

How Will Self-Driving Vehicles Affect U.S. Megaregion Traffic? The Case of the Texas Triangle

Yantao Huang, Dr. Kara Kockelman & Neil Quarles

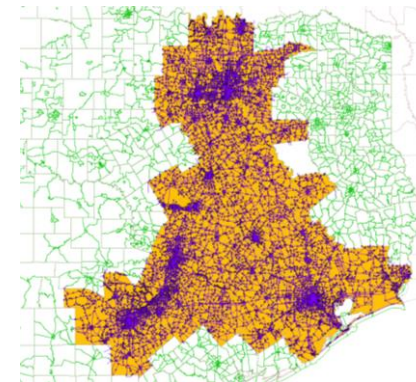
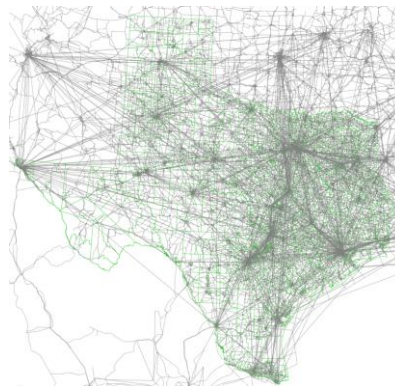
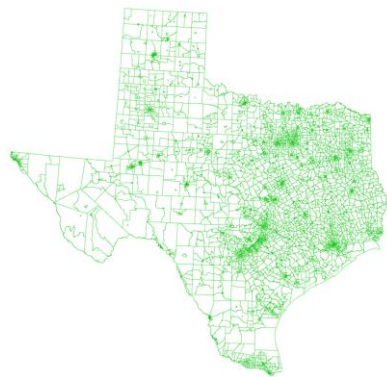
Sponsored by the USDOT's University Transportation Centers Program

Background

- Fully-automated vehicles (**AVs**), trucks (**Atrucks**), & shared AVs (**SAVs**), may dramatically shift **passenger & freight** travel patterns over time.
- The **Texas Triangle megaregion...**
 - is one of the nation's **11** megaregions,
 - contains **18.2 M** of Texas' 25.1 M residents,
 - has about **6%** of the U.S. population, & generated **7% of U.S. GDP** in 2010.
- We want to leverage **statewide analysis model** (SAM) data with new self-driving modes & see how the model responds.

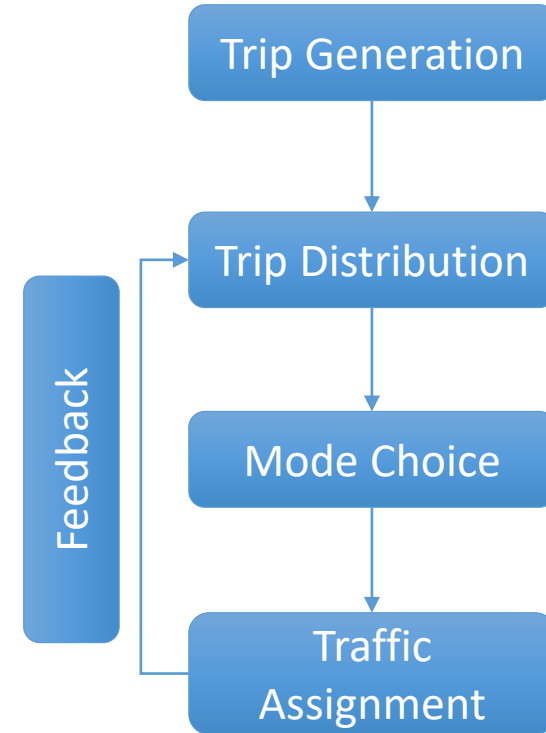
SAM Data

- The megaregion contains **2,160** of the state's **4,667 TAZs**, & **66** of the state's **254 counties**
- **19,549 nodes** & **27,976 links** of the SAM's network lie partially or entirely within the megaregion, including **26,556 roadway links**.
- The megaregion was modeled within the U.S. network, & results for the megaregion's links & zones were **pulled out** from of the results of the statewide analysis.



Model Specifications

- **4-step travel demand** model with **feedback loop** is used here, to model traffic patterns across the **entire state of Texas**.
- **Base Case** (BAU) scenario - ***without AV, SAV & Atruck*** modes - was run first, to compare against **self-driving scenarios**.
- **Various parameter assumptions** also tested, using **sensitivity analysis**.
- **24 hr simulation** used to recognize that many trips are long in distance, spanning many times of day & congestion levels.



