

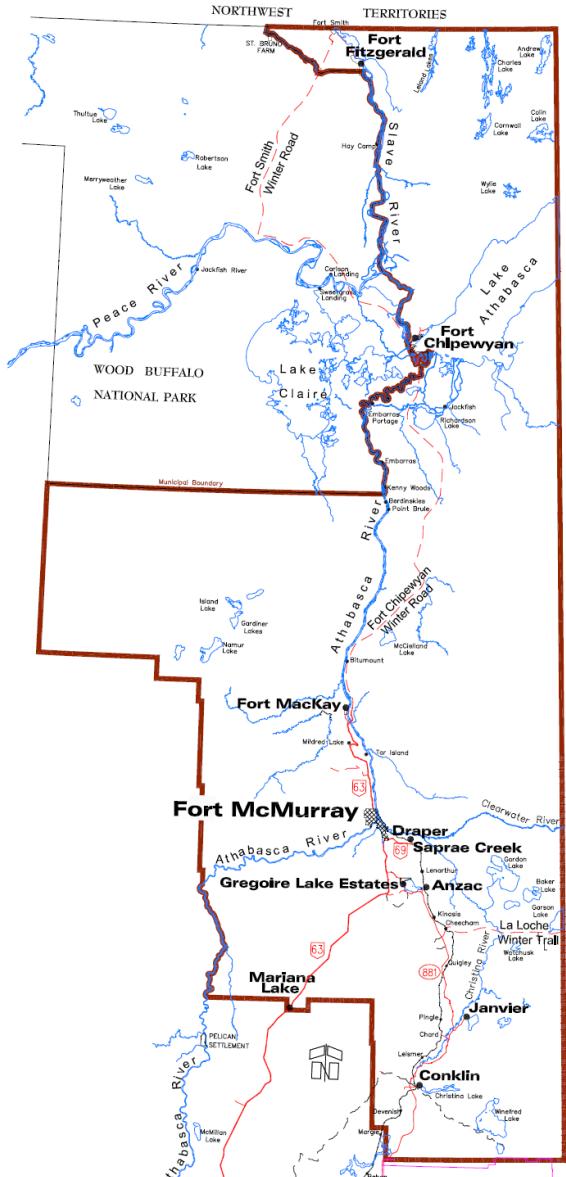
An Atypical TDM - Development of the RM of Wood Buffalo Regional Travel Model



Outline

- What makes the RMWB region unique?
- How does the model work?
- What challenges arose from data sparsity?
- What distinctive results did we obtain?

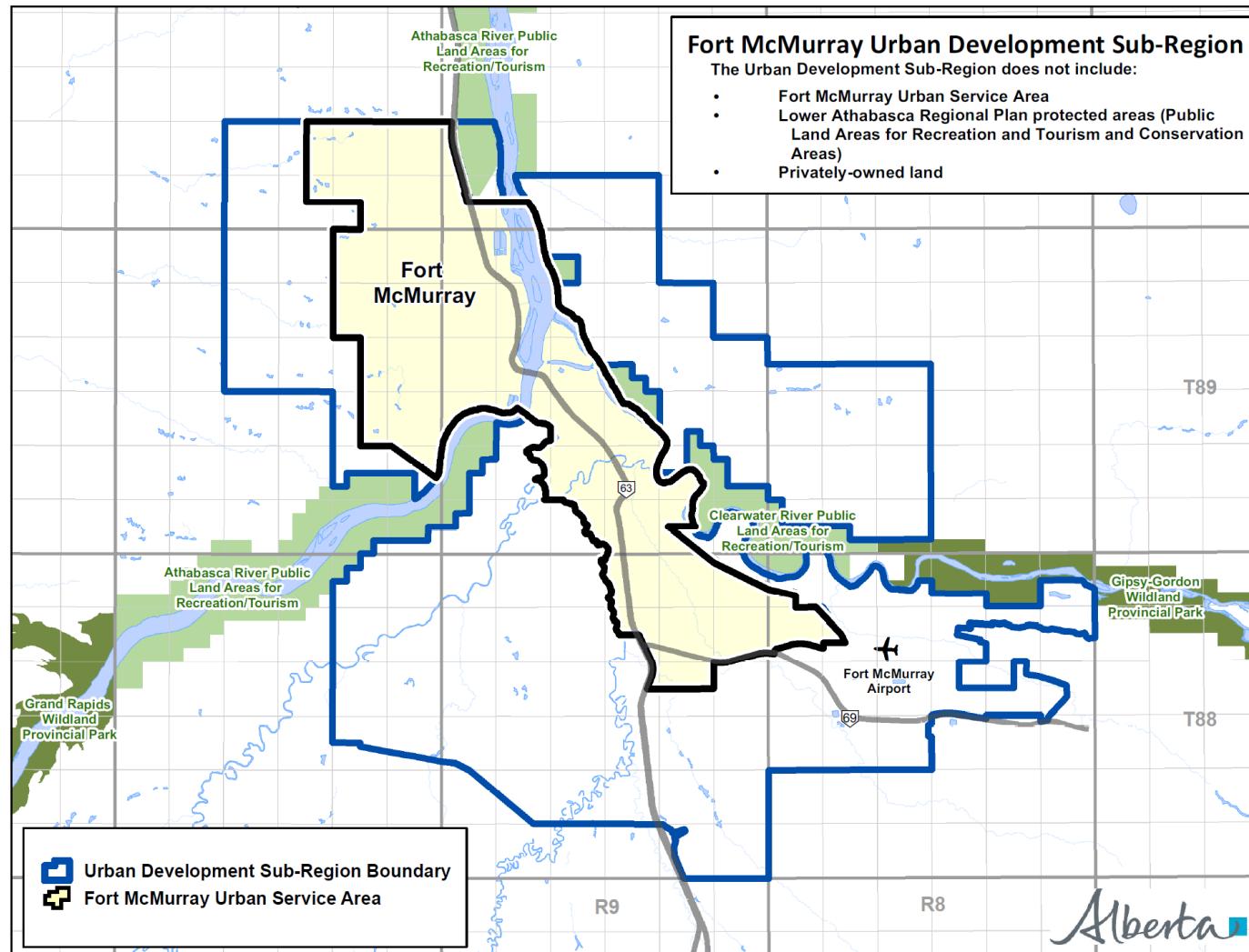
Study Area: Overall



360 km
(15 hours drive
in summer)

130 km
(2½ hours drive)

Study Area: UDSR



Specific Model Uses for RMWB

Alternatives Analysis in Support of Identified Planning Goals

R.2.1: Develop Rapid Transit – to encourage permanent residency in the region by reducing commuting time from communities to oil sands operations throughout the region

R.2.2: Expand Regional Road Transportation Systems – to facilitate the efficient movement of people and goods throughout the region and to connect to outside markets

R.2.3: Explore Expansion of Rail Transportation – to potentially provide alternative land transportation options for both shipping and passenger travel use

R.2.4: Support Aerodromes to Facilitate Remote Access – to help promote safe and efficient use of air transport

