

Metro Transit Service Equity Evaluation September 2019-2020

**Transportation Committee
April 26, 2021**

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Service Equity Evaluation

- How did we change our service in response to the pandemic?
- How has ridership changed during the pandemic?
- Who rides our service? And who lives near our service?
- How do different racial and ethnic groups experience our service?
 - Service availability (number of trips, high-frequency, all-day)
 - Service quality (reliability, overloads)
 - Service outcomes (job accessibility)
- How are we performing from a Title VI perspective?

2020 COVID 19 Response

- Governor Executive Orders
- Adjust to State and Industry Guidance
- Balance health and travel needs
- **Essential Trips Only**
- **Face Covering required**
- Highest ridership service, People reliant on transit
- Equity lens in bus and rail service scheduling

March

- 17: overnight bus and rail service discontinued
- 18: schools close
- 25:
 - Bus and rail service reduced
 - Rear-door boarding on buses begins
- 28: stay-at-home order begins

April

- 16: Onboard passenger limits introduced (~25%)
- 18: LRT span reduced to 6am-9pm

May

- May 16 & 23: added larger buses on local routes
- May 18: stay-at-home order ends; stay safe order begins

June

- 13: pick begins
 - Includes wider bus span of service (~5am – 1 am)
- 27:
 - LRT improved to 15-minute frequencies and improved span (~5am – 11pm)
 - Local route trippers added to schedules

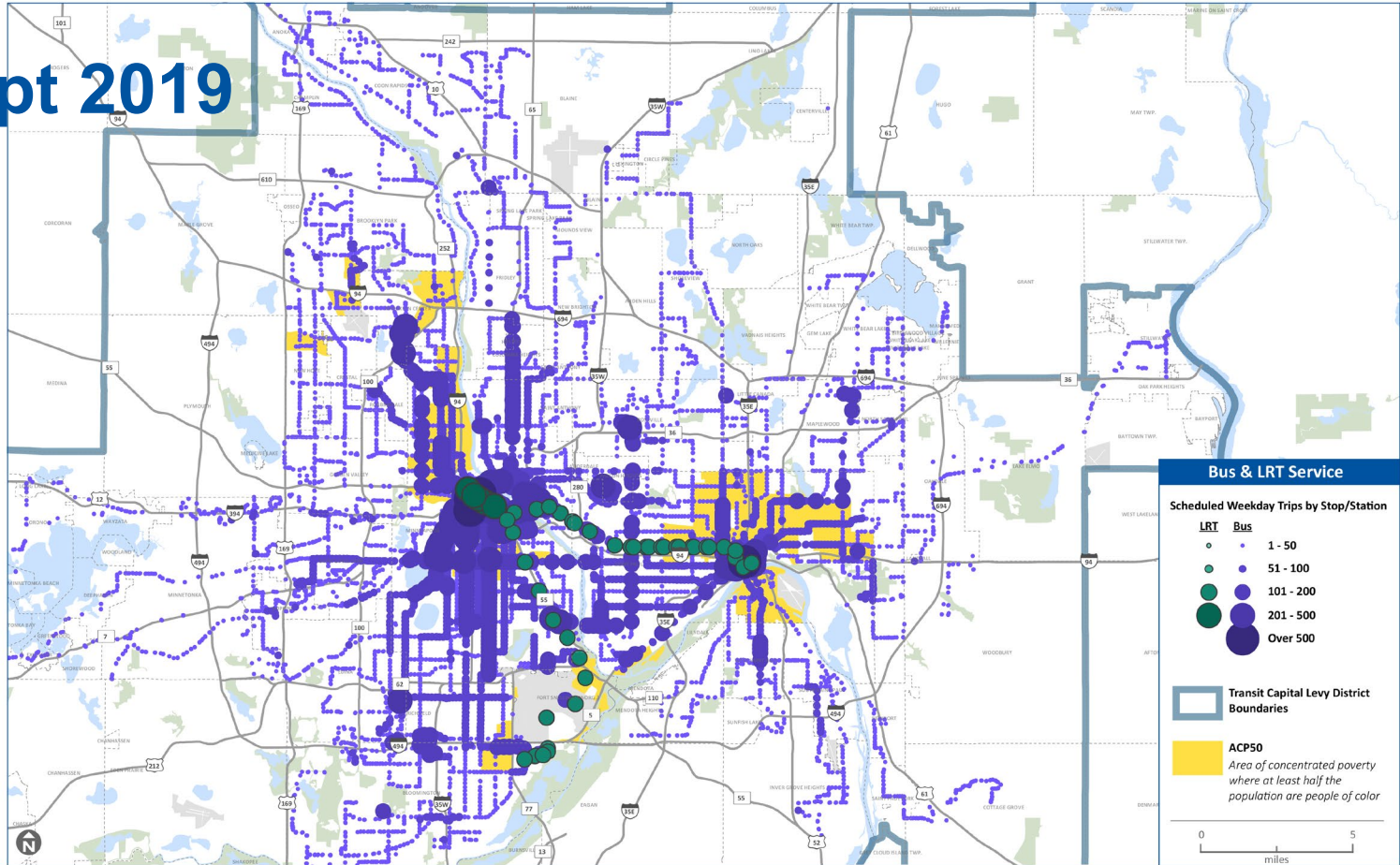
July / August

- **July 25: state-wide mask mandate begins**
- August 1:
 - Onboard fare collection resumes
 - Front-door boarding resumes

