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Analysis of Travel-Time Reliability for Freight Corridors Connecting the Pacific Northwest

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ANALYSIS OF TRAVEL-TIME RELIABILITY FOR FREIGHT CORRIDORS CONNECTING THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Final Report

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by

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16. Abstract			
<p>A new methodology and algorithms were developed to combine diverse data sources and to estimate the impacts of recurrent and non-recurrent congestion on freight movements' reliability and delays, costs, and emissions. The results suggest that traditional traffic sensor data tend to underestimate the impacts of congestion on commercial vehicles travel times and variability. This research also shows that congestion is not only detrimental for carriers and shippers costs but also for the planet due to major increases in GHG emissions and for the local community due to large increases in NOx, PM, and other harmful pollutants.</p> <p>The methodologies developed throughout this work have the potential to provide useful freight operation and performance data for transportation decision makers to incorporate freight performance measures into the planning process. The development of such tools as those presented here, are an integral step in the processing of disaggregate truck data to gather information necessary for producing performance measures for the freight vehicles. This first part of this report focuses on performance measures on the Portland metropolitan region and the second part on longer freeway segments for the more than 300 miles of Interstate Highway 5 in Oregon.</p> <p>In the Portland Metropolitan Area, this research focused on the development of multi-criteria tools for measuring and analyzing the impacts of recurring and non-recurring congestion on freight corridors. Unlike previous studies, this work employs several distinct data sources to analyze the impacts of congestion on Interstate 5 (I-5) in the Portland Metropolitan Area: global positioning system (GPS) data from commercial trucks and Oregon DOT corridor travel-time loop data and incident data.</p> <p>In addition to studying a pre-defined urban corridor, this research was expanded to investigate longer corridors, using programming logic and available GPS data from commercial trucks to segment the roadway into manageable, coherent study areas. Long freight corridors are comprised of segments with potentially different reliability characteristics. This research has developed a programming logic that uses available truck GPS data to: (a) identify corridor natural segments or regions (urban centers, interstate junctions, rural areas), and (b) estimate corridor wide impacts of travel time unreliability. The case study presented within this report investigates the Interstate 5 (I-5) corridor in Oregon. After identifying corridor segments, this research applies statistical techniques to compute vehicle travel time and reliability for freight movements within each segment. The proposed methodology has been successful in identifying distinct segments and characteristics of travel time reliability in freight corridors. This travel time information was then used to compute cost impacts within rural and urban areas along the I-5 corridor.</p>			
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Initial research efforts focus on the development of multicriteria tools for measuring and analyzing the impacts of recurring and non-recurring congestion on freight corridors in the Portland metropolitan area. Unlike previous studies, this work employs several distinct data sources to analyze the impacts of congestion on Interstate 5 (I-5) in the Portland metropolitan area: global positioning system (GPS) data from commercial trucks and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) corridor travel-time loop data and incident data.

A new methodology and algorithms are developed to combine these data sources and to estimate the impacts of recurrent and non-recurrent congestion on freight movements' reliability and delays, costs and emissions. The results suggest that traditional traffic sensor data tend to underestimate the impacts of congestion on commercial vehicle travel times and variability. This research also shows that congestion is not only detrimental for carriers' and shippers' costs, but also for the planet due to major increases in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and for the local community due to large increases in NO_x, PM, and other harmful pollutants.

In addition to studying a pre-defined urban corridor, this research was expanded to investigate longer corridors, using programming logic and available GPS data from commercial trucks to segment the roadway into manageable, coherent study areas. Long freight corridors are comprised of segments with potentially different reliability characteristics. This research has developed a programming logic that uses available truck GPS data to: (a) identify corridor natural segments or regions (urban centers, interstate junctions, rural areas), and (b) estimate corridor-wide impacts of travel-time unreliability. The case study presented here investigates the I-5 corridor in Oregon.

After identifying corridor segments, this research applies statistical techniques to compute vehicle travel time and reliability for freight movements within each segment. The proposed methodology has been successful in indentifying distinct segments and characteristics of travel-time reliability in freight corridors. This travel-time information was used to compute cost impacts within rural and urban areas along the I-5 corridor.

The methodologies developed throughout this work have the potential to provide useful freight operation and performance data for transportation decision makers to incorporate freight performance measures into the planning process. The development of such tools as those presented here are an integral step in the processing of disaggregate truck data to gather information necessary for producing performance measures for the freight vehicles.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Due to its geographic location, Oregon's economy is highly dependent on reliable freight transportation. Recent studies indicate that projected growth in freight and passenger traffic will significantly increase congestion and travel-time delays. Further, it is predicted that congestion may result in a loss of value-added generation of as much as \$1.7 billion per year by 2025 in Oregon, and a "loss of 16,000 ongoing jobs" (1, 2). For the freight industry, delay and congestion not only negatively impact the businesses that rely on efficient and timely deliveries, but also increase emission levels and the cost of transporting goods. In order to improve the functionality of transportation networks and make efficient use of funds, it is crucial that public agencies develop the proper tools to assess transportation system performance.

Performance measures allow planners and engineers to monitor and evaluate the operation of a facility, transportation system or particular project. Performance measures include travel time, speed, travel-time reliability and others derived from these basic measures. Early on in the adoption of performance-based metrics, passenger vehicles were the main focus, while freight traffic was not incorporated independently (3). Therefore, freight-specific performance measures (FPMs) are not in wide use by public agencies. It is becoming increasingly important to continue to develop a system of performance measures that will capture the impact of congestion on different modes, the environment, and people living near a transportation network.

Recently, a body of research has emerged which employs new methods for collecting and analyzing data from the trucking industry and commercial vehicles in order to develop freight performance measures. This research is showing great promise for providing consideration of freight transportation within transportation improvement projects.

Distinct from other studies, this work employs GPS data from commercial trucks, corridor travel-time loop data (from ODOT sensors), and incident data to study travel time on I-5 in the Portland metropolitan area. Integrating the loop sensor data with the truck GPS data in the filtering algorithm allows for validation between the two data sets, and improves the filtering process to identify trucks that have experienced congested freeway conditions. By classifying truck types, trucks that have diverted from the freeway network to the local network between GPS readings are eliminated from the analysis. Unlike the loop sensor data, which may underestimate the impacts of congestion on trucks, the GPS data more accurately portray the roadway conditions trucks experience.

A methodology has been developed to combine these data sources and estimate the impacts of recurrent and non-recurrent congestion on freight movement speed, travel time and travel-time reliability. This study seeks to distinguish trucks moving along a freeway network from those making local movements (such as for rests or refueling) in order to study freight performance with unbiased measures—these trucks traveling the corridor without stopping are referred to as through trucks. This work is the first to integrate the multiple data sets into filtering algorithms, and the first to identify through trucks within the freeway network from GPS data in order to remove bias from trucks traveling at lower speeds on the local network, or higher speeds on nearby frontage roads.

The freight performance measures are then monetized and used to estimate emissions through an urban corridor using standard methods—this research is a pioneer in using FPMs from

through trucks to investigate the impact of congestion on freight cost and freight vehicle emissions through urban areas. The methodology developed and applied in this research provides multiple criteria for evaluating the performance of freight vehicles and accounts for the impact of congestion on freight industry profit, environmental quality and the health of people near transportation facilities. The analysis of the commercial truck GPS data is a significant step not only in understanding the behavior of freight travel throughout the day, but also the impact caused by recurring congestion and incidents along the corridor on freight performance.

The objective of this research is to study the impact of both recurring and non-recurring congestion on the freight industry using multiple criteria to evaluate freight performance. In order to evaluate performance, this research: (1) reviews current research and methodologies to study freight performance, cost and emissions to identify research gaps and appropriate techniques; (2) develops and applies a methodology to identify through trucks from GPS readings, and uses through truck data to generate travel-time distributions over time; (3) compares findings to loop sensor data to observe trends and develop mobility performance measures; (4) applies standard methods to quantify performance measures in terms of freight industry costs; and (5) employs the MOVES2010 emission model to estimate freight vehicle emissions during congested periods.

This research will focus the recurring congestion study on truck data collected over a one-year period in 2007; the analysis will cover the northbound I-5 corridor surrounding the Portland metropolitan area. The non-recurring congestion study will focus on five incident periods and investigate five-mile segments surrounding each incident. Cost and emission estimations will be quantified at the corridor level, and for one-hour periods when incidents occurred.

In addition to studying the pre-defined urban corridor described above, this research was expanded to investigate longer corridors, using programming logic and available GPS data from commercial trucks to segment the roadway into manageable, coherent study areas. Long freight corridors are comprised of segments with potentially different reliability characteristics. This research has developed a programming logic that uses available truck GPS data to: (1) identify corridor natural segments or regions (urban centers, interstate junctions, rural areas), and (2) estimate corridor-wide impacts of travel-time unreliability. The case study presented here investigates the I-5 corridor in Oregon.

After identifying corridor segments, statistical techniques are applied to compute vehicle travel time and reliability for freight movements within each segment. The proposed methodology has been successful in identifying distinct segments and characteristics of travel-time reliability in freight corridors. This travel-time information was used to compute cost impacts within rural and urban areas along the I-5 corridor.

This report is organized as follows. Section 2 provides a review of performance measures in general, methods for monetizing these measures, and guidance for quantifying and monitoring the impact of congestion on the environment and public health. Section 3 discusses the data sources used in this research. Section 4 discusses the procedure to identify through trucks (trucks that have traveled a corridor without stopping for deliveries, rest periods or to refuel the vehicle). Section 5 discusses the recurring congestion case study used in this research. The results from the case study are discussed in terms of mobility and congestion performance measures, freight industry cost, and freight vehicle emissions. A summary of the results from the recurring congestion analysis is provided at the end of Section 5. Section 6 discusses the non-recurring congestion case study used in this research. The results from the case study are

discussed in terms of mobility and congestion performance measures, freight industry cost, and freight vehicle emissions. A summary of the results from the non-recurring congestion analysis is provided at the end of Section 6. Section 7 discusses methods used to investigate and segment long corridors. This section applies statistical techniques to compute vehicle travel time and reliability for freight movements within each segment. Section 8 provides a summary of conclusions and recommendations from this research. Here, the research findings are summarized and related to planning and engineering practices, as well as applications for use by carriers and truckers in the freight industry.

2.0 BACKGROUND

This section provides a review of performance measures in general, and the development of freight performance measures specifically related to the trucking industry. Here, the reader will find a description of data sources and methods used to determine congestion and mobility performance measures for freight vehicles, methods for monetizing these measures, and guidance for quantifying and monitoring the impact of congestion on the environment and public health.

2.1 DEVELOPING CONGESTION AND MOBILITY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Performance can be defined as how well a system or project is meeting an intended goal or purpose (4, 5). Performance measures are an essential element of the planning process; they are quantifiable and help to inform and justify decisions made by government officials. Additionally, performance measures make it possible to prioritize system improvements so a region may target areas most in need of improvement, thereby making efficient use of funds. As new performance measures are developed, it is also expected that they are efficient (in terms of the data and analysis required), and easy to understand because they are used in communication with the public (4, 5). In this way, performance measures increase accessibility and understanding of transportation issues within the public body of knowledge, as well as increase accountability of the decision makers.

Transportation asset-management performance measures fall under a broad range of categories, including (5): preservation, accessibility, mobility, operations and maintenance, safety, environmental impacts, economic development, social impacts, security and project delivery. Because of the nature of the freight industry, performance measures falling under the mobility category provide the key to understanding how freight movements may be impacted by the current and future transportation network. *Mobility* can be defined as how easily a vehicle can travel between its origin and destination (5). Inadequate system performance in mobility creates challenges for the freight industry, including increased difficulty in scheduling departure/arrival times, additional fees for late arrivals, and potential loss of time-sensitive goods such as food.

Travel time—the time it takes a driver to travel between an origin and destination—is the most basic measure of roadway performance. Travel-time information is easy to interpret and is desired by the general traveling public, as well as freight carriers. Travel-time data are most often collected using loop sensors embedded in the roadway. The network of loop sensors allows agencies to study corridor travel time under both recurring and non-recurring congestion conditions. *Recurring congestion* conditions can be defined as congestion present day to day, resulting from fluctuations in demand or roadway geometry. *Non-recurring congestion* conditions are associated with unexpected events that impact traffic flow, such as a collision, stalled vehicle, weather event or construction. While critical information can be gleaned from travel-time data, the infrastructure installation and collection effort required to gather and analyze the information is costly. This limits how extensive the coverage can be. For some states, the cost is too great to implement a system of loop sensors to collect travel-time data (6). As such, it is important to use readily available data sets with wider coverage area to further the development of performance measures.

There are several performance measures that can be calculated from travel time, with a bit of supplemental data and information about the corridor in question. In comparison to uncongested free-flow travel time conditions, *delay* is defined as the amount of additional time required to travel a corridor during congested conditions. Delay can be calculated in terms of intensity, (e.g., person-minutes/day or vehicle-minutes/day of delay), or represented in terms of the extent of roadway (e.g., number of miles of congested roadway or vehicle-miles under congested conditions).

Reliability of a system is defined as the variability in travel time, or delay (6). Report 618 from the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) recommends the use of 90th and 95th percentile travel times for a given route or trip as the simplest indicator of travel-time reliability. This measure allows users to understand how bad delay or travel time may be during heavy congestion (6). Other recommended measures of reliability include the Buffer Index (BI) and the Planning Time Index, which calculate an allotted trip time for drivers to account for variation caused by congestion.

Finally, *speed* is often used as a measure of performance, calculated from the travel time and distance of a given corridor or trip. State DOT's with freeway and arterial loop sensor networks will typically use speeds to graphically display the real-time performance of the roadway. The use of segment speed and visual displays via a DOT webpage help to convey general roadway conditions effectively.

Roadway loop sensors, weigh-in-motion (WIM) data, and GPS data can be used to obtain travel-time and speed information for freight trucks. However, with each data source there are advantages and challenges in using the data for the purpose of deriving freight performance measures for congestion and mobility (such as travel time, speed, and travel-time reliability).

2.1.1 Loop Sensors

The use of archived loop sensor data has shown success in estimating freeway performance (e.g., travel time, speed and vehicle count) can be used to study recurring and non-recurring congestion, and help to identify and study bottlenecks within regions (7, 8). However, loop sensors are limited in their ability to capture different vehicle types traveling along the freeway to provide disaggregate data by mode.

Research at the University of Washington has studied the reliability of loop detectors in providing accurate count and speed results by vehicle type, and the capability of loop detectors to differentiate between vehicles by incorporating video footage (9, 10). The findings show that there is promise in integrating single loop detectors with video footage to differentiate between general purpose vehicles and freight vehicles with reasonable accuracy in count and speed estimates. However, dual loop detectors were found to be less reliable and could not reasonably estimate between vehicle types during congestion (9). Sensitivity and hardware errors occurring when dual loop sensors are used to detect vehicle types are likely to result in discrepancies in count by lane, vehicle speeds, and proper differentiation of mode. Additionally, underlying logic within the algorithm and large fluctuations/variability in speed during congested periods may cause additional issues (9).

2.1.2 Weigh-In-Motion (WIM) and Truck Transponder Data

At WIM stations located along the interstate highways, freight vehicles equipped with electronic truck transponders are required to pass through the checkpoint, where vehicle

weight, timestamp of visit, and other credentials are recorded. The driver is given an in-vehicle green light to continue, or a red light to pull off for further inspection. In the U.S., three main programs exist that utilize electronic transponders: (1) the Heavy Vehicle Electronic License Plate (HELP) program, (2) the North American Pre-clearance and Safety System (NORPASS) program, and (3) the Oregon Green Light program.

Recently, researchers have investigated the use of truck transponder data as a source for truck travel-time information, which could then be used to develop freight performance measures. If a transponder-equipped vehicle can be tracked at two sequential stations, the timestamp at each can be used to generate information regarding the trip, which translates into freeway link performance (travel time, speed, reliability). However, there are challenges in working with truck transponder data. First, there are generally long distances between WIM stations and few locations, so a freight vehicle has the opportunity to stop, rest, re-fuel or make deliveries before it is tracked at the next station. Algorithms must be incorporated to filter out trucks that have not traveled through the corridor without stopping because their travel-time information would present a bias in the data (slower travel time due to stopping/resting or delivery). Secondly, the number of trucks equipped with transponders is relatively low, and a large sample size must be required to accurately estimate link travel time based on the truck data (11).

Initial work at the University of Washington investigated the use of truck transponder data in providing link travel-time information (12). Following this work, the researchers found that both GPS and truck transponder technologies have the potential to estimate link travel times; however, a large number of vehicle observations are required and must incorporate methods for determining which trucks have stopped for deliveries, resting or refueling (13).

Recent work at Portland State University (PSU), under the sponsorship of the U.S. DOT University Transportation Centers Program, investigated the use of transponder-equipped trucks to make travel-time estimations between weigh stations in rural Oregon (11). Similar to previous research, this work incorporated algorithms to identify trucks deviating from the freeway between WIM stations by matching unique truck IDs between stations, and using time thresholds and comparisons between trucks to identify those traveling through the corridor without stopping. This research was successful in developing an effective algorithm to identify through trucks, and deriving additional measures of performance by quantifying overweight vehicles, ton-miles on corridors, empty vehicles, the penetration of trucks with truck transponders, origin-destination estimations, and seasonal variability in various measures as well as travel-time estimations (11).

The studies discussed above have been successful in incorporating techniques and algorithms to mine truck transponder data to identify trucks that have traveled the freeway without stopping.

2.1.3 Commercial Global Positioning System (GPS) Data

At the national level, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in partnership with the American Trucking Research Institute (ATRI) have looked at methodologies to utilize GPS technology to determine travel-time reliability in freight corridors (14) and to identify freight bottlenecks (15). Most recently, FHWA and ATRI released an online freight-performance measure tool, FPMweb, giving users access to aggregated operational truck-speed information using GPS data from several hundred thousand unique trucks (16). Limitations associated with the approach of the earlier work (14) were carefully examined by Schofield and Harrison

(3). The main problems they observed were: (a) the accuracy of the GPS coordinates, which in some cases may have an error of up to a quarter of a mile and (b) the low number of observations in areas with low traffic volume. In addition, a more severe limitation is that the data do not differentiate between vehicle stops due to congestion and stops due to refueling or mandatory driver rest periods. This presents a bias in the data set, where slow speeds may be representing local trips rather than congestion on the network.

Researchers at the University of Washington acquired GPS data from many vehicles (commercial trucks) having infrequent readings and used these to estimate link travel time, develop freight performance measures and study before-and-after conditions where roadway improvements were made (13, 17). The research team used spot speeds (the speed between two subsequent readings) to estimate measures of mobility. Although a significant amount of data cleaning was employed to remove erroneous data, the data were not filtered to identify truck type behaviors (e.g., identifying trucks that have not stopped along the corridor). The research indicated that spot speeds are best used for large quantities of data over longer periods of time (17). However, the team was successful in showing the benefit of a freeway improvement project by studying GPS data on a small scale before, after and during construction.

2.2 MONETARY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Projects may be ranked by system performance, but performance measures may also be monetized and ranked in order to show the benefit and impact of a proposed project. Without accurate information regarding the operating costs or value of time for the freight industry, it is possible to underestimate the benefit of a given project or overestimate the benefit of financing strategies like congestion pricing (18). In this section, data sources and methods used to monetize performance measures are discussed.

2.2.1 Variations in Value of Time for Freight Vehicles

Research has shown great variation in freight value of time across regions, roadway conditions and carrier types. The value of time for freight vehicles derived in several studies is presented in Figure 1.

The NCHRP 431 report investigated variations in value of time for passenger vehicles and commercial trucks under hypothetical congested roadway scenarios. For both freight and passenger vehicles, time losses during congestion were valued at more than twice the value of time savings during uncongested conditions. This report recommends the use of travel-time values for congested periods that are 2.5 times the value of time estimates during uncongested periods (19).

As shown in Figure 1, the value of time for freight vehicle derived in the NCHRP 431 report is quite large in comparison to values of time derived in other studies. Although the researchers note a small number of respondents from the freight industry, and concerns of respondent comprehension of surveys as potential sources of discrepancy, it is also acknowledged that the need for carriers to adhere to strict schedules contributes to greater value of time (19). Additionally, the NCHRP 431 freight value of time presented in Figure 1 reflects value of time under congested conditions, which NCHRP 431 determined to be roughly 2.5 times greater than value of time during uncongested conditions.

Variations in freight value of time are also found by region. Figure 1 shows that value of time estimates can vary over a wide range, based on research conducted by Minnesota, ODOT and a national urban area average provided by Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) (20-22).

Kawamura (2000) investigated differences in value of time among operators and trucking industry segments. Findings from Kawamura show that not only do freight carriers have a higher value of time than passenger vehicles, but that there is also significant heterogeneity among carriers (23).

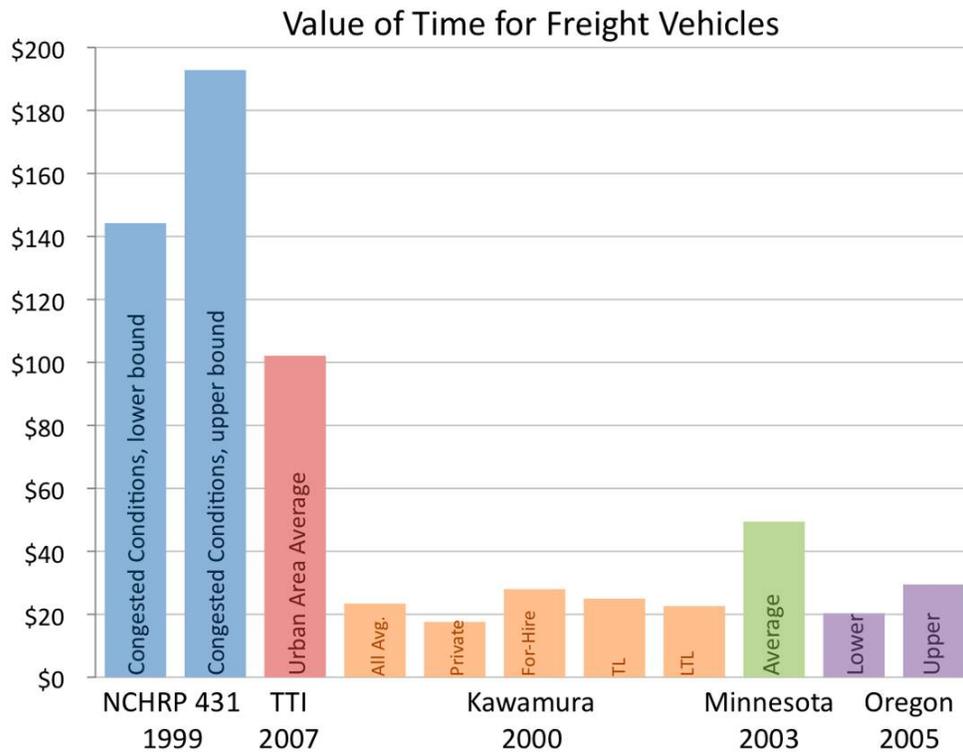


Figure 1: Value of time for freight vehicles (\$/hr) derived from several studies.

2.2.2 Monetizing Travel Time and Delay Using Value of Time

Utilizing the value of time derived from (23), it is possible to monetize measures of travel time and delay. TTI publishes the Urban Mobility Report, which evaluates procedures, processes and data used for developing estimations of the cost of congestion (22). The following expression (Eq. 1) is the TTI formula to determine the annual cost of congestion for freight vehicles (22).

$$\text{Annual Commercial Vehicle Cost} = \text{Daily Vehicle-Hours of Delay} \times \text{Commercial Vehicles \%} \times \text{Commercial Vehicle Time Value (\$/hr)} \times 250 \text{ Working Days Per Year} \quad \text{Eq. 1}$$

2.2.3 Incorporating Travel-Time Reliability in Travel-Cost Calculations

In addition to travel time and delay, travel-time reliability (or variability) can be incorporated into travel-cost calculations. Reliability of travel time is particularly important to time-sensitive shippers and time-definite delivery carriers. One of the simplest approaches to quantifying traveler cost takes the following form shown in Eq. 2 (24):

$$U_c = a_1 * T + a_2 * V(T) + a_3 * M \quad \text{Eq. 2}$$

where:

U_c = the traveler cost,

T = trip travel time,

$V(T)$ = trip travel-time variability,

M = cost of traveling, and

a_1 , a_2 and a_3 are parameters representing the dislike of travel time, variability and travel cost, respectively.

For the variability term, Cohen uses a low- and high-end range for a_2 of 0.3 and 1.3; parameters a_1 and a_3 were estimated to be 1 (24). Research has found that, by improving reliability (reducing variability) during congested peak periods, there is great potential to significantly reduce the cost of travel during congestion.

2.2.4 Monetizing Travel Time and Delay Using Operational Cost

Although the value of time has been widely incorporated into cost-benefit analysis, by examining marginal operating costs we can gain insight into decisions made by carriers and how the freight industry is impacted by the performance of the transportation system.

Studying aggregate marginal costs in the freight industry is a challenge because of the complexity in shipping processes between carriers, variation in fleet size, and differences in carrier types—data is difficult to obtain and often varying ranges of marginal costs are considered (18). Recent work by ATRI derived marginal operation costs for various carrier types by using survey methods. ATRI defined marginal costs as “those costs associated with operating a truck one mile or one hour in standard operating conditions” (18). Figure 2 presents a list of operating costs considered by ATRI, classified into driver and vehicle categories.



Figure 2: Operating costs involved in the trucking industry.

Marginal costs are used to analyze costs resulting from transportation-related issues, since these are the costs that are impacted most by the roadway conditions—congestion will generally have a greater impact on marginal costs than fixed costs. For example, as congestion increases, freight vehicles spend more time on the road, thereby consuming more fuel. Carriers will adjust shipping schedules and vehicle routing as a response to congestion to reduce the cost of fuel as much as possible. Additionally, fixed costs are less consistent across carrier types compared to marginal costs, decrease as the vehicle-miles traveled increases, and are often allocated differently between carriers, making it more difficult to aggregate information. Therefore, examining only the marginal costs will provide a better understanding of decisions made by carriers and how the freight industry is impacted by the transportation system conditions in terms of cost.

In a recent study, ATRI found the average marginal operating cost for the freight industry to be \$1.78 per mile and \$83.68 per hour (18). ATRI also found that specialized carrier types had the highest cost per mile, followed by less than truckload¹ and truckload² carrier types. Fuel, driver wages, and truck/trailer leases or purchases were among the top cost items. As revealed in value of time studies, there are major differences among trucking industry sectors. ATRI also applied average cost values to investigate the annual cost impact of a network bottleneck on the trucking industry, using a three-step methodology; this research concluded that the truck congestion costs associated with a bottleneck case study resulted in \$5.7 million annually (25).

2.3 ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH PERFORMANCE MEASURES

It is crucial to be able to accurately estimate emissions due to freight vehicles in transportation planning and engineering in order to address concerns for public health and air quality, and to adhere to current and emerging policies. This section introduces vehicle emissions and factors

¹ Less than truckload (LTL) carriers haul a relatively small amount of freight, and may carry goods of different types in a given load. LTL carriers may visit multiple customers throughout the day to deliver or to pick up goods.

² Truckload (TL) carriers haul large amounts of the same type of goods. All goods carried in one truckload will generally go to one customer.

that influence the amount of emissions produced. The section ends with a discussion of how emissions can be estimated and quantified, and subsequently used as a link to understand the health impacts of transportation.

2.3.1 Importance of Quantifying Freight Emissions

The freight industry is a critical piece of our transportation system and national economy. The U.S. Department of Transportation found an average 58 million tons of freight shipments per day in 2007 (domestic, exports and imports)—60% of which were transported by the trucking industry (26). The Federal Analysis Framework predicts the tons of goods moved by trucking will more than double 2007 values by the year 2035 (26). Assuming the status quo, this expected increase in freight transportation will have a direct impact on air quality over the next 25 years. Freight transportation constitutes 20% of the energy consumed by the transportation sector. For ground transportation (rail and trucks), this means that 35 billion gallons of diesel fuel are consumed each year, equating to 350 million metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) per year (27). Without continuing to make changes in policy, transportation operations and technology, these rates will only become greater over time as the freight industry grows to meet the expanding economy, demands of just-in-time production, and increased usage of online shopping.

2.3.2 Emissions and Air Pollutants

Greenhouse Gases and the Environment: Greenhouse gases (GHG) are those that trap heat in the atmosphere and are largely responsible for changes in the global climate. Non-carbon GHG are methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PCs) and sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆); carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the leading carbon GHG. Of the six main GHGs, the transportation sector contributes mostly to CO₂ emissions and, to a lesser degree, N₂O emissions (28). The remaining GHGs result mainly from agriculture and industrial activities.

