

GUIDE TO TRANSIT SERVICE TYPES – EXPRESS, LOCAL, AND FREQUENT

Metro analyzed three bus service networks that emphasize different styles of service – frequent, express, and local – to see how they would perform in King County communities in 2040. The analysis shows how each type of service performs on key measures, to help planners and the public understand the tradeoffs associated with each type of service. Ultimately, the network proposed in Metro’s Long-Range Plan will be a combination of all three types of service.

KEY FEATURES

Frequent Services

- My bus comes at least every 15 minutes so wait times are short and I don’t need to know the schedule.
- I may have to go farther to reach a bus stop-stops are located on major roads and are roughly ¼ to ½ mile apart.
- My bus is faster and more reliable because it uses features such as bus-only lanes.
- My bus is almost always there when I get off the light rail or train, but I have to walk a little to get to some destinations.

Express Services

- I can catch my bus at a transit center or park-and-ride.
- My bus takes me directly between my nearest transit hub and major job centers all day.
- My bus is fast and reliable because it travels on high-speed corridors with HOV lanes, bus-only freeway ramps, and makes few stops.
- I plan my train ride to meet the express bus service so I can quickly get to the town I’m going to.

Local Services

- My bus or alternative service comes close to my house, workplace and other destinations.
- My bus uses local streets and makes many stops, so service is slower.
- My bus comes every half-hour, so I need to plan ahead for my trip and any transfers.
- I can take a bus or alternative service to the light rail or train station from my home, but I need to plan my train ride home to catch my local bus or alternative service.

EXAMPLE TRIPS

*Includes transfer

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Lake City to Westlake Station</p> <p>Travel Time*</p> <p>AM Peak: 30-33 min • Midday: 30-33 min</p> | <p>Issaquah Transit Center to Bellevue Transit Center</p> <p>Travel Time*</p> <p>AM Peak: 35-38 min • Midday: 36-45 min</p> |
| <p>Renton Transit Center to Federal Way Transit Center</p> <p>Travel Time*</p> <p>AM Peak: 59-65 min • Midday: 60-65 min</p> | <p>Alaska Junction to Westlake Station</p> <p>Travel Time*</p> <p>AM Peak: 18-19 min • Midday: 19-21 min</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Lake City to Westlake Station</p> <p>Travel Time</p> <p>AM Peak: 29-32 min • Midday: 34-37 min</p> | <p>Issaquah Transit Center to Bellevue Transit Center</p> <p>Travel Time</p> <p>AM Peak: 22-25 min • Midday: 31-36 min</p> |
| <p>Renton Transit Center to Federal Way Transit Center</p> <p>Travel Time</p> <p>AM Peak: 51-57 min • Midday: 58-62 min</p> | <p>Alaska Junction to Westlake Station</p> <p>Travel Time</p> <p>AM Peak: 18-19 min • Midday: 19-21 min</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Lake City to Westlake Station</p> <p>Travel Time*</p> <p>AM Peak: 31-34 min • Midday: 33-37 min</p> | <p>Issaquah Transit Center to Bellevue Transit Center</p> <p>Travel Time</p> <p>AM Peak: 22-25 min • Midday: 31-36 min</p> |
| <p>Renton Transit Center to Federal Way Transit Center</p> <p>Travel Time*</p> <p>AM Peak: 51-56 min • Midday: 62-67 min</p> | <p>Alaska Junction to Westlake Station</p> <p>Travel Time</p> <p>AM Peak: 18-19 min • Midday: 19-21 min</p> |

HOW DO THE DIFFERENT SERVICE EMPHASES COMPARE?

This table shows how frequent, express and local service would perform in 2040. How many people and jobs would be within ¼ mile to a transit stop? How many people and jobs would be within ½ mile to a transit stop for transit service that comes every 15 minutes or transit service with limited stops? How many more riders would use transit?

| ACCESS TO WHAT (% of population and employment that has access to different kinds of service) | |  All Service |  Service Every 15 Minutes or Better |  Service with Limited Stops |
|--|-------------------------|--|--|---|
| 2040 Population | SERVICE EMPHASIS | | | |
| | Emphasis 1 - Frequent | 65% | 68% | 25% |
| | Emphasis 2 - Express | 60% | 49% | 48% |
| | Emphasis 3 - Local | 72% | 50% | 30% |
| 2040 Employment | SERVICE EMPHASIS | | | |
| | Emphasis 1 - Frequent | 74% | 84% | 44% |
| | Emphasis 2 - Express | 71% | 65% | 65% |
| | Emphasis 3 - Local | 83% | 65% | 50% |

