

Sounder North

This is the visual media for a Sound Transit management presentation to the Sound Transit Citizen Oversight Panel, March 1, 2012. Four slides with historical background have been removed.

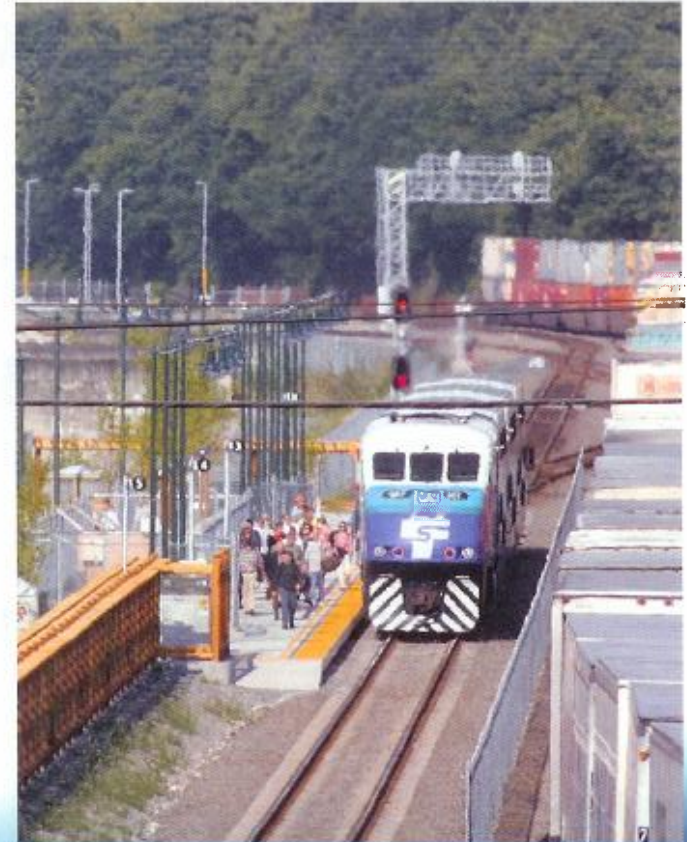


Service ramps up

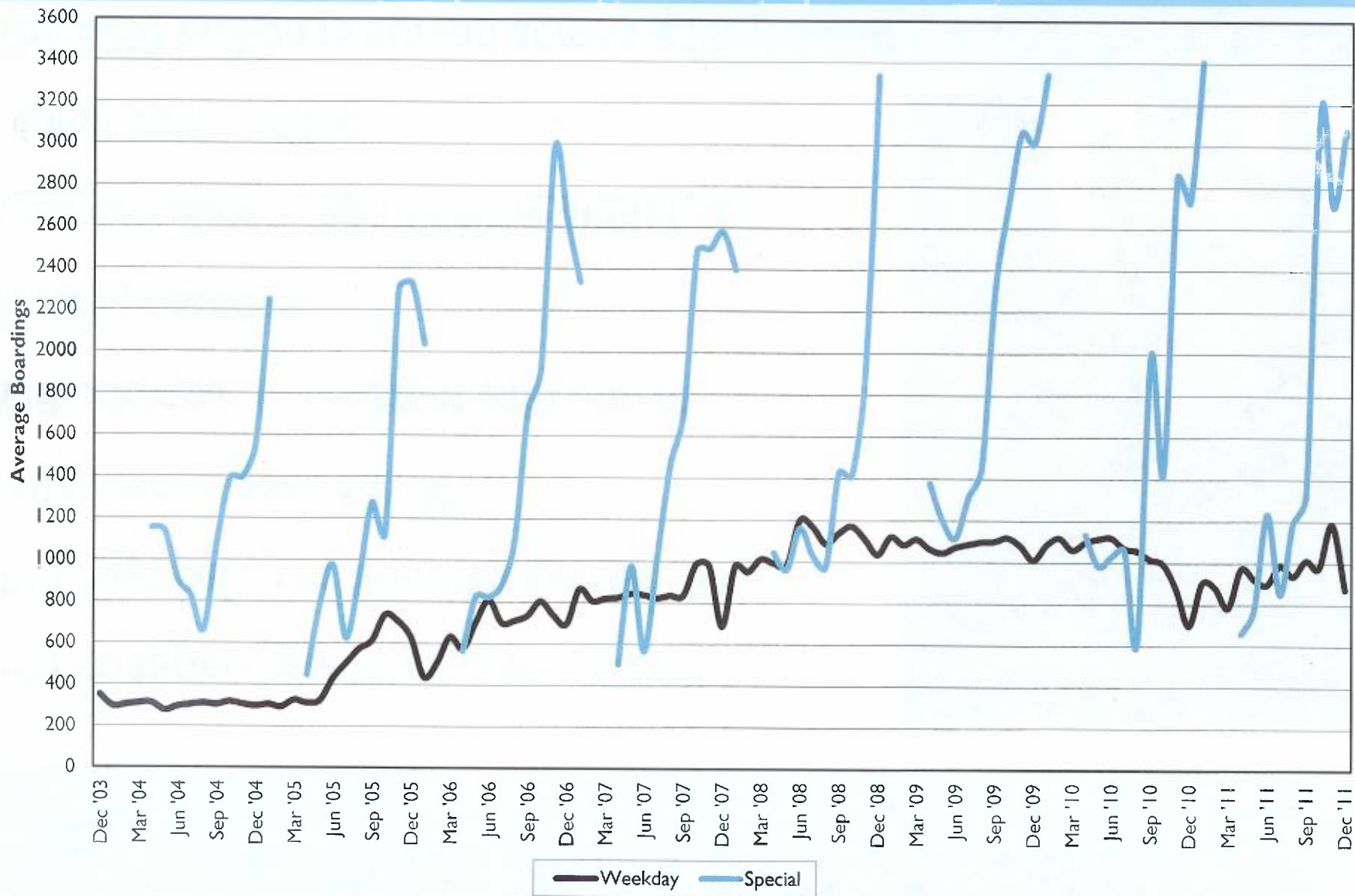
- **December 2003:** One round-trip **Everett, Edmonds, Seattle**
- **June 2005:** Second round-trip added
- **September 2007:** Third round-trip added
- **May 2008:** **Mukilteo Station** opens
- **September 2008:** Fourth round-trip added
- **Late 2008:** **Recession** hits the region

Capital investments

- **Easements:** \$258 million
- **Stations:** \$57 million
- **Layover :** \$6 million
- **Environmental mitigation:** \$5 million
- **Fleet procured:** \$42 million



Sounder North ridership



Current ridership vs. original projections

- 1996 projection: 2,400-3,200 daily boardings
- Q4 2011 ridership: 1,013 daily boardings

Forecasting factors include

- Fewer trips (4 vs. 6)
- Fewer stations (3 vs. 6)
- Mudslide disruptions
- Parking constraints
- Economy



Sounder operating costs



- Actual North Line: \$9.1 million in 2011

Farebox recovery

- Sound Move target: 23% (systemwide)
- North Line 2011: 13%
- South Line 2011: 31%
- Total systemwide 2011: 26%

Sounder North cost-per-rider

- 2011 cost-per-rider North Line: \$32.38
- 2011 cost per rider Sounder system: \$12.71
- Sound Move goal: \$11.97
- Methodology: Consistent with transit

industry practices

Critics calculate a significantly higher cost

- Capital costs added
- The \$258 million is spread across a finite period of time



Factors affecting future ridership

Challenges

- Access limited by water and topography
- Parking limited
- No station in Seattle's north downtown area
- Community Transit service reductions
- Aligning trains with ferry schedules

Factors affecting future ridership

Opportunities

- Population and employment growth will increase transit demand
- Highway travel times will degrade as population grows
- Intensified research and marketing focus
- \$16.1 million FRA grant to reduce mudslides
- Forecasts show increased jobs in downtown Seattle
- Plans show increased density around stations
- Increased parking costs in Seattle

Questions?