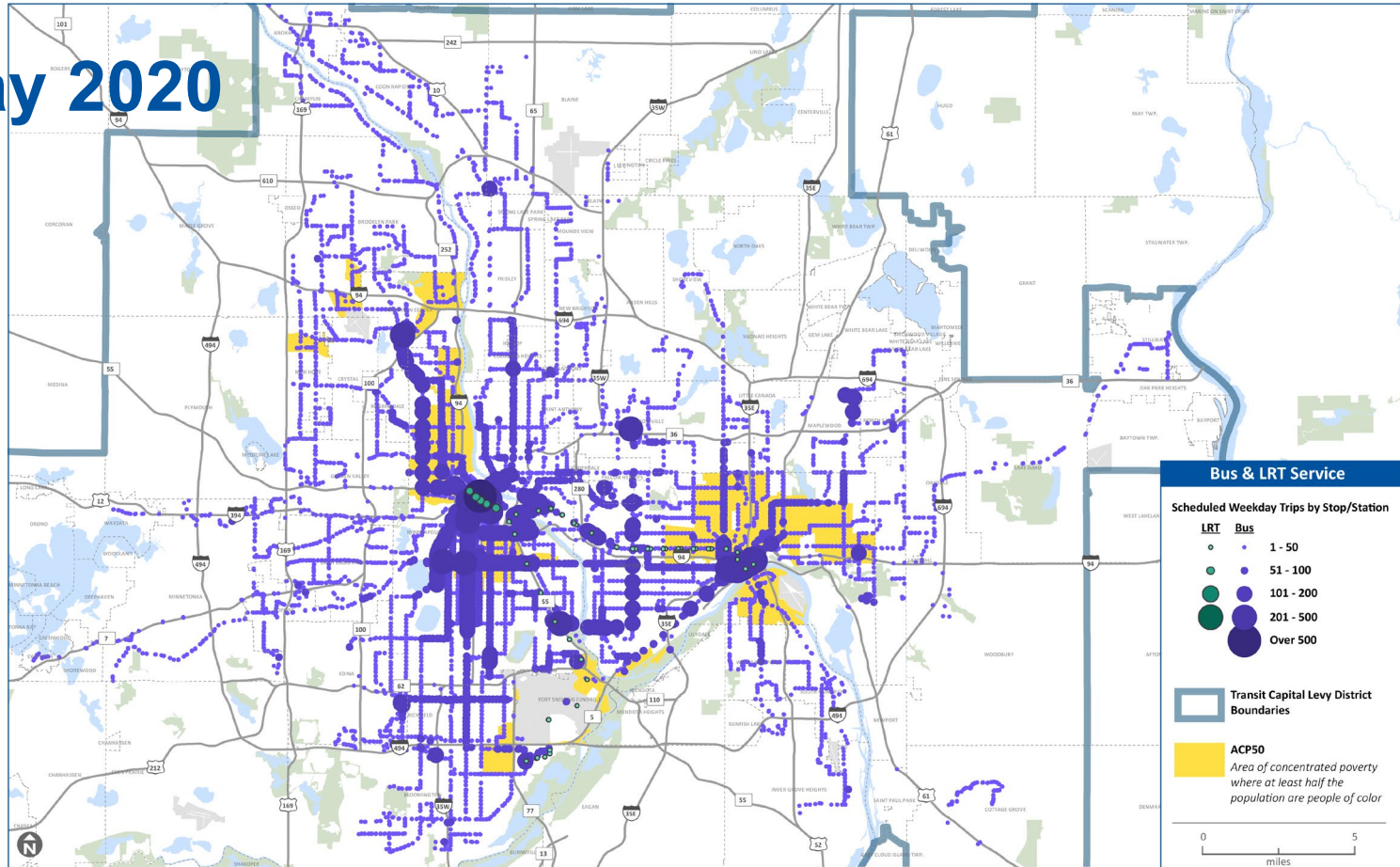
September

- 12: pick begins
 - LRT improved to 10-minute frequencies
 - Local bus improved to 90-100% of former weekday schedules

