

# ***2021 Service Plan***

*Response to COVID-19*

*October 2020*



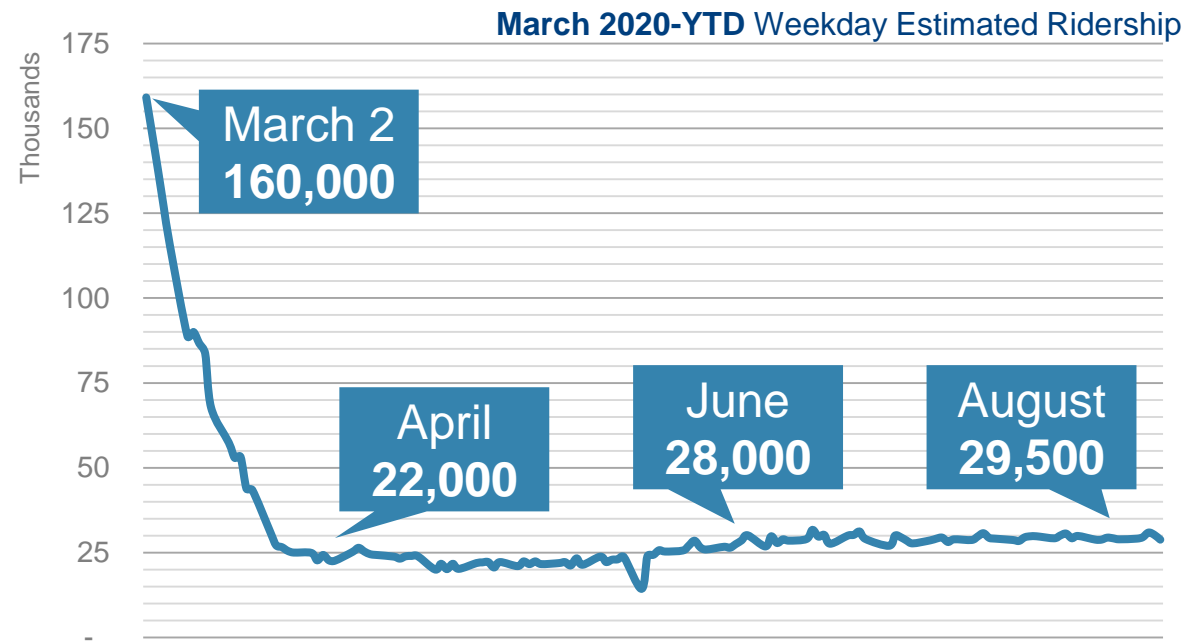
# **Agenda**

***Summarize Sound Transit's service response to COVID-19 in 2020***

***Overview of 2021 Service Plan***

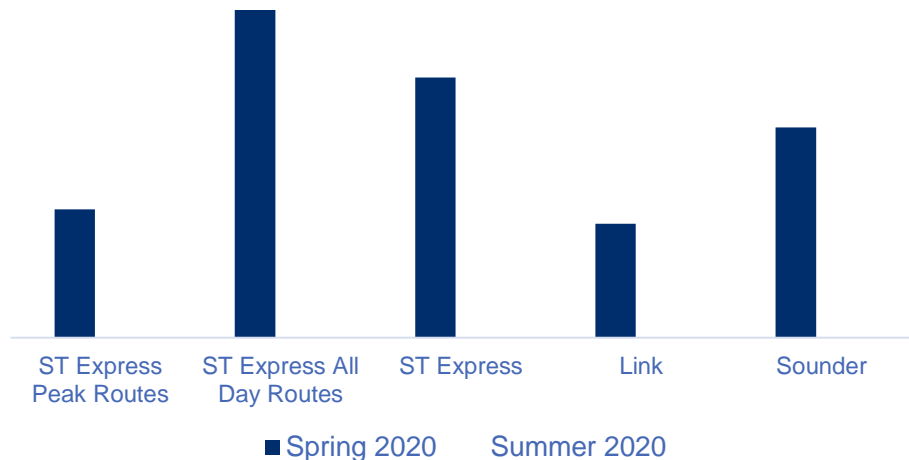
***Draft equity analysis (Title VI evaluation)***

