



**The Economic Cost of Traffic  
Congestion in Northeastern  
Illinois**

Sep 7th, 2011

Presenter: Max Shmaltsuyev

# Overview

2

- PART 1 – Texas Transportation Institute (TTI)  
Methodology Review
- PART 2 – Methodology Adaptation
- PART 3 – Directions for future research

# Part 1 – TTI Methodology Review

3

- TTI Nationwide Cost of Congestion (TTI, 2009)
  - ▣ Typical commuter spent 36 hours per year in traffic in 2007
  - ▣ Extra gasoline and diesel fuel = 24 gallons in 2007
  - ▣ Congestion cost per capita = \$757
  - ▣ Congestion cost nation = \$87.2 Billion
  - ▣ Rare break in near-constant growth
    - TTI found that travelers spent one hour less stuck in traffic in 2007 than they did in 2006 and wasted 1 gallon less of gasoline.

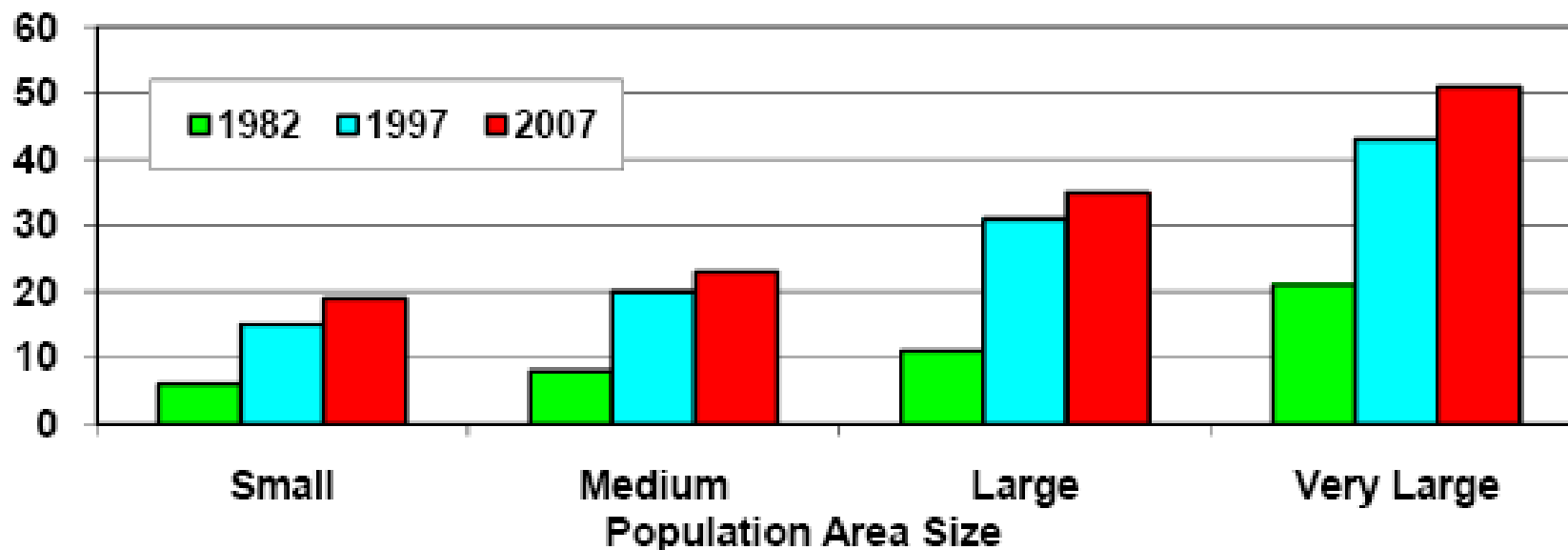


# TTI Nationwide Cost of Congestion (TTI, 2009)

5

## Exhibit 6. Congestion Growth Trend

Hours of Delay  
per Traveler



Small = less than 500,000

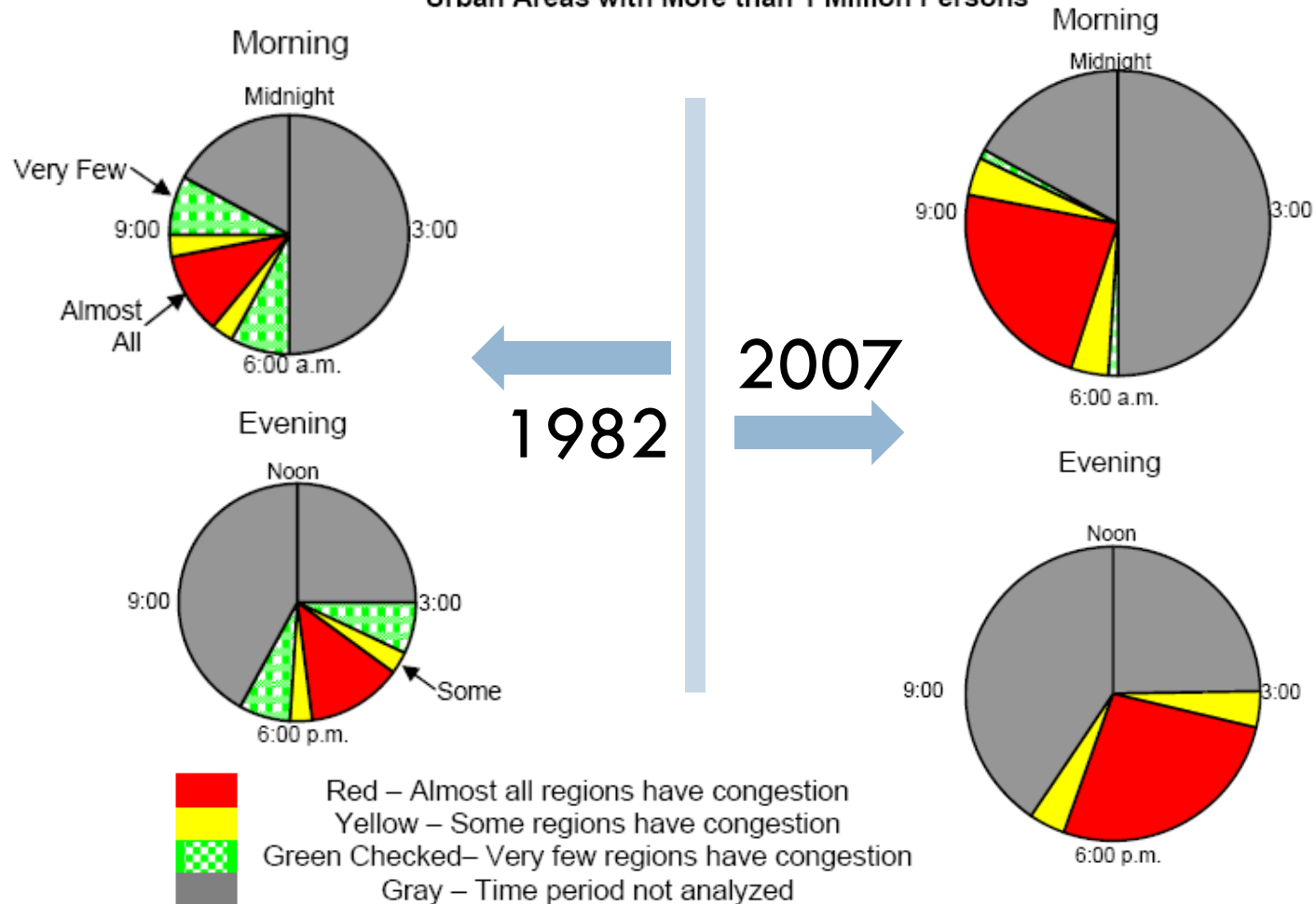
Large = 1 million to 3 million

Medium = 500,000 to 1 million

Very Large = more than 3 million

# TTI Nationwide Cost of Congestion (TTI, 2009)

**Exhibit 8. The Jam Clock Shows That It Is Hard To Avoid Congestion in Urban Areas with More than 1 Million Persons**



Note: The 2009 Urban Mobility Report examined 6 to 10 a.m. and 3 to 7 p.m.

