

Friends With Benefits: Seattle Transportation Benefit District's Partnership With King County Metro

Benjamin Smith,
Senior Transportation Planner






Overview

- Seattle transit today & STBD History
- Investments
- Service Provision
- Transportation Equity
- Impacts & Analysis
- 2018 Material Scope Change
- Looking Ahead



Seattle transit today & STBD History

- 2018 Population: 730,400 (~600K in 2010)
- King County Metro  **King County**
 - RapidRide BRT, Trolleybus, local & express bus
- Sound Transit  **SOUNDTRANSIT**
 - Link light rail, ST Express regional bus, Sounder commuter rail
- City of Seattle  **City of Seattle**
 - Monorail, Streetcar (South Lake Union, First Hill)

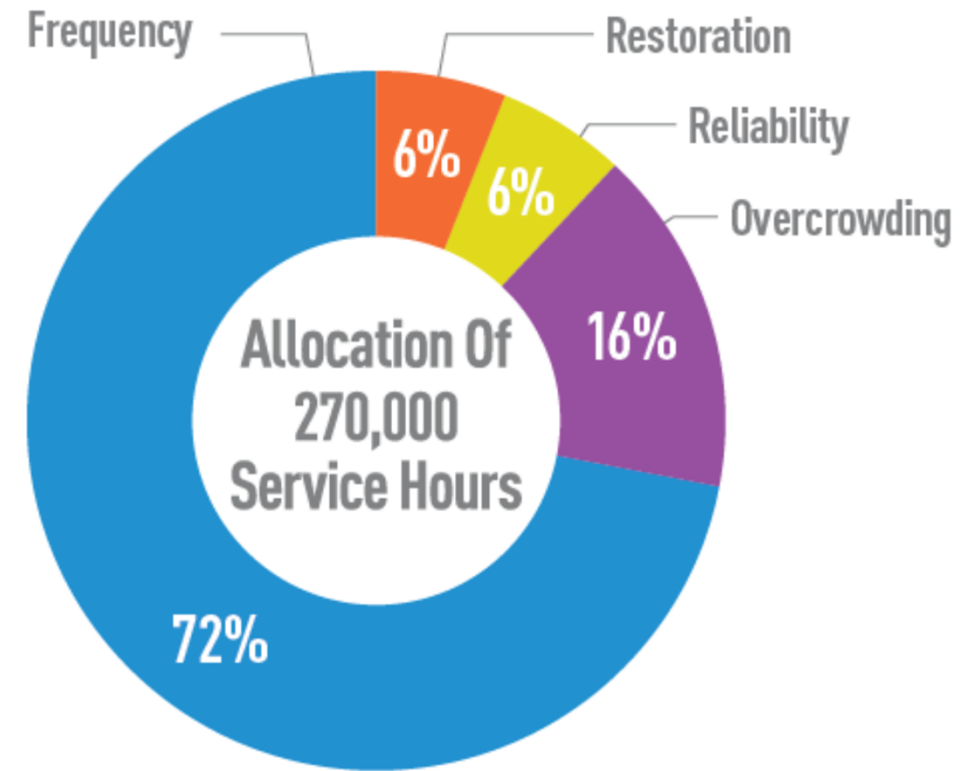
Seattle transit today & STBD History

- Transportation Benefit Districts (TBDs)
- April 2014 – King County Prop 1 (roads & transit), failed
- September 2014 – “Phase 1” of service cuts
- November 2014 – STBD Prop 1, passed!
 - \$60 Vehicle License Fee (VLF) increase, to \$80 total
 - 0.1% sales tax
 - ~45-50M/year in funding available over 6 years
 - Transit Advisory Board for oversight

