

Integrating Planning and Scheduling **via Technology**

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Agenda

1. The Planner Brain vs. The Scheduler Brain
2. Communication Struggles
3. How Technology Can Help

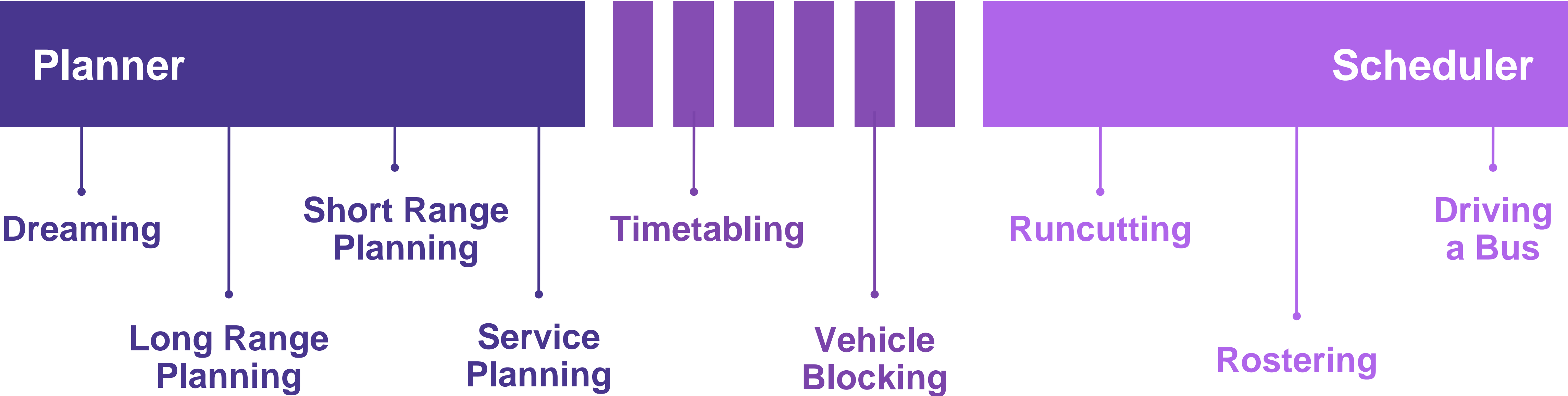
Transit Planners are...

- Big picture thinkers
- Concerned with public needs, both current and future
- Good at spatial visualization

Transit Schedulers are...

- Detail oriented
- Concerned with public needs, and also the needs of their operators
- Good at doing simple math quickly

