

# *2021 Service Plan*

*Response to COVID-19*

*9/3/20*



# *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

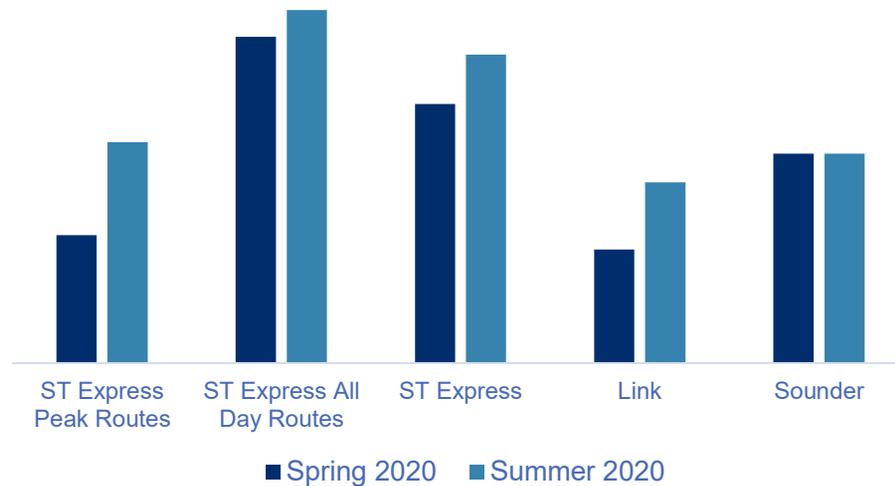


- Implemented smaller “core-system”
- Prioritized routes with the most riders while balancing equity considerations
- Temporarily suspended most overlapping rush-hour only service
- Maintained coverage and access to most regional destinations
- Planned together with partner agencies

# COVID-19 response – Summer 2020

## Service Added as Riders Return

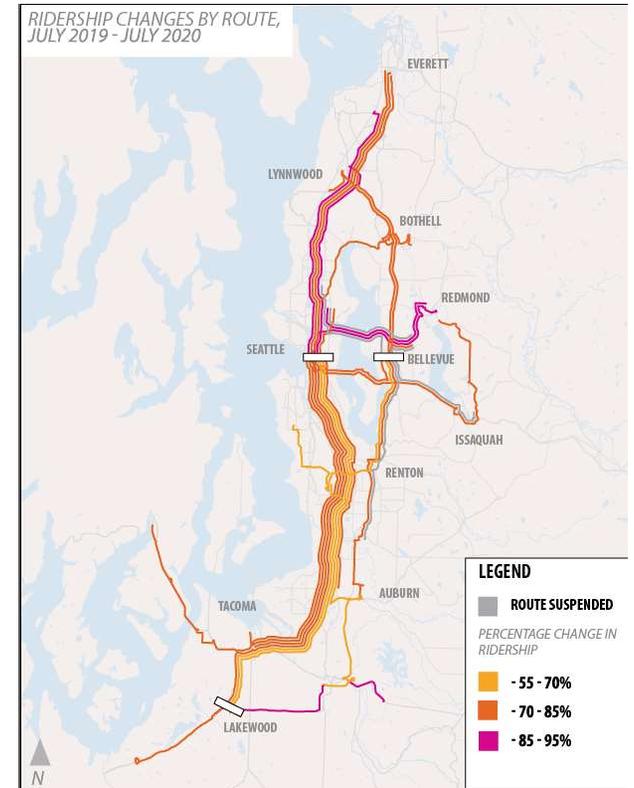
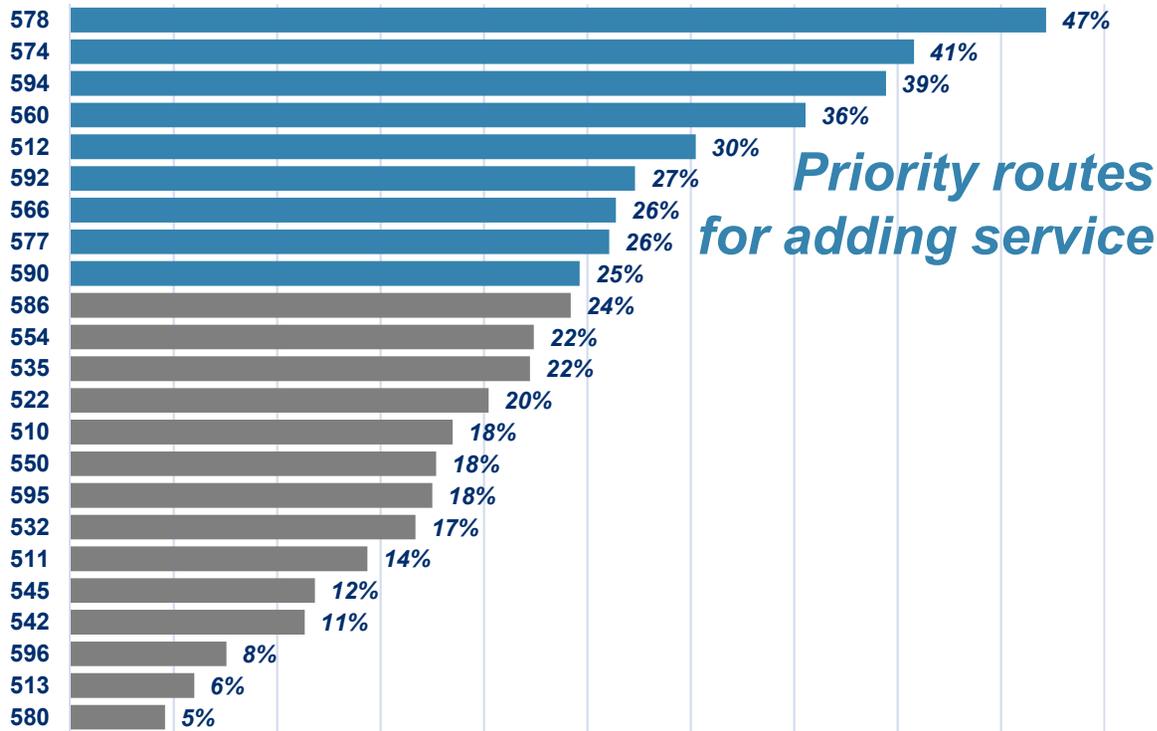
### Weekday Trips