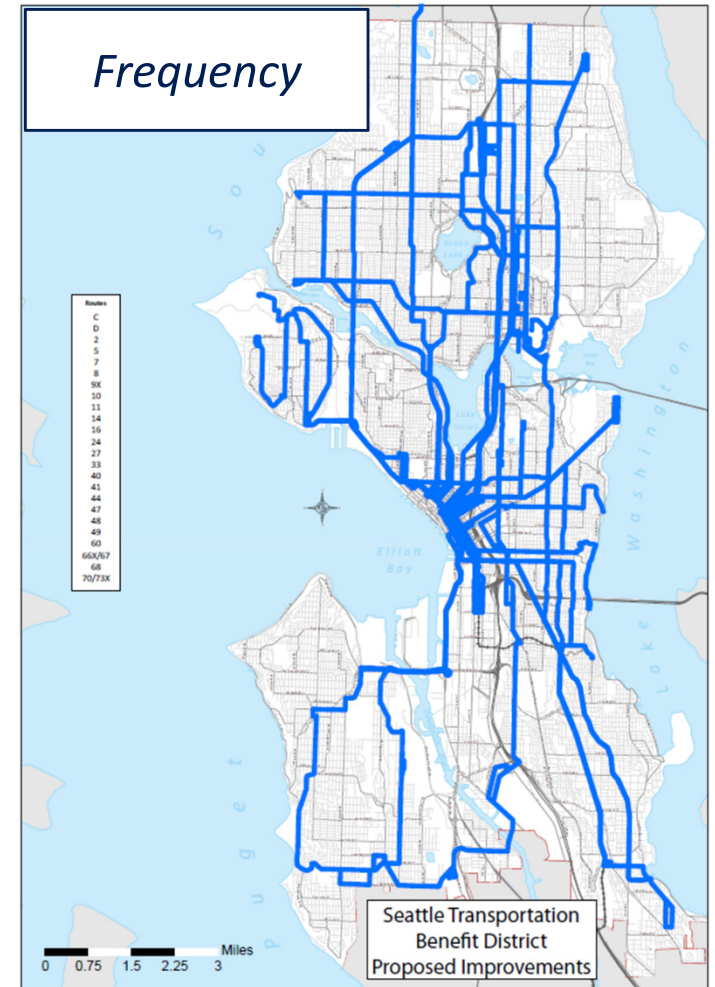
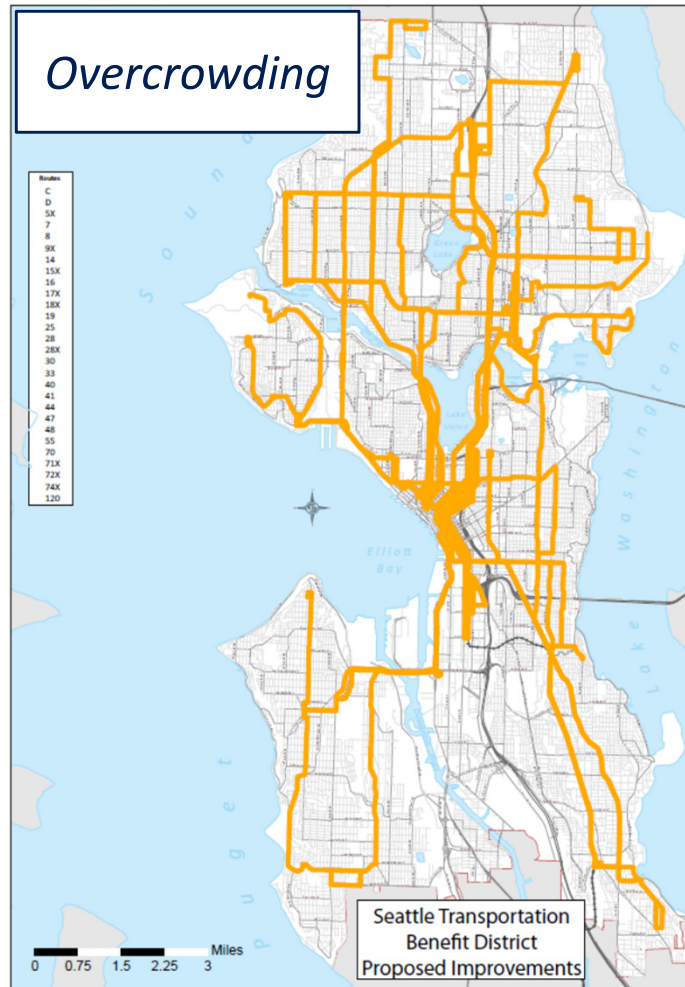
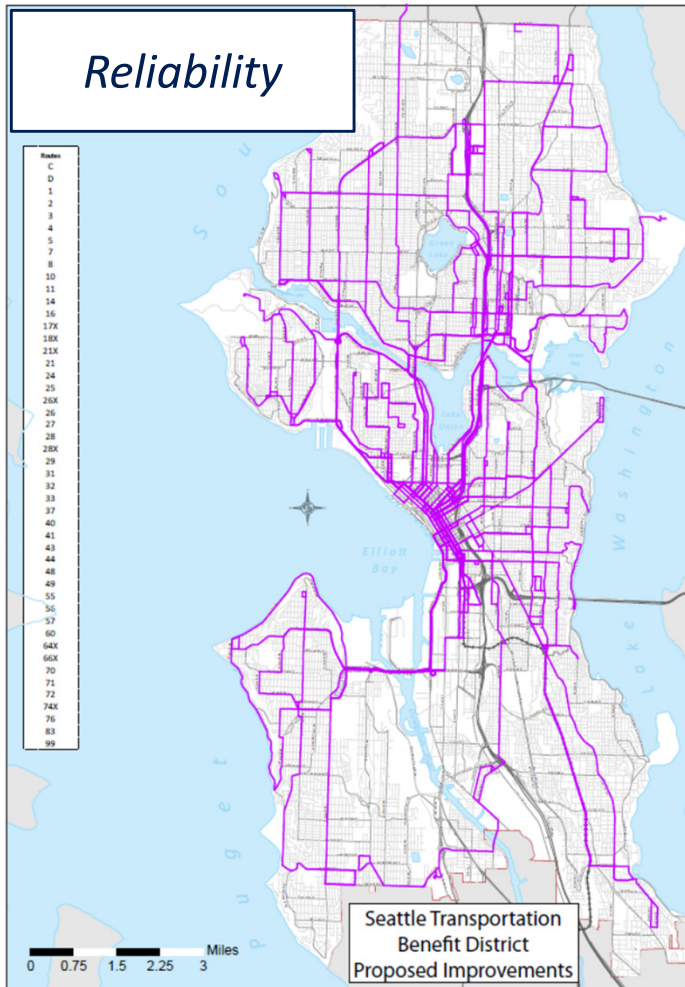