# TTI Report – Northeastern Illinois (2007)

7

	Roadway Congestion Index	Congested Travel (% of Peak VMT)	Travel Time Index	Freeway Speed (mph)	Arterial Street Speed (mph)	Annual Total Cost (Million)
Chicago (MSA)	1.18	46.4	1.43	41	24.7	4,207

Travel Time Index - The ratio of travel time in the peak period to the travel time at free-flow conditions. A value of 1.30 indicates a 20-minute free-flow trip takes 26 minutes in the peak

Roadway Congestion Index – A ratio of daily traffic volume to the number of lane-miles of arterial street and freeway-to estimate the length of the peak period. The resulting ratio indicates an undesirable level of areawide congestion if the index value is greater than or equal to 1.0.

# Part 2 – TTI Improvement

## The limitations of TTI method:

- ❑ TTI just shows individual estimates of urban areas in Illinois;
- ❑ TTI does not take into account rural areas;
- ❑ TTI does not allow a spatial understanding of congestion; and
- ❑ TTI uses national averages of constants and general estimations instead of specific state or local information.



# TTI Improvements

9

- Expand TTI's method to rural and minor urban areas for CMAP's seven county region.
  - ▣ Use a comprehensive dataset that includes statewide urban and rural traffic figures from IDOT
    - IRIS (Illinois Roadway Information System)

# TTI Improvements

10

- Include state and local information
  - ▣ Chicago MSA Vehicle Occupancy for HBW - 1.03 (National Household Travel Survey, 2009).
  - ▣ Direction Distribution Factor for specific interstates. 60/40 if data is not available (IDOT Highway Capacity Manual).
    - Hourly volumes from highway sensors were used to calculate a ratio of inbound peak hourly volumes and total peak hourly volumes (inbound + outbound).
  - ▣ Truck Factor for links with truck counts. If data is not available than 16/12/6.5 (IDOT Highway Capacity Manual).

# Calculation Procedures

11



- Data Collection



- Percent of Delay Travel in Congested Conditions ( $\leq 50\%$ )



