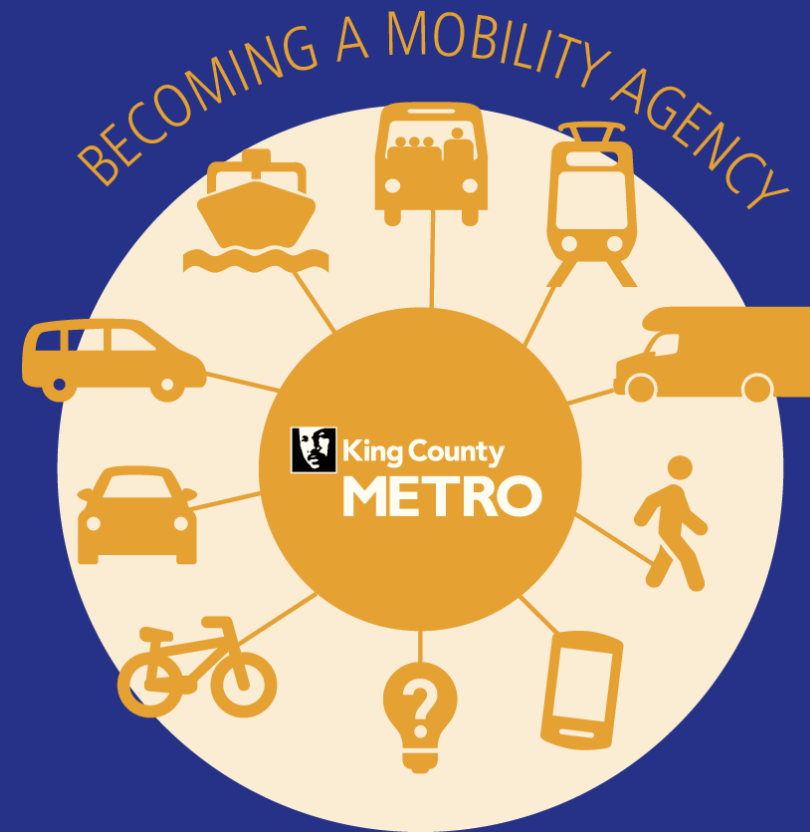


METRO CONNECTS Policy Update

Community Advocates Workshop
September 29, 2020



Recap and Goals for Today

- Recap of past meetings
 - Early August – overview of policy updates
 - Late August – proposed changes to Service Guidelines (workshop #1)
- Today: Discuss potential changes to the Metro Connects service network maps, based on planning to-date, an equity analysis, and other factors



Reminder: Three Policy Documents to Update



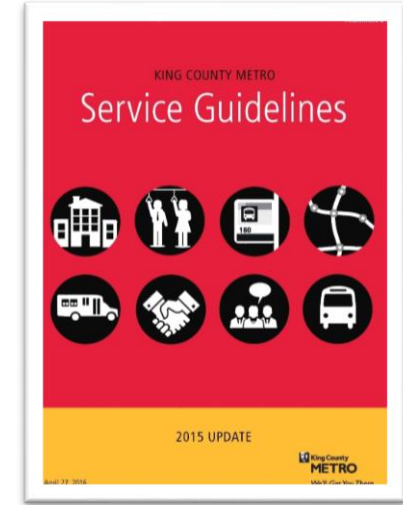
STRATEGIC PLAN

Goals, strategies, objectives
Performance measures



METRO CONNECTS

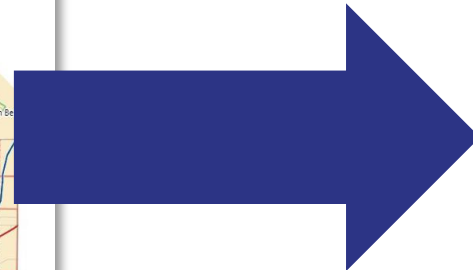
Long-range plan
Vision for service in 2040



