

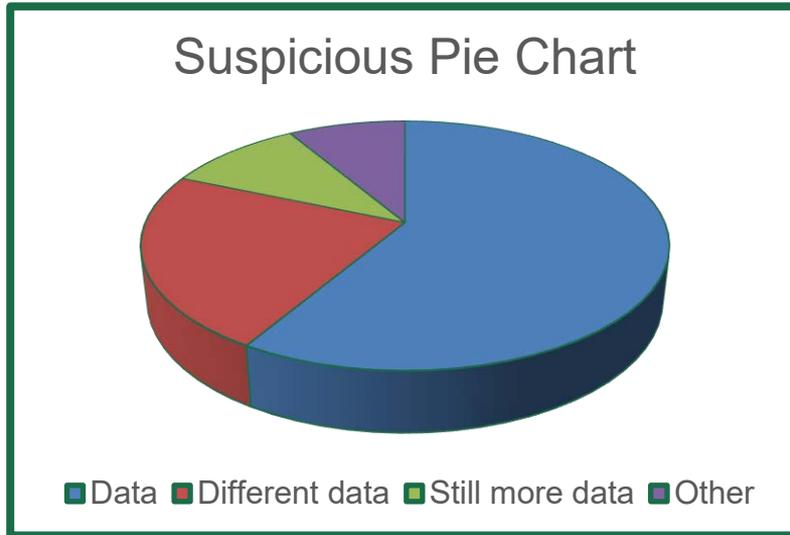
Frequent transit service study technical advisory group

Meeting #2

WSDOT Public Transportation Division
July 26, 2022

Introductions

- Welcome!
- **What's your favorite summer pie?**



Why we're here today

By the end of this meeting, we will have...

1. Reviewed the accessibility data sources researched by WSDOT
2. Reviewed project approach
3. Discussed the definitions of “frequent transit” for the purposes of this study
4. Discussed next steps

Data review

- Created Data Inventory document, shared with meeting invitation.
- Reviewed data source suggestions from first Technical Advisory Group Meeting
 - Route Directness Index
 - National Walkability Index
 - Commercial mobility data
- Overall these are helpful additional data, however our assessment is they do not change the overall data finding that we do not have specific enough sidewalk information to claim what is a ½ mile walk.
- Research will continue with literature review

Project description

15(a) \$250,000 of the multimodal transportation account-state appropriation is provided solely for the department, in consultation with the joint transportation committee, to conduct a study of statewide transit service benchmarks. Elements of the study include:

- (i) Development of definitions of frequent fixed route transit and accessible frequent fixed route transit; and
- (ii) Identification of, to the extent possible using existing data, current gaps in frequent fixed route transit and **accessible walking routes to frequent fixed route transit stops.**

(b) An initial report is due by December 15, 2022, that proposes a definition of frequent transit and documents **how many people in Washington live within one half mile walk of frequent transit.** A final report is due by June 30, 2023, that identifies gaps in accessible frequent transit, analyzed for disparities in race, age, and disability, and develops funding scenarios to address the identified gaps.

Source: ESSB 5689

WSDOT approach

- Develop definitions of frequent fixed route transit and accessible frequent fixed route transit
- Document the presence of underserved populations in census tracts containing or adjacent to frequent fixed route transit stops
- Develop a recommended approach, including schedule and budget, to obtaining data necessary to analyze accessible walking routes to frequent fixed route transit stops and populations within a ½ mile walk

Definitions: 3 questions on frequency

- Define the headway
- Define what matters other than headway
 - Span
 - Days
 - Seasons
 - Routes
- Define how many frequencies we'll measure

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What's in a headway?

Service at least X times during some Y minutes long period during a service day

- “X times in Y minutes”
 - How long does the headway need to last?
- “Some period during a service day”
 - When does the Y minutes begin?

Headway examples

- 4 times in any 60 minutes
 - Is there ever at least 15 minute service for an hour?
- 18 times in 120 minutes after 8am on Tuesdays
 - Is there 10 minute service at morning peak?
- 24 times in 360 minutes after 9am on Saturdays
 - Is there 15 minute service mid day Saturdays?
- 96 times in 1,440 minutes after 12am on all days
 - Is there 15 minute service 24/7?

Definitions: 3 questions on frequency

- Define the headway
- ***Define what matters other than headway***
 - ***Span***
 - ***Days***
 - ***Seasons***
 - ***Routes***
- Define how many frequencies we'll measure

Is frequency more than headway? (1)

SPAN

- Service at a stop beginning by X o'clock or lasting until Y o'clock
 - What if (frequent) service disappears entirely at night?
 - We might say that the stop also has to provide *some* service early and late.

