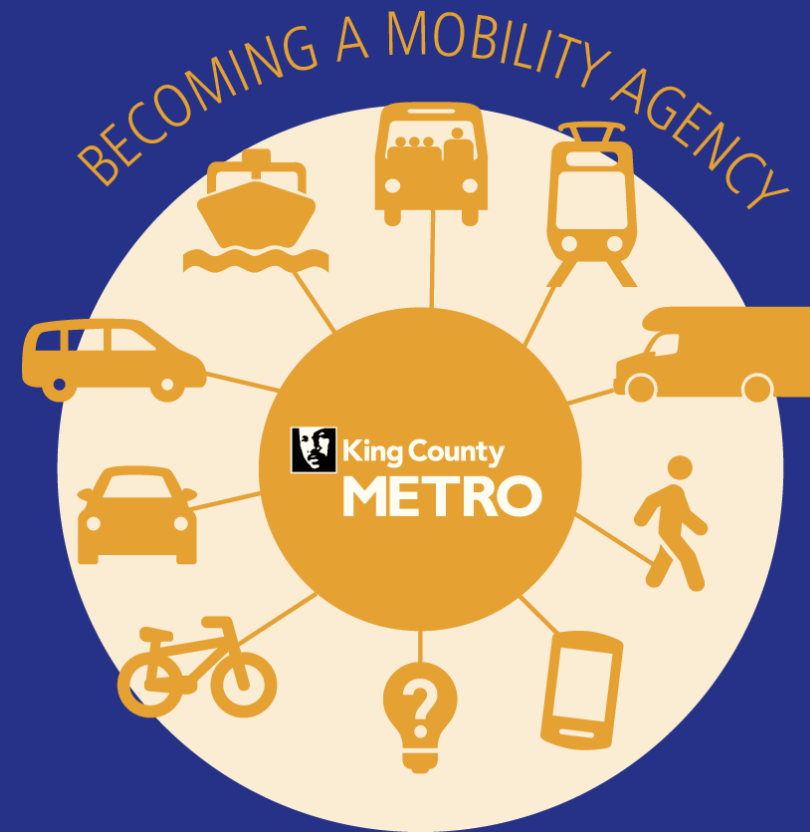


Update on Metro's COVID-19 Response and Recovery

Seattle Transportation Advisory Board
June 24, 2020



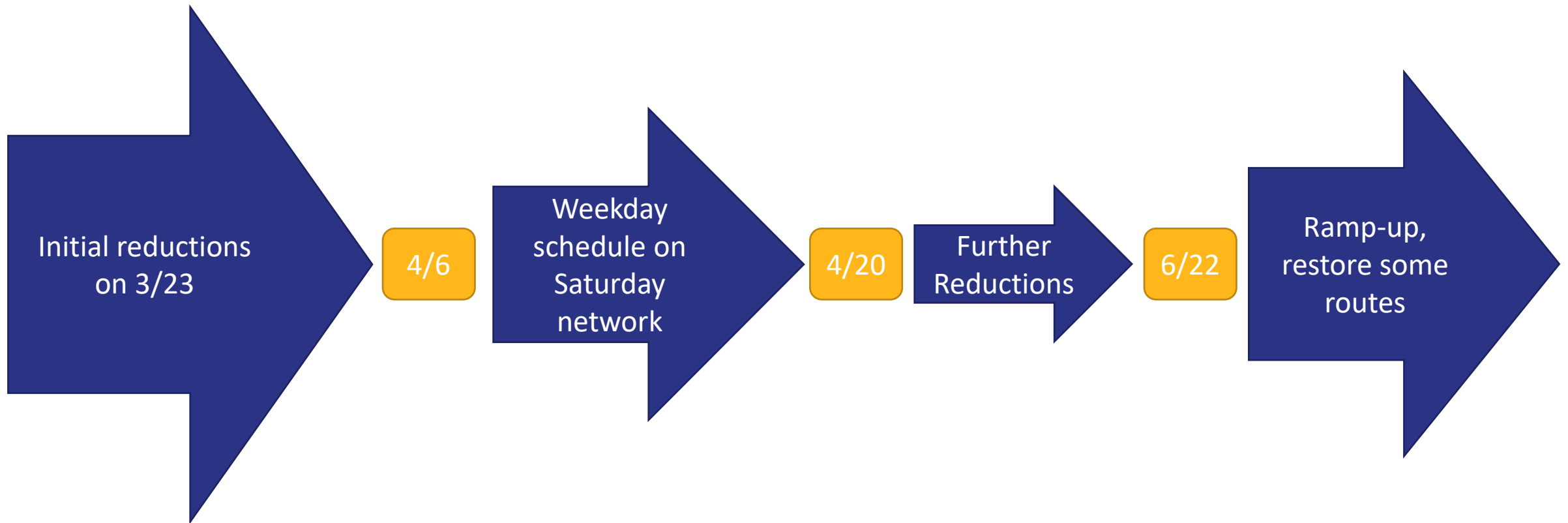
Agenda

- Recovery plans
- Budget implications
- Planned service changes in September 2020 & March 2021