SERVICE GUIDELINES

How service is put on the road
Formulas to add, reduce service

Metro Connects Network Map Updates



1. Update implementation timelines and known changes
2. Identify equity gaps
3. Evaluate RapidRide Network

Metro Connects Network Map Updates: Implementation Timelines and Known Changes

Current Metro Connects Network Map

2025 version

2040 version



Updated Metro Connects Network Map

"Interim" version

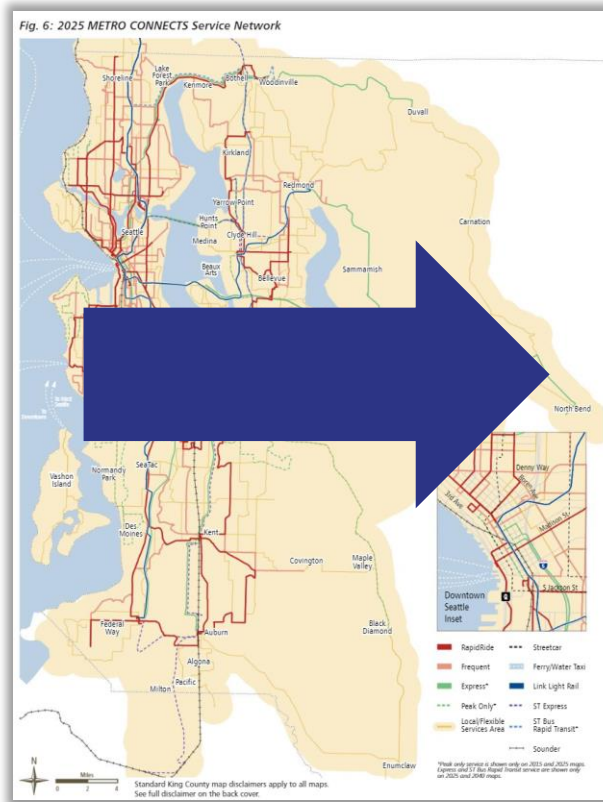
2050 version

Metro Connects Network Map Updates: Identify Equity Gaps in Interim Network

Current Metro Connects Network Map

Equity factors:
race and income

Accessibility analysis



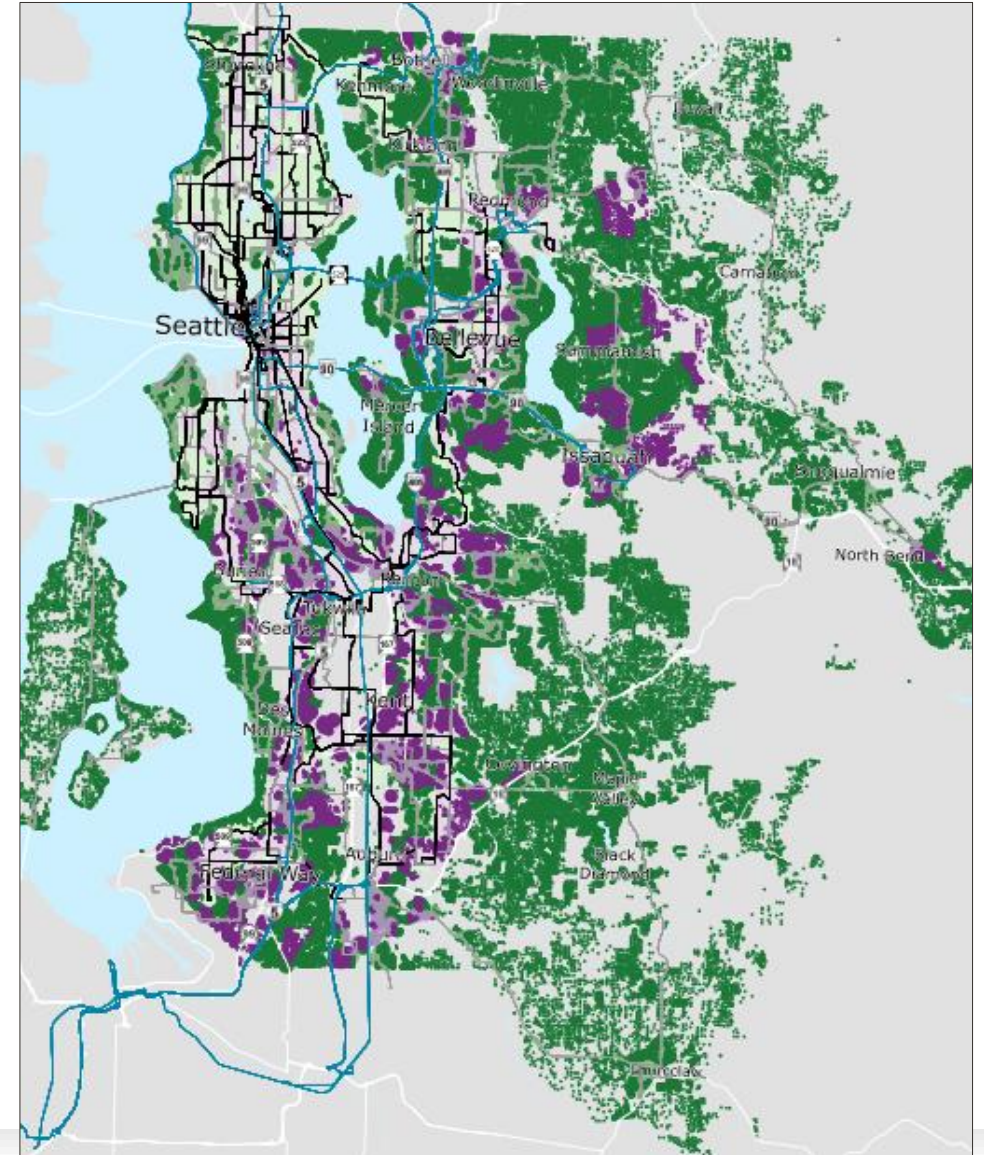
Updated Metro Connects Network Map

Equity factors:
Race, income, language spoken,
immigrants & refugees, disability

Accessibility analysis
Refined analysis based on Mobility
Framework

Map: Access for all populations

- Map illustrates where access to transit service is limited for both priority and other populations
- Metro Connects interim network results in fewer gaps in access to transit for priority populations than others, but gaps remain



Process for Equity Gap Analysis of Interim Network

Demographic Analysis

- Analyze proximity of both priority population and other households to bus stop
 1. ½ mile of frequent service
 2. ¼ mile of local service
 3. Limited Access
- Use same approach and data from Service Guidelines update (block groups)

