RIDERSHIP

THE FUTURE OF LIGHT RAIL STUDY

RINFRGHID

OVERVIEW

- Daily Annual Ridership (2000-2019)
- Potential Factors related to Ridership Decline
- Station Ridership by Line (2014-2019)
- Transit Oriented Development and Ridership

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Ridership has been decreasing since the full system was opened (2013)
- Areas with higher proportions of low income and/or minority households have retained ridership
- While development has occurred around transit stations, it does not seem to be drawing transit riders to the system



AVERAGE RIDERSHIP BY TRAX LINE



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POTENTIAL FACTORS RELATED TO RIDERSHIP DECLINE



- Median income has been increasing in the last decade (\$17K between 2010-2018)
- The median income in Salt Lake County is higher than the nation



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- The cost of owning/operating a car has increased 20% between 2006-2016 and it's still perceived as affordable since gas prices are so low
- Starting in 2014, fuel cost has been going down with some increase but overall, fuel cost is cheaper than in the past

POTENTIAL FACTORS RELATED TO RIDERSHIP DECLINE



- A higher percentage of households in Salt Lake County have a vehicle compared to the United States.
- In 2018, almost 95% of households in Salt Lake County had a vehicle.



POTENTIAL FACTORS RELATED TO RIDERSHIP DECLINE — HIGHWAY INVESTMENTS

- I-15 Reconstruction, which added an HOV lane and a general purpose lane (ended 2001)
- Continuous Flow Intersections (CFI) on several Bangerter Highway intersections (e.g. 3500 South, 4100 South, 4700 South, 13400 South)
- 6 new interchanges on Bangerter Highway (5400 South, 7000 South, 7800 South, 9000 South, 11400 South, and 600 West)
- Mountain View between Redwood and 5400 South built in 2012 and between 5400 South and 4100 South in 2017
- One southbound lane added to I-15 between 7800 South and Bangerter in 2018

BLUE LINE AVERAGE RIDERSHIP BY STATION



BLUE LINE AVERAGE RIDERSHIP BY STATION

- All stations in the Blue Line experience a decrease in ridership
- Overall, stations in the suburbs tend to have lower ridership than stations closer to downtown
- Courthouse experiences the highest decrease
- Stations near the Road Home and in the free fare zone experienced a decrease in 2017



RED LINE AVERAGE RIDERSHIP BY STATION



RED LINE AVERAGE RIDERSHIP BY STATION

- Overall, stations in the suburbs tend to have lower ridership than stations closer to downtown or near I-15
- Central Pointe experiences the highest increase
- Stadium experiences the highest decrease
- There is an increase in ridership between 2016 and 2017



GREEN LINE AVERAGE RIDERSHIP BY STATION



GREEN LINE AVERAGE RIDERSHIP BY STATION

- Most stations experience an increase in ridership
- Stations along North Temple, which tend to be near households with lower income and minorities, experience an increase in ridership
- Courthouse experiences the highest increase
- Arena experiences the highest decrease







West Valley City Center





TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT: STATION LIVING

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- How much is rent along TRAX? An informal survey...
 - Green Line: \$958/month (less in the sections in SLC)
 - Red/Blue Lines in South Salt Lake, Millcreek, or Murray: \$1,014/month
 - Blue Line in Midvale or Sandy: \$1,078/month
 - Red Line in West Jordan or South Jordan: \$1,140/month
- Average across TRAX lines: \$1,029/month

TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT: STATION LIVING AND AFFORDABILITY

- HUD affordability index: no more than 30% of household income should be spent on housing
- Average monthly rent (not including utilities) for 1 bed/1 bath apartment of \$1,029
- This represents 30% of income (after taxes) for households making ~\$53,000 annually
- 31% of Salt Lake County households made less than \$50,000 annually in 2018
- Housing + Transportation (H+T) Index: 45% affordability threshold

DISCUSSION

- What challenges do we experience when developing around transit?
- What do our communities need in terms of housing supply near transit?
- What can communities do to build transit-supportive land use?