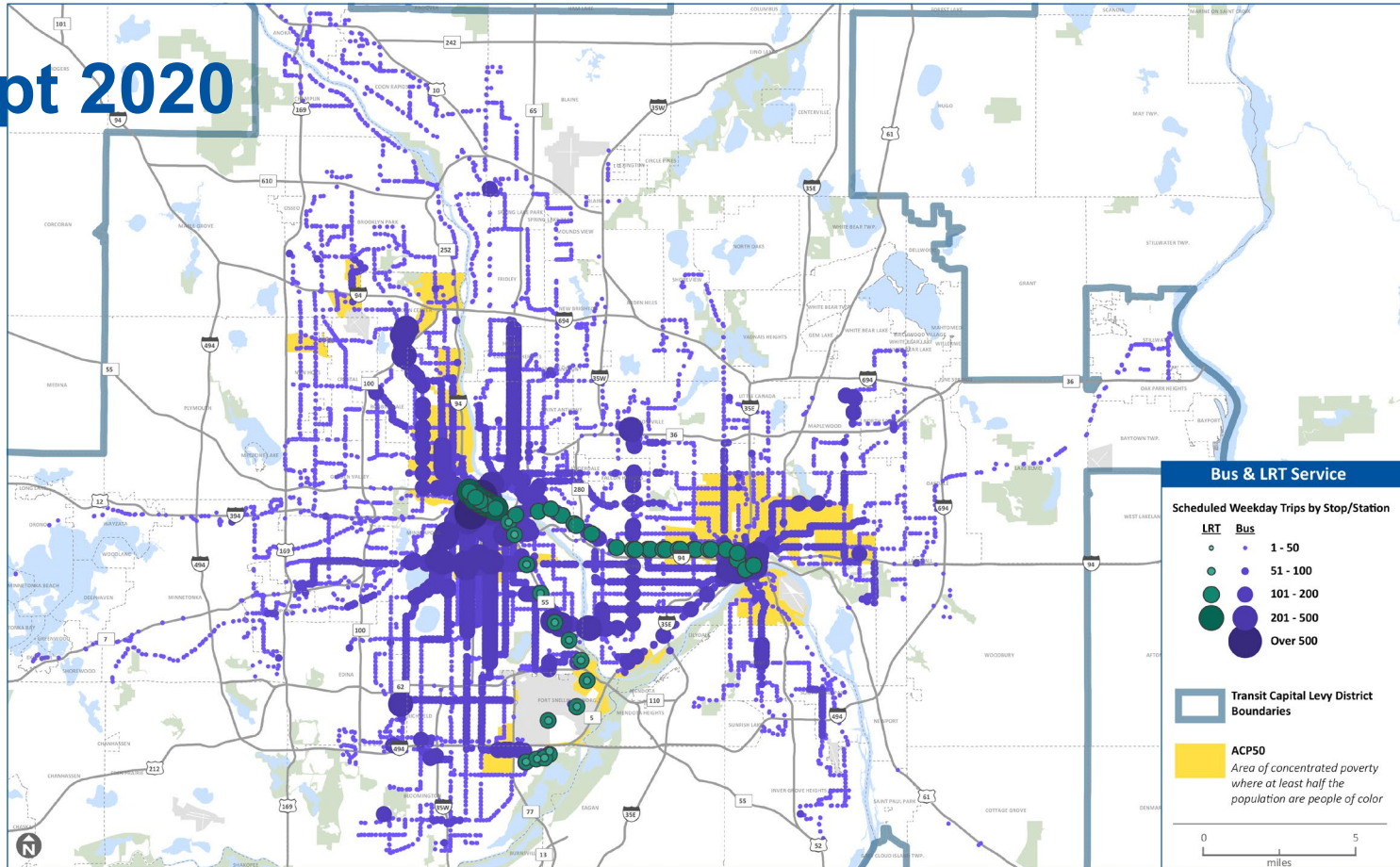
Sept 2019



May 2020



Sept 2020

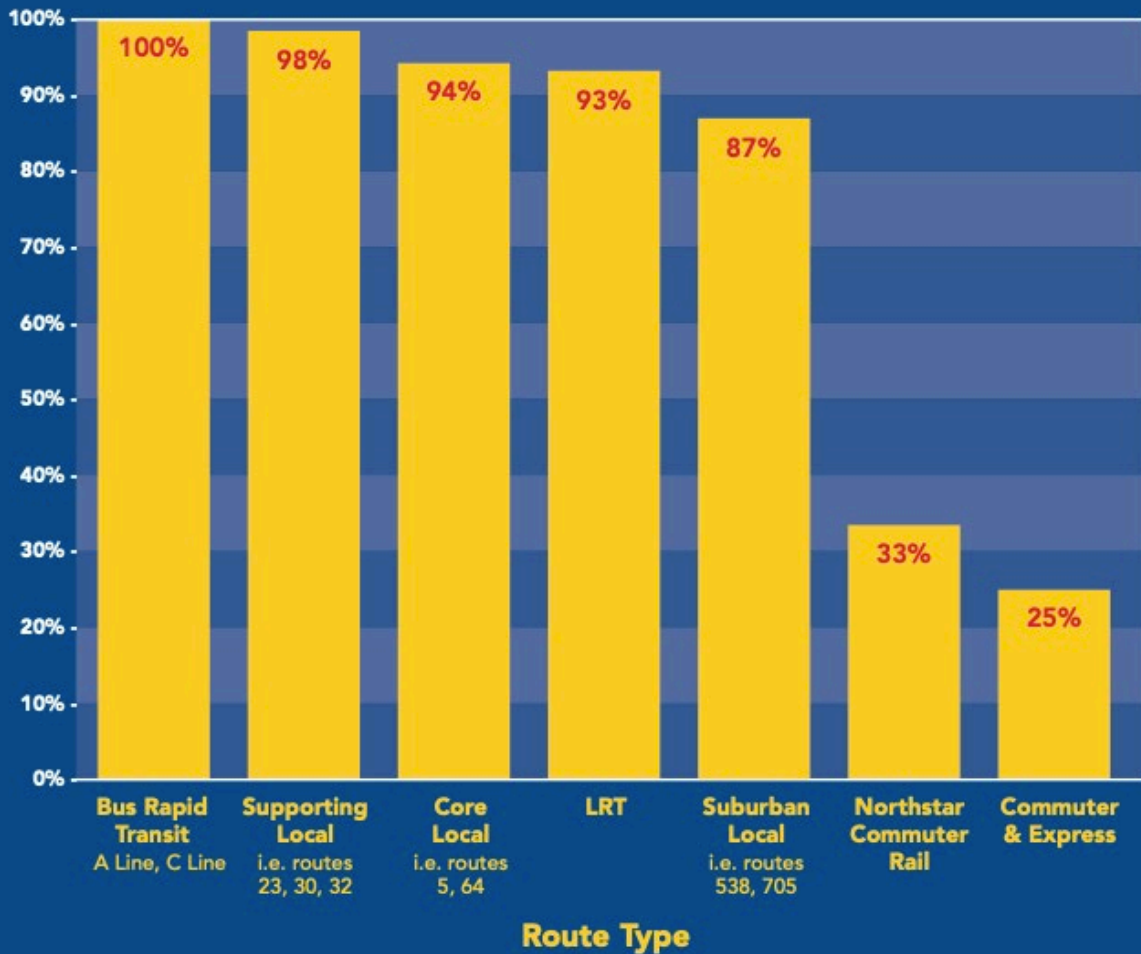


September 2020 – June 2021 transit service

- 80% of operating budget
- Reduced market demand due to remote work, job loss, school closures
 - Social distancing requires additional service capacity
- Return to weekday pre-“stay at home order” levels on most core local bus routes.
Focus on:
 - Highest ridership routes (pre- and during COVID)
 - Routes serving transit reliant communities
 - Service to schools & colleges when they re-open
- Blue and Green Line service adjustments
- Commuter express routes remain at June levels; plan to add capacity if demand increases
- Most routes that are suspended remain suspended (55 routes)