COVID Recovery Summer Service

- As more industries reopen and restrictions are lifted, Metro restored some service June 22: <https://www.kingcounty.gov/ReducedSchedule>



Longer-term Recovery Goals & Objectives

- Develop a recovery plan and structure for the recovery planning process that is flexible to address emerging issues
- Build the recovery by phases with an ability to flexibly expand, adjust and contract for all components
- Ensure transparency by identifying clear triggers/milestones for when iterations of expansion and contraction occur
- All recommendations must fit within our budget reality, balancing each recommendation with other program changes & cost reductions



Budget Impacts - Current Context

- **Goal: Recover from COVID-19 with a system that better addresses customer needs and reflects County values, including equity and sustainability.**
- Before COVID-19, Metro faced a shortfall of \$1B over 10 years.
- Revenue (esp. sales tax and fares) will be significantly impacted by a projected recession.
- Seattle may not renew or replace the Seattle Transportation Benefit District this year.
- Metro will use CARES Act funding (~\$242M) and our Revenue Stabilization Reserves (\$260M) to cover unexpected costs of responding to COVID (like decreased fare revenue).
- **Even with valuable offsets, we expected a \$2B deficit by 2028.**

[Local News](#) | [Puget Sound](#) | [Traffic Lab](#)

Sound Transit, Metro facing big drops in funding as coronavirus downturn takes hold

March 19, 2020 at 7:09 pm | Updated March 19, 2020 at 8:01 pm



What We're Planning For

- **~20-30% net reduction and restructure of the bus network**, with 10% attributed to the likely need to phase out Seattle Transportation Benefit District funded service and the other service removed system-wide.
- **~30-40% reduction in the Capital Improvement Program** – achieved across all portfolios, with the range allowing for close coordination with the service network reductions, including a reassessment of the Rapid Ride Expansion Program
- **~5-10% reduction in all other programs and services.**

Future of Funding for Seattle's Metro Bus Service in Doubt

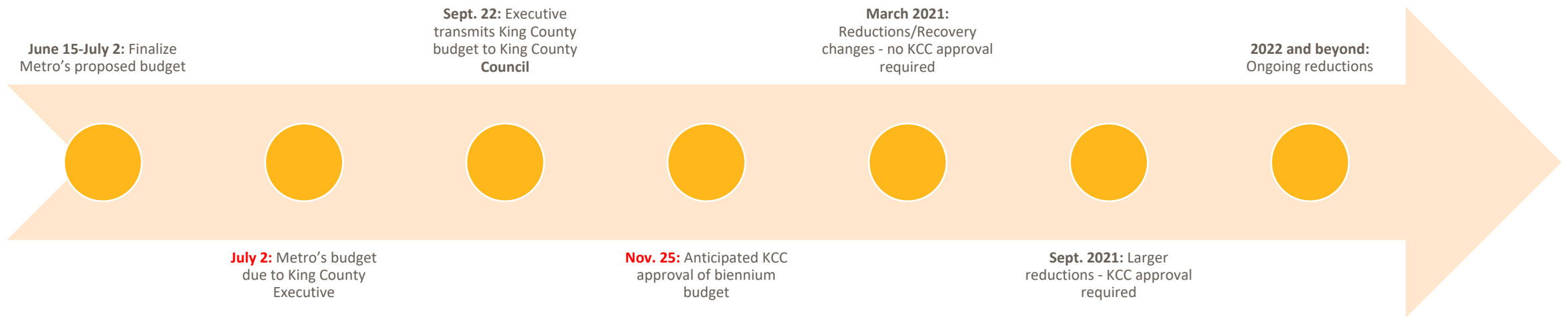


Guidance for Reducing and Recovering Service

- **Reductions and service recovery will be planned using existing policy guidance**
- **Factors considered when reducing service:**
 - Equity and social justice
 - Destinations identified through qualitative and quantitative tools
 - Maintaining network legibility and coverage
 - Partnerships

