

Joint Transportation Committee Public Transit Fiscal Health Study

- Evaluate the fiscal health of public transportation in Washington state
- Make a comparison with fiscal health of state transportation funding

Study review

- Study used existing databases
- Transit agencies were grouped by size
 - Rural
 - Small urban
 - Large urban
- An extended period for analysis: 1991-2011
- Dollars adjusted for inflation in some graphs
- Input from stakeholders

What is transit fiscal health?

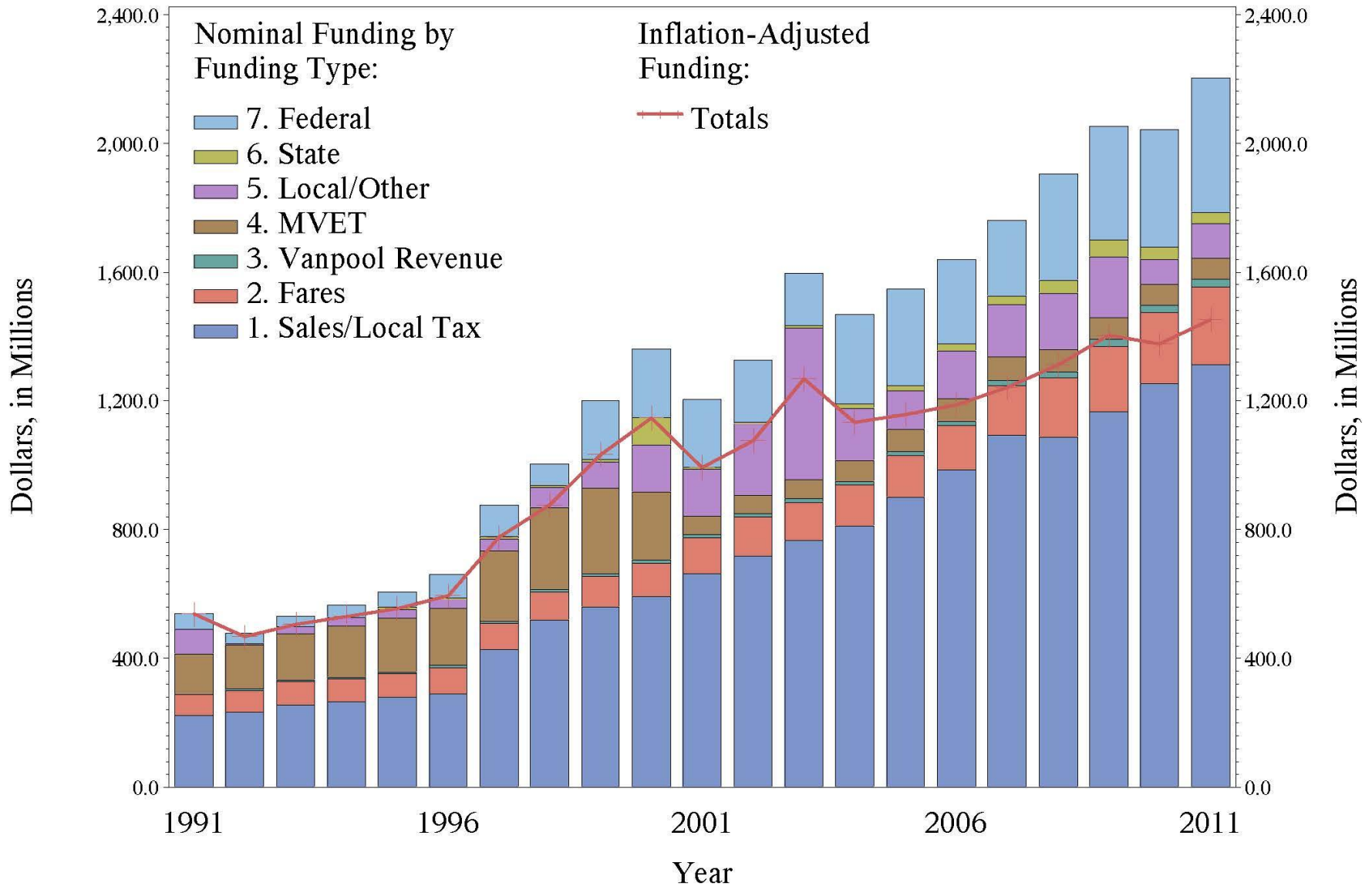
- In many ways, it is in the eyes of the beholder
 - Stable revenues and expenditures?
 - Cost effective service?
 - Customer satisfaction, service quality & frequency?
 - High fare-box recovery & less tax subsidy?
 - Cost containment—cost / hour or cost / rider?
 - Peak hour service / safety-net service?
- Do revenues cover the services the community wants?
- Some measures may conflict with others