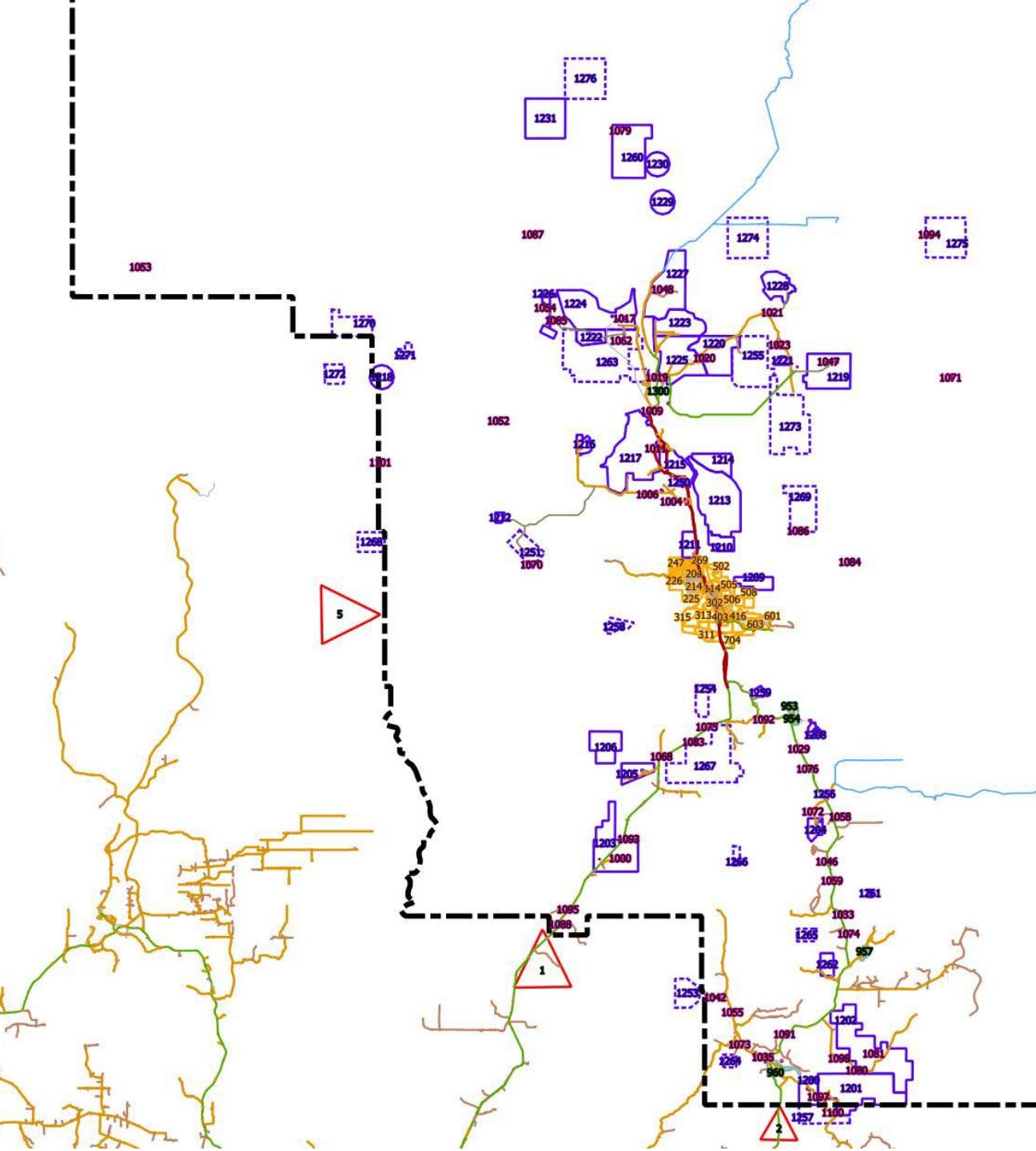
R.2.5: Support the Development of Multi-Use Corridors – to develop integrated mobility solutions for people, goods and services

Specific Model Uses for RMWB

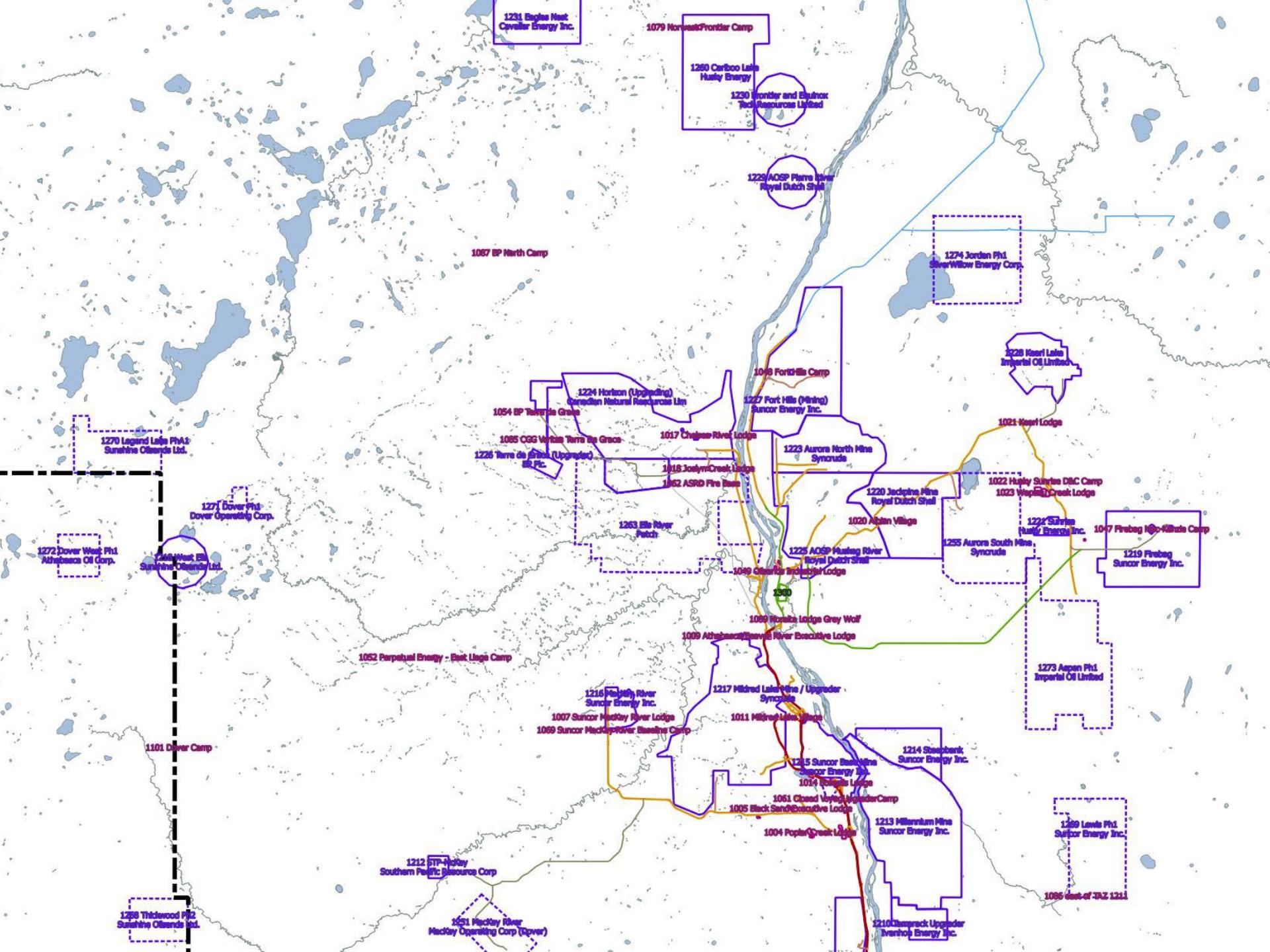
To support a number of transportation planning activities, including:

