

Washington State Transportation Commission

Whatcom Transportation Authority

June 16, 2020

WTA



Whatcom Transportation Authority

- 4.5 million rides per year
- 7-day service throughout Whatcom County
- Connections to Skagit County and beyond
- Small urban system
- Top 10% of small urban systems in the U.S.
- 270 Employees
- \$35 million operating budget
- 105 vehicles in service
- Federal Operating Support = \$0
- State Operating Support = 3%



WTA is temporarily reducing fixed route and paratransit bus service*

On **Mondays through Fridays**, all buses will run on Saturday schedules.

On **Saturdays and Sundays**, all buses will run on Sunday schedules.

Ride the bus for essential trips only. Fares are free. Board from the rear door unless you require the ramp.

For more information, call (360) 676-7433 or visit ridewta.com



WTA

*Starting March 30, 2020

The bus is for
ESSENTIAL TRIPS ONLY.

Take the most direct route to
your destination.

Wear a mask when you ride the bus.

Keep as much space as possible
between yourself and others.

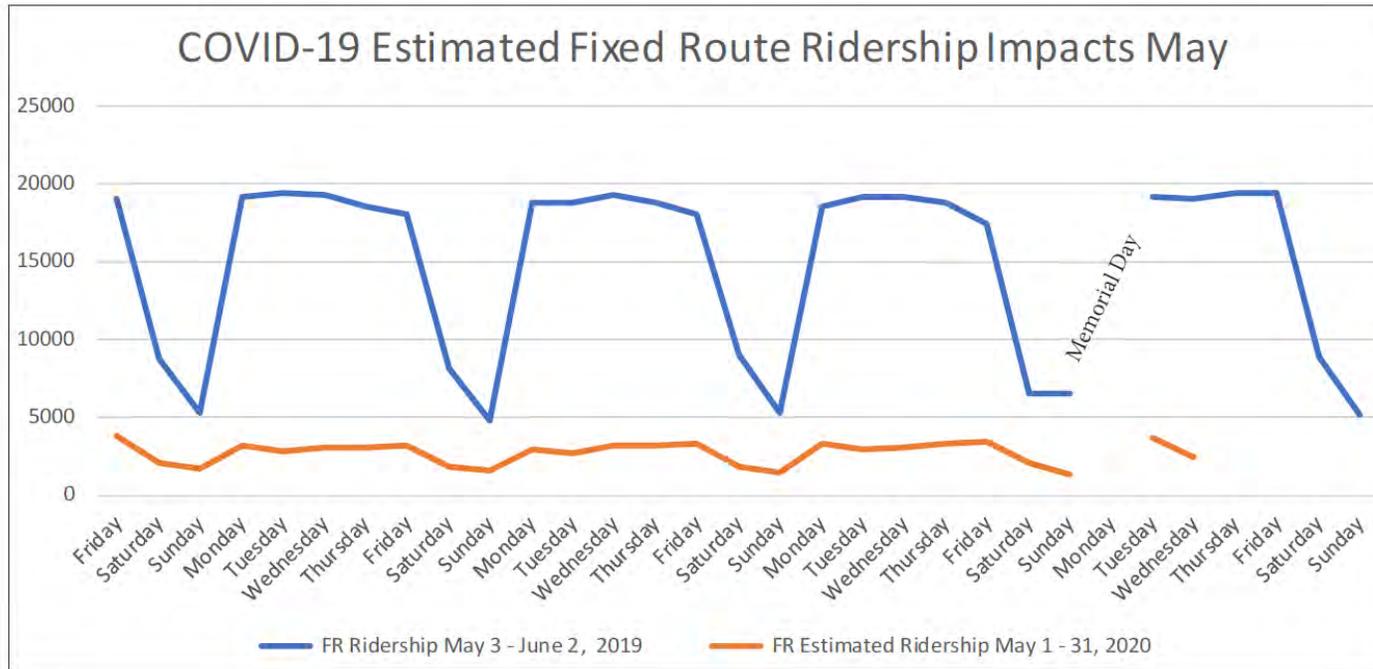


WTA

**MAXIMUM
CAPACITY**

12

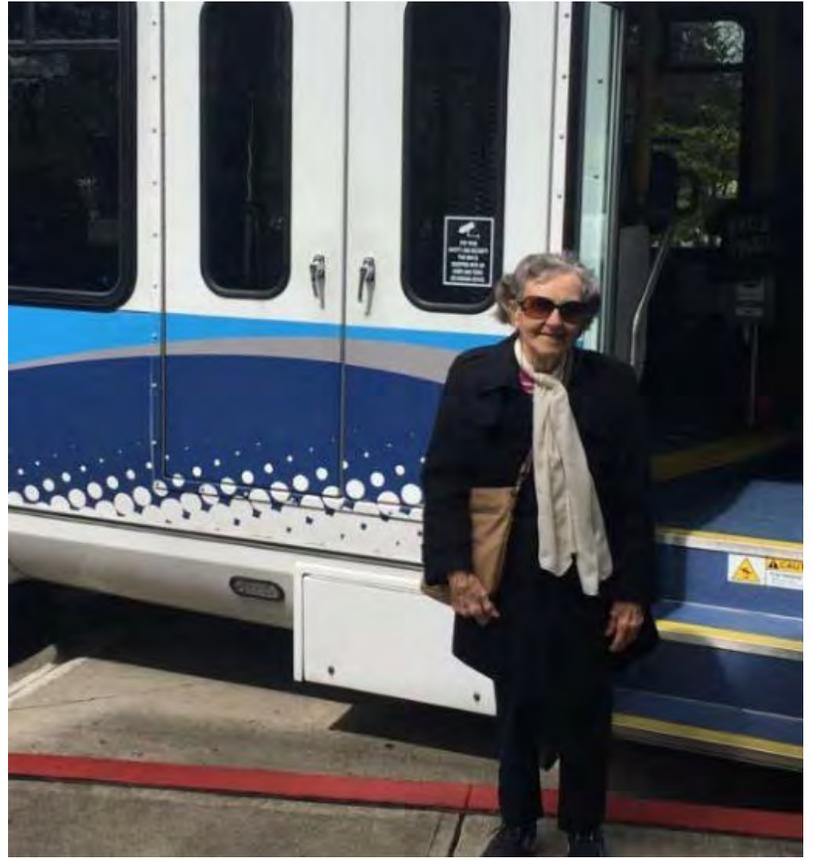
Unprecedented measures



Current
Conditions

Ridership Change Compared to Last Year:
 Week 1 (5/1 - 5/7/2020): -80%
 Week 2 (5/2 - 5/14/2020): -80%
 Week 3 (5/15 - 5/21/2020): -81%
 Week 4: (5/22 - 5/28/2020): -80%





Transit is Essential

Sandra, Jaime, Adam, Christina, and Betty—all making essential trips.

Key Issues for Recovery

- Safety and trust
- Demand is hard to anticipate
- Primary revenue source is fragile

**Wear a mask when
you ride the bus.**

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019
(COVID-19)

Your cloth face covering protects them.
Their cloth face covering protects you.



