

Regional Transportation Plan

September 2024: Level Setting



Puget Sound Regional Council



We are leaders in the region to realize equity for all. Diversity, racial equity and inclusion are integrated into how we carry out all our work.

psrc.org/equity

Topics for Discussion



Regional Growth



Electric Vehicles



Travel Behavior



Next Steps

Regional Growth



Current Regional Transportation Plan

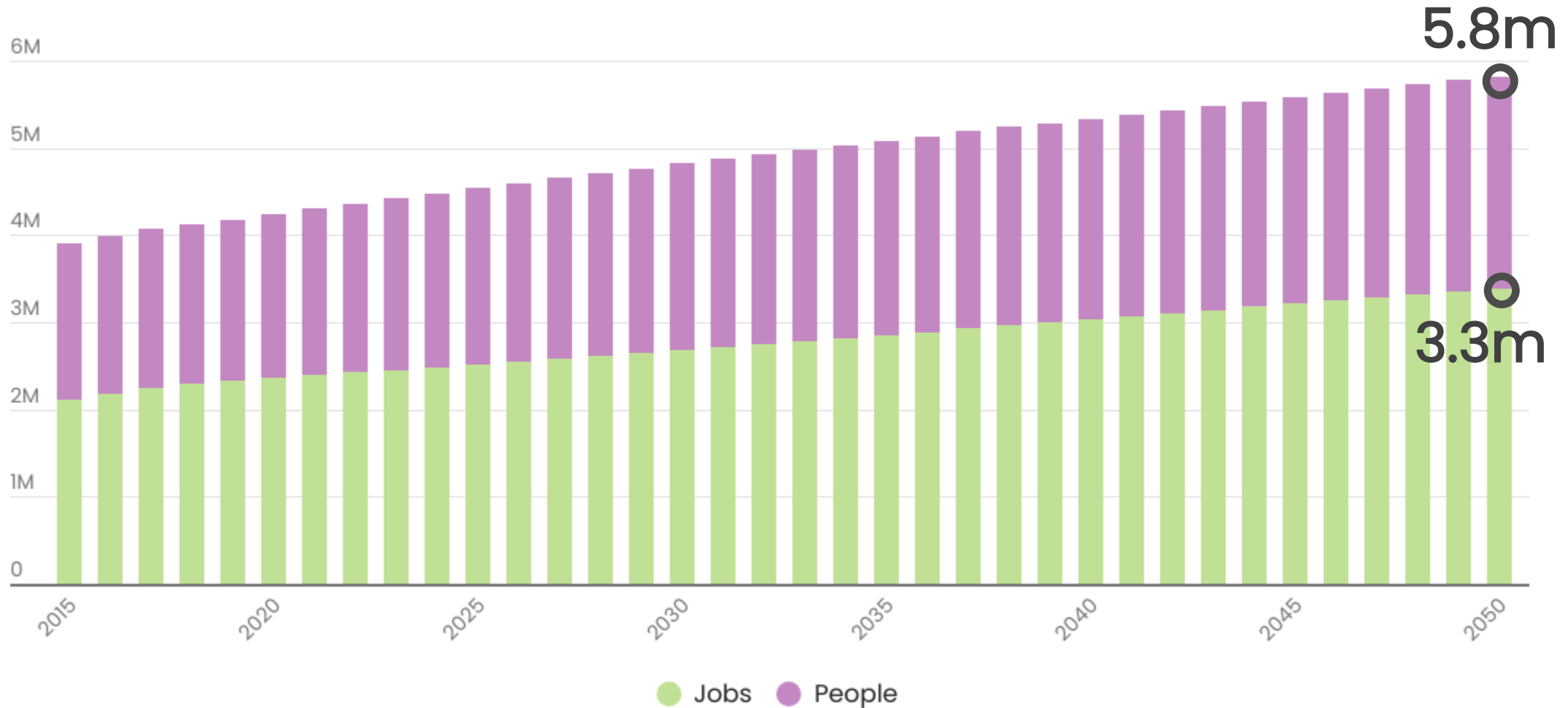
- The Plan analysis was performed in the summer/fall of 2021.
- Things were still in flux with the pandemic and we knew we would reassess in the 2026 RTP.

To remain consistent with VISION 2050, the 2022–2050 RTP used the **same** 2050 forecasts as **VISION 2050**.



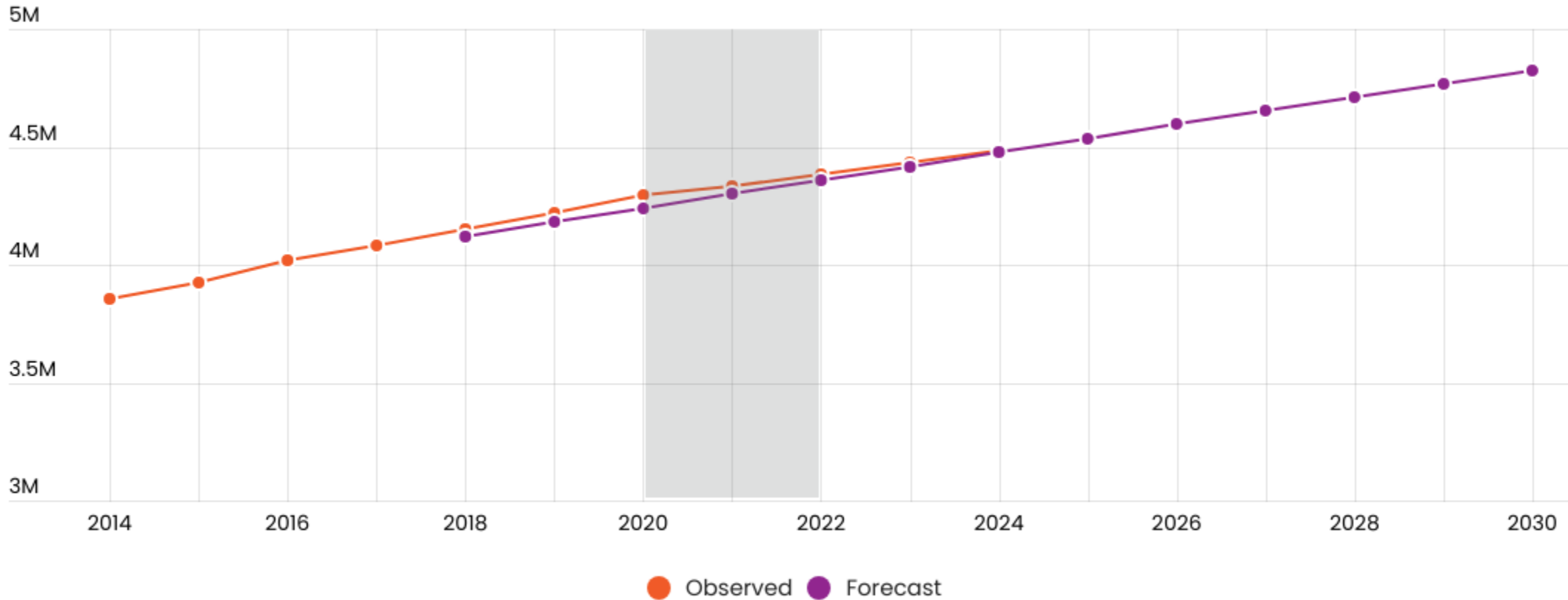
VISION 2050 plans for 5.8m people and 3.3m jobs