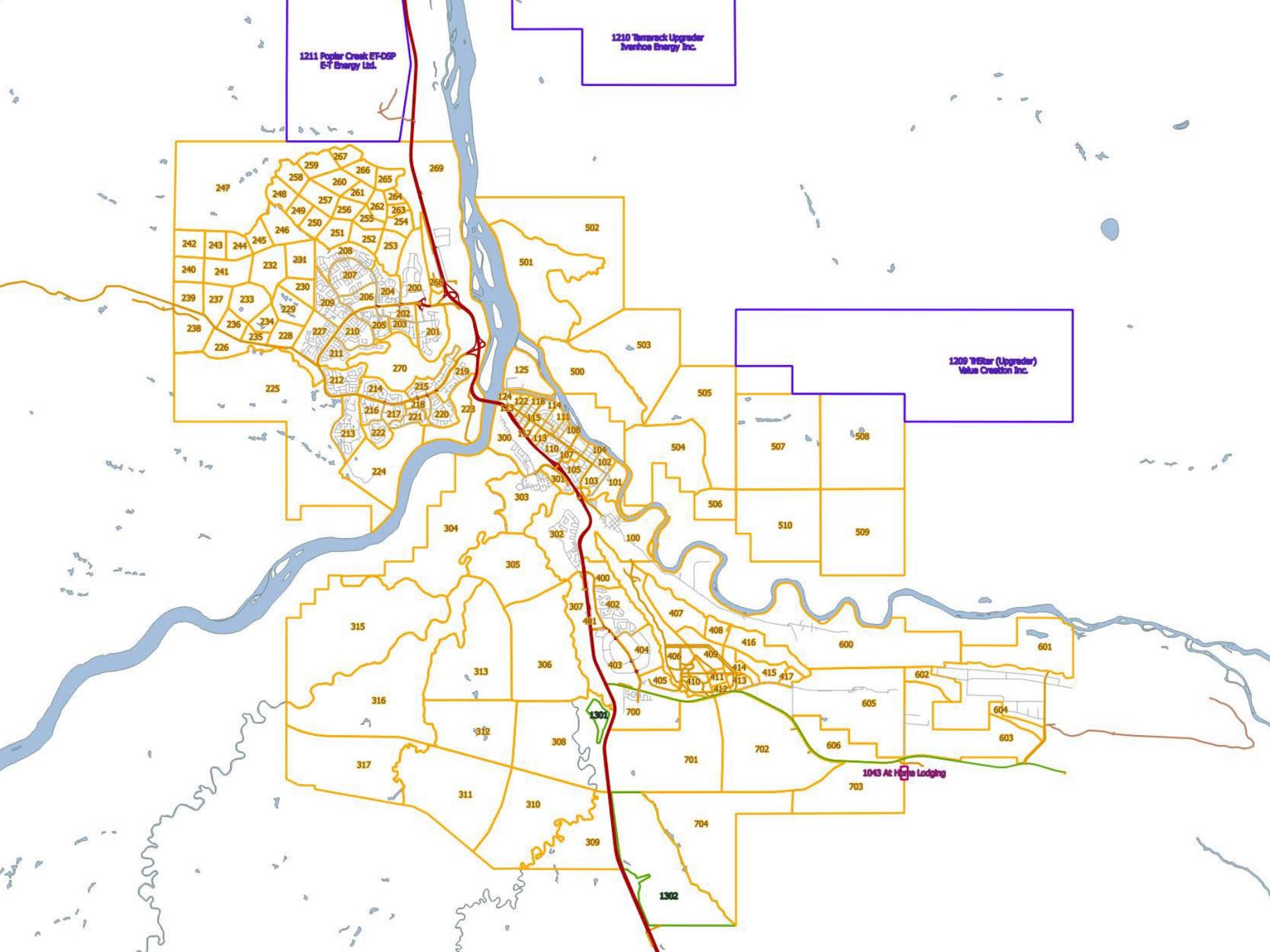
- Traffic forecasting (private, transit and truck)
- Future volumes and flows for road design
- Corridor analysis
- Investment studies
- Interchange evaluations
- External and through trip analysis
- Pavement Management System
- Safety analysis
- Transit network planning

