



Transit makes the highway system work better at lower cost

On an average weekday, King County Metro Transit and Sound Transit provide more than 200,000 passenger rides on major state highways—easing traffic congestion, reducing the need for costly investments in roadway infrastructure, and improving the movement of people and goods that helps our region thrive.

Helping highways carry more people and goods

- **Transit can add capacity to our highways and freeways, helping our region avoid expensive investments.**

In an environment where there is little room to add lanes, where right-of-way and construction costs are prohibitive, and construction projects are disruptive and costly to commuters, expansion of transit is a cost-effective way to increase the capacity of our transportation system.

- **Transit is a critical part of the “systems approach” to managing our highways.**

Metro is partnering with WSDOT and PSRC to make the SR-520 bridge corridor more efficient.

WSDOT started tolling to generate revenue and manage traffic.

Metro added service to mitigate congestion, give drivers an alternative, and increase roadway capacity. As a result, the highway is carrying more people and generating the target toll revenue.

Transit mitigation service in the SR-520 bridge corridor brought a 25 percent increase in bus riders.

- **During Alaskan Way Viaduct construction, Metro is playing a vital role in managing congestion on the SR-99 corridor.** Using state mitigation funding to increase bus service in the corridor, Metro has attracted nearly 17,000 new daily riders; average daily traffic has decreased by 25,000 vehicles. However, funding runs out in June 2014.

Providing mobility for thousands

- **Transit moves large volumes of people during peak periods, acting as a “pressure release valve” during the most congested times of the day.**

Metro’s current service displaces about 175,000 cars every weekday (highways and local roads).

- **Metro carries about 400,000 riders every weekday.** More than half are going to their jobs.

- **In Bellevue, 17 percent of commute trips to downtown Bellevue are by transit.** 57 percent of regular riders use transit during the morning peak.
- **In downtown Seattle, 43 percent of employees get to work using transit.** More commuters use transit than drive alone (34 percent).

Boosting the economy

- **More than 1,500 businesses and institutions in the Puget Sound area provide transit passes to their employees or students.** Passes enable people to get to work or school reliably, help companies attract and retain employees, and reduce parking needs.
- **Transit enables major employment centers to grow and prosper.** One of Metro’s top priorities is to serve employment and activity centers as well as major institutions like the University of Washington.
- **Transit saves the region more than \$367 million annually in congestion costs by averting 16 million hours of travel delay.**

Source: Texas Transportation Institute

- **Investments in transit pay off.** A recent study of more than 300 metropolitan areas across the U.S. found estimated wage increases ranging from \$1.5 million to \$1.8 billion per metropolitan area yearly for a 10 percent increase in transit seats or rail service miles per capita.

Source: Transit Service, Physical Agglomeration and Productivity in US Metropolitan Areas, Daniel G. Chatman and Robert B. Noland, published in the journal Urban Studies, August 2013.

Earning public support

- **Voters in King County have approved every transit-specific ballot measure for Metro and Sound Transit since 1996.**

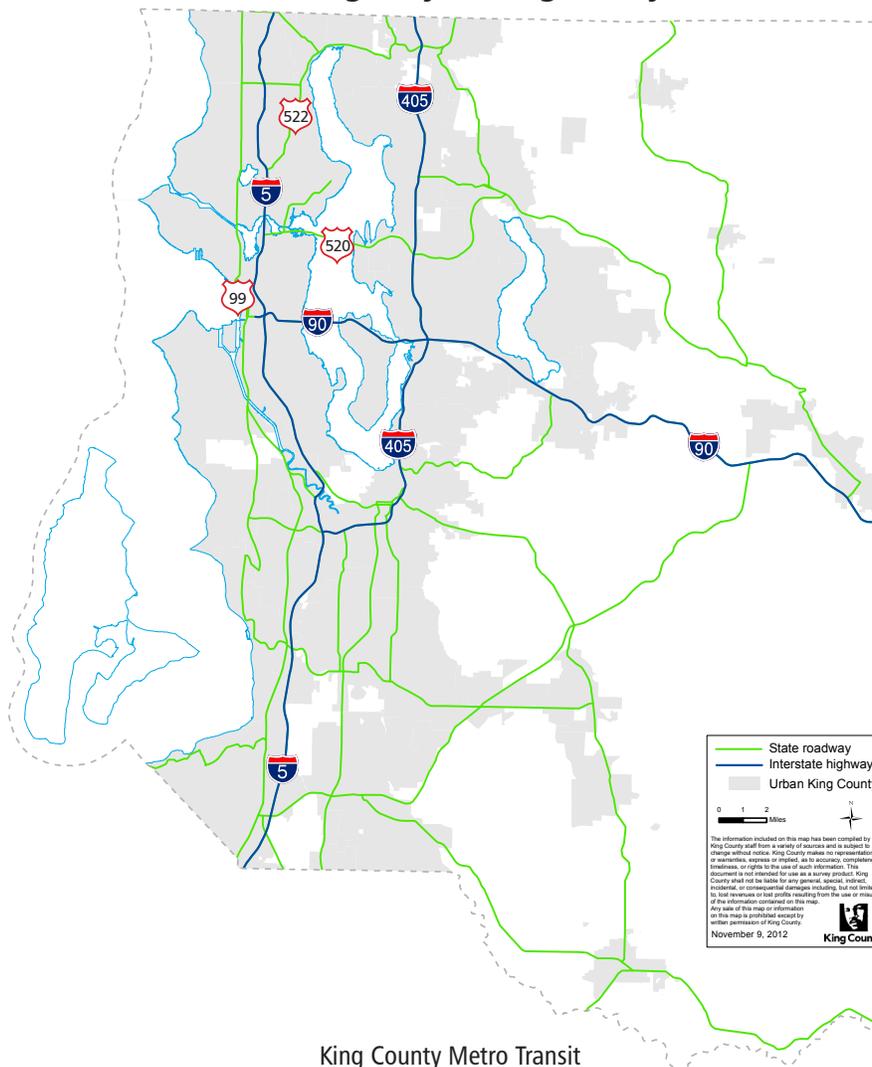
On an average weekday, Metro Transit and Sound Transit provide more than 200,000 passenger rides on five major highways in King County's busiest urban areas.

Transit Service on State Highways in King County*

	Major State Highways (I-5, I-405, SR-520, SR-522, SR-99)					
	Metro		Sound Transit		Total	
	Annualized hours	Avg. daily rides	Annualized hours	Avg. daily rides	Annualized hours	Avg. daily rides
AM peak (6-9 AM)	305,000	42,000	128,000	14,000	433,000	56,000
PM peak (3-6 PM)	359,000	45,000	147,000	14,000	506,000	59,000
Off-peak	494,000	65,000	276,000	22,000	770,000	87,000
Total daily	1,158,000	152,000	551,000	50,000	1,709,000	202,000

*Metro Transit data are for fall 2012; Sound Transit data are for fall 2011.

State Highways in King County



King County Metro Transit
 King Street Center, KSC-TR-0415
 201 S Jackson St
 Seattle, WA 98104
 206-553-3000 TTY Relay: 711

www.kingcounty.gov/metro