"All Service" includes population or jobs within 1/4 mile of any transit stop

"Service Every 15 Minutes or Better" includes population or jobs within 1/2 mile of frequent transit stops and Link stations

"Service with Limited Stops" includes population or jobs within 1/2 mile of express transit stops and Link stations

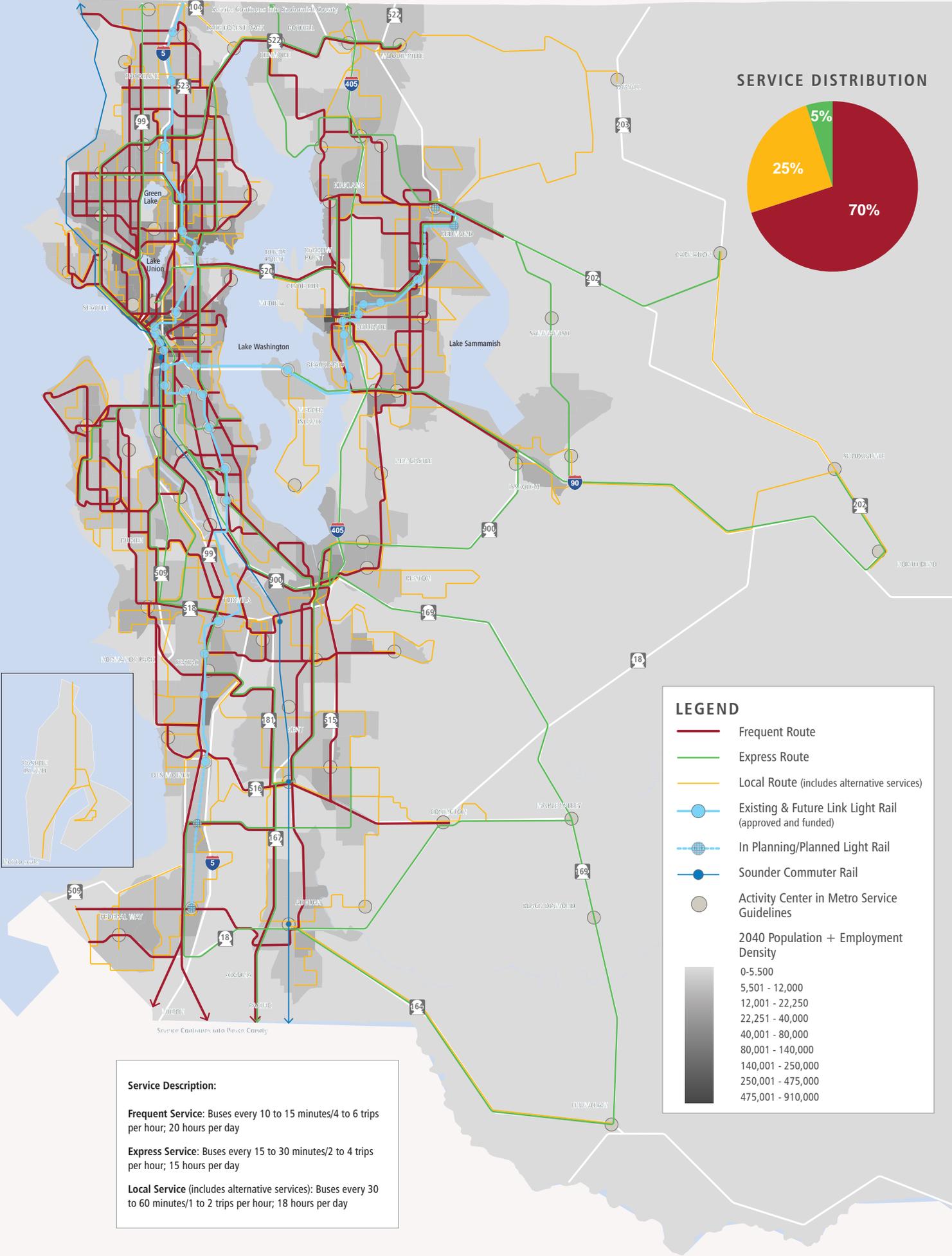
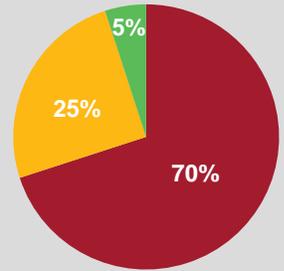
| WHERE DOES TRANSIT GET YOU? | |  People → Jobs |
|--|-------------------------|---|
| Population with Access to 30,000 Jobs within 30 Minutes on Transit | SERVICE EMPHASIS | |
| | Emphasis 1 - Frequent | 45% |
| | Emphasis 2 - Express | 40% |
| | Emphasis 3 - Local | 35% |