Trip Generation

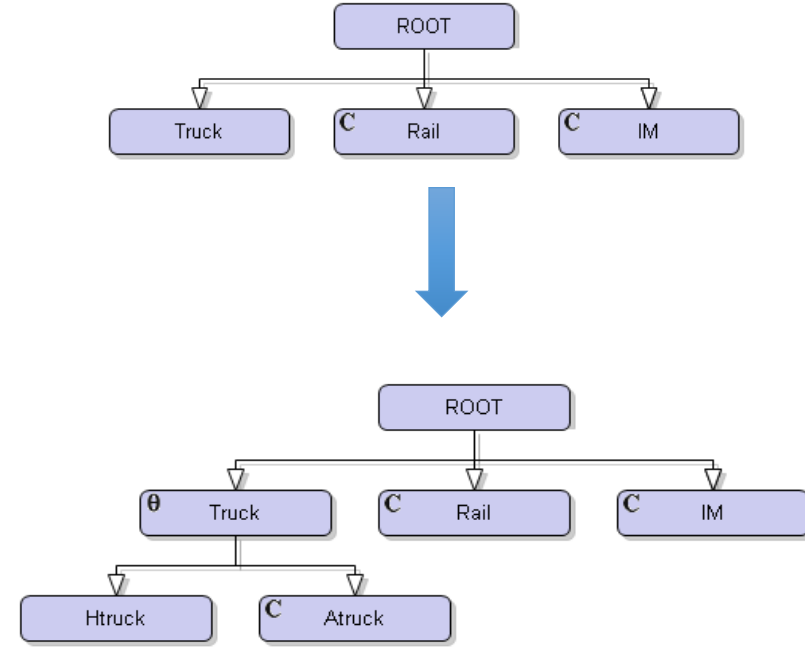
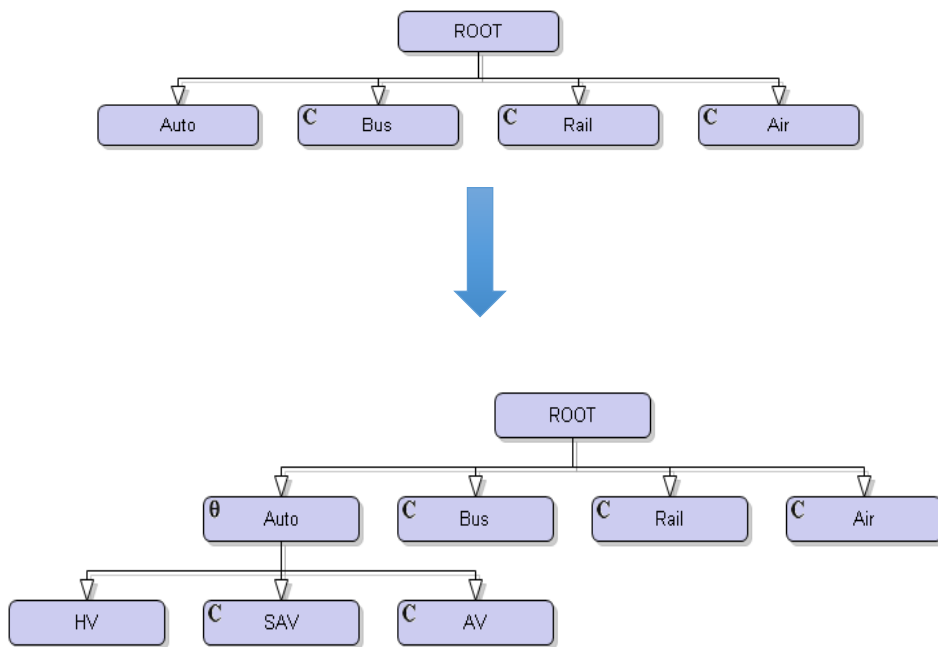
- Obtained from the SAM **Year 2040 scenario** results, based on underlying **population & jobs** forecasts by zone, using **2009 NHTS** data.
- An assumption of **15% increase** in Year 2040 trip generation rates (productions & attractions) due to AV technologies enabling new trip-making.
- All trip purposes are **aggregated**.

Trip Distribution

- Traditional “trip distribution” step for **passenger** travel replaced by a **logit destination choice model**.
- Each destination TAZ’s attraction depends on a **logsum** across mode options & destination’s **population**.
- A **doubly-constrained** trip distribution procedure was used in the **freight model**, based on SAM’s Year 2040 freight-trip generation parameters.