Update since November JTC meeting

- 2011 transit data added to the report
- Added 5 Transit system profiles
- Updated with stakeholder comments:
 - Information and data refinement
 - Additional interpretations of data
- Separation of transit system groupings into individual transit systems for analysis

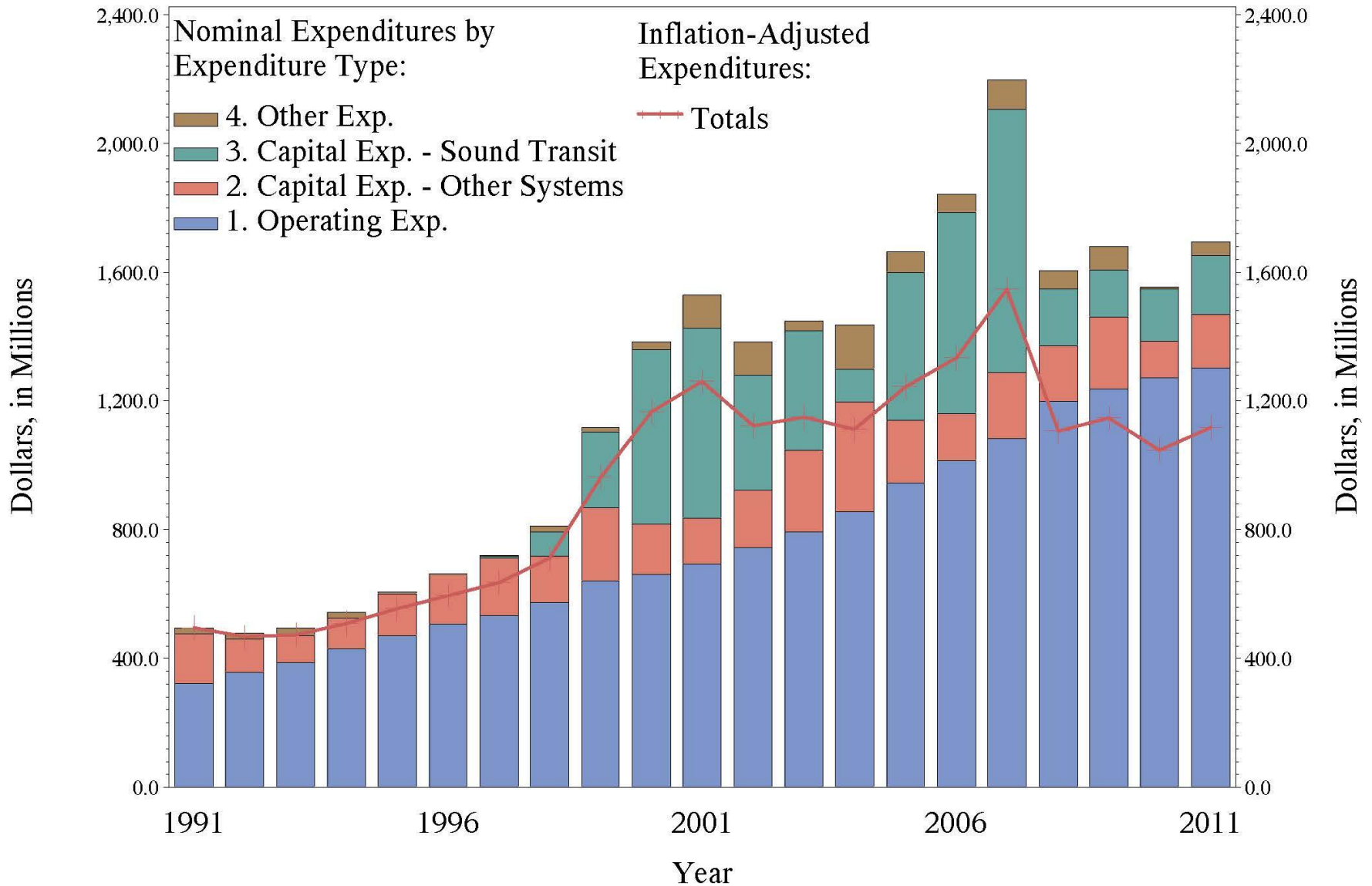
Annual Funding, for All Systems Statewide