# COVID-19 related ridership changes



# COVID-19 Response – Spring 2020

## Weekday Trips

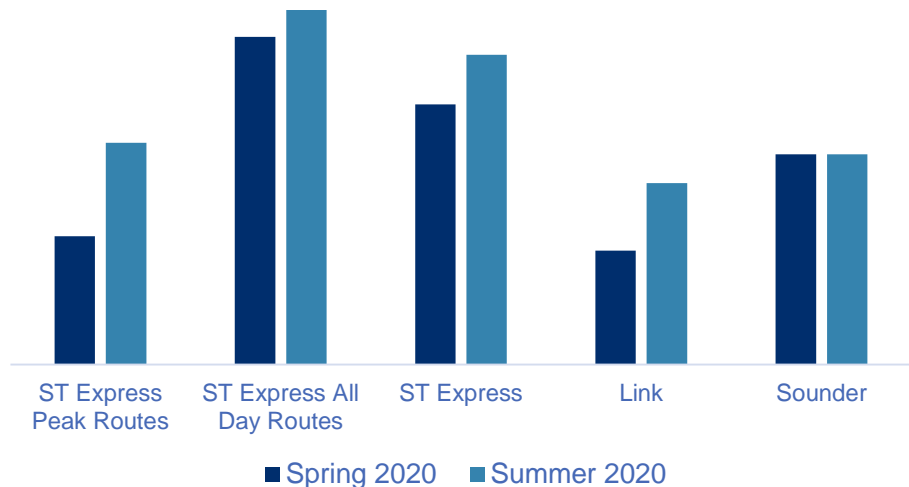


- Implemented smaller “core-system”
- Prioritized routes with the most riders while balancing equity considerations
- Temporarily suspended most overlapping rush-hour only service
- Maintained coverage and access to most regional destinations
- Planned together with partner agencies