Mode Choice

- 4 passenger modes: **HV, bus, rail & air.**
- 3 freight modes: **Truck, Rail, & Intermodal (IM).**
- Models expanded to include AV, SAV & Atruck modes

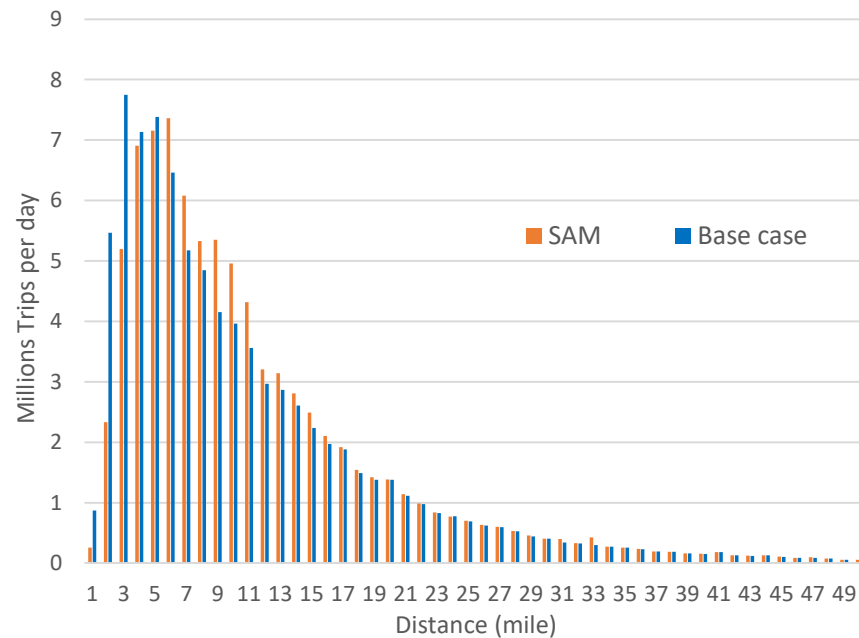


Traffic Assignment & Feedback

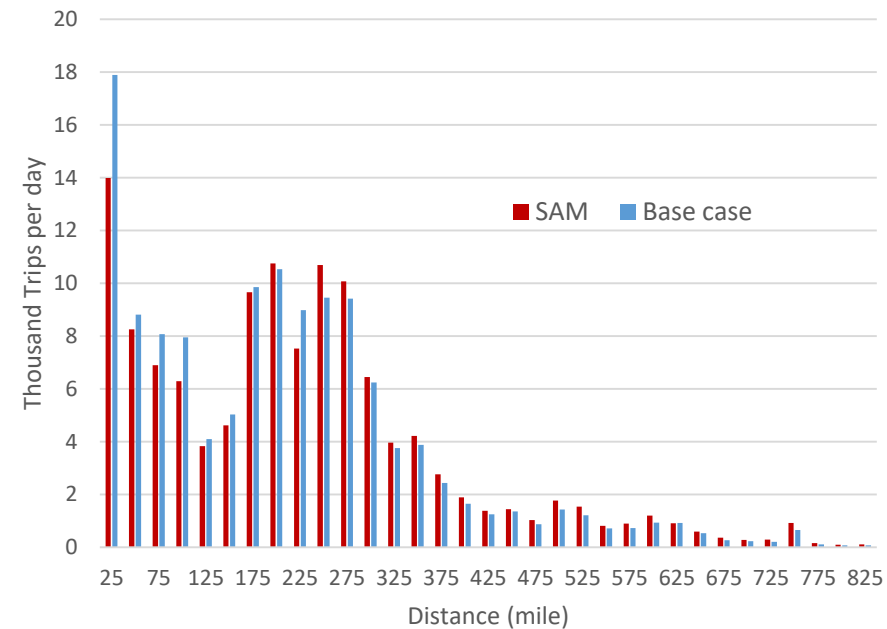
- **Passenger mode & destination choice** results transformed into “trip tables” (OD matrices).
- HV, AV & SAV occupancies = **1.5 persons**
- Freight trip table (in tons by commodity) converted to **trucks & rail cars**, based on average statewide model weights per load.
- Feedback loops (iteration) provide consistent results between **travel times, cost skims & network flows**, using method of successive average.
- Assignment is conducted on **whole U.S. network**.

Trip Distance Correlations

- Correlation = **0.82** across flows between all >21M OD pairs
- Correlations = **0.81** for trip counts between every all U.S. OD pairs