Investments

- Metro bus service on “Seattle routes”
 - 80% of stops within Seattle, full funding
- Investment types (270K annual hours)
 - Reliability
 - Overcrowding
 - Frequency
- Regional Partnerships (routes serving Seattle, 50/50 funding)
- June 2015, September 2015, March 2016 service changes

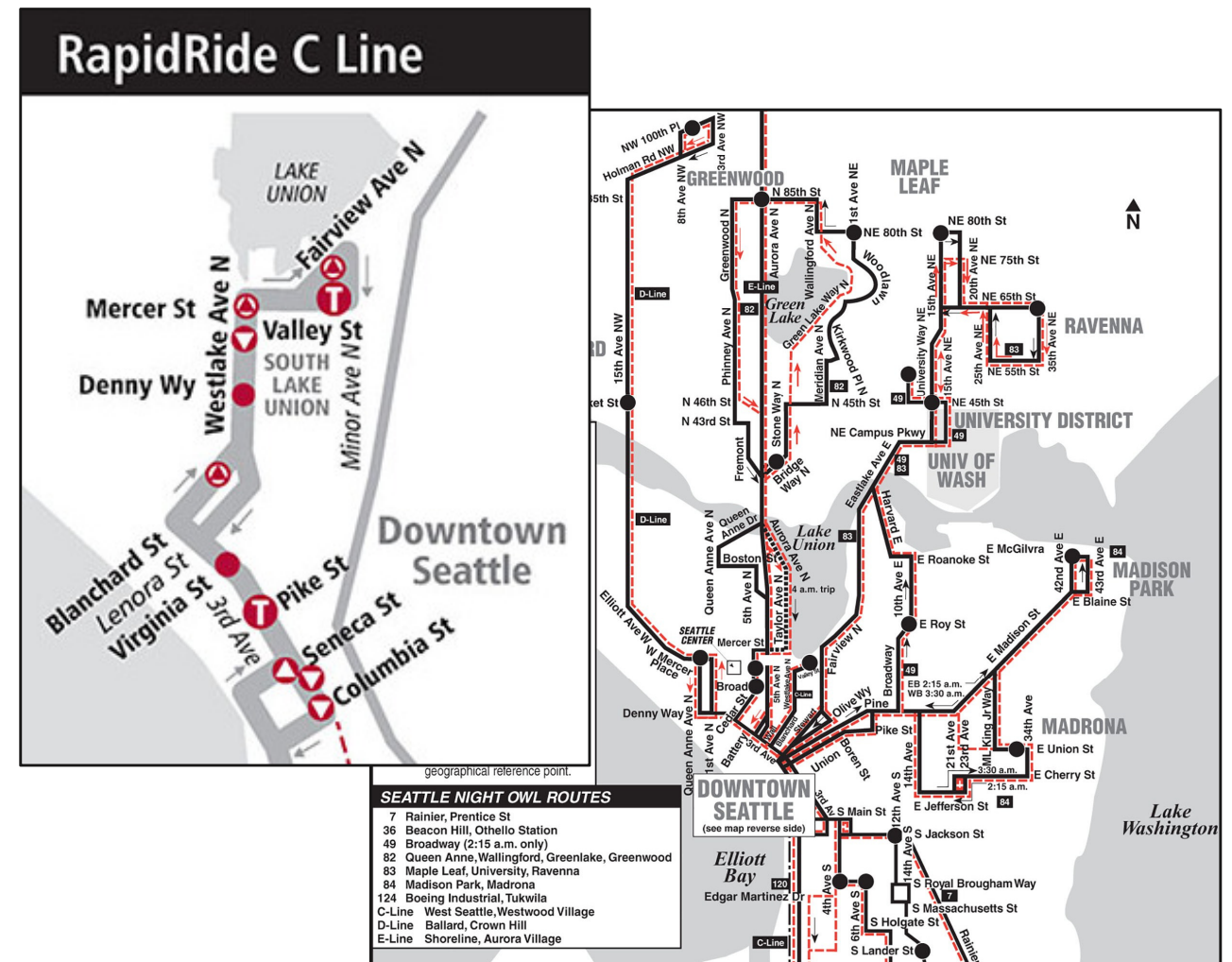


Investments by Type, 2015-2016



Other Investments

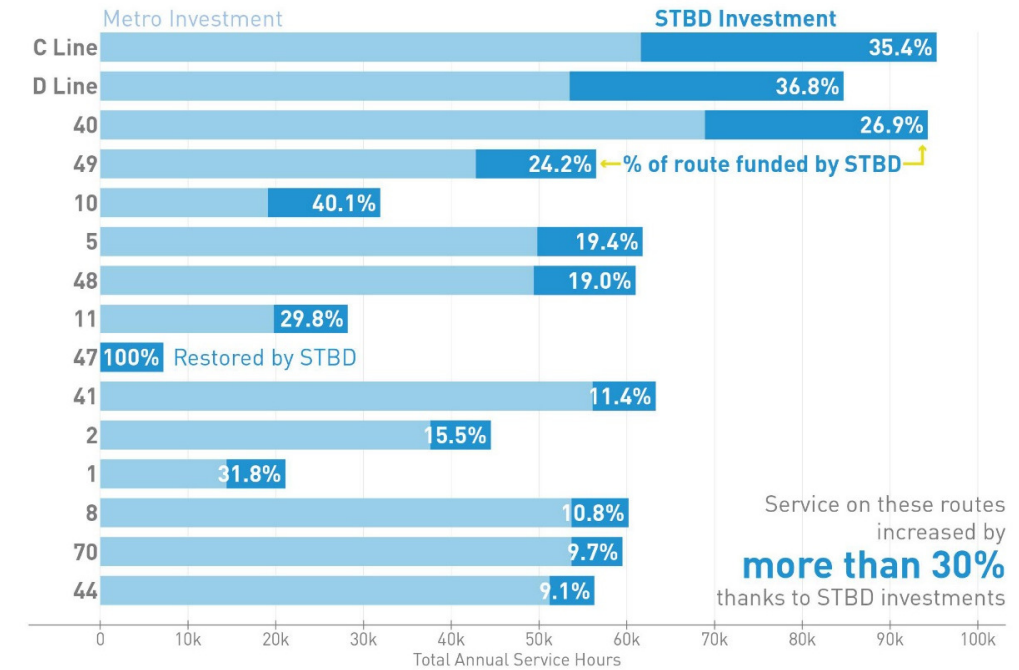
- RapidRide C line extension to South Lake Union
- Some route restoration
- Regional Partnerships
 - City of Mercer Island
 - King County Metro
- Night Owl routes 82, 83, 84 saved from deletion



Service Provision

- Community Mobility Contract (CMC)
- Supplantation
 - Metro funds high-priority overcrowding, reliability needs as budgets improve
 - Reinvested in off-peak frequency
- Service Coordination with Metro
 - March and September service changes

TOP 15 STBD INVESTMENTS (BY STBD SERVICE HOURS)



Transportation Equity

- VLF Rebate (\$20)
- Low-Income Access to Transportation
 - ORCA LIFT
 - Youth ORCA
 - Downtown Circulator
- Transportation Equity Program

