

# 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



 **VÖV UTP**  
Verband öffentlicher Verkehr  
Union des transports publics  
Unione dei trasporti pubblici



Stadt Zürich

VBZ

Züri Linie



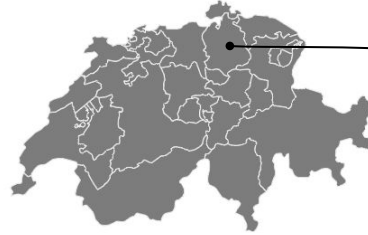
**ETH** zürich



**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

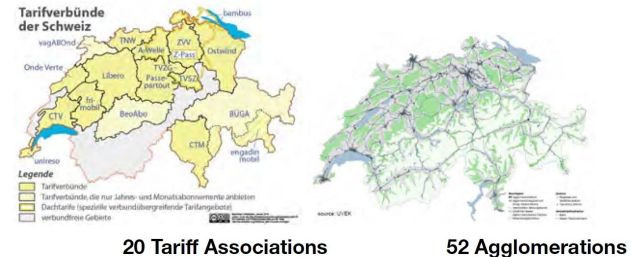
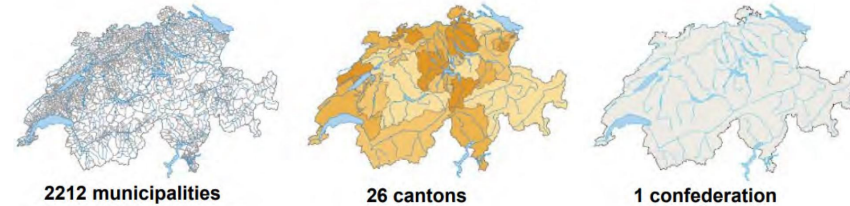


	<b>Switzerland</b>	<b>Zurich Canton</b>	<b>San Francisco Bay Area</b>
Land Area	41,285 km <sup>2</sup>	1,729 km <sup>2</sup>	22,789 km <sup>2</sup>
Urbanized Area	7.9%	20.1%	17.8%
Population	8.6 million	1.6 million	7.5 million
Transit Mode Share	21%	32%	5%
Transit operators	260	37	27
Counties/Cantons	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.



# Three Focus Practice Areas



**Integrated Timetables &  
Service-Based Planning**



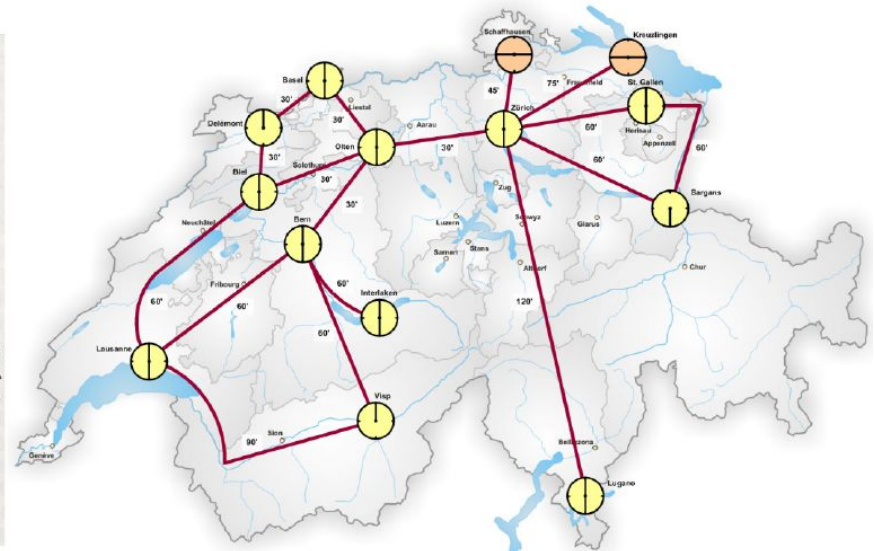
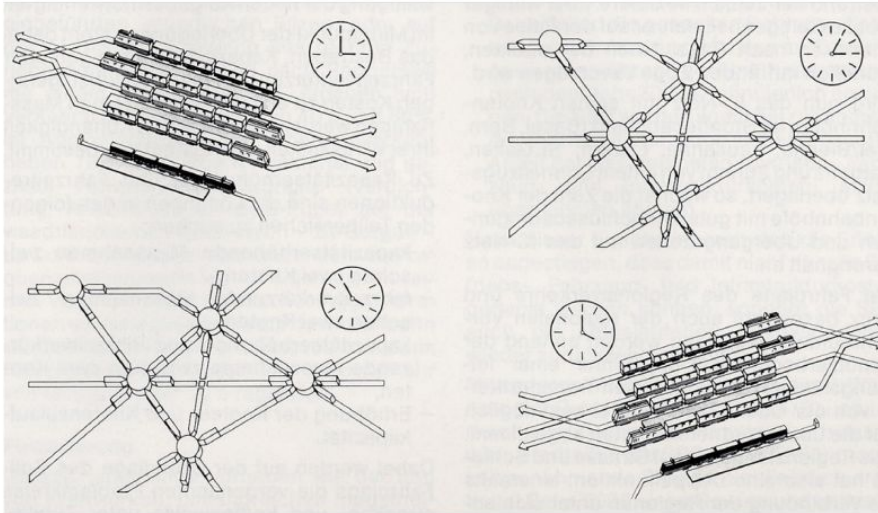
**Infrastructure Planning**