Forecast of People & Jobs, 2015-2050



Population growth has matched forecasts to date

Total Population in Central Puget Sound

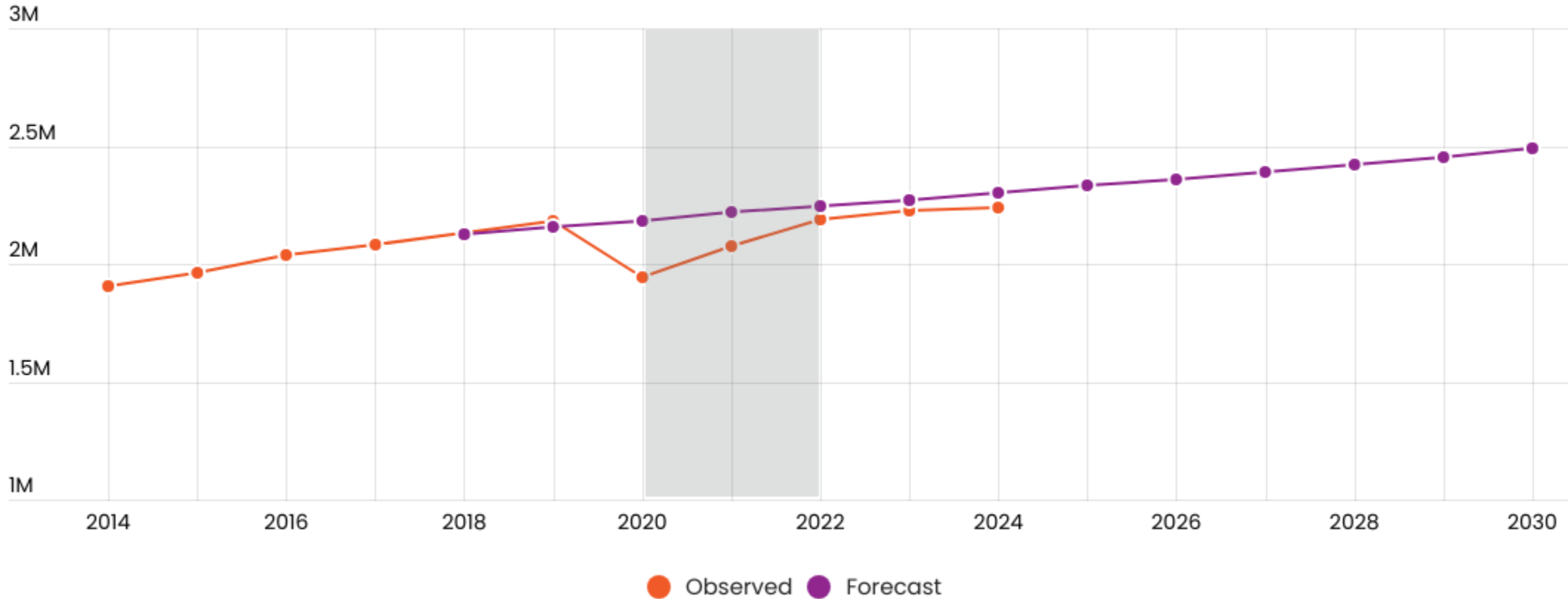


Gray bar indicates the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Source: Office of Financial Management, April 1 Official Population, 2024 and PSRC Macroeconomic Forecast

Job growth is about 3% lower than forecasts to date

Wage & Salary Employment in Central Puget Sound



Gray bar indicates the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Source: Washington State Employment Security Department and PSRC Macroeconomic Forecast

REMI forecast shows similar long-term forecasts

REMI Forecast of People & Jobs, 2022-2060



Source: REMI Forecast, Spring 2024 for Central Puget Sound Region

Keep the RTP Forecasts consistent

- Recent growth trends between 2018 and 2024 are within **3%** of forecasts despite the pandemic.
- The Latest post-pandemic growth projections are within **5%** of previous forecasts for 2050 and show the region hitting 5.8m people and 3.3m jobs around **2053**.

To remain consistent with Comprehensive Plans, the RTP will use the **same** 2050 forecasts as **VISION 2050**.



Electric Vehicles



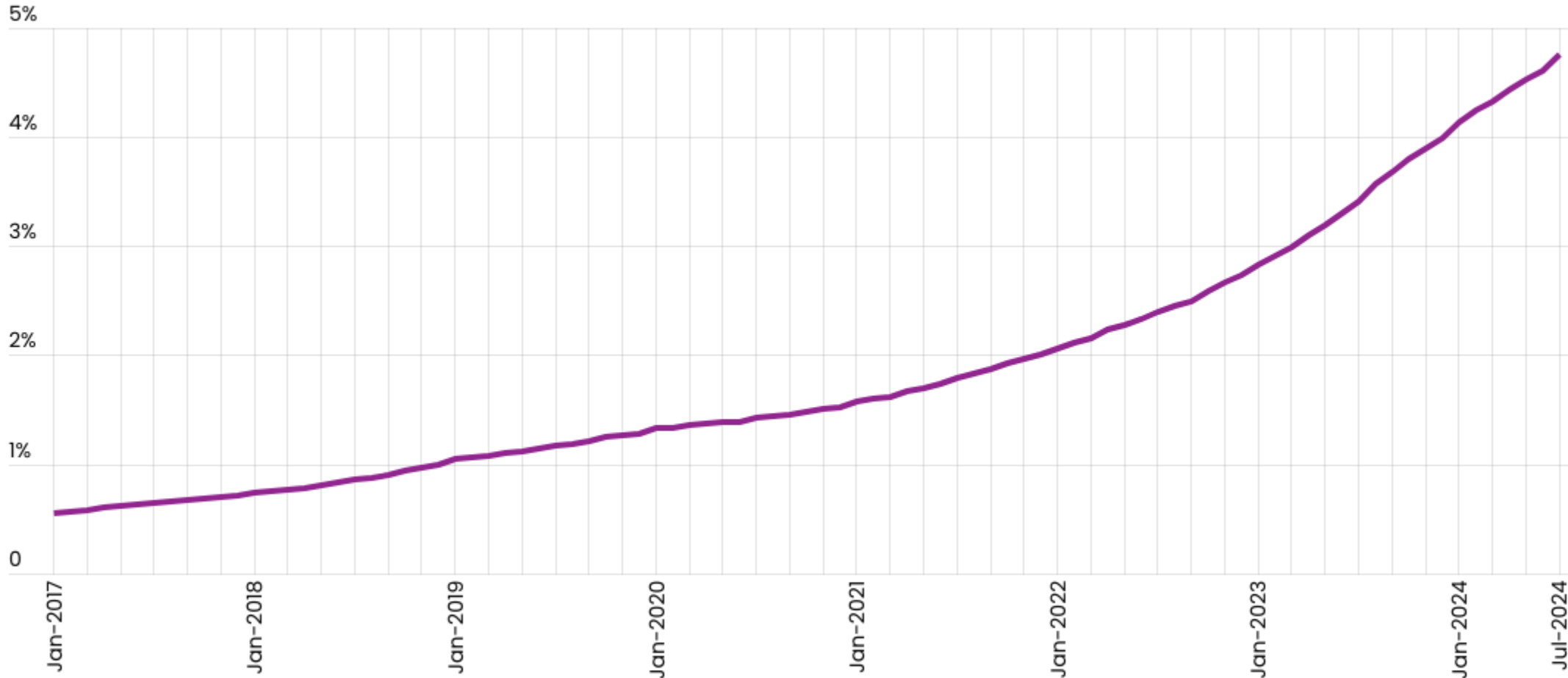
Current Regional Transportation Plan

- Decarbonization is a key part of the **Four-Part Greenhouse Gas Strategy**
- Analysis focused on the **climate benefits** of EVs but less so on the transportation revenue impacts