YOUTH ORCA PROGRAM



2,680 Cards

Distributed to low-income high school and middle school students



440,000 Trips

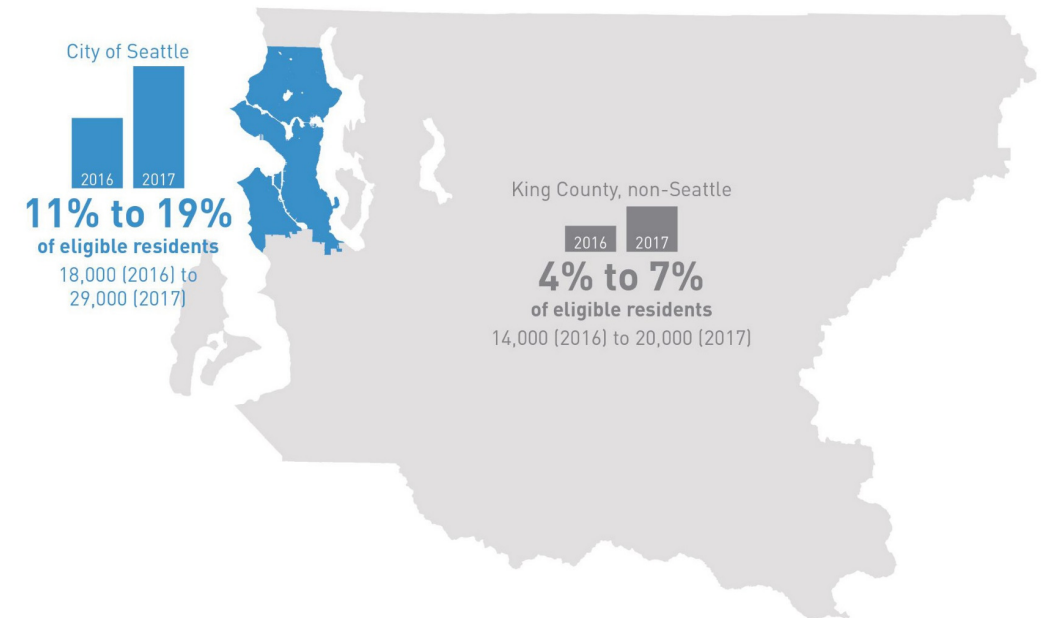
Taken by students with City of Seattle Youth ORCA cards



\$648,000 Saved

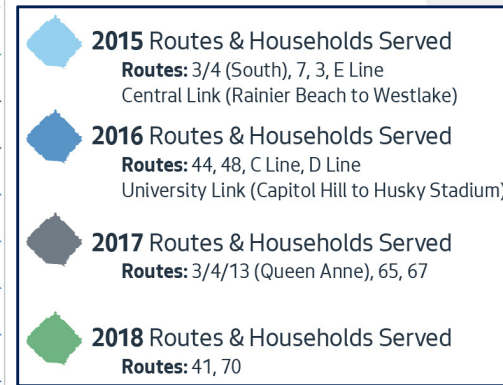
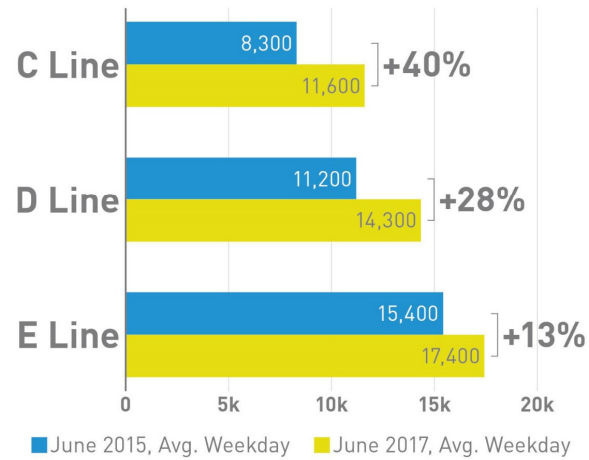
In bus fare by participants of the Youth ORCA program