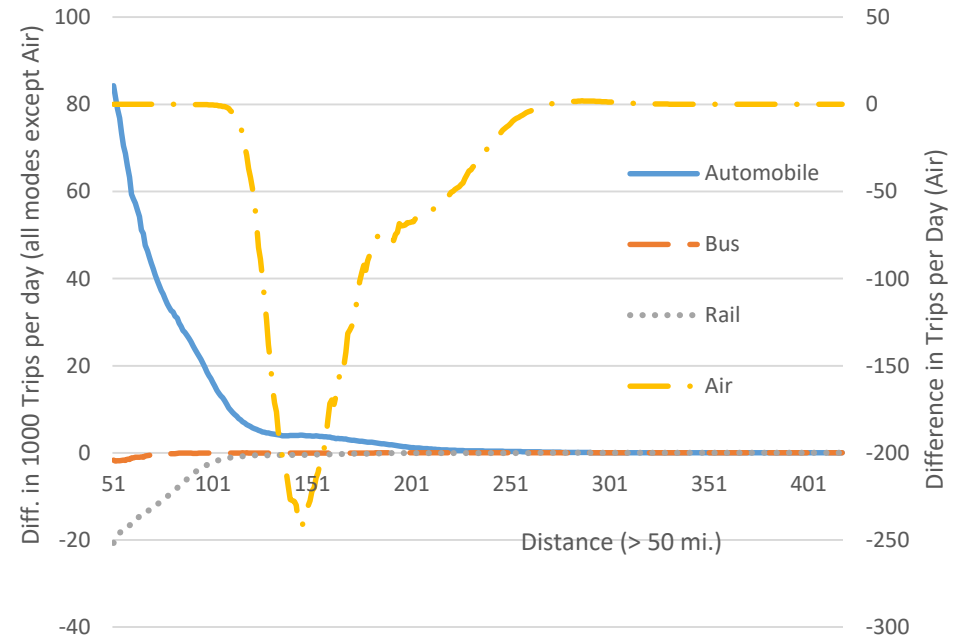
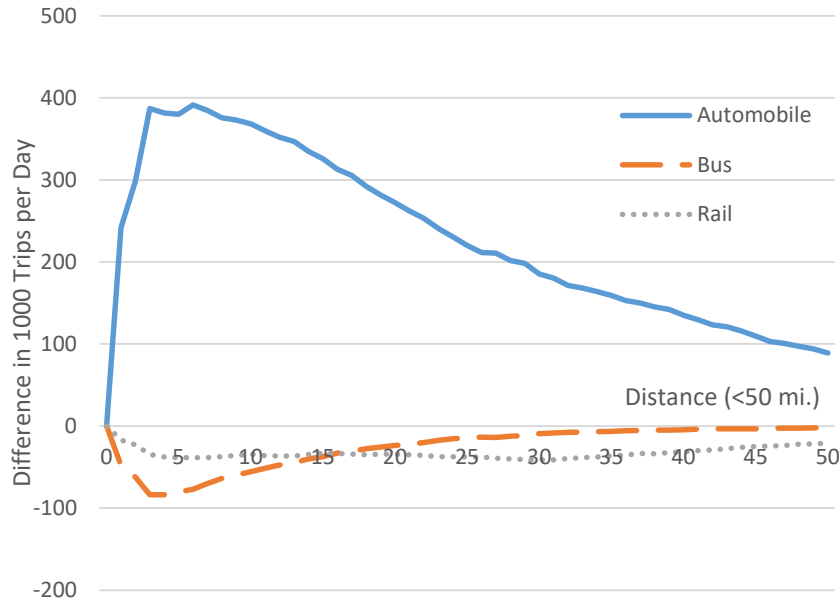
Passenger Trip Distances across Texas (< 50 mi.)



Freight Trip Distance across U.S.

Mode Splits

- **Operating Costs: HVs = \$0.6/mile, AVs = \$0.8/mi, & SAVs = \$1/mi**
- **Automobile shares rise for short & long-distance trips across the megaregion, shifting markedly away from Texas air travel**
- **Bus & rail #s fall**



Mode Splits (2)

