IX. Schedule Building

Public Transport Planning and Regulation: An Introduction



Planning and Analysis Building Blocks







Focus of Discussion Schedule Building

Cost Analysis and Financial Planning

Performance Analysis

Measures & Standards

Network and Route Design

Market Factors and Demand Analysis Service Monitoring and Data Collection

Fares and Revenue: Policy, Analysis, and Collection

> Terminology and Basic Relationships



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







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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

Interval

- 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)





Demand Interval

 Provide sufficient vehicles to meet passenger demand



Stops

		Acceptable	
Operating		Passenger	
Period	Seats	Capacity	
Crush Peak	40	80	
Peak	40	60	
Base	40	40	

Demand Interval Calculations Mairie to Corniche

		Passengers at Maximum	Acceptable Passenger	Demand
Time Pe	riod	Load Point	Capacity	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 Pe	riod	Demand Interval	Policy Interval	Adjusted 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 Arrival						
Number	Time	Interval	Next Trip			
1	6:00 AM	20	6:20 AM			
2	6:20 AM	20	6:40 AM			
3	6:40 AM	20	7:00 AM			
4	7:00 AM	10	7:10 AM			
5	7:10 AM	10	7:20 AM			
6	7:20 AM	10	7:30 AM			

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

Trips to Corniche						
Trip	Arrival					
Number	Time	Time	Time			
1	5:35 AM	25	6:00 AM			
2	5:55 AM	25	6:20 AM			
3	6:15 AM	25	6:40 AM			
4	6:35 AM	25	7:00 AM			
5	6:45 AM	25	7:10 AM			
6	6:55 AM	25	7:20 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

					Time
Block	Depart	Arrive	Depart		Ready for
Number	Mairie	Corniche	Corniche ¹	Arrive Mairie	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 lavover at each route terminal					

Creation of Vehicle Assignment (Block) 1

					Time	
Block	Depart	Arrive	Depart		Ready for	
Number	Mairie	Corniche	Corniche1	Arrive Mairie	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	
5 minute layover at each route terminal						

Final Blocking Mairie to Corniche

					Time		
Block	Depart	Arrive	Depart		Ready for		
Number	Mairie	Corniche	Corniche1	Arrive Mairie	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		
¹ 5 minute layover at each route terminal							

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





- 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



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- 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)





- 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)

