

Comprehensive and Strategic Plans for Public Transportation

2008 Update: Planning Context

Regional Transit Committee

January 16, 2008

Planning Context in the Strategic Plan

- Addresses factors that affect Metro's priorities and constraints including:
 - Local and regional policies
 - Transit system trends
 - Changes in the transit operating environment
 - Emerging trends

Today's Presentation

- Overview of current planning context
 - Transit trends and challenges
 - Population and employment
 - Regional transportation projects
- Plans to improve the Planning Context section of the strategic plan in the 2008 update

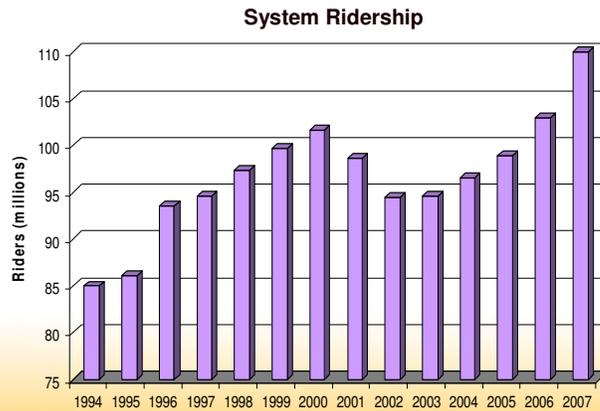
Region's Largest Transit Provider



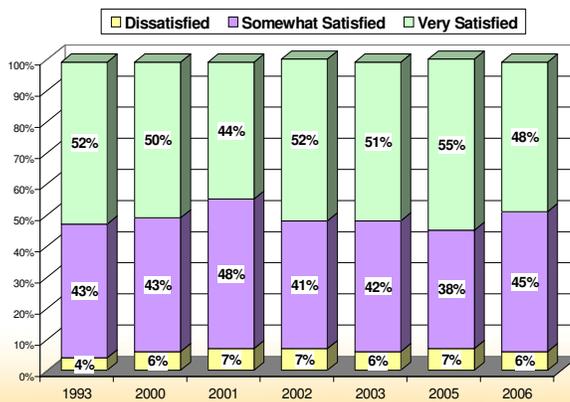
- Serves the 1.8 million residents and 1.2 million employees of King County
- Provides a range of public transportation services, including fixed-route transit, vanpools, ACCESS and ridematching support

Demand Growing Steadily

- 2007 ridership surpassing 110 million, up 7% from 2006
- More than 1000 vans in service, up 20% over 2006



Rider Satisfaction Remains Strong

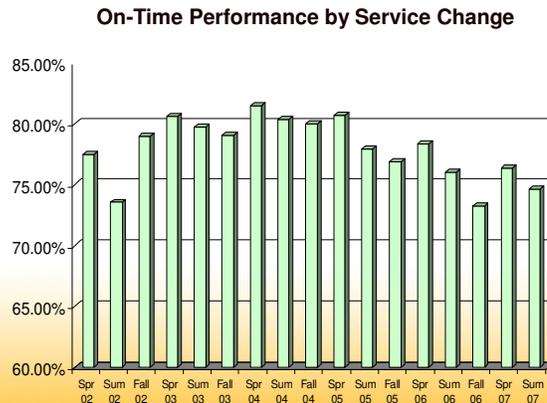


Base: Regular and Infrequent Riders 2006 (n=1,373, n_w=714); 2005 (n=1,381, n_w=692); 2003 (n=1,355, n_w=762); 2002 (n=1,368, n_w=735); 2001 (n=1,418, n_w=765)

Current Challenges (continued)

On-Time Performance

Traffic congestion and crowding impact speed and reliability of transit service



Current Challenges (continued)

Increasing Costs

Costs are increasing due to factors such as rising cost of diesel and worsening traffic congestion.



Anticipated Changes

- Population and employment growth:
 - Roughly 200,000 more people and 200,000 more jobs expected by 2017
- Aging of the population:
 - Near doubling of the over-60 population between 2000 and 2025, up to almost 480,000 people (23% of the population)**
- Worsening traffic congestion:
 - In 2006, average delay for Puget Sound commuters was 18% greater than in 2004



*Source: Seattle-King County 2006-2007 Area Plan on Aging Update

Regional Transit Issues



Between now and 2016, need to plan for and implement:

- Integration with Sound Transit light rail and expanded commuter rail services
- Joint bus-rail tunnel operation in 2009
- Integration with South Lake Union Streetcar and potential extensions
- Formulation of a new regional transit ballot initiative

Regional Transportation Projects

Many unknowns must be resolved, with major implications for transit:

- Alaskan Way Viaduct Moving Forward projects
- Transit elements of Alaskan Way Viaduct replacement, and/or Streets and Transit option
- Incorporation of transit elements in regional freeway projects – including SR 520, I-405 and the SR 167 HOT lane project among others

Emerging Issues



Climate Change and Healthy Communities

- Reducing greenhouse gases: the call for cleaner fuels, increased fuel efficiency and more efficient transportation
- Increasing climate change and health benefits through transit oriented communities

Emerging Issues (continued)



Transportation system pricing

- Transportation system pricing can help manage congestion and raise revenue

Transit role in mitigating freeway construction impacts

- Given the right conditions, transit has the potential to significantly mitigate the mobility impacts of highway construction projects.



Emerging issues will be addressed through briefing papers in 2008.

What We're Doing: *Transit Now*

Majority of Metro resources for the next decade are committed to implement the *Transit Now* program



Transit Now Goals

- Keep pace with County growth
- Relieve overcrowding on existing routes
- Make an immediate impact
- Increase Metro service by more than 20%
- Increase ridership
- Congestion relief
- Control greenhouse gas emissions
- Support healthier development patterns

Planning Context Improvements Planned for the 2008 Update

- Refined/updated information:
 - Population/Employment
 - Transportation system changes
- More thorough treatment of:
 - Ridership, economic and revenue trends
 - Local and regional policies and plans
- Relationship and implications for public transportation strategies, policies and plans

Questions?

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