



# A Presentation from IslandRides to WSDOT June 21, 2023

# **The problem with statistics**

**Statistics are not really interesting unless they make simple sense. The old saying, "there are three types of lies: lies, damn lies and statistics" is often attributed to Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881) who was Prime Minister of Great Britain from 1874 to 1880, because Mark Twain ascribed it to him in a 1907 article.**

**But, before that ---**

**Dilke, Sir Charles Wentworth (1843–1911) in 1891 was saying the other day that false statements might be arranged according to their degree under three heads, fibs, lies, and statistics. (The Bristol Mercury and Daily Post, Monday, October 19, 1891).**

**Nevertheless, operating a service organization with 10 employees, 35 volunteers and approximately 300 customers, demands planning, and to some extent using statistics.**

**I took Journalism in 12<sup>th</sup> grade and later wrote for the Montgomery Advertiser Journal. And the very first advice I received from my Editor was “who, what, where, when and maybe how but never why – I write the editorials”.**

**So when I present these statistics, I will try to explain “why” but sometimes, “it is what it is”.**

**So, I’ll try to be brief ---**

**Ten years ago, Curt VanHyning and I started the San Juan Islands Shuttle System, based on my previous 3 years' experience operating the 'RoundTowner low-cost taxi service.**


**Organization's mission and vision**

Our mission is to provide low-cost or no-cost transportation for the elderly, disabled and low-income Friends and Neighbors in San Juan County, Washington.

**Our motto is "No car – No Problem"**

I would start by saying "on a typical day we ...", but I can't. The service required is quite unpredictable, actually statistically worse than weather forecasting.

Take for example, our comparison of activity for the first 5 months of 2022 and 2023:



<b>Island Rides - January thru May 2023 Activity vs 2022</b>				
IslandRides - Activity Report for 3 Islands January thru May 2022	<b>Miles Driven</b>	<b>Total Trips</b>	<b>Deliveries</b>	<b>TVP Trips</b>
San Juan Island	8,775	2,297	30	741
Lopez Island	3,748	814	327	201
Orcas Island	6,613	1,165	554	382
<b>Totals</b>	<b>19,136</b>	<b>4,276</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>1,324</b>
IslandRides - Activity Report for 3 Islands January thru May 2023	<b>Miles Driven</b>	<b>Total Trips</b>	<b>Deliveries</b>	<b>TVP Trips</b>
San Juan Island	9,185	2,028	50	426
Lopez Island	4,809	787	301	169
Orcas Island	10,391	1,593	427	332
<b>Totals</b>	<b>24,385</b>	<b>4,408</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>927</b>
Increase (Decrease)	5,249	132	(133)	(397)
	27%	3%	-15%	-30%
N.B. TVP and Deliveries are included in Total Trips				

The increase in Miles driven and Trips increasing make sense, as we are becoming more visible to our target community and driving farther on Orcas Island. But why are deliveries way down?

And why are San Juan County Transportation Voucher Program (“TVP”) trips down so much?

My guess is that the “Covid-effect” is lessening and some people are out more, but ???

On we go.....

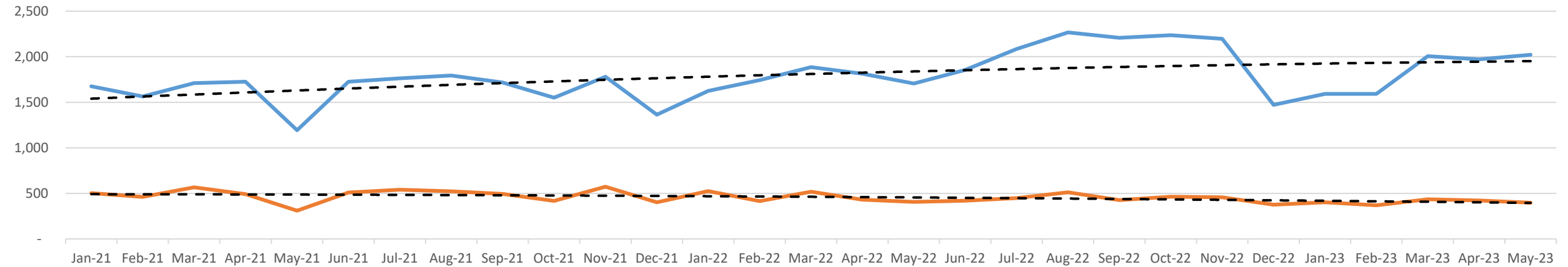
Now this is really boring ...