EVs made up almost 5% of the vehicle fleet in 2024

Electric Vehicle Share of All Vehicles: PSRC Region

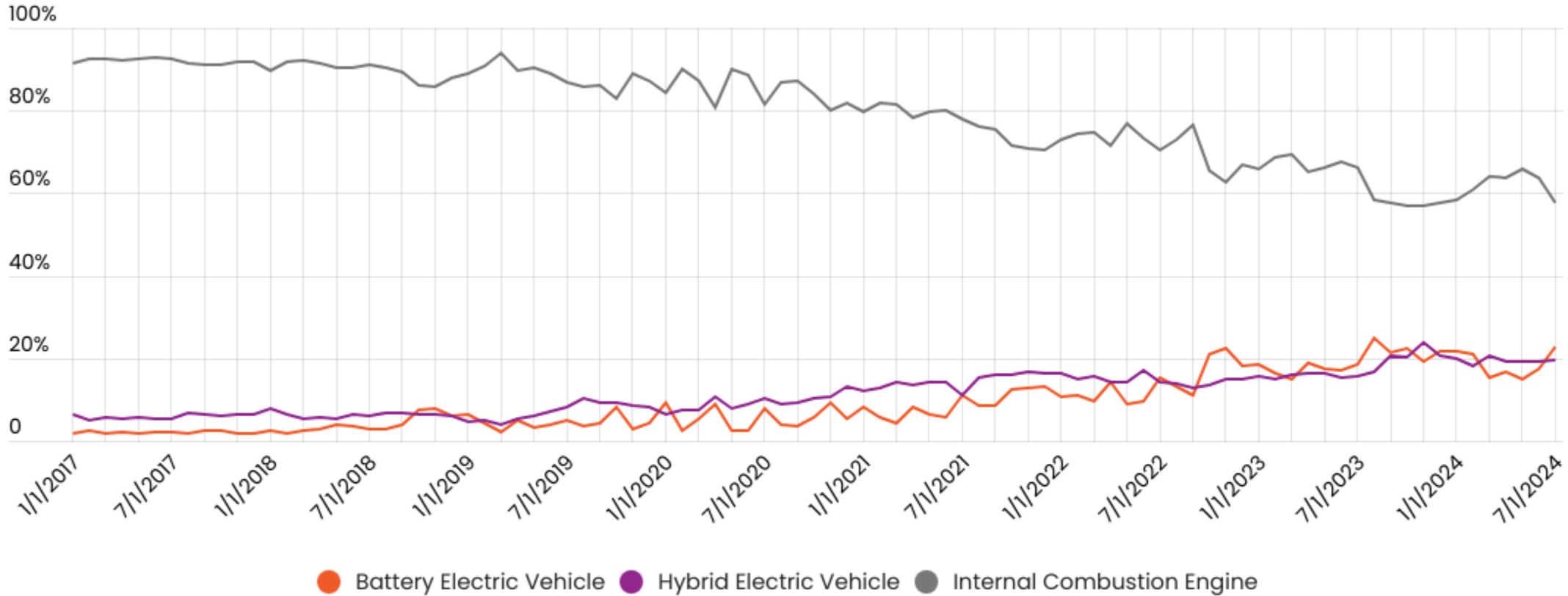


Source: Washington State Department of Licensing



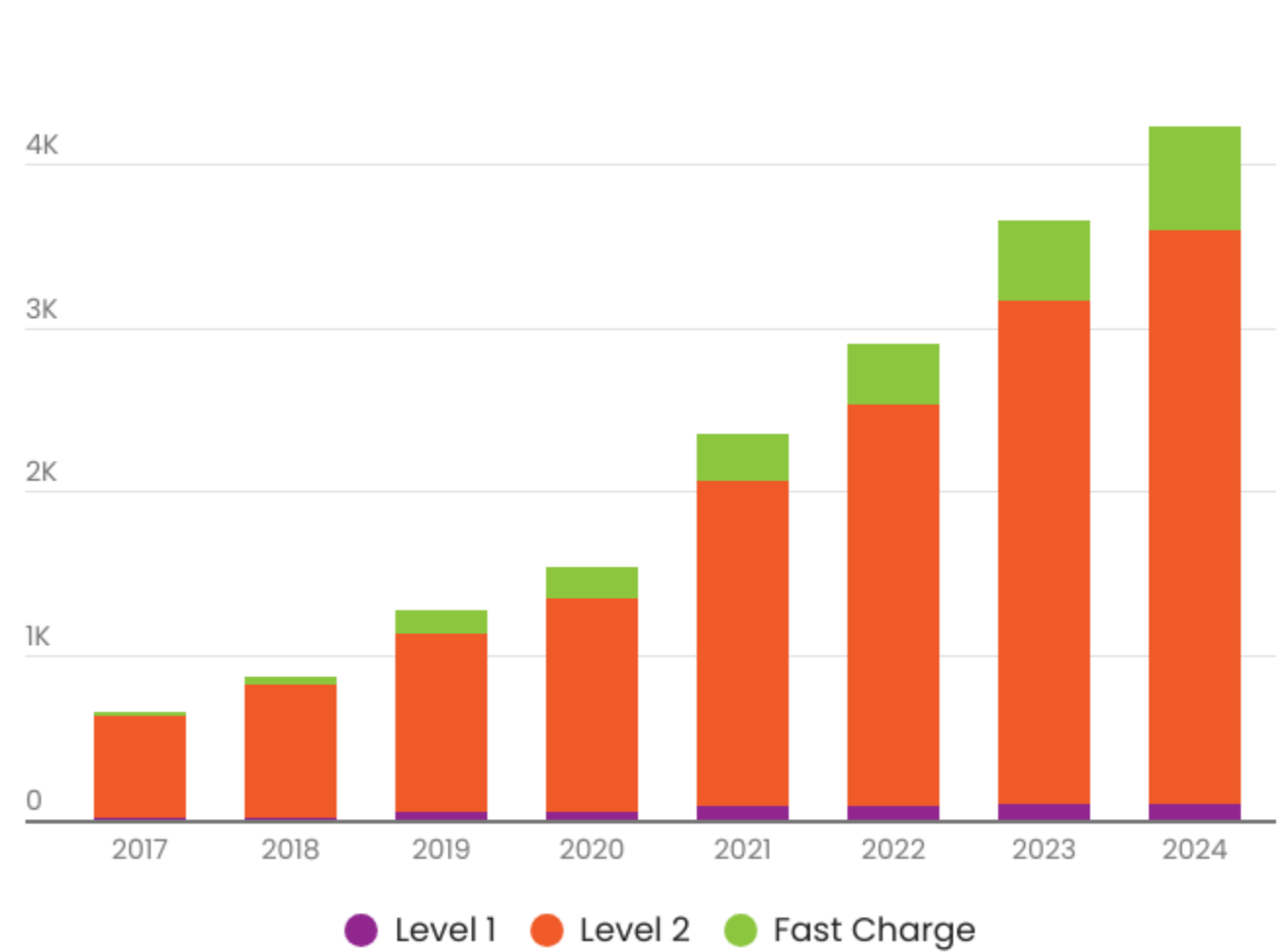
EVs made up over 20% of new vehicles in 2024