ORCA LIFT ENROLLMENT

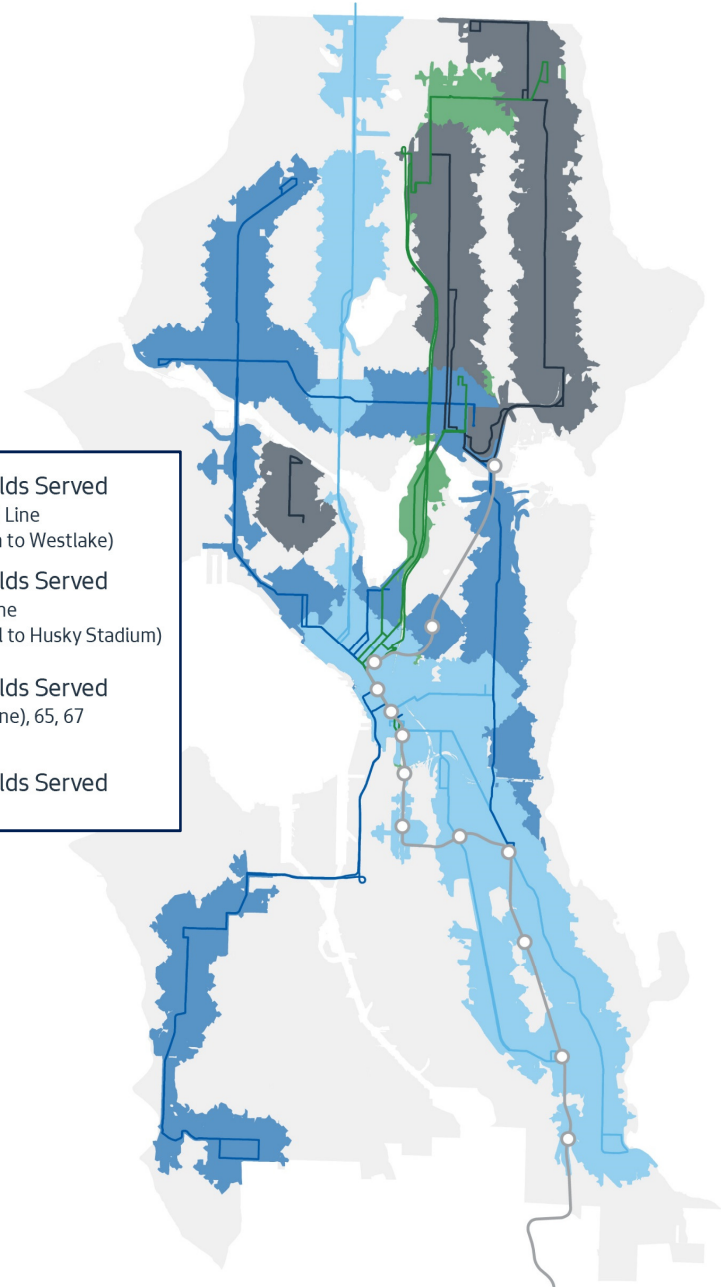


Impacts & Analysis

RAPIDRIDE RIDERSHIP



- Ridership increases
- Greater household access to 10-minute frequent network (25% in 2015, to 67% in 2018)



Impacts & Analysis

- U Link re-investment
- Supplantation
- 15-minute Frequent Transit Network (FTN)
- Baseline Service Standard
 - 30-minute frequency, 18 hours/day, 7 days/week
- Night Owl routes become Night Owl Network