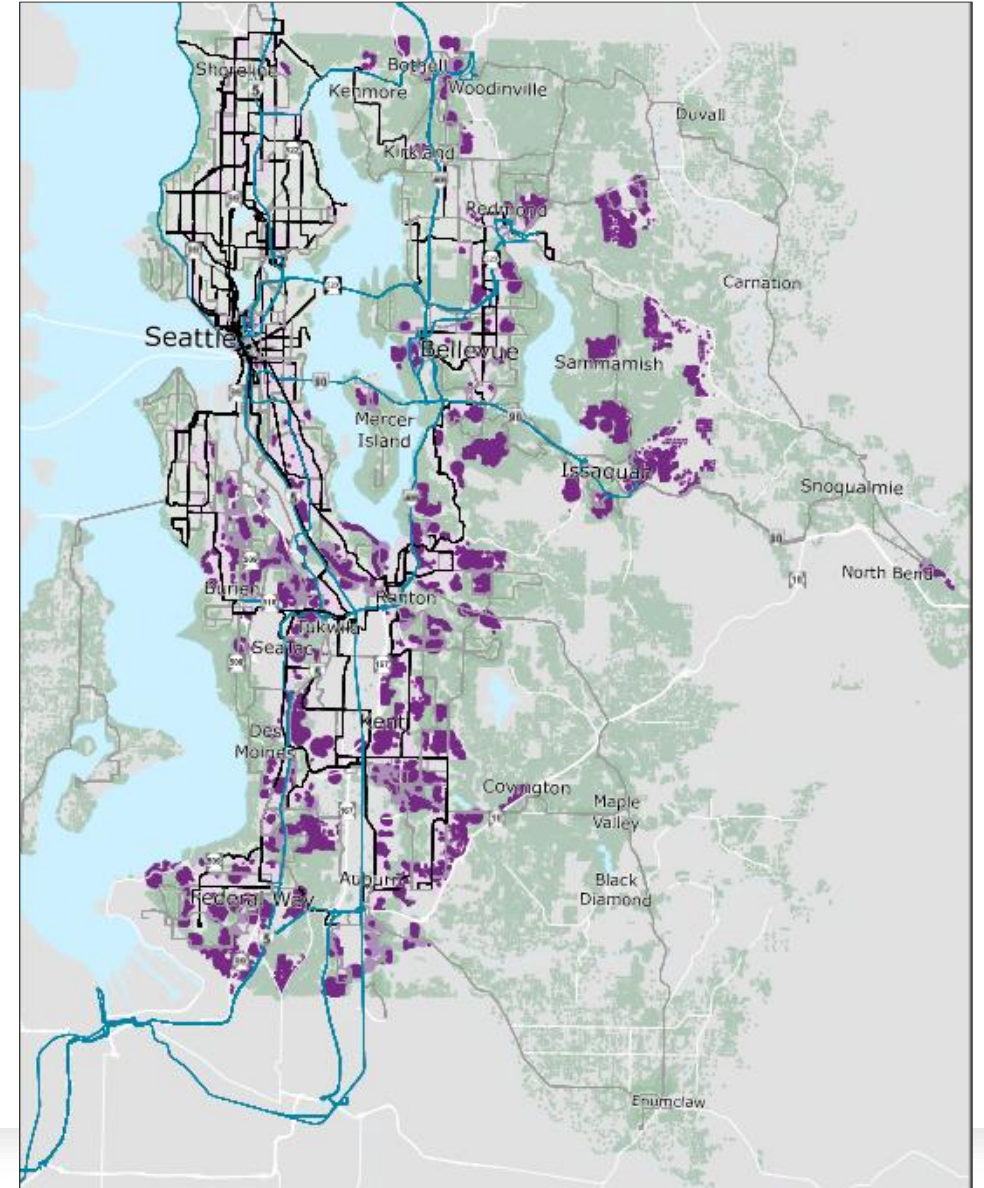
Accessibility Analysis (in progress)

Next Steps

- Work with Equity Cabinet and other stakeholders to determine how to prioritize which gaps to address and develop potential mobility solutions
- Discuss potential alternative approaches to addressing gaps with partners (ie, more affordable housing in areas with better access, improved bike and walk access to bus stops, etc)

