

PSRC Toolbox Peer Networking

King County Metro COVID-19 Impacts

February 26, 2021

Overview

- Impacts on Ridership
- Impacts on Service
- Social Equity Implications
- Service Restorations

How Metro is keeping you safe

Guided by Public Health – Seattle & King County and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), we're doing everything we can to keep you as safe as possible, including:



Disinfecting every vehicle every day



Requiring masks



Upgraded air filters



Physical distancing

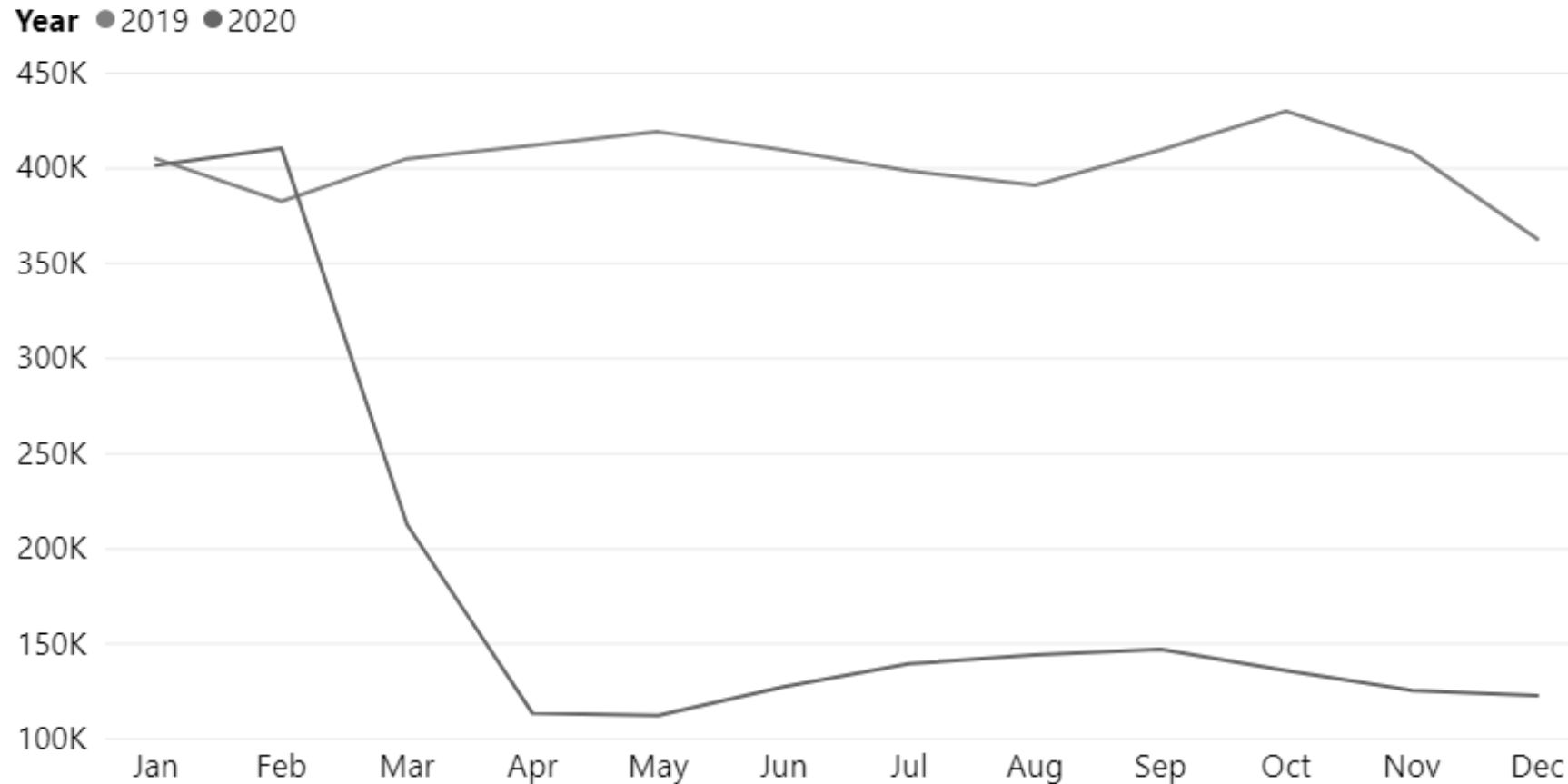


Sending more buses for busy routes



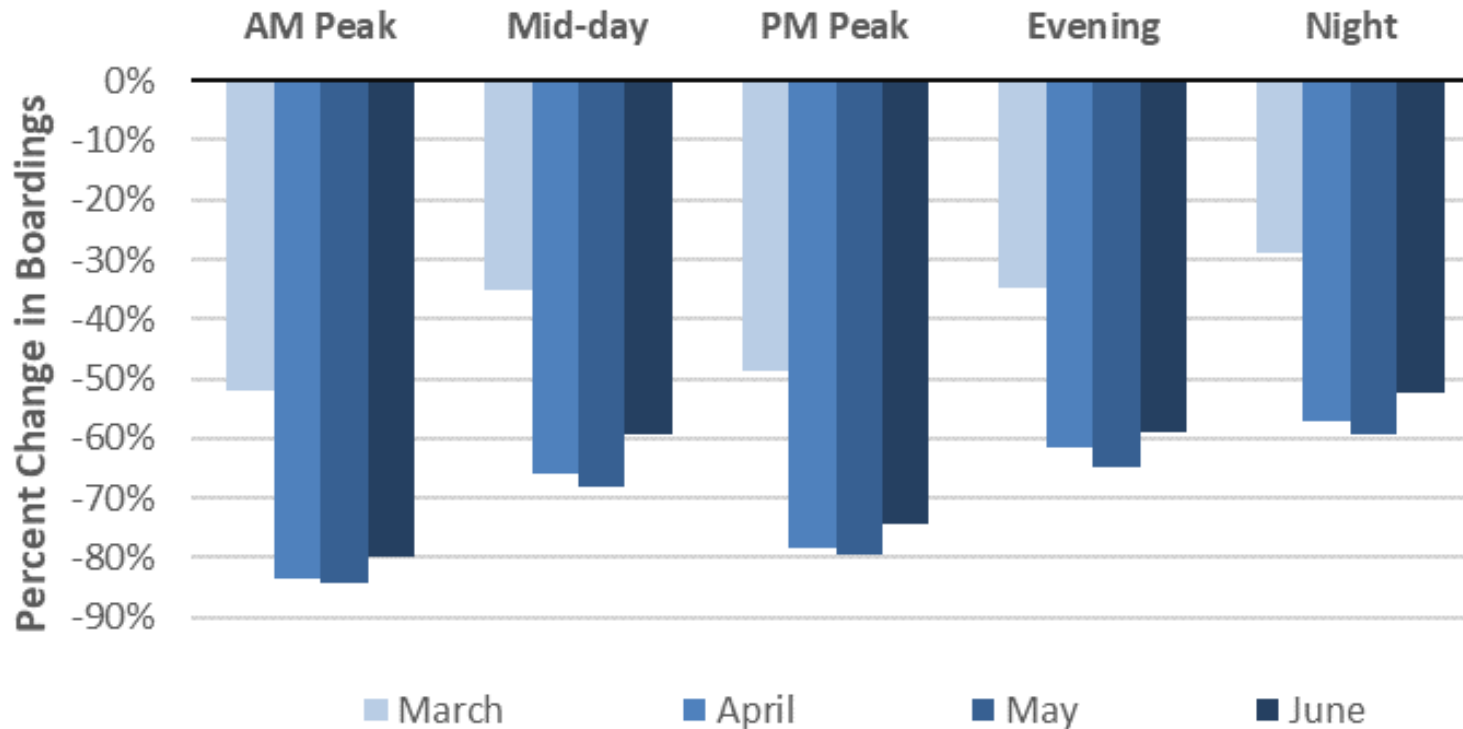
Safety partitions

Ridership Impacts – Avg. Daily Boardings (Metro Bus)