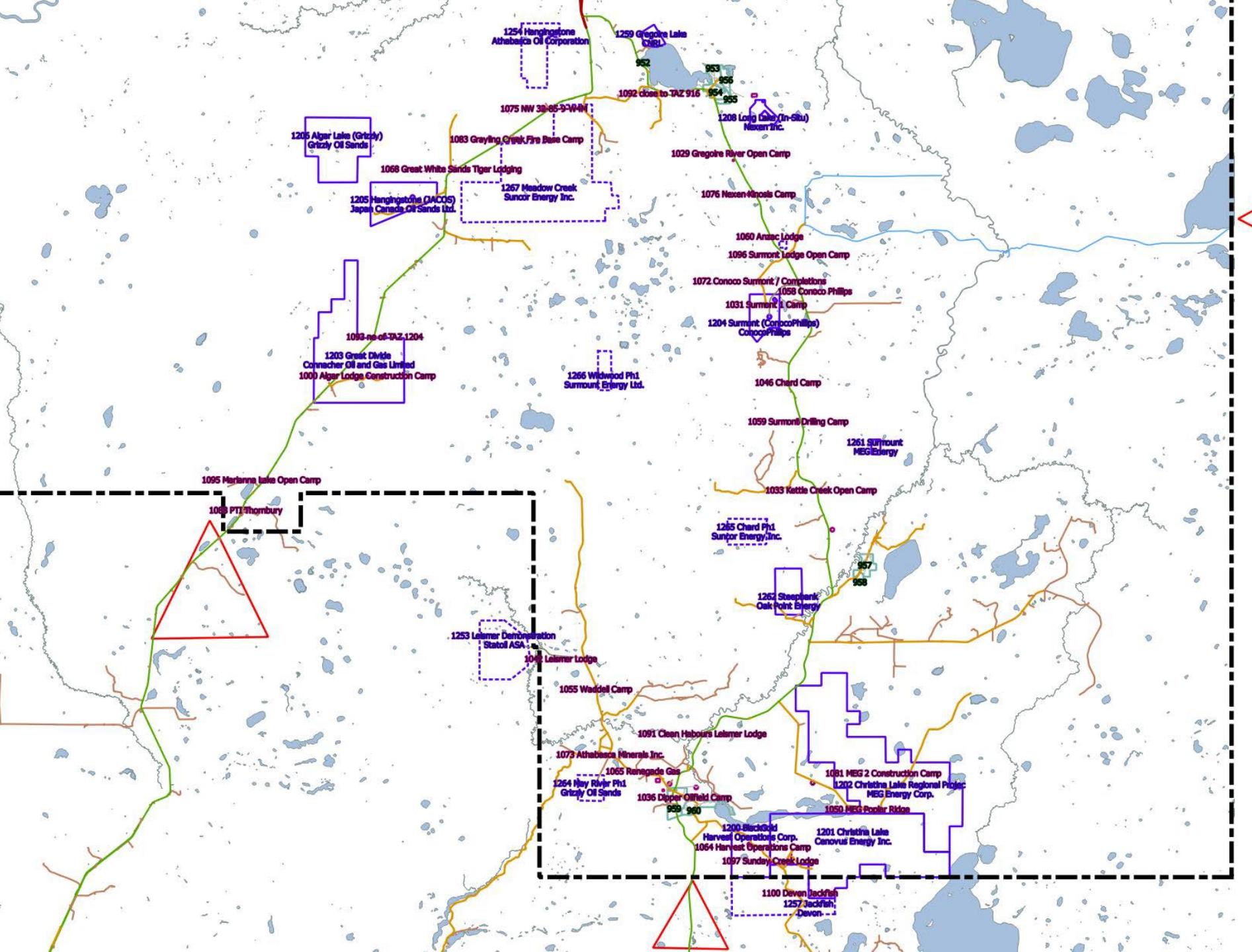
Zones



- Study area divided into “zones” for analysis purposes
- Special zones:
 - Plants
 - Camps
 - External







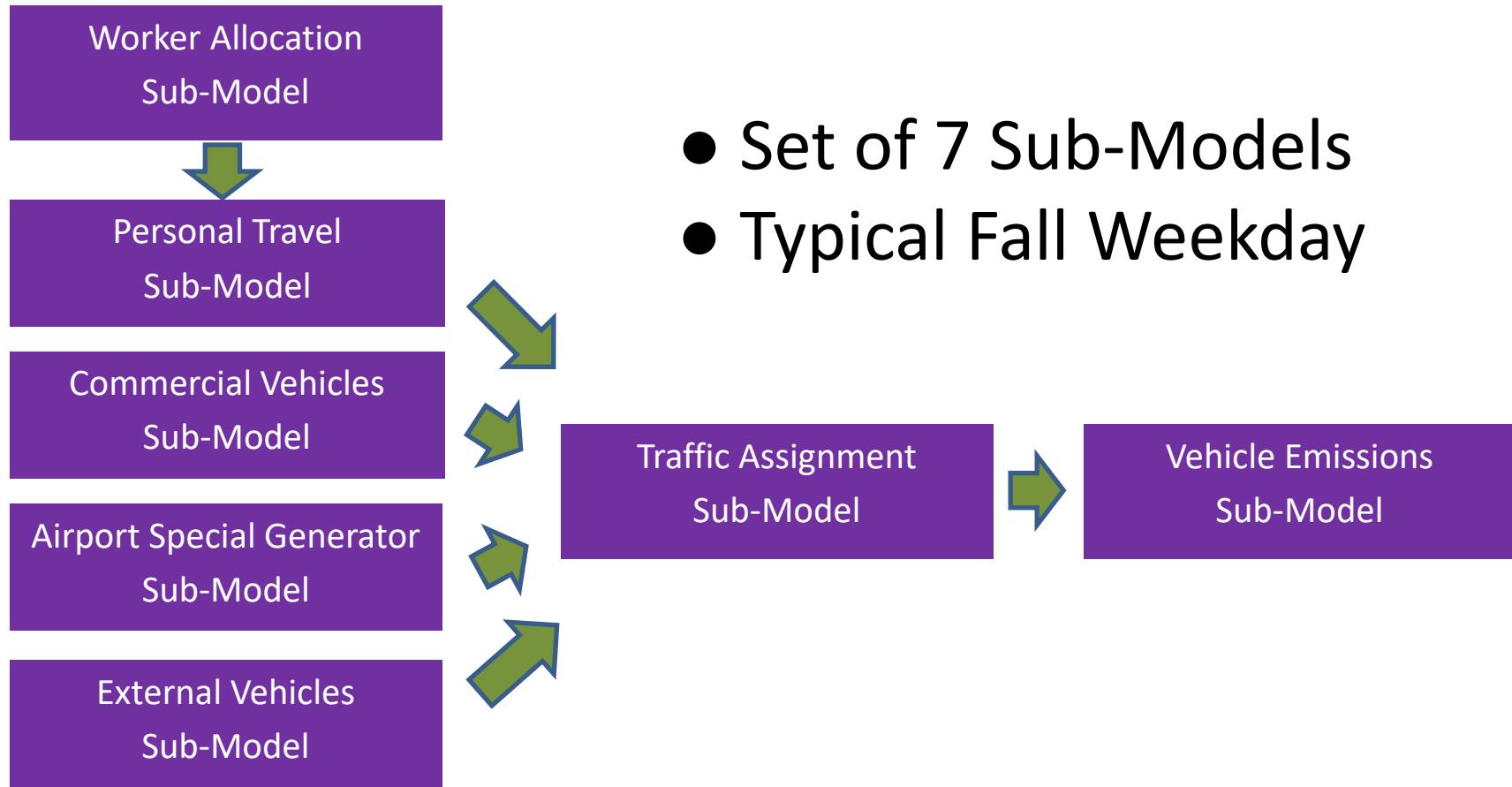
Modes

- Auto:
 - Single Occupant Vehicle
 - HOV (2 person and 3+)
- Transit:
 - Public transit
 - Work bus
 - Park and ride (future)
- Active:
 - Walk
 - Bike
- Light commercial vehicles
- Medium commercial vehicles (single unit trucks)
- Heavy commercial vehicles (tractor-trailer)

11 Time Periods

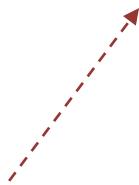
- Off-peak:
 - Midnight to 5 AM
- AM Peak:
 - 5 to 6 AM
 - 6 to 7 AM
 - 7 to 8 AM
 - 8 to 9 AM
- Midday:
 - 9 AM to 4 PM
- PM Peak:
 - 4 to 5 PM
 - 5 to 6 PM
 - 6 to 7 PM
 - 7 to 8 PM
- Off-Peak:
 - 8 PM to midnight

How Does The Model Work?