EV Share of New Vehicle Registrations: PSRC Region

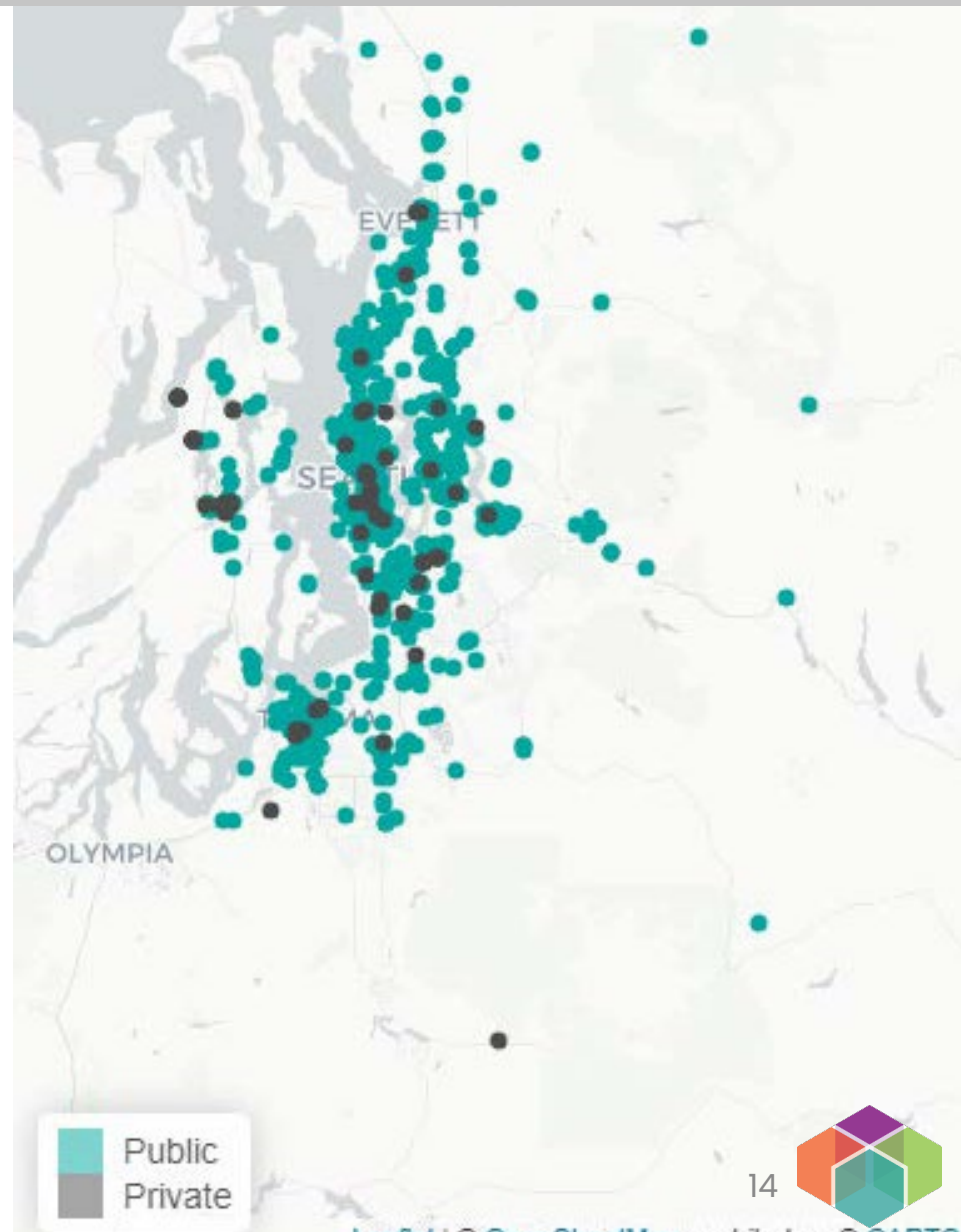


Charging infrastructure is growing rapidly

Public EV Charging Stations: PSRC Region

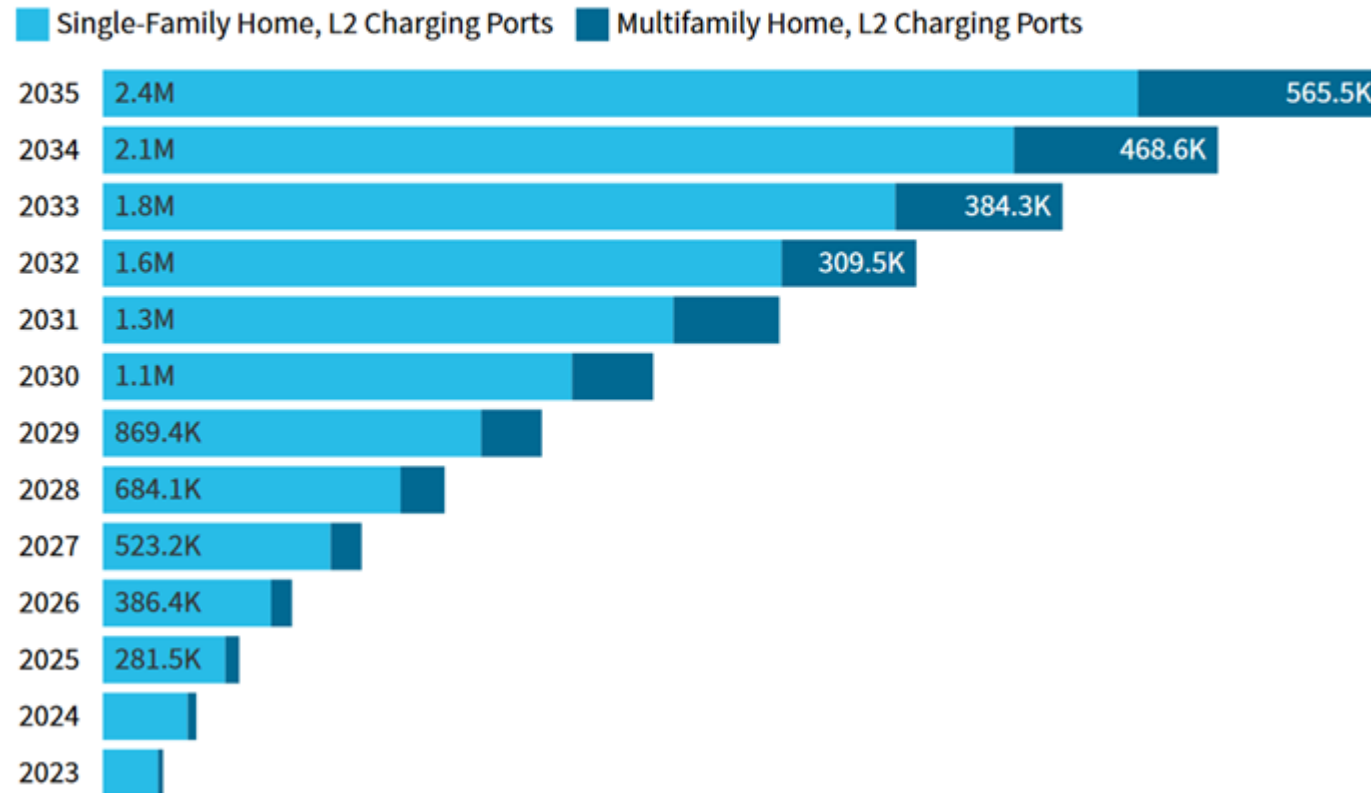


Source: US Department of Energy, Alternative Fuels Data Center



Statewide Residential Charging Needs

Cumulative Residential Charging Ports Required, Strong Electrification Policy Scenario



Ensuring availability of **home (or neighborhood) charging** for multifamily homes meaningfully **reduces** total public charging network requirements, providing both cost savings and equity benefits.



