

Study Delegation of San Francisco Bay Area Transit Professionals to Switzerland

Joint Findings

January 2024




Participants



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Study Delegation Program - May 30-June 2, 2023


 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
 Confédération suisse
 Confederazione Svizzera
 Confederaziun svizra




 Verband öffentlicher Verkehr
 Union des transports publics
 Unione dei trasporti pubblici



Stadt Zürich

VBZ

Züri Linie



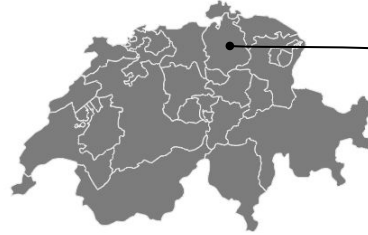
ETH zürich



STADLER

Organization Visited	Role within Swiss Public Transit Ecosystem
Federal Office for Spatial Development ARE Federal Office of Transport FOT	Federal Policy, Planning & Funding
Swiss Association of Public Transport Alliance SwissPass	National Associations/Programs
Zurich Transport Authority (Zürcher Verkehrsverbund, ZVV)	Regional Network Manager: Policy, Planning, Funding
City of Zürich Zürich Public Transport (VBZ)	Local Planning & Operations
Institute for Transport Planning and Systems at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich Empa - Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology Start-ups in the public transportation ecosystem Stadler Rail	Non-Profit/Private

Switzerland vs. Bay Area



	Switzerland	Zurich Canton	San Francisco Bay Area
Land Area	41,285 km ²	1,729 km ²	22,789 km ²
Urbanized Area	7.9%	20.1%	17.8%
Population	8.6 million	1.6 million	7.5 million
Transit Mode Share	21%	32%	5%
Transit operators	260	37	27
Counties/Cantons	26	1	9
Cities/Municipalities	2,000+	160	101

Governance and Funding

- **Federal Government** manages the rail network and sets requirements for transit coordination; finances rail infrastructure and passenger & freight transport
- **Cantons** lead regional transport planning. In Zurich:
 - ZVV is responsible for the tariff network, funding, timetable and long-range service planning, infrastructure and operations
 - Operations and maintenance financing: 50% fare revenue; 10% other income; 40% split 50/50 by canton and municipalities
- **Cities** such as Zurich support transit operations via local policies such as housing densification and limiting parking
- **Transit Operators** develop local service plans to meet regional goals, including service targets and needed infrastructure improvements.