- Represent different aspects of transportation demand and the impacts of transportation

**HOUSEHOLDS
and
PEOPLE**



**Personal Travel
Sub-Model**

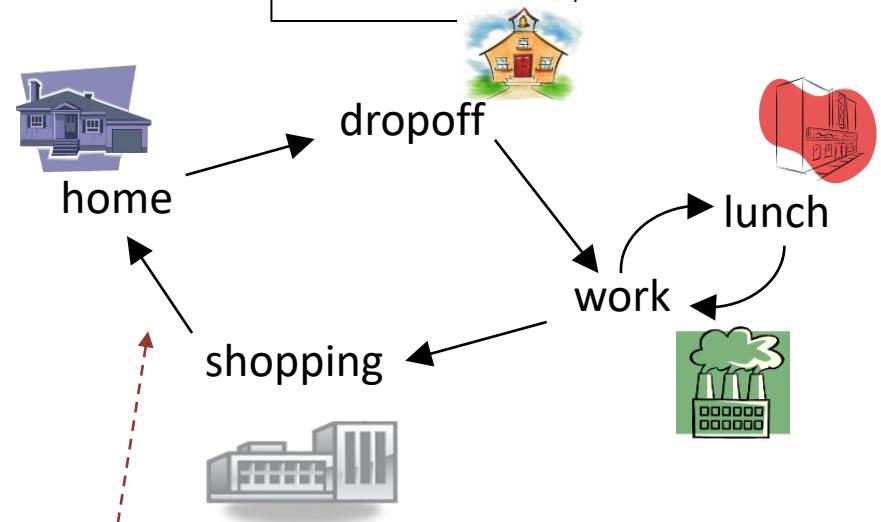
**HOUSEHOLDS
and
PEOPLE**

**EMPLOYEES
at
WORKPLACES**

Personal Travel
Sub-Model

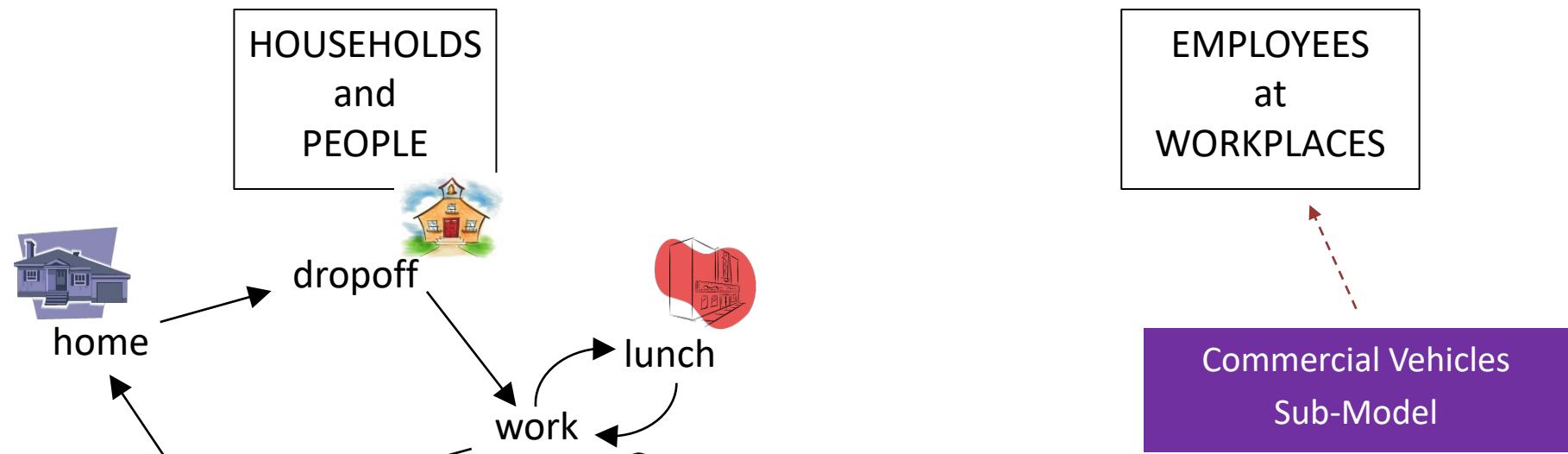
Commercial Vehicles
Sub-Model

**HOUSEHOLDS
and
PEOPLE**



trips

- start time
- end time
- mode

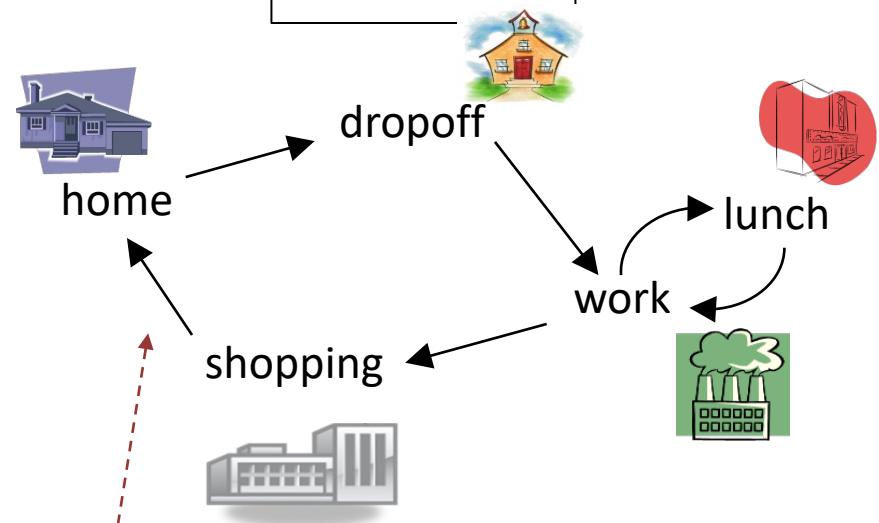


trips

- start time
- end time
- mode

**HOUSEHOLDS
and
PEOPLE**