| HOW ARE PEOPLE TRAVELING? |  Change in % of Trips on Transit in AM Peak Period |  Daily Transit Ridership in King County (bus and rail) | |
|---------------------------|--|--|---|
| | SERVICE EMPHASIS | SERVICE EMPHASIS | THOUSANDS 0 200 400 600 800 1MILLION |
| | Emphasis 1 - Frequent | 37% | Emphasis 1 - Frequent |
| Emphasis 2 - Express | 38% | Emphasis 2 - Express | |
| Emphasis 3 - Local | 33% | Emphasis 3 - Local | |

NOTES

SERVICE EMPHASIS 1: FREQUENT

SERVICE DISTRIBUTION



LEGEND

- Frequent Route
- Express Route
- Local Route (includes alternative services)
- Existing & Future Link Light Rail (approved and funded)
- ⊕ In Planning/Planned Light Rail
- Sounder Commuter Rail
- Activity Center in Metro Service Guidelines

2040 Population + Employment Density

- 0-5,500
- 5,501 - 12,000
- 12,001 - 22,250
- 22,251 - 40,000
- 40,001 - 80,000
- 80,001 - 140,000
- 140,001 - 250,000
- 250,001 - 475,000
- 475,001 - 910,000

Service Description:

Frequent Service: Buses every 10 to 15 minutes/4 to 6 trips per hour; 20 hours per day

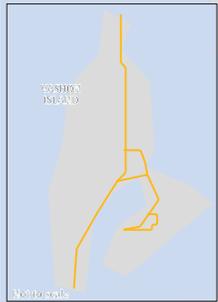
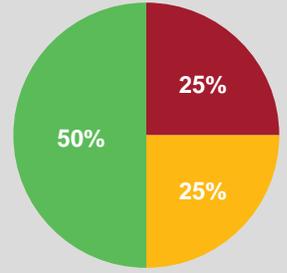
Express Service: Buses every 15 to 30 minutes/2 to 4 trips per hour; 15 hours per day

Local Service (includes alternative services): Buses every 30 to 60 minutes/1 to 2 trips per hour; 18 hours per day



SERVICE EMPHASIS 2: EXPRESS

SERVICE DISTRIBUTION



LEGEND

- Frequent Route
 - Express Route
 - Local Route (includes alternative services)
 - Existing & Future Link Light Rail (approved and funded)
 - ⊕ In Planning/Planned Light Rail
 - Sounder Commuter Rail
 - Activity Center in Metro Service Guidelines
- 2040 Population + Employment Density
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 - 140,001 - 250,000
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 - 475,001 - 910,000

Service Description:

Frequent Service: Buses every 10 to 15 minutes/4 to 6 trips per hour; 20 hours per day