Timeline for Budget and Service Changes

- Metro's 2021-2022 budget is due to the Executive next month. The Executive will transmit the King County budget to the Council in September.
- Metro expects staggered restructures and reductions; will engage communities to the greatest extent possible. Sept 2020 service changes (*administrative*) respond to budgetary + public health + evolving trip pattern conditions



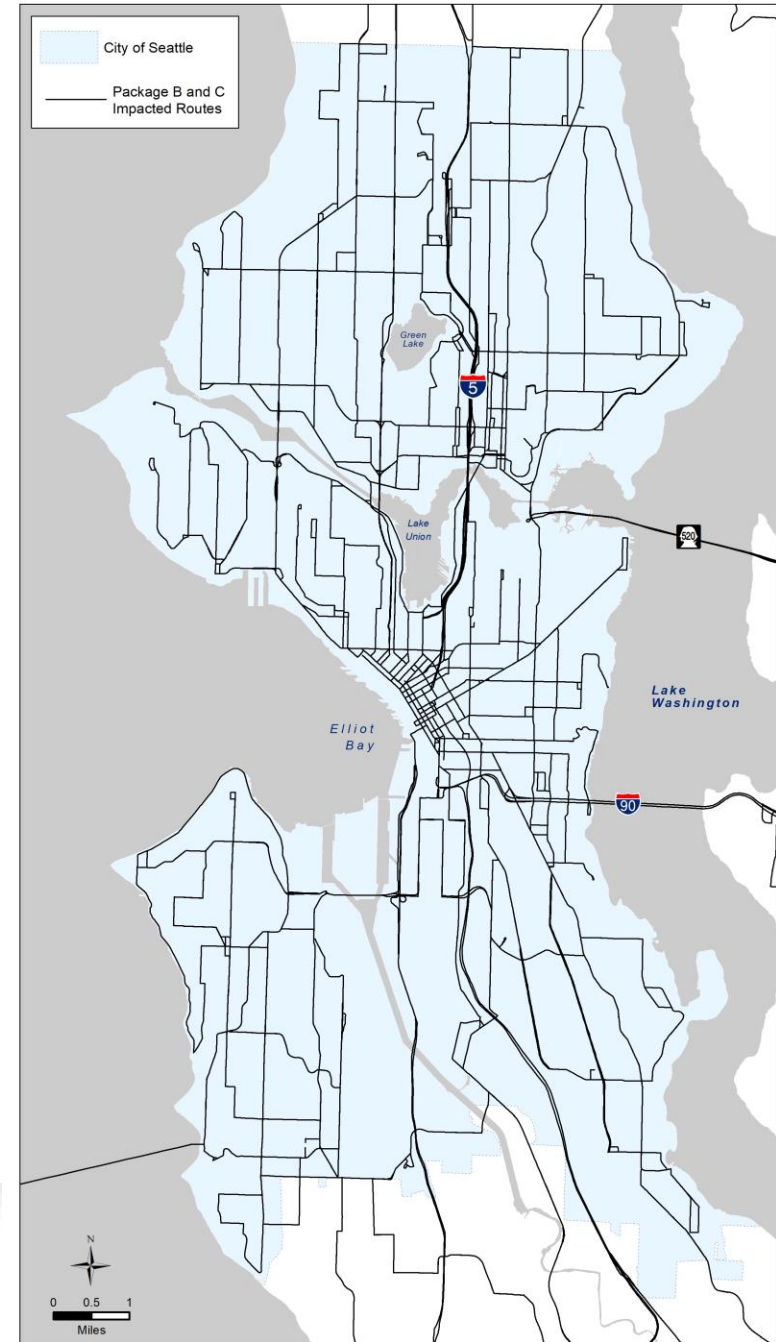
Community Engagement

- Budget-related service cuts are planned beginning in September 2020 and at each service change through at least the end of 2022.
- Metro's budget reduction outreach and engagement will include discussions on service, capital, and operational impacts
 - **Service change ordinance process schedule will drive Metro's engagement**
 - Challenges related to COVID-19 do not provide time for engagement best practices

Community Engagement	Council Process	Implementation
Summer 2020	N/A	March 2021
Fall/Winter 2020	Feb – March 2021	September 2021
Summer 2021	Aug-Sept 2021	March 2022
Fall/Winter 2021	Feb – March 2022	September 2022

Changes coming in September

- **Phase-out Seattle Transportation Benefit District investments**
- **Continued COVID-19 response impacts**
 - 50 routes fully suspended
 - 45 routes with continued suspensions providing reduced service
 - Additional service on RapidRide lines A, D, E to allow for social distancing



Closing and Questions