Carbon dioxide is the most prevalent GHG. Although N₂O emissions are much less than CO₂ emissions, they are 300 times more powerful at trapping heat in the atmosphere compared to CO₂, so it is important to monitor more than just carbon emissions. Each year, the EPA tracks the nation's GHG inventory, which allows agencies, policymakers and scientists to observe emission trends, monitor progress and develop strategies to reduce GHG emissions in the future (29). There are several initiatives and policies aimed toward reducing CO₂ emissions.

Mobile Source Air Toxics and our Health: In addition to the environmental concerns regarding GHGs, there is national concern over the health risks caused by mobile source air toxics (MSAT). MSAT are compounds emitted from mobile sources that present known or suspected health risks for humans (e.g., cancers, immune system damage or respiratory problems).

The Clean Air Act Amendments established by Congress in 1990 required the EPA to regulate 188 MSAT. Over the past two decades, the EPA has compiled a list of several hundred compounds emitted from mobile sources and identified several compounds as significant contributors to health-related issues (30). FHWA reviewed the EPA's work and agreed upon seven compounds that have the greatest influence on health: acrolein, benzene, 1,3-butadiene, diesel particulate matter plus diesel exhaust organic gases (diesel PM), formaldehyde, naphthalene, and polycyclic organic matter (31).

Criteria Pollutants: The EPA has also identified six “criteria” pollutants, for which the agency has set National Ambient Air Quality standards. These include ozone (O₃), particulate matter (PM), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), lead (Pb), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and carbon monoxide (CO) (32). Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) can be monitored independently from other highly reactive gases in the NO_x group, as it stands as an indicator of the group. For diesel engines (used almost exclusively to power heavy-duty vehicles), very little CO emissions and hydrocarbons are produced; however, significant amounts of NO_x and PM are produced (33).

Nitrous oxides, like NO₂, form quickly from emissions of vehicles, and are linked with many adverse health effects—short-term exposure to NO₂ emissions from 30 minutes to 24 hours has shown increased airway inflammation in healthy persons, and increased respiratory symptoms in people with asthma (34). In addition to the health risks, NO_x contribute to the increase of smog, which in turn reduces visibility. It is expected that recent NO_x standards for passenger vehicles and heavy-duty engines from the 2004 and 2007-2010 model years, respectively, will contribute to decreases in NO₂ concentrations in the future.

Particulate matter (PM) is also closely linked with respiratory health and visibility effects. PM are small bits of liquid or solid material suspended in air (or water). Ground freight transportation (rail and trucking) contributes to 30% of all PM emissions (27), and, as indicated above, diesel PM has been identified as one of the EPA’s seven significant contributors to health risks resulting from MSAT. Fine and ultrafine particles (particle matter with diameter of 2.5 micrometers and smaller, PM_{2.5}) contribute to smog/haze and can be inhaled deep into the lungs, causing health problems.

To date, governmental regulation and vehicle technology improvements have received wide attention in reducing GHG emissions, MSAT and other pollutants by heavy-duty vehicles. Currently, diesel vehicles are being regulated by the EPA to reduce PM and NO_x. As noted in recent work by the University of California Riverside, little attention has been paid to the impact of traffic operations and various roadway conditions on freight emissions (33).

2.3.3 Factors Contributing to Freight Emissions

It is clear that transportation has a significant impact on air quality and, consequently, public health, and is responsible for a large portion of global air pollution. However, it is important to understand what factors contribute to emission of GHG, MSAT and other air pollutants. For example, fuel consumption and CO₂ emissions are directly related, but fuel consumption depends heavily on travel speed, road characteristics and vehicle characteristics (35). This section will present a review of factors contributing to freight emissions.

Speed and Acceleration: Using probe passenger vehicles equipped with GPS, loop sensor data and an emissions model, one study found that when congestion brings average vehicle speed below 45 mph, there is a negative net effect on emissions. Vehicles spend more time on the road and exhibit acceleration and deceleration patterns, which result in increases in CO₂ emissions (36). Additionally, very high speeds (above 65 mph) also result in higher emission levels. The study makes recommendations for “traffic smoothing” and congestion mitigation to maintain steady speeds between 45 to 50 mph and reduce CO₂ emissions (36). The impact of speed on vehicle emission rates is illustrated in Figure 3, taken from Barth and Boriboonsomin; the researchers indicate that moderate speeds produce minimum emissions (37).

Similar results were found for heavy-duty vehicles at different operating modes. Higher emission profiles were shown for vehicles accelerating, with the highest emission rates from accelerations between 0 to 25 mph than from accelerations between 0 to 50 mph (38). Additionally, at steady speeds of 25 mph, emission profiles for hydrocarbons (compounds consisting of hydrogen and carbon) and CO components were greater in comparison to hydrocarbon and CO emissions for higher steady speeds of 50 and 60 mph.

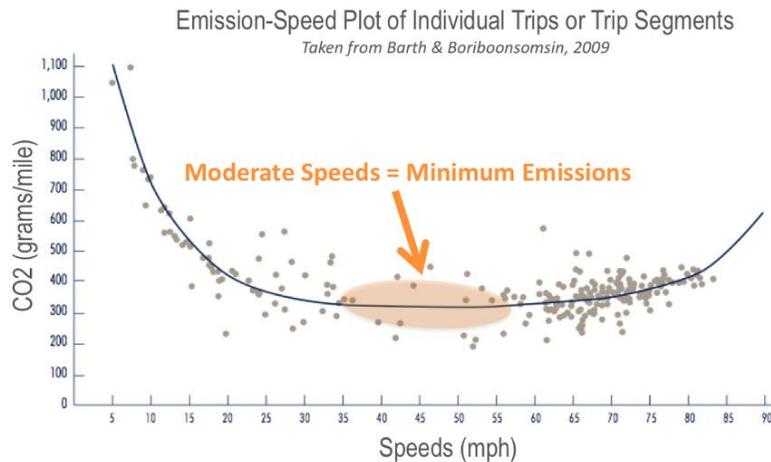


Figure 3: Emission-speed plot taken from Barth & Boriboonsomsin, 2009 (37); moderate speeds show minimum emission rates.

More recent work has investigated heavy-duty vehicles using a state-of-the-art Mobile Emission Laboratory. The study investigated emissions from heavy-duty vehicles on arterial and highway road classes, and found that at moderate speeds, emissions on the arterial road conditions were much higher than emissions at moderate speeds along the highway road conditions. These differences can be explained by more frequent and sharper accelerations on the arterial roadways, and support the argument that it is not enough to use CO₂ emission factors based solely on average speed, but a measure of driving pattern must be incorporated (33). Additionally, tests performed at high speeds (greater than 65 mph) suggest that extrapolating from California Emissions Factor Model (EMFAC) curves for high speeds may underestimate CO₂ emissions from heavy-duty vehicles.

MSAT have also been investigated, but to a lesser degree. Using the modeling tool CT-EMFAC, a recent study investigated MSAT sensitivity to changes in traffic volume, fleet composition and speed. The study concluded that MSAT emissions are more sensitive to speed changes than the other parameters evaluated (39). This study points to a need for further research and specification of factors for MSAT (especially for diesel vehicles) in order to improve project-level MSAT emission estimates.

Vehicle Weight: Researchers have investigated the effect of vehicle weight on freight emissions and, in particular, on the emission of NO_x (38, 40). Gross vehicle weight was found to strongly affect emissions. Using data obtained from the West Virginia University Transportable Heavy Duty Emissions Testing Laboratories, a linear relationship was found between NO_x and heavy-duty diesel vehicle weight (40). Results for CO and PM emissions were not consistently affected by vehicle weight, although CO and PM showed increases in emissions during periods of acceleration (40). Using the 2002 simulation model Advanced Vehicle Simulator, developed by the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory, researchers noted that increases in vehicle weight from 52,000 pounds to

80,000 pounds resulted in approximately a 40% increase in NO_x grams per mile emissions when vehicles accelerate and travel at higher speeds (38). Both studies point to the importance of including a measure of weight within emissions models.

Recent work at the University of California Riverside supports the relationship between vehicle weight and emissions—as vehicle weight increases, quantity of emissions increases. By employing the Comprehensive Modal Emissions Model (CMEM) for a variety of vehicle weights, the researchers concluded that the emissions are lowest at moderate speeds and greatest at moderate average speeds. For a truck with no additional trailer weight, the optimum speed for minimizing emissions was found to be 23 mph, while the optimum speed for a truck hauling 6,400 pounds was found to be 45 mph (33).

Roadway Grade: Though not a freight-specific study, research by Pierson et al. showed that NO_x emissions were twice as high driving uphill at about a 4% grade compared to driving on a level roadway (41). More recent work has investigated freight vehicles specifically (using the CMEM model) and found that a 1% increase in grade can increase heavy-duty vehicle CO₂ emissions as much as 35% for grades between 0-2% (33). Vehicles must travel a longer period of time on an uphill (because of reduced speeds caused by the grade), subsequently consuming more fuel and emitting more CO₂. The reverse is true for a downhill grade. By varying grades, the study also found increased linearity of the relationship between CO₂ emissions and speed with increases in grade. These findings show that the speed corresponding to the minimum CO₂ emissions is greater (faster) for downhill grades in comparison to flat terrain because less tractive effort is required to power a vehicle driving downhill (33).

2.3.4 Modeling Freight Vehicle Emissions

Utilizing freeway performance measures (e.g., speed over time), it is possible to quantify environmental and health performance measures related to tailpipe emissions to provide transportation agencies the tools to link transportation performance to environmental and societal goals. In order to do this, planners and engineers often use a sequential three-step model process where outputs from one step become the input for the next. This process generally consists of the following models: (a) transportation demand-traffic models, (b) emissions rate models, and (c) pollution dispersion models.

There are a variety of models that can be used to estimate tailpipe vehicle emission rates. The MOVES2010 model can be used to estimate national, state, county and project-level emissions for GHG, select MSAT, and criteria pollutants. Among models, there are some variations in the specific vehicle and roadway factors and assumptions. Several studies have investigated the impact of freight vehicle characteristics (e.g., speed, acceleration, weight) and the impact of roadway characteristics (e.g. grade, classification) on emission rates, but the degree to which these characteristics are incorporated into individual models may vary.

CMEM was developed at the University of California Riverside, and is intended for use with microscale transportation simulation models. Microscale transportation simulation models will typically produce detailed, second-by-second trajectory outputs for location, speed and acceleration, which can then be used as input for the CMEM model (42, 33, 36). The CMEM model can account for various vehicle and roadway parameters, including vehicle type, size/weight and grade. Given the necessary inputs, the CMEM model can predict second-by-second vehicle emissions, which are crucial for transportation policy purposes.

When vehicle activity information is combined with the emissions model, the output is the estimate of emissions (GHG, MSAT or criteria pollutants) over time and space (43). After obtaining results from the emissions model, the outputs can then be used to study air quality and health effects using a dispersion model.

2.4 SUMMARY OF BACKGROUND REVIEW

The review presented here informed the research investigation. This section demonstrates an understanding of performance measures and concepts of using these measures to improve our transportation system. The review of literature related to freight performance measures highlights gaps in current research and determines challenges in using particular data sets. The methodologies presented for estimating the cost of congestion define procedures that can be used at a project or regional level to monetize performance measures. Finally, the importance of quantifying freight emissions is discussed along with models that can be used to estimate emission rates from freight vehicles.

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF AVAILABLE DATA

This section discusses the data sources used in this research: loop sensor data, incident data and commercial GPS data.

3.1 LOOP SENSOR

The Portland State University Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) lab has direct access to corridor loop data from ODOT sensors. These sensors collect the count and speed of vehicles at more than 600 locations in the Portland region. The Portland Oregon Regional Transportation Archive Listing (PORTAL, see <http://portal.its.pdx.edu>) offers traffic data, performance measures, and analytical tools in a user-friendly interface.

The ODOT sensor stations consist of dual loops in each lane and are typically located along the freeway mainline upstream of on-ramps and along the on-ramps. The dual loops allow for count and speed estimates per lane to be directly measured. PORTAL automatically calculates the speed estimate for a given station using a weighted average of speeds by vehicle count across all lanes present at the station. Additionally, travel-time estimates are performed automatically in PORTAL using the traditional mid-point method. This method distinguishes influence areas (distance) midway between a station and the nearest up/downstream detector stations, and divides this distance by the weighted station speed to produce travel-time estimates through station influence areas.

In order to calculate the travel time through a corridor, the station travel times are added for a given time bin. Finally, the average speed through the corridor can be calculated by dividing the corridor travel time by the length of the corridor. It is important to note that weighted station average speeds cannot simply be averaged to produce a corridor average speed. This is due to the spatial nature of congestion through the corridor, where segments may experience congestion at different times. As discussed in the background section, past and current research projects at PSU have used the PORTAL archive to study recurrent congestion using historical data (7, 8).

3.2 INCIDENT DATA

In addition to the loop sensor data, PORTAL has also integrated incident data from the ODOT Advanced Transportation Management System (ATMS). These data provide the user with more information to discern whether the traffic behavior was recurring or non-recurring (caused by an incident, weather event or roadside construction). The incident database includes information on the type of incident (crash, stall or random event); number of lanes affected; approximate start and end time; and approximate location of the incident, in addition to several other fields.

3.3 COMMERCIAL GPS DATA

Most significantly, this work incorporates GPS data from a sample of commercial trucks along the I-5 corridor. The GPS devices are placed onboard trucks and report a unique truck identification (truck ID) number, date, time and position (latitude/longitude) for each truck reading. GPS truck data were provided to this research project by the American Trucking

Research Association (ATRI) as part of a research contract between the Federal Highway Administration and PSU.

3.3.1 Data Challenges

This work used data from January through December 2007 along the I-5 corridor in the Portland metropolitan area. GPS data provide dynamic travel-time information, and are capable of capturing vehicle movement. These two characteristics make the data very useful when investigating freight vehicles traveling between different origins and destinations to make deliveries. Although GPS data provide more detailed information regarding the movement of a given vehicle in comparison to other data sources, there are challenges in working with the GPS data. Below is a summary of these challenges and considerations that must be made when working with GPS data from commercial vehicles and developing algorithms to mine the data.

1. **Error in reading position:** As indicated by Schofield and Harrison (3), the accuracy of the GPS coordinates may have an error of up to a quarter of a mile. This creates difficulty in properly assigning readings to road networks—time thresholds between readings can be used to assist in verifying whether or not a reading belongs to an assigned roadway. Additionally, a vehicle may appear to have suddenly changed direction if the error in position places a reading (occurring later in time) at a location prior to the first reading, when in reality the vehicle continued on the same path. By looking at the first and last readings covering a greater distance of travel, these sudden erroneous changes in direction are reduced.
2. **Erroneous spot speeds:** Another error type occurs when the GPS reading happens to take place on a period of acceleration—very high speeds (e.g., greater than 100 mph) may result (17). Additionally, error in position (as discussed above) may also result in erroneous speed estimations between readings. By performing data cleaning, and/or by looking at the first and last readings covering a greater distance of travel, these errors are reduced.
3. **Multiple trips by a given truck per day:** Given the GPS data from all vehicles, it becomes necessary to identify individual trips made by a particular truck each day (i.e., travel between origin and destination points, or through a defined road segment). Depending on the operator or service type, the number of trips inside the study area will vary widely between trucks. The data set used for this research did not include detailed information regarding truck type, operator type, service type, vehicle contents, or the origin/destination of the vehicle. Given these details, filtering methods could incorporate the information into algorithms to aid in classifying trips and studying freight movement key origin and destination centers.
4. **Data quantity:** The data made available to this research provided a large number of individual readings surrounding I-5 in the Portland metropolitan area. Figure 4 presents a map showing the coverage of individual GPS readings for the month of August 2007—an average of 126,000 readings were found each month, and roughly 1.5 million readings for 2007. The sheer size of the data set increases the data cleaning effort, pre-processing effort for input into the algorithms, and filter processing time in order to obtain truck travel time and other mobility performance measures.



Figure 4: Map showing truck GPS data coverage provided by ATRI—individual readings on I-5 for August 2007 are shown (146,290 readings). An average of 126,000 readings occurred each month, with roughly 1.5 million readings for January through December 2007.

5. **Reading frequency:** The frequency of readings vary from truck to truck, meaning there is no common gap time between readings—even for a given truck, the frequency may vary. This is largely because a lower resolution of reading frequency is adequate for the trucking industry. The reading frequency creates challenges because, with larger time gaps between readings, it is difficult to know what activity was taking place. Techniques must be developed to discern, for instance, if a greater time between two readings translates to slower speeds resulting from freeway congestion, or if travel actually took place on a nearby local network where speeds are expected to be slower.
6. **Different Truck Travel Types:** Within the data set provided for this research, multiple truck travel types were discovered—some trucks travel the freeway network, while others use the local network while making deliveries. Additionally, it is possible for a truck to have readings on both the local and freeway network on a given trip, as they leave the freeway to make deliveries, refuel the vehicle or rest. Highlighted in the literature review, previous research has not attempted to separate and classify readings by different truck travel types. By classifying truck travel types, it is possible to remove bias from trucks experiencing local (non-freeway) traffic conditions, and analyze only trucks that have experienced freeway network conditions. Section 3.3.2 will further discuss issues regarding truck travel types.

Filtering algorithms and data mining, such as those developed for this work (discussed in Section 4), are essential in order to manage the large quantity of GPS data and to provide

accurate measures of performance. Data challenges and known sources of potential error indicated above should be considered throughout the development of filtering methodologies.

3.3.2 Truck Travel Types

The truck travel types present in the data set can be grouped into two broad categories: through trucks and local trucks. Figure 5 illustrates a small local network and freeway network with different truck travel types presented.

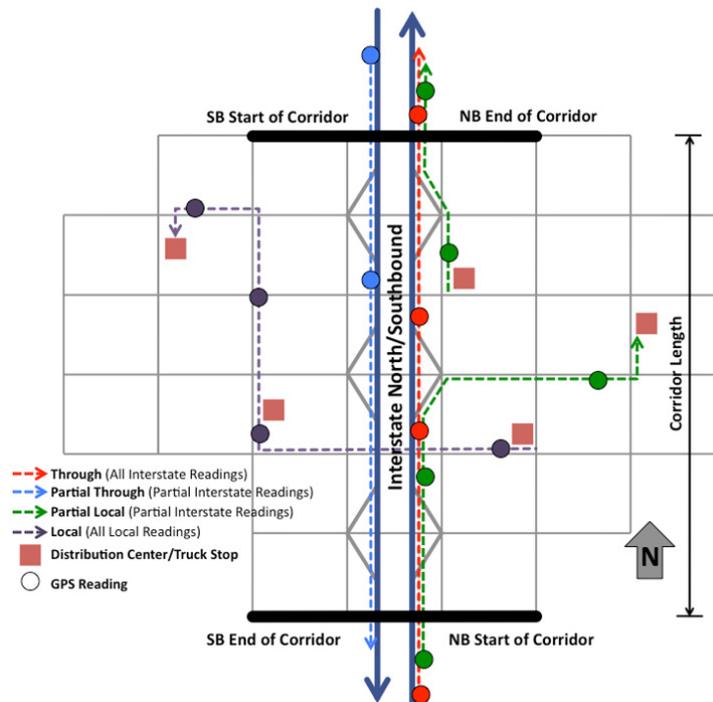


Figure 5: Truck travel types 1) Through, 2) Partial-Through, 3) Partial-Local, and 4) Local

As shown in Figure 5, a through truck makes no stops on the freeway corridor and has at least one reading before and after the “start” and “end” of the corridor. Because they have traveled the freeway corridor without stopping, the travel time and speed obtained from the GPS data from through trucks will reflect the freeway corridor conditions experienced by the freight vehicles.

As shown in Figure 5, a partial-through truck is defined as a truck that has only one reading on either end of the corridor, and an intermediate reading somewhere between the start and end of the corridor. Partial-through trucks may (or may not) have traveled the entire corridor. Without readings at both extremities of the corridor, it cannot be determined with certainty that the truck traveled the full length of the corridor, thereby experiencing all roadway conditions associated with the corridor at a given time of day. For instance, a partial-through truck could have avoided a congested segment further downstream by leaving the freeway network if readings are only available at the beginning of the corridor and midway through the corridor. The average speed between the available readings would reflect the segment traveled by the partial-through truck (before it diverted to the local network), and would not represent

the freeway conditions of the corridor. Here, the inclusion of partial-through truck speeds could present a bias of higher speeds through the corridor.

Similarly, partial-local trucks have readings along the freeway corridor, but also readings on the local network (see Figure 5). As discussed previously, error in GPS position may cause local network readings to appear to be on the freeway network. This can contribute bias of slower travel-time and speed estimates that do not represent freeway conditions, but rather a combination of freeway and local conditions. For instance, assume that for a given truck the first reading is taken near the start of the corridor, and the second reading is taken midway through the corridor after the truck has traveled the local network and stopped to deliver goods to a customer. A portion of the travel time between the first and second readings represents freeway travel conditions, but a portion of the travel time also represents local travel conditions. Without a reading between the two points, it is difficult to discern where the transition from freeway to local took place. However, it is clear the estimation of speed between the two points would not represent the corridor average speed, and could instead present a bias of slower speed since local travel occurred.

Figure 5 shows that local truck readings occur solely on the local network; these trucks may represent local or arterial street conditions rather than congested freeway conditions. The close proximity of the freeway and local streets, coupled with the error in position of GPS readings, creates difficulty in assigning readings to the local network versus the freeway network. This is particularly of concern near interchanges, where vehicles transition between the freeway and local networks. Data from trucks traveling the local network to accessing customers or gas stations, or transitioning between the local and freeway networks, may present bias of slower speeds, as they experience roadway conditions related to the local network.

Another example of bias from local trucks may occur where there are nearby frontage roads paralleling the interstate. Trucks could choose to travel a frontage road to avoid severe congestion on the freeway. Including data from local trucks that have traveled frontage roads could present a bias of higher speeds at times of day when the freeway network was severely congested.

Figure 6 provides an example of the potential distorting effect of including local or partial-through/local truck GPS data in the aggregation of travel-time and speed estimates along freeway corridors.

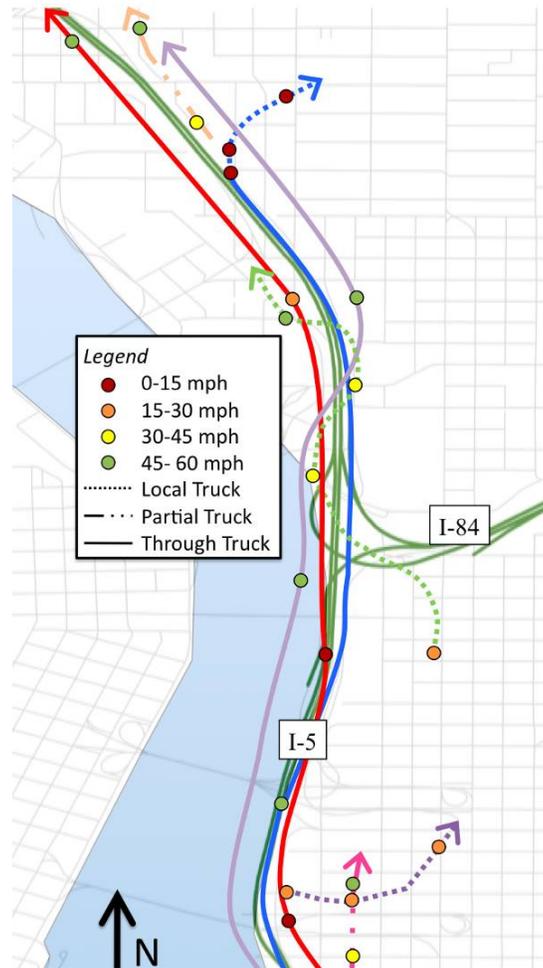


Figure 6: GPS spot speeds for seven trucks (through, partial-through, partial-local, or local trucks) at I-5/I-84 junction in Portland, OR. It is possible for the local readings to be improperly assigned to the freeway network, presenting a bias of slower speeds in the data set.

Figure 6 shows GPS spot speeds for through, partial and local trucks at the junction of I-5 and I-84 in Portland, OR. Here the interstates are elevated, with local streets directly beneath the interstates and in close proximity to the interstate. Because of the close proximity of the local network to the interstate network and the accuracy of GPS units, it is possible for the local readings to be improperly assigned to the freeway network, presenting a bias of slower speeds in the data set. In addition, mixing freeway reads can also lead to bias, as one freeway can be uncongested while the other is highly congested.

Unlike other studies, this research identifies through trucks to estimate the impact of congestion on freight movements throughout the day, thereby eliminating partial-through, partial-local and local truck data from the analysis. A methodology is developed to reduce speed estimation bias by separating through trucks from partial-through, partial-local and local trucks.

4.0 METHODOLOGY FOR IDENTIFYING THROUGH TRUCKS

This section discusses the procedure to determine those unbiased trucks that are classified as through trucks. In order to identify through trucks that experienced congestion, two main filtering processes were implemented: 1) truck ID matching process to identify all potential through trucks and 2) comparison of GPS speeds to loop sensor average travel time by time period.

4.1 FILTER PROCESS 1: TRUCK ID MATCHING

Figure 7 presents a diagram of parameters necessary to identify through trucks. The extremities of the corridor are defined in Figure 7 as m_s = start mile, and m_e = end mile. Because it is unlikely that readings will occur exactly at mile m_s or m_e , a buffer region surrounding the start and end mile are created:

$$\text{Start buffer} = m_s \pm r,$$

$$\text{End buffer} = m_e \pm r,$$

where:

$$r = \text{buffer radius in miles.}$$

A time window t_c is defined as the maximum threshold for a vehicle to clear the extremities of the corridor plus the buffer region. This assumes that one trip must be completed within time window t_c ; otherwise it is assumed that the truck has made one or more local stops through the corridor. This parameter is set liberally to ensure that vehicles traveling less than free-flow speed during congested periods are captured as potential through trucks. Similarly, time window t_b is defined as the maximum threshold for a vehicle to clear the buffer region surrounding m_s or m_e .

Many of the trucks found in the data set have made multiple trips through the corridor, either on the same day or on another day in a given month. Because of this, the matching process must also incorporate rules to distinguish between multiple through trips made by the same truck ID. The logic for identifying potential through trucks is summarized in Figure 7.

4.2 FILTER PROCESS 2: COMPARISON TO LOOP SENSOR AVERAGE TRAVEL TIME

In the second step to identifying through trucks, the corridor travel times from each potential through truck (from Filter Process 1) are sorted by the “start” reading timestamp into time bins of 15-minute intervals. These times are then compared to the loop sensor average travel time at a 15-minute resolution for the time period of interest. A *deviation index* is calculated using the loop sensor data to determine if the through truck values deviate too greatly from the expected average given by loop sensors. The deviation index is calculated as follows:

For a 15-minute time bin t let,

a_t = loop sensor average travel time at time bin t

σ_t = loop sensor day-to-day standard deviation in travel time at time bin t

For each truck trip k in 15-minute time bin t let,

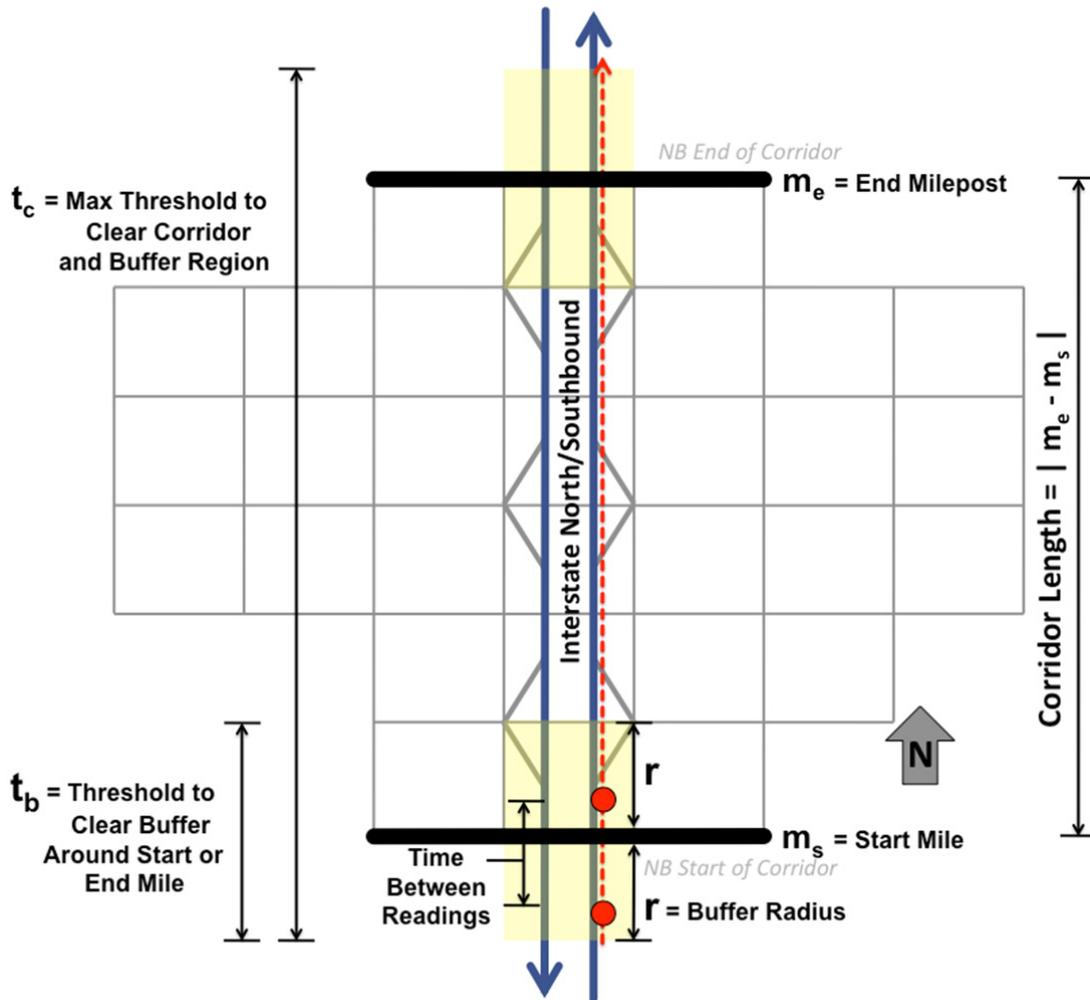
T_k = the corridor average travel time for truck trip k

Then the deviation index g_k is defined as

$$g_k = |a_t - T_k| / \sigma_t$$

Any $g_k > m * \sigma$ for all time bins is assumed to be too far from the expected average and it is excluded from subsequent analysis; m is a user-defined parameter.