Further Analysis of EVs and Transportation Revenue

- With the rapid growth of electric vehicles and interest in other revenue sources, a more thorough analysis of EVs and transportation revenue will be performed.
- Although 2050 is “more certain” in terms of total vehicle fleet turnover, WA has requirements for new vehicle sales to be zero emission (ZE) by 2035:
 - 100% of passenger vehicle sales
 - 40%–75% medium and heavy-duty vehicles depending on weight class

The RTP will consider different fleet levels for the interim years, based on the trends and the state requirements



Travel Behavior



Current Regional Transportation Plan

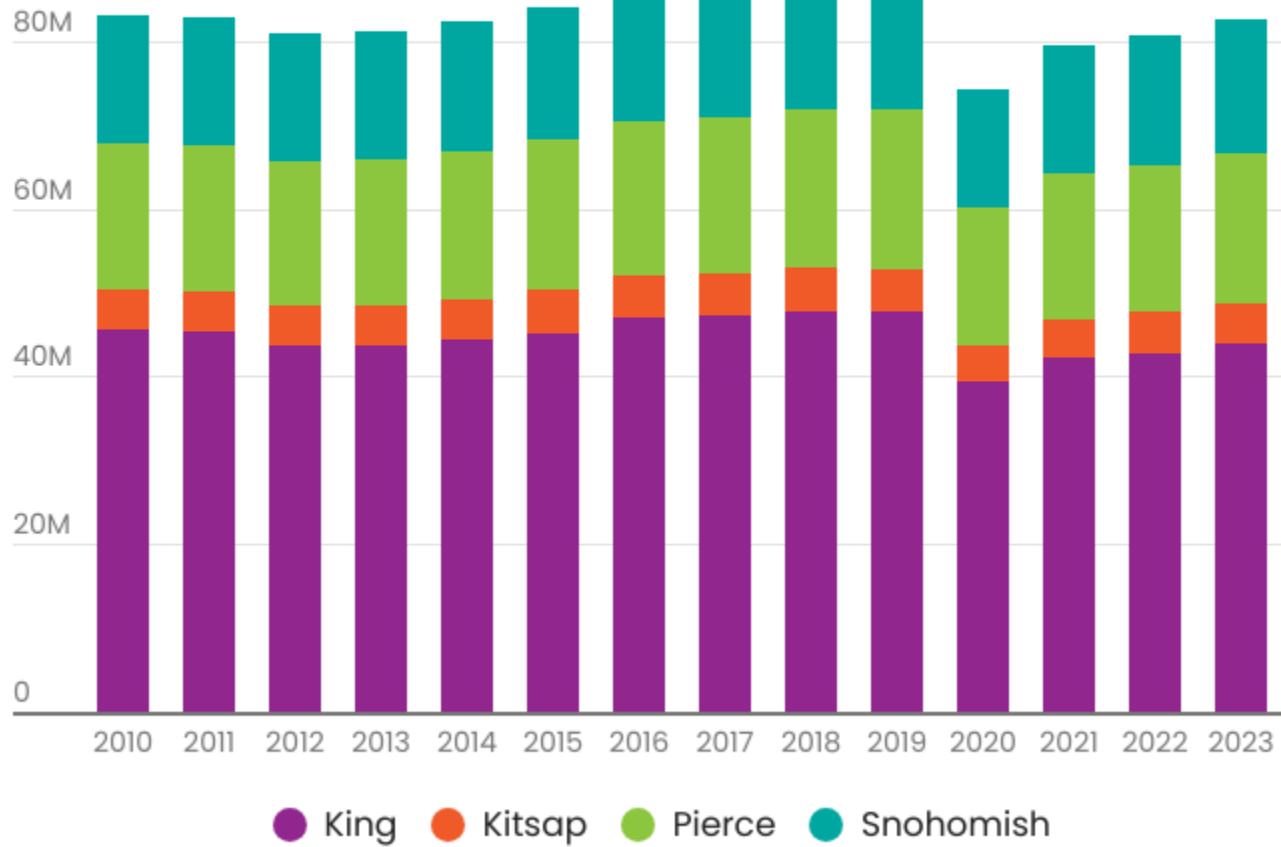
- The Plan analysis was performed in the summer/fall of 2021.
- Things were still in flux with the pandemic and we knew we would reassess in the 2026 RTP.

We used models that were estimated with **pre-pandemic** travel behavior and committed to using the results of the 2023 Household Travel Survey to inform the 2026–2050 Regional Transportation Plan



Vehicles Miles are still below pre-pandemic levels

Daily Vehicle Miles Traveled, 2010-2023

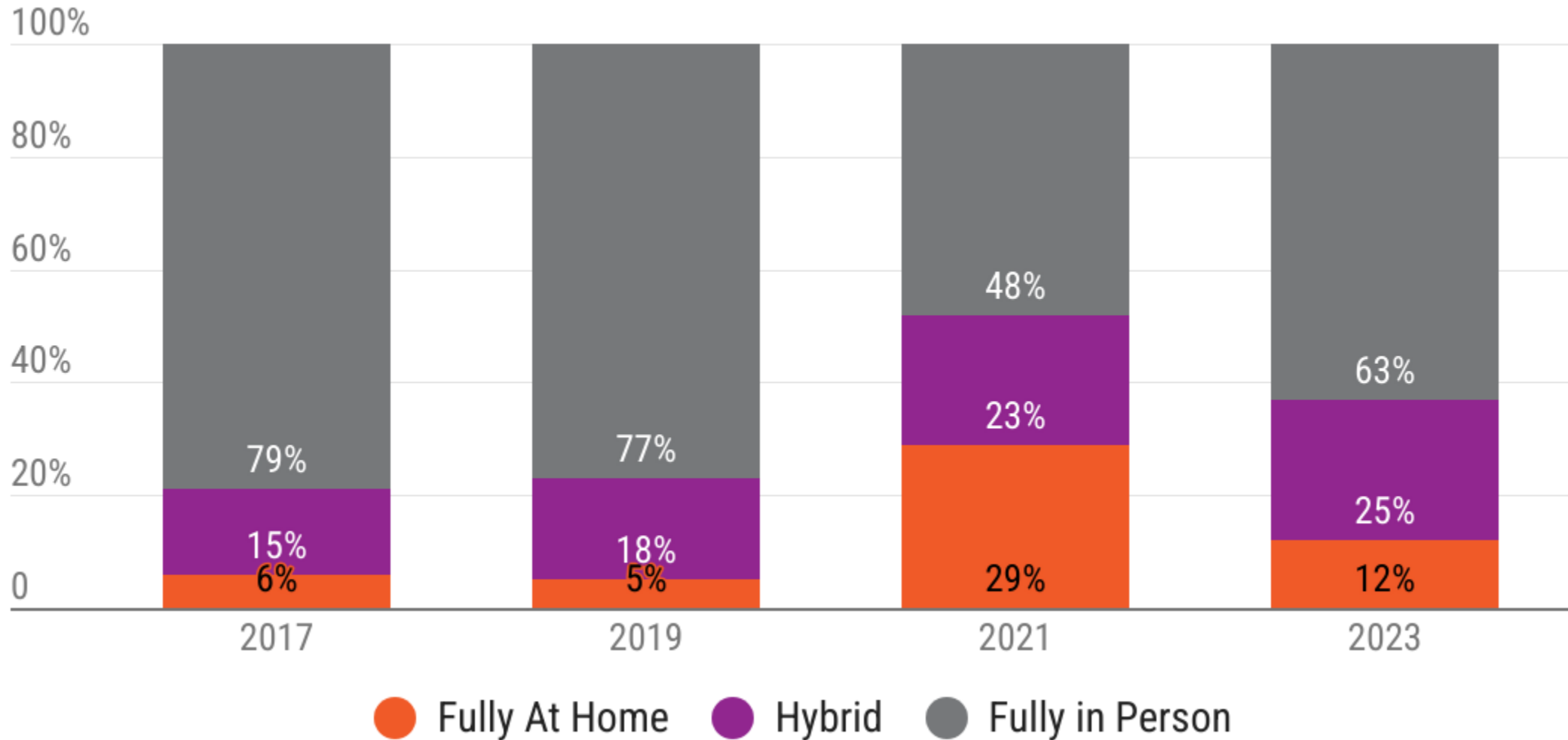


People in the region drove about **82.5** million miles a day in 2023 – about the same as people drove in **2014**.