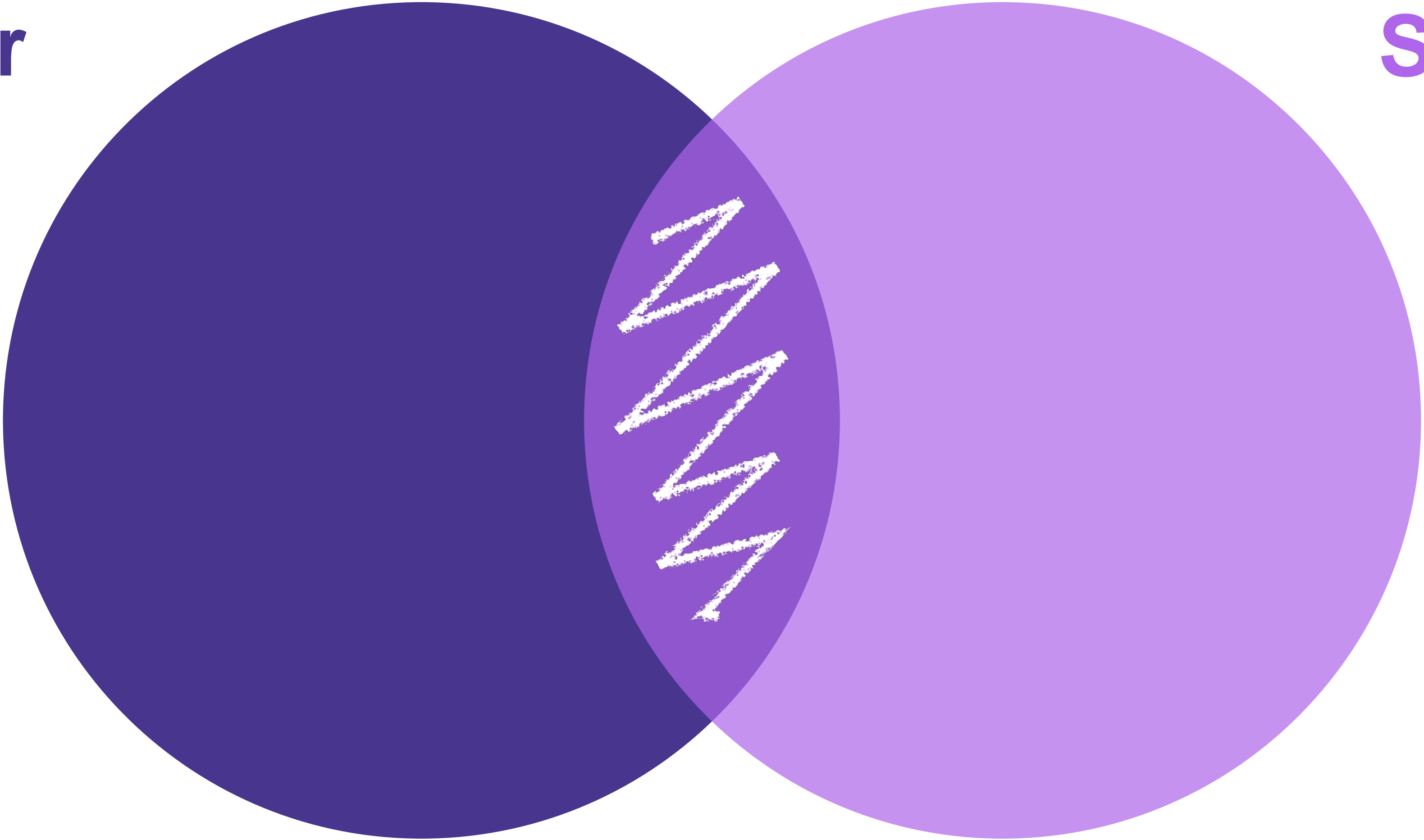
The “What’s My Job?” Spectrum



COMMUNICATION STRUGGLES

Planner

Scheduler



Example Statement

Tim Horton's is better than Dunkin Donuts

Statement #1

I identify more as a transit planner than
as a transit scheduler

Statement #2

A transit scheduler should have been an operator at some point

Statement #3

Operator happiness is at least as important as customer happiness

Statement #4

I think of bus service in terms of peak hour frequency rather than peak hour bus counts

Statement #5

Operators should be allowed to drive a 13/3 schedule (*13 hours per day / 3 days per week*) if they want

Planning terms are...

- Generally universal and easy to understand

Scheduling terms are...

- Not easy to understand and can be agency-specific:
- Runs vs. Duties
- Bid vs. Pick
- Interlining vs. Interlacing
- Pre-trip Time vs. Sign-On Time vs. Check Bus Time vs. Clock-in Time vs...

Terminology Standpoint

Makes the world smaller



Communication Standpoint

Ease of use can bring planners and schedulers together

→ Is the technology easy to understand?

→ Is the technology easy to share?

→ Is the technology easy to access?