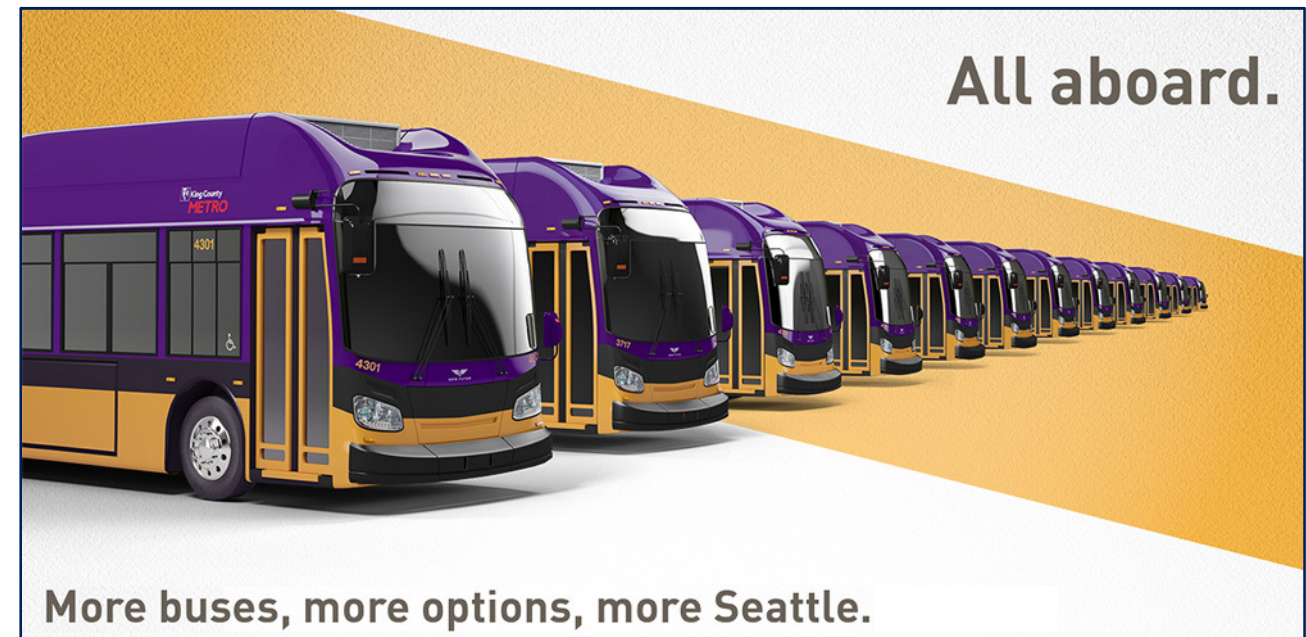
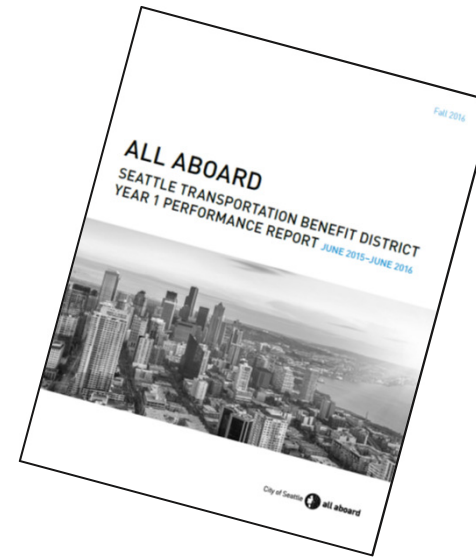
Seattle TMP: Frequent Transit Network