Because loop detection has the potential to underestimate the impact of congestion on the freight trucks, it is expected that, in general, loop sensor average travel times may be shorter than freight truck travel times. This important fact must be taken into account when setting the value of parameter m in order to exclude only trucks making stops from those traveling the entire corridor during congestion without making stops.



1. Use ArcGIS linear referencing tool (Locate Features Along Routes) to obtain milepost measures along an interstate for each GPS truck reading using latitude/longitude data.
2. Determine the corridor extremities (m_s and m_e).
3. Create a record of each reading falling within the start and end buffer ranges.
4. For all readings which fall within the buffer ranges, distinguish individual trips by each truck using time thresholds and identify the “start” and “end” points of each trip.
5. For each truck ID, match all start readings to a downstream end reading that occurs within a time t_c and record as a single trip.
6. Search the entire data set to find all intermediate readings for a truck ID that falls between the trip start and end readings (using timestamp and milepost data) to create a complete trip through the corridor.
7. Adjust the start and end reading timestamp and milepost to begin at m_s and m_e using speeds obtained from the next closest reading.
8. For each truck ID and trip, use adjusted start and end reading timestamp to obtain the travel time and speed through the corridor, and identify trip direction of travel using milepost data.

Figure 7: Diagram showing user-defined parameters for Filter Process 1 (truck ID matching to find potential through trucks), and corresponding algorithm logic.

4.3 METHODOLOGY FOR NON-RECURRING CONGESTION

The methodology described above can be applied to study the effect of non-recurring congestion caused by an incident. Instead of examining the entire corridor, attention is restricted to small roadway segments preceding incidents. The incident analysis required minor modifications to the procedure discussed above in order to identify through-incident trucks (trucks traveling through the incident without stopping)—two different approaches were used. Both approaches start by defining a five-mile incident area where through-incident trucks must travel without stopping for reasons unrelated to congestion. Four incident areas were studied and are referred to as incident areas A, B, C and D. Twenty-two individual incidents occurring within these areas were studied, and are discussed further in a later section, along with descriptions of the incident areas.

The first approach (applied to study incident areas A, B, C), modified only the Filter Process 1 parameters (m_e , m_s , r , t_c , t_b) to investigate the incident areas. Figure 8 shows a diagram of the parameters used to study incident areas A, B and C. The diagram is similar to the diagram of parameters used for recurring congestion analysis (Figure 7). However, instead of creating a buffer surrounding the start and end miles, the buffer radius extends only to mileposts after (north of) the end mile and before (south of) the start mile. This ensures a truck must travel the entire incident area to be considered a through-incident truck. A buffer radius of four miles was used for the non-recurring study of incident areas A, B and C.

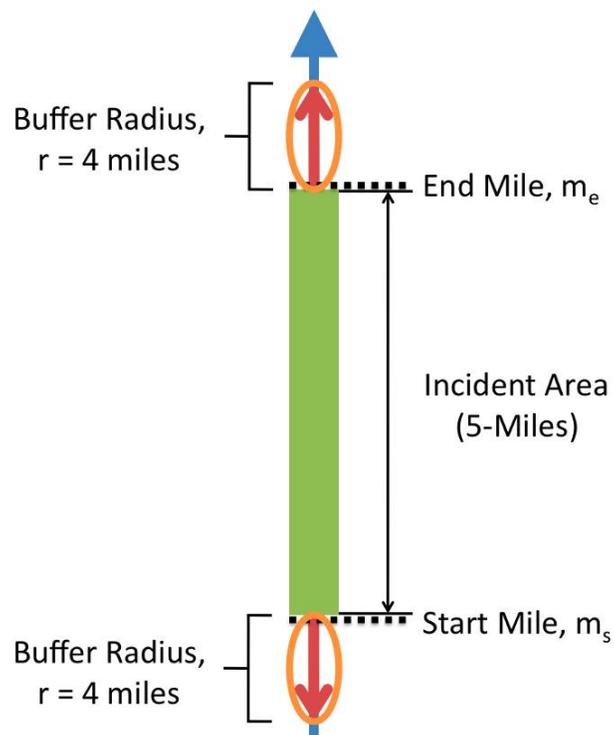


Figure 8 Diagram of parameters for Filter Process 1 used to study incident areas A, B and C.

The second approach (applied to study incident area D) differs from the first approach in that the buffer radius was extended to the extremities of the I-5 corridor in the Portland area (milepost 283.93 in Multnomah County, OR., and milepost 7.3 in Clark County, WA.); the buffer radius in the first approach was only four miles. Because of the increased buffer radius,

a further constraint to identifying through-incident trucks using the second approach was that at least one intermediate reading had to occur within the incident area.

The parameters, incident area extents, and individual incidents occurring within each of the incident areas are defined and discussed further in a later section.

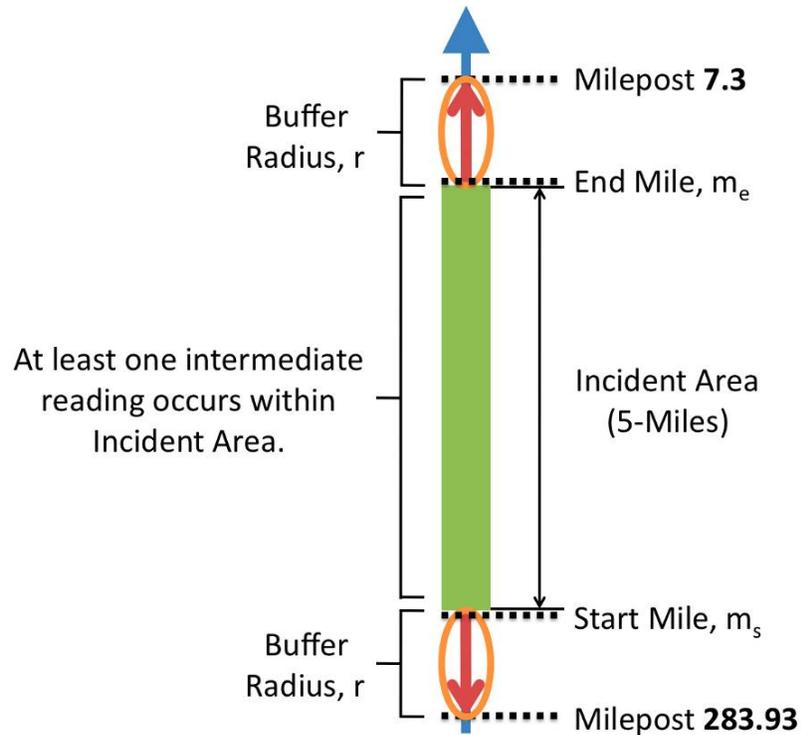


Figure 9 Diagram parameters for Filter Process 1, used to study incident areas D.

Following Filter Process 1, the through-incident truck average travel times were compared to loop sensor data collected from loop stations spanning the five-mile incident areas to further identify through-incident trucks (i.e., Filter Process 2). By evaluating those trucks that were certain to have passed through the incident areas without stopping, the fluctuation in travel time due to the incident can be observed without the effect of the local network.

5.0 RECURRING CONGESTION RESULTS

Recurring congestion is the result of changes in demand throughout the day and can occur at locations where the geometry of the roadway changes, creating a bottleneck (i.e., near interchanges or lane drops). This section begins with a description of the recurring congestion case study used in this research. The recurring congestion study was designed to analyze corridor-level congestion aggregated over a one-year period. The remainder of this section will present the results for the recurring congestion analysis. The results are discussed first in terms of mobility and congestion performance measures (i.e., travel time, delay, reliability). Next, the cost of recurring congestion is presented, followed by the impact of recurring congestion on emission rates. Finally, a summary of the results from the recurring congestion analysis is presented.

5.1 CASE STUDY DESCRIPTION

The recurring congestion case study presented in this work investigates a 31.75-mile segment of northbound I-5 from mile marker 283.93 in Multnomah County, OR., through mile marker 7.3 in Clark County, WA. The study focused on weekdays during 2007 (January through December), and allowed for the analysis of congestion's impact on corridor-level travel time, cost and emissions. These results are presented in a later section.

Figure 10 presents a map of the northbound I-5 corridor, with loop sensor detector station locations listed. Because horizontal and vertical curves of a roadway typically affect the speed of freight trucks more so than passenger vehicles, the particular segment investigated in the case study offers some control for this effect, as this segment of I-5 is fairly flat and with few curves. Table 1 presents the user-defined parameters used in Filter Process 1 for the recurring congestion analysis.

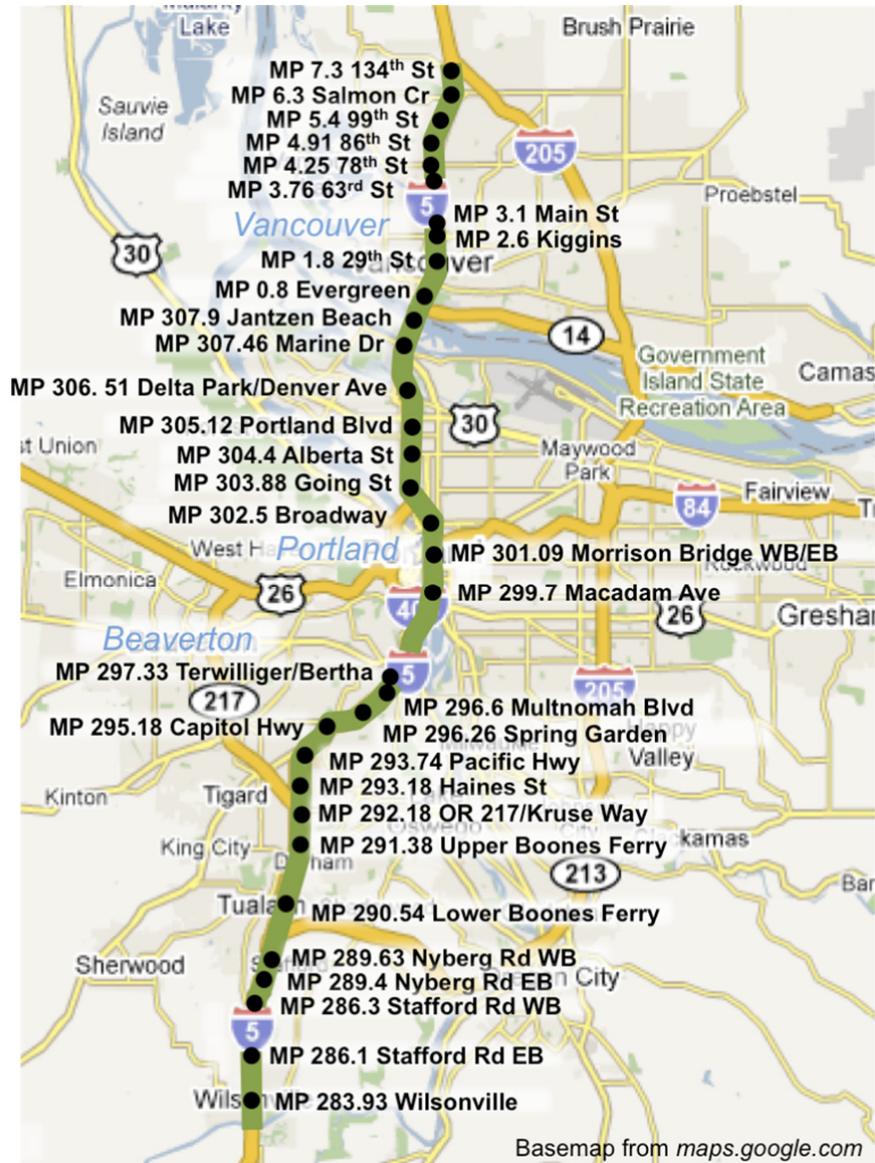


Figure 10: Map of loop sensor station locations along northbound I-5 recurring congestions study area.

Table 1: User-Defined Parameters for Recurring Congestion Case Study

Parameter	User-Defined Value for Case Study	
Start of corridor,	m_s	milepost 283.93 Multnomah Co., OR
End of Corridor,	m_e	milepost 7.3 Clark Co., WA
Corridor Length,		31.75 mile
Buffer Radius,	R	4 miles
Corridor Travel Time Threshold,	t_c	3 hours
Buffer Region Threshold,	t_b	1 hour

5.2 TRAVEL TIME, DELAY AND RELIABILITY

Figure 11a presents the aggregated through-truck corridor average weekday travel times for 2007. The results show that in the peak hours from 3-6 p.m., the travel time for through trucks is consistently greater than the travel time based on loop sensor data which suggests that in the p.m. peak period, loop sensor data may underestimate the impact of congestion for freight vehicles.

Figure 11a also presents the standard deviation of the mean for loop sensor data and standard error of the mean for through-truck averages. The standard error for through-truck averages indicates less reliable travel time during congested peak hours from 3-6 p.m., as evident by greater standard error values. This means that in addition to longer travel time experienced during congested periods, there is a high degree of unpredictability in day-to-day corridor travel time. Figure 11b presents the coefficient of variation in travel time for the through trucks and loop sensor data; data were smoothed using a moving average over three time bins. This figure confirms increased variability during congested periods for both loop sensor and through-truck data. However, through-truck data variability is considerably higher, which greatly increases the difficulty of scheduling for carriers' operations. It is clear that loop sensor data underestimate the impact of congestion freight travel-time reliability.

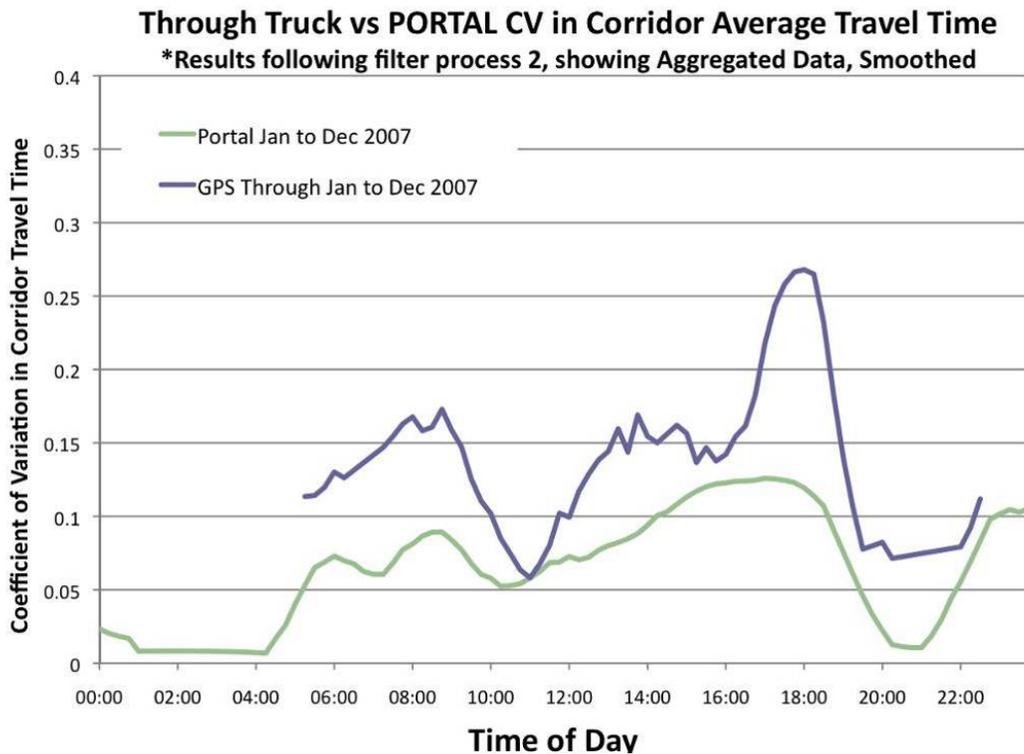
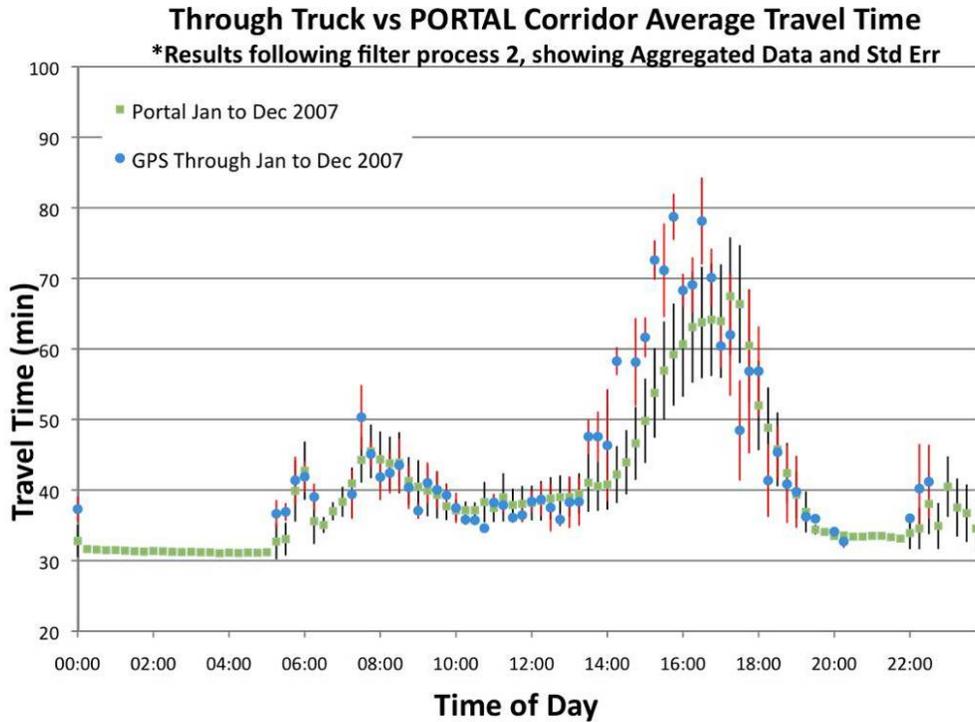


Figure 11: From top to bottom, a) Average corridor travel time results following Filter Process 2, showing aggregated loop sensor and through trucks travel time over one year (standard error of mean noted for multiple through truck readings in a time bin); b) Coefficient of variation in travel time (smoothed data by moving average of three time bins).

5.3 THE COST OF RECURRING CONGESTION

The cost of congestion for freight vehicles traveling the northbound I-5 corridor was calculated using hourly travel-time and speed distributions obtained from the recurring congestion analysis. The results were compared to costs during uncongested free-flow speeds; free-flow speed was assumed to be the accepted industry average operating speed (52.05 mph) used by ATRI (18, 25). This is a conservative speed for cost calculations when compared to posted freeway speed limits. An hourly truck-count distribution was estimated from 2006 Port of Portland disaggregated vehicle counts (44).

In general there were three formulations for the cost estimates—these are summarized in Figure 12b. Formulation A multiplies the travel time (or delay) per mile by operating cost or value of time figures. Formulation B incorporates a term for travel-time variability using 0.3 as a factor for dislike on variability (24), while formulation C uses 1.3 as a factor for dislike on variability (24). Formulations B and C provide low- and high-end estimates for the effect of variability on travel cost.

Different value of time and operating cost figures were applied to each formulation type described above to provide a range of cost per mile—these will be referred to as cost scenarios. Figure 13b presents a description of the 10 cost scenarios, and various parameters used to calculate daily cost per mile for the corridor analyzed. Values of time from the literature review were adjusted for inflation to reflect 2010 values using the consumer price index (45).

For each cost formulation, Figure 12 presents the percent increase (relative to 52.05 mph free-flow conditions) in travel cost per mile for freight vehicles by time of day, and provides a summary of the daily cost per mile for freight vehicles traveling the northbound I-5 corridor. As shown, the daily percent increase in cost of delay per mile relative to costs at 52.05 mph free-flow travel is as follows:

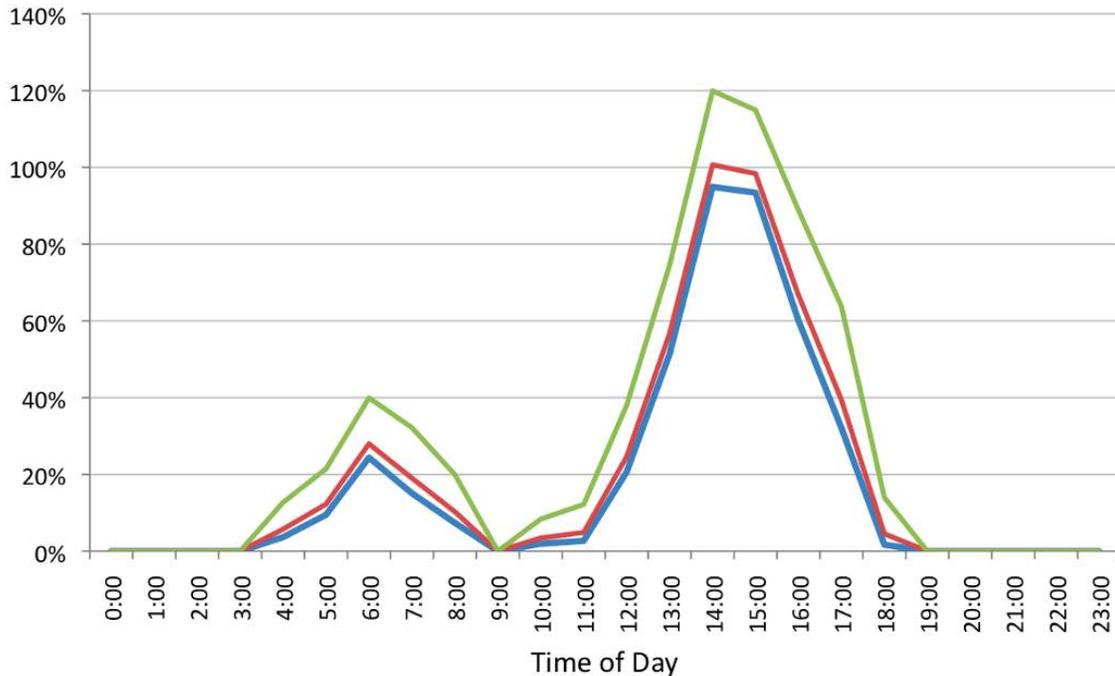
- 19% increase in cost per mile, without considering variability
- 22-31% increase in cost per mile, considering variability

Additionally, costs per mile peak at 2 p.m. Here, the percent increase in cost of delay per mile relative to costs at 52.05 mph free-flow travel is as follows:

- 95% increase in cost per mile, without considering variability
- 101-120% increase in cost mile, considering variability

These results point to the impact of travel-time reliability throughout the day on the cost of freight operation. In the p.m. peak, where variability has shown to be the greatest, it is difficult for freight vehicles to adhere to arrival/departure schedules. Just by reducing variability, the cost of congestion for freight vehicles traveling at 2 p.m. could be reduced by 25%.

**Percent Increase in Cost of Freight Vehicle-Hours of Delay Per Mile
Relative to 52.05 mph Free-Flow Travel Time**



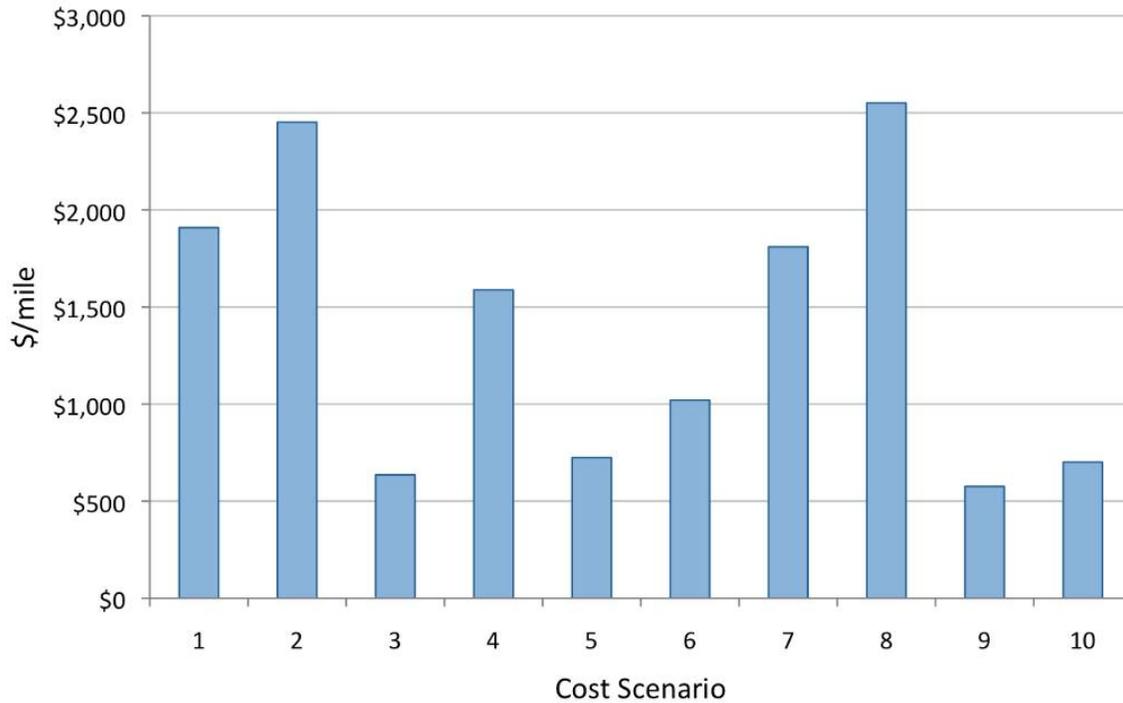
General Formulation of Cost Calculation		Percent Increase in Daily Cost of Freight Vehicle-Hours of Delay Per Mile Relative to 52.05 mph Free-Flow Travel Time
	A Multiplies delay by operating CPH or VOT to obtain costs. Reflects percent increases in travel time by hour and daily travel time per mile, relative to Free-Flow conditions.	19%
	B Incorporates Reliability (low-end).	22%
	C Incorporates Reliability (high-end).	31%

Figure 12: From top to bottom, a) Percent increase in freight vehicle cost of delay for northbound I-5 for three cost formulation types; b) Summary of general cost formulation types and percent increase in daily cost of delay for freight vehicles relative to 52.05 mph free-flow travel time.

