

Project Peer Feedback

Provided feedback by Julia Ma, Sara Nurollahian, Don Harrison:

We like the idea and motivation of your visualization. We believe it could be a useful visualization that would benefit a lot of people. It is an interesting idea, and we think the scope of your data and focus of Utah is appropriate. We like the story of your visualization, in how UTA has evolved over time and how the Utah population and ridership affects it. Our main critique is the project plan is not quite detailed enough. We would love to know what the graphs on the right side are going to be, what questions they are trying to answer, and how they will elevate the rest of the visualization. Our suggestion is to keep going back to your project objective questions and identifying what are the most important questions to answer, keeping in mind what questions your main graph could not answer.

Your visualization follows the principles we talk about in class. We like your use of the graph and goal of reinventing the UTA graphs. We encourage you to think about how you are going to use color. Are you going to use color to show change in routes over time or in differentiating buses and trains or something else? It might be interesting to use color to indicate high traffic areas similar to Google Maps.

We feel the strongest asset of your visualization is its usefulness for users. However, for it to benefit users, it would need to be fairly interactive. You claim users can use your graph to find a route, but it was not clear in your visualization how they would do so. Do they select stops that get connected with the shortest route? How many stops could users select, and can they change the order of stops they visit? As a suggestion, you could add a 'route maker' feature in the same spot of the graphs on the right. It could be a feature the user could toggle on and off, when route finder is on, the graphs on the right are removed and as you select stops, they appear on the right with additional data; this would be similar to google maps when you add stops and are able to rearrange them.

Overall, we are really excited about your visualization. We think your idea is successful and wish you luck with implementation!

Comments of the reviewed (Xiaoya Tang, Milena Belianovich, Tark Patel):

- 1) We have decided to implement 2 types of charts: a bar chart and a bubble chart, which are described in the process book in more detail, but their main idea is to show the onboarding data along with the difference in days people use this exact route.
- 2) We have not decided on the use of any particular distinct colors just yet, but we have some ideas on implementing colors in certain ways all over our webpage, which is again described in more detail in the process book and most likely will change along with the process of our project as a whole.
- 3) We have decided that the maximum number of selected routes or stops is 10 for now; however, if we end up implementing the filters for different purposes of visualizing content, that number will depend solely on what kind of data is selected for showing on the map. Nevertheless, we personally do not find a problem with selecting too many routes/stops because the map can be zoomed in and out to avoid cramping and overlapping.
- 4) Adding a route maker feature is a good suggestion, which we may think further about, but for now, creating the basis for the visualization is more important and route maker can be considered more of an add-on feature that helps the user. Our initial idea for this visualization is to show changes in the routes/stops, however, if UTA refuses to give us more data further, we will think more about user interaction than the historical value of our visualization.
- 5) We got a fairly helpful and detailed feedback from Julia Ma, Sara Nurollahian, and Don Harrison, which we are grateful for! They helped us see our idea from an outsider's view, which made us realize and implement some potential improvements to our project.