HOW TECHNOLOGY CAN HELP

Recent Successes

AVTA
Lancaster, CA



NCRTD
Española, NM



Mountain Line
Morgantown, WV



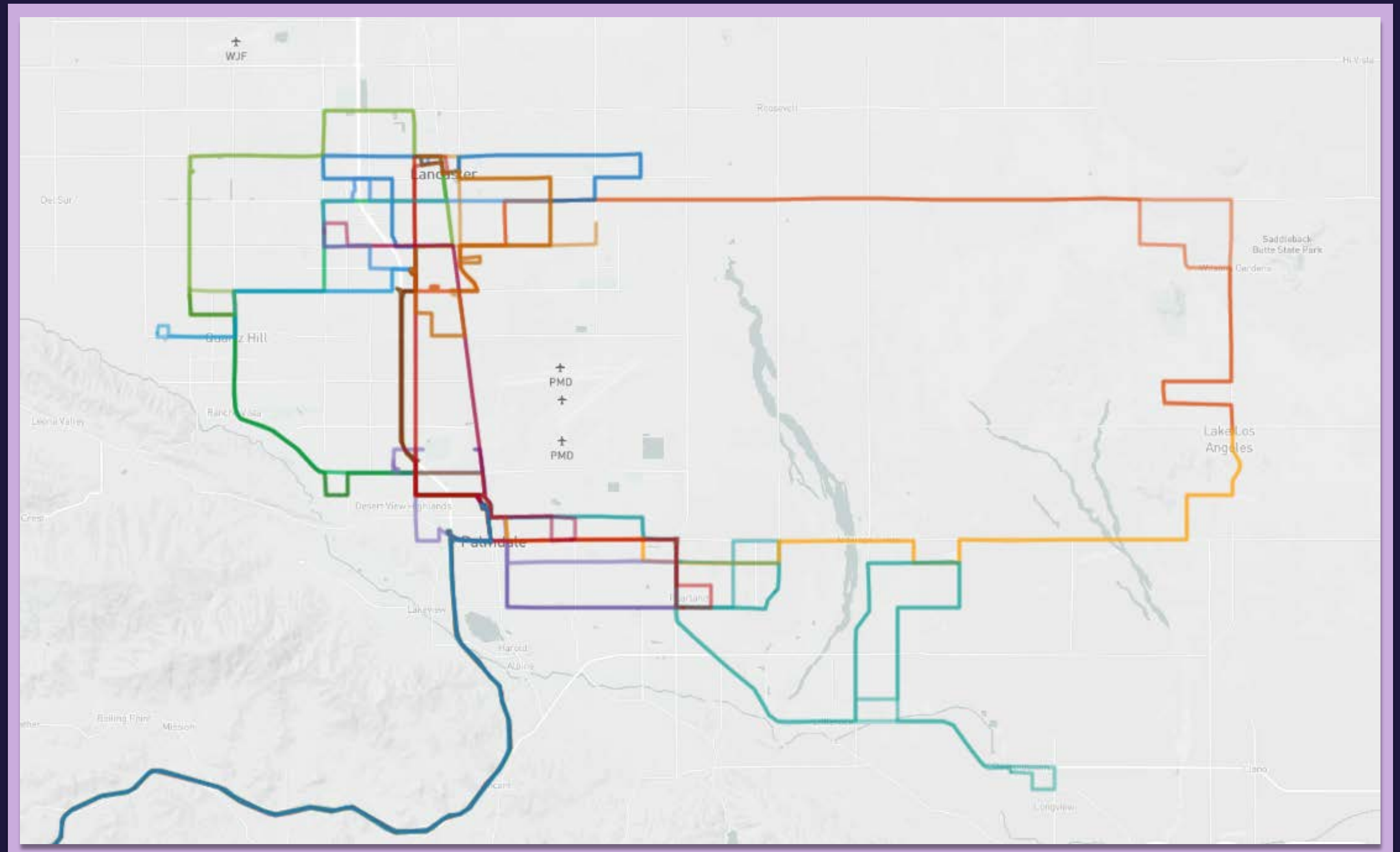
Lancaster, CA (AVTA)

Challenges:

