# IX. Schedule Building 

Public Transport Planning and Regulation:<br>An Introduction

## Planning and Analysis Building Blocks



## Why is Schedule Building Needed?

- Passengers
- Provide dependable travel
- Provide information to travelers

- Operator
- Deploy vehicles and operators
- Maximize operating efficiency
- Analyze trade-offs between operating efficiencies and passenger crowding/waiting times



## Schedule Building A Five-Step Process



1. Determine needed intervals (frequencies)
2. Prepare interval table (specific trips)
3. Create vehicle assignments (blocking)
4. Create driver assignments (run cutting)
5. Estimate driver/conductor requirements (rostering)

## Determine Intervals

- Demand interval
- Based on observed (forecast) demand
- Interval set from efficiency point-of-view
- Policy interval
- Maximum interval regardless of demand
- Policy set either by:
- Public authority
- Operator (marketing concerns)


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Interval


## Demand Interval

- Provide sufficient vehicles to meet passenger demand


| Operating <br> Period | Seats | Acceptable <br> Passenger <br> Capacity |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Crush Peak | 40 | 80 |
| Peak | 40 | 60 |
| Base | 40 | 40 |

## Demand Interval Calculations Mairie to Corniche

| Time Period | Passengers <br> at Maximum <br> Load Point | Acceptable <br> Passenger <br> Capacity | Demand <br> interval |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 6:00 AM - 7:00 AM | 240 | 60 | 15 |
| 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM | 600 | 80 | 8 |
| 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | 400 | 60 | 9 |
| 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM | 200 | 40 | 12 |
| 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM | 100 | 40 | 24 |
| 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM | 90 | 40 | 27 |

## Policy Interval Adjustments Mairie to Corniche

| Time Period | Demand <br> Interval | Policy <br> Interval | Adjusted <br> Interval |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 6:00 AM - 7:00 AM | 15 | 20 | 15 |
| 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM | 8 | 10 | 8 |
| 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | 9 | 10 | 9 |
| 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM | 12 | 20 | 12 |
| 10:00 AM $-11: 00$ AM | 24 | 20 | 20 |
| 11:00 AM $-12: 00$ PM | 27 | 20 | 20 |

## Prepare Interval Table

- Determine key arrival (departure) times at key market location - Schedule Building Point
- Add (subtract) running times to determine arrival (departure) times at other time points


## Determine Arrival (Departure) Times at the Schedule Building Point Mairie to Corniche

| Trips to Corniche |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Trip <br> Number | Arrival <br> Time | Interval | Next Trip |
| 1 | $6: 00 \mathrm{AM}$ | 20 | $6: 20 \mathrm{AM}$ |
| 2 | $6: 20 \mathrm{AM}$ | 20 | $6: 40 \mathrm{AM}$ |
| 3 | $6: 40 \mathrm{AM}$ | 20 | $7: 00 \mathrm{AM}$ |
| 4 | $7: 00 \mathrm{AM}$ | 10 | $7: 10 \mathrm{AM}$ |
| 5 | $7: 10 \mathrm{AM}$ | 10 | $7: 20 \mathrm{AM}$ |
| 6 | $7: 20 \mathrm{AM}$ | 10 | $7: 30 \mathrm{AM}$ |

## Determine Arrival/Departure Times at Other Time Points Mairie to Corniche

| Trips to Corniche |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Trip <br> Number | Departure <br> Time | Running <br> Time | Arrival <br> Time |
| 1 | $5: 35 \mathrm{AM}$ | 25 | $6: 00 \mathrm{AM}$ |
| 2 | $5: 55 \mathrm{AM}$ | 25 | $6: 20 \mathrm{AM}$ |
| 3 | $6: 15 \mathrm{AM}$ | 25 | $6: 40 \mathrm{AM}$ |
| 4 | $6: 35 \mathrm{AM}$ | 25 | $7: 00 \mathrm{AM}$ |
| 5 | $6: 45 \mathrm{AM}$ | 25 | $7: 10 \mathrm{AM}$ |
| 6 | $6: 55 \mathrm{AM}$ | 25 | $7: 20 \mathrm{AM}$ |



## Create Vehicle Assignments (Blocking)

- Link trips together at a common terminal point
- Sometimes involves "deadheading" equipment between routes
- Match arrival and departure times at a terminal, allowing for "terminal time"
- Make minor schedule modifications (where necessary) to achieve good linkages