Activity report for Jan 2021-May 2023 by month										
	San Juan Island			Lopez Island			Orcas Island		All Islands Totals	
	Miles			Miles			Miles		Miles	
	Driven	Trips		Driven	Trips		Driven	Trips	Driven	Trips
Jan-21	1,675	503	Jan-21	390	68	Jan-21			2,065	571
Feb-21	1,564	462	Feb-21	314	74	Feb-21			1,878	536
Mar-21	1,710	568	Mar-21	478	102	Mar-21			2,188	670
Apr-21	1,725	493	Apr-21	526	128	Apr-21			2,251	621
May-21	1,193	310	May-21	523	106	May-21			1,716	416
Jun-21	1,726	510	Jun-21	564	109	Jun-21			2,290	619
Jul-21	1,764	541	Jul-21	628	110	Jul-21	840	67	3,232	718
Aug-21	1,794	524	Aug-21	598	122	Aug-21	1,280	135	3,672	781
Sep-21	1,718	494	Sep-21	503	140	Sep-21	1,441	174	3,662	808
Oct-21	1,550	418	Oct-21	835	165	Oct-21	1,699	238	4,084	821
Nov-21	1,780	574	Nov-21	759	148	Nov-21	1,071	223	3,610	945
Dec-21	1,365	402	Dec-21	672	155	Dec-21	1,232	217	3,269	774
Jan-22	1,625	526	Jan-22	726	138	Jan-22	1,085	209	3,436	873
Feb-22	1,744	415	Feb-22	548	125	Feb-22	1,233	239	3,525	779
Mar-22	1,886	519	Mar-22	882	207	Mar-22	1,382	240	4,150	966
Apr-22	1,813	431	Apr-22	835	171	Apr-22	1,544	256	4,192	858
May-22	1,707	406	May-22	757	173	May-22	1,369	221	3,833	800
Jun-22	1,854	421	Jun-22	762	150	Jun-22	1,400	220	4,016	791
Jul-22	2,084	449	Jul-22	712	133	Jul-22	1,239	205	4,035	787
Aug-22	2,267	512	Aug-22	770	156	Aug-22	1,760	303	4,797	971
Sep-22	2,207	426	Sep-22	1,103	215	Sep-22	1,352	281	4,662	922
Oct-22	2,237	463	Oct-22	943	205	Oct-22	1,572	319	4,752	987
Nov-22	2,196	457	Nov-22	809	157	Nov-22	1,863	306	4,868	920
Dec-22	1,471	377	Dec-22	664	127	Dec-22	1,318	318	3,453	822
Jan-23	1,593	402	Jan-23	898	151	Jan-23	1,992	311	4,483	864
Feb-23	1,592	369	Feb-23	810	125	Feb-23	1,723	298	4,125	792
Mar-23	2,007	436	Mar-23	1,102	163	Mar-23	2,245	363	5,354	962
Apr-23	1,972	422	Apr-23	925	156	Apr-23	1,990	387	4,887	965
May-23	2,021	399	May-23	1,074	192	May-23	2,441	313	5,536	904
<b>Total</b>	<b>51,840</b>	<b>13,229</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>21,110</b>	<b>4,171</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>35,071</b>	<b>5,843</b>	<b>108,021</b>	<b>23,243</b>