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

# Integrated Timetables & Service-Based Planning

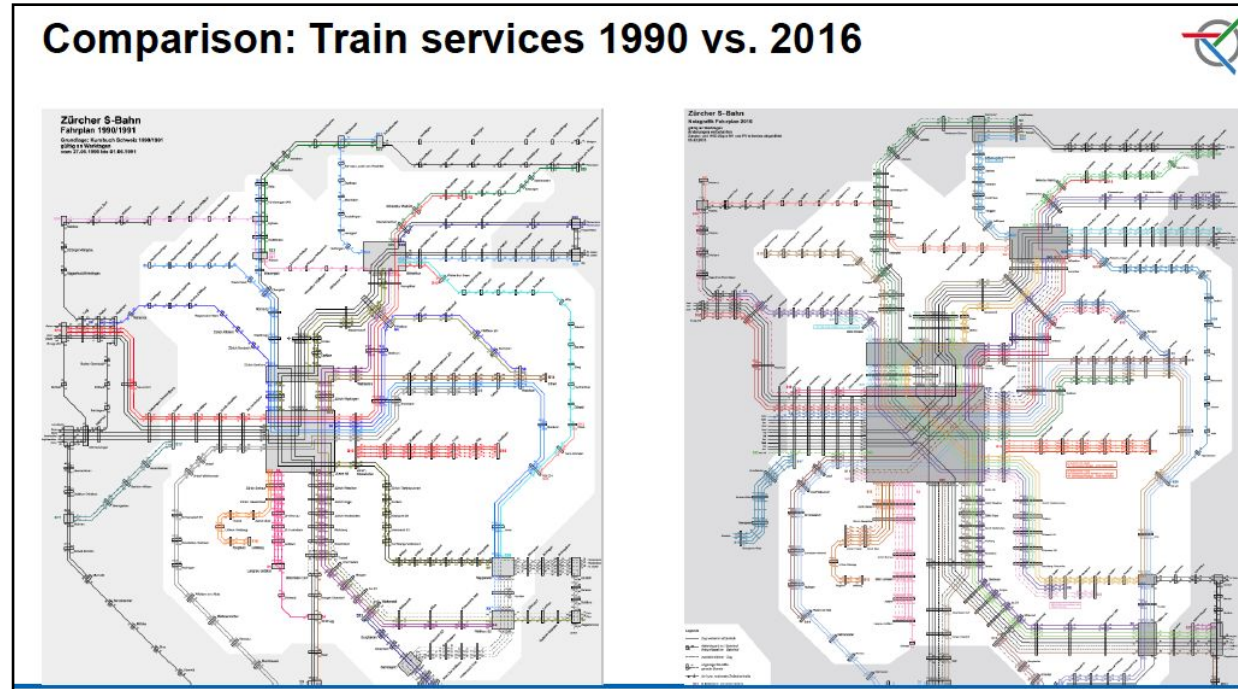
- Pulse schedule: standardized, clock-faced departures provide seamless connections between rail services.
- This minimizes wait times and provides the maximum number of travel options.
- Service levels determine infrastructure requirements: 2035 service plan currently being developed.





# 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

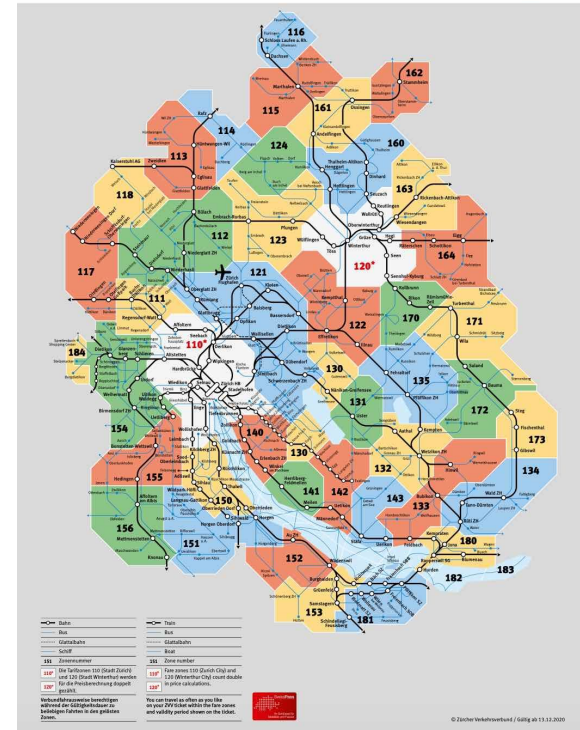




# Fare Integration - “One Journey, One Ticket”

- 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!**