Source: WSDOT Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS)

Working from Home is still in flux

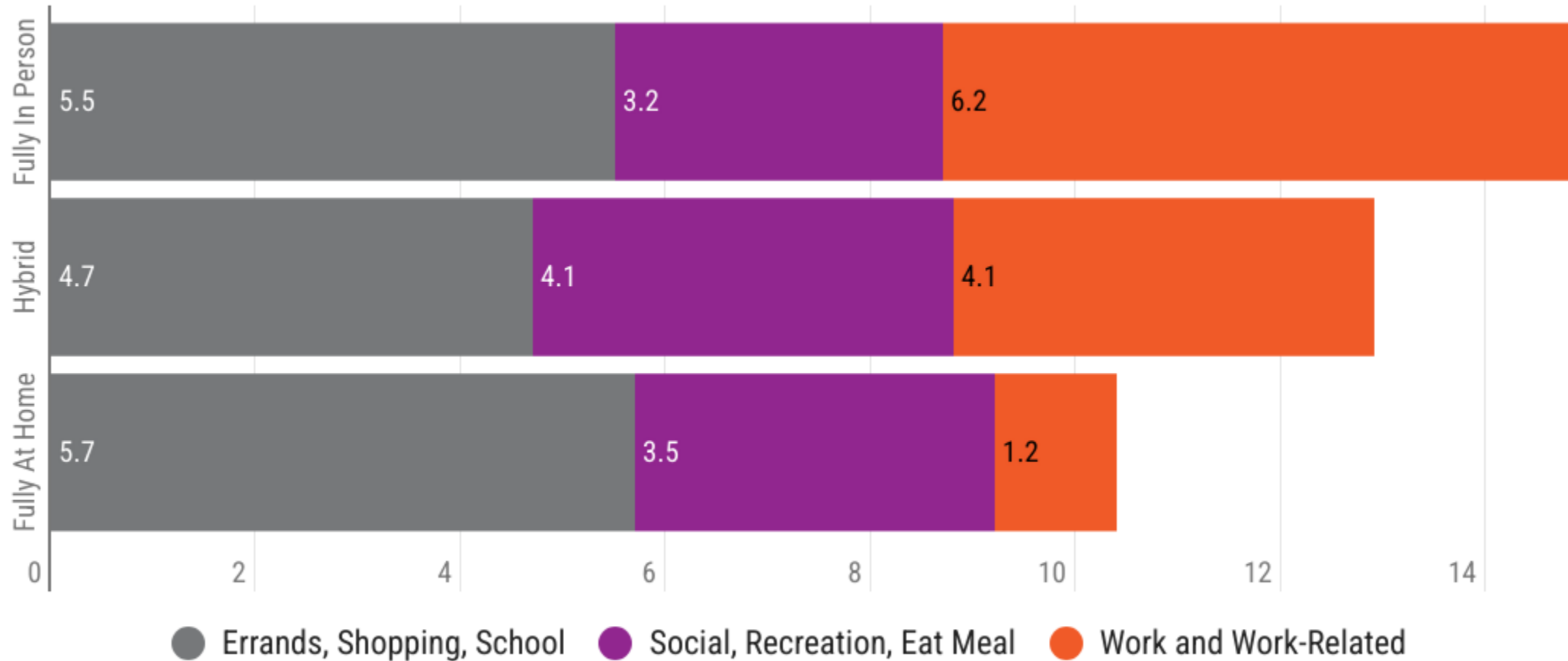
Work from Home Status



Source: PSRC Regional Household Travel Survey 2017, 2019, 2021 & 2023

Non-work trips are similar for all workers

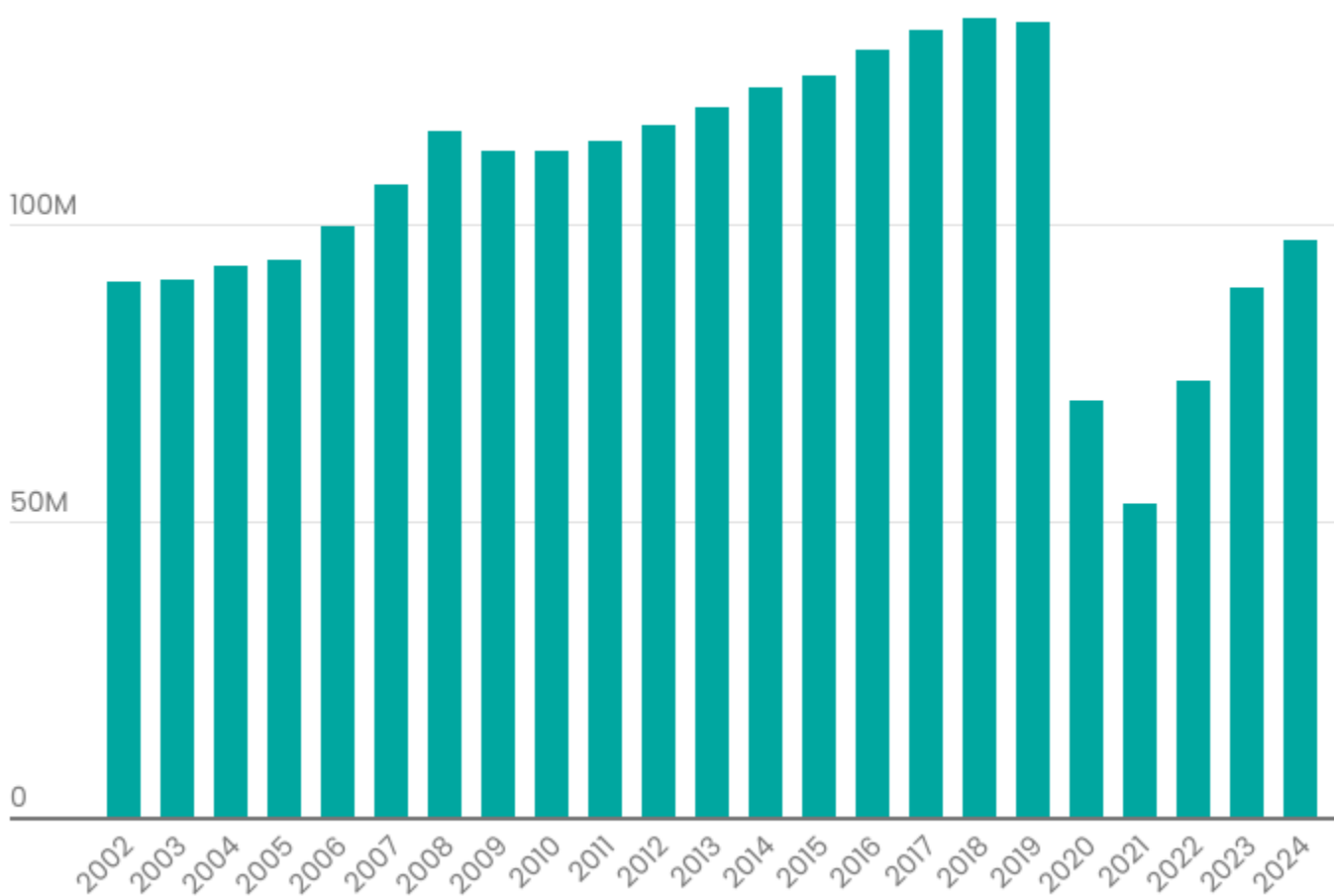
Trip Rates by Type by Work from Home Status