2212 municipalities



26 cantons



1 confederation



20 Tariff Associations



52 Agglomerations

Three Focus Practice Areas



**Integrated Timetables &
Service-Based Planning**



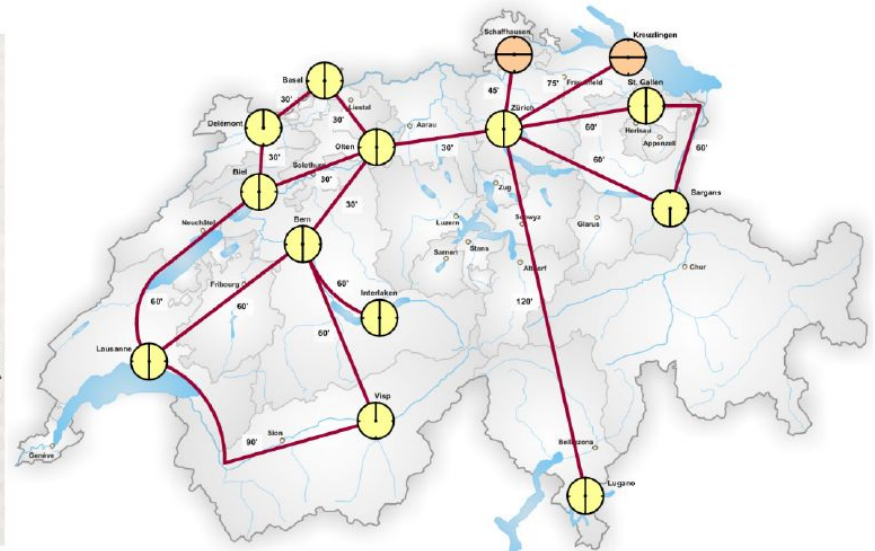
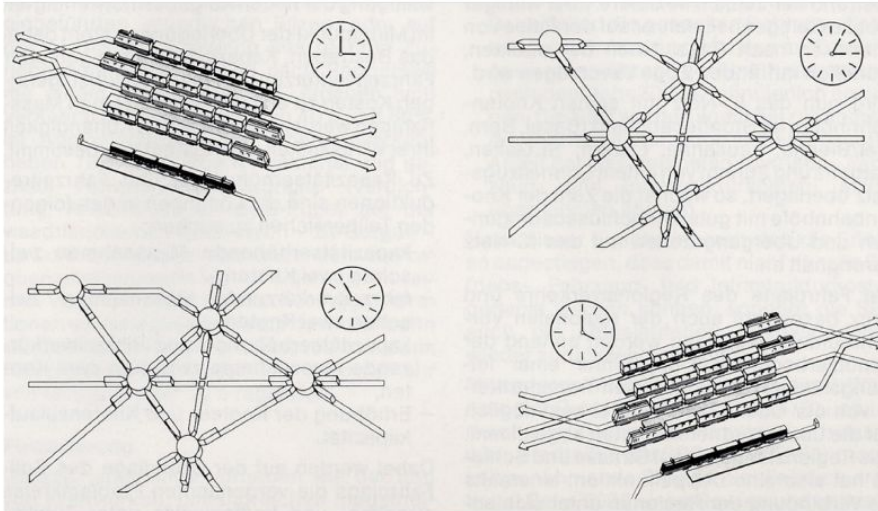
Infrastructure Planning



**Fare Integration: “One
Journey, One Ticket”**

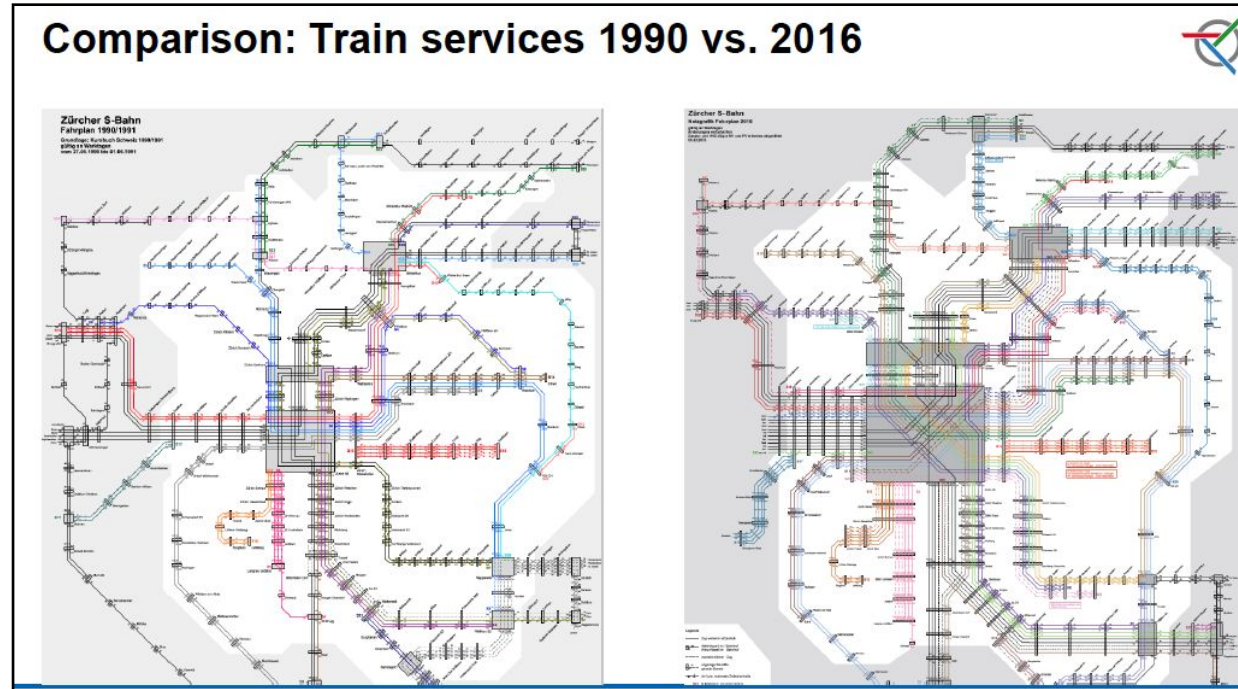
Integrated Timetables & Service-Based Planning

- Pulse schedule: standardized, clock-faced departures provide seamless connections between rail services.
- This minimizes wait times and provides the maximum number of travel options.
- Service levels determine infrastructure requirements: 2035 service plan currently being developed.