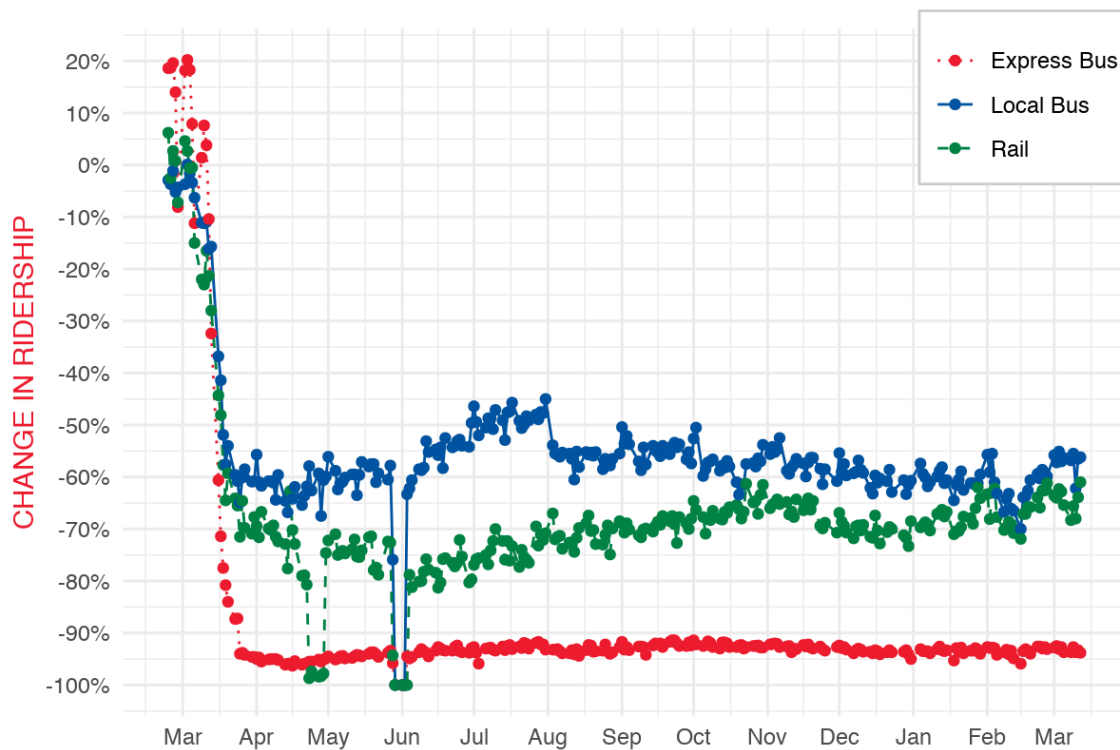


Total Trips, September 2020 vs. September 2019



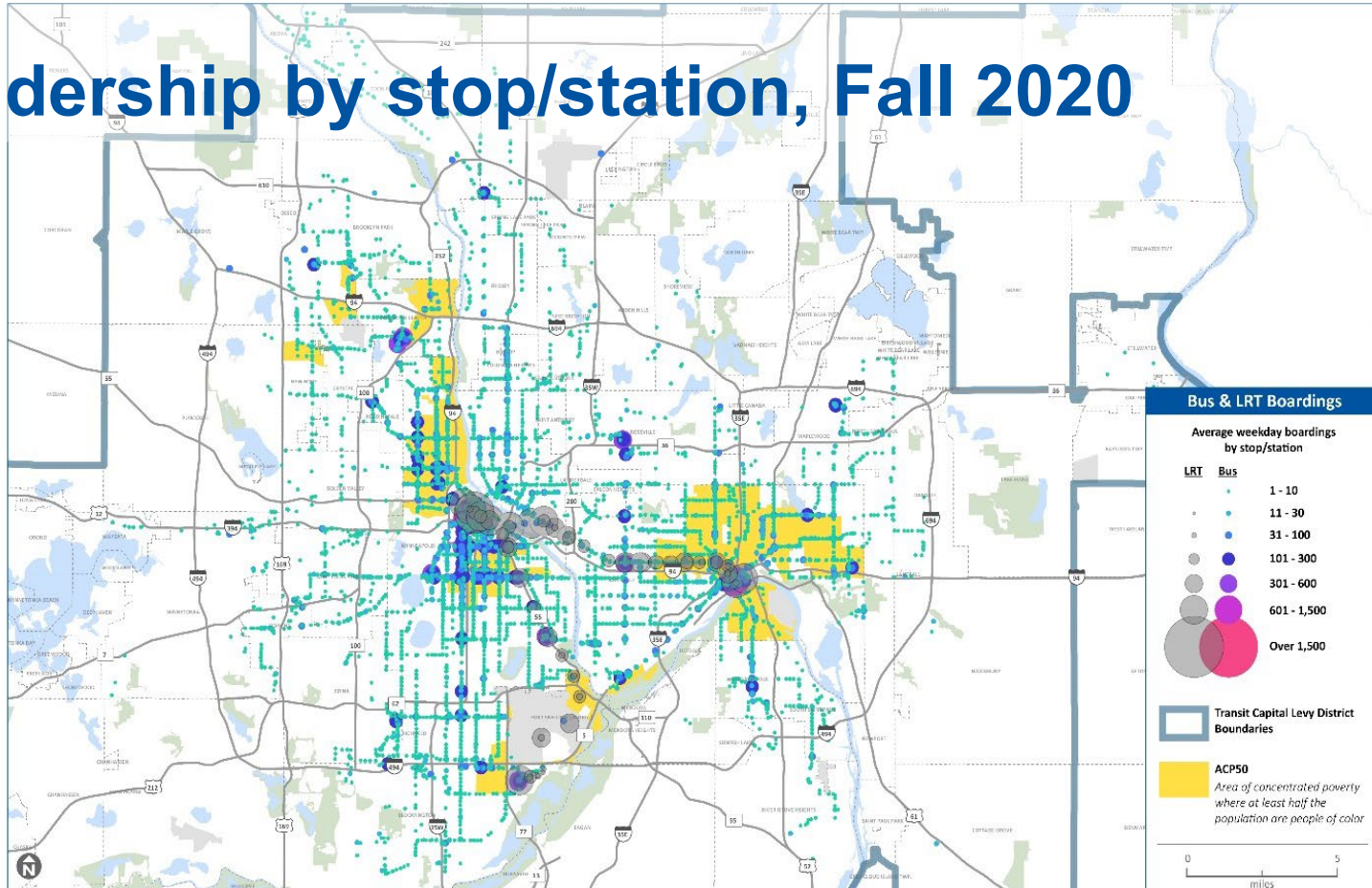
Percent Change in Weekday Ridership

(Compared to average weekday ridership 2/24–2/28)

