

Ridership Forecasting

Community Oversight Panel

5/11/22



Overview

- Background
- COVID related developments in ridership forecasting
- How ridership forecasts are used
- Expert Review Panel
- Responding to COP inquiries
- Current and upcoming efforts
- Questions / discussion

Long term changes in travel patterns

Pre-Covid trends accelerated due to pandemic

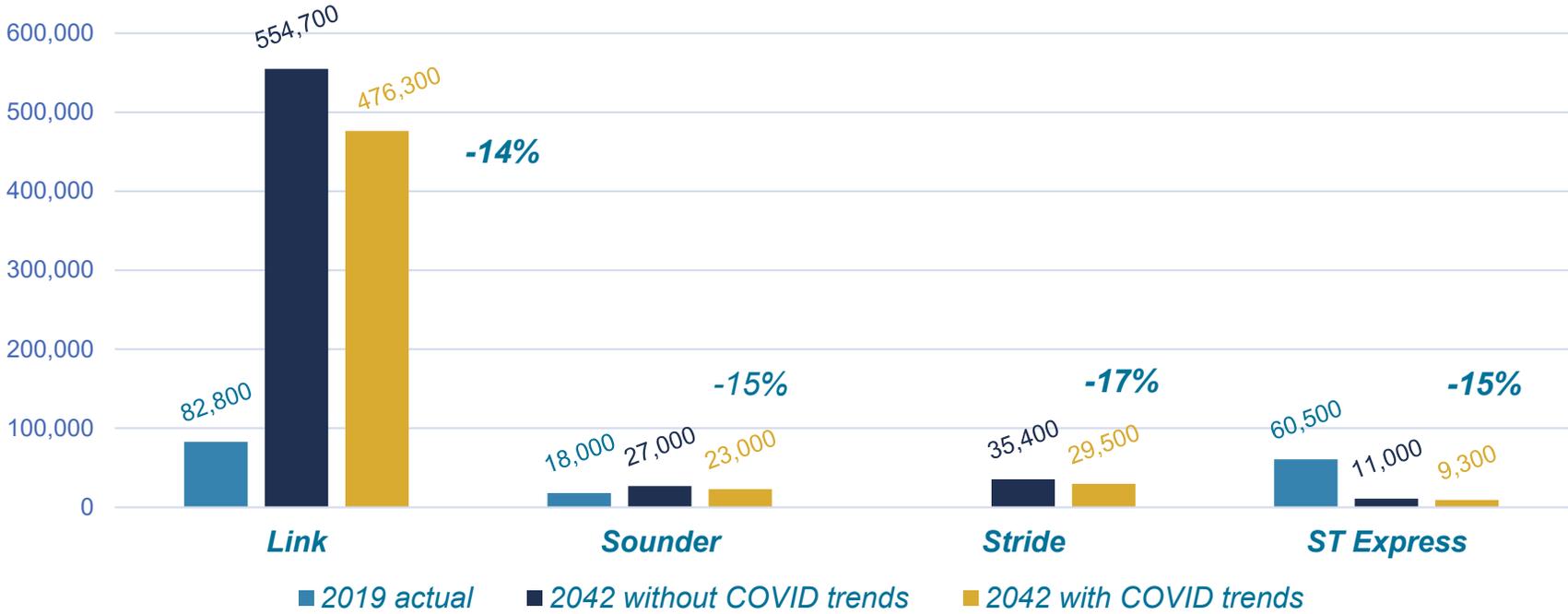
- More working from home
- More shopping from home, etc.

Impacts to long term ridership forecast

- Less transit ridership in the future than previous estimates
- Peak flattening
- Different impacts by industry sector
- Different impacts by income

Estimate: Approx 15% ridership reduction

Estimated impacts of Using COVID Trends in Ridership Forecasts
Daily Boardings by Mode



* Sources - Service Delivery Performance Report (Q4 2019), ST3 Realignment Forecast for Initial Target Schedule (December 2021)

How ridership forecasts are used

Given level of uncertainty about future trends, ST will use revised forecasts to develop a range of outcomes



Operations and capacity planning



Financial planning



Project development / environmental studies



Grant applications

Expert review panel

In 2021, proactively solicited expert peer feedback

Coordinated with American Public Transportation Association (APTA)

Panelists reviewed ridership forecasting methods and procedures and developed recommendations

Review panel findings

Sound Transit modeling generally works as intended

Wait to re-baseline ridership assumptions

- COVID impacts too recent to set baseline
- System undergoing significant HCT changes in near future

Areas to analyze further

- Near term: Small model changes to better represent transit network
- Medium and Long Term: determine feasibility of revising larger assumptions within model and continue to coordinate with PSRC

Responding to COP Inquiries

COP Question	Response
Update COP on ridership forecasts	<i>Accomplished in today's meeting</i>
Technology and innovation's impact on ridership	<i>The Innovation office in PX tracks trends; System Planning will track how forecasting industry models impacts</i>
Impact of parking delays impacting rideshare on forecast	<i>Model accounts for realigned capital program</i>
Impact of COVID regionally on transit	<i>General peak flattening; slow steady ridership increase; operator constraints</i>

Current and upcoming efforts

Current

- Link operations and LRV fleet planning

Upcoming

- Assess feasibility of implementing peer review recommendations
- WSBLE and TDLE Phase 3 (Final EISs)
- EVLE Phases 1 and 2

Thank you.



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