- Average Peak-Period Speed



- Average Travel Times



- Travel Delay = Average Travel times – Travel Times at Free Flow Speed



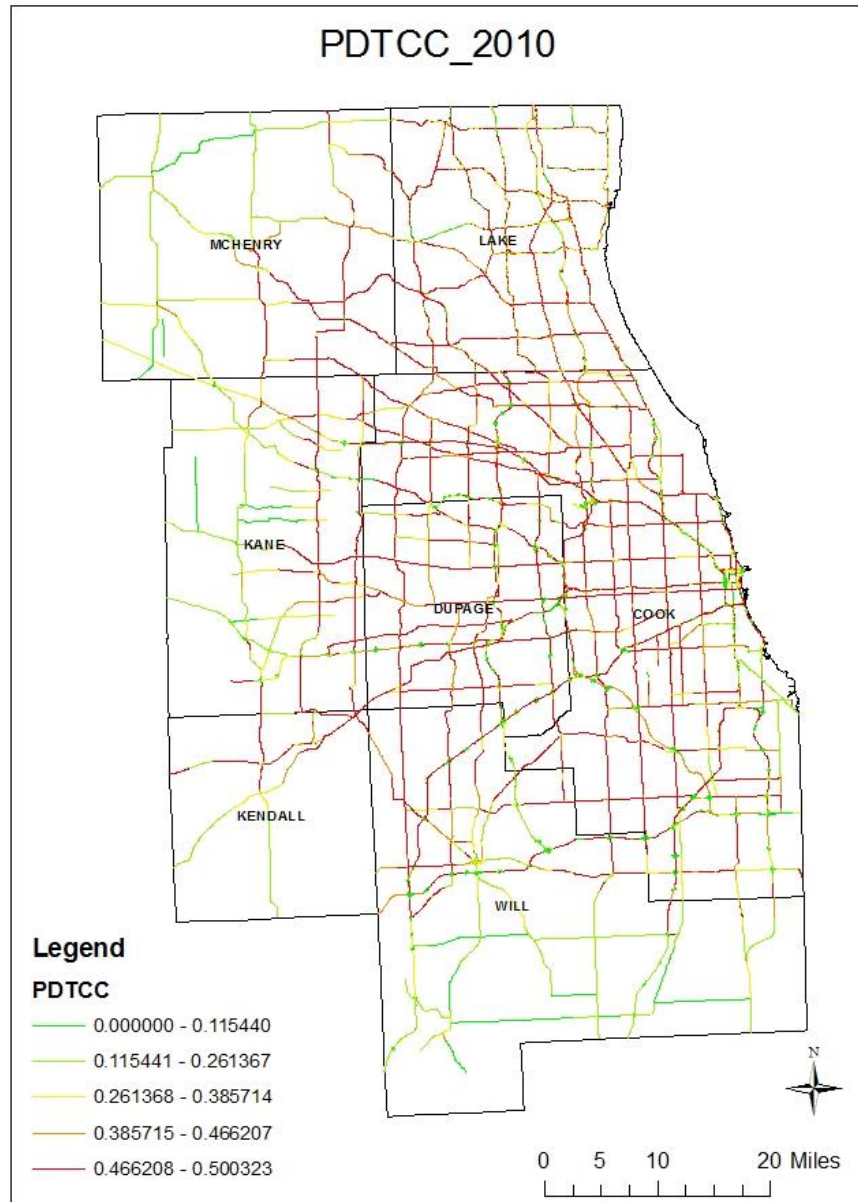
- Delay Related Indices



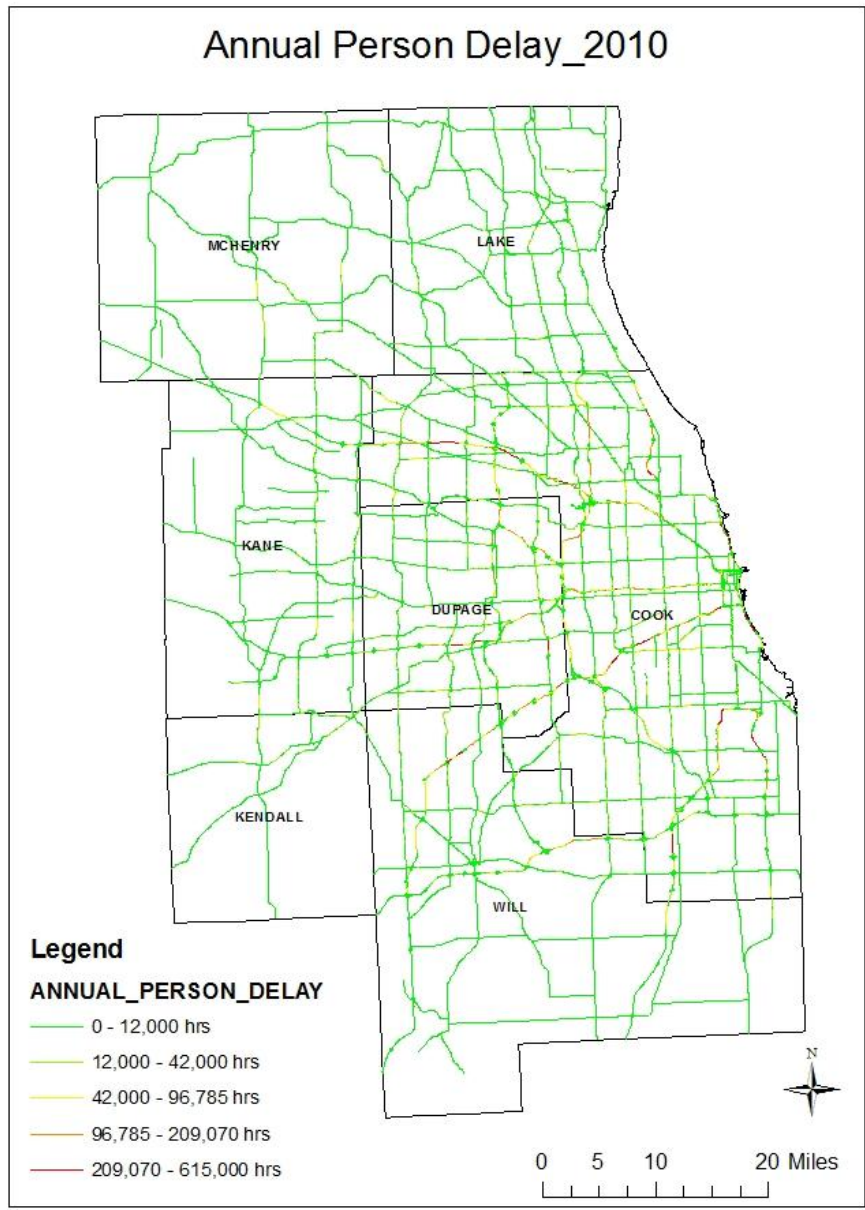
12

## Visual Representation of Modeling Results

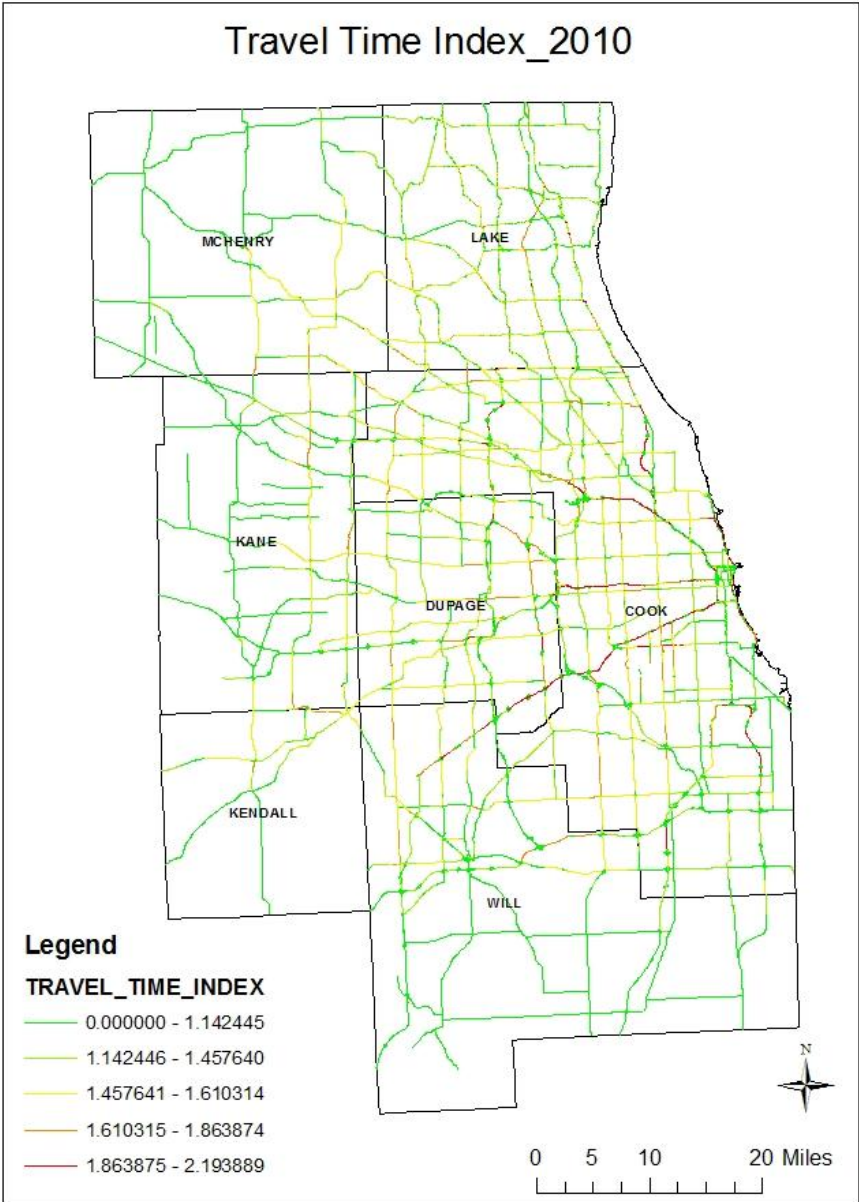
