COAST
Comprehensive Operations Analysis

Speed/Directness of Service vs. Distance to Final Destination

The Question:

How direct should routes be, when more direct means faster service but greater first/last mile travel distance?

Input from Public Forums:

Everyone agreed that Direct Routes only work if the community is safe and pedestrian friendly. There was overwhelming support for running direct routes during peak commuter hours and running indirect routes during the day for errands, shopping, appointments, etc. There was a great deal of concern expressed about safe walking conditions on direct routes. People were generally in agreement that ¼ mile walking distance (or less) or 15 minutes walking time (or less) was all they were willing to walk to get to or from the bus stop. People who ride the bus by choice said there is definitely a limit to how much time they would be willing to spend on the bus to get from point A to point B before opting to take their car. People who rely on the bus for transportation mostly responded that they did not care how long they had to ride the bus, as long as it brought them as close as possible to their ultimate destination (least amount of walking required).
Input from Surveys:

Summary:

A moderate approach was most strongly preferred, with more coverage (and therefore slower travel times) preferred in less walkable areas.