Ten cost scenarios were used to obtain a range of daily cost per mile for the northbound I-5 corridor and are presented in Figure 13; a summary of the lowest and highest cost scenarios is as follows:

- \$576 per mile, when looking at costs by operator type
- \$2,551 per mile, when considering regional value of time for Oregon with a 2.5 congestion markup, and incorporating the effect of variability

Daily Cost of Freight Vehicle Travel Time Delay (\$/mile)



Cost Scenario	General Formulation of Cost Calculation	Factors/Parameters Represented	Cost Source for Operating Cost Per Hour (CPH) or Value of Time (VOT)	Freight CPH	Factor of dislike for variability
1	A : ATRI, 2010	Marginal Operating Cost	ATRI, 2010	\$ 83.26	
2	A : TTI, 2009	National/Urban	TTI, 2009	\$ 107.46	
3	A : TTI, 2009	Regional	ODOT, 2005 Avg Truck	\$ 27.85	
4	A : TTI, 2009	Regional + Congestion	ODOT, 2005 Avg Truck X 2.5 (NCHRP)	\$ 69.61	
5	B : TTI, 2009 + Cohen, 1999	Regional + Reliability	ODOT, 2005 Avg Truck	\$ 27.85	0.3 (low-end)
6	C : TTI, 2009 + Cohen, 1999	Regional + Reliability	ODOT, 2005 Avg Truck	\$ 27.85	1.3 (high-end)
7	B : TTI, 2009 + Cohen, 1999	Regional + Congestion + Reliability	ODOT, 2005 Avg Truck X 2.5 (NCHRP)	\$ 69.61	0.3 (low-end)
8	C : TTI, 2009 + Cohen, 1999	Regional + Congestion + Reliability	ODOT, 2005 Avg Truck X 2.5 (NCHRP)	\$ 69.61	1.3 (high-end)
9	A : TTI, 2009	Difference in Operator Type	Kawamura, 2000 Private Carriers	\$ 23.05	
9	A : TTI, 2009	Difference in Operator Type	Kawamura, 2000 For-Hire Carriers	\$ 36.67	
10	A : TTI, 2009	Difference in Service Type	Kawamura, 2000 Avg All Carriers	\$ 30.64	
10	A : TTI, 2009	Difference in Service Type	Kawamura, 2000 Truck Load	\$ 32.74	
10	A : TTI, 2009	Difference in Service Type	Kawamura, 2000 Less-Than Truck Load	\$ 29.60	

*Freight Value of Time (VOT) have been adjusted for inflation and reflect 2010 prices.

*A, B, and C refer the general formulation:

- A : Uses CPH or VOT to obtain costs
- B : Incorporates Reliability (low-end estimation)
- C : Incorporates Reliability (high-end estimation)

Figure 13: From top to bottom, a) Daily cost of delay per mile for freight vehicle traveling northbound I-5 for different cost scenarios; b) Cost scenario descriptions, parameters and formulations used.

The wide range of cost results shows the importance of using value of time and operating cost-per-hour parameters that provide realistic industry cost estimates during congested conditions. Values of time used in cost calculations should represent regional characteristics as much as possible, and should reflect the impact of congestion on the value of time. This work incorporated Oregon-specific value of time, and for several cost scenarios used value of time with a 2.5 congestion markup to reflect congested value of time.

Additionally, the effect of variability on total travel cost should be considered within the cost formulation, as this has shown to have a heavy impact on travel cost and is particularly

valuable to the freight industry. Because of lack of good count data on the breakdown of carrier characteristics, it was not possible to separate costs by operator or service type with reasonable accuracy. However, it is understood that there are documented differences between carriers. If reliable data become available in the future, a breakdown of annual costs by operator or service type may provide valuable information for carriers.

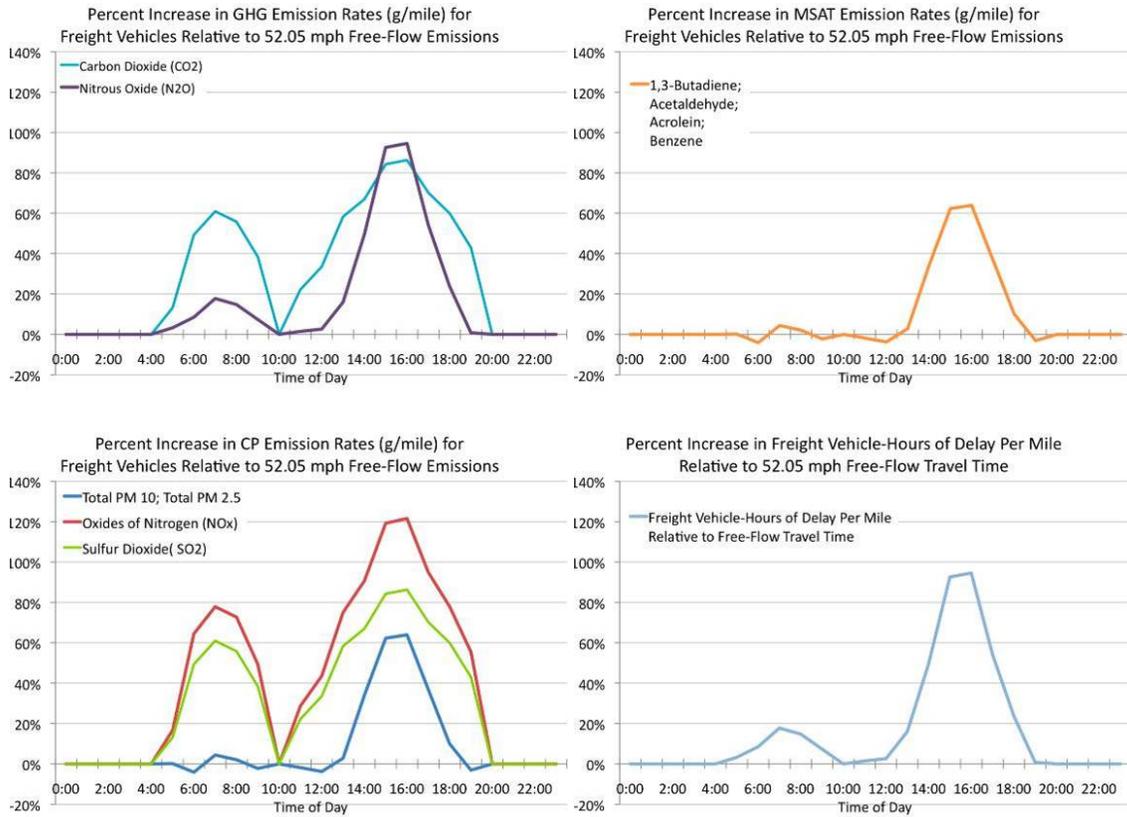
5.4 RECURRING CONGESTION EMISSIONS ESTIMATION

The average daily freight vehicle emissions per mile along the northbound I-5 corridor were estimated using the EPA's MOVES2010 model. Figure 14b presents the increase in freight vehicle GHG, MSAT and criteria pollutant emission rates (grams/mile) during congestion relative to emissions rates during 52.05 mph free-flow conditions. An additional graph shows the percent increase in freight vehicle-hours of delay per mile throughout the day. The various emission types (GHG, MSAT, criteria pollutants) show increases in grams/mile of pollutant emitted as there are increases in delay. However, the degree to which the emissions increase varies between each emission type. For this reason, it is important to consider emissions from GHG, MSAT and criteria pollutant groups in order to understand the impact of congestion on the environment and public health. For example, CO₂ emissions do not represent the same impact or amount of pollutant emitted over time in comparison to other pollutant types (e.g., 1,3-butadiene or PM 10).

As shown in Figure 14b, there is an 80-120% increase in freight vehicle emission rates during the p.m. peak period, which corresponds to an 85-95% increase in freight vehicle-hours per mile (i.e., congestion and delay during peak hours are highly correlated to increased emissions).

Environmental concerns are largely centered on carbon dioxide (CO₂), as it is the prominent GHG. Figure 14b shows that, on a daily basis, an additional 24,099 grams per mile are emitted from freight vehicles as the result of congestion (a nearly 50% increase with respect to emissions during free-flow conditions).

Other gases, such as oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), present concerns for public health as they are linked to respiratory problems. Particulate matter (PM₁₀) and ultrafine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) are linked to ailments such as cancer and heart problems. Due to recurrent congestion, a daily increase of 65% in NO_x emissions, 13% of PM emissions, and 49% of SO₂ emissions was found on the northbound I-5 corridor.



Pollutant		Daily Freight Vehicle Emission Rates (g/mile) Above 52.05 mph Free-Flow Emission Rates	Daily Percent Increase in Total Freight Vehicle Emission Rates (g/mile) Relative to 52.05 mph Free-Flow Emission Rates
GHG	Carbon Dioxide (CO ₂)	24099.96	49.49%
	Nitrous Oxide (N ₂ O)	0.03	25.80%
MSAT	1,3-Butadiene	0.02	13.43%
	Acetaldehyde		
	Acrolein		
	Benzene		
CP	PM10 - Total	3.78	13.43%
	PM2.5 - Total		
	Oxides of Nitrogen (NO _x)	138.55	65.75%
	Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂)	0.64	49.51%

Figure 14: Top to bottom: a) Percent increase in freight vehicle Greenhouse Gas (GHG), Mobile Source Air Toxic (MSAT), and Criteria Pollutant (CP) emissions in congestion relative to 52.05 mph free-flow emission rates, and corresponding increases in freight vehicle-hours of delay per mile; b) Summary of daily freight vehicle emission rates above 52.05 mph free-flow emission rates.

5.5 RECURRING CONGESTION SUMMARY

This section provides an example of how the recurring congestion analysis can be applied to study smaller roadway segments in order to capture performance measures spatially through an urban corridor. Next, a summary of integrating loop sensor and GPS data sources is discussed. Finally, the section ends with a synopsis of the results from the recurring congestion analysis, and relates the findings and methods used to engineering, planning and freight industry practices.

5.5.1 Adapting Methodology to Smaller Segments

It is possible to adapt the methods described in the recurring congestion analysis to investigate smaller segments in order to study bottlenecks or to investigate the spatial nature of congestion. A cursory study of three five-mile segments was performed in order to provide an example of the capabilities of the methodology defined in Section 4 and applied to study recurring congestion.

The three five-mile segments studied were on northbound I-5 near Corbett Avenue, Morrison Street and Terwilliger Boulevard—data were averaged over a three-month period (June through August 2007). Figure 15-17 present the truck average travel time through each five-mile segment, with loop sensor data covering each segment shown; standard error of the through truck travel-time mean are shown with error bars.

It should be noted that because the data were aggregated over a small period of time, many time bins provide an average for only a small number of trucks (e.g., two or three). Additionally, many of the time bins with a very large standard error were found to have trucks crossing the segment at the time of an incident (this is discussed further in Section 6 regarding non-recurring congestion). Despite the limited data, the through-truck data at each segment follow similar trends compared to the loop sensor data—a.m. peaks occur around 8 a.m. and p.m. peaks occur around 6 p.m. As evident by the loop sensor data at each segment, the travel-time profile varies throughout the data from one study area to the next. For instance, the five-mile segments near Corbett and Terwilliger have greater travel time on average in the a.m. peak, while the five-mile segment near Morrison has greater travel time in the p.m. peak. Studying through-truck data over a greater aggregation period would more clearly capture this spatial nature of congestion, although trends still emerge for the aggregation period shown.

The through-truck data for each station reveals, in general, greater travel time in comparison to loop sensor data in the p.m. peak, as well as increases in travel-time variability (as indicated by standard error of the mean) in the p.m. peak. In off-peak periods, the through-truck data are found surrounding the average loop sensor data. Again, this indicates that in the p.m. peak, loop sensor data may underestimate the impact of congestion for freight vehicles.

By studying smaller segments end-to-end throughout the corridor, additional information can be gleaned regarding system performance. Particularly, the data could be used to help identify key bottlenecks for the freight industry, and allow agencies to prioritize segments and bottlenecks throughout the corridor to make the most efficient use of improvement dollars. The analysis of the three five-mile segments presented here demonstrates the adaptability of the methodology and techniques defined in this research to study the impact of congestion on freight movements.

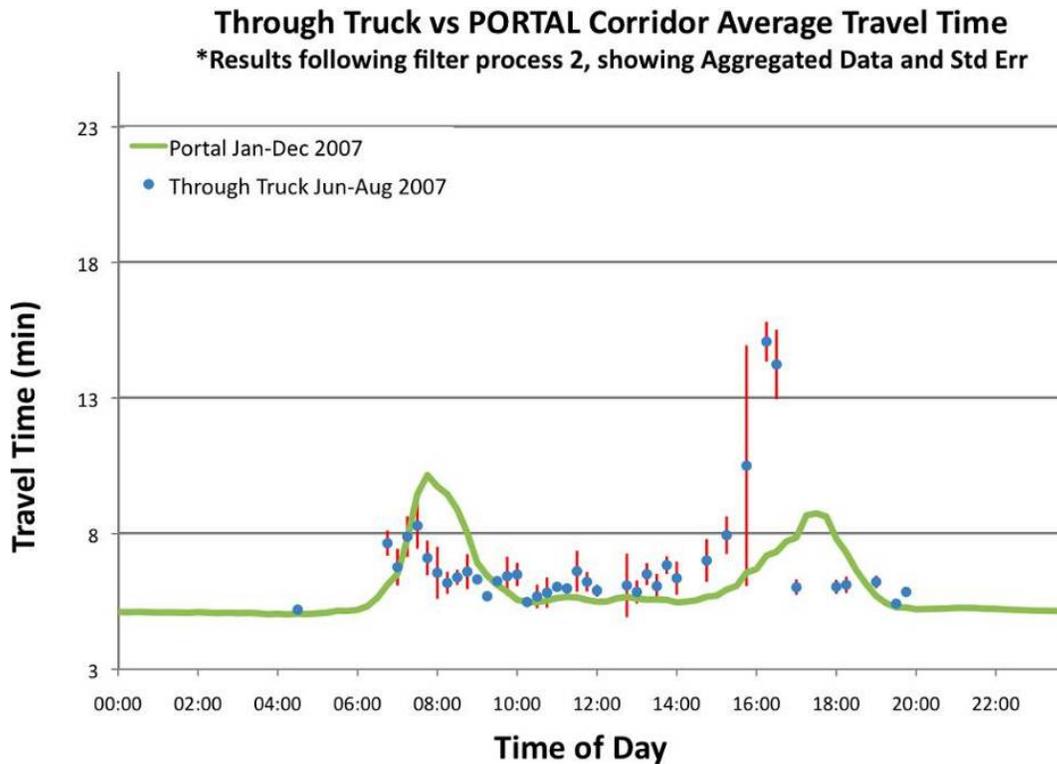


Figure 15: Average corridor travel time results following Filter Process 2 at a five-mile segment of northbound I-5 near Corbett Ave., showing aggregated loop sensor and through trucks travel time over a three-month period (with standard error of mean noted for multiple readings in a time bin).

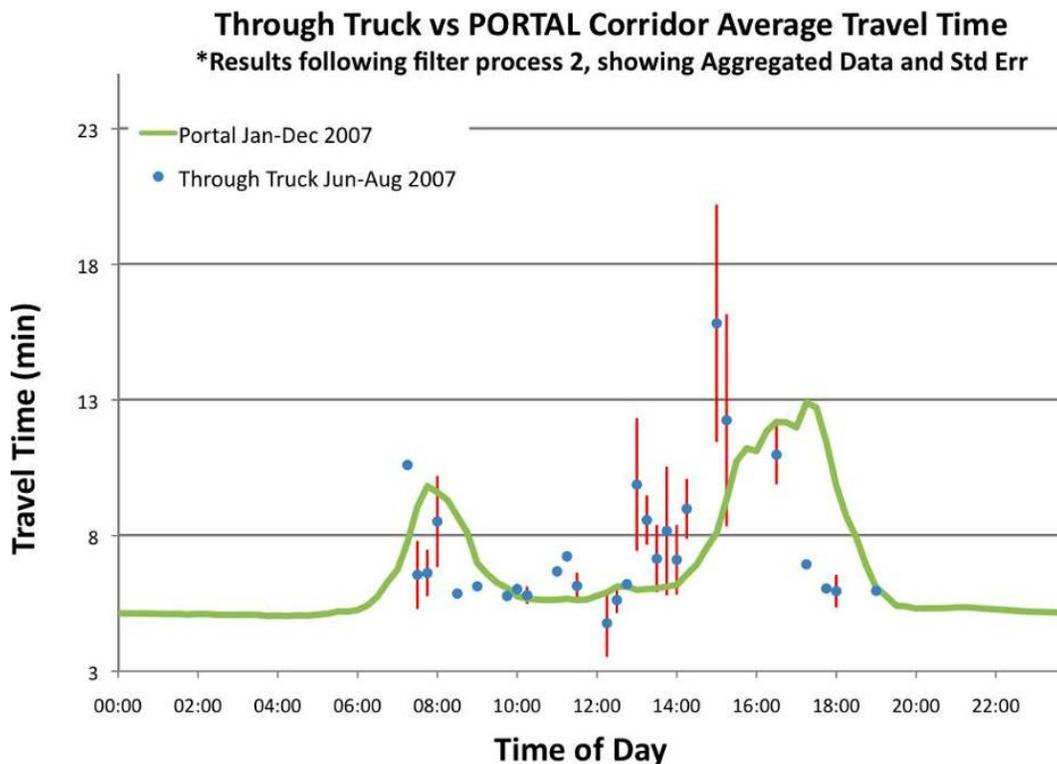


Figure 16: Average corridor travel time results following Filter Process 2 at a five-mile segment of northbound I-5 near Morrison Street, showing aggregated loop sensor and through trucks travel time over a three-month period (with standard error of mean noted for multiple readings in a time bin).

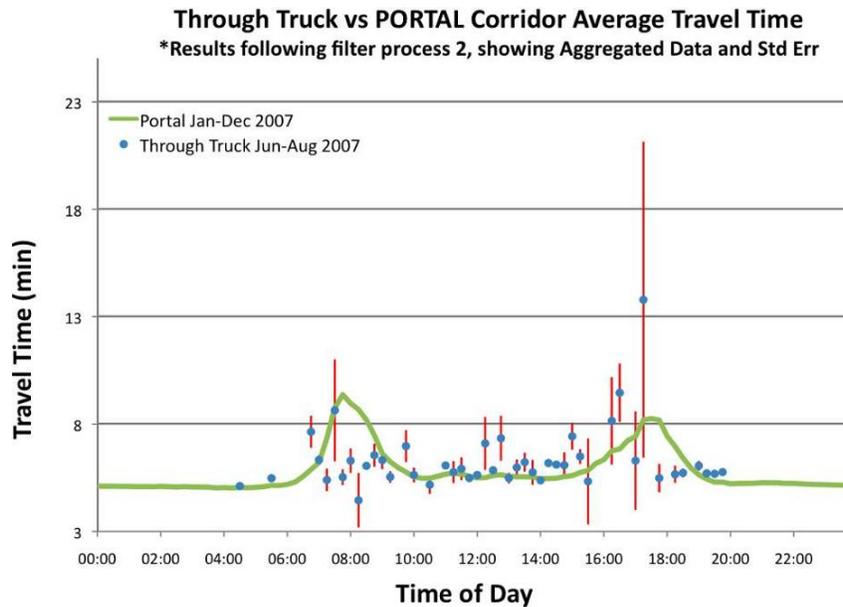


Figure 17: Average corridor travel-time results following Filter Process 2 at a five-mile segment of northbound I-5 near Terwilliger Blvd., showing aggregated loop sensor and through trucks travel time over a three-month period (with standard error of mean noted for multiple readings in a time bin).

5.5.2 Key Findings

Travel Time, Delay and Reliability

- Loop sensor data were found to underestimate the impact of p.m. peak congestion on freight vehicles, as indicated by consistently longer freight vehicle average corridor travel times from 3-6 p.m.
- The p.m. peak period was found to have greater variability in freight vehicle travel time, as indicated by higher standard error values and greater coefficient of variation between 3-6 p.m.
- In comparison to loop sensor coefficient of variation, there is greater variability in freight vehicle travel time, indicating that loop sensor data may underestimate the impact of variability on freight vehicles.

The Cost of Recurring Congestion

- A 95% increase in cost per mile was found for cost formulation A (does not consider variability).
- 101% and 120% increase in cost mile were found for cost formulations B and C, respectively, (considers variability with low- and high-end parameters of dislike on variability).
- Costs scenarios ranged from \$576 per mile (when looking at costs by operator type) to \$2,551 per mile (when considering regional value of time for Oregon with a 2.5 congestion markup, and incorporating the effect of variability).

- In order to provide a more accurate representation, value of time and operating cost figures should reflect regional characteristics. The NCHRP 431 report also recommends that a congestion factor be applied to values of time used in cost scenarios in order to represent congested value of time.
- Because of a lack of accurate data by operator and service, it is not recommended to use value of time by carrier characteristics. If more accurate data become available, quantifying cost by carrier characteristics may provide valuable information to carriers.

Recurring Congestion Emission Estimation

- As there are increases in delay, there are corresponding increases in GHG, MSAT, and criteria pollutants emission rates for through trucks in comparison to emissions during free-flow travel.
- An additional 24,099 g/mile of CO₂ are emitted by freight vehicles daily (a 50% daily increase above free-flow emissions).
- An additional 138 g/mile of NO_x are emitted by freight vehicles daily (a 65% daily increase above free-flow emissions).
- An additional 3.78 g/mile each of PM 10 and PM 2.5 are emitted by freight vehicles daily (a 13% daily increase above free-flow emissions).
- The percent increase in congested emission rates relative to free-flow emissions and quantity of pollutants emitted varies between pollutant types. For this reason, a variety of pollutants should be modeled, particularly emission types that are known to have the greatest impact on the environment and health-related issues.

Table 2 presents a summary of the multicriteria freight performance measures for the recurring congestion analysis, showing percent increase in delay (vehicle-hours per mile), cost per mile, and emissions (grams per mile) relative to free-flow conditions. The results are presented in terms of daily increases (all day), and increases over the p.m. peak period (3-6 p.m.). As shown in the table, the impacts of congestion on freight vehicle delay, cost and emissions are greater through the p.m. peak period. If only the daily impacts are quantified, the impact of congestion is not as pronounced; therefore, p.m. peak-period characteristics should be analyzed independently.

Table 2: Percent Increase in Multicriteria Performance Measures, Above 52.05 MPH Free-Flow Conditions for All Day and P.M. Peak (3-6 P.M.) Time Periods.

Time Period	Delay	Cost Formulations			MSAT Emissions	GHG Emissions		CP Emissions		
		A	B	C	1,3-Butadiene Acetaldehyde Acrolei Benzene	CO ₂	N ₂ O	PM 10 & 2.5	NO _x	SO ₂
All Day	19%	19%	22%	31%	13%	50%	26%	13%	66%	50%
PM Peak	72%	72%	78%	99%	43%	75%	66%	43%	103%	75%

Table 3 presents the percent increase in various emission types over the course of the day, relative to free-flow emissions. Because only a small amount of data was available for off-peak periods (00:00-4:00 and 20:00-23:00), free-flow conditions were assumed in the off-peak (i.e., an increase of 0%). As shown, the impact of congestion on freight vehicle emission varies between emission types, and is impacted by fluctuations in average speed and volume.

Table 3: Percent Increase by Time of Day in Emission Rates (g/mile), Above Emissions During 52.05 MPH Free-Flow Conditions. Freight vehicle average speed and volume are shown by time of day. A limited amount of truck data was available for a.m. and p.m. off-peak periods, so free-flow conditions were assumed—this means in off-peak periods a 0% increase would occur.

Time Period	Average Speed (Freight)	Volume (Freight)	MSAT Emissions	GHG Emissions		CP Emissions		
				CO2	N2O	PM 10 & 2.5	NOx	SO2
	Mph	vehicles/hr	1,3-Butadiene Acetaldehyde Acrolein Benzene					
5:00	50	180	0%	13%	3%	8%	17%	13%
6:00	48	267	-4%	49%	8%	28%	64%	49%
7:00	42	322	4%	61%	18%	38%	78%	61%
8:00	45	333	2%	56%	15%	34%	73%	56%
9:00	48	428	-2%	38%	7%	22%	49%	38%
10:00	52	462	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
11:00	51	465	-2%	22%	1%	11%	29%	22%
12:00	50	439	-4%	34%	3%	17%	44%	34%
13:00	43	399	3%	58%	16%	36%	75%	58%
14:00	34	382	34%	67%	49%	56%	91%	67%
15:00	27	289	62%	84%	93%	78%	119%	84%
16:00	27	242	64%	86%	95%	80%	122%	86%
17:00	33	197	37%	70%	54%	61%	95%	70%
18:00	40	232	10%	60%	24%	41%	78%	60%
19:00	51	219	-3%	43%	1%	19%	55%	43%

5.5.3 Applying Techniques for Deriving Multicriteria FPM in Practice

The findings from the recurring congestion analysis are of value to both public agencies (Port of Portland, METRO, City of Portland), and the freight industry. The methods used to study freight vehicles in congestion and results from the analysis can be used to inform decisions made at a project- or regional-planning level. From a carrier perspective, this includes decisions made in routing and scheduling of freight deliveries.

From a planning and engineering perspective, the methodology developed to identify through trucks and produce corridor-level multicriteria performance measures will allow for the consideration of the freight industry in transportation improvement projects. This is a significant step in being able to study and address the needs of all users of the transportation system. Current methods used to study freeway performance largely rely on loop sensor data and do not incorporate freight independently; as shown through this research, it is possible for loop sensor data to underestimate the impact of congestion on freight vehicles.

The methodology used in this research can be modified to identify and study bottlenecks throughout the corridor (i.e., by studying smaller segments). Using the multicriteria performance measures (e.g., delay, cost and emissions), comparisons can be made between a list of identified bottlenecks, and then used to prioritize the locations most in need of transportation funds. Being able to quantify the impact of congestion on freight vehicles

creates transparency in the transportation planning process, holding agencies accountable to the public for the decisions that are made.

Additionally, the research presented here can help inform decisions made regarding congestion management strategies and infrastructure improvements, such as ramp metering, variable speed limit signs, congestion pricing, tolling, and truck-only lanes. Here the multicriteria performance measures would allow decision makers to study the benefit to the freight industry of such improvements or strategies by using performance data that reflect the current impact of congestion on freight vehicles. For instance, decision makers could study the benefit of ramp meters or variable speed limit signs in managing congestion during peak hours in order to maintain an optimal speed that minimizes delay, variability, industry cost, and freight vehicle emissions. Finding a balance between these criteria using transportation infrastructure and intelligent transportation systems will provide the greatest overall system benefit.

From a freight industry perspective, the methodology developed to identify through trucks and produce corridor-level multicriteria performance measures will allow carriers to improve routing and scheduling logistics. By applying the techniques presented in this research, region-wide freight performance measures could be developed on interstates throughout the Portland metropolitan area.

Freight carriers could then use the multicriteria performance measures to identify periods of time when travel time delay and variability increase on a given freeway. Examining the region-wide system of freeways, carriers would be able to identify the optimal route for a given time of day that would reduce travel-time delay and improve reliability. By modifying scheduling and routing in this way, carriers would see a reduction in transportation costs and improvement in reliability, allowing them to more easily adhere to strict scheduling. Additionally, by being able to schedule deliveries with more accuracy (by choosing routes with less variability), carriers can eliminate built-in buffer time; this time could be allocated to make additional deliveries and increase profit for the carrier.

6.0 NON-RECURRING CONGESTION RESULTS

Non-recurring congestion occurs as the result of an unexpected event (i.e., traffic incident, weather event or construction). This section begins with a description of the non-recurring congestion case study designed to analyze congestion during several incident periods. Additionally, one incident period was further studied to investigate the effect of including partial-through and partial-local truck types in the analysis of freight movements. The remainder of this section will present the results for the non-recurring congestion analysis. Non-recurring congestion results are discussed first in terms of mobility and congestion performance measures (i.e., travel time and delay). Next, four incident periods are used to estimate the cost and emission rates resulting from incidents.

6.1 CASE STUDY DESCRIPTION

The non-recurring congestion analysis studied trucks passing through five-mile segments (incident areas) where incidents occurred on northbound I-5; four incident areas were studied (referred to as A, B, C and D). The Filter Process 1 parameters for each incident area are summarized in Table 4.

Table 4: User-Defined Parameters for Filter Process 1 for Non-Recurring Congestion Case Study

Incident Area Label	m_s	m_e	Five-Mile Incident Area	r (miles)	t_c (min)	b_c (min)
A, Corbett Ave.	293	298	293-298	4	75	25
B, Morrison St.	295	300	295-300	4	75	25
C, Terwilliger Blvd.	292	297	292-297	4	75	25
D, Going St.	299	304	299-304	16 & 13	75	25

Many incidents occurred within each incident area, spanning different times of day. This analysis focused mainly on incidents that occurred during the summer months (June through August 2007), where the weather was clear with no rain. However, one incident day in December 2008 was studied, which had a small amount of rain throughout the day. The incidents are summarized in Table 5. The incident label shown in Table 5 refers to the incident area, the incident day studied, and the sequence of incidents on a given day. For instance, incidents B2-1, B2-2 and B2-3 all occur at area B on the second day studied at this area (as given by B2), and the numbers following the dash (1, 2 and 3) correspond to the order of the incidents on that day.