# PDTCC\_2010



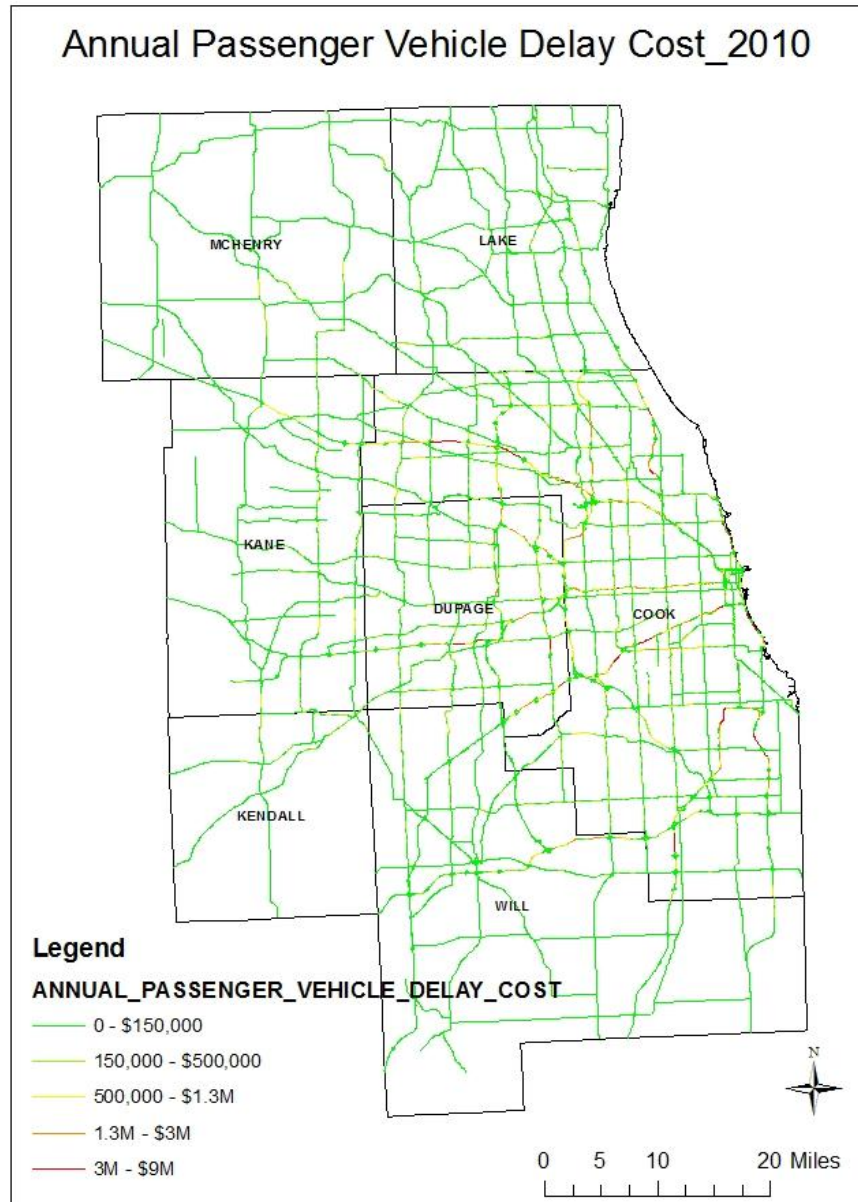
# Annual Person Delay\_2010



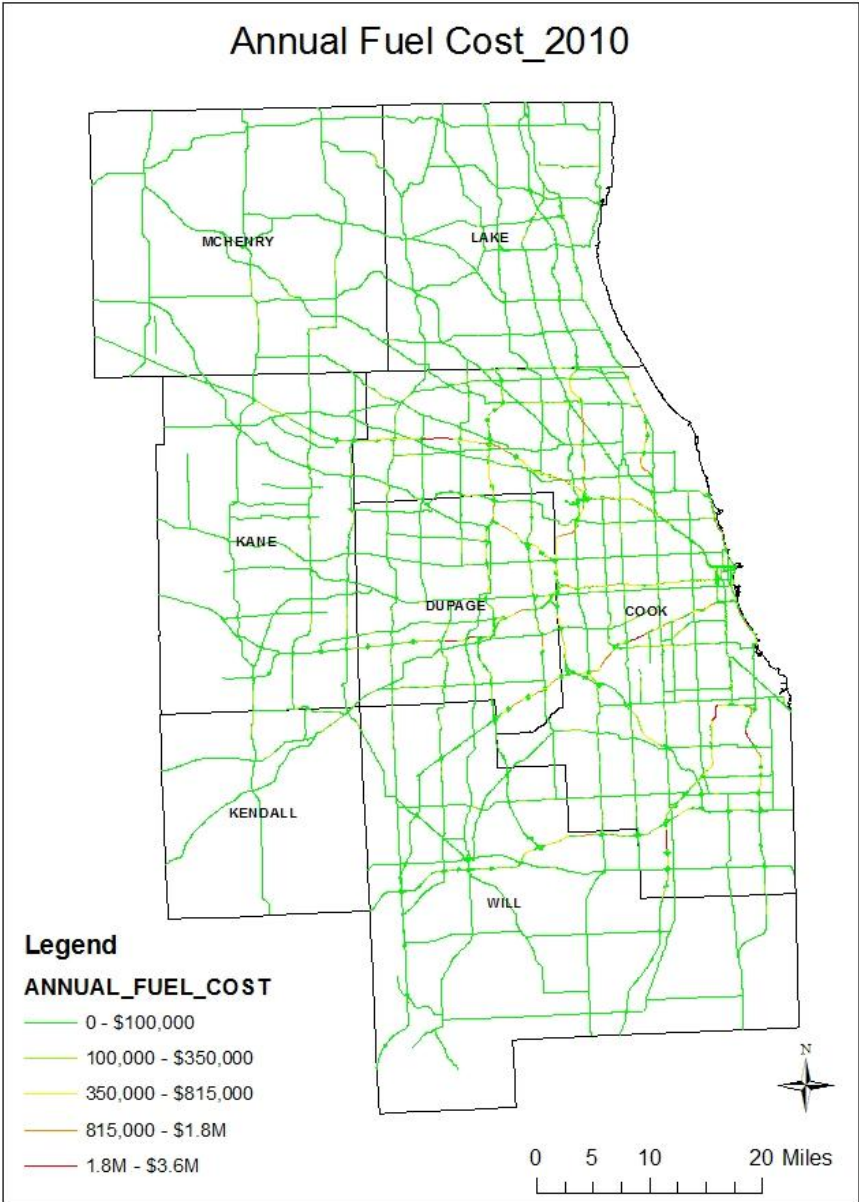
$$\text{Annual Persons - Hours Of Delay} = \text{Daily Vehicle-Hours of Incident and Recurring Delay on Freeways and Arterial Streets} * 250 \text{ Working Days per Year} * \text{Vehicle Occupancy}$$