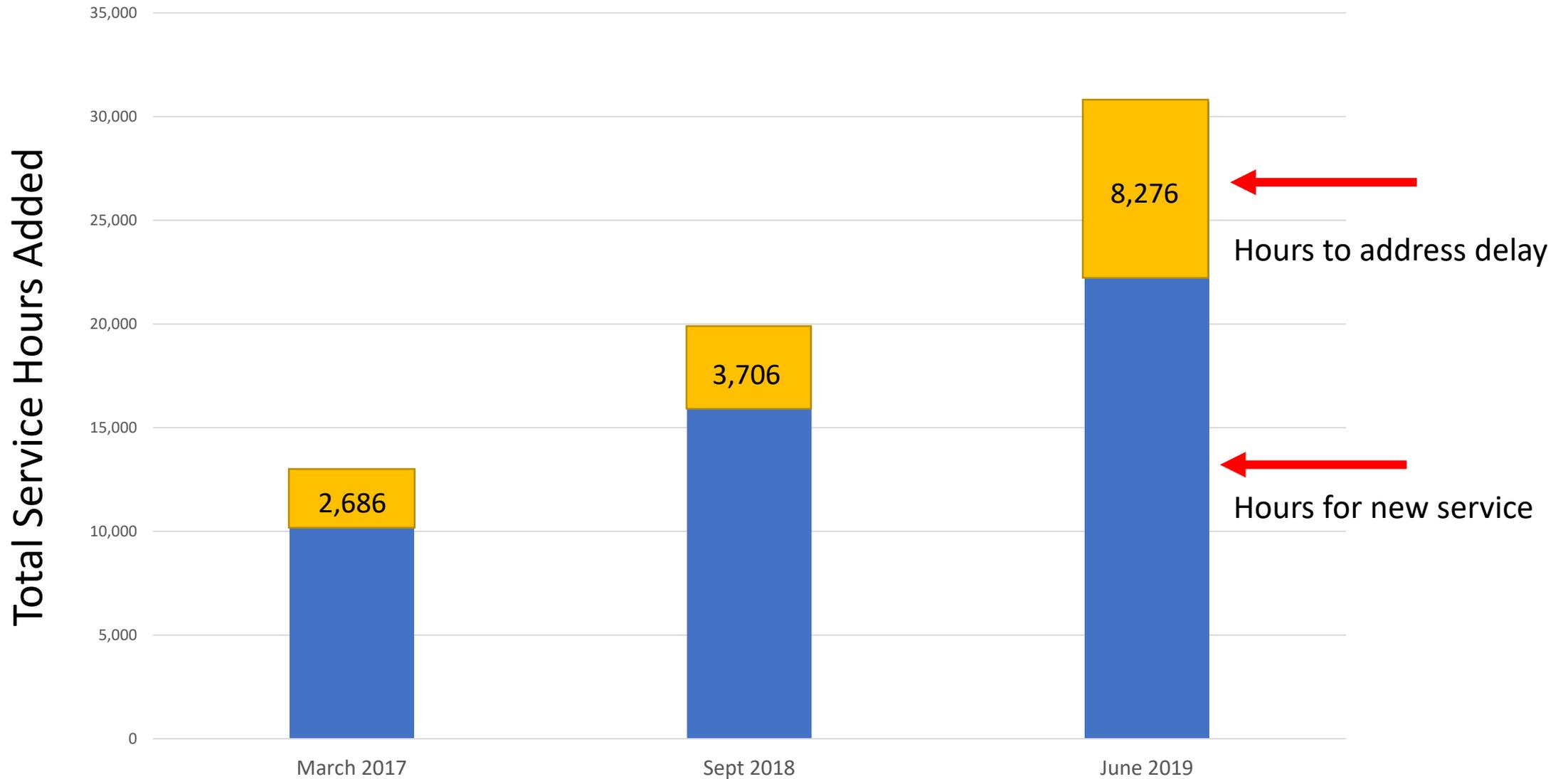


Your WCC Orca Card is your WTA bus pass.