In addition to incidents occurring within the incident areas (those shown in Table 5), it was noticed that loop sensor and GPS data often captured the impact of incidents occurring downstream of the incident area. For this reason, figures presented later within this section will note and refer to downstream incidents that occurred within two miles of the incident areas. Figure 18 presents diagrams of incident areas A, B, C and D, noting the milepost ranges of each incident area, and the location of incidents.

Table 5: Summary of Incident Data

Incident Label	Date	Milepost Location	Start Time	Duration (min)	Type	Weather	Affected Lanes
A1-1	6/8/07	298	7:06:12	58	Debris	Clear	0
A1-2	6/8/07	297	7:46:17	58	Stall	Clear	2
A2-1	7/3/07	297	6:29:17	58	Stall	Clear	0
A2-2	7/3/07	297	14:57:39	57	Stall	Clear	0
A2-3	7/3/07	298	16:54:52	57	Stall	Clear	0
A3-1	8/14/07	295	10:45:34	56	Stall	Clear	0
A3-2	8/14/07	296	13:30:50	56	Debris	Clear	1
A3-3	8/14/07	295	15:24:26	56	Stall	Clear	0
A4-1	8/24/07	297	16:08:49	56	Stall	Clear	0
B1-1	7/26/07	298	15:04:07	57	Stall	Clear	1
B2-1	8/2/07	297	7:25:35	56	Stall	Clear	0
B2-2	8/2/07	297	13:16:34	56	Stall	Clear	0
B2-3	8/2/07	300	15:04:20	56	Stall	Clear	1
B2-4	8/2/07	299	16:24:59	56	Stall	Clear	1
C1-1	6/12/07	297	6:37:39	58	Debris	Clear	0
C1-2	6/12/07	297	8:37:37	65	Stall	Clear	0
C1-3	6/12/07	297	16:02:32	58	Crash	Clear	2
C2-1	8/3/07	296	9:33:07	77	Crash	Clear	2
C2-2	8/3/07	295	13:33:31	56	Stall	Clear	0
C2-3	8/3/07	295	17:43:22	56	Stall	Clear	1
D1-1	12/12/08	303	3:46:13	102	Crash	Minimal Rain	2
D1-2	12/12/08	304	12:02:50	56	Crash	Minimal Rain	2

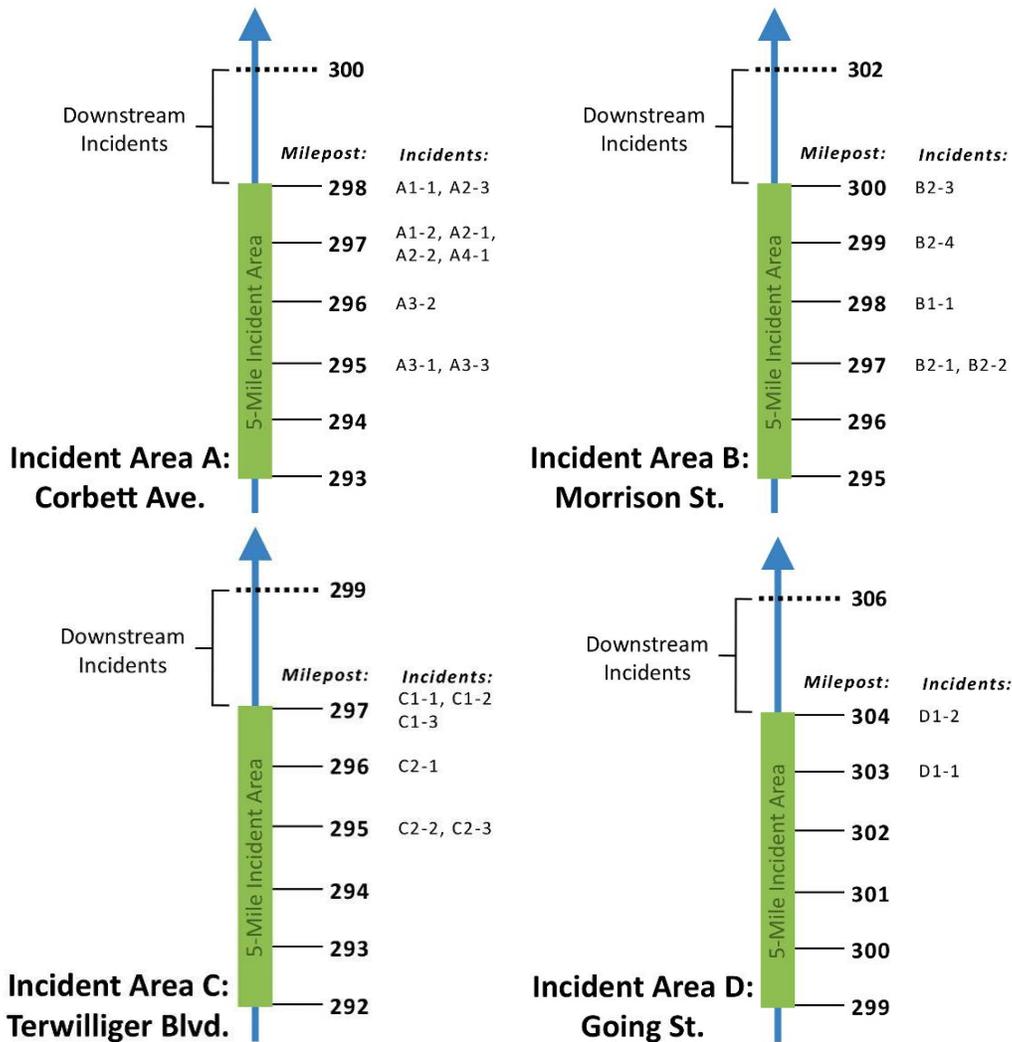


Figure 18 Diagrams of I-5 northbound incident areas A, B, C and D, showing incident locations.

6.1.1 Impact of an Incident on Freight Movements

Incident areas A-C presented in Table 4 were used to study the impact of an incident on freight movements in terms of travel time. To quantify the impact of incidents on cost and emission rates, four individual incident periods were studied: incidents C1-1, A1-2, B2-3 and A4-1 (see Table 5). These results are presented later in this section.

6.1.2 Effect of Including Partial-Through/Local Trucks

Incident area D presented in Table 4 was used to study the effect of including partial-through and partial-local trucks in the analysis of freight movements. These results are presented later in this section.

6.2 TRAVEL TIME AND INCIDENT DELAY

As previously mentioned, the non-recurring congestion study was designed to analyze congestion during several incident periods and, for one incident period, investigate the effect of including partial-through and partial-local truck types in the analysis of freight movements.

6.2.1 Impact of an Incident on Freight Movements

Figure 19-22 present the results for through-incident truck travel times through the five-mile incident areas A, B and C. In each figure, loop sensor travel times are shown for the day the incidents occurred (to show the impact of the incident), and for an aggregated period from June to August 2007 (to represent average day-to-day travel time through the incident area). As shown in figures 19-22, there are obvious differences in the loop sensor data when comparing the incident-day travel times to the average day-to-day travel times, as indicated by increases in travel time around the time of incidents within the incident area or downstream of the incident area. Incidents are labeled along the x-axis in Figure 19-22 to show the time and duration of the incidents; downstream incidents are labeled with “d.”

Only a small number of through-incident trucks were identified following Filter Process 1 and 2 for incident areas A, B and C. Therefore, it was not possible to obtain averages for through-incident truck data, as there were not multiple through-incident trucks identified in any given time bin. However, as shown in Figure 19-22, the through-incident truck travel times for incident areas A, B and C followed closely to the loop sensor data on each incident day during periods where incidents occurred, as well as periods before and following incidents.

In general, the through-incident trucks passing the incident area during the beginning of an incident period show equal or greater travel time compared to loop sensor travel time. This means that the initial impact to freight vehicles resulting from incidents may be underestimated by loop sensor data.

Through-incident trucks passing the incident area towards the end of incident periods or afterward often show shorter travel times compared to loop sensor travel time (see incidents B1-1, B2-1 and B2-4 in Figure 21 or incidents C2-2 and C2-3 in Figure 22). This effect is likely the result of how loop sensor travel time data through the incident area are derived from the data archive. The methods used to obtain travel time from loop sensors may produce slower travel time following a queue. GPS data are more dynamic and show that the queue is dispersing more quickly than indicated by the static representation of travel time from loop sensors.

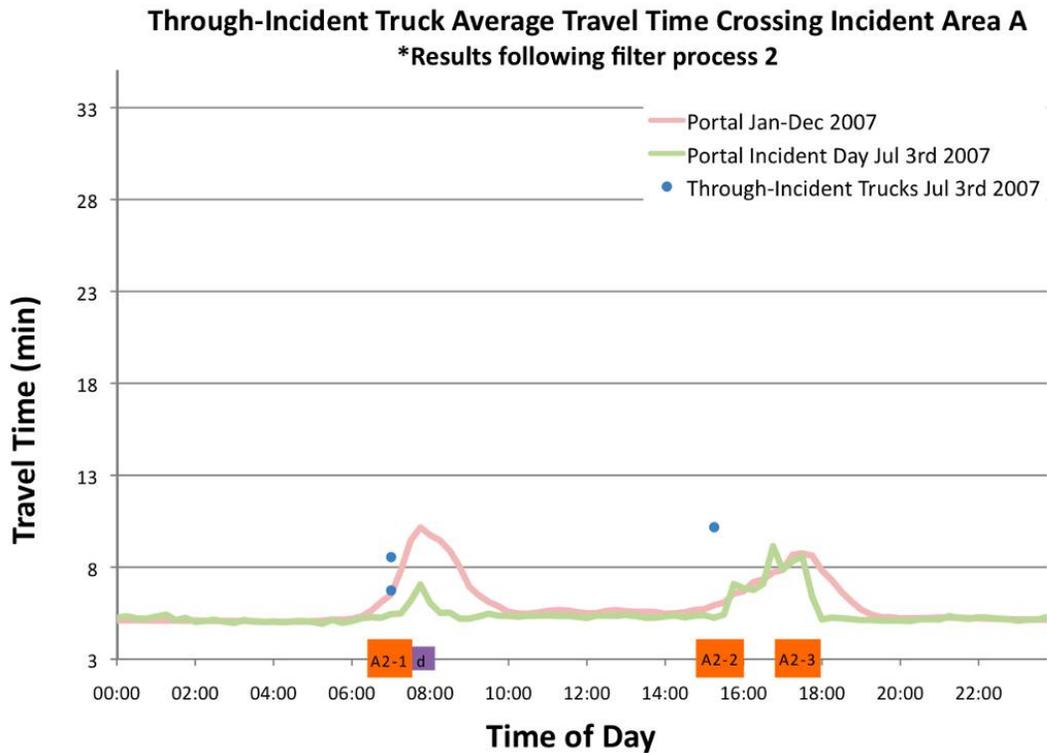
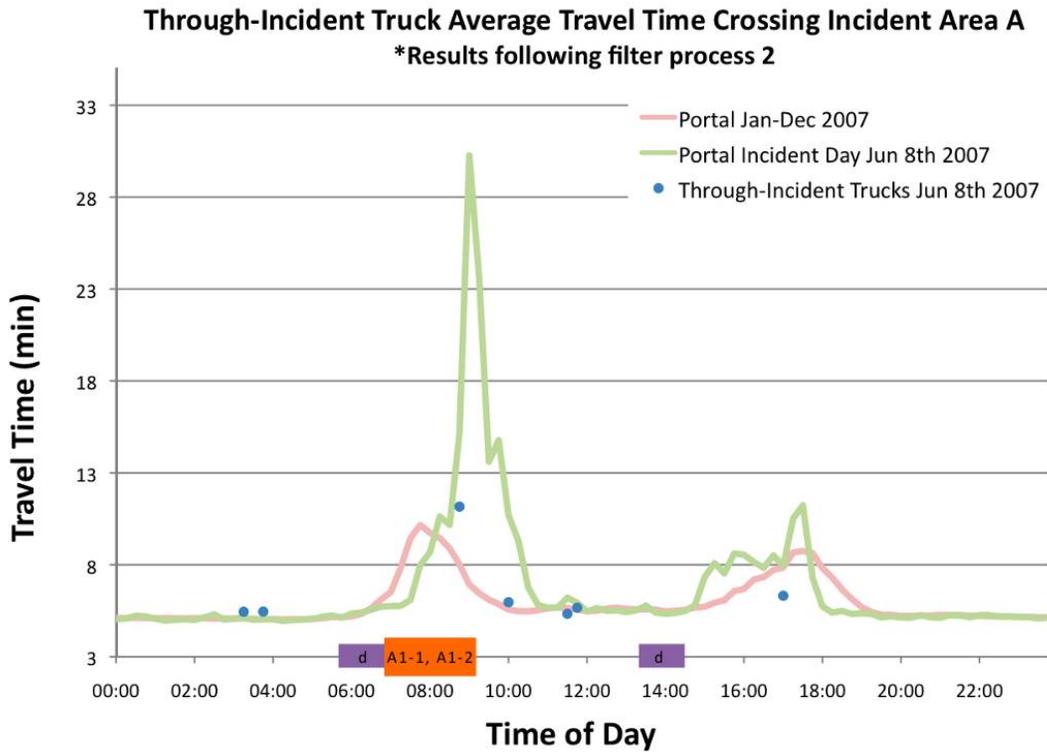


Figure 19: From top to bottom, a) Incident area A northbound I-5 through-incident truck travel-time results following Filter Process 2—June 8, 2007; b) Incident area A northbound I-5 through-incident truck travel-time results following Filter Process 2—July 3, 2007.

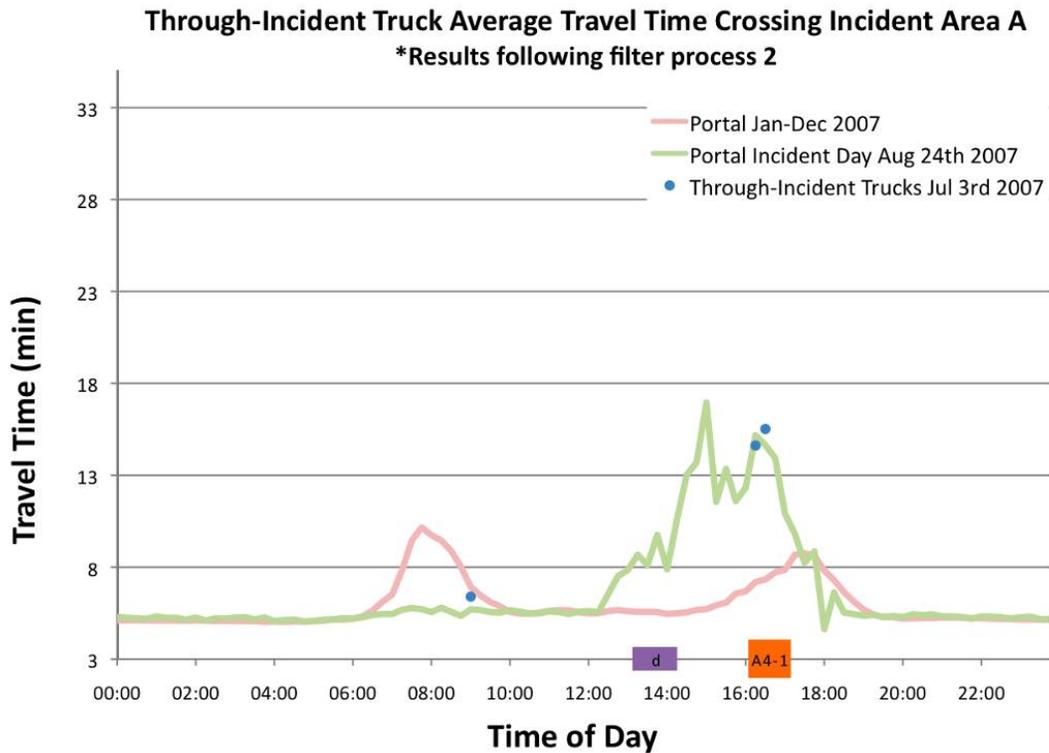
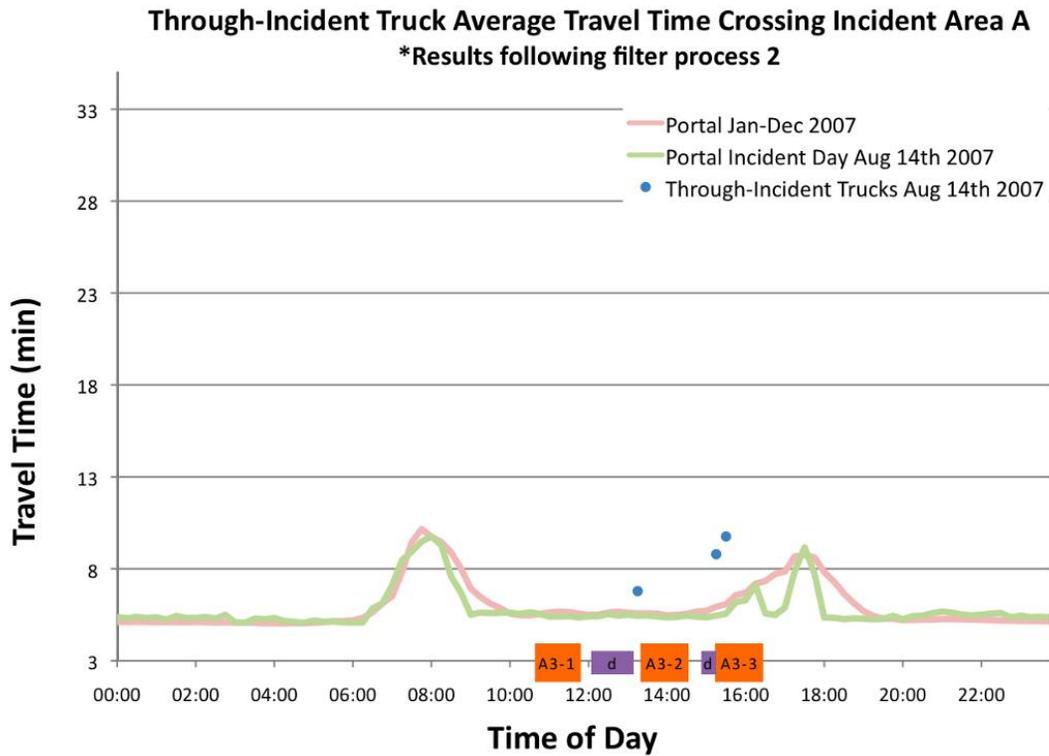


Figure 20: From top to bottom, a) Incident area A northbound I-5 through-incident truck travel-time results following Filter Process 2—August 14, 2007; b) Incident area A northbound I-5 through-incident truck travel-time results following Filter Process 2—August 24, 2007.

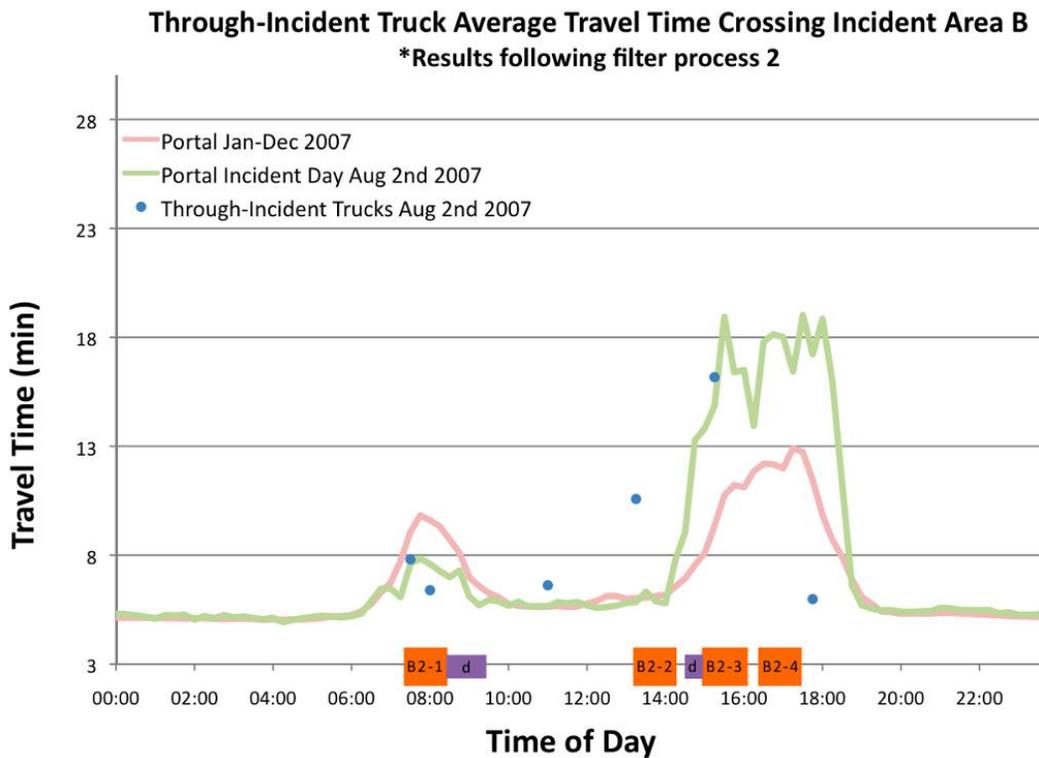
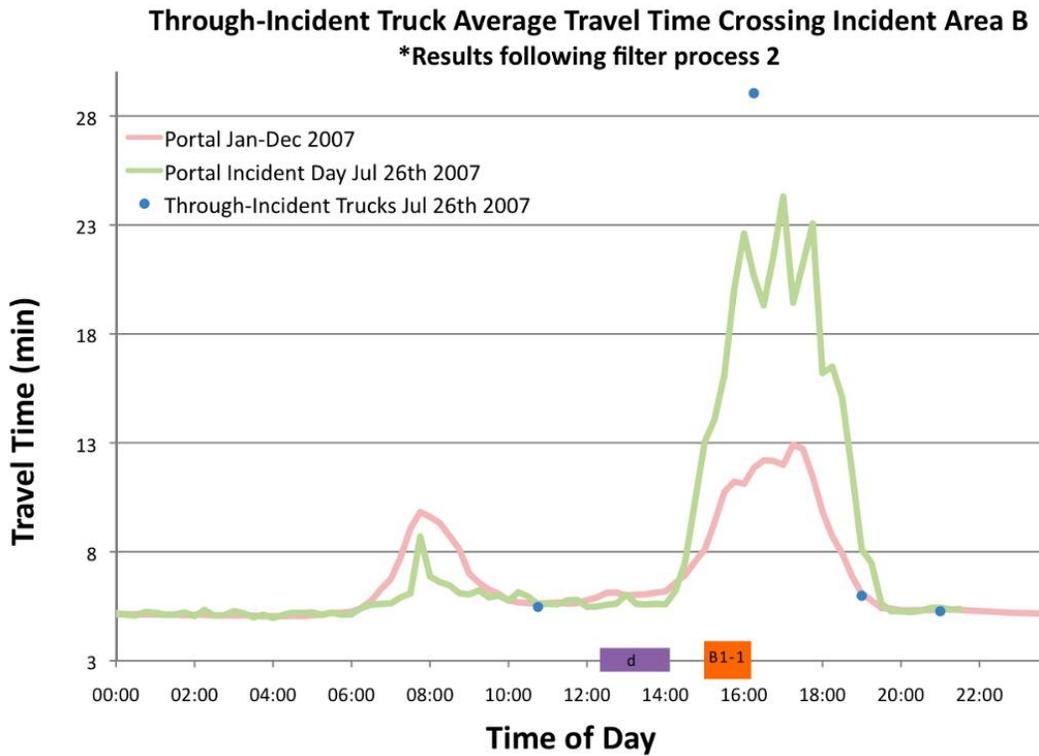


Figure 21: From top to bottom, a) Incident area B northbound I-5 through-incident truck travel-time results following Filter Process 2—July 26, 2007; b) Incident area B northbound I-5 through-incident truck travel-time results following Filter Process 2—August 2, 2007.

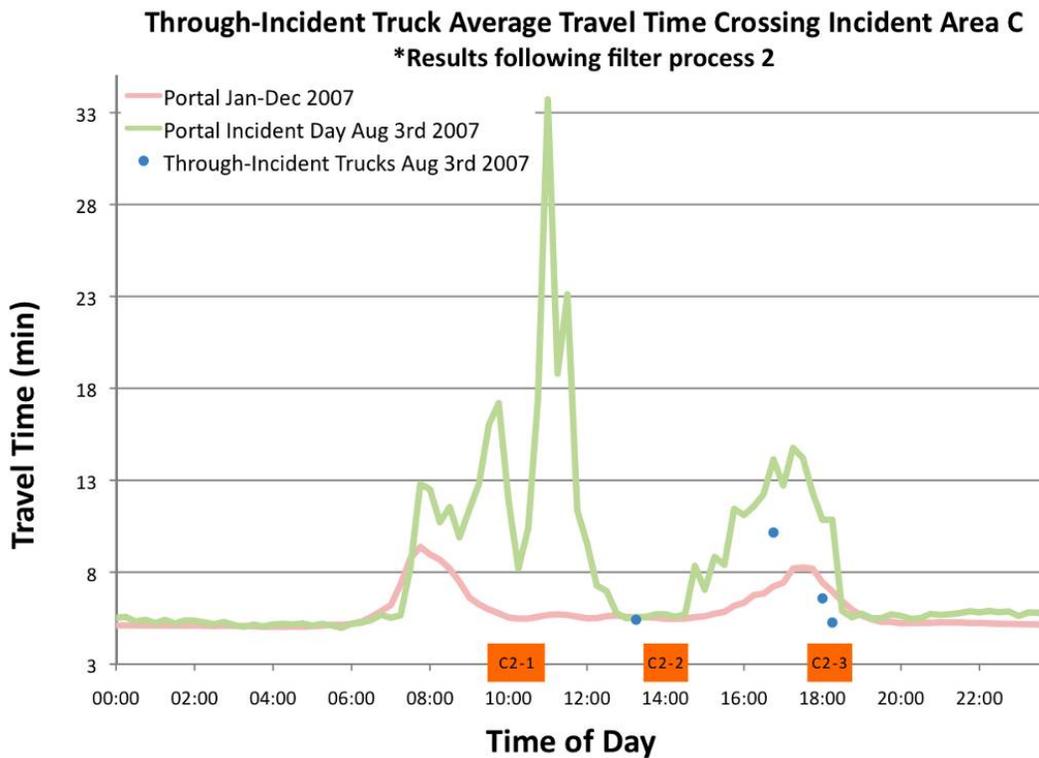
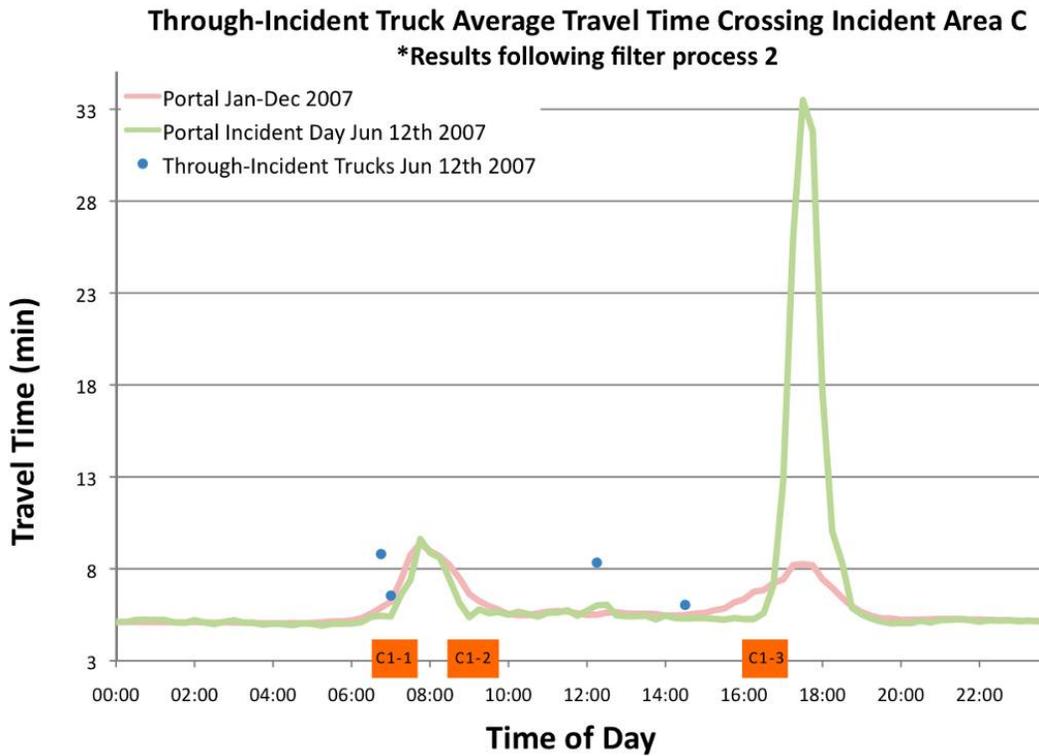


Figure 22: From top to bottom, a) Incident area C northbound I-5 through-incident truck travel-time results following Filter Process 2—June 12, 2007; b) Incident area C northbound I-5 through-incident truck travel-time results following Filter Process 2—August 3, 2007.