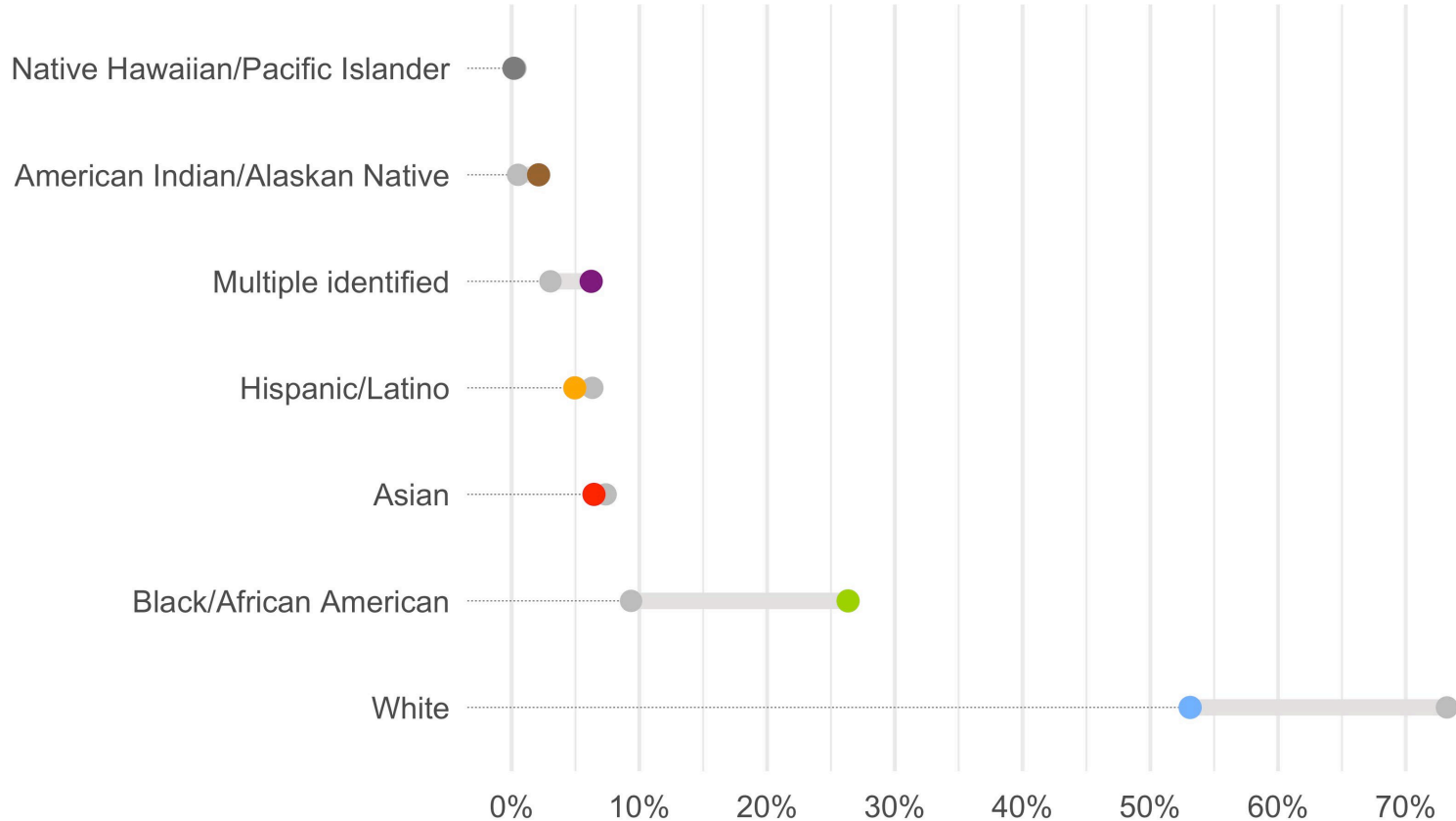


*Preliminary estimates, subject to change

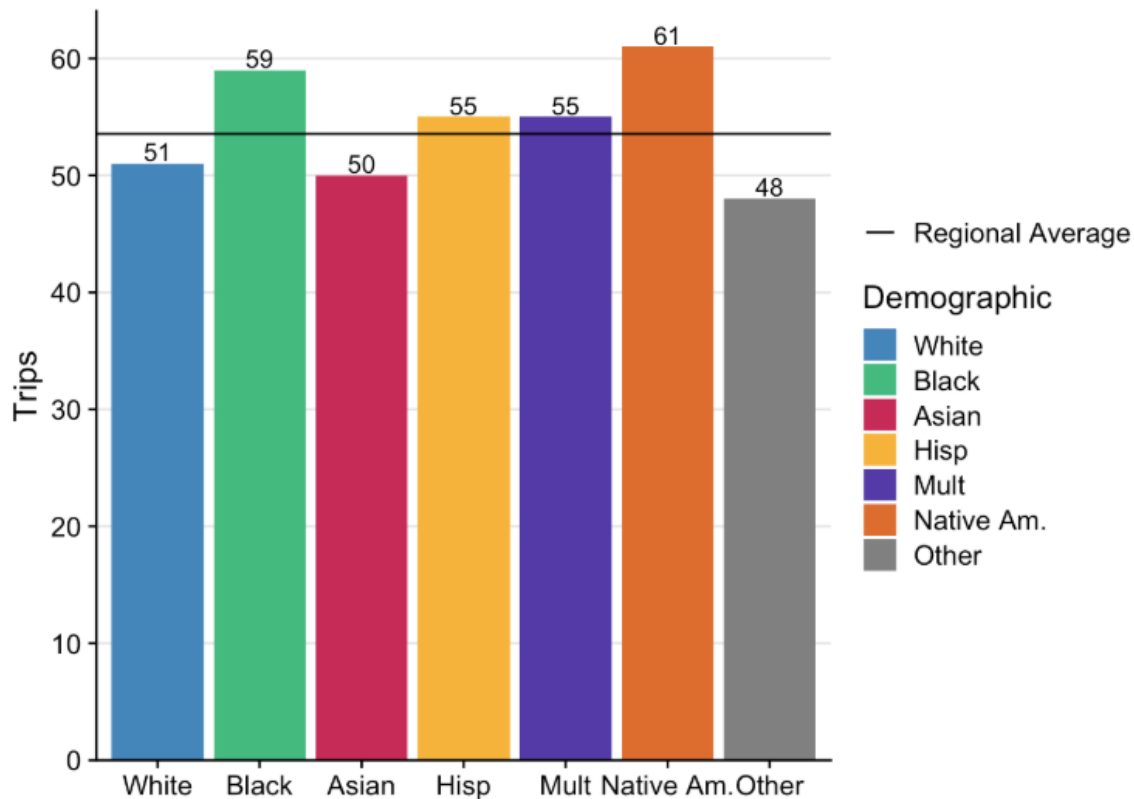
Ridership by stop/station, Fall 2020



Who rides our service?