## Example of Vehicle Blocking Mairie to Corniche

| Block <br> Number | Depart Mairie | Arrive Corniche | Depart Corniche ${ }^{1}$ | Arrive Mairie | Time <br> Ready for <br> Next Trip ${ }^{1}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 5:35 AM | 6:00 AM | 6:05 AM | 6:30 AM | 6:35 AM |
|  | 5:55 AM | 6:20 AM | 6:25 AM | 6:50 AM | 6:55 AM |
|  | 6:15 AM | 6:40 AM | 6:45 AM | 7:10 AM | 7:15 AM |
|  | 6:35 AM | 7:00 AM | 7:05 AM | 7:30 AM | 7:35 AM |
|  | 6:45 AM | 7:10 AM | 7:15 AM | 7:40 AM | 7:45 AM |
|  | 6:55 AM | 7:20 AM | 7:25 AM | 7:50 AM | 7:55 AM |
|  | 7:05 AM | 7:30 AM | 7:35 AM | 8:00 AM | 8:05 AM |
|  | 7:15 AM | 7:40 AM | 7:45 AM | 8:10 AM | 8:15 AM |
|  | 7:25 AM | 7:50 AM | 7:55 AM | 8:20 AM | 8:25 AM |
|  | 7:35 AM | 8:00 AM | 8:05 AM | 8:30 AM | 8:35 AM |
|  | 7:45 AM | 8:10 AM | 8:15 AM | 8:40 AM | 8:45 AM |
|  | 7:55 AM | 8:20 AM | 8:25 AM | 8:50 AM | 8:55 AM |
|  | 8:05 AM | 8:30 AM | 8:35 AM | 9:00 AM | 9:05 AM |
|  | 8:15 AM | 8:40 AM | 8:45 AM | 9:10 AM | 9:15 AM |
|  | 8:25 AM | 8:50 AM | 8:55 AM | 9:20 AM | 9:25 AM |
|  | 8:35 AM | 9:00 AM | 9:05 AM | 9:30 AM | 9:35 AM |
|  | 8:55 AM | 9:20 AM | 9:25 AM | 9:50 AM | 9:55 AM |
|  | 9:15 AM | 9:40 AM | 9:45 AM | 10:10 AM | 10:15 AM |
|  | 9:35 AM | 10:00 AM | 10:05 AM | 10:30 AM | 10:35 AM |

${ }^{1} 5$ minute layover at each route terminal

## Creation of Vehicle Assignment (Block) 1

| Block <br> Number | Depart Mairie | Arrive Corniche | Depart Corniche1 | Arrive Mairie | Time Ready for Next Trip1 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 5:35 AM | 6:00 AM | 6:05 AM | 6:30 AM | 6:35 AM |
|  | 5:55 AM | 6:20 AM | 6:25 AM | 6:50 AM | 6:55 AM |
|  | 6:15 AM | 6:40 AM | 6:45 AM | 7:10 AM | 7:15 AM |
| 1 | 6:35 AM | 7:00 AM | 7:05 AM | 7:30 AM | 7:35 AM |
|  | 6:45 AM | 7:10 AM | 7:15 AM | 7:40 AM | 7:45 AM |
|  | 6:55 AM | 7:20 AM | 7:25 AM | 7:50 AM | 7:55 AM |
|  | 7:05 AM | 7:30 AM | 7:35 AM | 8:00 AM | 8:05 AM |
|  | 7:15 AM | 7:40 AM | 7:45 AM | 8:10 AM | 8:15 AM |
|  | 7:25 AM | 7:50 AM | 7:55 AM | 8:20 AM | 8:25 AM |
| 1 | 7:35 AM | 8:00 AM | 8:05 AM | 8:30 AM | 8:35 AM |
|  | 7:45 AM | 8:10 AM | 8:15 AM | 8:40 AM | 8:45 AM |
|  | 7:55 AM | 8:20 AM | 8:25 AM | 8:50 AM | 8:55 AM |
|  | 8:05 AM | 8:30 AM | 8:35 AM | 9:00 AM | 9:05 AM |
|  | 8:15 AM | 8:40 AM | 8:45 AM | 9:10 AM | 9:15 AM |
|  | 8:25 AM | 8:50 AM | 8:55 AM | 9:20 AM | 9:25 AM |
| 1 | 8:35 AM | 9:00 AM | 9:05 AM | 9:30 AM | 9:35 AM |
|  | 8:55 AM | 9:20 AM | 9:25 AM | 9:50 AM | 9:55 AM |
|  | 9:15 AM | 9:40 AM | 9:45 AM | 10:10 AM | 10:15 AM |
| ${ }^{1} 5$ minute layover at each route terminal |  |  |  |  |  |