WTA

Partnering with
Higher Education

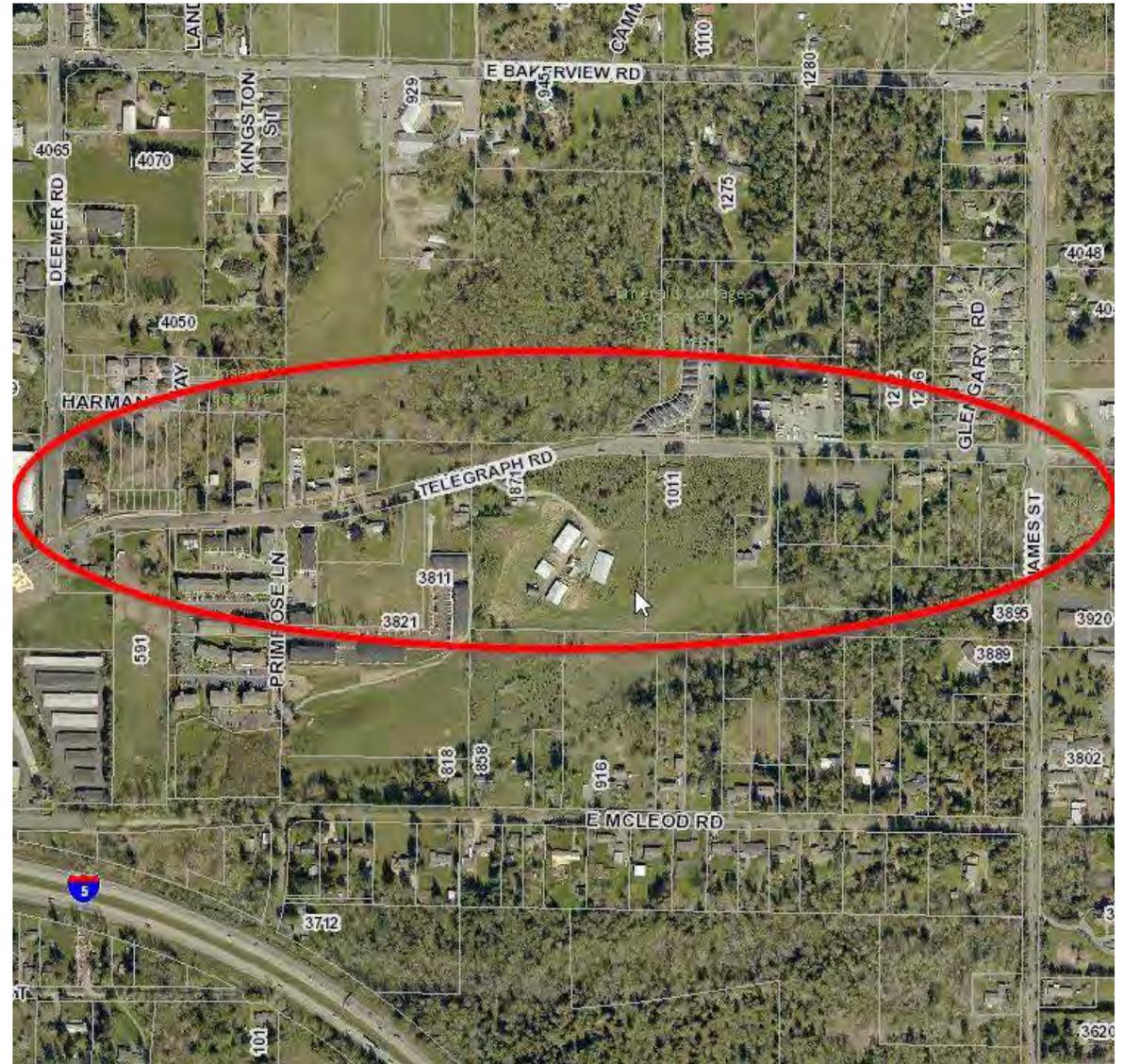
The Cost of Delay



Cost per hour minus depreciation = \$139 (Nearly \$800,000 per year to provide the same level of service)

Partnering to Create Complete Streets in a Growing Neighborhood

- Proposed Scope
 - New traffic signals
 - New center turn lanes
 - Bike lanes
 - Storm water treatment
 - Enhanced crosswalks
- Partnered with COB to provide high frequency bus service
- Currently in COB's 2021 Transportation Improvement Plan