Nominal vs. Real (Inflation-Adjusted, 1991=100%) Funding

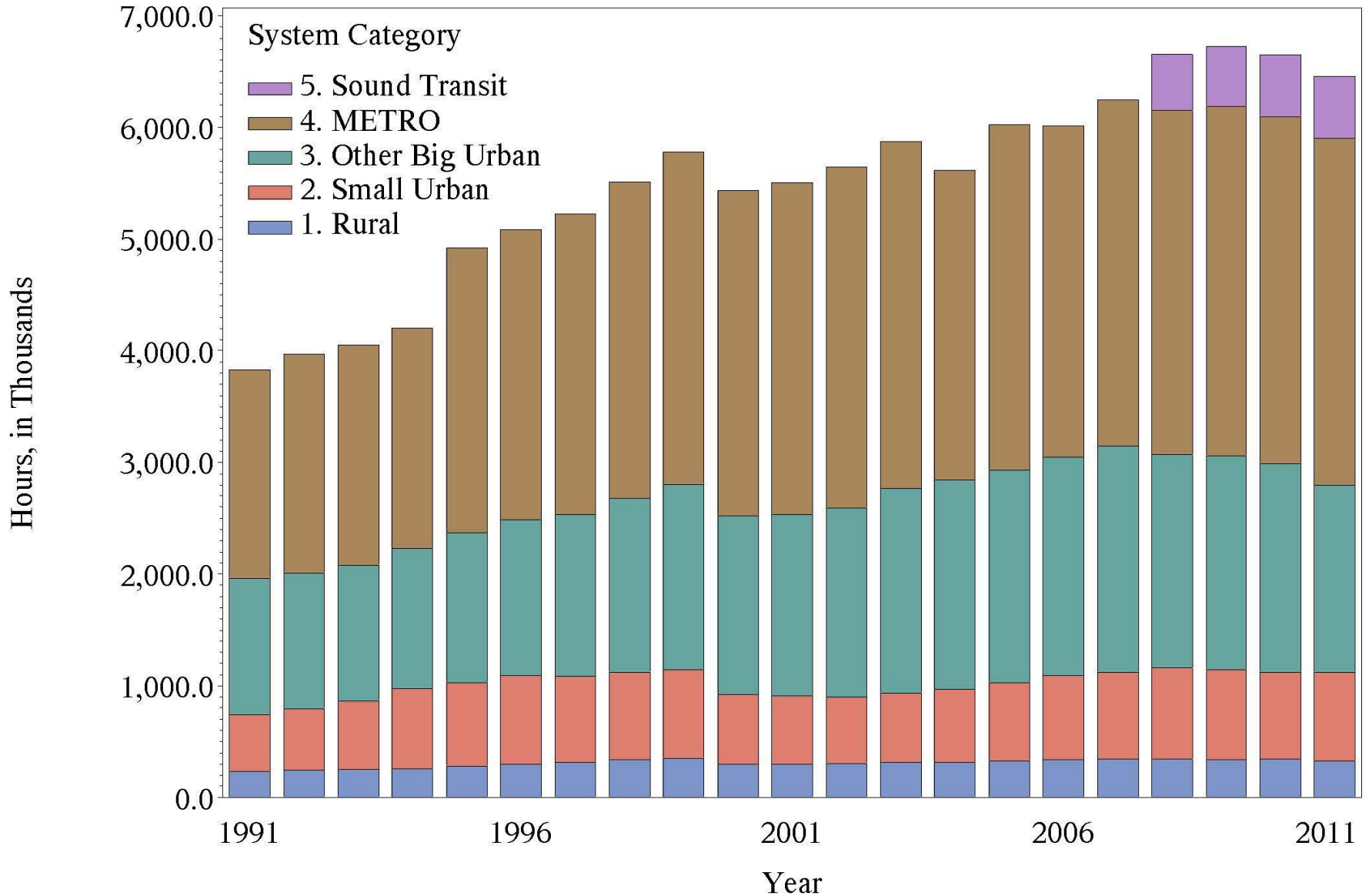


Annual Expenditures, for All Systems Statewide

Nominal vs. Real (Inflation-Adjusted) Expenditures