6.2.2 Effect of Including Partial-Through/Local Trucks

As with incident areas A, B and C, the through-incident travel-time results for incident area D followed closely to the loop sensor data; Figure 23a presents the results for through-incident truck travel times. Several through-incident trucks were identified for incident area D, with multiple through-incident trucks identified for four time bins. For these four time bins, an average travel time through the incident area is shown in Figure 23a, along with the standard error for each average.

Similar to the through-incident truck analysis, Figure 23b presents results when only partial-through and partial-local incident trucks were included. For the aggregated data in time bins with multiple readings, it can be seen that the standard error of the mean for partial-through/local-truck data varies more so than when only through-incident trucks were averaged. This finding points to the effectiveness of through-only trucks serving as the best indicator of performance estimations.

When trucks making partial-through or partial-local movements are included in the estimation, there is likely to be some bias. Partial-local trucks may underestimate speeds, while partial-through trucks may not have traveled completely through the incident area (or corridor) and, therefore, avoided part or all of the congestion. For instance, a partial-through truck with a reading south of the incident area and one reading just inside the incident area may have exited the corridor several miles before the incident site; the speed estimation for this vehicle may not reflect the full impact of the incident. Alternatively, through-incident vehicles provide the best estimation of performance measures because they must travel the length of the incident area (or corridor) and fully experience incident congestion.

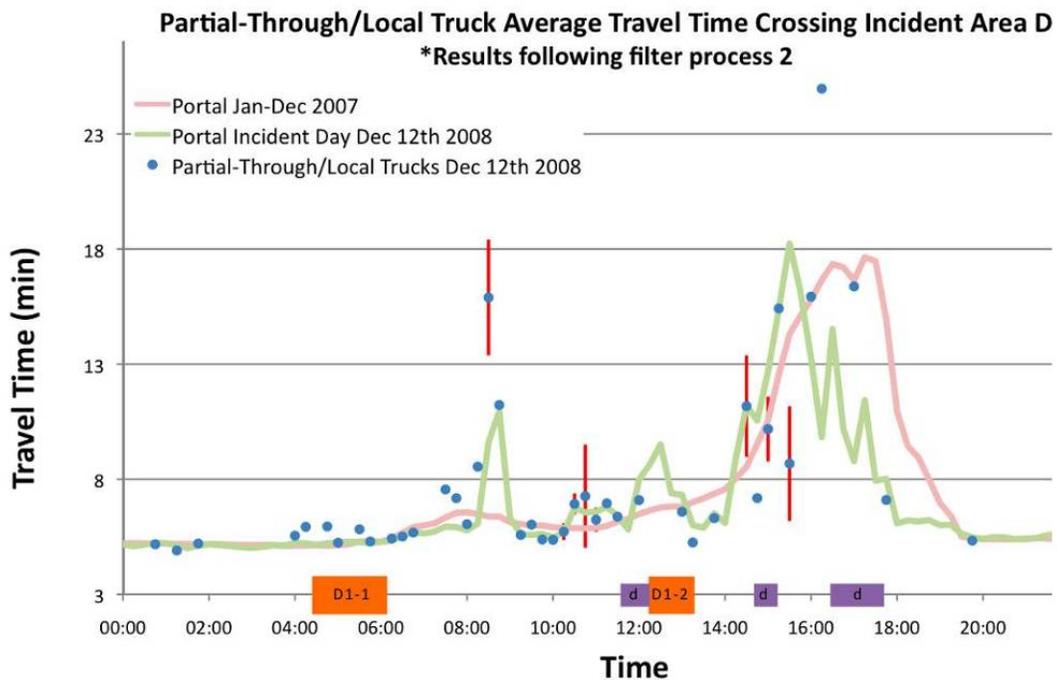
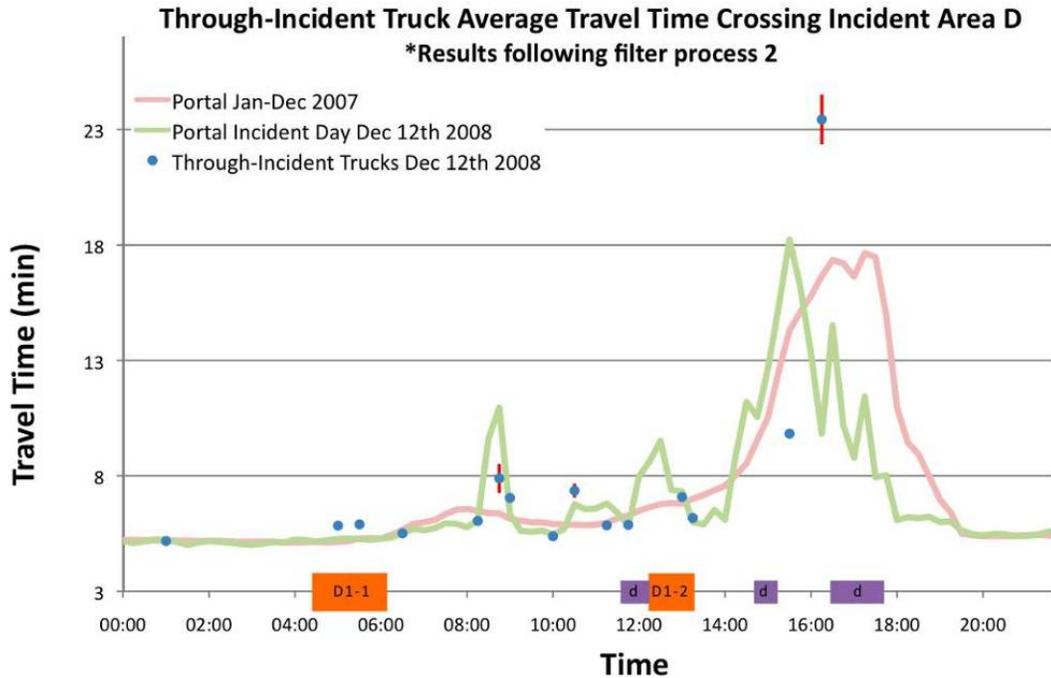


Figure 23: From top to bottom, a) Incident area D northbound I-5 through-incident truck travel-time results following Filter Process 2—December 12, 2008 (with standard error of mean noted for multiple readings in a time bin); b) Incident area D northbound I-5 partial-through and partial-local incident truck travel-time results following Filter Process 2—December 12, 2008 (with standard error of mean noted for multiple readings in a time bin).

6.3 THE COST OF NON-RECURRING CONGESTION

Four incident periods were used to quantify the impact of non-recurring congestion in terms of cost: incident C1-1, A1-2, B2-3 and A4-1. These incidents were chosen because they

represent a range of a.m. and p.m. peak-hour incidents, incident type and number of lanes affected. These incident periods all had at least one through-incident truck crossing the incident area during the duration (one hour) of the incident. The methods for estimating cost for non-recurring congestion were similar to the methods used for the recurring congestion analysis; however, the focus was on the hour that the incident occurred. Because of a lack of data, it was not possible to obtain costs for scenarios that incorporated a term for reliability; only cost formulation A was used.

Table 6 presents the travel times obtained from through-incident trucks in the non-recurring study, through recurring congestion travel times were obtained at each incident area (averaged over June-August 2007) and free-flow travel time at 52.05 mph for a five-mile segment. The cost of non-recurring congestion was compared to the cost of free-flow travel (at 52.05 mph) to assess cost above ideal travel conditions. Additionally, recurring congestion travel time for through trucks traveling each incident area was used as a comparison to average day-to-day cost of congestion.

Table 6: Non-Recurring, Recurring and Free-Flow Travel Times Through Five-Mile Incident Areas

Incident Label	Incident Hour	Non-Recurring Congestion Travel Time (min)	Recurring Congestion Travel Time (min)	Free-Flow Travel Time (min)	Hourly Truck Volume
C1-1	7:00-8:00	6.54	6.47	5.76	322
A1-2	8:00-9:00	11.16	6.43	5.76	333
B2-3	15:00-16:00	16.17	14.04	5.76	289
A4-1	16:00-17:00	15.07	14.66	5.76	242

Figure 24 presents the percent increase in freight vehicle cost during each incident period—percent increase is shown relative to free-flow travel time at 52.05 mph and relative to recurring congestion travel time (see Table 6). As shown, the incidents had a wide range of impact in terms of cost. The p.m. peak-hour incidents happening between 15:00-17:00 (B2-3 and A4-1) show the greatest impact in cost from free-flow congestion conditions; however, it's a smaller impact relative to average recurring congestion conditions. It is important to note that average recurring congestion conditions do reflect conditions at each incident area. However, the aggregation period between June-August 2007 did not provide a large amount of data—a greater aggregation period may show greater differences between the cost of incident delay in the p.m. peak hour and cost of delay due to average recurring congestion conditions in the p.m. hour.

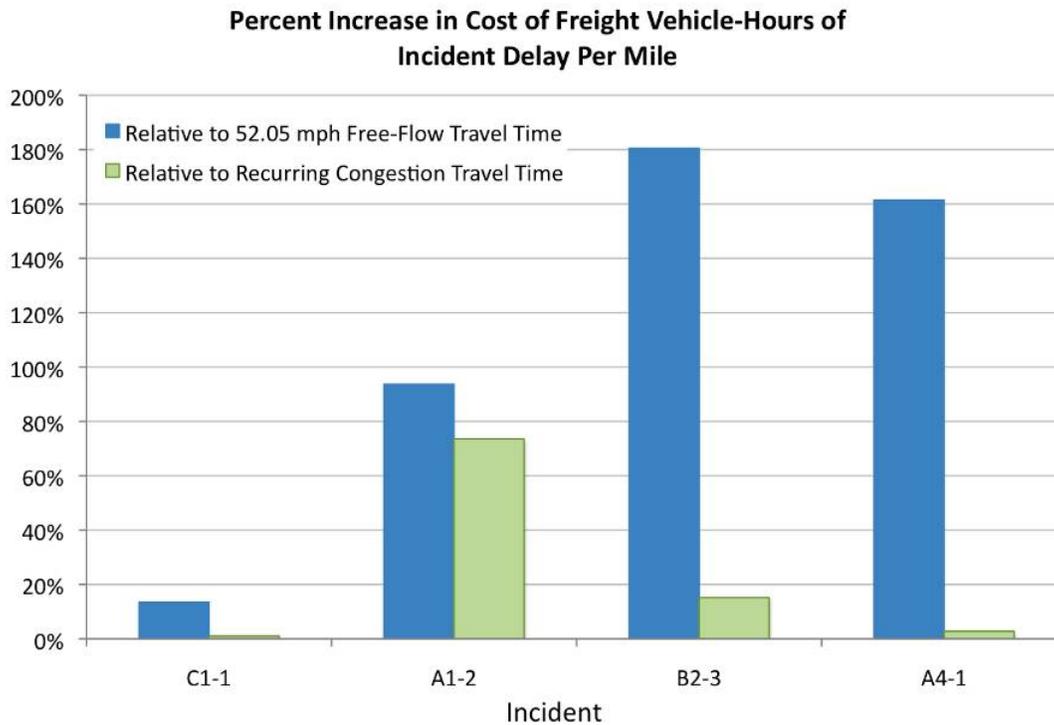


Figure 24: Percent increase in freight vehicle cost of incident delay for northbound I-5, relative to 52.05 mph free-flow travel time and relative to recurring congestion travel times presented in Table 6.

Figure 24 shows that in the a.m. peak hour incident, C1-1 had little impact on costs above free-flow and average recurring congestion travel times, while A1-2 shows greater impact in costs. This is roughly a 90% increase in cost above costs at free-flow, travel-time conditions, and a 70% increase in cost above average costs for average recurring congestion travel-time conditions. Again, the results for cost above recurring congestion conditions may differ more greatly when a larger aggregation period is used.

Finally, Figure 25a and 25b present the freight vehicle cost per mile above free-flow and recurring congestion conditions. As with the recurring congestion analysis, 10 cost scenarios were used to obtain a range of costs for each incident period. Figure 25c presents the cost scenarios used for the incident periods studied. As mentioned earlier, cost scenarios incorporating a term for reliability (scenarios 5-8) were not used because there was not a large amount of data to produce average travel times and standard deviations.

Incident A1-2, which appears to have had the greatest impact on both freight vehicle costs above free-flow and recurring congestion conditions, resulted in \$416 per mile (cost above free-flow conditions) and \$366 per mile (cost above average recurring conditions) for cost scenario 4. This scenario uses a regional value of time, with a 2.5 congestion markup to reflect congested value of time.

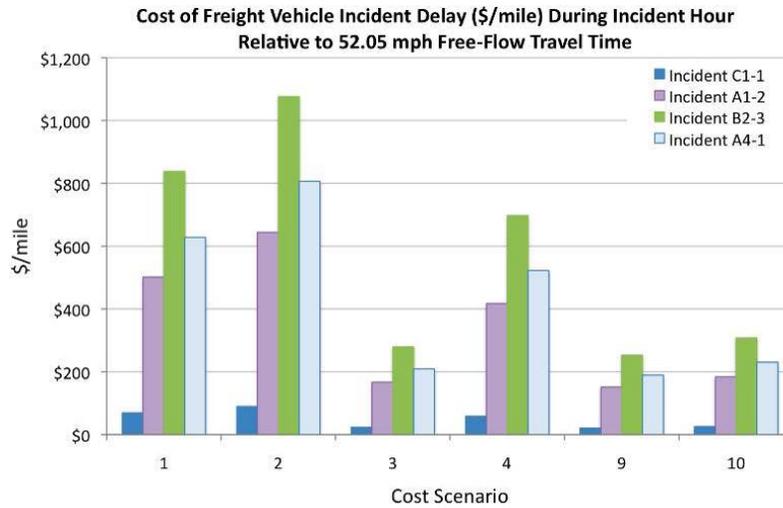
6.4 NON-RECURRING CONGESTION EMISSIONS ESTIMATION

The four incident periods used to quantify the impact of non-recurring congestion in terms of cost were also used to estimate emission rates during incident periods C1-1, A1-2, B2-3 and A4-1. The methods for estimating emissions for non-recurring congestion were similar to the methods used for recurring congestion. However, the focus was on the hour that the incident occurred; the MOVE2010 model was employed for this portion of the analysis.

The emissions rates estimated during incident periods were compared to the emission rates during free-flow travel (at 52.05 mph), and emission rates during recurring congestion conditions for each incident area. Table 6 presents the travel times obtained from through-incident trucks in the non-recurring study through truck recurring congestion travel times obtained at each incident area (averaged over June-August 2007), and free-flow travel time at 52.05 mph for a five-mile segment.

Figure 26-28 present the percent increase in freight vehicle emission rates (g/mile) relative to emission rates during free-flow conditions and relative to emission rates during average recurring congestion conditions. Figure 26 presents GHG emission rates, Figure 27 presents MSAT emission rates, and Figure 28 presents criteria pollutant emission rates.

As shown in the figures indicated above, incident B2-3 appears to have the greatest impact on freight vehicle emission rates above emission rates during free-flow, while incident A1-2 appears to have had the greatest impact relative to recurring congestion conditions. During this incident period, there was a 97-188% increase above free-flow emission rates, and a roughly 25% increase above recurring congestion emission rates. Relative to emissions during free-flow conditions, the incident periods each produced an additional 1,800-3,500 grams per mile of CO₂ emitted from freight vehicles as the result of incident congestion. Similarly, the incident periods each produced an additional 9-23 grams per mile of N₂O, 0.23-0.68 grams per mile of particulate matter, and 0.05-0.11 grams per mile of SO₂.



Cost Scenario	General Formulation of Cost Calculation	Factors/Parameters Represented	Cost Source for Operating Cost Per Hour (CPH) or Value of Time (VOT)	Freight CPH	Factor of dislike for variability
1	A: ATRI, 2010	Marginal Operating Cost	ATRI, 2010	\$ 83.26	
2	A: TTI, 2009	National/Urban	TTI, 2009	\$ 107.46	
3	A: TTI, 2009	Regional	ODOT, 2005 Avg Truck	\$ 27.85	
4	A: TTI, 2009	Regional + Congestion	ODOT, 2005 Avg Truck X 2.5 (NCHRP)	\$ 69.61	
9	A: TTI, 2009	Difference in Operator Type	Kawamura, 2000 Private Carriers	\$ 23.05	
9	A: TTI, 2009	Difference in Operator Type	Kawamura, 2000 For-Hire Carriers	\$ 36.67	
10	A: TTI, 2009	Difference in Service Type	Kawamura, 2000 Avg All Carriers	\$ 30.64	
10	A: TTI, 2009	Difference in Service Type	Kawamura, 2000 Truck Load	\$ 32.74	
10	A: TTI, 2009	Difference in Service Type	Kawamura, 2000 Less-Than Truck Load	\$ 29.60	

*Freight Value of Time (VOT) have been adjusted for inflation and reflect 2010 prices.

*A, B, and C refer the general formulation:

- A: Uses CPH or VOT to obtain costs
- B: Incorporates Reliability (low-end estimation)
- C: Incorporates Reliability (high-end estimation)

Figure 25: From top to bottom, cost of incident delay per mile for freight vehicle traveling northbound I-5 during incident periods C1-1, A1-2, B2-3 and A4-1, a) relative to free-flow travel time at 52.05 mph; b) relative to recurring congestion travel times presented in Table 6; c) cost-scenario descriptions, parameters and formulations used for non-recurring analysis.

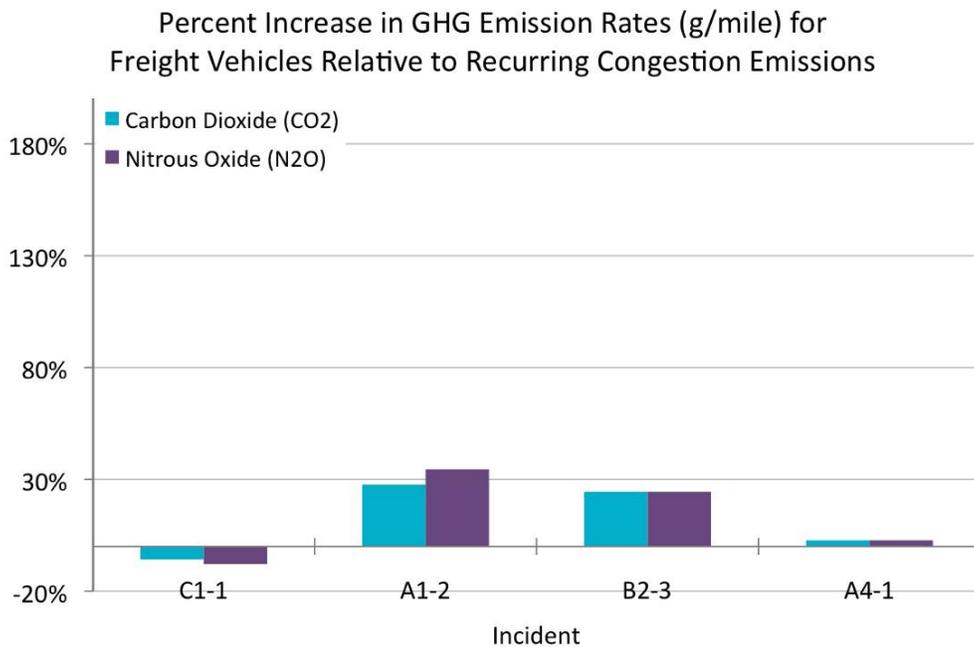
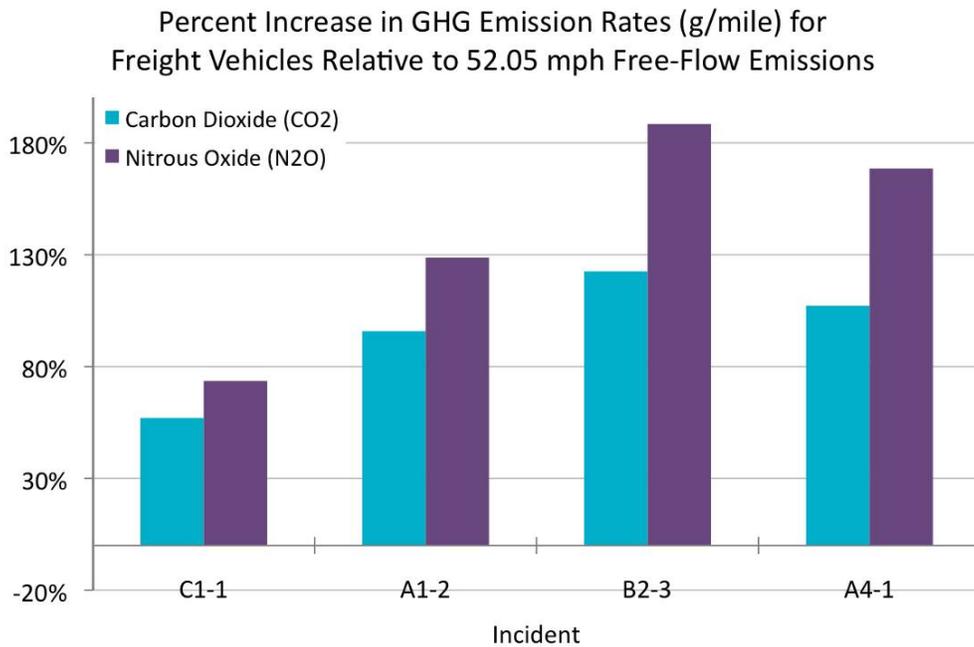
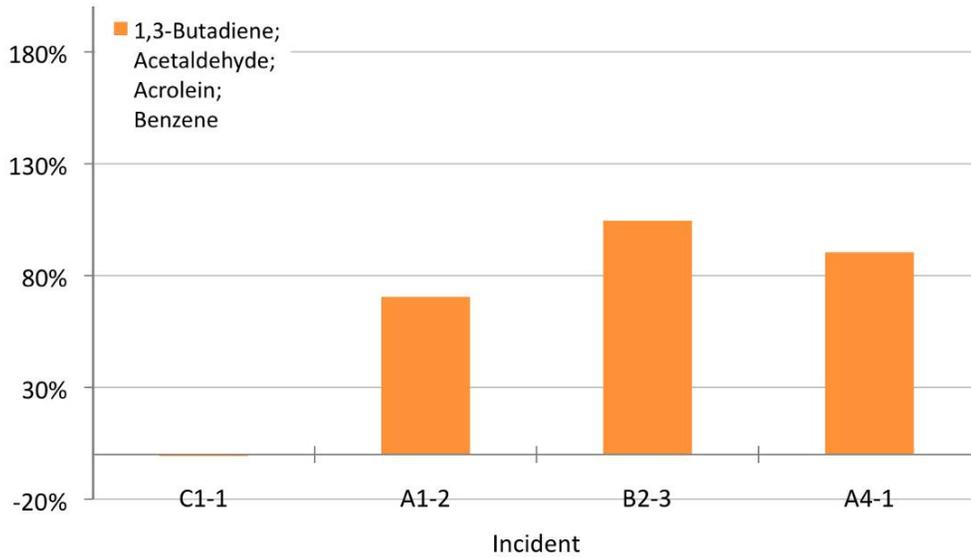


Figure 26: From top to bottom, percent increase in freight vehicle GHG emissions from freight vehicle traveling northbound I-5 during incident periods C1-1, A1-2, B2-3 and A4-1, a) relative to 52.05 mph free-flow emission rates; b) relative to recurring congestion travel times presented in Table 6.

Percent Increase in MSAT Emission Rates (g/mile) for Freight Vehicles Relative to 52.05 mph Free-Flow Emissions



Percent Increase in MSAT Emission Rates (g/mile) for Freight Vehicles Relative to Recurring Congestion Emissions

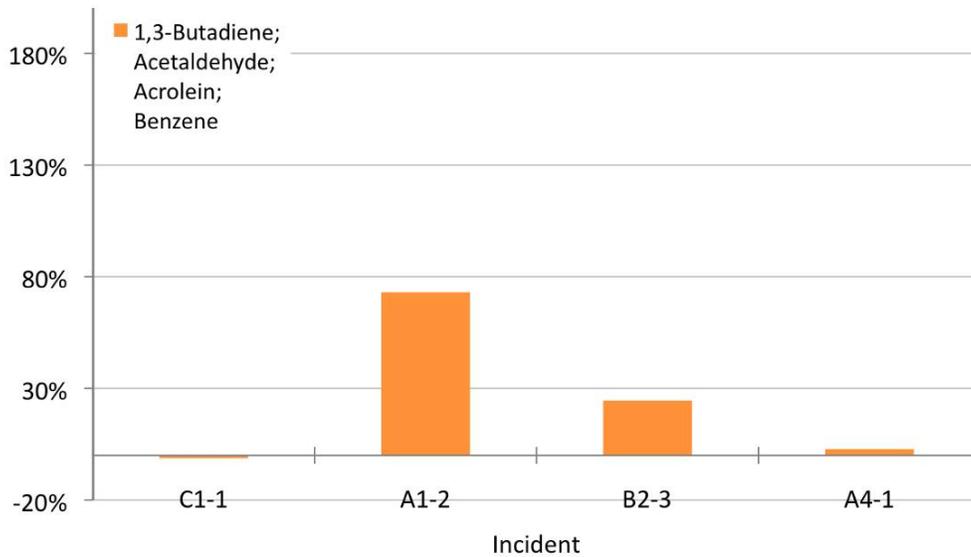


Figure 27: From top to bottom, percent increase in freight vehicle MSAT emissions from freight vehicle traveling northbound I-5 during incident periods C1-1, A1-2, B2-3 and A4-1, a) relative to 52.05 mph free-flow emission rates; b) relative to recurring congestion travel times presented Table 6.