Map: Priority Populations Focus

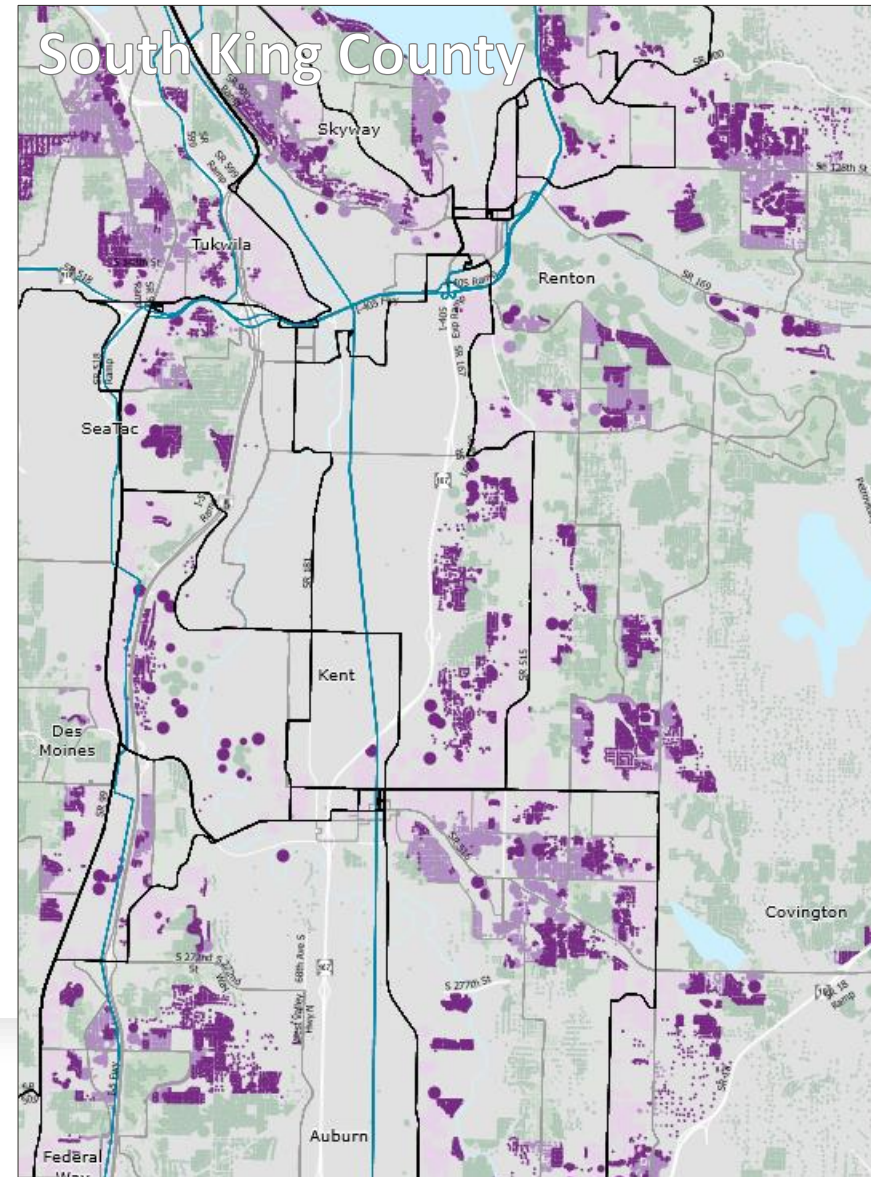
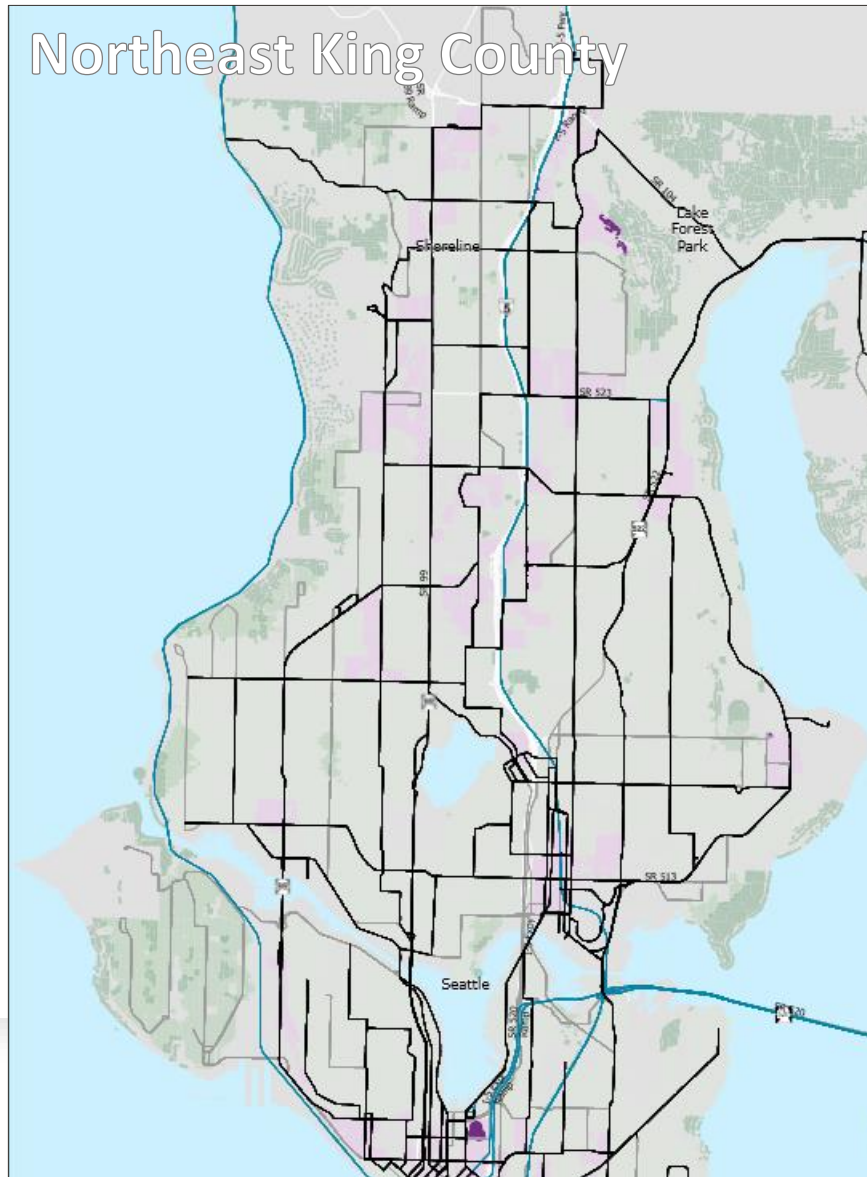
- Map focuses in on gaps for priority populations
- Gaps are caused by different factors (service gaps, challenge in walkability to stops, etc), some of which are out of Metro's control