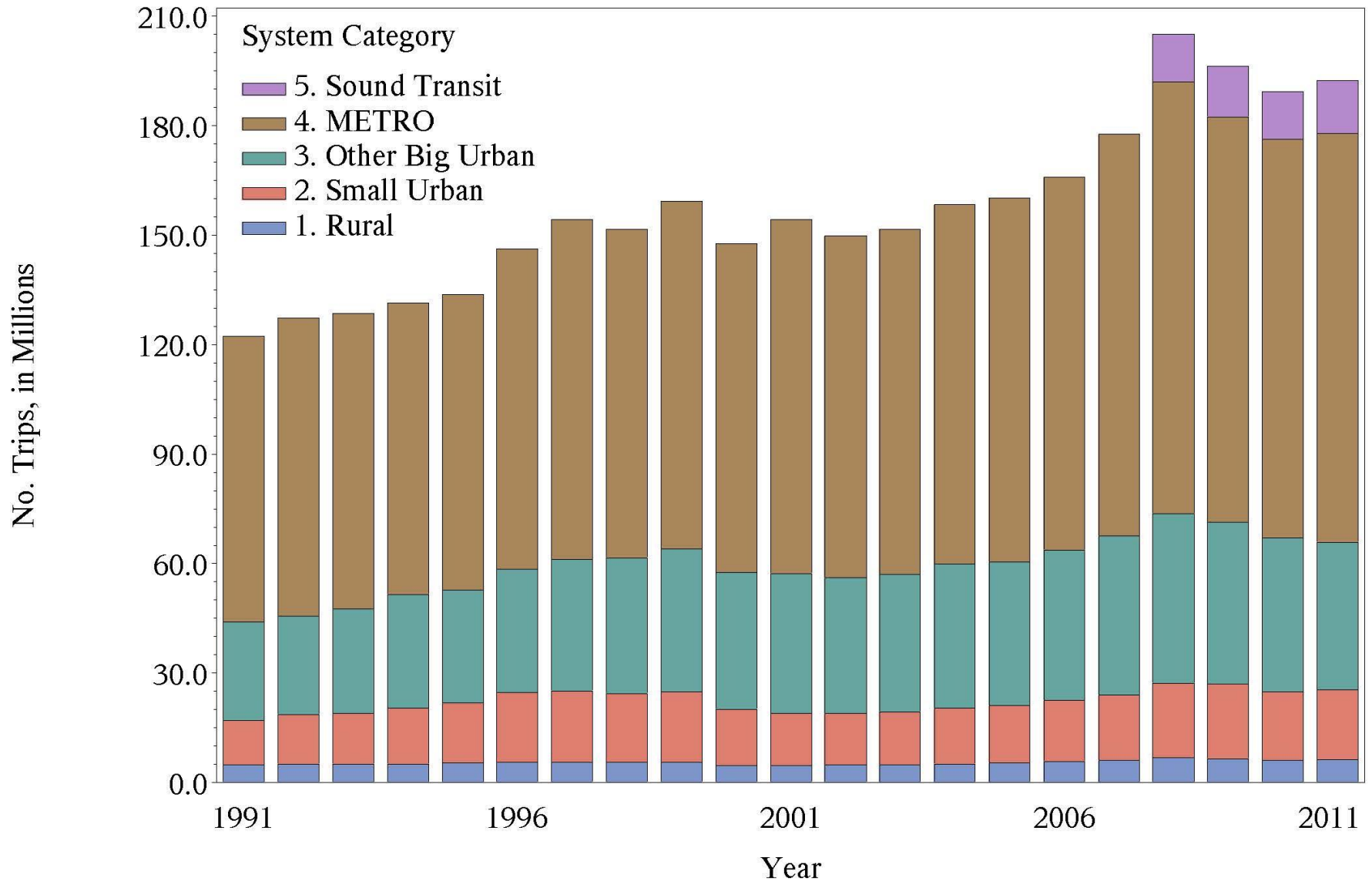


Revenue Vehicle Hours by Year, For All Systems Statewide, Fixed_Route Services Subgrouped by System Category