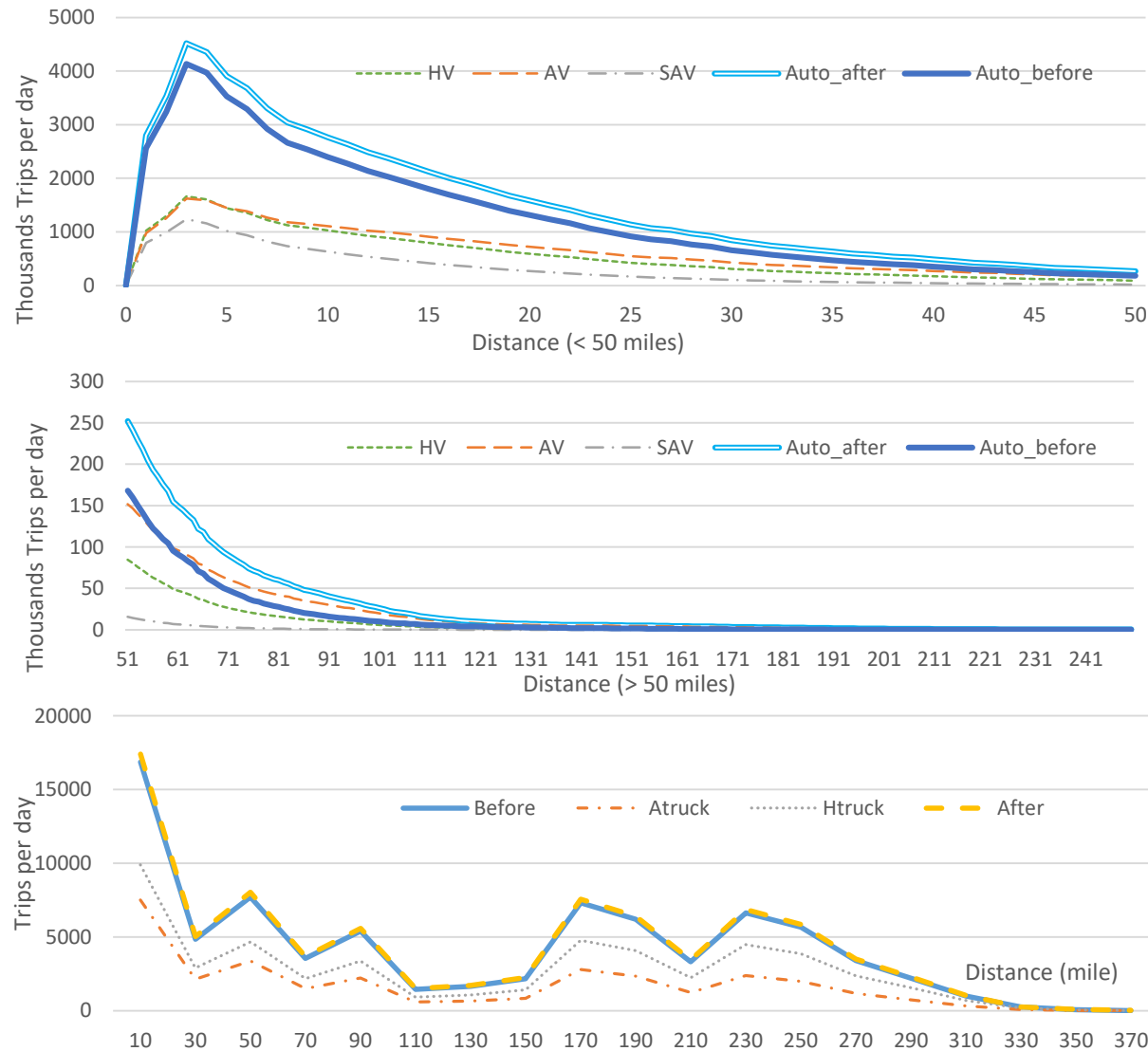
- AVs & SAVs see **less impact** on shorter distances
- Air trips less than 50 miles are not discussed
- Local **air trips reduce** significantly

Mode		Automobile (HVs, AVs, & SAVs)	Bus	Rail	Air
Trips before	< 50 miles (short- distance)	64,678 k/day	1,837 k/day	2,219 k/day	N/A
Trips after		75,088 k/day	623.8 k/day	642.3 k/day	N/A
Change		+16.1%	-66.1%	-71.1%	N/A
Trips before	> 50 miles (long- distance)	2,946 k/day	33.64 k/day	988.2 k/day	14.27 k/day
Trips after		6171 k/day	2.416 k/day	595.7 k/day	2.497 k/day
Change		109.5%	-92.8%	-39.7%	-82.5%
Total change		+20.2%	-66.5%	-61.4%	-82.5%

Freight Mode Splits

Commodity	Mode Shares After Atrucks Introduced					Total Ton-mile (Billion)	Change from Base Case		
	Atruck	Htruck	Truck	Rail	IM	All modes	Truck	Rail	IM
Agriculture	30.4%	52.6%	83.0%	16.9%	0.18%	0.75	+7.2%	-25.3%	-25.3%
Mining	37.1%	58.0%	95.1%	4.9%	0.04%	0.28	+2.4%	-30.9%	-31.0%
Coal	2.5%	3.5%	6.0%	91.0%	3.08%	0.97	+50.0%	-2.0%	-2.0%
Nonmetallic Minerals	26.6%	56.1%	82.7%	17.3%	0.01%	23.42	+5.6%	-21.8%	-21.9%
Food	34.5%	58.0%	92.4%	7.5%	0.06%	3.22	+3.1%	-28.8%	-28.8%
Consumer Manufacturing	38.6%	60.7%	99.2%	0.1%	0.68%	0.09	+1.1%	-31.7%	-31.7%
Non-Durable Manufacturing	35.9%	63.7%	99.6%	0.2%	0.19%	0.49	+0.2%	-29.6%	-29.7%
Lumber	36.3%	61.2%	97.5%	2.4%	0.04%	1.13	+1.2%	-26.4%	-26.5%
Durable Manufacturing	48.1%	38.4%	86.5%	13.0%	0.53%	1.14	+9.6%	-35.1%	-35.1%
Paper	33.8%	54.5%	88.3%	11.2%	0.49%	0.45	+5.2%	-28.3%	-28.4%
Chemicals	30.6%	46.6%	77.2%	22.7%	0.05%	6.46	+11.1%	-25.6%	-25.6%
Petroleum	30.6%	62.9%	93.5%	6.5%	0.01%	9.07	+2.2%	-24.5%	-24.7%
Clay, Concrete, Glass	34.3%	60.5%	94.8%	5.2%	0.06%	8.85	+2.1%	-28.4%	-28.4%
Primary Metal	34.2%	47.7%	81.9%	18.0%	0.02%	1.05	+9.0%	-27.8%	-27.8%
Secondary & Misc. Mixed	36.6%	61.7%	98.3%	1.2%	0.49%	16.95	+0.5%	-30.5%	-30.6%