Source: PSRC Regional Household Travel Survey 2017, 2019, 2021 & 2023

Transit Ridership continues to recover

Jan–July Total Boardings, 2002–2024

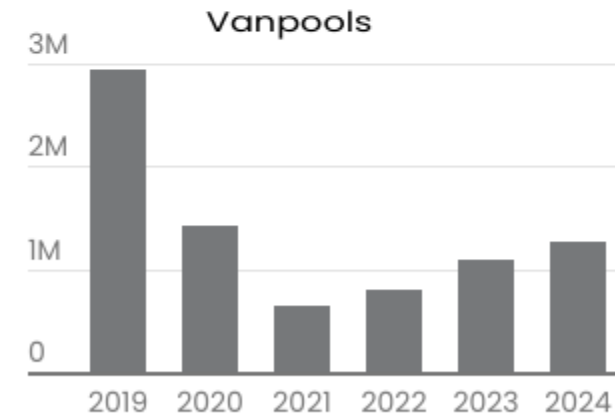
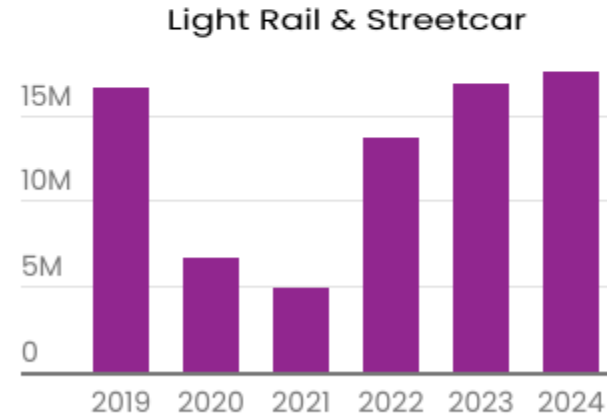
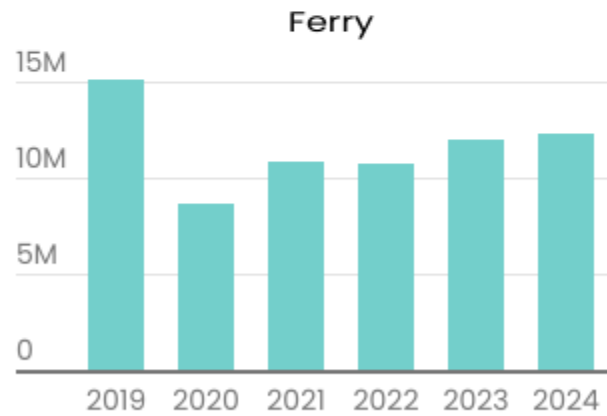
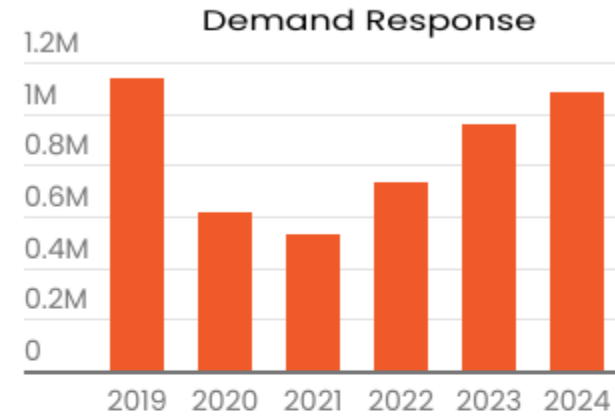
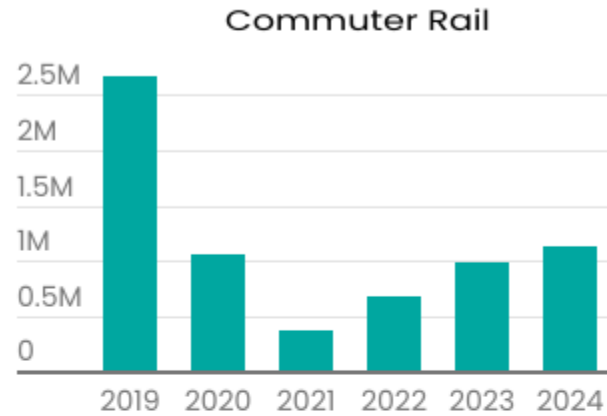
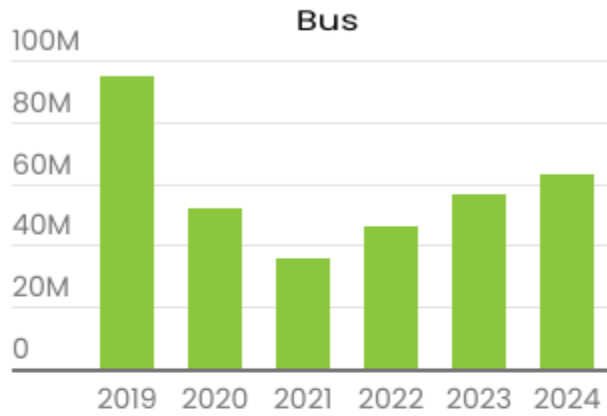


There were approximately **98 million** boardings from January to July 2024 on the Region’s transit system (**73%** of 2019 ridership)