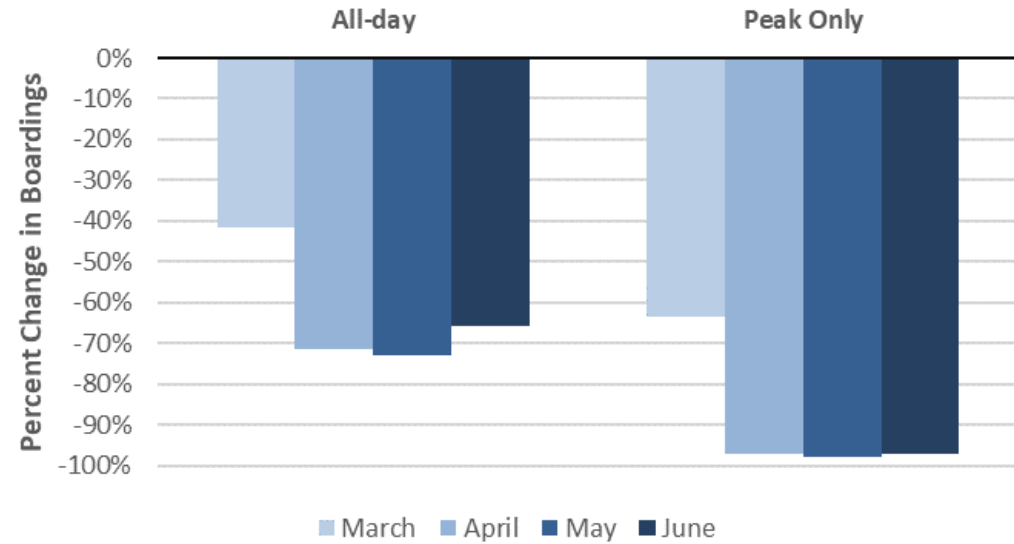
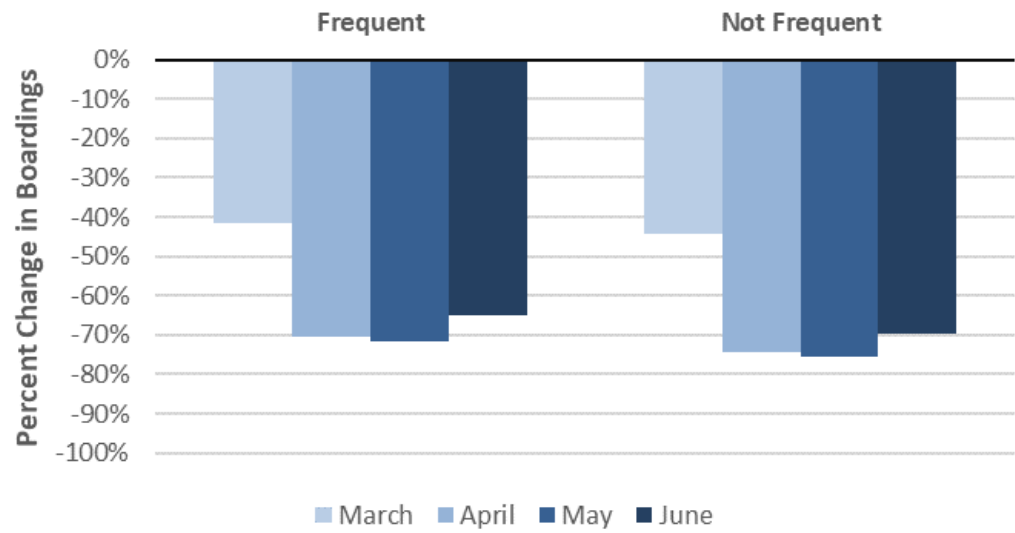