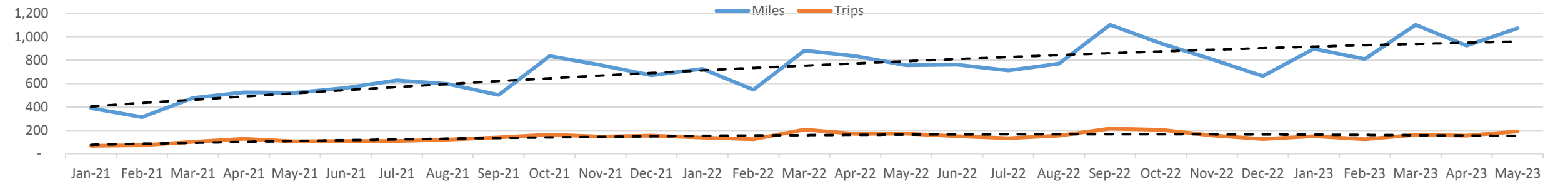
But I won't torture you -----

# Here's a better way to look at the data –

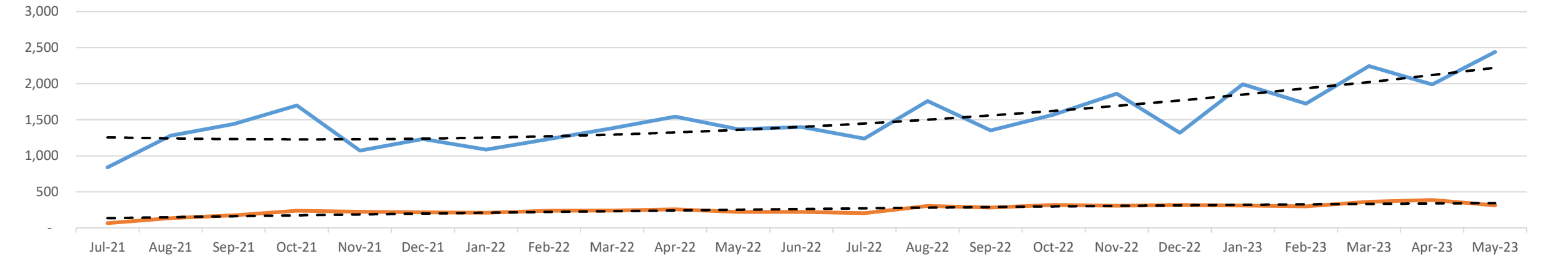
## San Juan Island



## Lopez Island

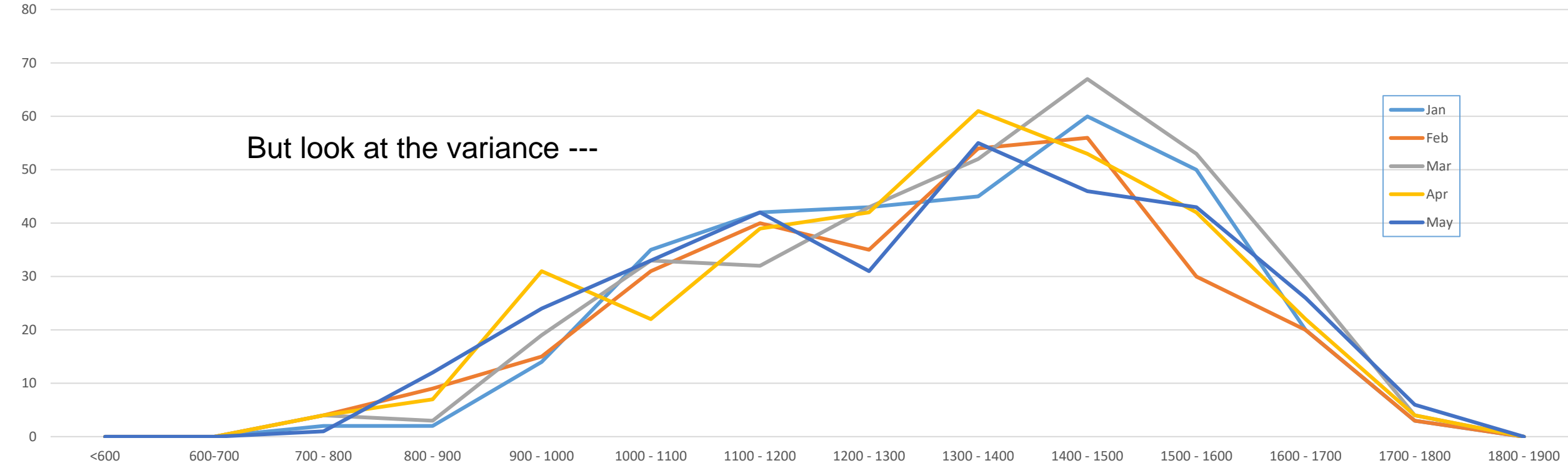
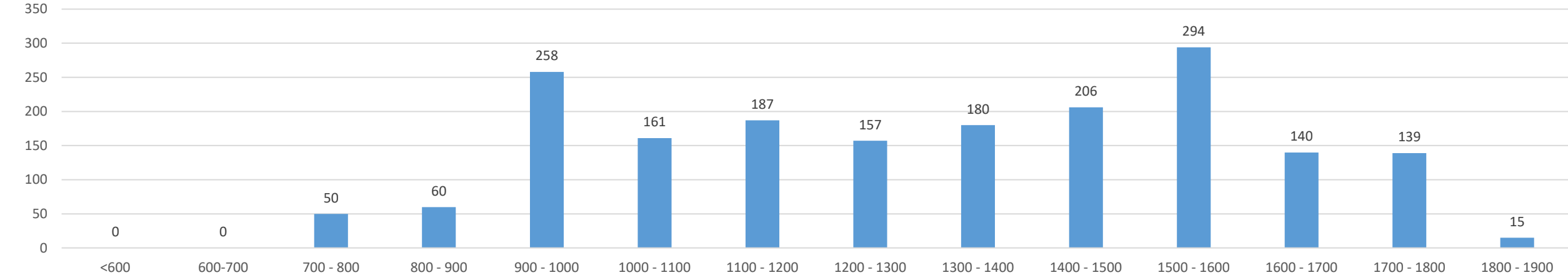


## Orcas Island



And then, as “Operations Manager”, I try to predict or at least anticipate each day’s activity. As we see here,

Rides by Time of Day - SJI Only, January-May 2022



To conclude, I go back to the beginning, when I was driving the 'RoundTowner, it was easy. Just around town, maybe a little farther sometimes, but easy.

Now, we have evolved into a real transportation program, and thanks to WSDOT and our Project Managers, we are able to offer our essential service to all of our vulnerable population, every day and almost all of the time.

Thank you and please wake up, the show's over.