- 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)

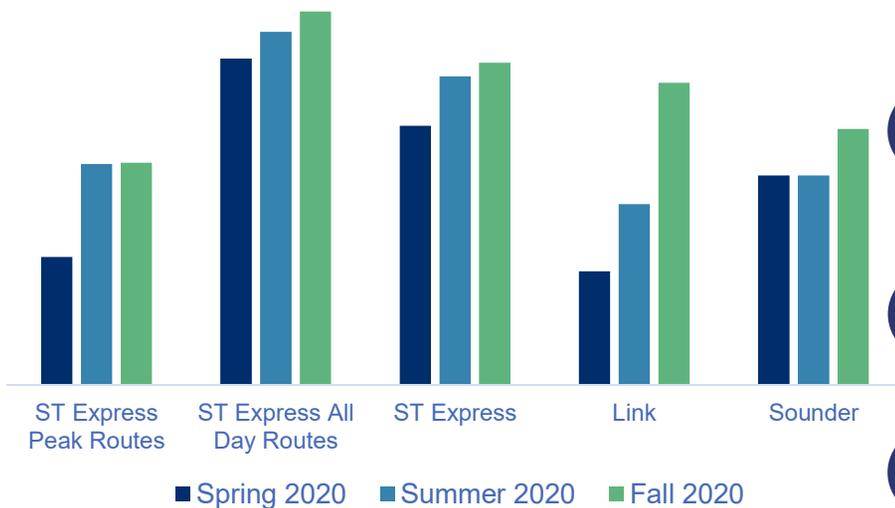


Source: Initial ridership estimates from July 2020 compared with 2019 baseline

# 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
- Demand likely to remain lower and focused on fewer routes
- Decline in revenue means limited ability to add more service

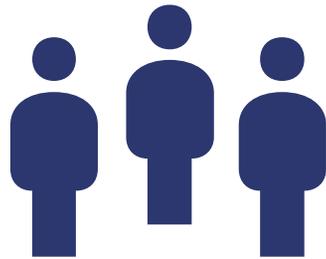
## ***What we don't know***

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

# *Our strategy for 2021 service*



*Focus on  
dependable &  
sustainable  
service*



*Prioritize Equity*



*Consider rider &  
community  
input*



*Prepare to add  
service if  
ridership  
increases*

# Right-size to Demand

*With commute ridership low, suspend rush hour services*

- Continue to not operate some rush hour trips
- Continue full suspension of routes 541, 544, 567
- Maintain all-day, all-week regional service in all travel markets