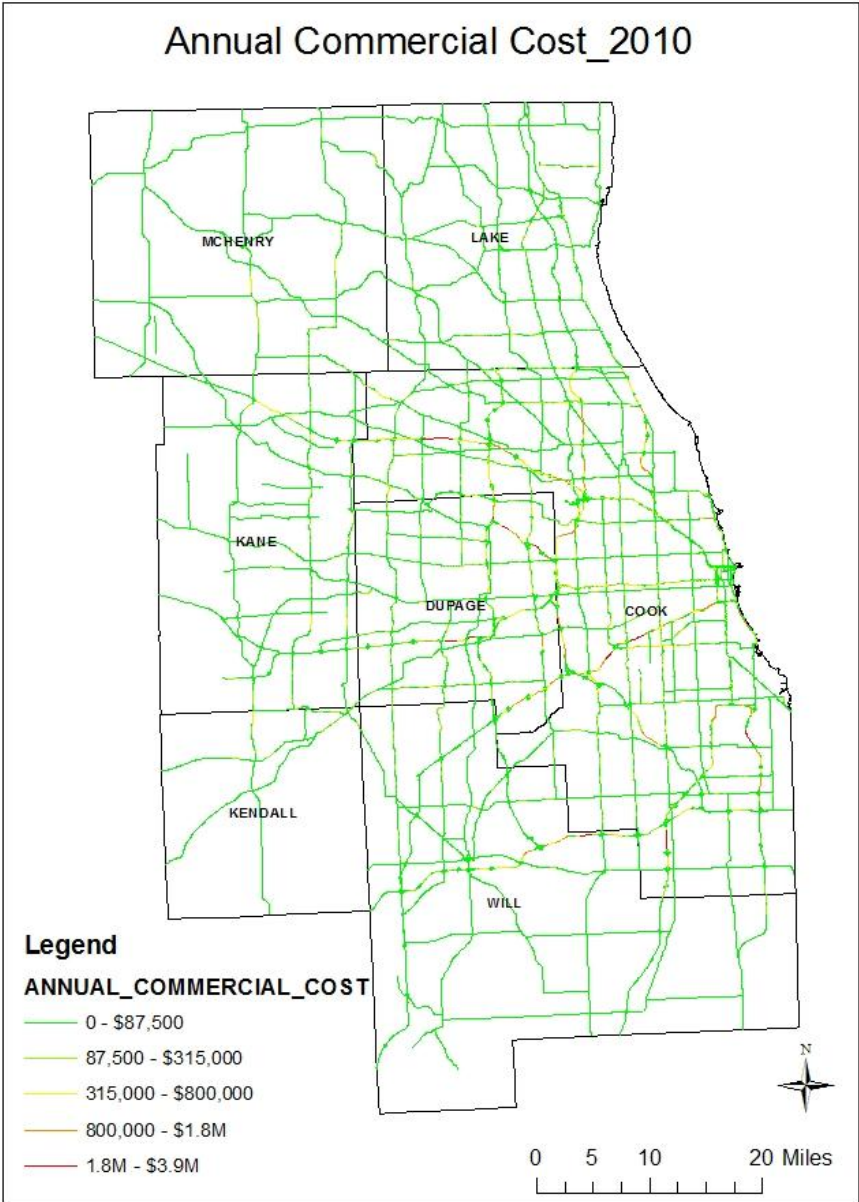
$$\text{Travel Time Index} = \frac{\text{Peak Travel Time}}{\text{Free-Flow Travel Time}}$$

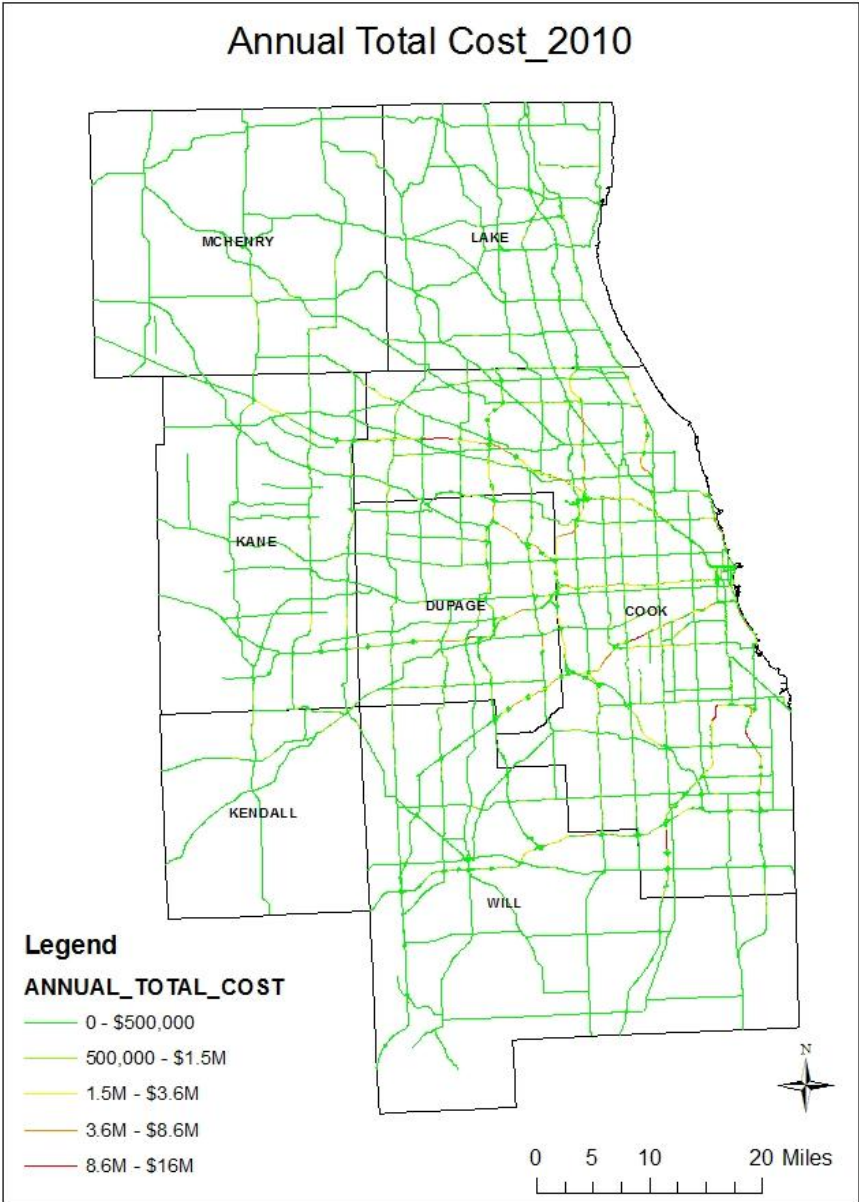






Annual Fuel Cost = [Average Speed in Peak Period / Fuel Economy] \* Daily Vehicle-Hours of Incident and Recurring Delay on FW and AT \* Yearly Fuel Cost (\$2.94, 2010) \* 250 Working Days per year





Annual Cost Due to Congestion

$$= \text{Annual Passenger Vehicle Delay Cost} + \text{Annual Passenger Fuel Cost} + \text{Annual Commercial Vehicle Cost}$$

# Congestion Measurements Comparison

## TTI Report 2007

MSA	Roadway Congestion Index (RCI)	Congested Travel (% of peak VMT)	Travel Time Index (TTI)	Freeway Speed (mph)	Arterial Street Speed (mph)	Annual Total Cost (Million)
Chicago	1.18	46.4	1.43	41	24.7	\$4,207

Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL, Lake County-Kenosha, IL-WI and Gary, IN

## Disaggregated Model 2010

Cook	1.34	41.39	1.34	48.9	29.2	2,048
DuPage	1.35	41.03	1.31	48.8	27.1	554.4
Kane	1.17	37.75	1.22	51.0	30.9	125.2
Kendall	1.26	41.63	1.30		31.0	30.7
Lake	1.23	40.09	1.25	52.4	29.0	263.6
McHenry	1.16	38.13	1.25	60.0	31.4	75.4
Will	1.02	34.02	1.19	48.9	31.8	133.1
<b>Ave. / Total</b>	<b>1.26</b>	<b>39.83</b>	<b>1.29</b>	<b>49.4</b>	<b>29.7</b>	<b>\$3,231</b>

# Part 3 - Directions for future research

21

- Historical Trend Analysis
  - ▣ IRIS (Illinois Roadway Information System) 2001-2010
  
- GO TO 2040 Regional Mobility Projects
  - ▣ Projected VMT reduction vs. Dollars saved

Presented by: Max Shmaltsuyev  
Email: [mshmalt@gmail.com](mailto:mshmalt@gmail.com)  
Cell: 224-715-4958

Functional Class (Interstate, Freeway and Expressway, Other Principal Arterial)