Ridership Impacts – Change by Period of Day

Change in Boardings by Period - 2019 to 2020



Ridership Impacts – Change by Service Type



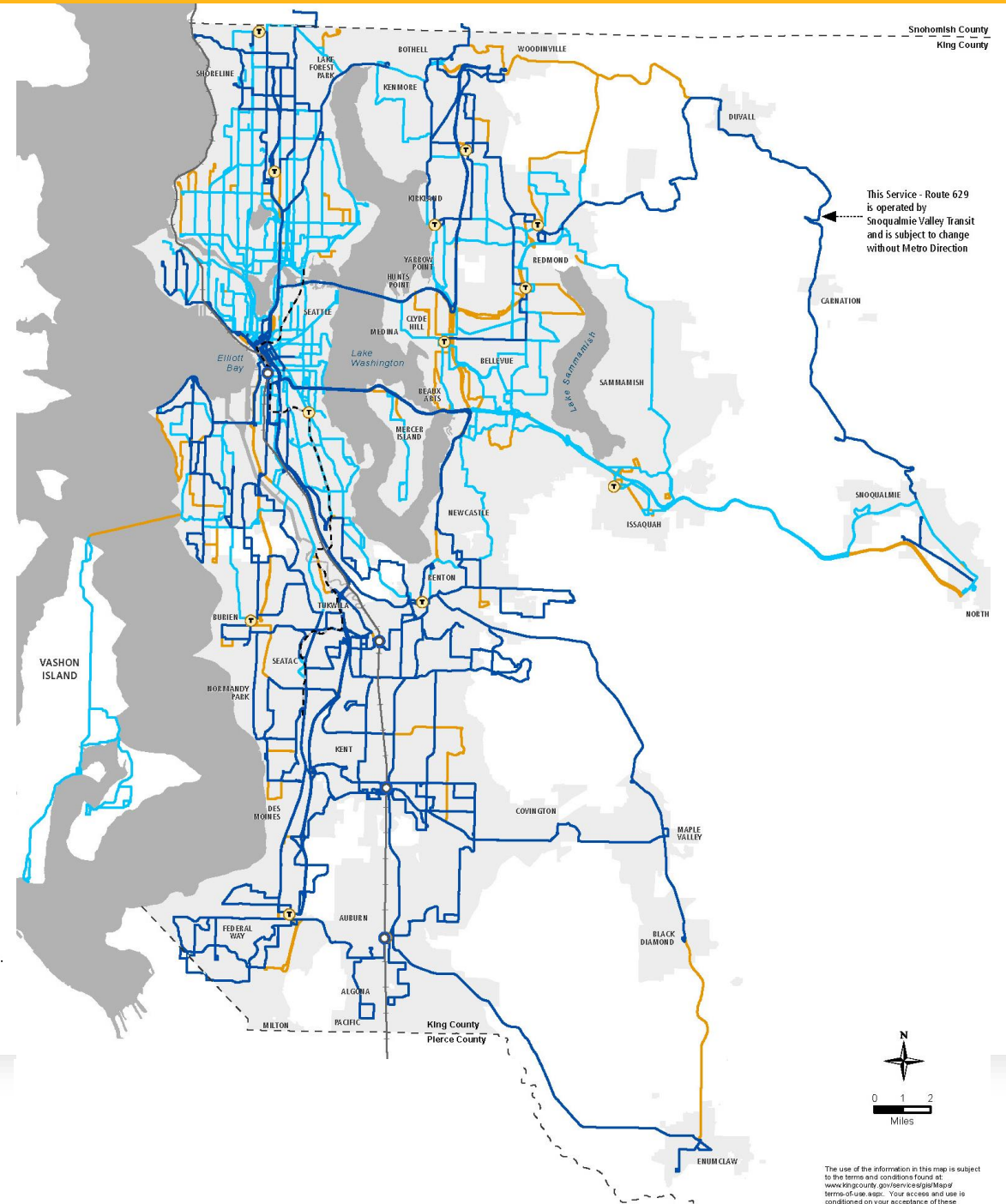
Service Impacts

- Currently operating 85% of pre-pandemic service levels
- Suspended service and entire routes
- Budget reductions

King County Metro Transit Service*

- Bus routes operating at full service levels
 - Bus routes operating with reduced service levels
 - Bus routes suspended/ not operating
 - - - - Link light rail
 - ○ Sounder rail and station
 - Ⓣ Transit Center
- *Other transit service not shown:
 Sammamish and Juanita Community Rides - operating at full service
 Via to Transit - reduced
 All other Community Rides - suspended