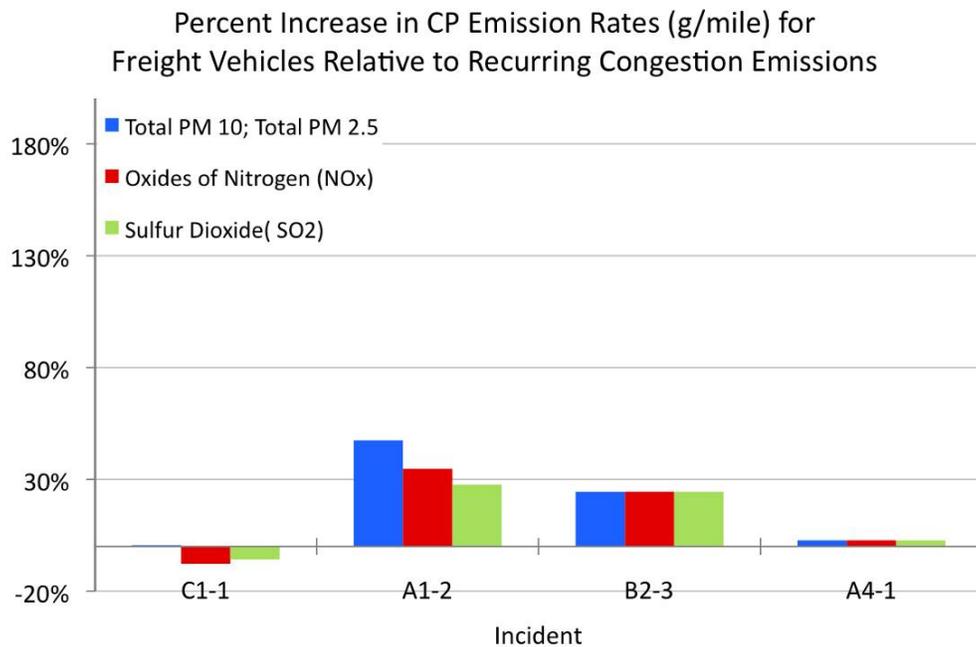
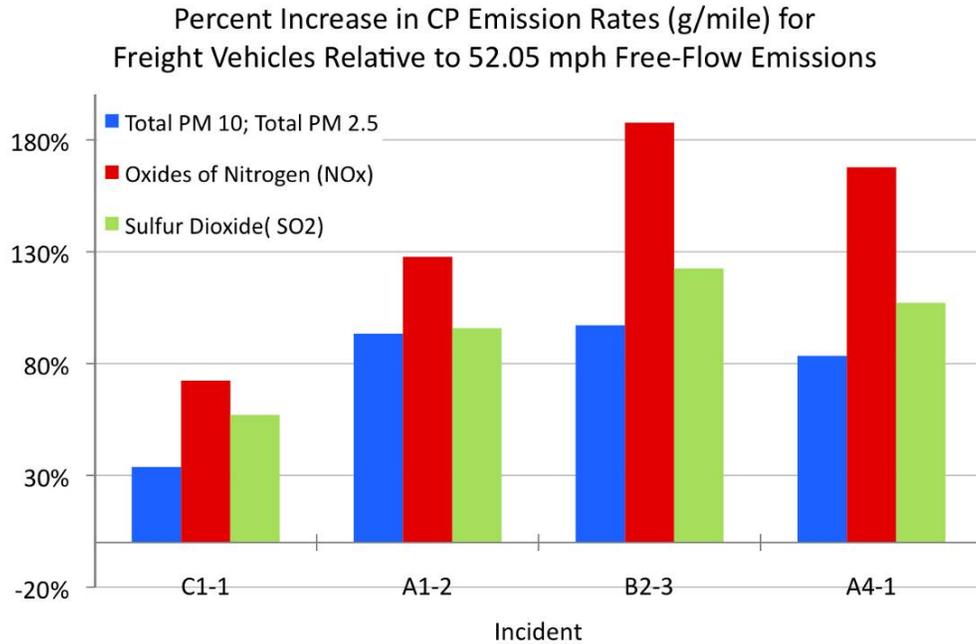


Figure 28: From top to bottom, percent increase in freight vehicle CP emissions from freight vehicle traveling northbound I-5 during incident periods C1-1, A1-2, B2-3 and A4-1, a) relative to 52.05 mph free-flow emission rates; b) relative to recurring congestion travel times presented in Table 6.

6.5 NON-RECURRING CONGESTION SUMMARY

This section provides a synopsis of the results from the non-recurring congestion analysis and relates the findings and methods used to the engineering, planning and freight industry practices.

6.5.1 Summary of Key Findings

Travel Time and Incident Delay

- Analysis of nine individual incident days found through-incident truck travel time to be consistently equal or greater than travel time derived by loop sensor data, indicating that loop sensor data may underestimate the impact of incident congestion on freight performance.
- Analysis of travel time of partial-through/local-incident trucks versus travel time from only through-incident trucks revealed greater variation in travel time when partial-through/local-incident trucks are used. This finding demonstrates the potential bias that can be incorporated if partial- or local-truck data is included when estimating freight performance measures.

The Cost of Non-Recurring Congestion

- Incident periods studied for this analysis occurred at different times of day, through different incident areas and various incident types—the resulting impact of each incident on freight industry cost varied greatly. This shows that the cost of incident depends on a variety of factors, particularly the severity and duration of the incident, but also the period of time in which it occurs.
- Incident A1-2 appears to have had the greatest impact on freight industry cost compared to both free-flow and recurring congestion conditions: \$416/mile (above free-flow costs) and \$366 (above recurring congestion costs).
- Incident B2-3 had the greatest impact on freight industry cost relative to free-flow conditions.
- A1-2 had the greatest impact relative to recurring congestion conditions.
- The impact of the incidents on freight vehicle emission rates varied greatly from incident to incident. Again, this shows that the impact of the incident depends on the severity and duration of the incident, but also the period of time in which it occurs.
- Incident B2-3 appears to have had the greatest impact on freight vehicle emissions above free-flow conditions, while A1-2 appears to have had the greatest impact on freight vehicle emissions above recurring congestion conditions.

Table 7 presents the multicriteria performance measures resulting from an average incident—average percent increase in delay, cost and emissions are relative to free-flow and recurring congestion conditions through the incident area. As shown, MSAT emissions resulting from the average incident show the greatest increases in emission rates relative to recurring congestion conditions compared to other emission types. In comparison to free-flow conditions, NO_x, SO₂ and the GHG emissions show the greatest increases in emission rates.

Table 7: Average Impact of an Incident; Average Percent Increase in Delay, Cost and Emissions Relative to Free-Flow, and Recurring Congestion Conditions. Averages are based on data obtained for incidents C1-1, A1-2, B2-3 and A4-1.

	Multi-Criteria Performance Measure							
	Delay	Freight Vehicle Cost	MSAT Emissions	GHG Emissions		CP Emissions		
		Form. A	1,3-Butadiene Acetaldehyde Acrolei Benzene	CO2	N2O	PM 10 & 2.5	NOx	SO2
Above Free-Flow	112%	112%	66%	96%	140%	77%	139%	96%
Above Recurring Condition	23%	23%	25%	12%	13%	19%	14%	12%

6.5.2 Applying Techniques for Deriving Multicriteria FPM in Practice

The findings from the non-recurring congestion analysis are of value particularly to public agencies—although indirectly, the freight industry will likely benefit from decisions made by public agencies regarding non-recurring congestion. The methods used to study freight vehicles in congestion and results from the analysis can be used to inform decisions made regarding intelligent transportation system infrastructure improvements, as well as incident response strategies.

Understanding the monetary and environmental impacts of non-recurring congestion may motivate and justify the need for public agencies to provide system-wide improvements—technologies such as variable message signs located along freeways would be beneficial in communicating to passenger and freight vehicles of an upcoming incident. Communicating this information well in advance of the incident area provides drivers with ample opportunity to divert to an alternative route in order to avoid incident congestion. The research here has shown that incidents greatly affect travel time, cost and emissions through incident areas; the multicriteria performance measures would allow agencies to quantify these impacts.

Additionally, multicriteria performance measures may also justify the need for increased incident response by ATMS. The incidents studied in the non-recurring congestion analysis each lasted roughly one hour. Because of a lack of data, it was not possible to study congestion prior to or following incident periods, as a limited amount of through-incident trucks were available. However, further analysis of a larger quantity of data may show that costs and emissions continue to rise even after the incident period, as queues propagate upstream; this effect is evident in the loop sensor data following incident durations. The quicker an incident is cleared, the quicker the queue will disperse following the incident duration, decreasing costs and emissions following incident periods.

7.0 INVESTIGATING MULTISEGMENT CORRIDORS

In addition to studying the pre-defined urban corridor described above, this research was expanded to investigate longer corridors, using programming logic and available GPS data from commercial trucks to segment the roadway into manageable, coherent study areas. Long freight corridors are comprised of segments with potentially different reliability characteristics. This research has developed a programming logic that uses available truck GPS data to: (1) identify corridor natural segments or regions (urban centers, interstate junctions, rural areas), and (2) estimate corridor-wide impacts of travel-time unreliability. The case study presented here investigates the I-5 corridor in Oregon.

This section discusses the logic of the algorithm used to separate the corridor into coherent sections for analysis (i.e., identifying changes between urban and rural areas), and discusses the results from corridor segmentation. Next, this section presents the estimation of travel time in a route, the algorithm to estimate travel-time reliability is proposed, and the travel-time results are discussed. These are standard methods for estimating the cost of travel-time variability.

7.1 METHODOLOGY FOR CORRIDOR SEGMENTATION

This section describes the methods of data handling and the algorithmic description of the process used to determine potential segments based on geographic location (rural or urban), on the Oregon I-5 corridor.

1. **Data handling:** The analysis is performed using GPS data from commercial trucks along I-5; these data were provided by ATRI. The data provides detailed information about the unique truck ID, timestamp, latitude and longitude of the trucks. Using the ArcGIS linear referencing tool, every GPS latitude-longitude reading is mapped to a milepost measure. The data is then arranged in database tables using the PostgreSQL database, and simulated using scripts written in PHP and shell. Using the milepost measures, the direction of travel is also determined for every truck and designated as northbound (NB) or southbound (SB).
2. **Segment Distribution:** In order to identify segments for analysis along the whole corridor, the following steps are performed:
 - Truck counts are determined for every mile of the NB or SB corridor by applying queries and scripts on the previously arranged database tables.
 - A cumulative distribution function (cdf) is drawn for the truck counts. This identifies any sudden rise and fall in truck counts occurring in a particular area of the corridor.
 - Smoothing is performed on the cdf using a moving average of length 20 miles.
 - The above three processes are repeated for different months that fall on different seasons around the year to capture any seasonal effects on the truck counts.

3. **Segment Analysis:** The truck-density patterns are analyzed by considering the two important factors: 1) the location of significant change in truck density, and 2) the time of the year/seasonal variations. Using the truck-density patterns and GIS for confirmation, the whole corridor is broken into a number of segments falling within rural and urban areas. A bar graph showing the change in truck counts over the four seasons is plotted to determine which month has the maximum truck count.

7.1.1 SEGMENTATION RESULTS

The analyses described above were performed for I-5 NB only; however, it can be applied to any direction. Commercial GPS data for four months in 2007 were analyzed (April, July, October and December). These months were chosen to represent seasonal variation in truck travel.

To begin the process, the truck counts were determined for one-mile segments along the I-5 corridor. During the four months analyzed, the month of July exhibited the highest number of truck counts for all computed segments; hence, this paper will present results for the case study analysis and travel-time computations for this month only. Next, the cumulative distribution function is produced for the truck counts during each month. Figure 29a presents the cumulative distribution function for NB I-5 during July 2007. The sudden rise and fall in truck counts throughout the corridor occur at the same locations for all the four chosen months (i.e., the cumulative distribution plots for the chosen months are similar to the plot shown for July in Figure 29a). To create a clearer image of the rise and fall in truck counts, the data were smoothed by averaging over a 20-mile sliding window; the results following data smoothing are shown in Figure 29b. Figure 29b indicates the segment end points, where the sharp rise/fall in truck counts occur.

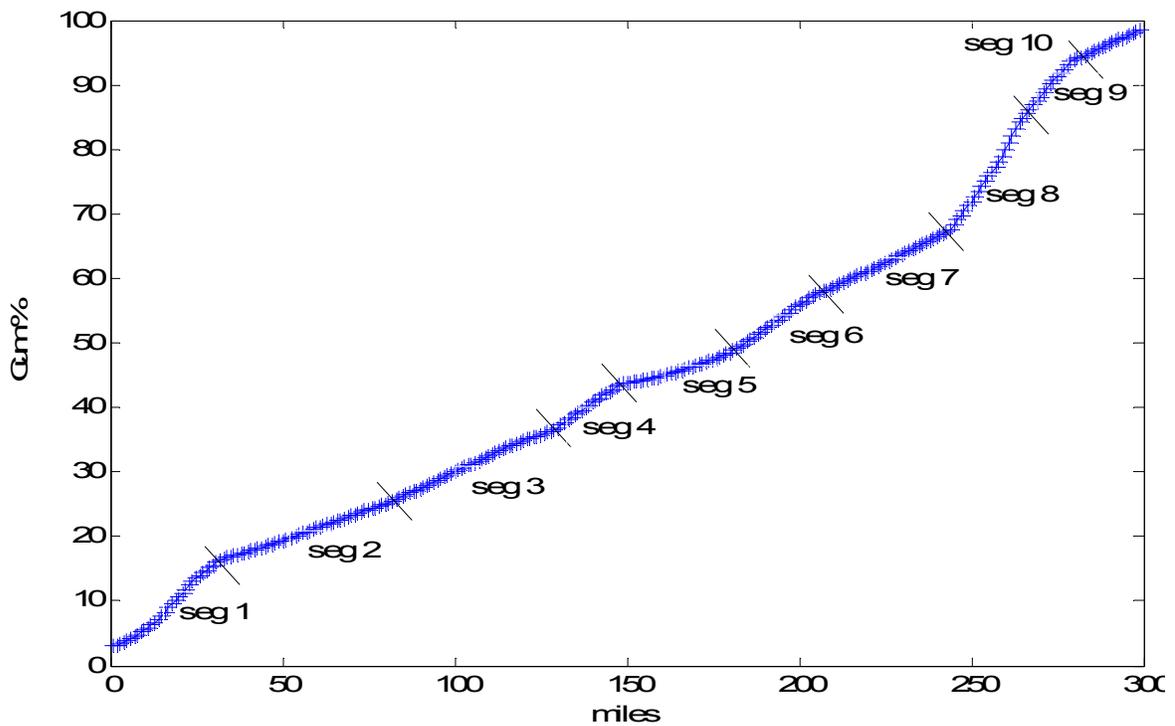
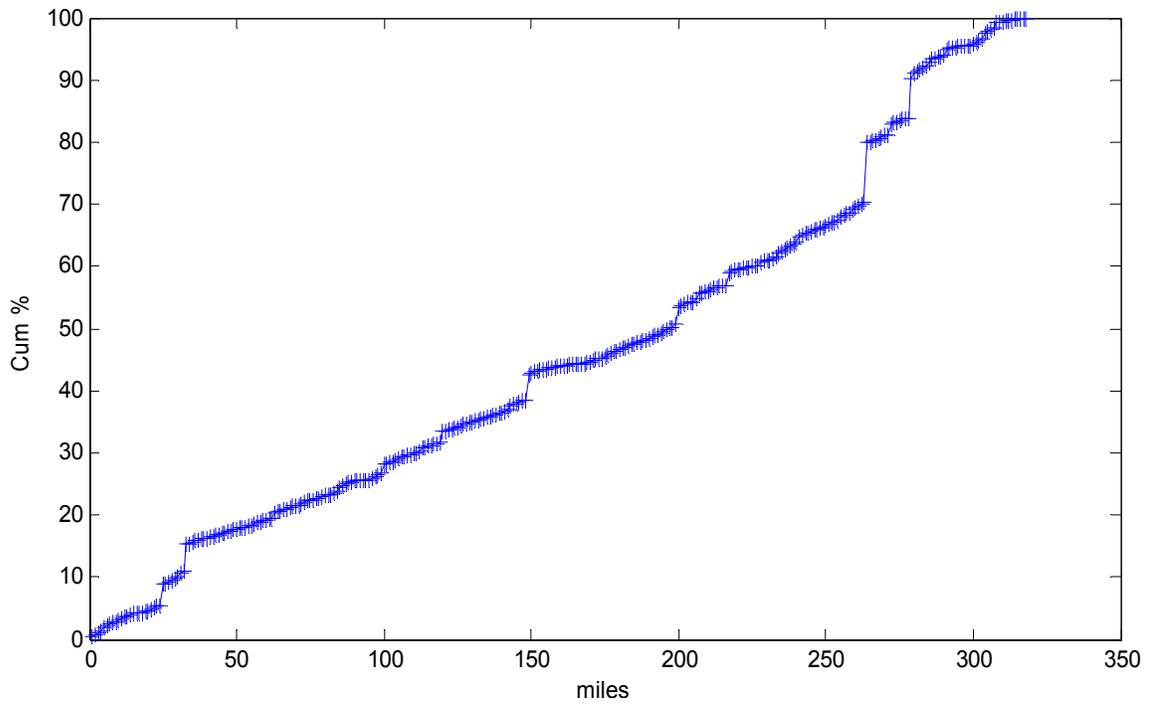


Figure 29: From top to bottom: a) Cumulative distribution plot drawn for the count of truck readings found in every mile of the I-5 NB corridor for July 2007 GPS data; b) Cumulative distribution graph showing smoothed results calculated by averaging over a 20-mile sliding window.

Finally, the start and end of each segment, and nearby attractors (urban areas, major highway junctions, etc.) are identified. Table 8 presents each segment ID, the segment extents, truck count and nearby locations; results reflect July 2007. Figure 30 presents the truck count per segment for the four months analyzed. As shown in the figure and mentioned earlier, July achieves the highest truck counts for all segments in comparison to the other months. Additionally, Figure 30 for all four months, as well as Table 8 for July only, show a higher truck count in segments near urban areas, a finding consistent with expectations regarding rural and urban areas.

Table 8: Segment Summary Information from NB I-5 July 2007 GPS Data

Segment ID	Segment extents (miles)	Truck counts	Nearby locations on I-5 NB
1	0-33	51244	Pacific Hwy 99, Crater Lake Hwy, and International Medford-Airport (Figure A)
2	33-80	28954	Pacific Hwy 99 (Figure A)
3	80-129	41030	Pacific Hwy, NE Stephens St, Roseburg Airport (Figure A)
4	129-149	25459	Pacific Hwy, Eagle Valley Rd, Umpqua Hwy 99 (Figure A)
5	149-180	15569	Near Eugene (Figure A)
6	180-200	23048	Near Eugene (Figure B)
7	200-244	42565	Eugene–Corvallis (Figure B)
8	244-264	47232	Salem, Woodburn (Figure B)
9	264-279	34149	Wilsonville, Tualatin, Portland (Figure B)
10	279-300	19611	Portland, Vancouver (Figure B)

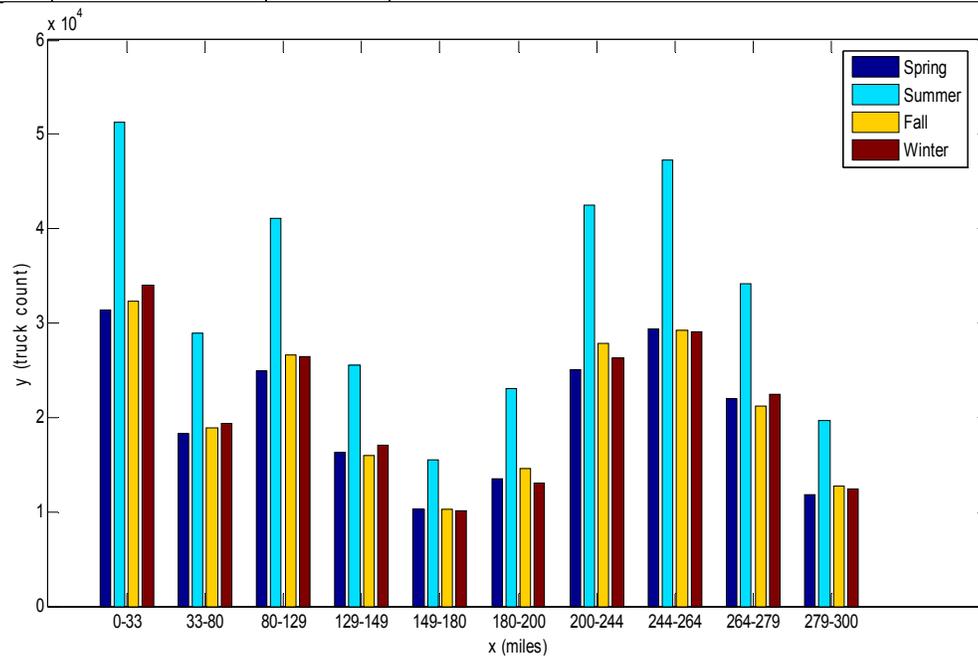


Figure 30: Truck counts across segments for months April—spring, July—summer, October—fall and December—winter. Higher truck counts correspond to urban areas.

Figure 31a and 31b present maps showing the identified segment locations for NB I-5. As depicted in the maps and evident in the results presented in Table 8 and Figure 30, segments toward northern Oregon (segments 6-7) correspond to urban areas with a higher truck count density (counts/mile), while segments toward southern Oregon correspond to rural areas with a lower truck count density. Identified segments can be mapped against GIS data in this way, in order to validate the results of corridor segmentation. With corridor segments identified, each corresponding to rural or urban areas, it is possible to analyze segments independently.

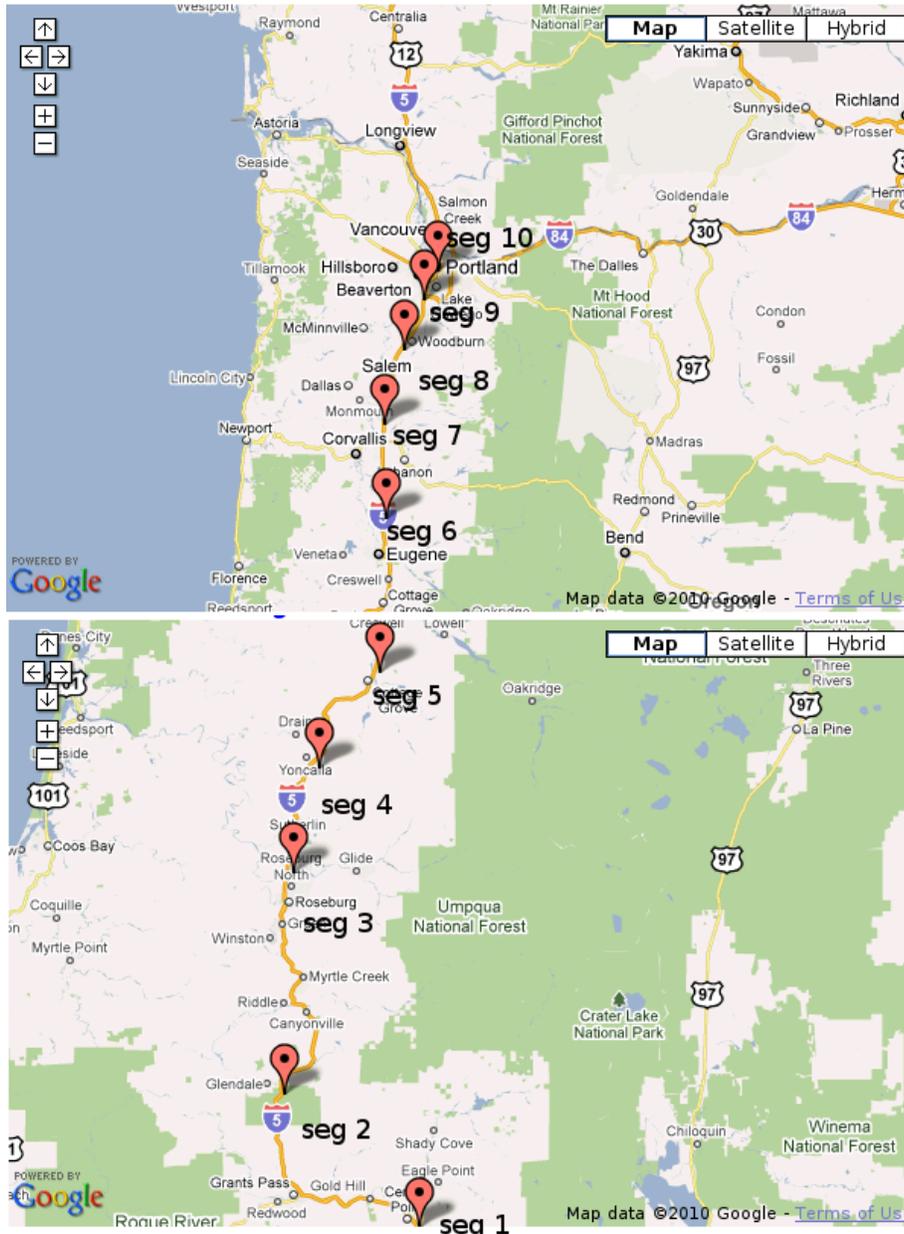


Figure 31: From top to bottom: a) Map of Northern Oregon I-5 segment 6–10; these segments fall mostly in the urban areas; b) Map of Southern Oregon I-5 segments 1–5; these segments fall mostly in the rural areas.

7.2 METHODOLOGY FOR ESTIMATING TRAVEL-TIME RELIABILITY

After applying the methodology to determine segments for analysis presented above, analysis of truck travel times for each segments are computed using the methodology described in this section. The parameters, variables, assumptions and output of the algorithm are described below.

Parameters:

d_0 - Initial distance (i.e., the start point of a segment in miles).

d_1 - Final distance (i.e., the end point of a segment in miles).

$d_1 - d_0$ = Length of segment in miles.

$b_r = 0.1(|d_1 - d_0|)$ - Buffer radius or the radius of influence in miles around the start and end points of a segment, where $|d_1 - d_0|$ is the length of the segment we chose.

$mean_{curr}$ = Total time/number of trucks - mean of the timestamp readings for current segment being analyzed.

$mean_{prev}$ - Mean of timestamp readings for a previous segment.

Variables:

d_{start} - Actual start point for a truck in miles.

d_{end} - Actual end point for a truck in miles.

n_{actual} - Actual number of truck trips in a segment as obtained from the data.

n_{min} - Expected minimum number of trucks trips.

Assumptions:

The vehicle travel time within a segment is normally distributed.

Outputs:

t_{95} – Travel time of trucks at 95% confidence interval in hours.

t_{50} - Travel time of trucks at 50% confidence interval in hours.

t_{80} - Travel time of trucks at 80% confidence interval in hours.

Algorithmic description:

1. Pick one of the chosen segments.
2. In order to determine the starting point of the truck trip on a particular day for that segment, find d_{start} that is closest to d_0 and lies within the buffer radius b_r . Similarly find end point of the truck trip d_{end} for the same day that is closest to d_1 and lies

within the buffer radius b_r . The buffer radius varies as mentioned above with the length of the chosen segment.

3. Count the number of truck trips obtained for the segment; i.e, n_{actual}
4. If $n_{\text{actual}} \ll n_{\text{min}}$ (to determine n_{min} refer to item 7. below). Try to include trucks from a previous segment based on the following observation:
 - 4.1. Find mean of the time readings for this segment: $\text{mean}_{\text{cur}} = \text{Total time}/\text{number trucks}$
 - 4.2. Calculate mean of time readings from the previous segment: $\text{mean}_{\text{prev}} = \text{total time}/\text{number of trucks}$
 - 4.3. If mean_{cur} lies between $\text{mean}_{\text{prev}} \pm 1$ standard deviation, then include the trucks from the previous segment for this segment's travel-time calculations.
5. Calculate travel-time distribution for all the trucks by finding the difference in the timestamp between their consecutive d_{start} and d_{end} readings. This time difference is the actual time required by the trucks to cross the segment that can be determined from the data.
6. Compute a threshold time based on the assumption that the speed of a truck is at least 10 miles/hr within a segment. The corresponding trucks taking less than the threshold are only used to calculate the travel time within that segment.
7. Plot a probability distribution function of that time difference for every truck and use the z-scoring technique to compute the travel time.
 - A z-score is the “x” value on a standard normal distribution corresponding to a cumulative probability. In terms of the integral, this cumulative probability is the area under the curve, or the value of the integral, and the x value is the upper limit of integration. To avoid calculating them every time, these values are calculated for the standard normal distribution and kept in a table. Standardizing is a method of relating non-standard normal distributions to the standard normal distribution, which can then be integrated using z-values in this table by an appropriate shift and scaling factor.
 - The probability distribution of the truck count with mean μ and standard deviation σ can be normalized as: $z = (x-\mu)/\sigma$, where x, in this case, is desired travel time. The above equation can be expressed alternatively as:

$$x = \mu + z \sigma$$
 - For example, the z value for 95% confidence is 1.96 which is correspondingly used to compute the travel time t_{95} : $t_{95} = \mu + 1.96\sigma$
8. Repeat the analysis for other segments. Also, vary the time of day to find travel time for specific time frames.

9. Learning the minimum number of trucks (n_{\min}) from the data: The expected minimum number of trucks traveling along a segment will depend on the following factors:
 1. Urban region
 2. Suburban region
 3. Peak/off-peak time
 4. Time of year (Seasonal variations)

n_{\min} at each condition is chosen:

- By selecting any random four months (non-consecutive and covers the four quarters) and then choosing some random days from those particular months.
- The number of trucks having readings within the radius b_r of start and the ends of the potential segment will be calculated.
- The outliers that show huge variations will be discarded.
- This operation is performed for several potential segments, which satisfies the particular condition.
- The average of the number of trucks calculated for each potential segment after removing the outliers will be equal to n_{\min} .

7.3 RESULTS OF ESTIMATED TRAVEL-TIME RESULTS OVER THE IDENTIFIED SEGMENTS

For the NB I-5 July 2007 data, the algorithm in Section 7.2 was applied to each of the segments identified in Section 7.1. Parameters and variables used within the algorithm are presented for each segment in Table 9 for a 24-hour period. Table 10 presents parameters and variables used within the algorithm Segment 1 and Segment 8 during an a.m. peak period (8-11 a.m.), and Table 11 presents parameters and variables used within the algorithm for each segment during a p.m. peak period (3:30-6:30 p.m.).