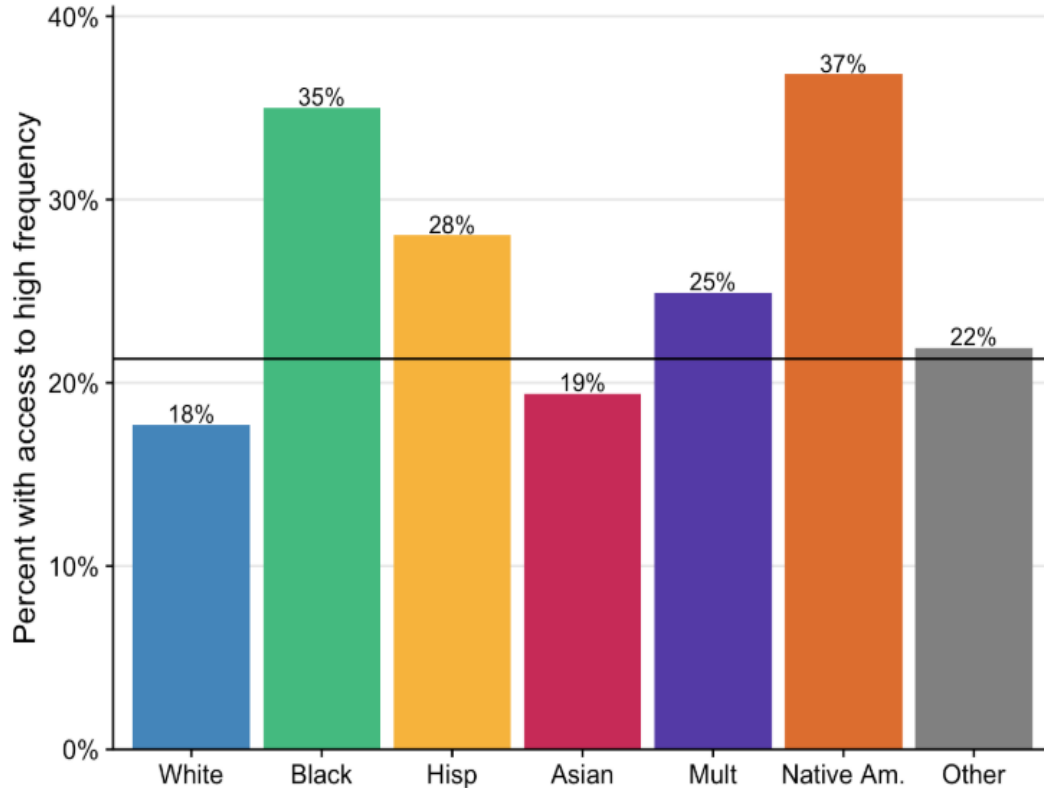


How do different racial and ethnic groups experience our service? *Service Availability*



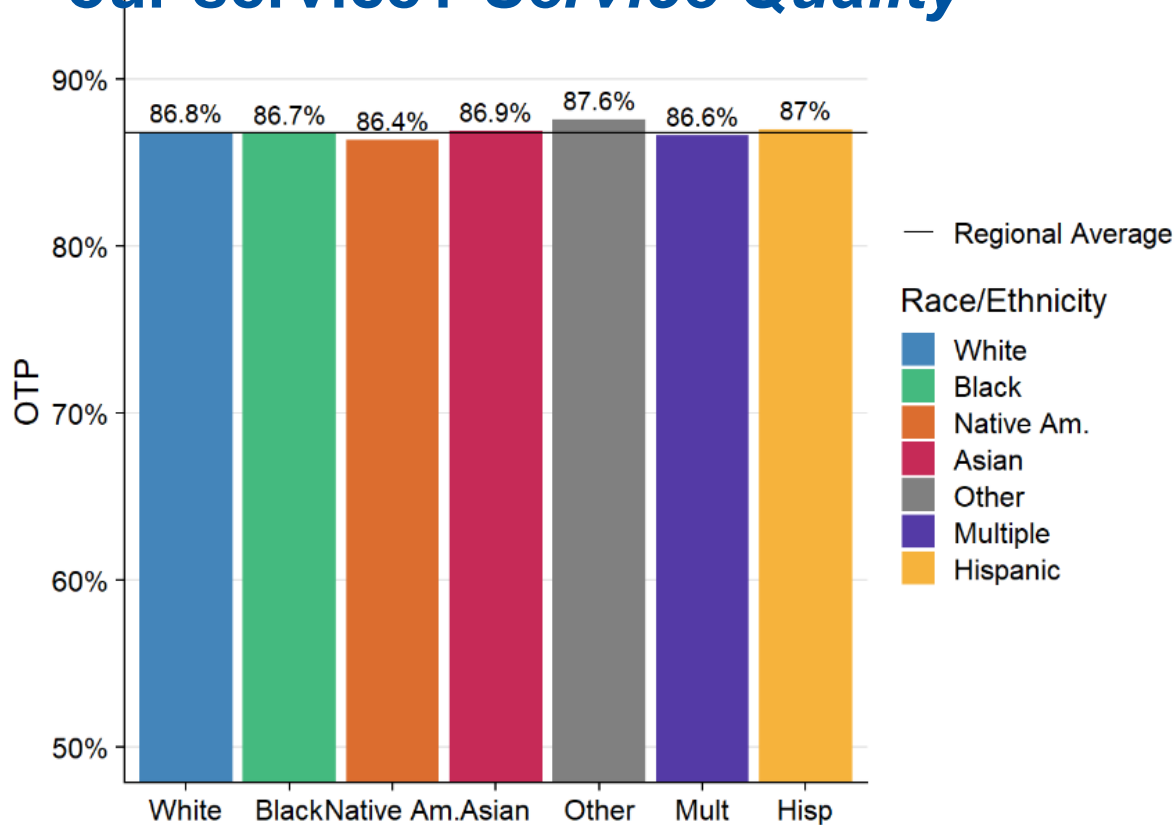
Trip Count: White residents living near transit do not have more trips at their stop

How do different racial and ethnic groups experience our service? *Service Availability*