**EMPLOYEES
at
WORKPLACES**

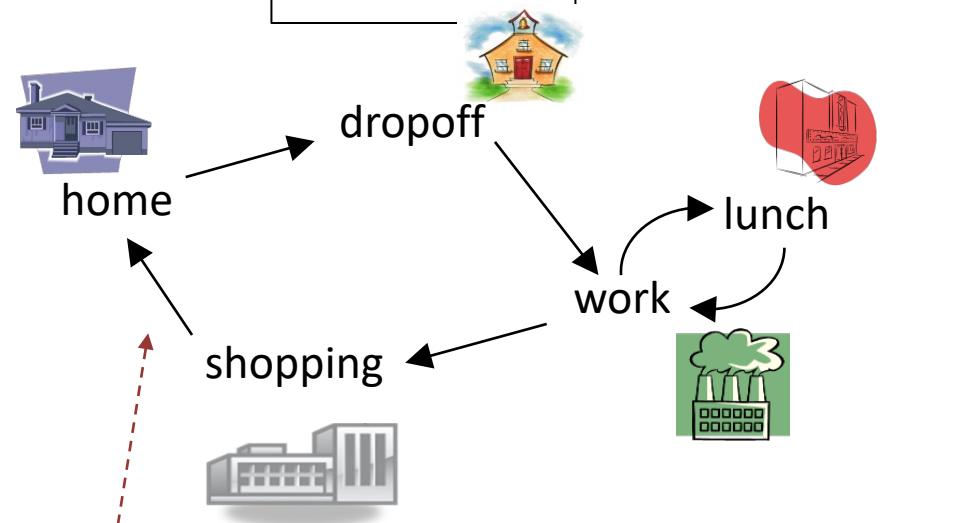


trips

- start time
- end time
- mode

**HOUSEHOLDS
and
PEOPLE**

**EMPLOYEES
at
WORKPLACES**



establishment



trips

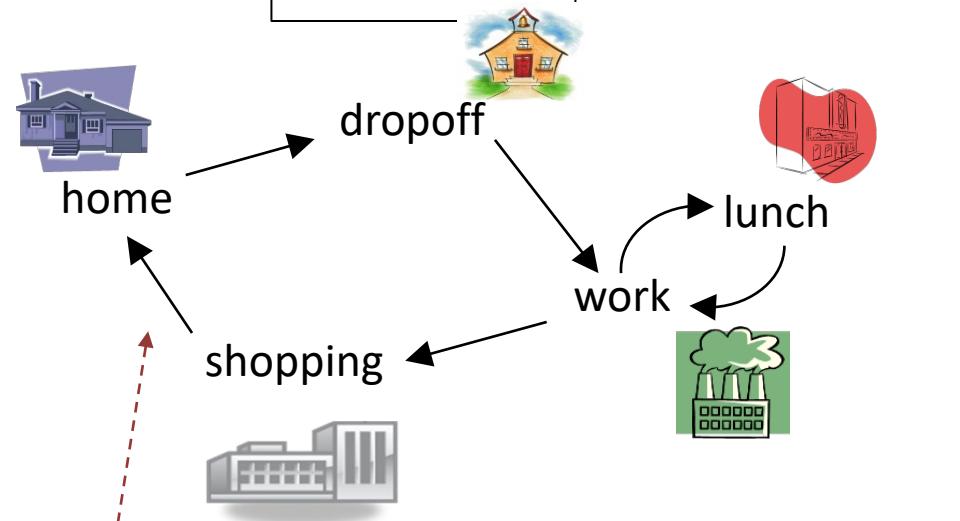
- start time
- end time
- mode

Establishments

- Oil Sands Plants
- Other Industrial
- Manufacturing
- Retail
- Services
- Transportation and Handling
- Government
- Airport

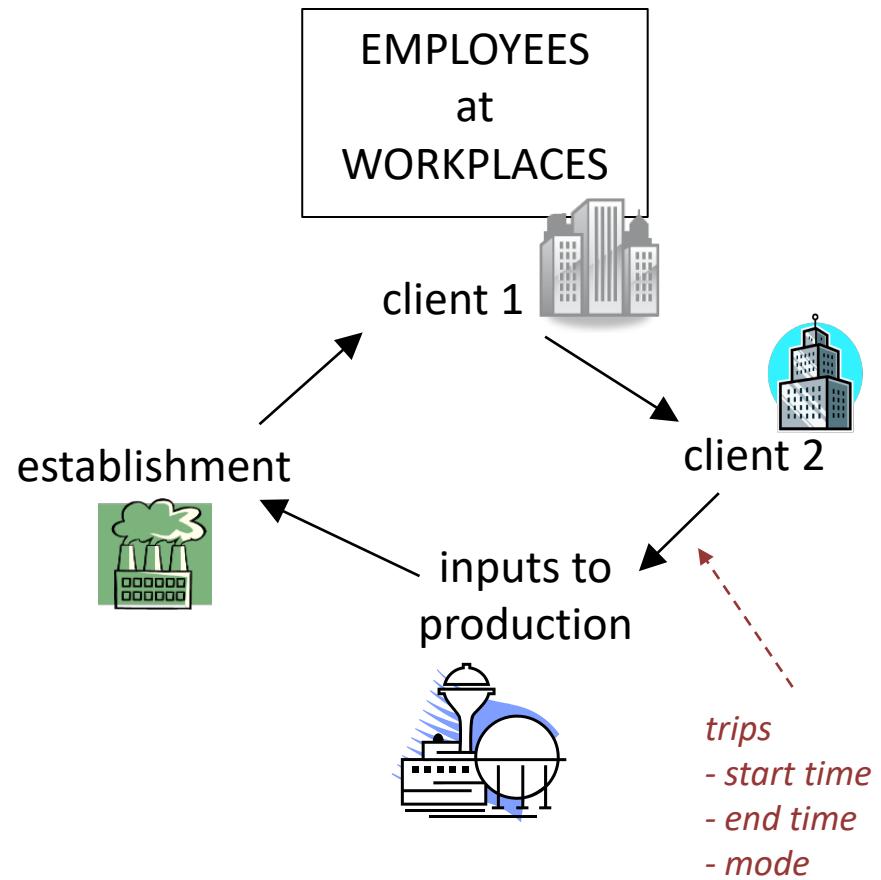
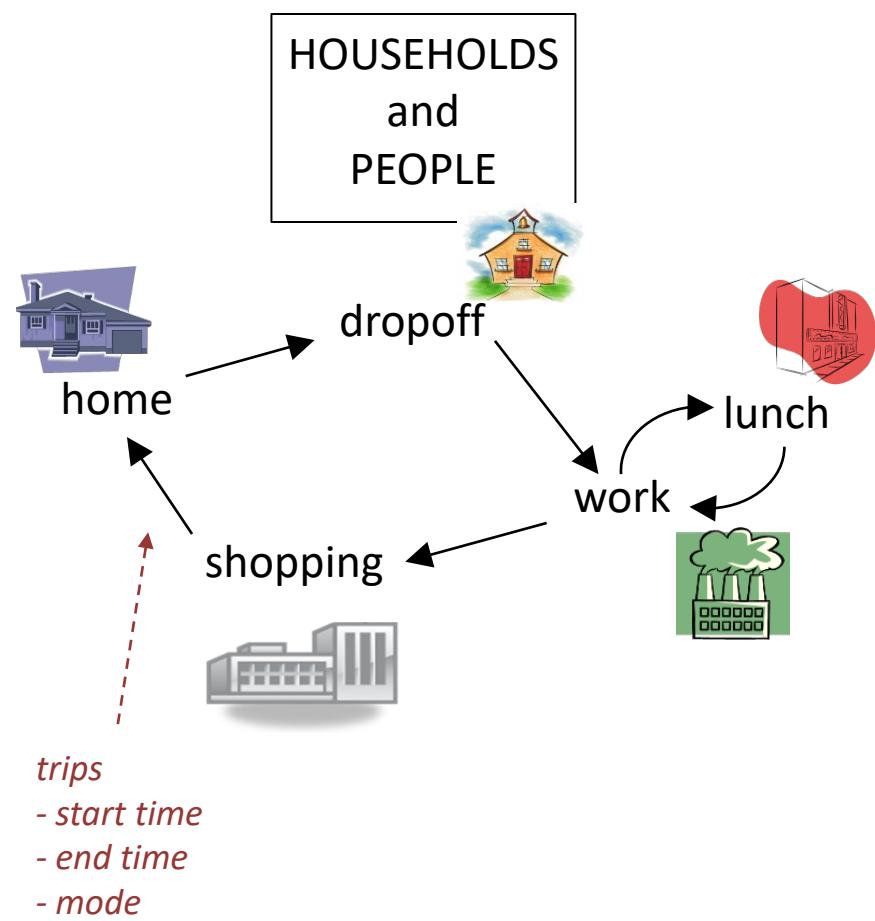
**HOUSEHOLDS
and
PEOPLE**