Source: USDOT Federal Transit Administration National Transit Database

Recovery differs by Mode

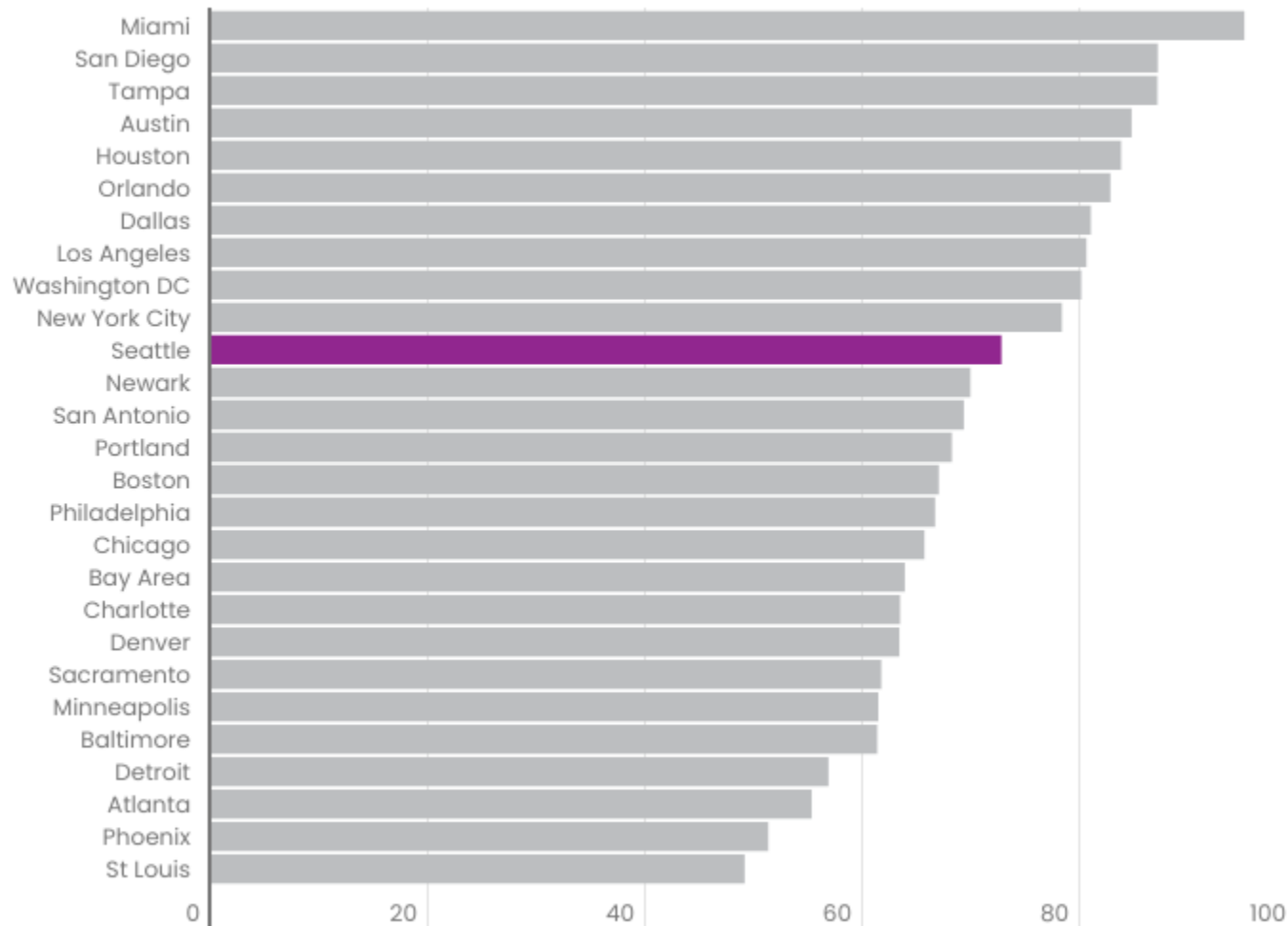
Jan-July Boardings by Mode



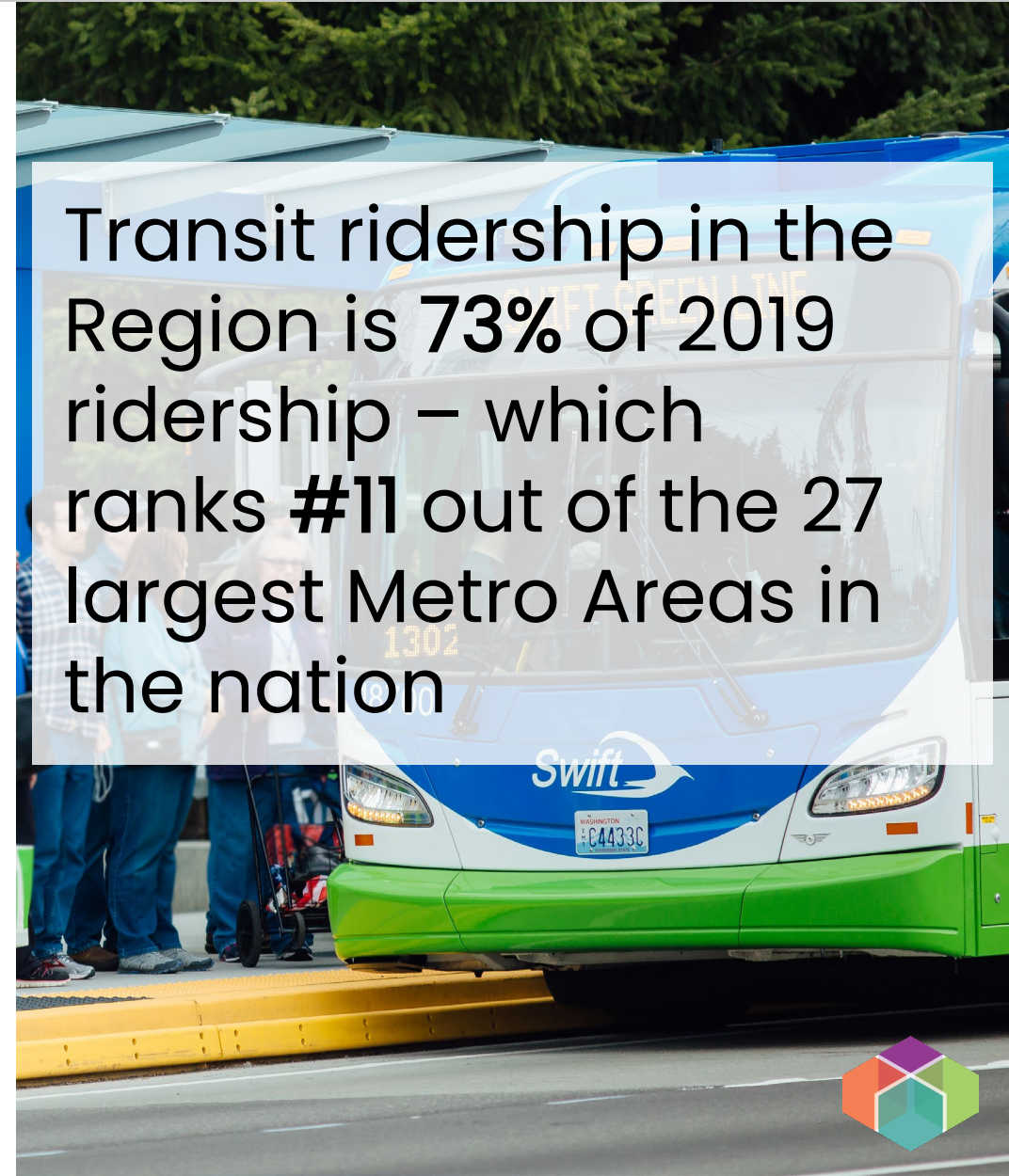
Source: USDOT Federal Transit Administration National Transit Database

Recovery is like other Metro Areas

Ratio of Jan-July Boardings: 2024 / 2019



Source: USDOT Federal Transit Administration National Transit Database



Further Analysis of Changing Travel Behavior

- Travel behavior continues to **evolve post-pandemic** and what we know today will be different tomorrow. The use of **sensitivity tests** in the RTP will be important to understanding how different the future could be.
- We will continue to track changing travel behavior trends in the [RTP Dashboard](#)



Next Steps



Key Takeaways for 2026–2050 RTP Analysis

- Long Term growth projections are similar to previous forecasts. To remain consistent with Comprehensive Plans, the RTP will use the same 2050 forecasts as VISION 2050.
- With the rapid growth of electric vehicles and interest in other revenue sources, a more thorough analysis of EVs and transportation revenue will be performed.
- We will use sensitivity tests to understand possible differences in outcomes from different travel behaviors and will continue to track trends in the [RTP Dashboard](#)



Questions?

Thank You!

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