Passenger Trips by Year, For All Systems Statewide, Fixed_Route Services

Subgrouped by System Category

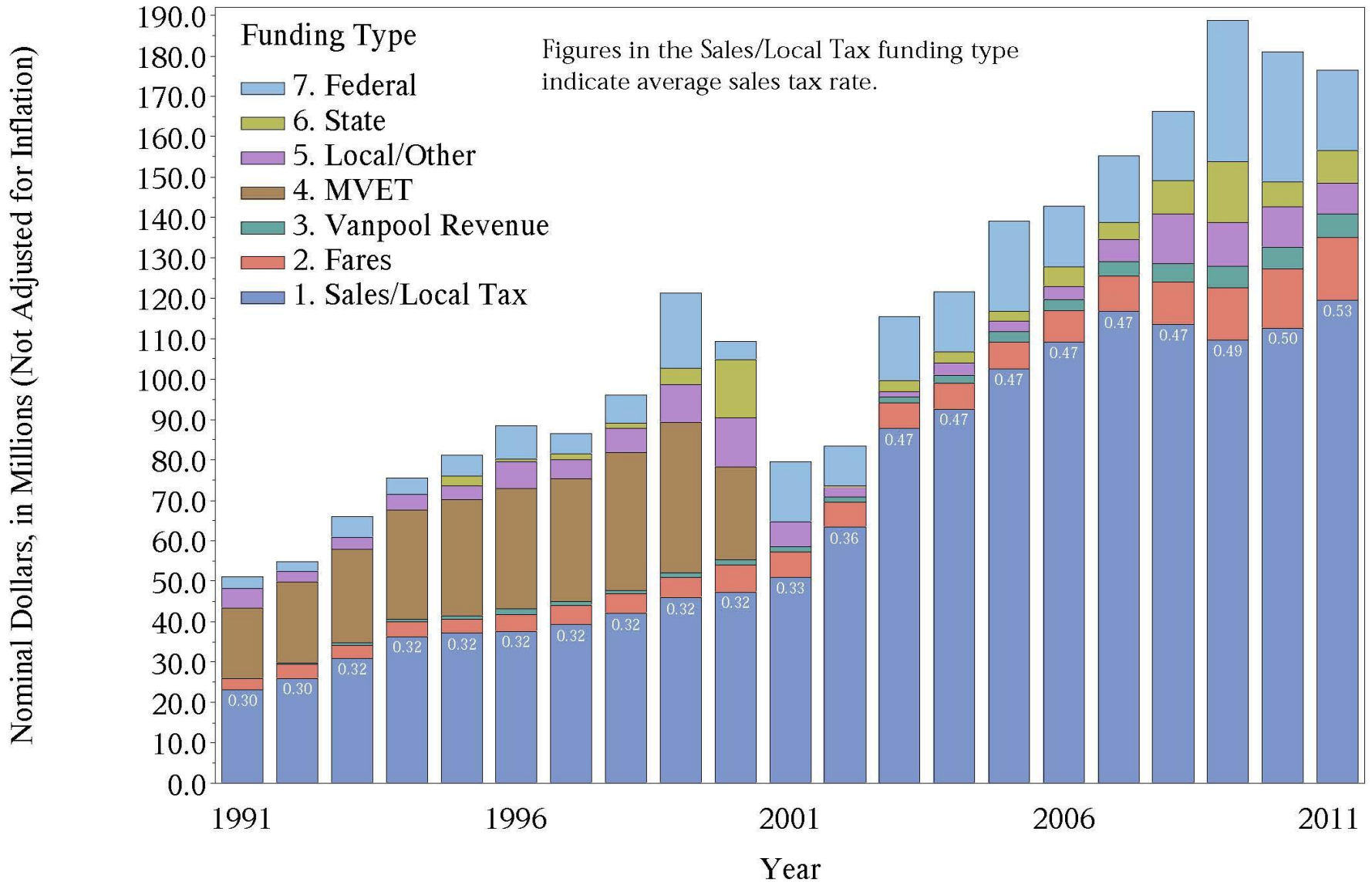


System Category Detail

- The statewide graphs provide an indication of how the transit systems as a whole are performing across the state.
- However, statewide graph totals are dominated by data from King County Metro and Sound Transit.
- A drill-down look at system categories (e.g., rural, small urban, large urban) provides a finer level of performance detail.