Table 9: Algorithm Parameters, Variables and the Estimated Travel Time Over a 24-hour Period with 50%, 80% and 95% Confidence Using July 2007 Data for I-5 NB. The free-flow travel time is computed by dividing the segment length with the truck's free-flow speed, assumed to be 60 miles/hr.

Segment ID	d ₀ (miles)	d ₁ (miles)	b _r (miles)	n _{actual} (count)	Free-flow (hrs)	t ₅₀ (hrs)	t ₈₀ (hrs)	t ₉₅ (hrs)
1	3	33	3	246	0.5	1.43	1.75	2.10
2	33	80	4.7	124	0.78	1.26	1.49	1.74
3	80	129	4.9	147	0.82	1.29	1.53	1.80
4	129	149	2	98	0.33	1.12	1.5	1.91
5	149	180	3.1	65	0.52	0.89	1.15	1.44
6	180	200	2	34	0.33	1.1	1.47	1.88
7	200	244	4.4	143	0.73	1.34	1.65	2.00
8	244	264	2	116	0.33	1.38	1.82	2.32
9	264	279	1.5	110	0.25	1.36	1.84	2.37
10	279	300	2.1	94	0.35	1.6	2.09	2.64

Table 10: Algorithm Parameters, Variables and the Estimated Travel Time During Evening Hours (8–11) with 50%, 80% and 95% Confidence Using July 2007 Data for I-5 NB. The free-flow travel time is computed by dividing the segment length with the truck's free-flow speed, assumed to be 60 miles/hr.

Segment ID	d ₀ (miles)	d ₁ (miles)	b _r (miles)	n _{actual} (count)	Free-flow (hrs)	t ₅₀ (hrs)	t ₈₀ (hrs)	t ₉₅ (hrs)
1	3	33	3	58	0.5	1.65	1.95	2.32
8	244	264	2	19	0.33	1.92	2.35	2.91

Table 11: Algorithm Parameters, Variables and the Estimated Travel Time During Evening Hours (3:30–6:30 p.m.) with 50%, 80% and 95% Confidence Using July 2007 Data for I-5 NB. The free-flow travel time is computed by dividing the segment length with the truck’s free-flow speed, assumed 60 miles/hr.

Segment ID	d_0 (miles)	d_1 (miles)	b_r (miles)	n_{actual} (count)	Free-flow (hrs)	t_{50} (hrs)	t_{80} (hrs)	t_{95} (hrs)
1	3	33	3	12	0.5	0.75	0.97	1.22
2	33	80	4.7	9	0.78	0.99	1.23	1.49
3	80	129	4.9	10	0.82	0.92	1.12	1.35
4	129	149	2	11	0.33	0.84	1.16	1.51
5	149	180	3.1	6	0.52	0.52	0.54	0.56
6	180	200	2	6	0.33	0.60	0.73	0.86
7	200	244	4.4	10	0.73	0.77	0.95	1.15
8	244	264	2	12	0.33	0.64	0.78	0.93
9	264	279	1.5	9	0.25	1.28	1.69	2.16
10	279	300	2.1	7	0.35	1.59	1.98	2.42

The actual number of truck trips identified was sufficient to perform the travel-time calculations on each segment, and the condition $n_{\text{actual}} \ll n_{\text{min}}$ never arises for this case study’s simulations. It is important to note that, if the analysis were done on an hourly basis, such as peak/off-peak hour for one day, step 4 of the travel-time estimation algorithm needs to be performed, as the truck counts per segment can be too small in such cases.

Estimates for travel time with 50%, 80% and 95% confidence were calculated using the algorithm discussed in Section 7.2. These results are presented in tables 9-11. To investigate differences between travel-time reliability in different regions, the researchers studied the probability distribution between segments. Figure 32a and b present the Gaussian kernel probability distribution graphs for the computed truck travel times at a rural and urban segment, over a period of 24 hours. The travel time with 95% confidence is noted on each figure. Comparing the two figures, it is clear the probability curves produce similar shapes (i.e., similar travel-time distributions); however, a noticeable peak in probability occurs near the 95% confidence interval for the urban area. This is likely the result of increased occurrences in highly congested travel times, caused by influxes in volume during peak hours within urban areas.

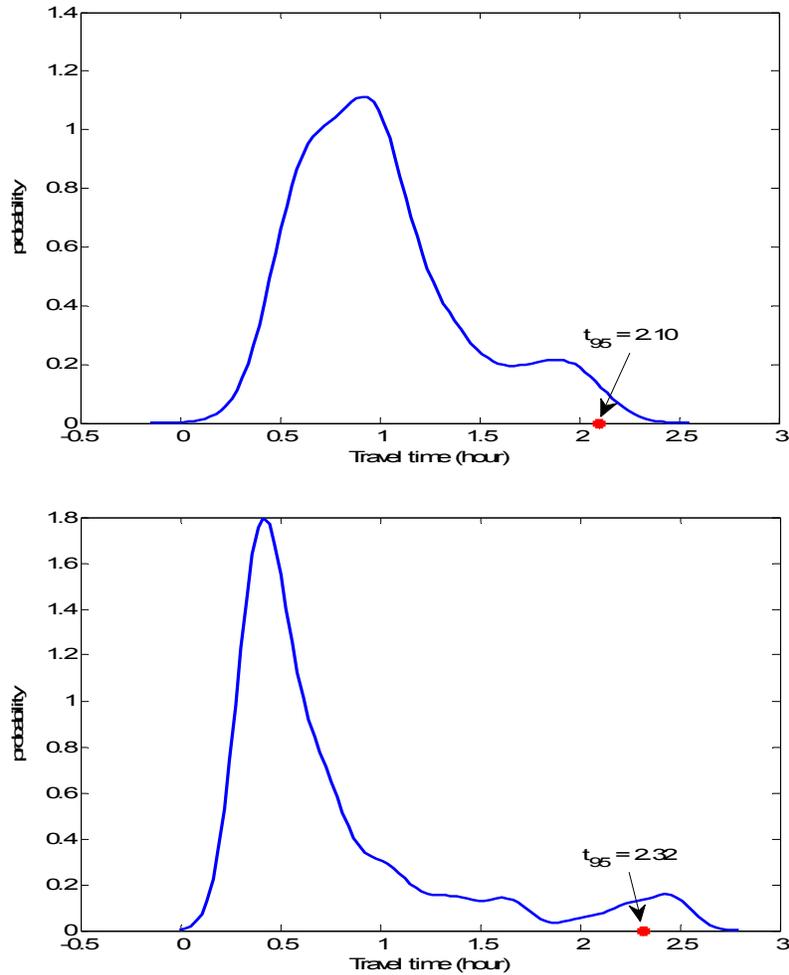


Figure 32: Distributions of travel time for 24 hours -- from top to bottom, a) Segment 1—Rural region, $t_{95} = 2.10$ hrs; b) Segment 8—Urban region, $t_{95} = 2.32$ hrs

To investigate the differences between urban and rural travel-time reliability further, the periods from 8-11 a.m. and from 3:30-6:30 p.m. were investigated for these two segments. Figure 33a and b present the Gaussian kernel probability distribution graphs for the computed truck travel times at a rural and urban segment, during a period between 8-11 a.m. Figure 34a and b present the Gaussian kernel probability distribution graphs for the computed truck travel times at a rural and urban segment, during a period between 3:30-6:30 p.m. The travel time with 95% confidence is noted on each figure. Comparing the two segments during the a.m. and p.m. peak (Figure 33a versus Figure 33b; Figure 34a versus Figure 34b), it is clear the probability curves produce different shapes (dissimilar travel-time distributions). While the rural area follows a more normal distribution in the p.m. hours (comparing Figure 32a and Figure 34a), the urban area follows a more bimodal distribution in the p.m. hours and for the daily travel time probability (comparing Figure 32b and Figure 34b). This means that, when the urban area is studied over a greater time period, such as a 24-hour period, the increase in variability of travel time (decrease of reliability) is less prominent. When comparing the rural and urban areas, it is clear that the travel-time distributions in urban areas tend to have a longer right tail, an expected finding that validates the methods presented in this work. These findings can be further studied and quantified using standard methods to determining the cost of travel-time reliability and delay.

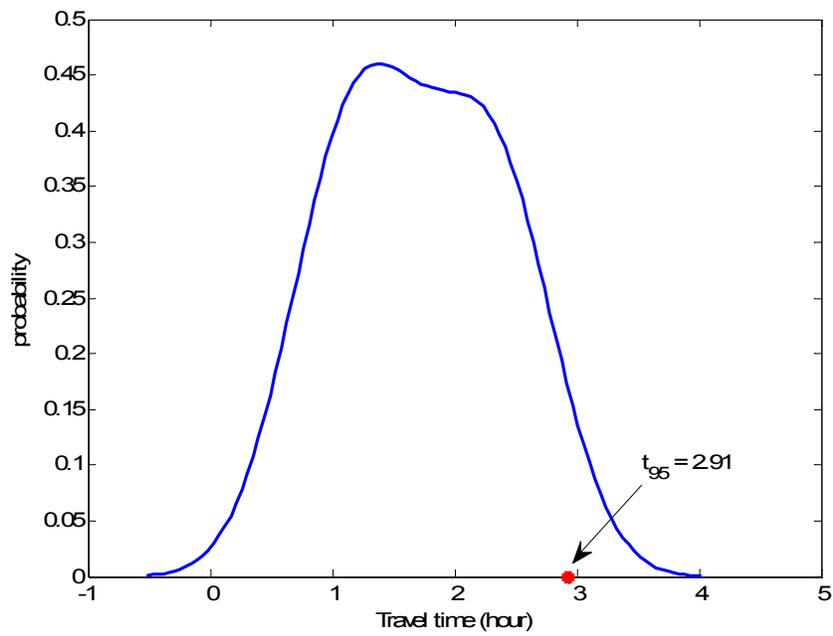
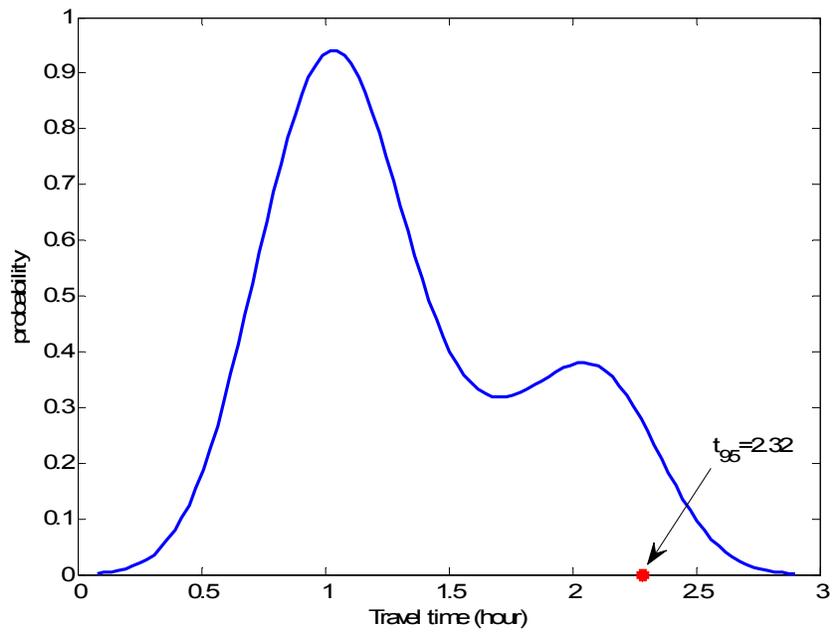


Figure 33: Distributions of travel time between 8-11 – from top to bottom: a) Segment 1—Rural region, $t_{95} = 2.32$ hrs; b) Segment 8—Urban region, $t_{95} = 2.91$ hrs.

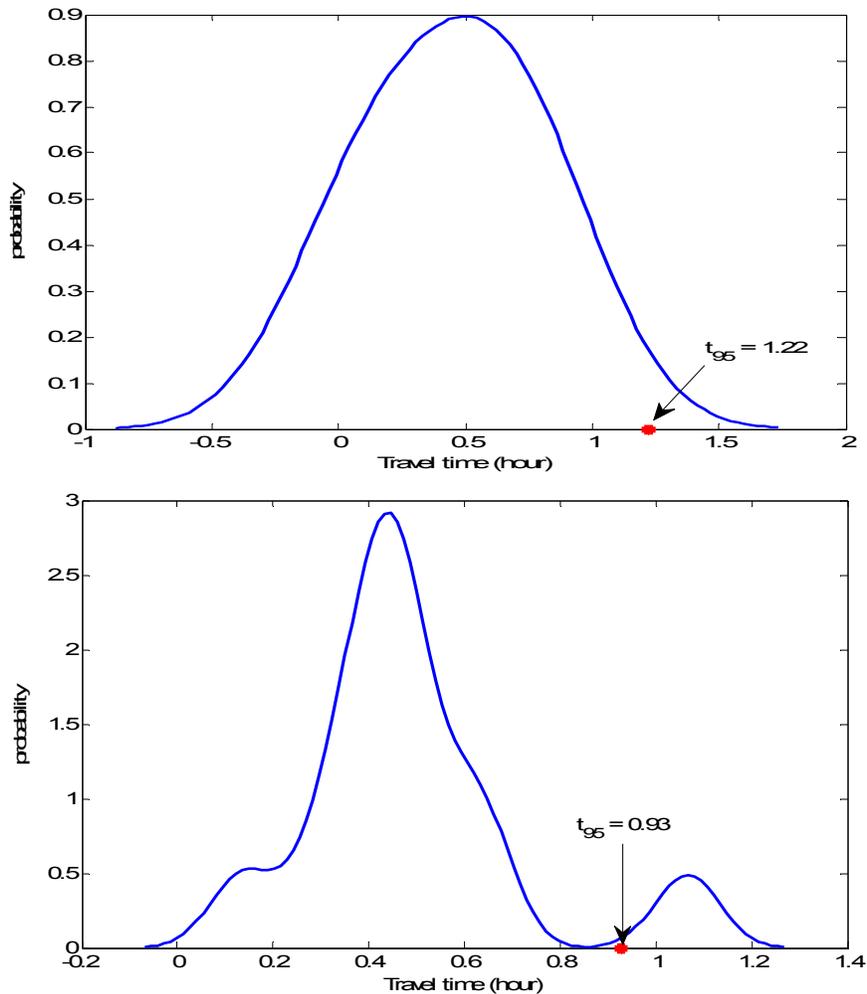


Figure 34: Distributions of travel time between 3:30 and 6:30 p.m. – from top to bottom: A) Segment 1—Rural region, $t_{95} = 1.22$ hrs; B) Segment 8—Urban region, $t_{95} = 0.93$ hrs.

7.4 COST OF TRAVEL-TIME RELIABILITY

The impact of travel-time reliability on operating and travel-time costs can be estimated using the predicted travel times with 50%, 80% and 95% confidence across each segment of the corridor. The average operating cost figure was derived during recent research by ATRI, and used to estimate operating cost per mile—this figure was \$83.68 per hour (18). The average value of time figure for freight vehicles in Oregon was adjusted to reflect 2010 prices, and used to estimate travel-time cost per mile—this figure was \$27.85 per hour (21).

For each segment along the corridor, Figure 35a and b present the daily operating cost per mile per freight vehicle, and daily travel-time cost per mile per freight vehicle for travel below free-flow conditions (i.e., the cost of delay for travel time at 50%, 80% and 90% confidence intervals). As shown, there are greater costs per mile per freight vehicle near urban areas, with the Portland-Vancouver and surrounding cities achieving the highest cost per mile per freight vehicle (segments 9 and 10). Additionally, the urban areas show greater differences in costs among the travel times at 50%, 80% and 90% confidence. The smaller cities of Eugene and Salem (segments 6 and 8) also achieve moderate cost per mile per freight vehicle, as does the

area surrounding the key junction of I-5 and Pacific Highway (Segment 4). The remaining rural areas achieve lower cost per mile, with little difference between travel times with 50%, 80% and 90% confidence.

Higher costs reflected near urban centers are a direct result of the increase in the variability (decrease in reliability) of travel time within these areas, caused by recurring and non-recurring congestion. Variability in travel time presents a challenge particularly for the freight industry, as carriers must meet scheduling demands of their customers.

Figure 35 illustrates a comparison between free-flow travel time and travel time at 50%, 80% and 90% confidence by depicting the increase in cost above free-flow cost. Again, it is shown that in urban areas operating and travel-time cost can be four to nine times the free-flow costs, while rural areas merely double in cost. Clearly, there are differences in the impact of travel-time variability between urban and rural areas on the cost of transportation goods.

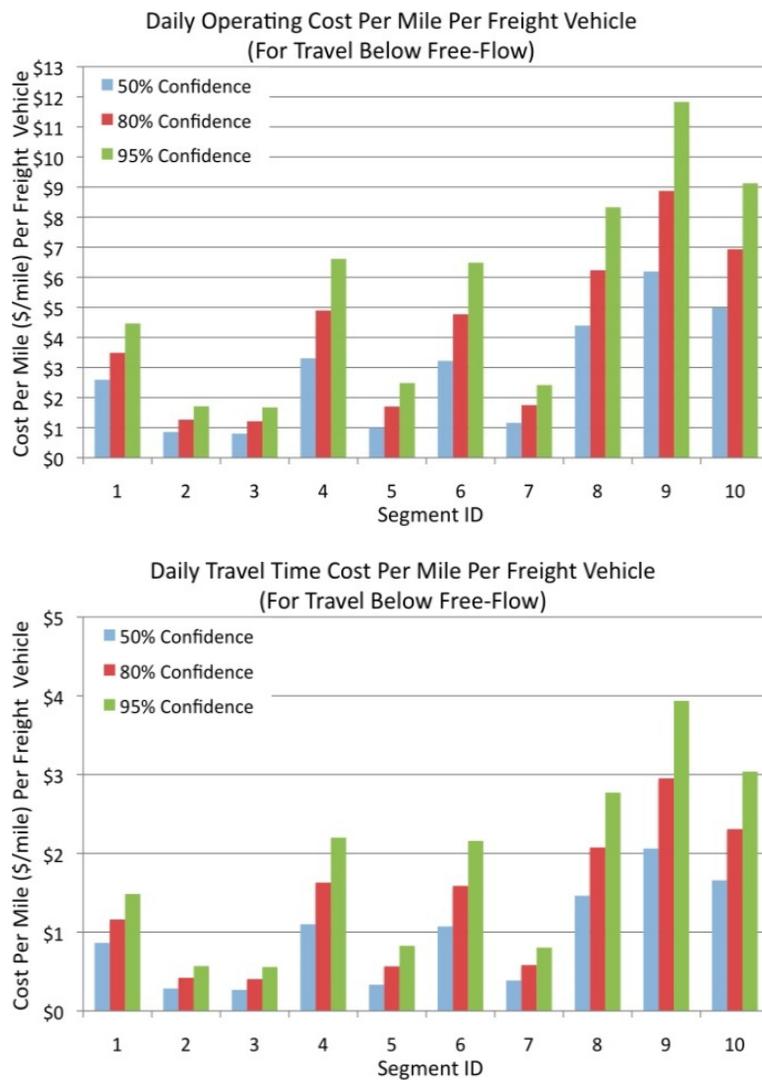


Figure 35: Top to bottom: a) daily operating cost per mile per freight vehicle; b) additional daily travel-time cost per mile per freight vehicle due to unreliable travel time only.

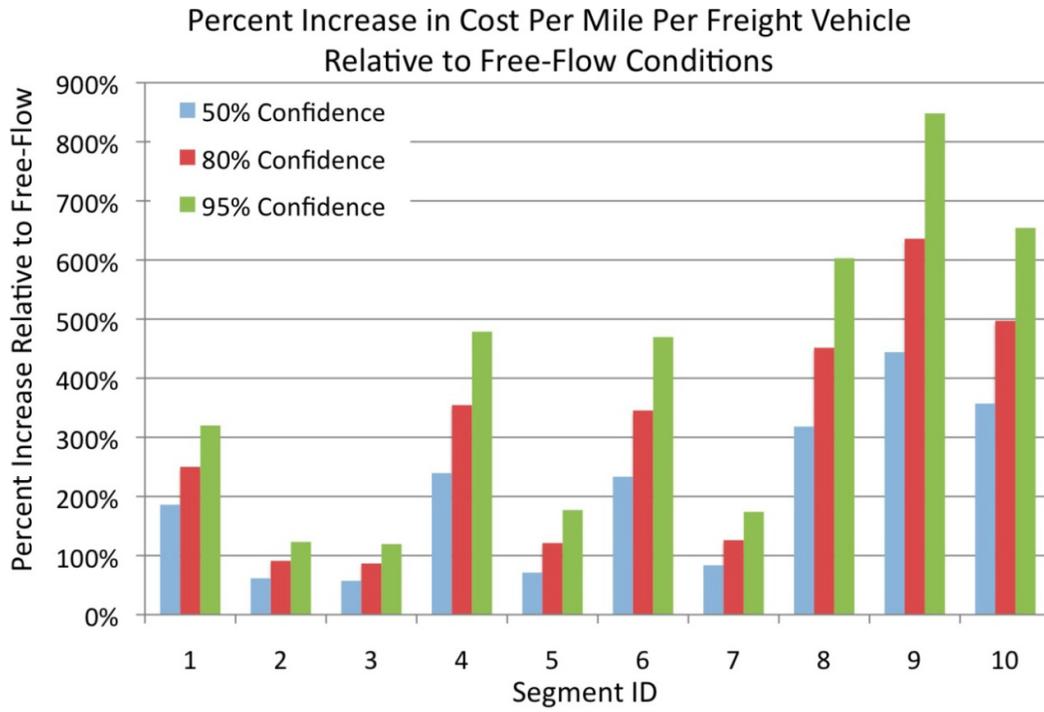


Figure 36: Percent increase in cost per mile per freight vehicle relative to free-flow costs for travel times at 50%, 80% and 95% confidence intervals.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

A unique contribution of this research is the integration of GPS with loop sensor and incident data to study multicriteria trucking performance measures. The integration of diverse data sources has validated the accuracy of the raw GPS data and allowed for a new methodology to filter and identify through trips.

The new methodology presented in this work was effective to identify through trucks using a two-step filtering process. The first process finds all potential through trucks, while the second process integrates loop sensor data in order to eliminate any remaining through trucks that may have stopped midway through the corridor. It is shown that the separation of through trucks from partial-through, partial-local and local trips removes bias from the estimation of performance measures. Otherwise, the results have shown that corridor travel time and reliability can be under/overestimated.

Findings show that, in general, the GPS truck data have greater travel times than the expected loop sensor average in the p.m. peak period. The GPS data more accurately portray the roadway conditions experienced by a freight truck, and the comparison with loop sensor data indicates that traditional loop-detector congestion estimates tend to underestimate increases in both truck travel times and travel-time variability.

Variability, in particular, is critical to the freight industry as carriers must meet customer demands and adhere to strict delivery schedules. Without a reliable transportation network, carriers are forced to increase buffer time in case of delay. This work has shown that by eliminating variability in the p.m. peak, a cost savings of 6-27% can be made.

Additionally, this research developed algorithms that use available truck GPS data to: (a) identify corridor natural segments or regions (urban centers, interstate junctions, rural areas) and (b) estimate corridor-wide impacts of travel-time unreliability. The method was applied successfully to segment the Oregon I-5 corridor. The impact of travel-time reliability on operating and travel-time costs were estimated using the predicted travel times with 50%, 80% and 95% confidence across each segment of the corridor. Travel-time distributions between urban and rural areas are not alike.

There are greater costs per mile per freight vehicle near urban areas, with the Portland-Vancouver and surrounding cities achieving the highest cost per mile per freight vehicle. The mostly rural areas achieve lower cost per mile with little difference between travel times with 50%, 80% and 90% confidence. Higher costs reflected near urban centers are a direct result of the increase in the variability (decrease in reliability) of travel time within these areas, caused by recurring and non-recurring congestion. Variability in travel time presents a challenge for the time-definitive freight industry as carriers must meet their customers scheduling demands. In urban areas operating and travel-time costs can be four to nine times the free-flow costs, while rural areas merely double in cost.

This research shows that congestion is not only detrimental for carriers' costs and shippers' just-in-time operations, but also for the environment due to major increases in GHG emissions and for the local community due to increases in NO_x, PM, and other harmful pollutants. Freeway congestion management strategies that can maintain moderate speeds will benefit people living near transportation systems by minimizing freight vehicle emissions such as NO_x, and PM, which are closely linked to respiratory health issues.

8.1 PRACTICAL APPLICATION

The methodology developed throughout this work has the potential to provide valuable freight operation and performance data for transportation decision makers to incorporate freight performance measures into the planning process.

From a planning and engineering perspective, the methodology developed to identify through trucks and produce corridor-level, multicriteria performance measures will allow for the consideration of the freight industry in transportation improvement projects. This is a significant step in being able to study and address the needs of all users of the transportation system, as current freeway performance measures are not freight specific.

The methodology can be modified to identify and study bottlenecks throughout the corridor and allow for comparisons to be made between target areas, in order to prioritize the areas most in need of transportation improvements. Being able to quantify the impact of congestion on freight vehicles creates transparency in the transportation planning process, holding agencies accountable to the public for the decisions that are made.

Additionally, the research presented here can help inform decisions made regarding congestion management strategies, infrastructure improvements, and incident response strategies. Here, the multicriteria performance measures would allow decision makers to study the benefits of such improvements or strategies to the freight industry by using performance data that reflect the current impact of congestion on freight vehicles.

Understanding the monetary and environmental impacts of non-recurring congestion may also motivate and justify the need for public agencies to provide system-wide improvements—technologies such as variable message signs located along freeways would be beneficial in communicating to passenger and freight vehicles about an upcoming incident. Additionally, multicriteria performance measures may also justify the need for increased incident response by ATMS.

From a freight industry perspective, the methodology developed to identify through trucks and produce corridor-level, multicriteria performance measures will allow carriers to improve routing and scheduling logistics. Freight carriers could use the multicriteria performance measures to identify periods of time when travel-time delay and variability increase on a given freeway. Examining the region-wide system of freeways, carriers would be able to identify the optimal route for a given time of day that would reduce travel-time delay and improve reliability. By modifying scheduling and routing in this way, carriers would see a reduction in transportation costs and improvement in reliability, allowing carriers to more easily adhere to strict scheduling.

8.2 FUTURE WORK

Researchers should continue to develop and build upon the methodologies outlined in this research. Parameters used in filter processes 1 and 2 (r , t_c , t_b , m) should be studied further to determine optimum user-input values for differing corridor lengths. Because of large gaps between readings, it was difficult to obtain a large quantity of through trucks crossing smaller segments. Further analysis may reveal user-defined parameters that are more fruitful in the number of through trucks identified.

One of the challenges regarding commercial GPS data is that freight carriers do not require a high frequency of readings to track trucks along routes. The gap times between readings in the data set obtained for this research varied among carriers, and often among sequential readings for given trucks. When narrow corridors are defined to obtain realistic data for small segments, as with the non-recurring congestion analysis, very few through trucks (or through-incident trucks) are obtained on a given day. Future work seeking to study non-recurring congestion should identify data sources (i.e., data vendors) that can provide truck data at a higher resolution—this would increase the number of through-incident trucks that can be identified using the filtering methods defined in this research.

The estimation of travel-time reliability plays a crucial role in the timely delivery of goods. As discussed in this work, the estimation of travel time is, in turn, dependant on several factors such as the location of the traveling trucks (i.e., urban or rural segments and the cost of transporting goods). Thus, to improve the functionality of the transportation network and make efficient use of funds, this paper discusses a methodology that can estimate the travel times across a particular segment of the corridor with 50%, 80% and 95% confidence. The predicted travel times can help meet a carrier's departure and arrival time constraints.

Future research will include applying these methods on a large-scale network. In this context, finding the shortest path in networks will be evaluated. One of the basic complications to finding such solutions is the inapplicability of Bellman's principle of optimization (46). This leads to the notion of α and β reliability (47, 48), which should be explored further in future applications. In addition to using normal distribution to estimate the travel time, alternative distributions should be investigated, such as log-normal, beta and student-t distributions. As the travel-time distributions have a longer tail (an increased number of trips achieving a very long travel time) these distributions may prove to be a better fit. The accuracy of our z-scoring method as proposed by (49) can also be improved.

In this work, the researchers have computed the travel time considering only trucks that are within a given segment. However, the travel time in any segment may also depend on the conditions of the previous and next segments. This motivates the use of joint multivariate probability distributions (50), although this may significantly increase the computational complexity of the system.

Finally, to improve accessibility of multicriteria freight performance measure to public- and private-sector users, this research could be incorporated into a web interface. This would provide freight carriers and public agencies with a user-friendly interface to interpret and compile multicriteria freight performance measures. The online tools would help justify routing and scheduling decisions, as well as decisions made at a project or regional level.

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