Results: Interim Network Improves Access

Measure	Service Type	Current Network	Interim Network	Percent Change
How close are transit stops to where all people live	Frequent Network	53%	57%	6%
	Full Network	71%	77%	7%
How close are transit stops to where Black & African Americans populations live	Frequent Network	62%	66%	5%
	Full Network	79%	86%	8%
How close are transit stops to where Low-Income persons live	Frequent Network	60%	64%	7%
	Full Network	78%	83%	6%
How close are transit stops to where People of Color live	Frequent Network	56%	60%	6%
	Full Network	75%	81%	8%
How close are transit stops to where people with disabilities live	Frequent Network	55%	68%	22%
	Full Network	80%	81%	2%
How close are transit stops to where people with Limited English Proficiency live	Frequent Network	66%	68%	3%
	Full Network	81%	86%	6%

Results: Areas with Limited Access Still Exist



Regional Transit Lines

- Metro Local & Express
- Sound Transit
- Frequent & Rapid Ride



Access to Transit

Priority	Dark Purple	Light Purple	Very Light Purple
Other	Dark Green	Light Green	Very Light Green

Population Priority

Limited Service	All-Day Service	Frequent Service
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Discussion: Metro Connects Equity Gap Analysis

- *Do the results of this analysis reflect what you see in your communities? What stands out?*
- *How should Metro prioritize potential changes to the interim network?*
 - *Metro will not be able to address all the identified gaps, and some are best addressed by approaches other than changes to the transit network.*
 - *Ideas to consider: % people of color and/or low-income, density, times of day*

What Makes a RapidRide Corridor

- RapidRide provides a high level of service through high frequency service, faster and more reliable travel, and premium amenities, which are central to high-capacity transit
- Significant capital investment is required to support this level of service
- Each RapidRide corridor is unique and each will look different, but there are common standards for identifying corridors appropriate for future RapidRide service
- Good candidates for RapidRide service should have:
 - Potential for strong service demand/high ridership
 - Build out the regional high-capacity transit network, providing connections