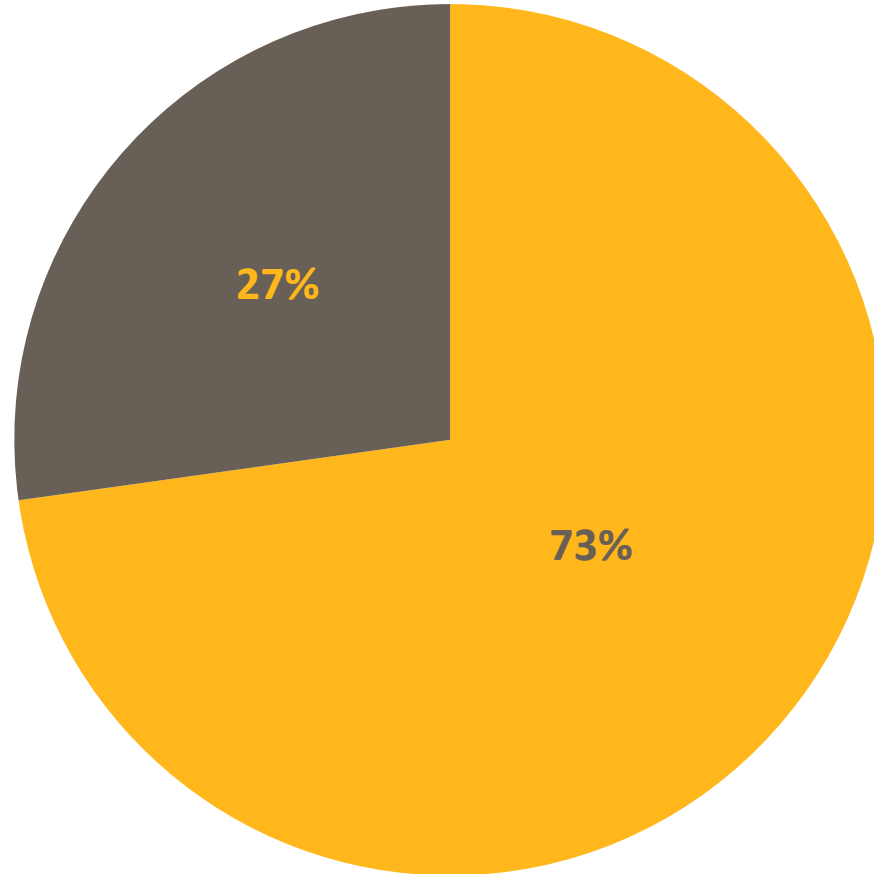
*Sound Transit Express bus routes not included on map



Service Impacts – What type of service is suspended?

All-day routes

- 9 routes fully suspended
- 17 routes partially suspended



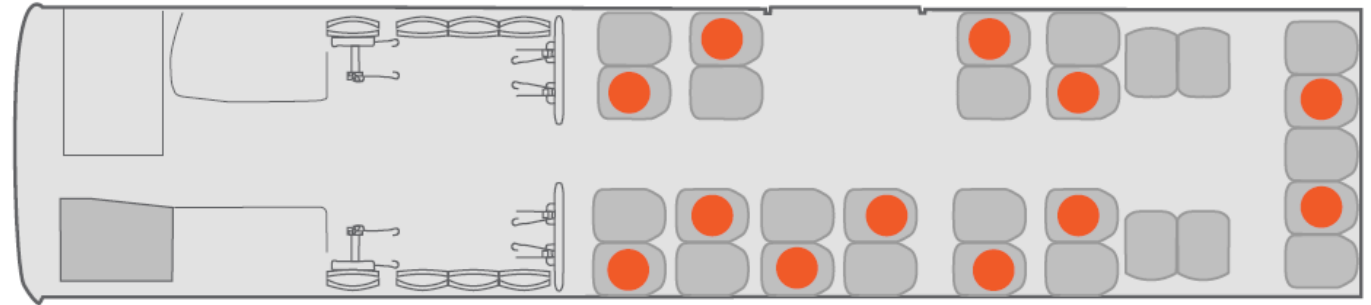
Peak-only routes (morning & afternoon)