Trip Distributions



- Trip distribution of a thousand trips per day by automobile **before & after** AV introduction
- Oper. Cost: **HV = 0.6** \$/mile vs **AV = 0.8** \$/mile vs **SAV = 1** \$/mile
- **Average trip distance** is **14** miles before AVs, compared to **16** miles after the AV scenario
- Slight **increase** in truck trips of all trip distances

VMT Results

- **VMT** = average trip distance x trip count for each distance band.

VMT (1M mi per day)	Automobile	Rail	Bus	Air
Before	955.2M mi/day	19.4M mi/day	114.1M mi/day	2.0M mi/day
After	1400.9	4.5	57.3	0.3
Change	+46.7%	-77.1%	-49.8%	-84.6%

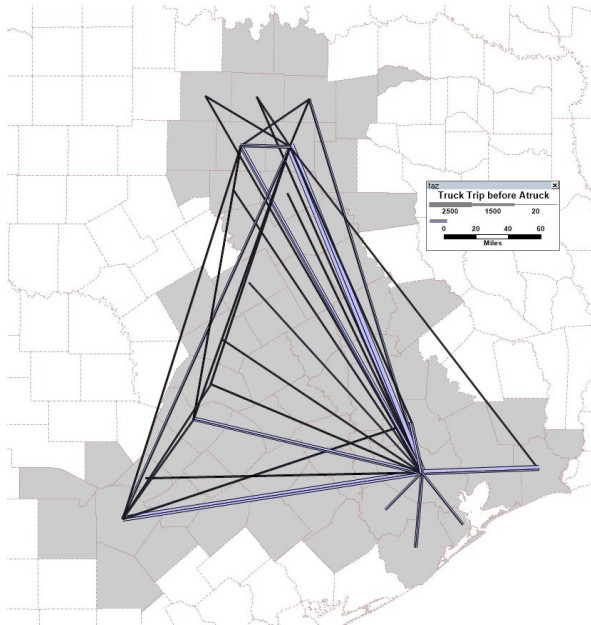
- **VMT** = Automobile VMT within Megaregion Border.

	Automobile VMT before AV (1M per day)	Automobile VMT after AV (1M per day)	Change
Dallas-Fort Worth	453M miles	669M miles	+47.7%
San Antonio Region	118	171	+45.8%
Austin Region	119	186	+56.9%
Houston Region	432	587	+36.0%
Total Megaregion	1,367	2,012	+47.2%

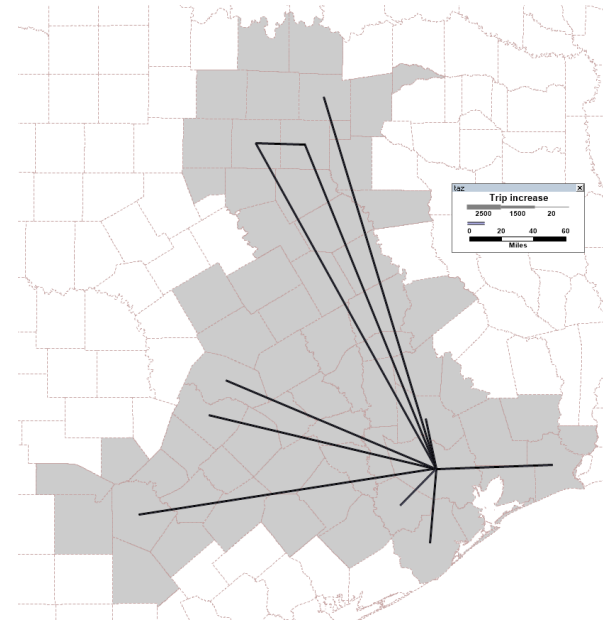
- **Raised burden** for the infrastructure of the major cities in the megaregion, especially in the Austin area

Freight Spatial Patterns

- **Major commodity movements** (90% of megaregion's freight movement in tons) & **movement changes** between OD pairs in the Triangle
- Trade happens mostly between Triangle's **key sub-regions**: Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth, San Antonio & Austin