# COVID-19 Response – Summer 2020

## Service Added as Riders Return

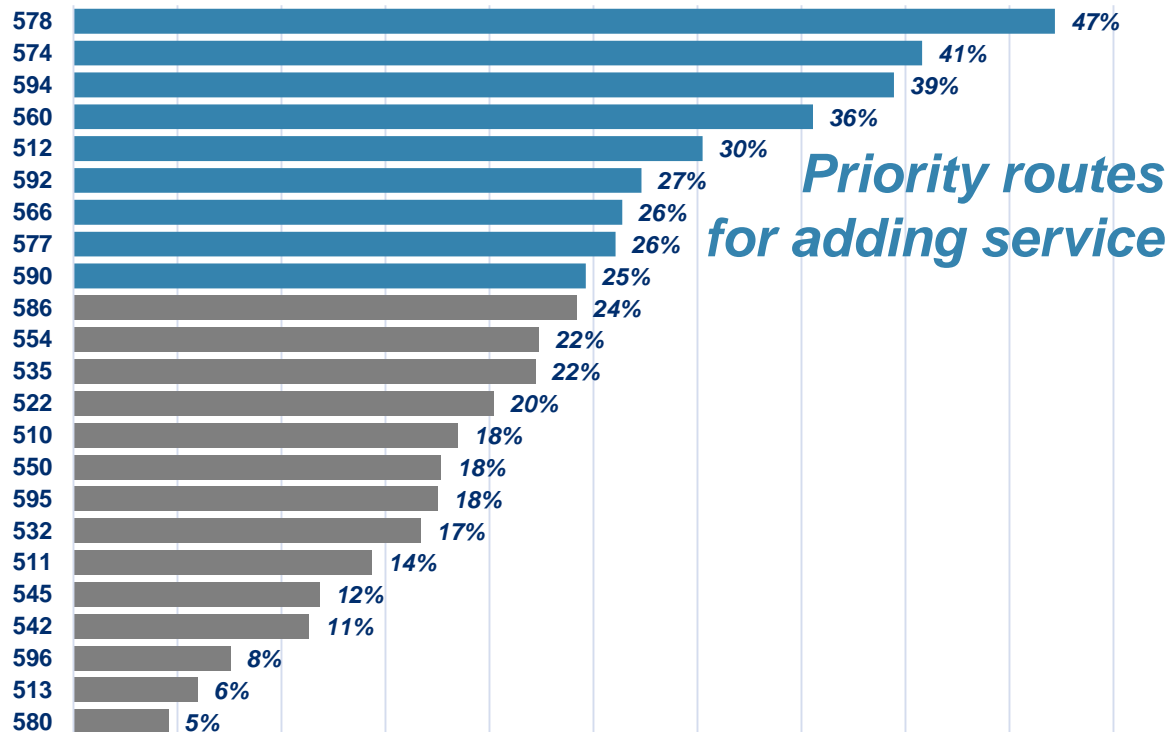
### Weekday Trips



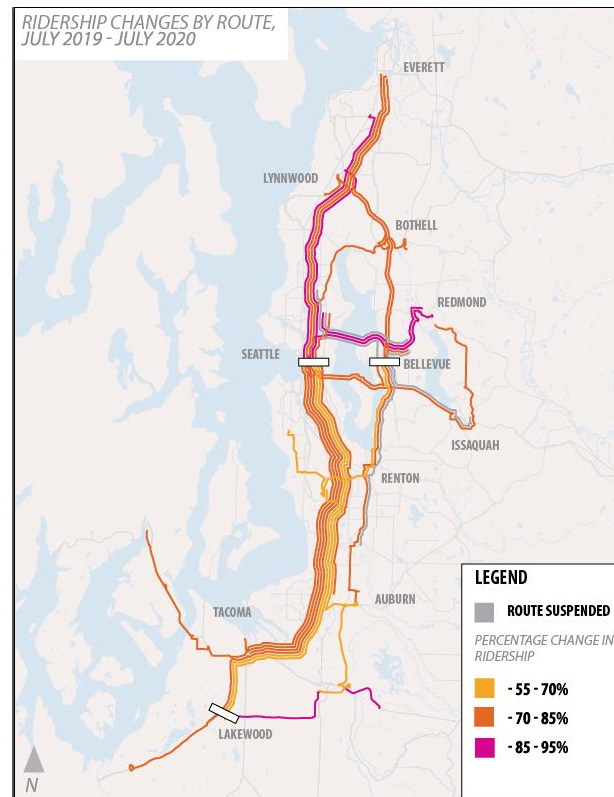
- Added service to support equitable access, social distancing & essential trips
- Maintained and increased all-day, all-week travel markets

# New Travel Patterns Emerge as Riders Return

Percentage of Riders Returning (Average Weekday)



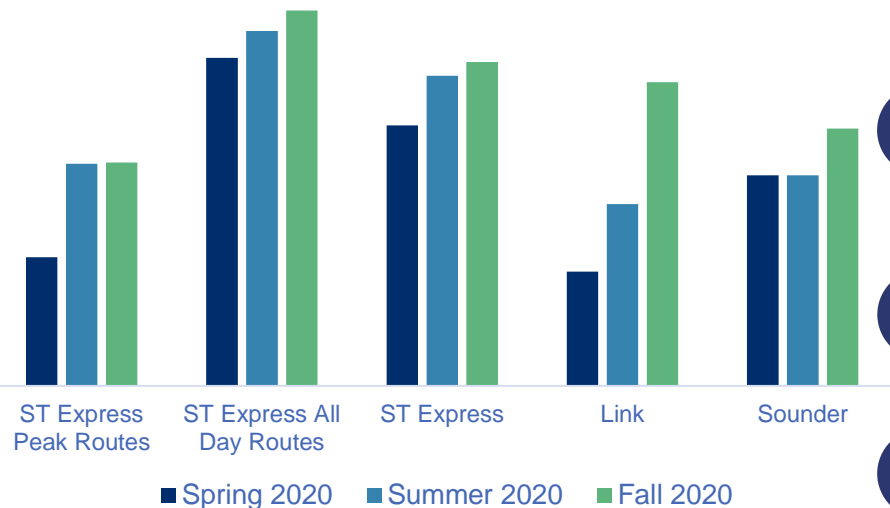
Source: Initial ridership estimates from July 2020 compared with 2019 baseline