- 49 routes fully suspended
- 4 routes partially suspended

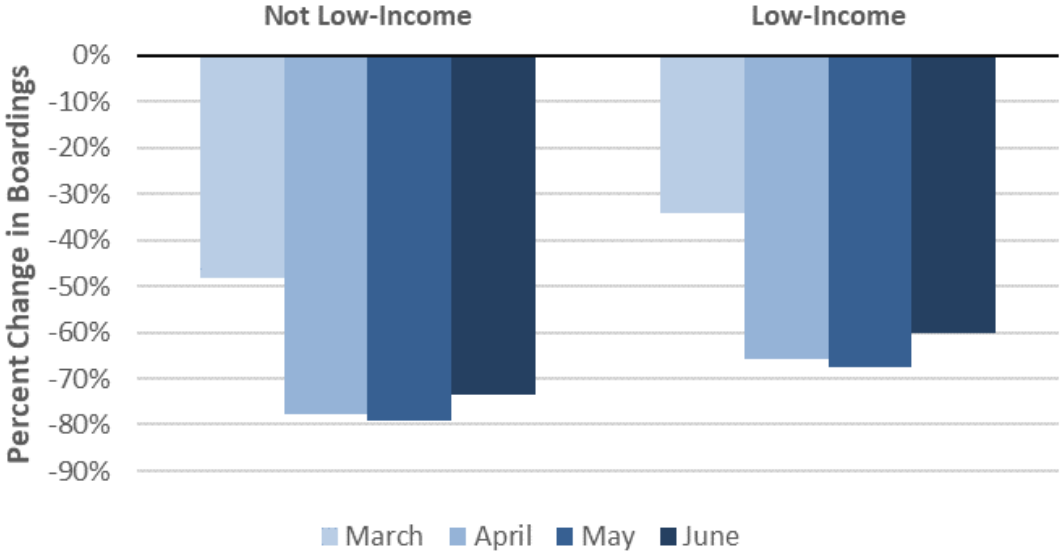
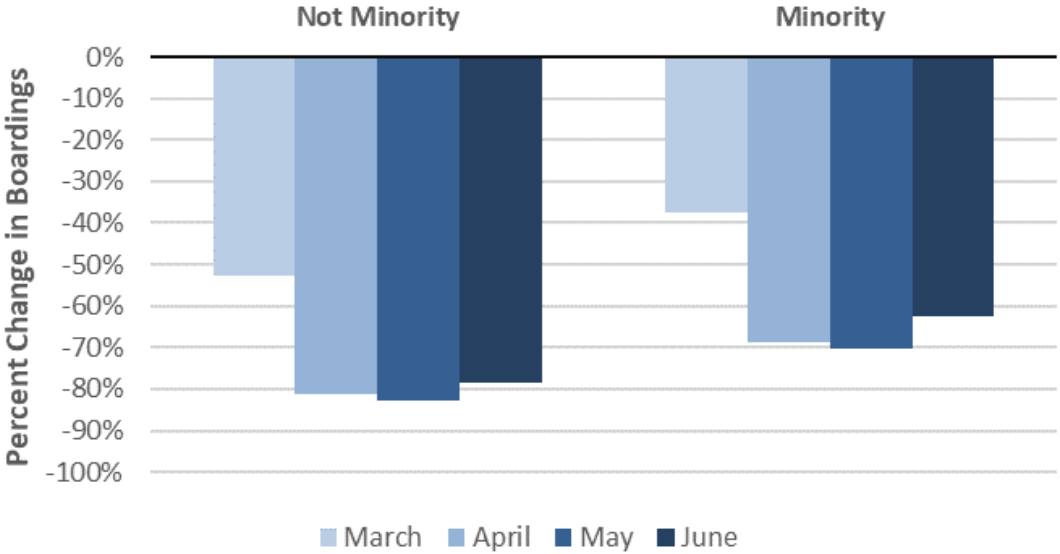
Service Impacts – Capacity Limits

- Passenger Load Limits - 12 per 40' bus / 18 per 60' bus
- Pass-ups
 - Occurring on some routes even with reduced ridership levels
 - Most common in the afternoon (2-5pm)