DAYS

- Service at a stop on at least X days per week
 - What if (frequent) service isn't present on Sundays?
 - We might say that there has to be *some* service on all days.

Is frequency more than headway? (2)

SEASONS

- Service at a stop at least X days during the year
 - What if (frequent) service is seasonal?
 - We might say that the service must exist year round.

ROUTES

- Service at a stop by one or more routes
 - What if (frequent) service is spread across routes?
 - We might say that the headway has to be run all on one route, or we might say it needs to be spread across two or more.

Example configurations of levers

Possible representations of frequent transit:

- Service on a single route at least 8 times in 120 minutes, beginning at 9am on Tuesdays, where service is also provided for the route beginning no later than 6am and ending no earlier than 11pm seven days a week when in seasonal service.
- Service on any number of routes at least 12 times in 60 minutes beginning at 9am on Tuesdays.
- Service on two routes a total of at least 32 times in 240 minutes, beginning at 11am on Sundays, where service is also provided for both routes beginning no later than 5am and ending no earlier than 12am seven days a week throughout the year.

“Levers” poll and overview

- Poll on menti.com: enter code “64251550”
- Levers:
 - Headway: X times in Y minutes
 - Span: Is there service early and late?
 - Days: Is there service on certain days?
 - Seasons: Is there service all year?
 - Routes: Is service spread across multiple routes?

Definitions: 3 questions on frequency

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- ***Define how many frequencies we'll measure***

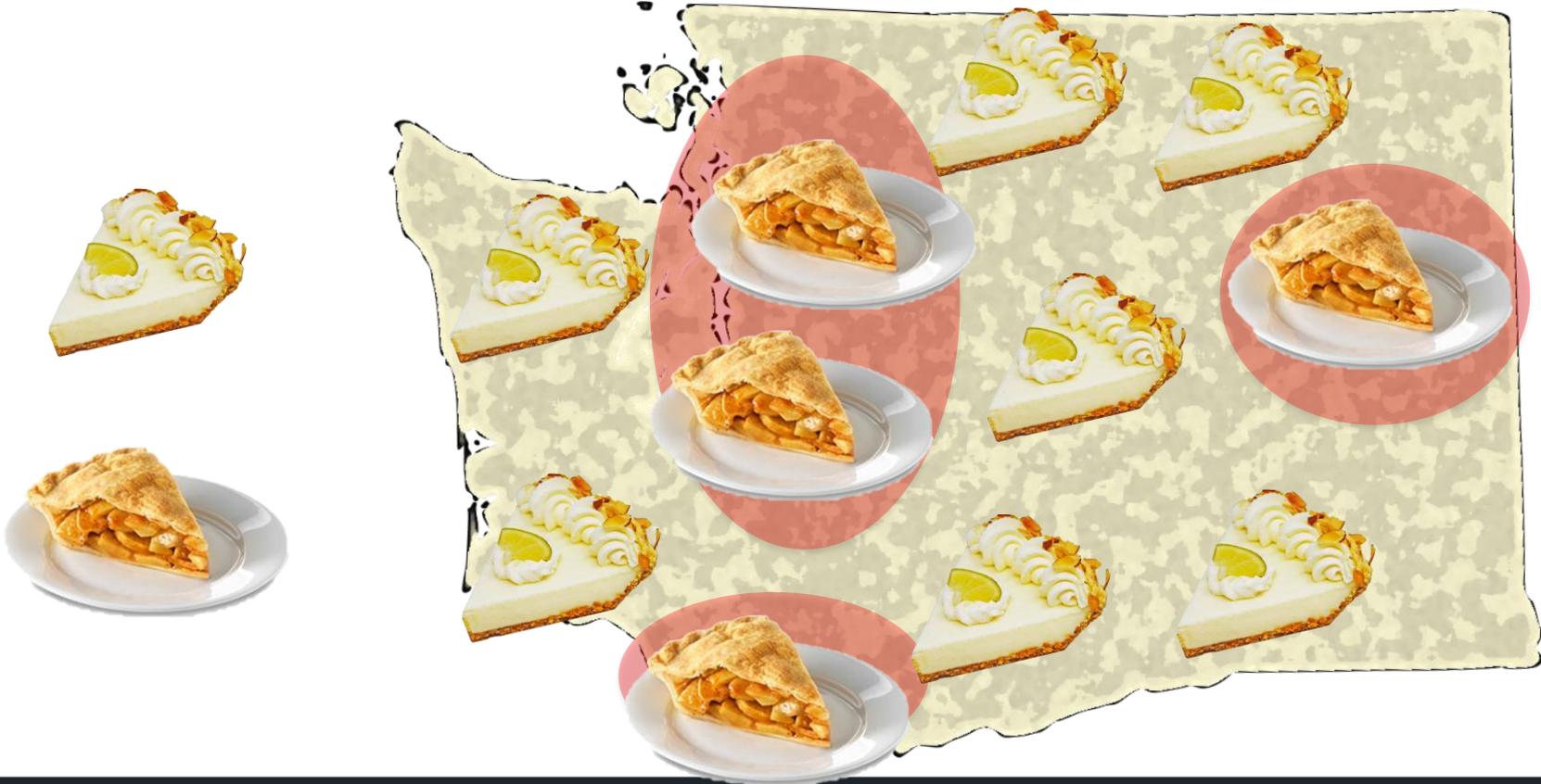
How many frequencies are there?