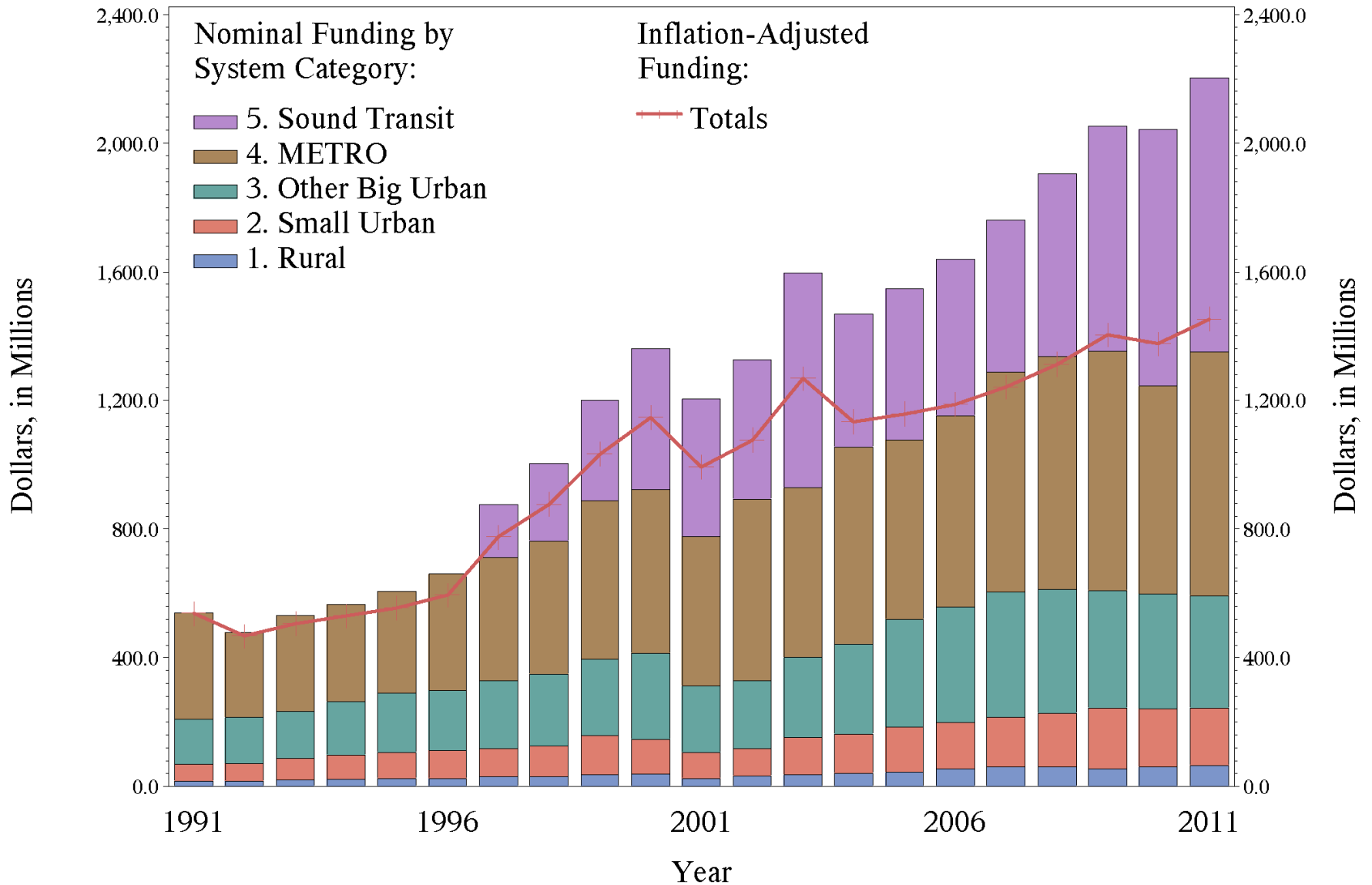
Annual Funding, for Small Urban Systems

Amounts Shown are Nominal (Not Adjusted for Inflation)