Infrastructure Planning

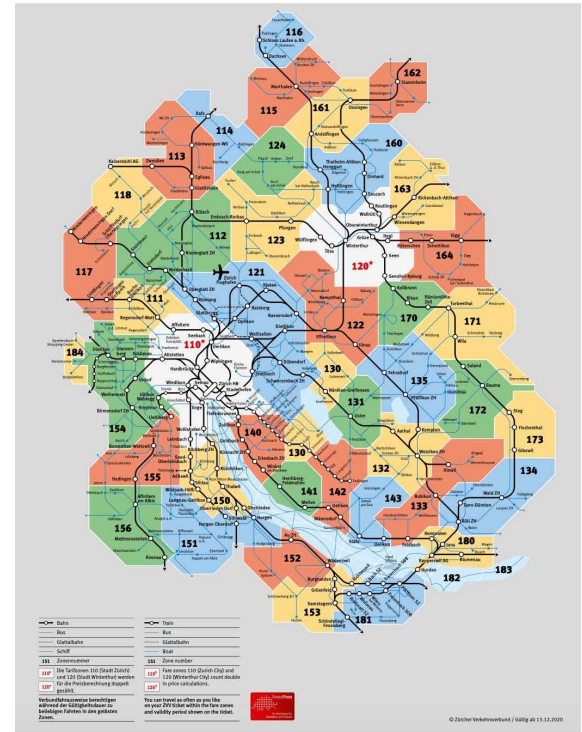
- Dedicated funding for project development prior to project approval
- Projects larger than CHF 20 million are approved by the public via a ballot vote (50% threshold)
- Approval after project development minimizes risks & cost overruns
- Advanced planning & programming with top-down governance ensures projects have the same goal of improving transit where it is needed most
- The end result: effective projects that are efficiently developed and implemented on time, on schedule and on budget from point of public approval



Fare Integration - “One Journey, One Ticket”

- Fares integrated at both national level (by Alliance SwissPass) and regional levels (by cantonal tariff associations such as ZVV)
- Fare integration required in legislation
- Simplicity for user and availability of pass products generates significant ridership and income for system
 - All tickets for all agencies sold at all outlets
 - 53% of population purchase yearly pass half-fare card
 - 50% of operations revenue from fares
- In Zurich, ZVV collects all fares - operators insulated from variation in ridership - provides service based on agreements

 ZVV Tarifzonen | Fare zones



Top 10 Lessons Learned

Focus on the customer, and recognize varied travel needs.

Successful collaboration between region and operators is built on clear role definition.

Treat transfers as the 'base case', not the 'edge case'.

Give street level public transit priority over private vehicles.

High service levels are essential, underpin the success of other strategies.

Invest in capital & operations strategically based on a long range service vision.

Proceed with large capital projects once full costs and risks are known.

Public ownership of rail & transit right of way is important.

Bold and deliberate policy changes were part of a clear 'pivot'.

A virtuous cycle of increasing investment and ridership is achievable.

Next Steps

Apply Lessons in Existing and Future Initiatives

- Connected Network Plan/Transit 2050+
- Fare Coordination and Integration Study pilot recommendations
- Mapping and Wayfinding plans and pilots
- Regional Transit Priority Program
- Accessibility and Paratransit coordination
- Regional Revenue Measure planning

Pursue Ongoing Relationships & Learning Opportunities

- Public release of joint report, public event sharing learnings, demonstrating collaboration & commitment
- Opportunity for additional presentations with other stakeholders
- Future opportunities: Additional study visits, employee exchanges, conferences on other focused topics??

Pursue Further Research Where Needed

Thank You!