Scheduling was contracted to separate operations company

Siloed communications between planner and scheduler

Transitioning to all-electric fleet



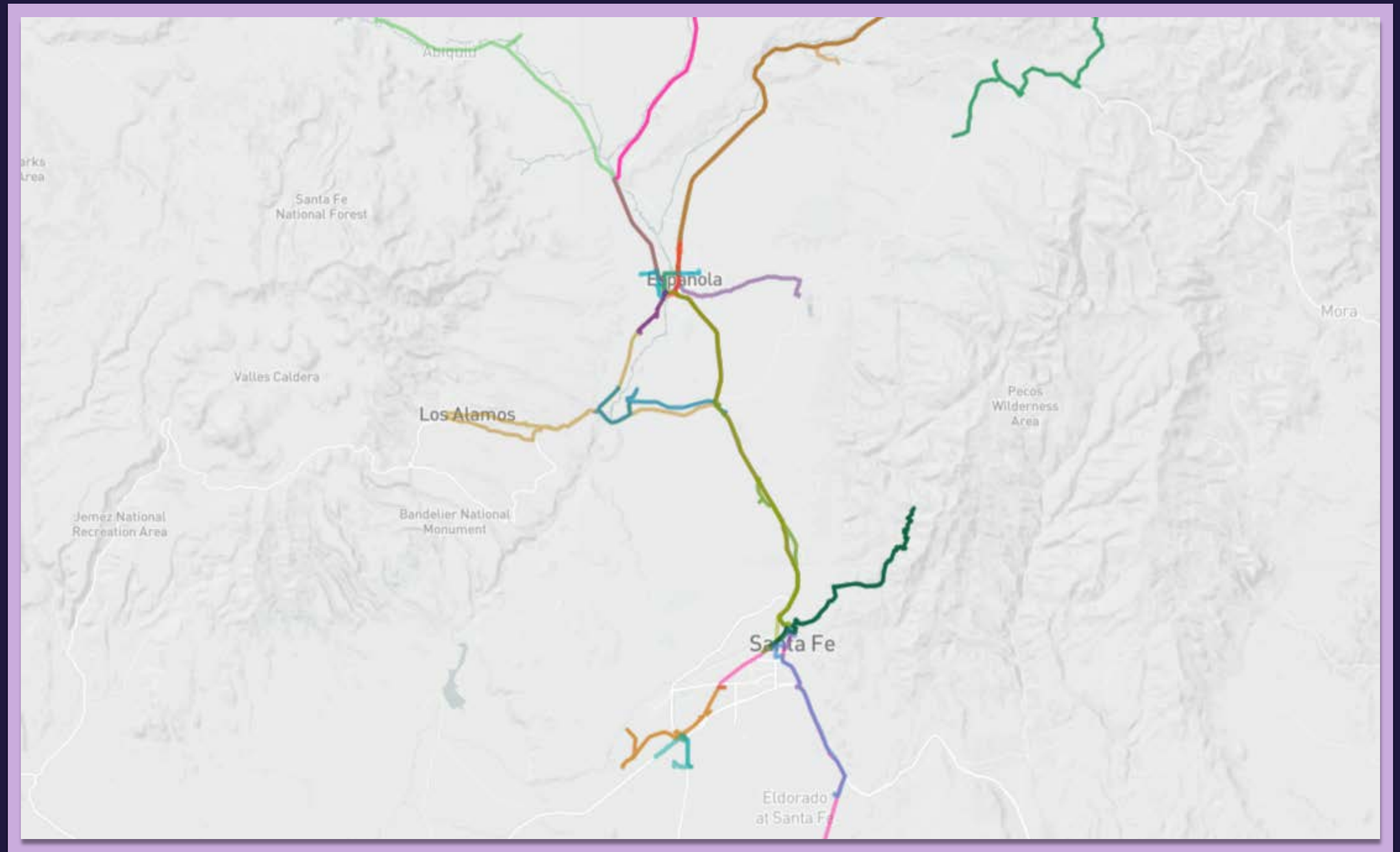
Española, NM (NCRTD)

Challenges:

Agency had never scheduled before

Eight different “garages”