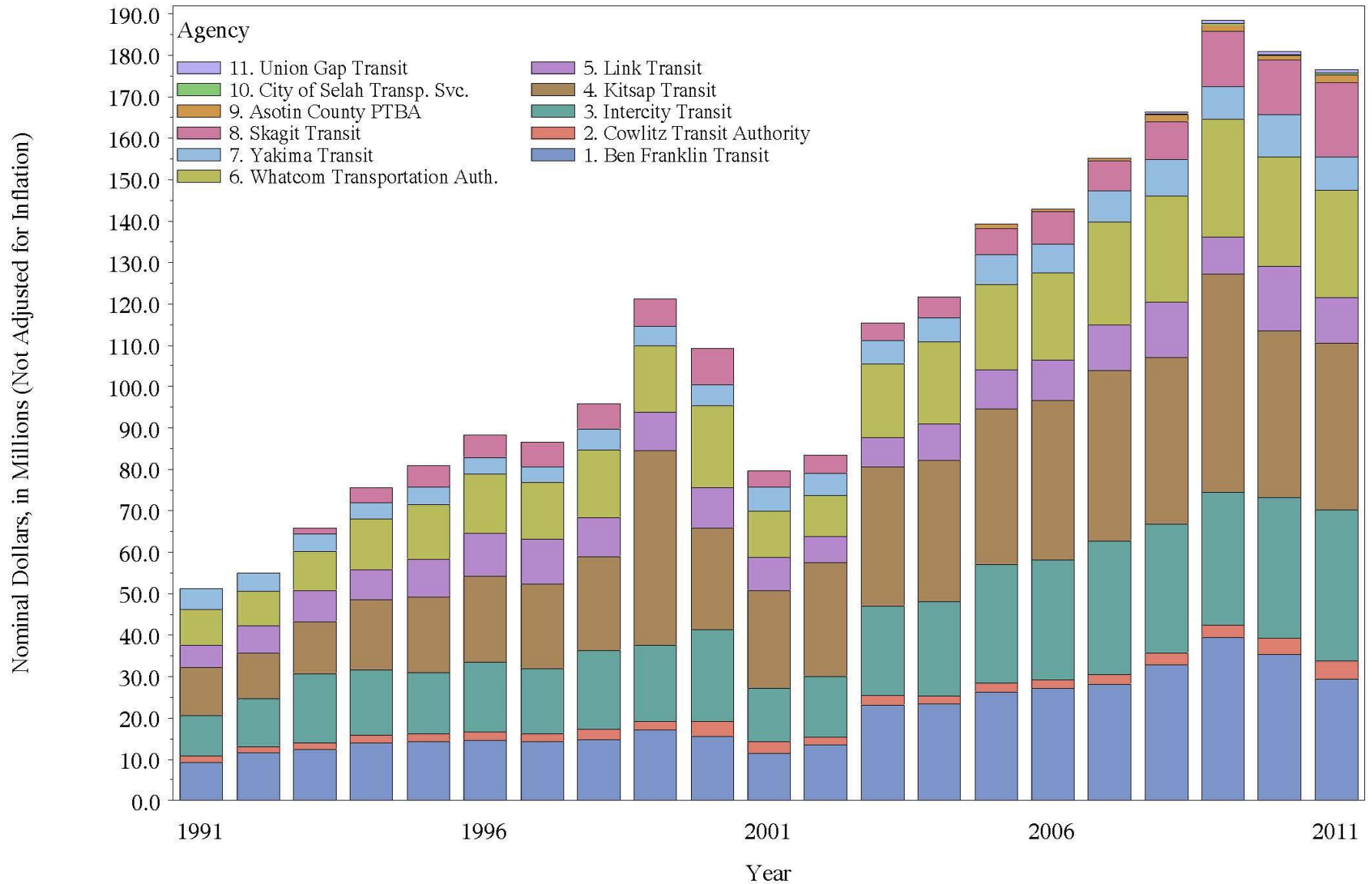
Annual Funding, for All Systems Statewide