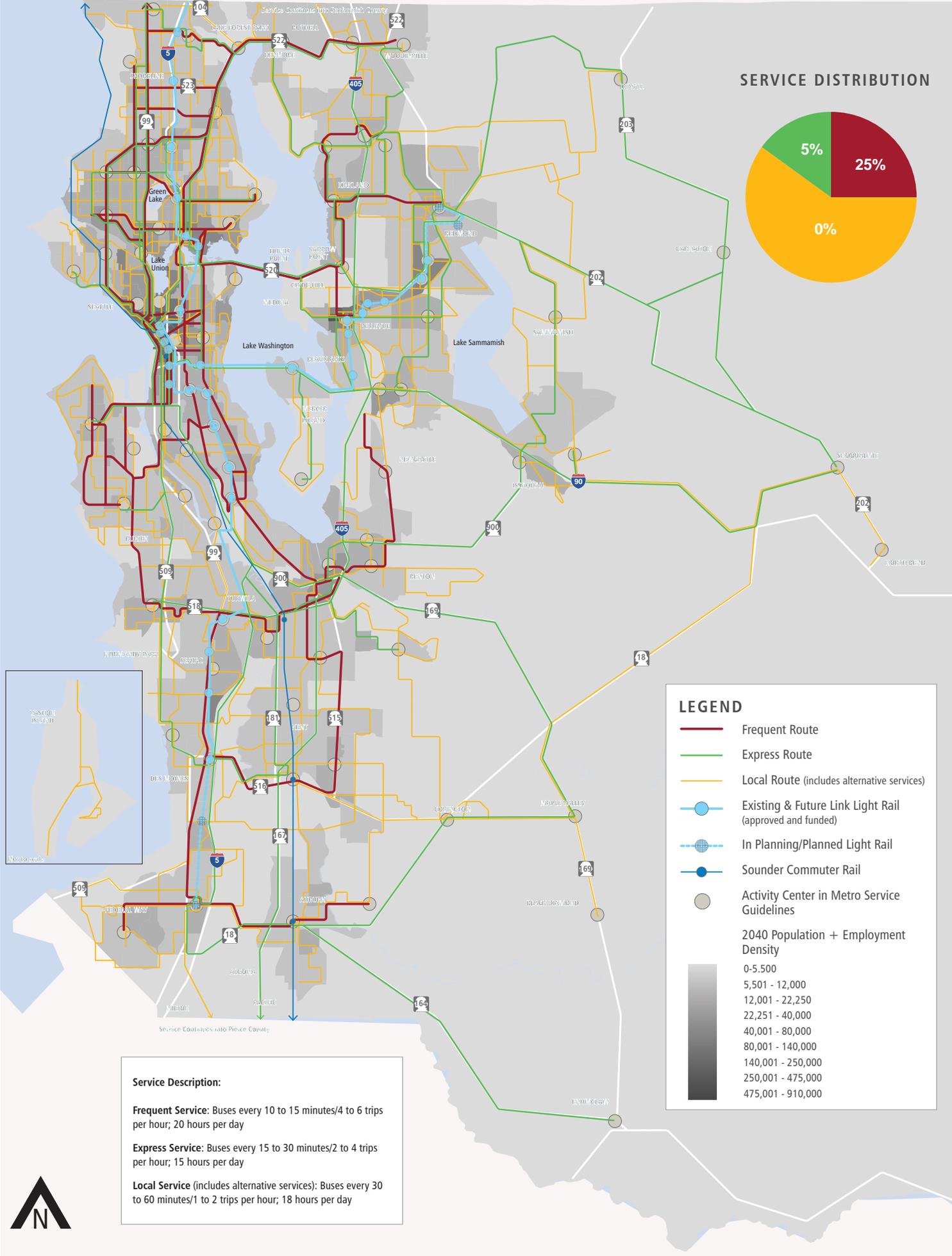
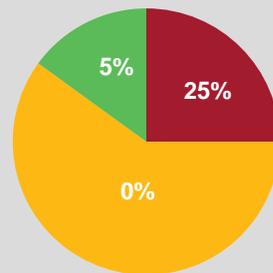
Express Service: Buses every 15 to 30 minutes/2 to 4 trips per hour; 15 hours per day

Local Service (includes alternative services): Buses every 30 to 60 minutes/1 to 2 trips per hour; 18 hours per day



SERVICE EMPHASIS 3: LOCAL

SERVICE DISTRIBUTION



LEGEND

- Frequent Route
- Express Route
- Local Route (includes alternative services)
- Existing & Future Link Light Rail (approved and funded)
- ⊕ In Planning/Planned Light Rail
- Sounder Commuter Rail
- Activity Center in Metro Service Guidelines

2040 Population + Employment Density

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Service Description:

Frequent Service: Buses every 10 to 15 minutes/4 to 6 trips per hour; 20 hours per day

Express Service: Buses every 15 to 30 minutes/2 to 4 trips per hour; 15 hours per day

Local Service (includes alternative services): Buses every 30 to 60 minutes/1 to 2 trips per hour; 18 hours per day