# Service Adjusted to Meet New Travel Patterns

*More service starting in September 2020*

## Weekday Trips



**Link** – increase to 8 min peak, 15 min off-peak/weekend, 30 late night



**Sounder** – increase to 9 roundtrips in South, 2 roundtrips in North



**Tacoma Link** – continue full service



**ST Express** – 20% more trips on routes that retained higher ridership

# ***Planning 2021 Service***

## ***What we're assuming***

- Pandemic impacts will most likely continue through 2021
- Service levels designed to meet existing ridership while containing spending in a period of declining revenues

## ***What we don't know***

- How ridership may change throughout the year
- How social distancing needs will change
- When major employers and schools will return in-person

## ***Flexibility is key***

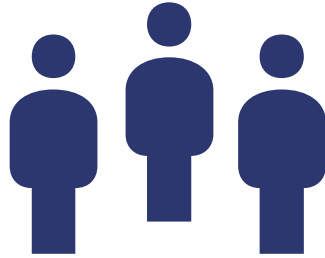
- If ridership returns faster than anticipated, ST will need to add budget and service



# *Our Strategy for 2021 Service*



*Focus on  
dependable &  
sustainable  
service*



*Prioritize Equity*



*Consider rider &  
community  
input*



*Prepare to add  
service if  
ridership  
increases*

# Restructure service with Northgate Link opening

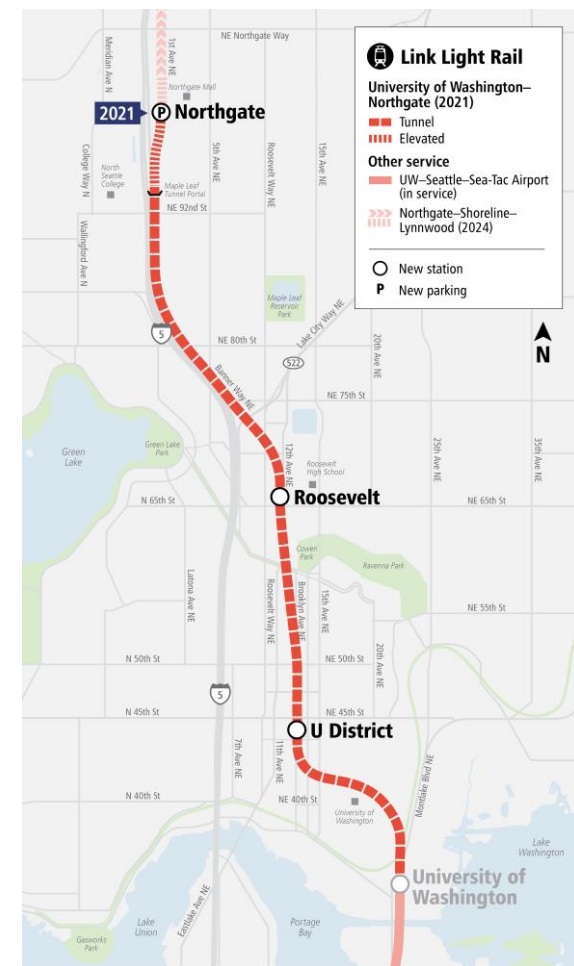
Integrated planning between Sound Transit, King County Metro and Community Transit

## 3 New Link Stations

- Trains arrive every 8 mins during rush hour; every 15 mins midday, weekends; 30 mins evenings

**ST Express routing changes from Snohomish and North King County to feed expanded Link system**

- Routes 511, 512, 513, 522, 542, 555, 556, 586



# Outreach Results for 2021 Service Plan

## *Large number of responses*

- 10 times more responses than for a typical service plan
- Currently processing results to understand changing travel patterns and where passengers need service the most

**1,900 survey responses**



*1,270 complete  
630 partial*

# *Timeline*

- **October** – Incorporate input into **final** service plan
- **November** – Board adoption of **final** service plan

*Thank you.*



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