- One definition of frequency
 - Frequent means the same thing everywhere, every day, at all times.
 - (e.g., “15 minute headway”)
- Different definitions for different contexts
 - Frequent depends on what type of service or area
 - (e.g., “15 minutes for urban, 40 minutes for rural”)
- Show multiple frequencies everywhere
 - Show different levels of frequency throughout the state

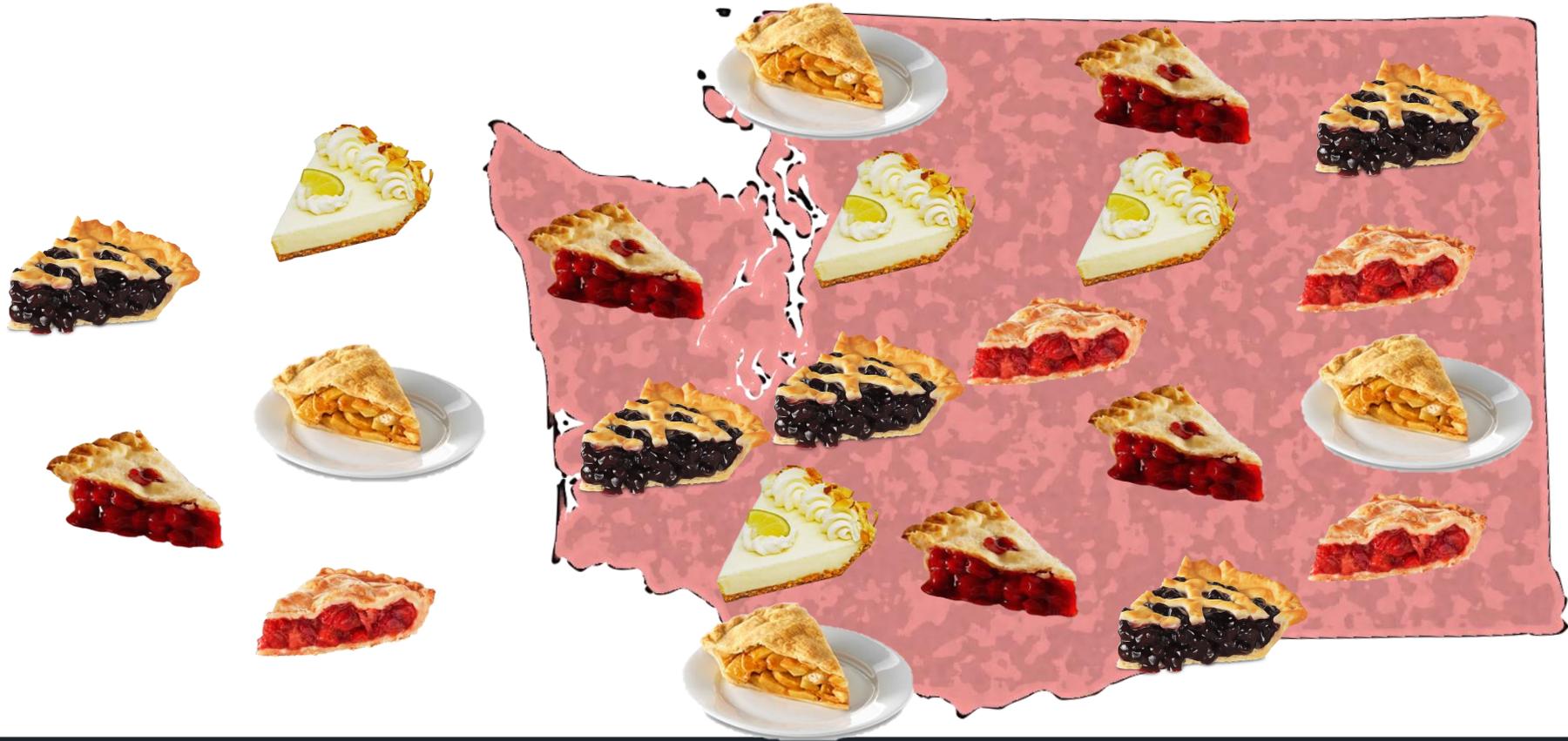
The menu analogy (1)



