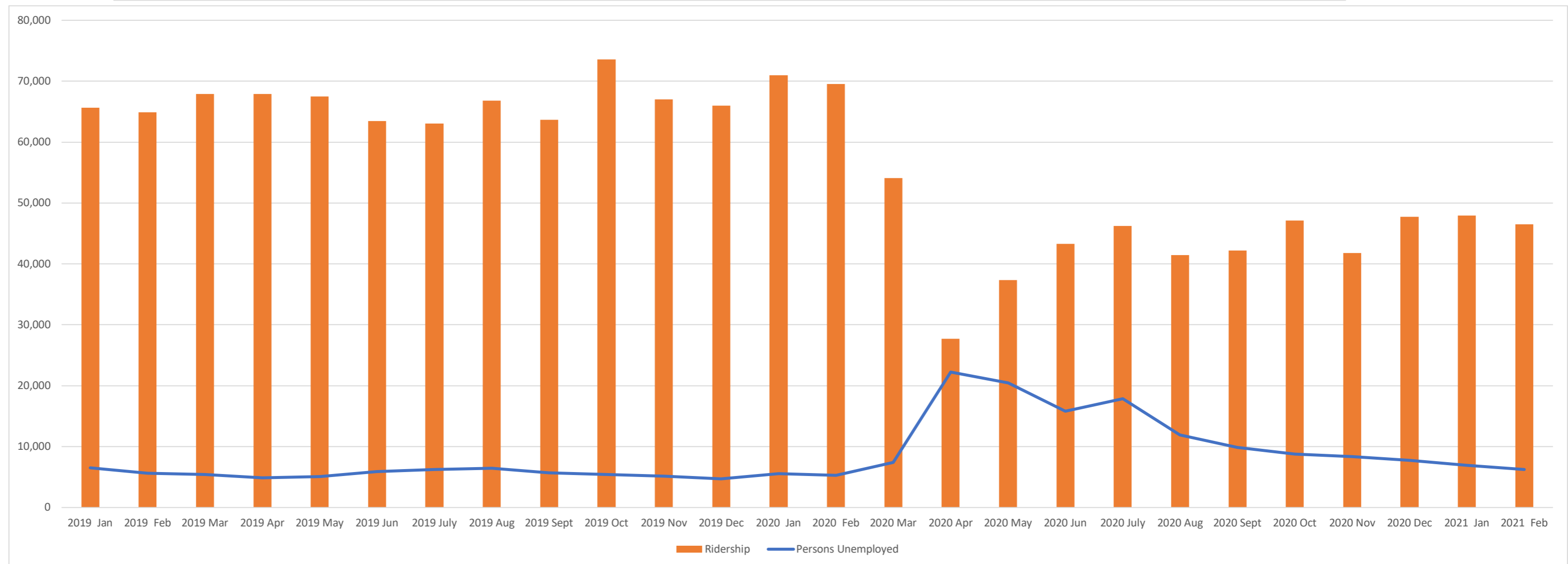
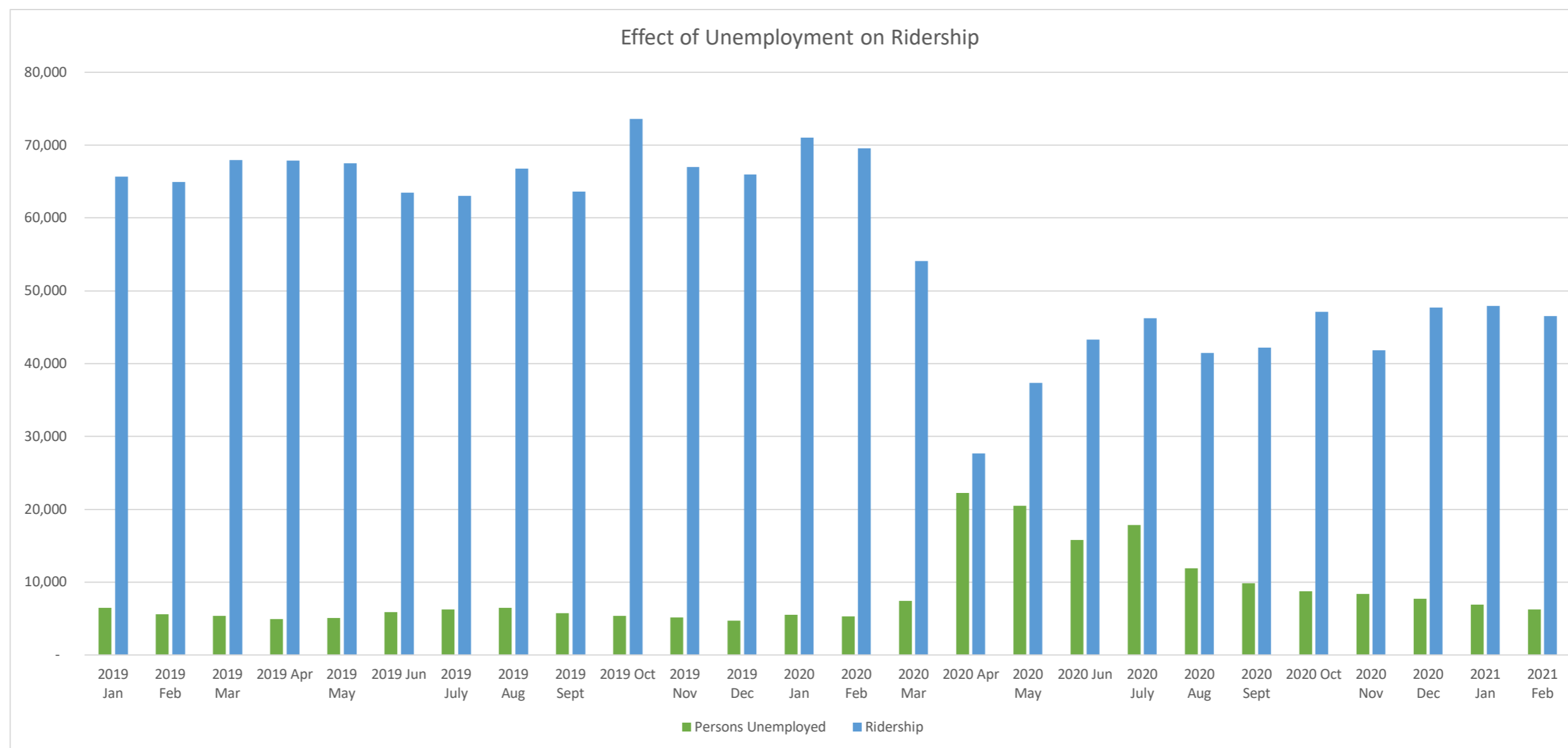
*Source - Florida Dept of Labor - includes Marco,Naples,Imk

