**AwesomeBus**
A visualization of public transportation in Seattle

**Motivation**
- **Google maps** is useful for planning specific point-to-point trips
- Metro and **Sound Transit timetable maps** only show abstract route shapes without geographical context
- **OneBusAway** provides helpful real-time arrival information for commuters who know their route and stop, but it does not encourage exploration
- Other, more niche public transit visualizations show more analytically-focused transit information, such as causes for rider unhappiness, or transit in relation to city funding

**Goal:** Help transit riders discover new routes and new possible destinations and make exploration of new transit routes intuitive and enticing to increase user understanding of Seattle’s mass transit system

**Visualization Techniques: Approach**

**Reduce the gulf of evaluation and the gulf of execution**

- **Evaluation**
  - Visually separate routes using color
  - Decrease the luminance and opacity of deselected routes as well as change the color to a more neutral dark blue-gray
  - Display data on a geographically accurate street map
- **Execution**
  - Provide multiple options to select and filter routes (see Features)
  - Conventional map navigation controls
  - Display links to external transit resources in the sidebar

**Audience**
- Someone who has recently moved neighborhoods or is planning a move
- Someone who is new to Seattle
- Someone who is looking to change up their commute to use public transit
- Someone who wants to get between two neighborhoods but doesn’t have an exact destination and is willing to walk (for example, a tourist)

**Future Work**
- Incorporate timing data to show users typical travel times from a bus stop
- Show frequency of routes
- Show any significant gaps in service (ie, indicate commuter routes that only run in the morning and evening)
- Increase interaction with the sidebar: users should be able to use the sidebar to deselect routes or see schedule previews

**Features**
- View all public transit routes in the Seattle area overlaid on a street map
- Pan and zoom in to see bus stops
- Select routes visually by clicking on them or with a search box by route number or name
- Click on a bus stop to select the routes that serve it. The sidebar displays links to schedules and real-time arrival data
- Draw a polygon or rectangle on the screen to select all routes that pass through the shape
- Use a slider to examine which routes run at certain times of the day
- Double click on a route to see all the routes it intersects with