## ***Equity for 2021 Service Plan***

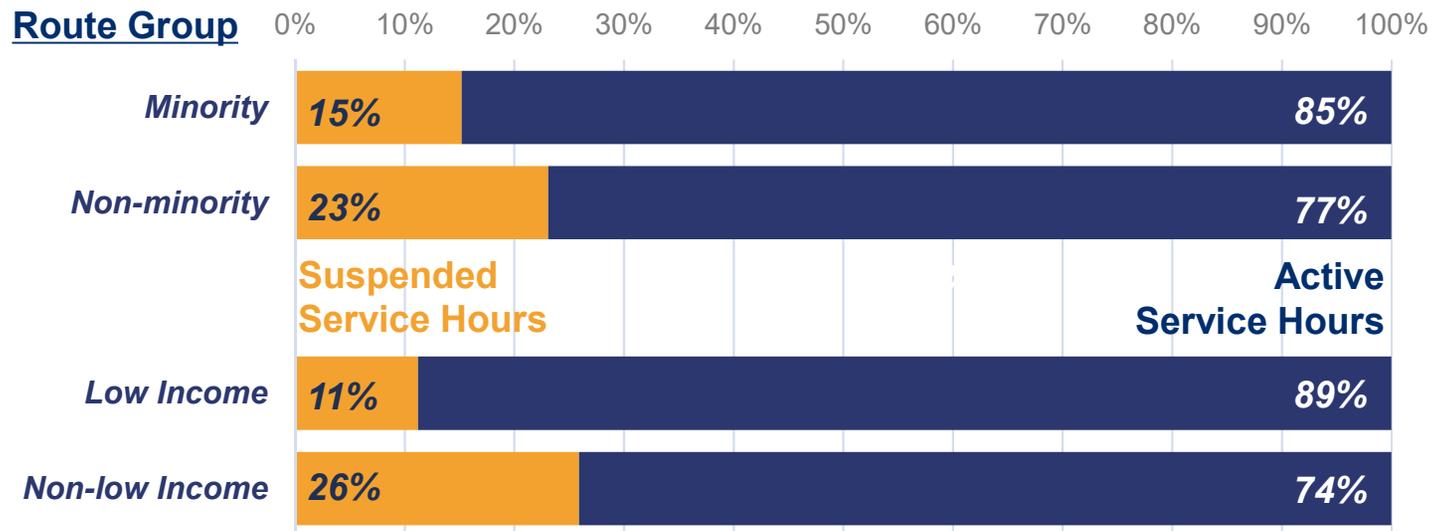
### ***Transit prioritized for those who depend on it***

- Ensure the network is dependable and useable all-day and all-week
- Prioritize low-income and minority routes to ensure access to the system

### ***FTA required Title VI analysis determines adverse impacts***

- Documents how changes since February 2020 impact Minority and Low-Income populations
- Documents reasons for changes and alternatives considered with goal of implementing the least discriminatory alternative
- Public input required prior to Board adopting final service changes

# More service on Title VI routes



Based on estimated total bus & rail platform hours for 2021

## Draft Title VI analysis of 2021 Service Plan

Rail Proposed Change	Impact	Reasoning
Link Service Reduction	Longer wait times.	Reduced rush hour demand.
Sounder North Service Reduction	Fewer trip options available.	Low ridership during these trips Alternative ST Express trips available during these times.
Sounder South Service Reduction	Fewer trip options in mid-day, early afternoon and reverse peak.	Low ridership during these trips Alternative ST Express trips available during these times.

Only changes impacting minority or low-income routes listed.

## Draft Title VI analysis of 2021 Service Plan

Northgate Changes	Impact	Reasoning
<b>510</b> Service Reduction	Longer wait times.	Reduced rush hour demand.
<b>512</b> Routing Change	Introduces a new transfer, may increase travel time. Free transfer for ORCA users, cash riders pay additional \$1-\$2.75.	Provides access to all Link stations, more reliable travel time during rush hour.
<b>513</b> Routing Change	Introduces a new transfer, may increase travel time. Free transfer for ORCA users, cash riders pay additional \$1-\$2.75.	Provides access to all Link stations, more reliable travel time during rush hour.
<b>586</b> Elimination	Introduces a new transfer, may increase travel time. Free transfer for ORCA users, cash riders pay additional \$1-\$2.75.	Link will cover areas served by Route 586, riders accessing UWS and points north can use Routes 590, 594 or Sounder and transfer to Link Increased reliability by transferring to Link.

Only changes impacting minority or low-income routes listed.

## Draft Title VI analysis of 2021 Service Plan

Other ST Express Changes	Impact	Reasoning
<b>544</b> Suspension	Riders will take all-day Route 545, may need to transfer or walk a longer distance to stops.	Reduced rush hour demand; all-day route available.
<b>567</b> Suspension	Riders will take all-day Route 566, longer travel time.	Reduced rush hour demand; all-day route available.
<b>592</b> Service Reduction	Longer wait times.	Reduced rush hour demand.
<b>595</b> Routing Change	Longer travel times.	Provides more capacity for passengers at Tacoma Dome Station.

Only changes impacting minority or low-income routes listed.

# ***Outreach for 2021 Service Plan***

## ***Outreach to inform recommendations to the Board***

- FTA's intent is *“full and fair participation in...decision-making”*
- Stay-At-Home Order presents challenges to in-person outreach efforts

## ***Outreach strategies***

- 2021 Service Plan Project Page - *survey translated into top 6 languages*
- Virtual public hearing Sept 24<sup>th</sup> at noon
- Multiple communication channels including key stakeholders, community/social service agency engagement
- Ethnic media buys, SMS/rider alerts, media, social media & community newsletters, translations and language line

## *Timeline*

*September* – Release **draft** service plan for public input

*October* – Incorporate input into **final** service plan

*November* – Board adoption of **final** service plan

*Thank you.*



 [soundtransit.org](https://www.soundtransit.org)