Year	Tourism
2019 Jan	1,050,093
2019 Feb	1,117,409
2019 Mar	1,482,239
2019 Apr	1,111,558
2019 May	725,754
2019 June	586,319
2019 July	570,977
2019 Aug	526,519
2019 Sept	460,869
2019 Oct	638,922
2019 Nov	876,703
2019 Dec	1,077,818
2020 Jan	1,132,103
2020 Feb	1,241,590
2020 Mar	861,221
2020 Apr	53,379
2020 May	143,004
2020 June	237,706
2020 July	256,418
2020 Aug	231,283
2020 Sept	255,926
2020 Oct	417,305
2020 Nov	500,468
2020 Dec	648,011
2021 Jan	686,563

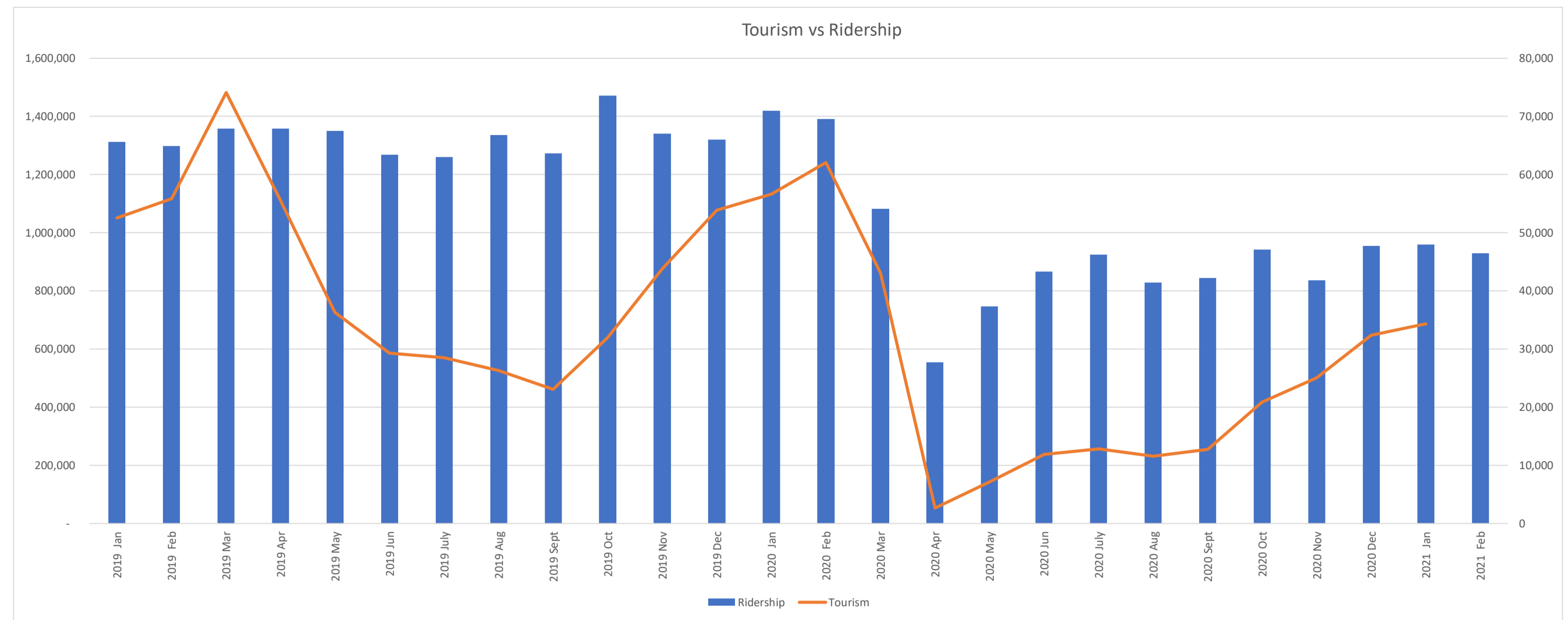


*Source- Research data services Inc. includes Marco, Naples, Imk.