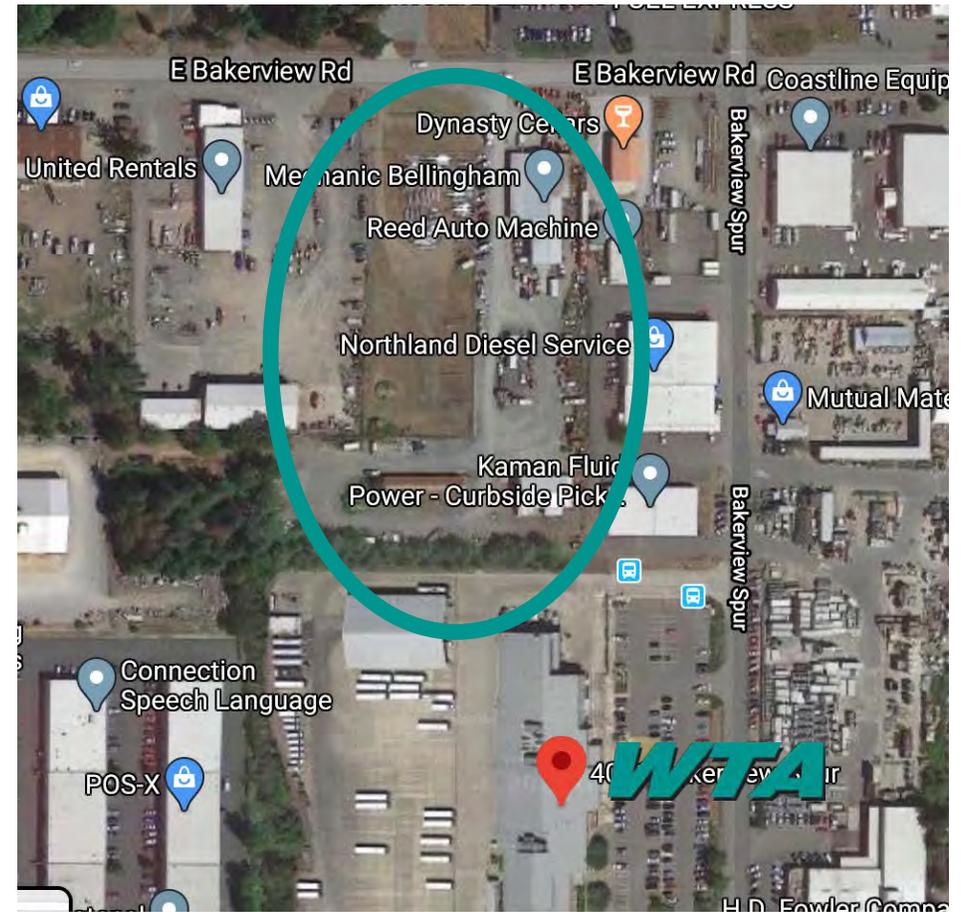
Expanding Bellingham Station

- New concourse
- Electric charging stations
- Solar panels
- Expand high frequency network
- Capacity for new connections to the waterfront
- Capacity for articulated buses
- Enhanced Public Spaces



Expanding WTA's Maintenance Facility

- Lot directly adjacent to WTA's Maintenance, Operations and Administration Base is ideal for future expansion



Capital Cost of Diesel vs Electric

\$560,000 per bus



\$975,000 per bus



Plus \$100,000 per charger

Convert a 61-Bus Diesel Fleet to Electric, and Keep it Charged for Service

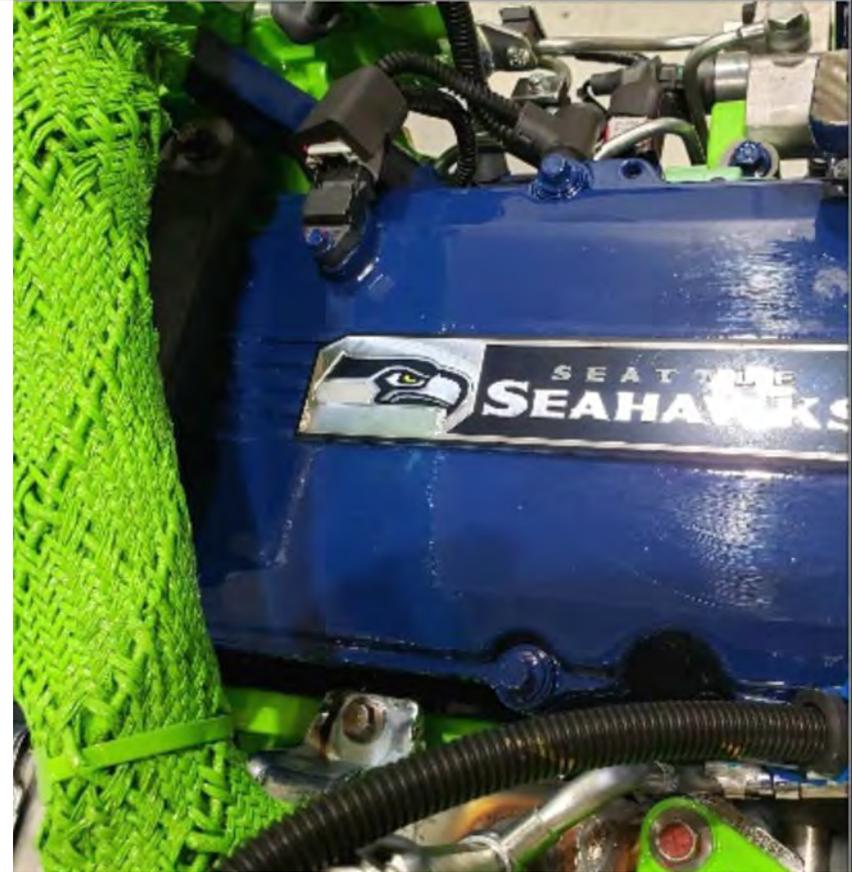
Activity	Diesel	Electric	Cost Premium
Fleet cost in 2020 dollars	\$35,000,000	\$60,000,000	\$25,000,000
Charging stations	\$0	\$8,650,000	\$8,650,000
Site costs for E bus yard	\$0	\$10,315,000	\$10,315,000
Cost to bring power to sight	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Total cost for transit fleet	\$35,000,000	\$79,965,000	\$44,965,000
Est. additional local cost			\$4,267,5000

Currently secured FTA funding	\$2,290,000
Currently secured state funding	\$0



Leveraging New Technology





Questions?