COVID capacity limits 40' Bus
12 Riders
24% of Crowding Threshold

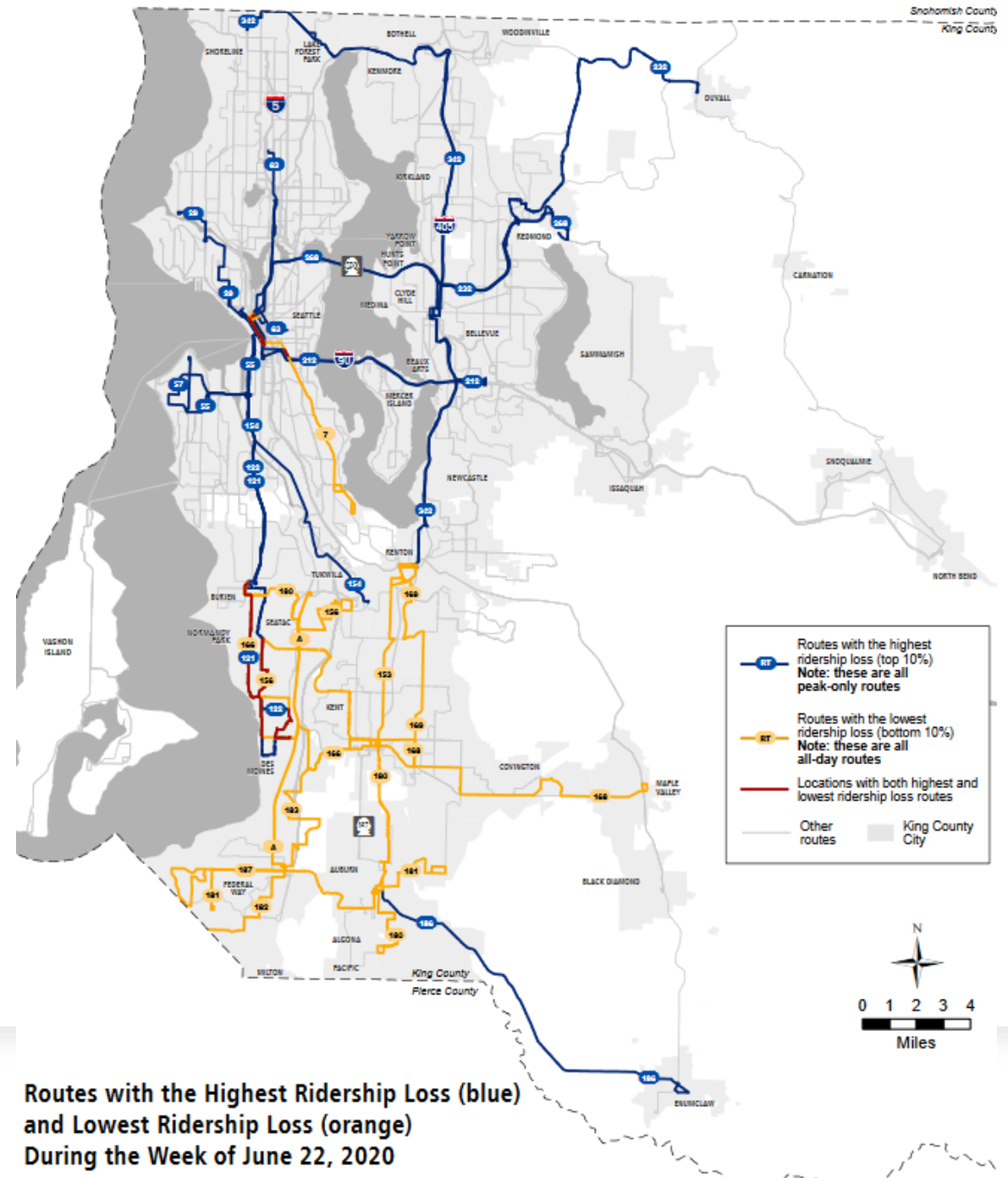


Social Equity Implications – Ridership Change



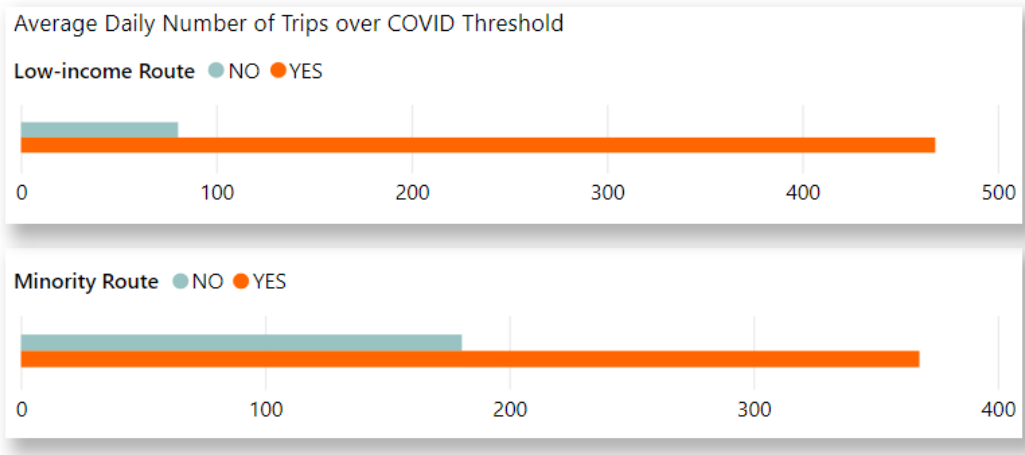
Social Equity Implications – Percent Change in Ridership