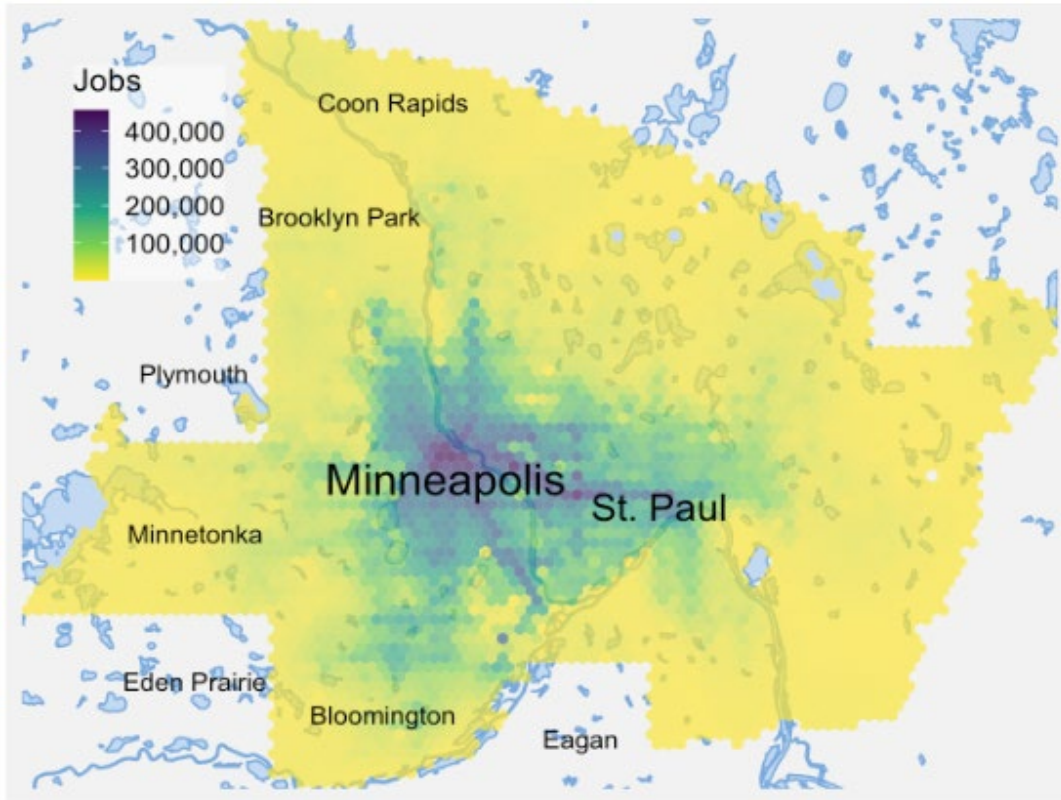
Access to High Frequency Service: Black residents have twice the access to high-frequency service compared to white residents

How do different racial and ethnic groups experience our service? *Service Quality*



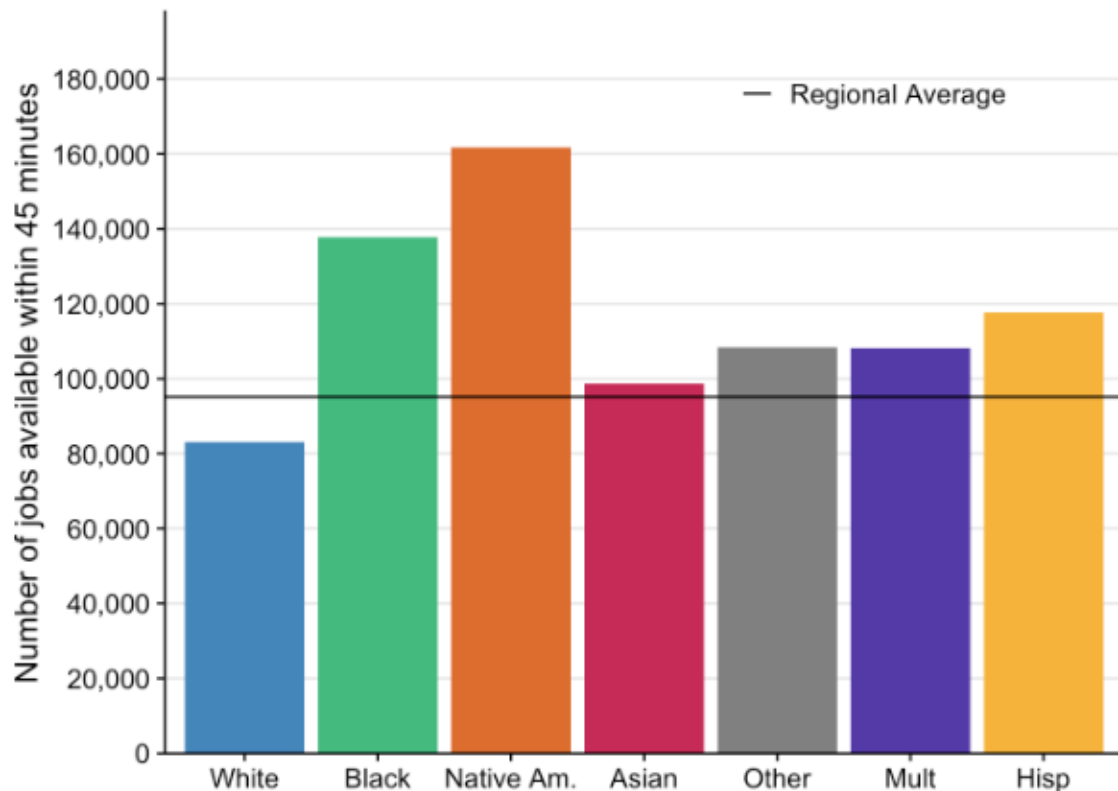
On-Time Performance: there is no evidence that BIPOC riders or residents living near a timepoint experienced worse OTP in 2020 than white riders.

How do different racial and ethnic groups experience our service? *Service Outcomes*



Job Accessibility:
More service,
more jobs!

How do different racial and ethnic groups experience our service? *Service Outcomes*

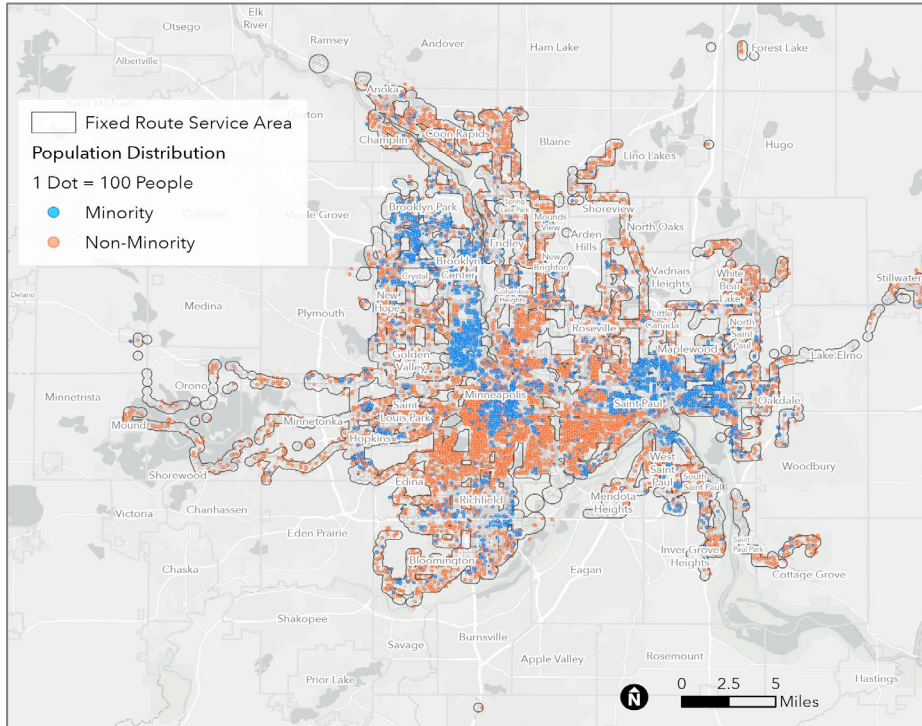


Job Accessibility:
Within a 45-minute journey on transit, Black residents have more total jobs available.