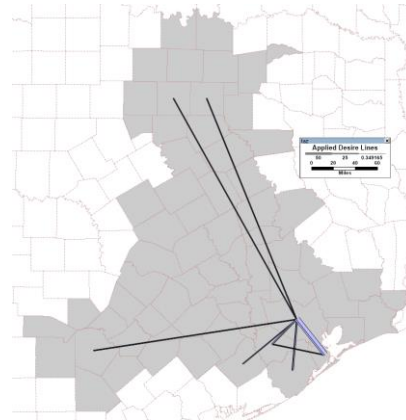


Truck Trips before AVs

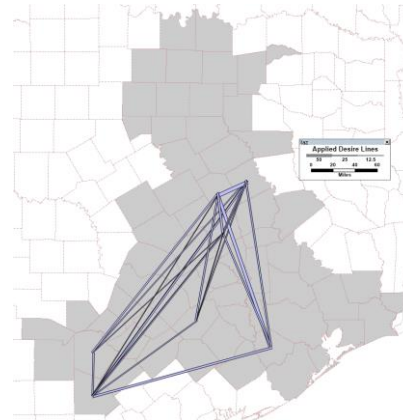


Top Truck Trip Increases After Atrucks

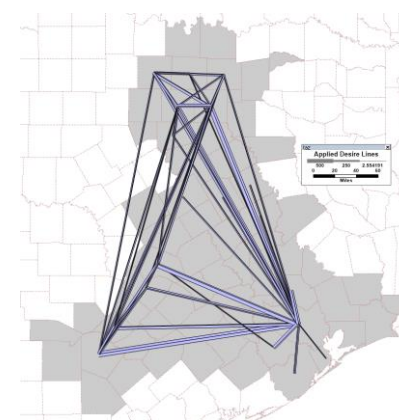
Truck Trip Increases > 5%



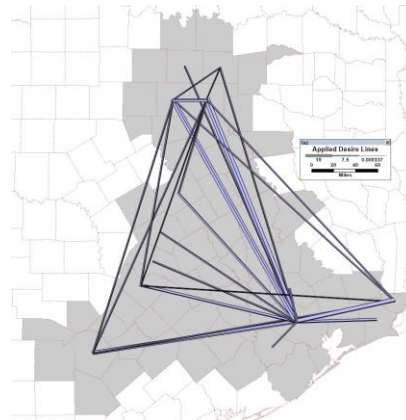
Agriculture



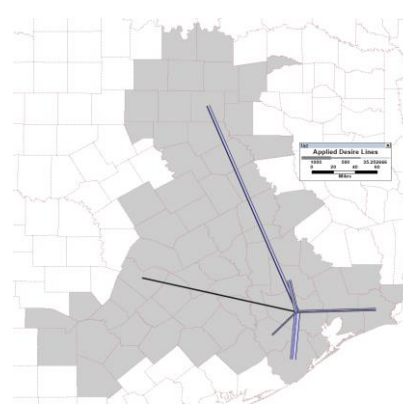
Coal



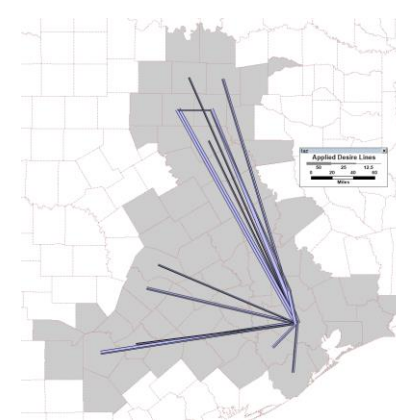
Nonmetallic Minerals



Paper



Chemicals

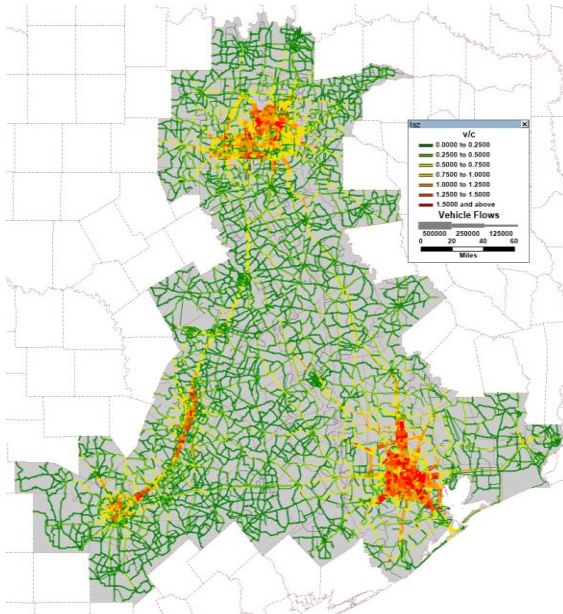


Primary Metals

Network Congestion Results

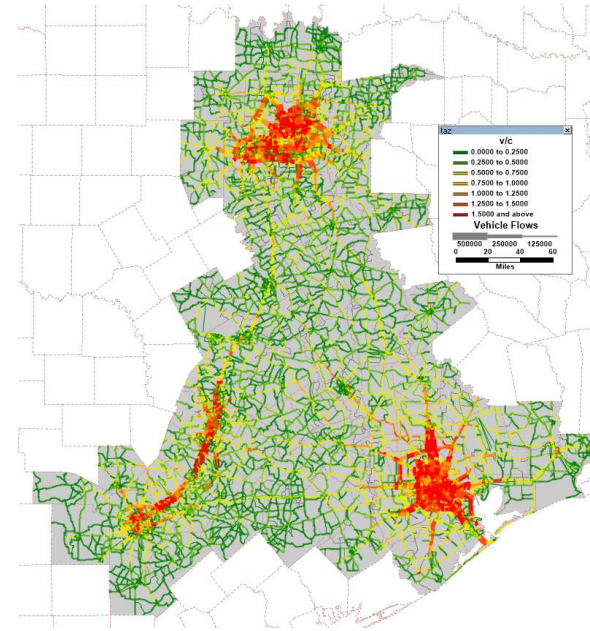
- **Traffic flows** (by line thickness) & **congestion levels** (volume-to-capacity ratios, by color)
- **92.3%** of the links experience higher flows in both directions

Before AVs



V/C >1 on **4.9%** of 27,976 links

After AVs



V/C >1 on **9.9%** of links

AV Sensitivity Analysis Results

- market penetration is in person-trips/day

Scenario	Base	1	2	3*	4	5	6	7*	8	9	10	11	12*	13	14	15
SCENARIO ASSUMPTIONS	AV & SAV VOTT (\$/hr)						Operating Cost (\$/mile)				Nesting Coefficients of Automobile Mode					
	N/A	14.25	12.67	11.08	9.50	7.92	AV	AV	AV	AV	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	1
	Reduced VOTT (% less than original)						0.6	0.8 → 1	1							
	0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	SAV	SAV	SAV	SAV						
							0.6	1	1 → 1.5							
Total VMT (Passenger + Freight) (Billion per day)	1.4 B/day	2.0 B/day	2.012	2.030	2.051	2.086	2.088	2.012 → 1.991	1.990		2.152	2.012	1.894	1.793	1.707	1.632
HV VMT (Billion per day)	0.96	0.58	0.51	0.45	0.40	0.34	0.40	0.51 → 0.51	0.54		0.51	0.51	0.50	0.48	0.47	0.45
AV VMT (Billion per day)	N/A	0.67	0.74	0.81	0.87	0.94	0.58	0.74 → 0.74	0.78		0.85	0.74	0.67	0.61	0.56	0.52
