

# **Transit Performance Update**

Julie Kirschbaum, Director of Transit SFMTA Board of Directors October 6, 2020

# **March 2020**

The pandemic unfolded very quickly:

- Staffing levels dropped, reducing coverage for critical activities
- Ridership fell 80% in two weeks
- Every day was new and unpredictable
- We redesigned service based on needs and available resources

Transit staff incredible at accepting new challenges and creating solutions

#### **Daily Boardings: Bus** 600,000 500,000 400,000 300,000 200,000 100,000 0 2/2/2020 1/2/2020 3/2/2020 4/2/2020

# **COVID19 Service Strategy**

- How do we deliver predictable service during an unpredictable time?
- How do we ensure equity is at the core of our decisions?
- How do we make the best use of our limited resources?
- How have trip patterns changed?



### **Real Time Data Guiding All Decisions**

Monday, August 3, 2020



Service Management

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Travel Times Changed Quickly at Onset of COVID





# **Service Management**

- Street Supervisors and Transportation Management Center staff working tirelessly throughout pandemic to support Operators and customers
- Dramatic reduction in travel times called for managing service based on headways instead of schedules
- New protocols developed for COVID-related emergencies
- Staff actions leading to great success – performance exceeding pre-COVID conditions





Headways are displayed as actual headway / scheduled headway. 23/08 means the actual headway is 23 minutes, and the scheduled headway is 8 minutes.

### **Headway Performance**





# **Schedule-Managed Routes**

Routes with service frequencies of 15 minutes or more are best managed by schedule – while late trips have reduced significantly, early departures from time points impacting OTP on some routes

| Route              | Pre-COVID OTP | COVID OTP |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------|
| 12 Pacific         | 60%           | 73%       |
| 19 Polk            | 52%           | 46%       |
| 25 Treasure Island | 73%           | 65%       |
| 37 Corbett         | 67%           | 58%       |
| 48 Quintara        | 57%           | 56%       |
| 54 Felton          | 60%           | 54%       |



# **Maintaining Travel Time Savings**

- Temporary transit lanes needed to maintain service levels
- Lanes implemented on downtown Mission Street, work underway on 7th/8th
- Outreach completed for 19, 38, 43, 44
- Temporary measure automatically removed 120 days after emergency order, unless there is a public process to make a lane permanent



#### Cleaning & Maintenance

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# Cleaning Protocols Focused on Staff and Customer Safety



### Vehicle Cleaning Before Each Shift Beneficial, but Limits Bus Availability



#### Under Challenging Conditions Maintenance Staff Continue to Drive Up Vehicle Reliability



#### **Rubber Tire Fleet Average by Month**



Ridership & Crowding NUL ALERT

8913

GΖ

DROP OFF

ONLY

### **Average Daily Bus Boardings**





### **Average Daily Bus Boardings**





# Capacity constraints due to physical distancing requirements







### **Despite Adding Service, Crowded Trips Are Increasing**

#### Percent of Trips Crowded by Week





### **Crowded Routes**



Data from 8/22 to 9/19



# **Reducing Crowding**

- Monitoring crowding continuously and making service adjustments to address
  - Recently added 60ft buses to
    30 Stockton and 14 Mission Owl
- Redeploying staff and strategically hiring to enable additional increases
- More trolley service to be directed to Routes 1, 5, 14, 22
- Considering limited roll out of surface rail and service restructuring on crowded routes to close equity gaps in Bayview and Tenderloin and address crowding on Mission, Geary and Bayshore routes





# **Mask Compliance**



Data collected from video review; data shown here from week of September 7



# **Security Challenges**

Data shown here is from when the mask ordinance went into effect on April 22 through August 31

- 9 of 31 operator assaults were mask-related
- 63 of 120 verbal altercations involving operators were maskrelated

We monitor security trends systemwide using multiple systems:

• Operator reports, 311 & 911 calls

Undercounting likely as a result of cause unknown, incidents being resolved before support staff arrive or not getting reported

#### **Mask-related incidents**







# **Next Steps**

 Making difficult decision early preserved service for essential workers



- Radical resilience of our bus system continues to allow SFMTA to respond to the changing needs of COVID pandemic
- Continued refinement of service needed to address challenges, such as system crowding and congestion
- Work underway to determine best course of action for subway maintenance work, including overhead lines



# **Subway Maintenance Program**

Multi-disciplinary task force working with maintenance staff to identify/schedule priority work

All work is assessed against the initiative's three goals:

- **Safety**: Does it improve the safety of our staff and/or the public?
- **Reliability**: Will it bring back the system in a better state of health?
- Efficiency: Does this work improve future system maintainability and effectiveness of our staff