- Largest Declines (top 10%)
 - Peak-only routes
 - Non-frequent routes
 - Routes crossing Lake Washington
- Smallest Declines (bottom 10%)
 - Frequent, all-day routes
 - Routes Serving South King County
 - RapidRide routes

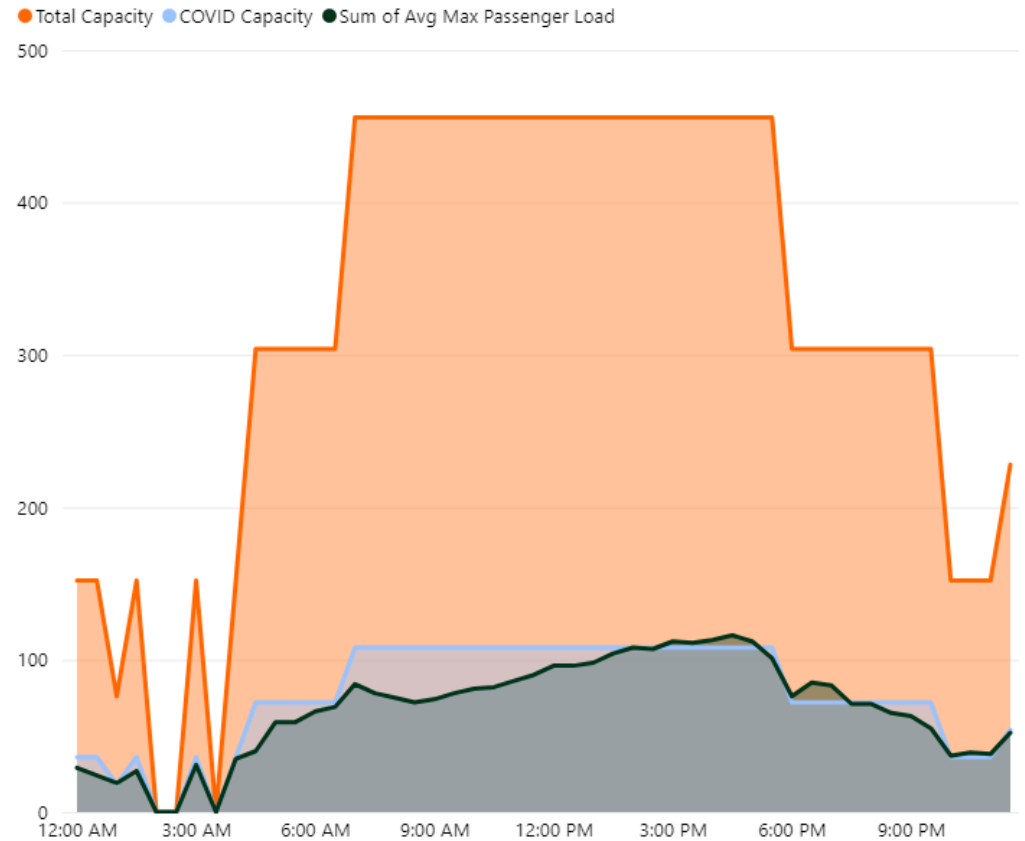


Social Equity Implications – COVID Crowding Levels

- Low-income and minority designated routes have more pass-ups
- Using supplemental service to target improvements



A Line Example



Service Restoration

- Looking to begin restoring suspended service in September
- Restoration Priorities
 - Equity - Routes with high opportunity scores
 - Ridership - Routes serving the most people
 - Crowding – Routes where crowding is (and/or is likely to be) and issue

Have A Say: King County Metro seeks community input through route to recovery survey



<https://kingcountymetro.blog/2021/02/08/have-a-say-king-county-metro-seeks-community-input-through-route-to-recovery-survey/>