SAV VMT (Billion per day)	N/A	0.13	0.14	0.14	0.15	0.16	0.46	0.14 → 0.14	0.06		0.11	0.14	0.16	0.17	0.19	0.20
HV market penetration	93.0	40.1	37.6	35.3	33.1	30.45	31.9	37.6 → 37.7	40.6		37.4	37.6	37.6	37.5	37.3	37.0
AV market penetration	N/A	41.4	43.5	45.6	47.5	49.84	36.5	43.5 → 43.4	46.7		45.5	43.5	42.0	40.8	39.9	39.1
SAV market penetration	N/A	16.2	16.6	17.0	17.4	17.81	29.4	16.6 → 16.7	10.5		14.4	16.6	18.5	20.1	21.4	22.6
%Links with V/C > 1	4.60	9.60	9.78	9.94	10.20	10.60	10.63	9.78 → 9.56	9.55		11.47	9.78	8.56	7.83	7.19	6.64
Maximum V/C	3.22	4.05	4.07	4.07	4.09	4.12	4.13	4.06 → 4.03	4.04		4.21	4.06	3.88	3.73	3.61	3.49

Key Results

- Average **passenger-trip distance** across Texas Triangle **rises 14%**, from **14 to 16** miles.
- **Local Air travel** between Triangle airports expected **to fall dramatically**, by over **80%**, though just **4.3%** of all air trips in Texas.
- Without road pricing or other demand management, **VMT** predicted to **rise 47.2%**, along with links' V/C ratios, especially in the Triangle's biggest top sub-regions.
- The number of links having demand exceed capacity is predicted to **double**.
- Movements in **7** of **15 commodity** classes predicted to rise **>5%**.

Future Work & Things to Try

- Reflect **dynamics of congestion** & use of **SAVs between drop-offs & pickups**
- Adjust **ASCs** in cases where AVs are introduced.
- Allow for **trips across U.S.-Mexico border.**
- Simulate SAVs serving as **first-mile & last-mile modes** in support of longer-distance travel (by trains, planes, & buses, for example).

Thank you!
Questions & Suggestions?



Paper at
[www.caee.utexas.edu](http://www.caee.utexas.edu/prof/kockelman)
prof/kockelman