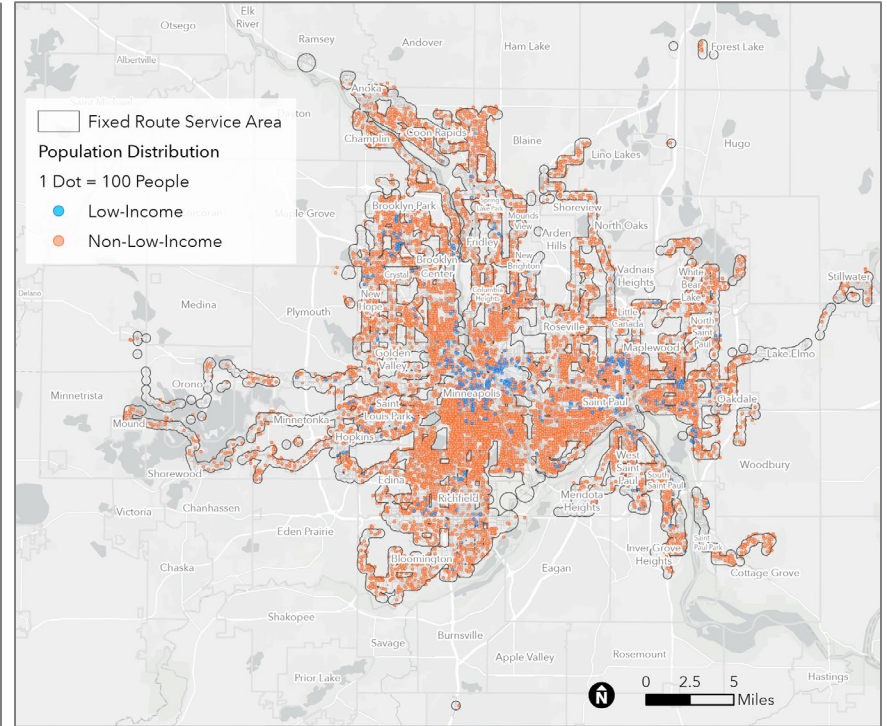
Title VI analysis

- Federal Law – no discrimination of minority or low-income populations
- FTA requirements
- Met Council Policy
 - Review system every 3 years
 - Review changes more than 25% of service hours on a route or group of routes
- Review distribution of transit service
- Measure: no disparate impact or disproportionate burden
 - Minority populations
 - Low Income populations

Minority

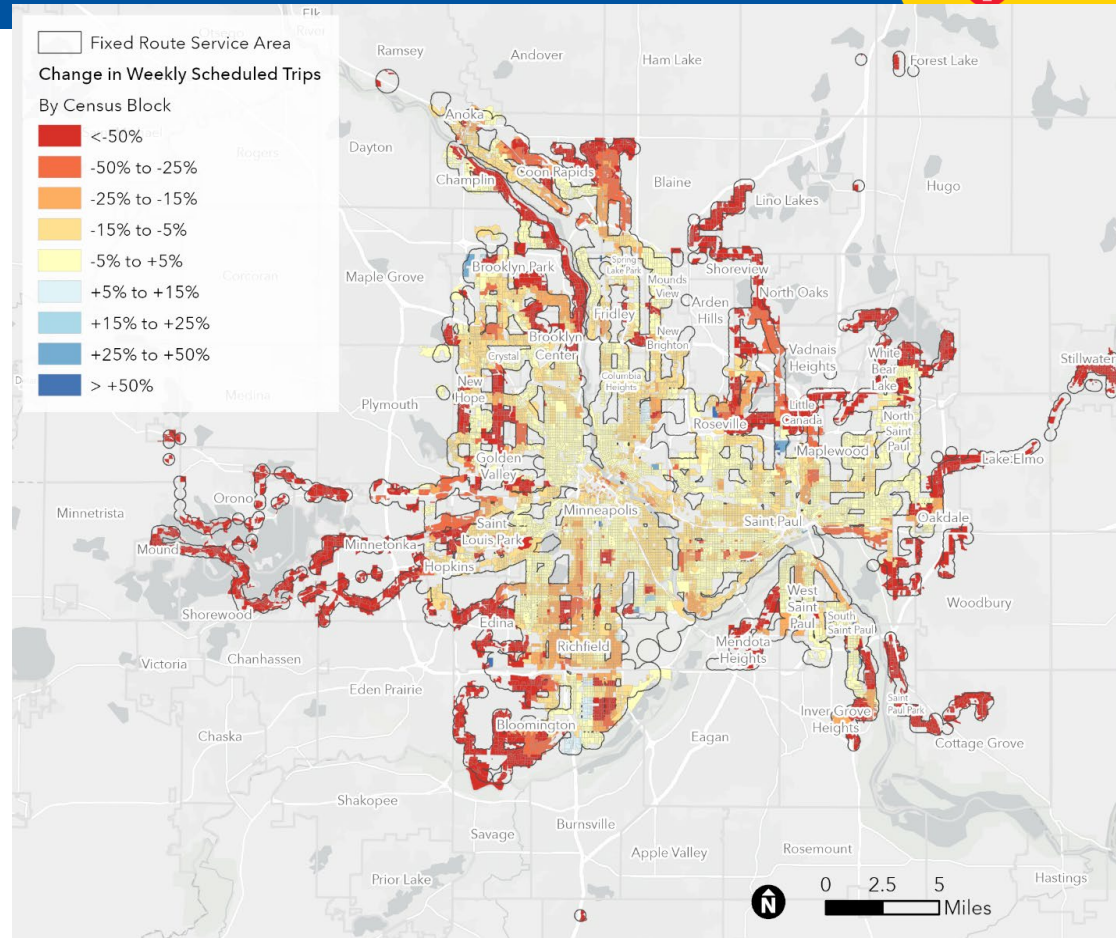


Low-income



Title VI analysis

- Sept 2019 v Sept 2020
- No disparate impact in change to level of service



Questions