VMT (Daily Vehicle-miles of Travel)

NOLANES (Number of Lanes)

LANEMILES (Lane-miles)

ADT (Average Daily Traffic per Section of Road)

AVGDFACT (Average Directional Factor per Section of Road)

AVGTFACT (Average Truck Factor per Section of Road)



Data Collect

% Congested Travel

Travel Speed

Travel Time

Travel Delay

Delay-related

Exhibit. A-1&2



Roadway Congestion Index (RCI)

Eq. A-1



Total Freeway (FW) VMT

Total Arterial Street (AT) VMT

Total FW Ln-mi

Total AT Ln-mi

FW VMT

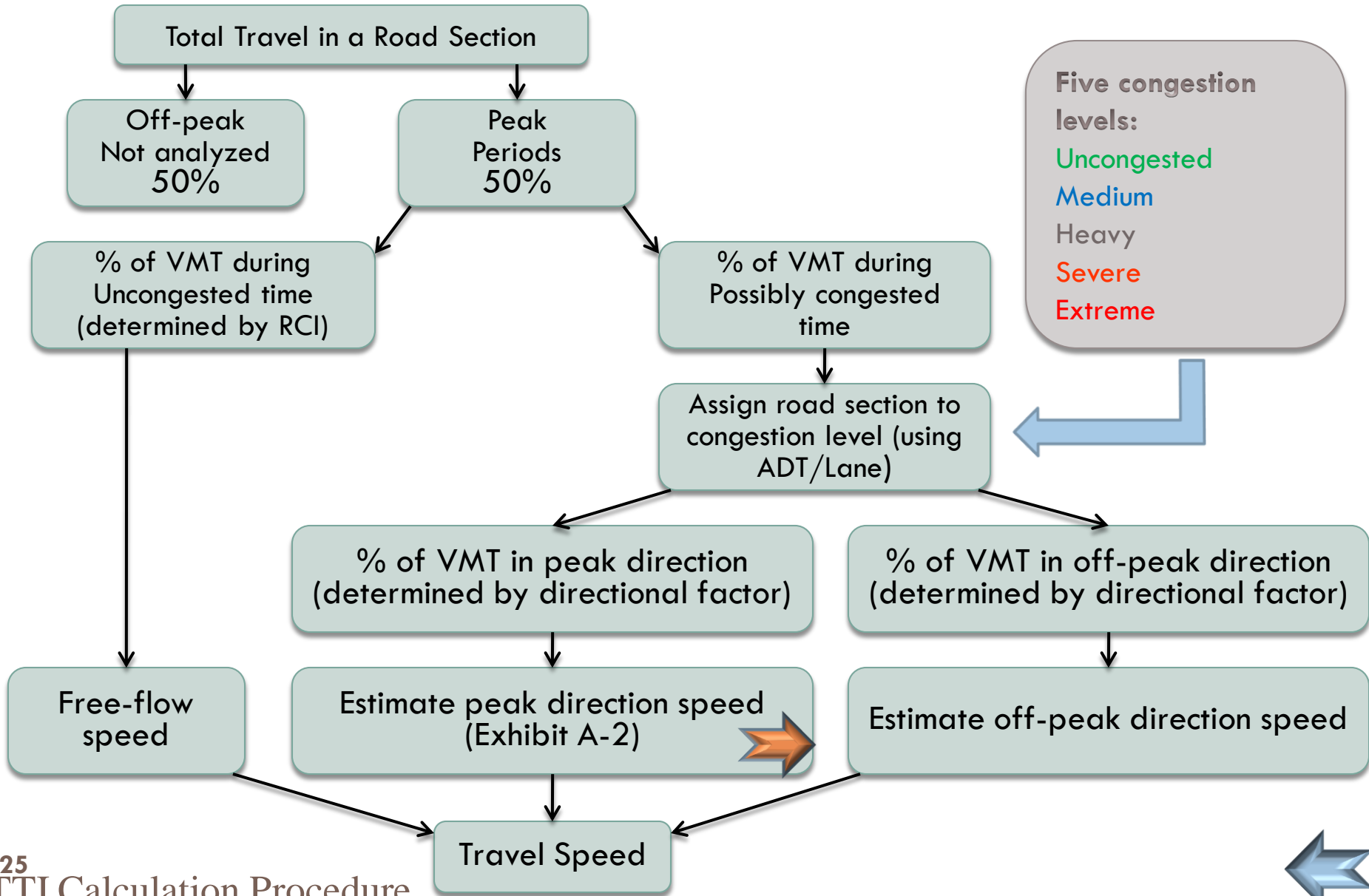
AT VMT

FW Ln-mi

AT Ln-mi







Data Collect

% Congested  
Travel

Travel Speed

