

Public Transit Ridership

OUTCOME: INCREASE THE USE OF MODES OF TRANSPORTATION OTHER THAN SINGLE OCCUPANCY VEHICLES

Countywide Planning Policy Rationale

"All jurisdictions in the County, in cooperation with METRO, the Metropolitan Planning Organization [Puget Sound Regional Council], and the State, shall develop a balanced transportation system...(FW-19). "The countywide transportation system ...shall be a multi-modal system...[which] shall include the following: a. an aggressive transit system, including high-capacity transit; b. high occupancy vehicle facilities;...g. non-motorized facilities; and h. freeways, highways, and arterials." (T-1). "Each Urban Center will be providing for a minimum of 15,000 jobs and should be served by high-capacity transit.... All jurisdictions that would be served by high-capacity transit shall plan for needed high-capacity transit rights-of-way, stations and station supportive transportation facilities and land uses in their comprehensive plans.... (T-5). "To encourage transit use, jurisdictions should establish mechanisms to limit the use of single-occupancy vehicles for commuting purposes...All plans for Urban Centers shall encourage bicycle travel and pedestrian movement." (LU 44)." Mode-split goals and measures of mobility for transit, ridesharing and non-motorized travel shall be established by local jurisdictions and METRO."

Figure 42.1

Annual Passenger Boardings on Metro Transit, Community Transit, and Sound Transit									
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	change 2000-2007
Metro Transit	101,689,397	98,691,016	94,465,397	94,559,994	96,507,443	98,957,216	103,242,414	110,600,190	9%
Community Transit	2,430,208	2,459,188	2,387,189	2,347,057	2,382,506	2,538,841	2,739,089	2,808,001	16%
Sound Transit Express	2,373,400	2,695,800	2,682,800	2,930,600	3,313,700	3,648,327	3,766,574	4,122,630	74%
Sounder	102,552	562,740	672,495	751,163	955,298	1,268,291	1,692,971	2,156,652	2003%
Total	106,595,557	104,408,744	100,207,881	100,588,814	103,158,947	106,412,675	111,441,048	119,687,473	12%
Population	1,737,034	1,758,300	1,774,300	1,779,300	1,788,300	1,808,300	1,835,300	1,861,300	7%

source: King County Department of Transportation, Community Transit Authority, Sound Transit, WA OFM

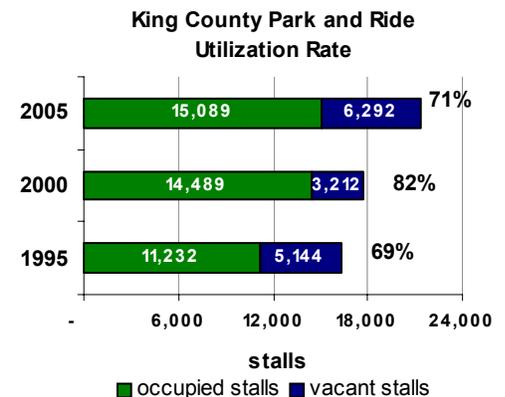
Public Transit Ridership. With more than 126 million annual boardings in 2007, public transit ridership has increased 12% since 2000. Over the seven year period, ridership growth outpaced both population and employment gains in King County, which increased 7% and 2% respectively. Providing principally commuter service into King County, Community Transit, Sound Transit Express and Sounder commuter rail combined to account for about one-quarter of the increase in ridership.

Following service improvements and completion of a number of key capital projects--including park-n-ride lots in east King County, the Federal Way Transit Center and freeway stations along the I-405 corridor--ridership on Sound Transit Express grew almost 75% over the last seven years.

First carrying passengers between Tacoma and Seattle in September 2000, the Sounder has seen exceptional growth in the last seven years. Adding the Everett/Seattle route in December 2003 and expanding service on the Tacoma/Seattle and Everett/Seattle routes resulted in 30% annual growth in ridership since 2003.

Park and Ride Use. Like public transit ridership, park and ride use saw little or no growth between 2000 and 2003, as the region faced a recession and negative job growth. Despite that, the park and ride occupancy rate in King County has averaged 74% since 1995, averaging 3% annual growth in this 10 year period. In 2005, as in 1995, northwest King County park and ride lots had a higher occupancy rate than those in east or south King County.

Figure 42.2



source: Puget Sound Regional Council