2040 RapidRide Network



Metro Connects Network Map Updates: Evaluate RapidRide Network

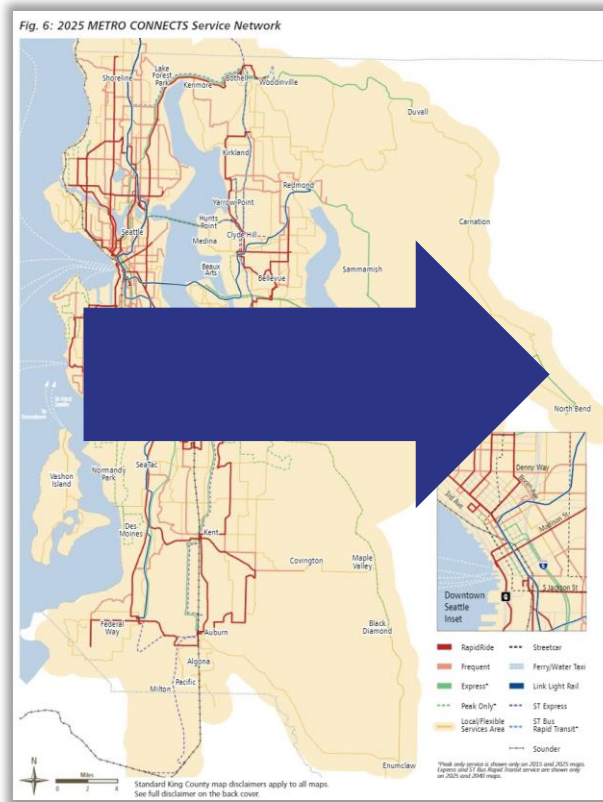
Current Metro Connects Service Map

RapidRide Network:

Outdated (2016 information)

26 lines identified to build by 2040

Equity factors: race and income



Updated Metro Connects Service Map

RapidRide Network:

Update with lines planned or built since 2016

Size network based on realities of time and cost to deliver (*lines will become frequent or another type of service, NOT removed*)

Equity factors: based on Mobility Framework

Mobility Framework informed assessment approach

- **Guiding principles (examples)**
 - Invest where needs are greatest
 - Address climate crisis and environmental justice
 - Provide fast, reliable, integrated mobility services
 - Improve access to mobility
 - Encourage dense, affordable housing in urban areas near transit
 - Align investments with equity, sustainability, and financial responsibility
- **Recommendations (examples)**
 - Provide additional transit service in areas with unmet need
 - Meet King County's climate goals
 - Provide increased transit frequency, as funding allows, to make it more convenient for people to get out of their cars.
 - Support improvements to increase speed and reliability

Process for RapidRide Network Assessment

Start

Define RapidRide characteristics.

- Arterial bus rapid transit service
- High frequency service with high level of amenities
- Major capital investments in speed and reliability, stations and buses, access improvements, and other community priorities

Include RapidRide corridors originally in Metro Connects + select non-RapidRide corridors

Assessment Step 1

Screen based on:

- Strong service network demand
- Helps build out regional high capacity transit network

Assessment Step 2

Prioritize based on:

- Equity
- Environmental
- Capital/Speed and Reliability
- Service
- Implementation

Determine total network size

Step 1: Identify Routes for Prioritization (in process)

Goal: Identify corridors that are good candidates for RapidRide service

- Consider a minimum threshold for future ridership
 - 4,000 average daily riders (like F Line today)
- Evaluate future ridership AND connectivity value
 - Ridership = Total rides per hour
 - Connectivity Value = Change in jobs accessible within 45 minutes if corridor removed
- Remove routes that performed poorly on both measures
- All remaining corridors move forward to Step 2 for prioritization

Current Planned Network



Step 2 Prioritization Factors

- **Equity**

- Priority populations served (totals or percent)
- Low-income jobs* within corridor

- **Environmental**

- New riders gained
- Reduction in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)
- Total number of housing/jobs within corridor

- **Capital/Speed and Reliability**

- Speed & reliability needs
- Corridor/roadway compatibility

- **Service**

- Rides per hour
- Essential Trips (COVID-19 ridership retained)
- Connectivity value

- **Implementation:** Assessment of recent or planned transit/road investment within corridor

EXAMPLE EQUITY ASSESSMENT

Category	I	J	K	R
Low-Income	Medium	High	Low	High
People of Color	Medium	High	Low	High
Limited English	Low	Low	Low	High
Disability	Medium	High	Low	High

Discussion

- *What questions or comments do you have about the prioritization approach and measures?*
- *Do you feel like the approach aligns with the Mobility Framework and will advance equity and sustainability?*

Closing and Questions