Travel Time

Travel Delay

Delay-  
related

20 categories congested Travel Times in road type/congestion level/direction

20 categories congested  
VMTs in road type/congestion  
level/direction

÷

Ave. Speed



Data Collect

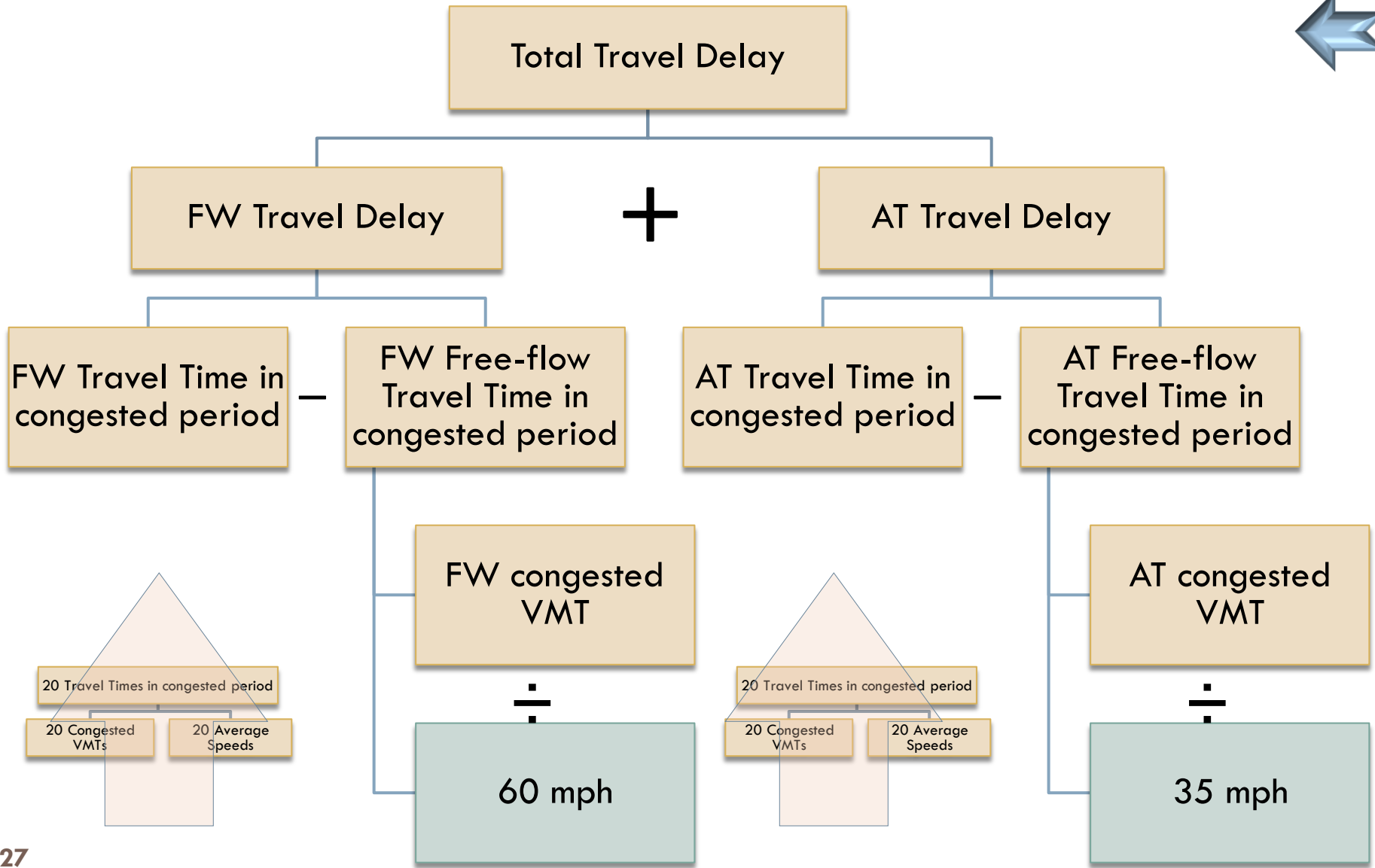
% Congested Travel

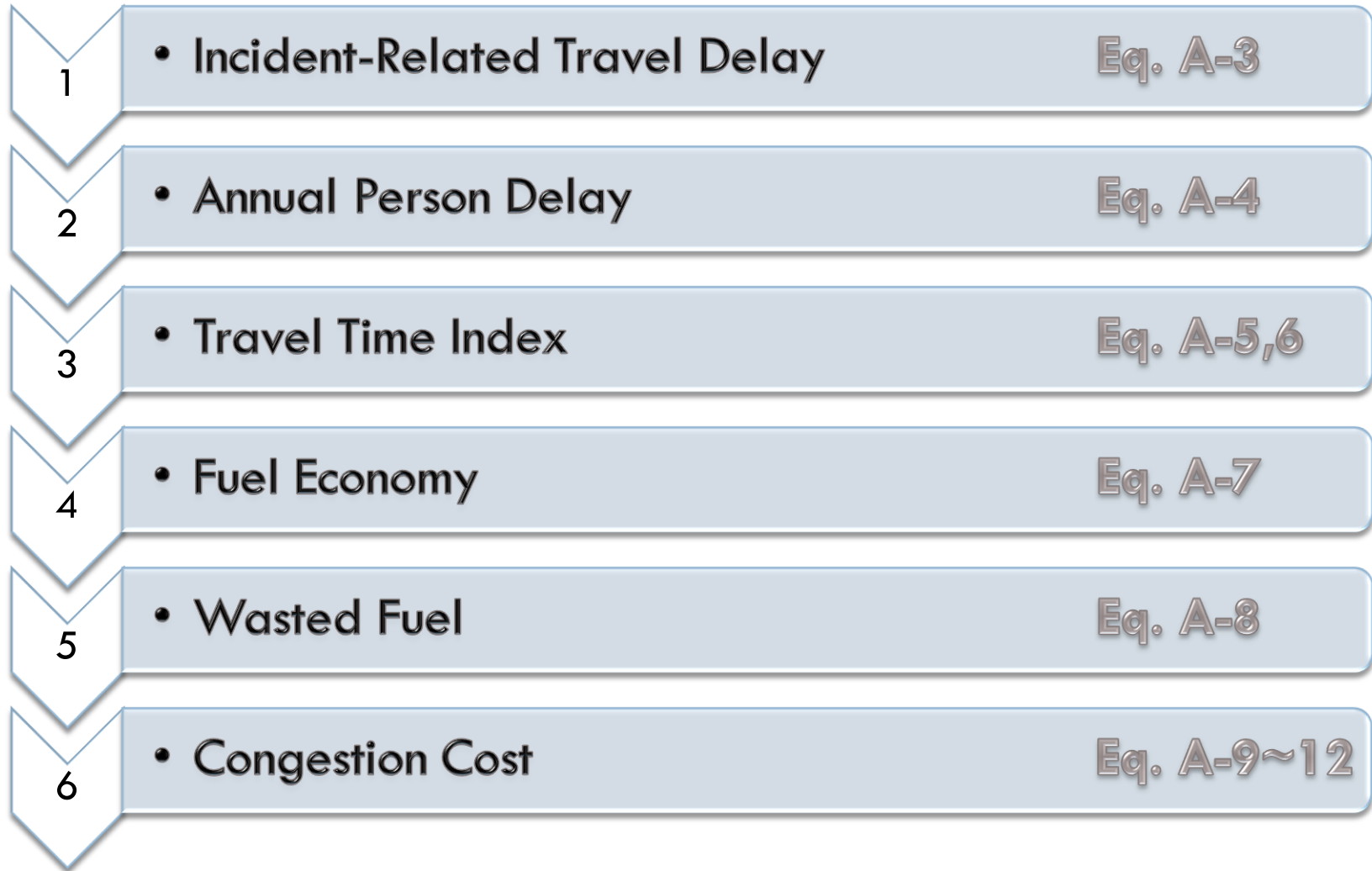
Travel Speed

Travel Time

Travel Delay

Delay-related





(Eq. A-1)

Roadway

$$\text{Congestion} = \frac{\text{Freeway VMT per Ln.Mi.} * \text{Freeway VMT} + \text{Prin Art Str VMT per Ln.Mi.} * \text{Prin Art Str VMT}}{14,000 * \text{Freeway VMT} + 5,000 * \text{Prin Art Str VMT}}$$