Operators unhappy with runs



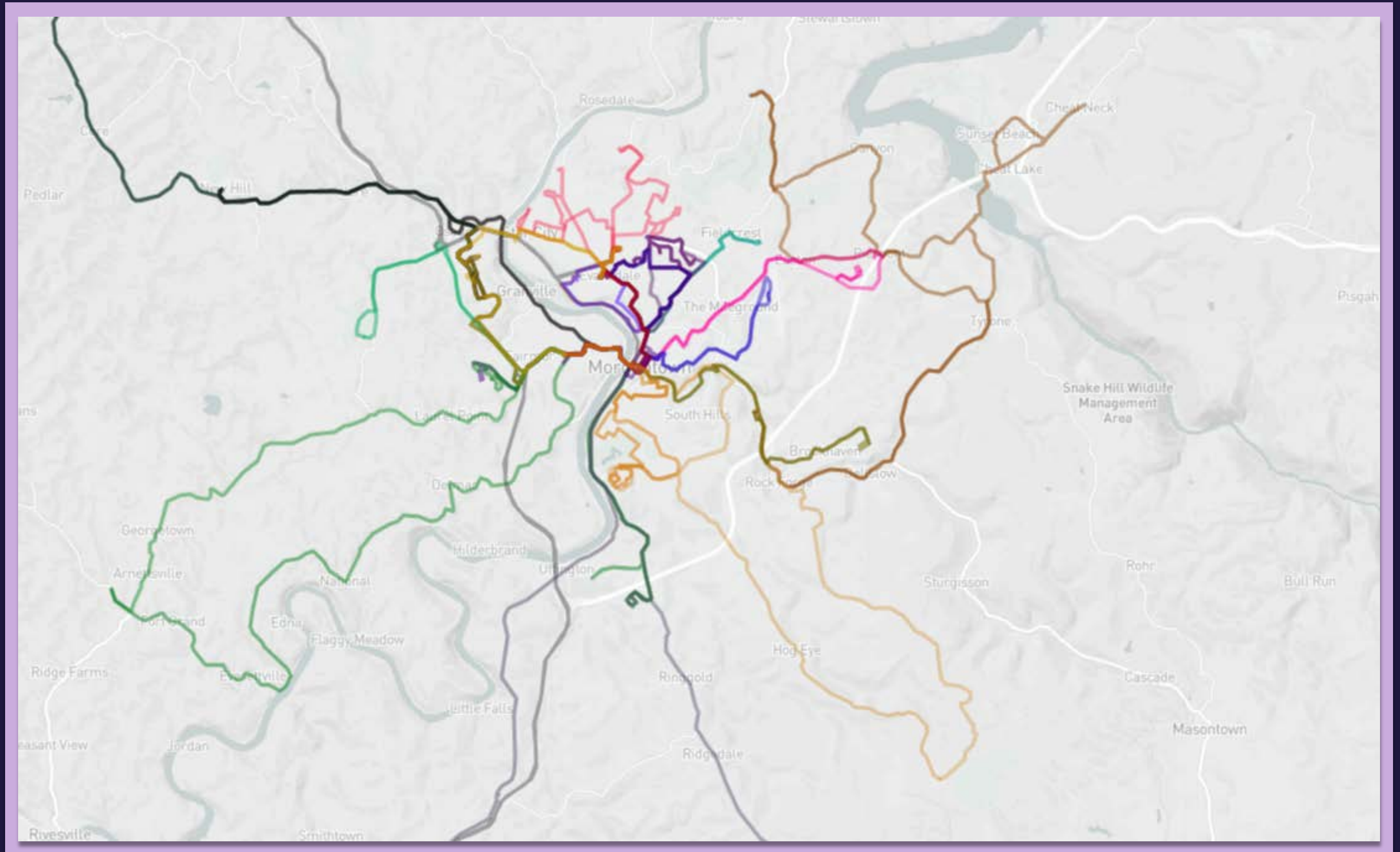
Morgantown, WV (Mountain Line)

Challenges:

Transit Center moved from downtown Morgantown to Westover

All routes changing!