Nominal vs. Real (Inflation-Adjusted, 1991=100%) Funding

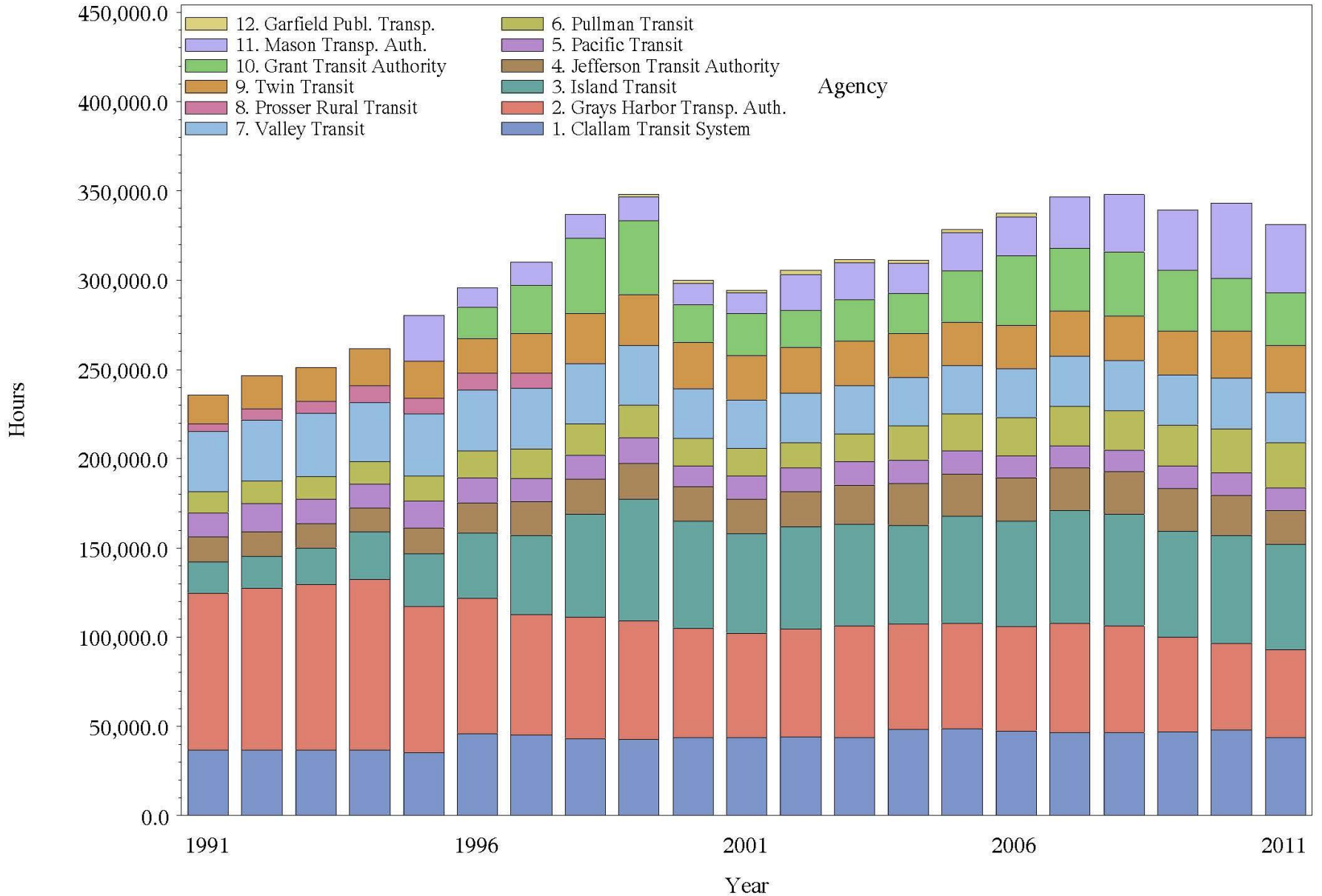


Annual Funding, for Small Urban Systems

Amounts Shown are Nominal (Not Adjusted for Inflation)



Revenue Vehicle Hours by Year, For Rural Systems, Fixed_Route and Deviated Route Services



Transit system profiles

- General Profiles:
 - Grays Harbor
 - Ben-Franklin
 - Pierce Transit*
- Financial and Reserves Profiles:
 - King County Metro*
 - Sound Transit*

* These profiles utilize financial projections

Study Wrap-up:

- Incorporate additional comments
- Update all graphics with 2011 data
- Add a system profile
- Breakdown transit groupings into individual systems
- Provide links for data
- Identify data limitations

Observations:

- Fiscal health is in the eyes of the beholder
- A single statewide data metric obscures the differences among transit systems
- Transit systems use reserves for capital investment, the state uses bonds
- Two fiscal shocks:
 - 2000, service cuts and/or additional funds
 - 2008, reserves, service cuts, less unused tax capacity
- Changing demands
- Imperfect set of data

Imperfect set of data in place of the state's approach
Two major fiscal shocks