Index



### Exhibit A-2. Percent of Daily Travel in Congested Conditions

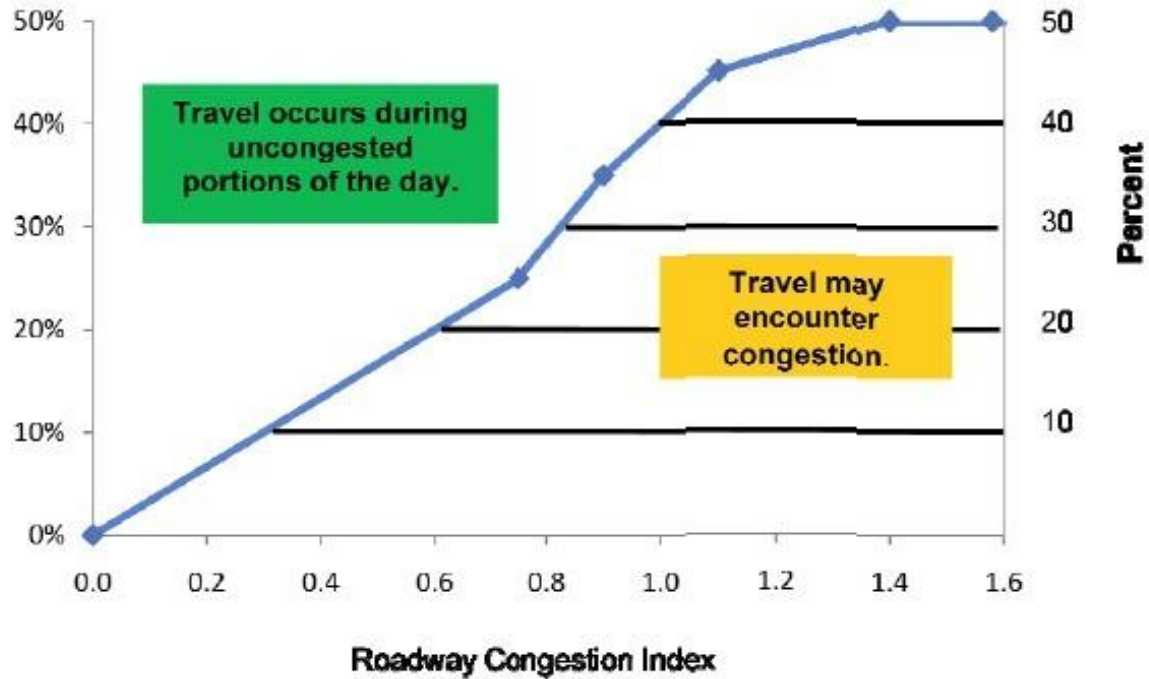


Exhibit A-1. Percent of Daily Travel in Congested Conditions

Roadway Congestion Index	PDTCC Estimation Equation
$0 < RCI < 0.75$	$0.333 \times RCI$
$0.75 \leq RCI < 0.9$	$0.667 \times RCI - 0.25$
$0.9 \leq RCI < 1.1$	$0.5 \times RCI - 0.1$
$1.1 \leq RCI < 1.4$	$0.167 \times RCI + 0.267$
$1.4 \leq RCI < 1.6$	0.5





Exhibit A-4. 2009 Urban Mobility Report – Freeway Speed Estimates

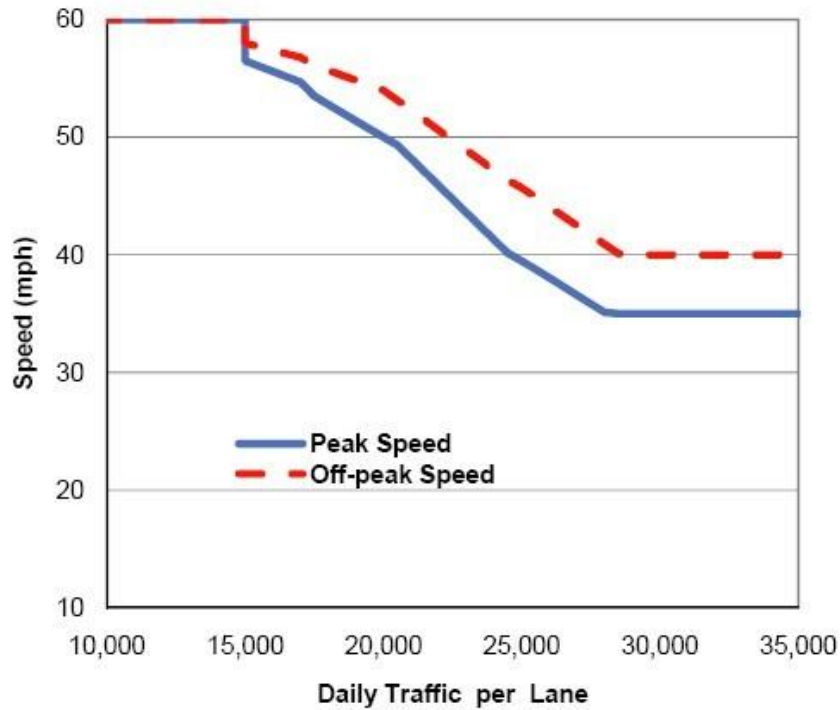
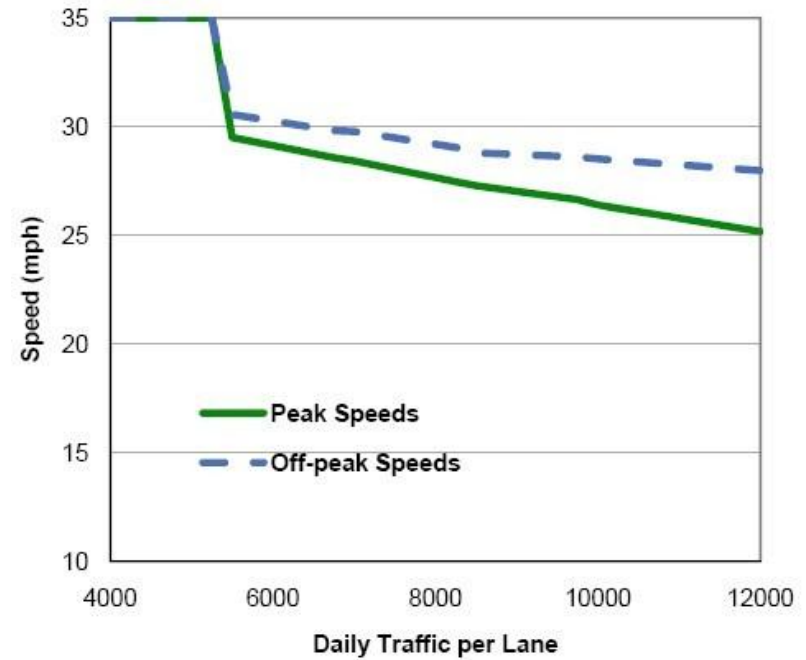


Exhibit A-5. 2009 Urban Mobility Report – Arterial Speed Estimates



**Exhibit A-2. Daily Traffic Volume per Lane and Speed Estimating Used in Delay Calculation**

Facility and Congestion Level	Daily Traffic Volume per Lane	Speed Estimate Equation <sup>1</sup>	
		Peak Direction	Off-Peak Direction
<b>Freeway</b>			
Uncongested	Under 15,000	60	60
Medium	15,001 - 17,500	70-(0.9* ADT/Lane)	67-(0.6* ADT/Lane)
Heavy	17,501 - 20,000	78-(1.4* ADT/Lane)	71-(0.85* ADT/Lane)
Severe	20,001 - 25,000	96-(2.3* ADT/Lane)	88-(1.7* ADT/Lane)
Extreme	Over 25,000	76-(1.46* ADT/Lane)	85.7-(1.6*ADT/Lane)
		Lowest speed is 35 mph	Lowest Speed is 40 mph
<b>Arterial Street</b>			
Uncongested	Under 5,500	35	35
Medium	5,501 - 7,000	33.58-(0.74* ADT/Lane)	33.82-(0.59* ADT/Lane)
Heavy	7,001 - 8,500	33.80-(0.77* ADT/Lane)	33.90-(0.59* ADT/Lane)
Severe	8,501 - 10,000	31.65-(0.51* ADT/Lane)	30.10-(0.15* ADT/Lane)
Extreme	Over 10,000	32.57-(0.62* ADT/Lane)	31.23-(0.27*ADT/Lane)
		Lowest speed is 20 mph	Lowest Speed is 27 mph
Note: <sup>1</sup> ADT/Lane in thousands			