## Final Blocking Mairie to Corniche

| Block <br> Number | Depart Mairie | Arrive Corniche | Depart Corniche1 | Arrive Mairie | Time Ready for Next Trip1 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 5:35 AM | 6:00 AM | 6:05 AM | 6:30 AM | 6:35 AM |
| 2 | 5:55 AM | 6:20 AM | 6:25 AM | 6:50 AM | 6:55 AM |
| 3 | 6:15 AM | 6:40 AM | 6:45 AM | 7:10 AM | 7:15 AM |
| 1 | 6:35 AM | 7:00 AM | 7:05 AM | 7:30 AM | 7:35 AM |
| 4 | 6:45 AM | 7:10 AM | 7:15 AM | 7:40 AM | 7:45 AM |
| 2 | 6:55 AM | 7:20 AM | 7:25 AM | 7:50 AM | 7:55 AM |
| 5 | 7:05 AM | 7:30 AM | 7:35 AM | 8:00 AM | 8:05 AM |
| 3 | 7:15 AM | 7:40 AM | 7:45 AM | 8:10 AM | 8:15 AM |
| 6 | 7:25 AM | 7:50 AM | 7:55 AM | 8:20 AM | 8:25 AM |
| 1 | 7:35 AM | 8:00 AM | 8:05 AM | 8:30 AM | 8:35 AM |
| 4 | 7:45 AM | 8:10 AM | 8:15 AM | 8:40 AM | 8:45 AM |
| 2 | 7:55 AM | 8:20 AM | 8:25 AM | 8:50 AM | 8:55 AM |
| 5 | 8:05 AM | 8:30 AM | 8:35 AM | 9:00 AM | 9:05 AM |
| 3 | 8:15 AM | 8:40 AM | 8:45 AM | 9:10 AM | 9:15 AM |
| 6 | 8:25 AM | 8:50 AM | 8:55 AM | 9:20 AM | 9:25 AM |
| 1 | 8:35 AM | 9:00 AM | 9:05 AM | 9:30 AM | 9:35 AM |
| 2 | 8:55 AM | 9:20 AM | 9:25 AM | 9:50 AM | 9:55 AM |
| 3 | 9:15 AM | 9:40 AM | 9:45 AM | 10:10 AM | 10:15 AM |

## Implications of Peaking

- The example shows more service in the peak than in the off-peak (10 versus 20 minute intervals)
- Some buses/drivers (blocks 4, 5, 6) only work during the peak
- Inefficient use of vehicles (e.g., only 2 hours needed in each peak (AM, PM)
- Significant percentage of time spent traveling to and from garage (deadheading)
- Potentially low labor productivity


## 40 Create Driver Assignments (Run Cutting)

- If conductors are used, must also create conductor assignments
- Basic objective is to minimize driver (and conductor) costs
- Need to know:
- Types of runs
- Labor practices


## Types of Runs




## Estimate Driver/Conductor Requirements (Rostering)

- Determine number of 5-day driver/ conductor assignments needed to operate 7-day service
- Determine number of drivers/conductors needed to cover absences (Extra Staff)
- The absence rate varies
- Amount of vacation, sick leave, holidays provided
- Management attention to absenteeism
- The absence rate can exceed 20\%


## Computers Often Are Used in Schedule Building

- Labor saving for repetitive tasks
- Preparation of interval table
- Creation of vehicle blocks
- Creation/optimization of driver and
 conductor runs
- Important when complicated work rules
- Provides passenger information
- Schedules for passengers
- Interactive passenger trip planners (e.g., Internet, telephone, station)


## Summary

- Described the five-step schedule building process
- Remember, scheduling is important to:
- Operators (operating efficiency and service responsive to passenger needs)
- Passengers (reliability and information)