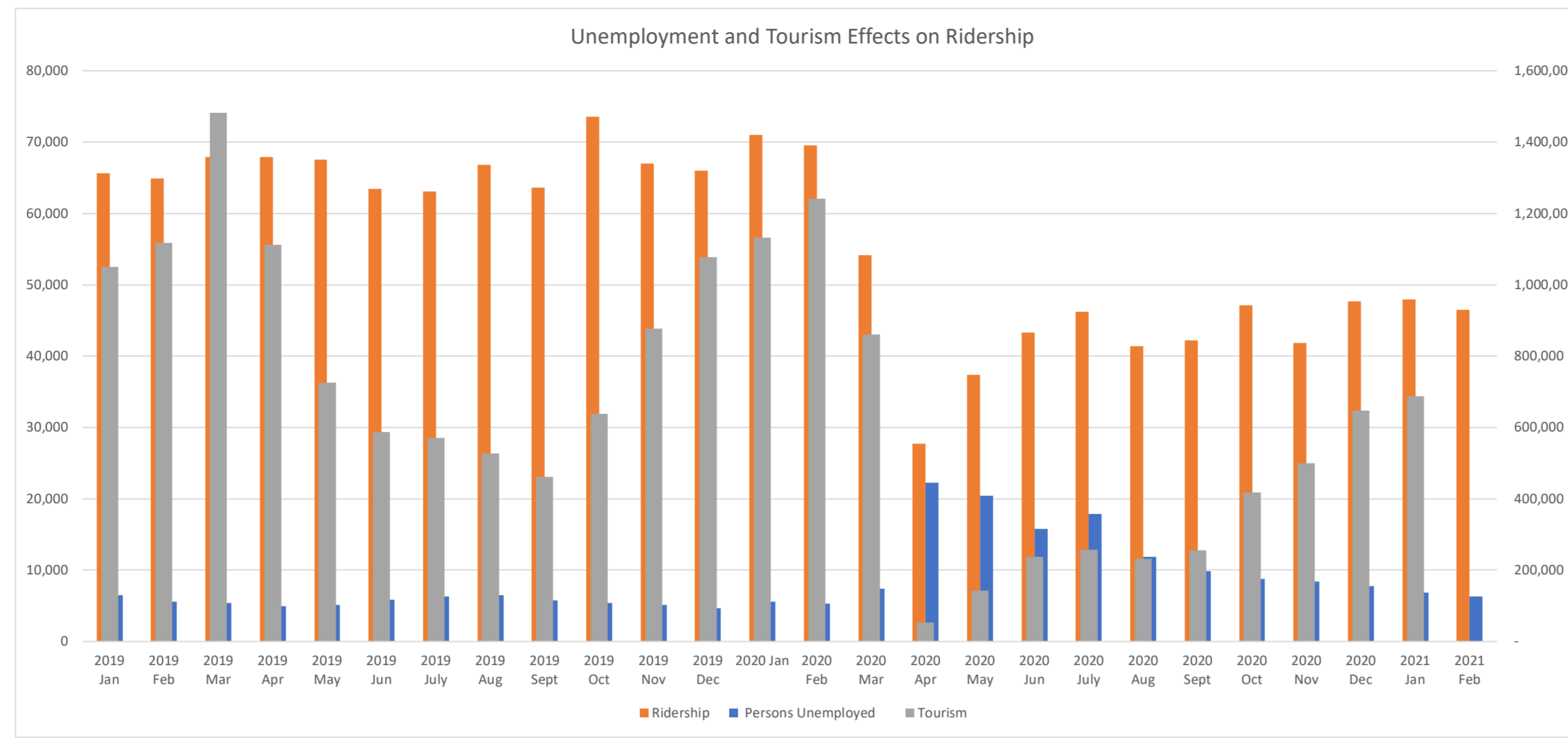
Year	Persons Unemployed	Ridership
2019 Jan	6,502	65,650
2019 Feb	5,599	64,922
2019 Mar	5,408	67,914
2019 Apr	4,895	67,896
2019 May	5,080	67,513
2019 Jun	5,867	63,451
2019 July	6,260	63,053
2019 Aug	6,463	66,792
2019 Sept	5,719	63,653
2019 Oct	5,401	73,587
2019 Nov	5,133	67,010
2019 Dec	4,704	65,993
2020 Jan	5,531	71,003
2020 Feb	5,277	69,542
2020 Mar	7,408	54,108
2020 Apr	22,238	27,696
2020 May	20,467	37,342
2020 Jun	15,805	43,288
2020 July	17,853	46,249
2020 Aug	11,897	41,431
2020 Sept	9,866	42,198
2020 Oct	8,766	47,094
2020 Nov	8,385	41,801
2020 Dec	7,718	47,705
2021 Jan	6,891	47,948
2021 Feb	6,264	46,514



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2019 Aug	66,792	526,519
2019 Sept	63,653	460,869
2019 Oct	73,587	638,922
2019 Nov	67,010	876,703
2019 Dec	65,993	1,077,818
2020 Jan	71,003	1,132,103
2020 Feb	69,542	1,241,590
2020 Mar	54,108	861,221
2020 Apr	27,696	53,379
2020 May	37,342	143,004
2020 Jun	43,288	237,706
2020 July	46,249	256,418
2020 Aug	41,431	231,283
2020 Sept	42,198	255,926
2020 Oct	47,094	417,305
2020 Nov	41,801	500,468
2020 Dec	47,705	648,011
2021 Jan	47,948	686,563
2021 Feb	46,514	



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2019 Dec	4,704	65,993	1,077,818
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2020 Sept	9,866	42,198	255,926
2020 Oct	8,766	47,094	417,305
2020 Nov	8,385	41,801	500,468
2020 Dec	7,718	47,705	648,011
2021 Jan	6,891	47,948	686,563
2021 Feb	6,264	46,514	52,000



As unemployment rates have decreased our ridership has increased
 Increased employment during the seasonal months increases ridership.
 Impacts

Source