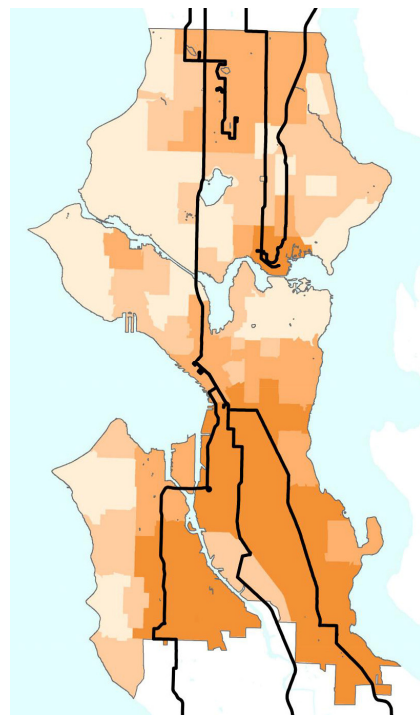
Night Owl Network

Impacts & Analysis

- 2016 & 2017 Annual Reports
- Outreach & Marketing
- Racial Equity Analysis

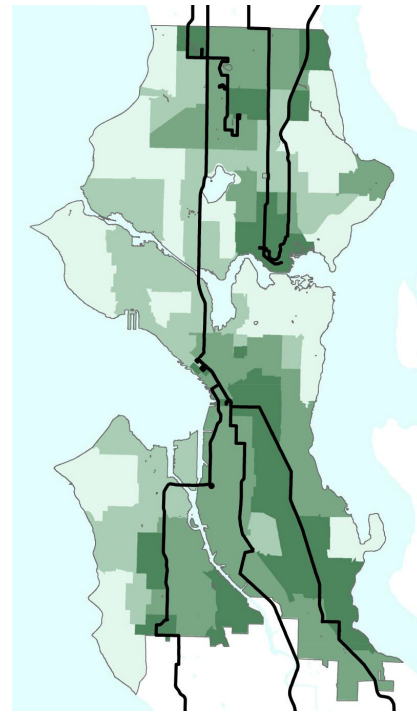


Impacts & Analysis - Racial Equity



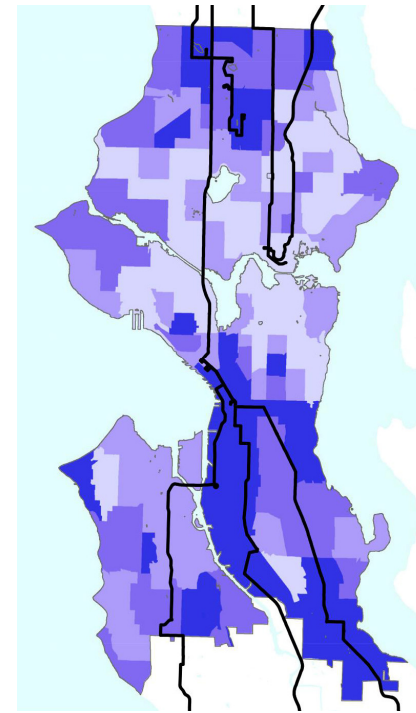
People of Color

- 8 - 18%
- 18 - 34%
- 34 - 45%
- 45 - 94%



Low-Income People

- 5 - 14%
- 14 - 22%
- 22 - 37%
- 37 - 81%



People with Disabilities

- 3 - 7%
- 7 - 9%
- 9 - 12%
- 12 - 30%



Zero-Vehicle Households

- 2 - 10%
- 10 - 19%
- 19 - 40%
- 40 - 99%

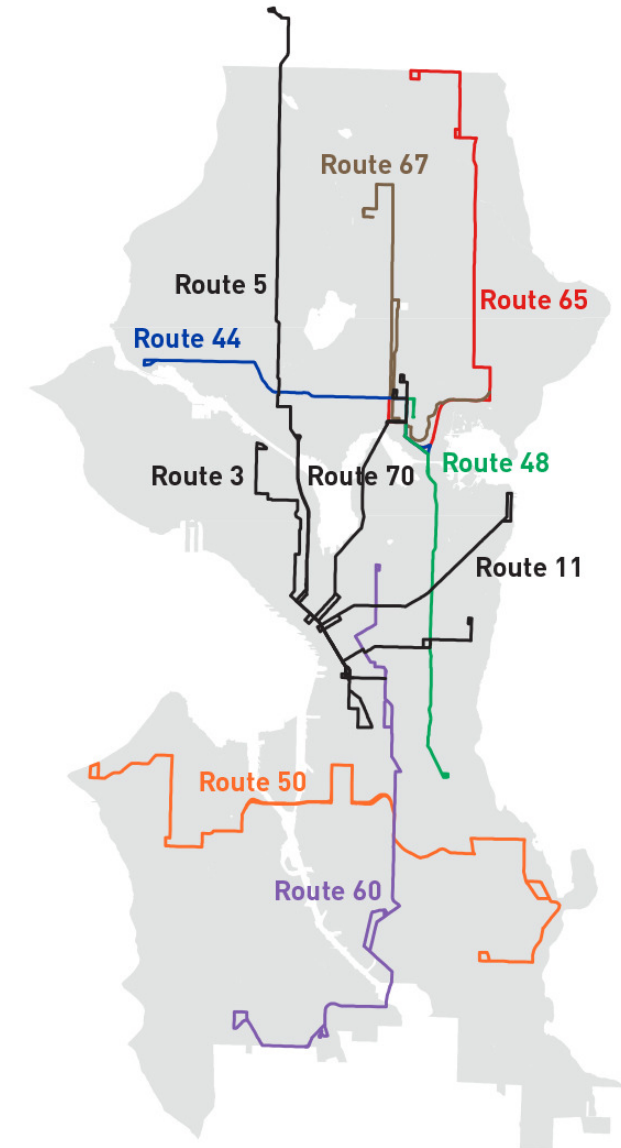
2018 Material Scope Change

- Seattle Routes to 65% stop threshold (from 80%)
- RapidRide line investment
- ORCA Opportunity Program
- Transit Capital Investments
- Contracted Pilot (Proposed)



Looking Ahead

- Success – Thanks Seattle voters!
- Communicating Benefits
- Transparency & Accountability
- Expanding 10- and 15-minute networks
- Planning for 2020
 - Coordination with King County Metro



Questions?

Benjamin Smith

Senior Transportation Planner

benjamin.smith@seattle.gov

(206) 684-4209

<http://www.seattle.gov/transit/about-stbd>