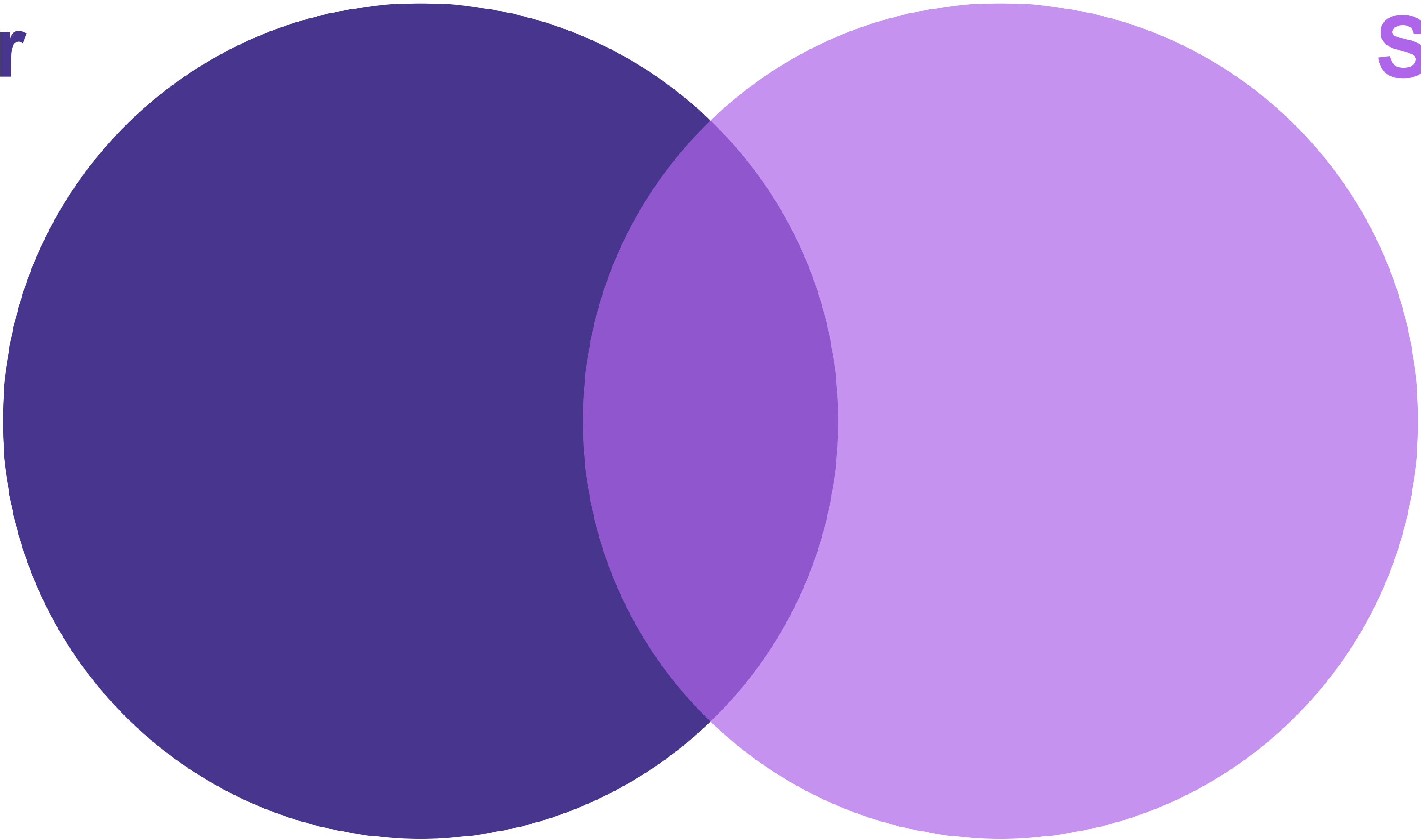
Costing on the fly



GOAL

Planner

Scheduler



Thank you!



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