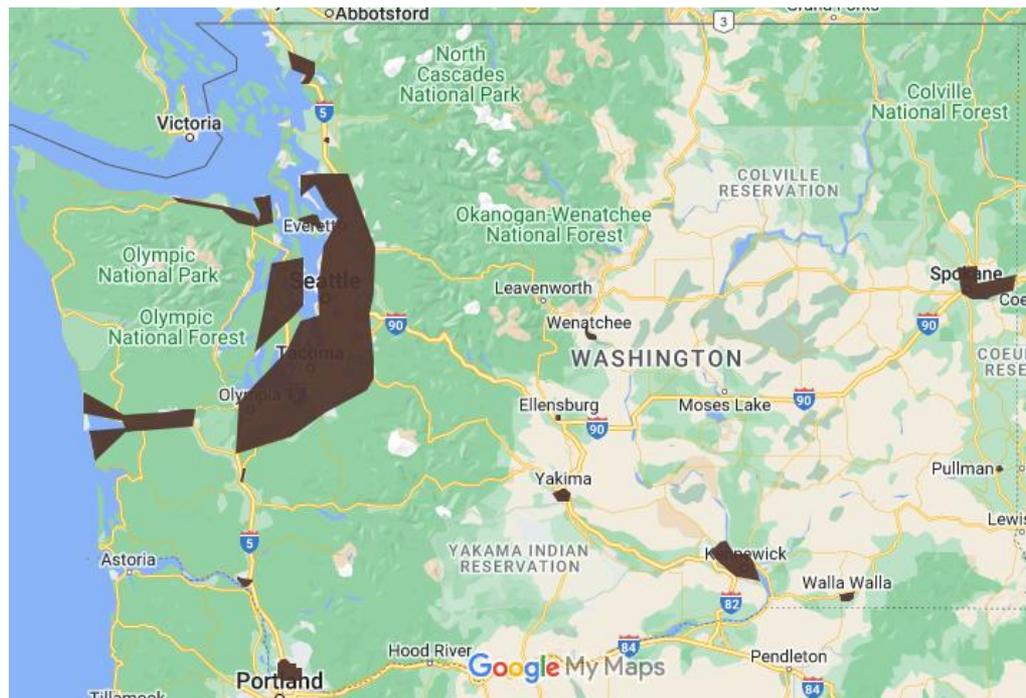
The menu analogy (2)



The menu analogy (3)



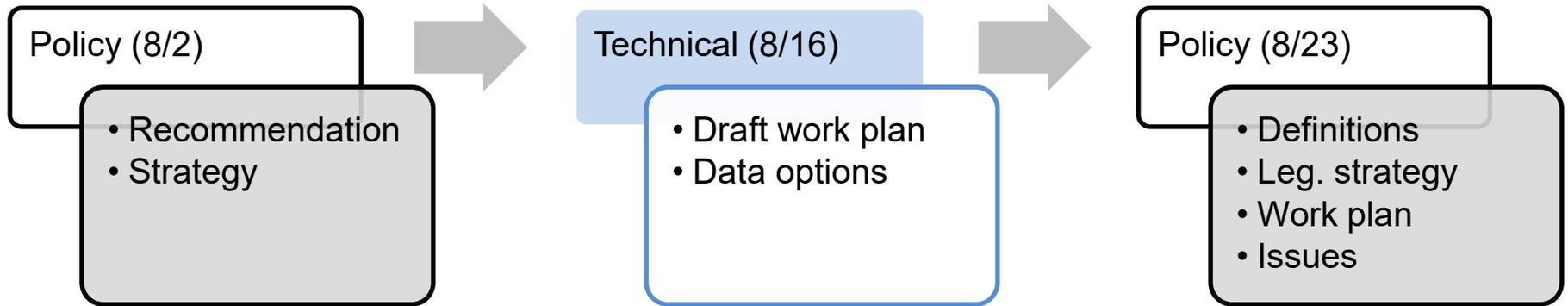
What would multiple frequencies look like?



NOTE: Images shown here are representational, using dummy data

Next steps

1. Return to policy group with finalized recommendations for the proposed approach
2. Continue discussion on frequency
3. Begin background data work on definitions of frequency, identifying underserved populations



Thank you!

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