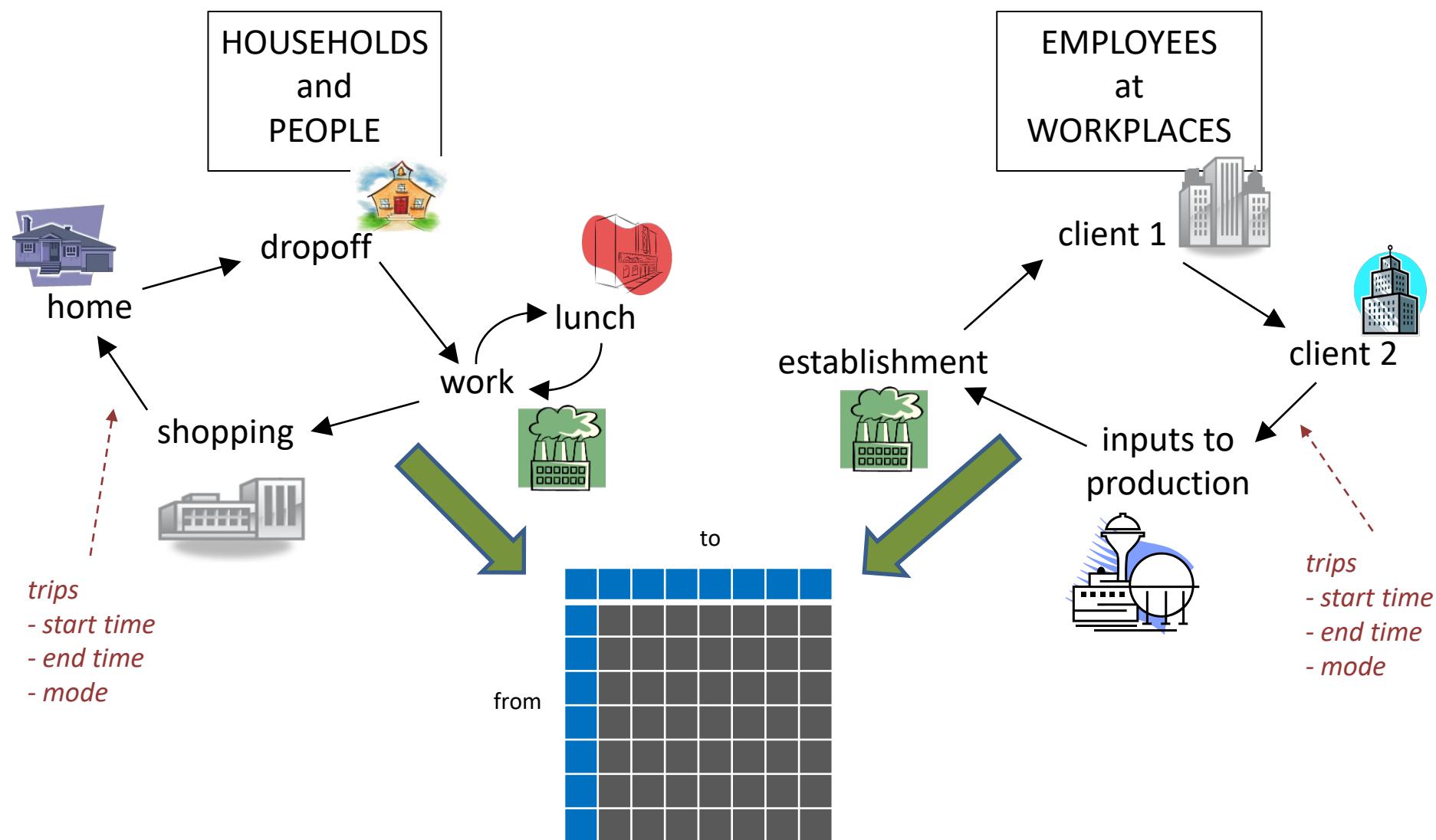
**EMPLOYEES
at
WORKPLACES**

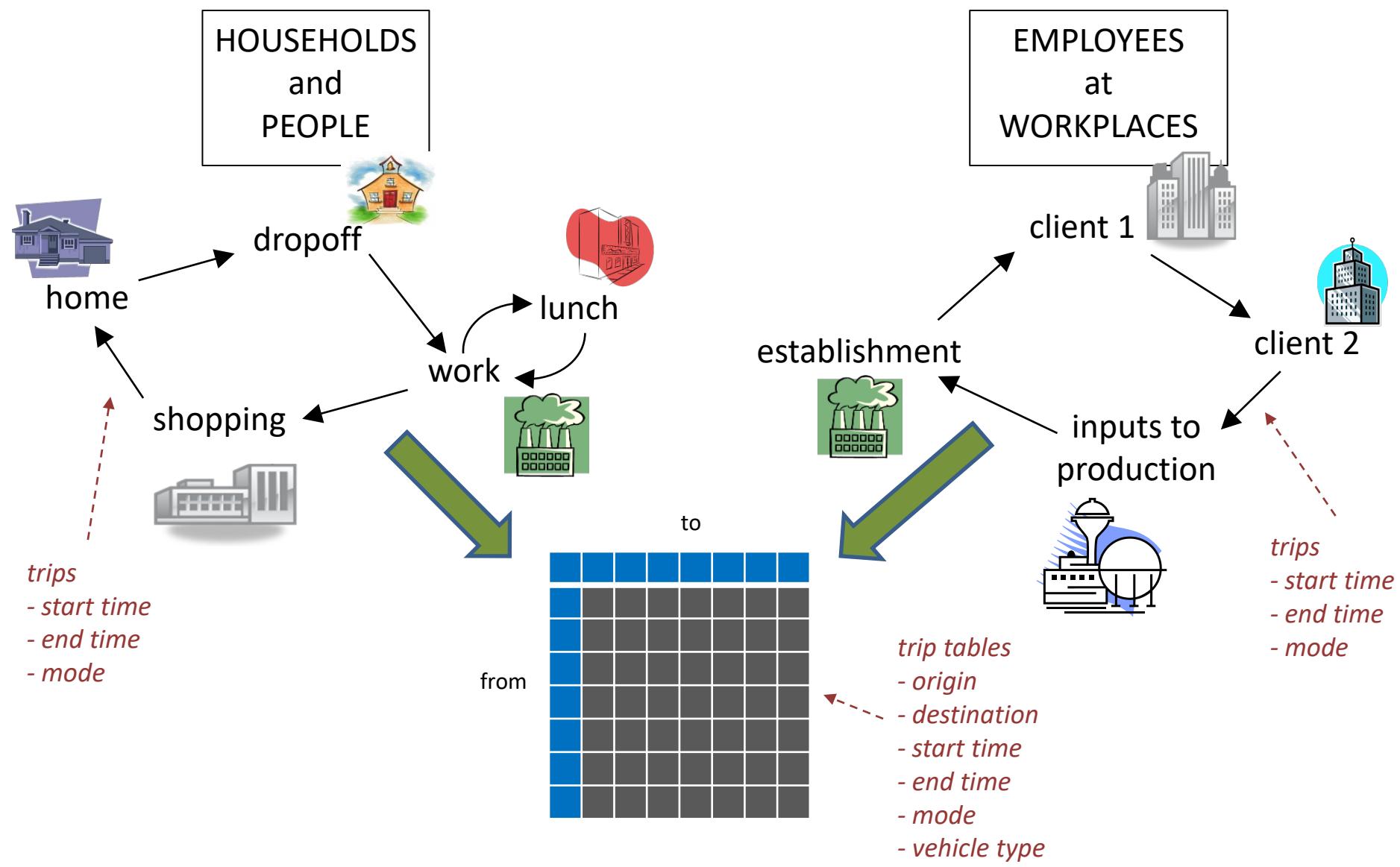


trips

- start time
- end time
- mode



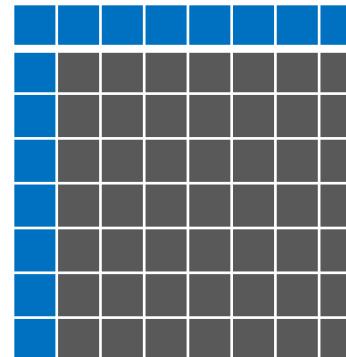
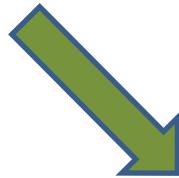




Airport Sub-Model

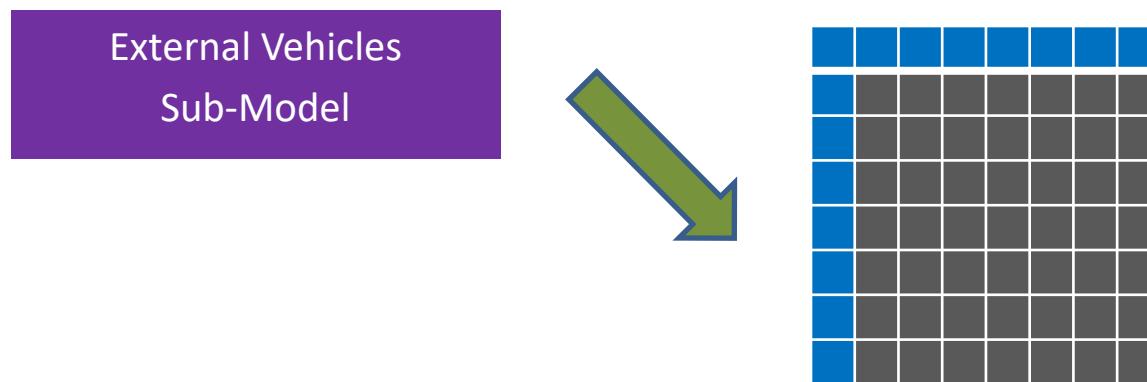
- Air Side Impacts on Surface Transportation
 - Air Passenger Volumes given exogenously

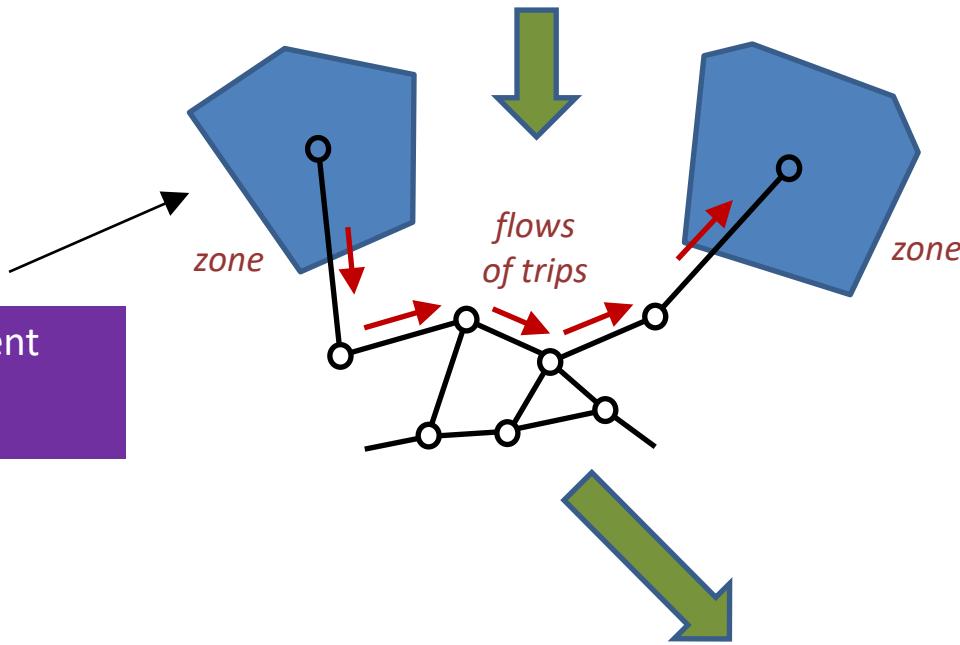
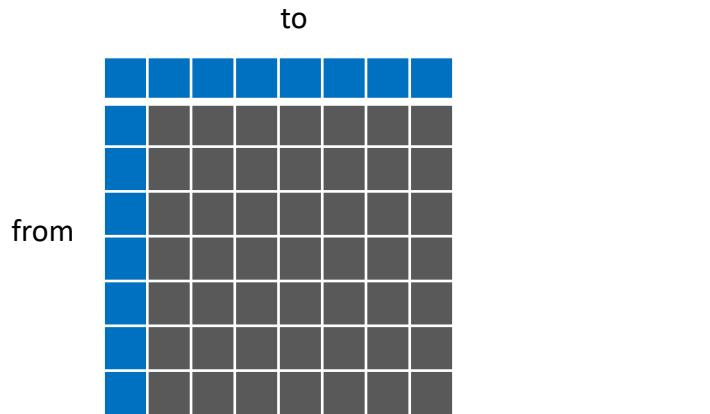
Airport Special Generator Sub-Model



External Vehicle Sub-Model

- Internal ends of external vehicle flows allocated based on distance and zone attractiveness
- Mobile worker flows given exogenously
 - camps, modes, and aerodromes





Worker Allocation Sub-Model

- Workers working in plants:
 - Living in camps
 - Living outside camps
- Connects workers to home and work location
- Incorporates plant-specific shift patterns

Model inputs

- Population
- Employment
- Networks
- Plant operation details

Model inputs

- Population
 - Households and persons at home end
 - Camp residences
- Employment
- Networks
- Plant operation details

Model inputs

- Population
- Employment
 - Employment by industry
 - School enrolment by level
- Networks
- Plant operation details

Model inputs

- Population
- Employment
- Networks
 - Road
 - Transit
- Plant operation details

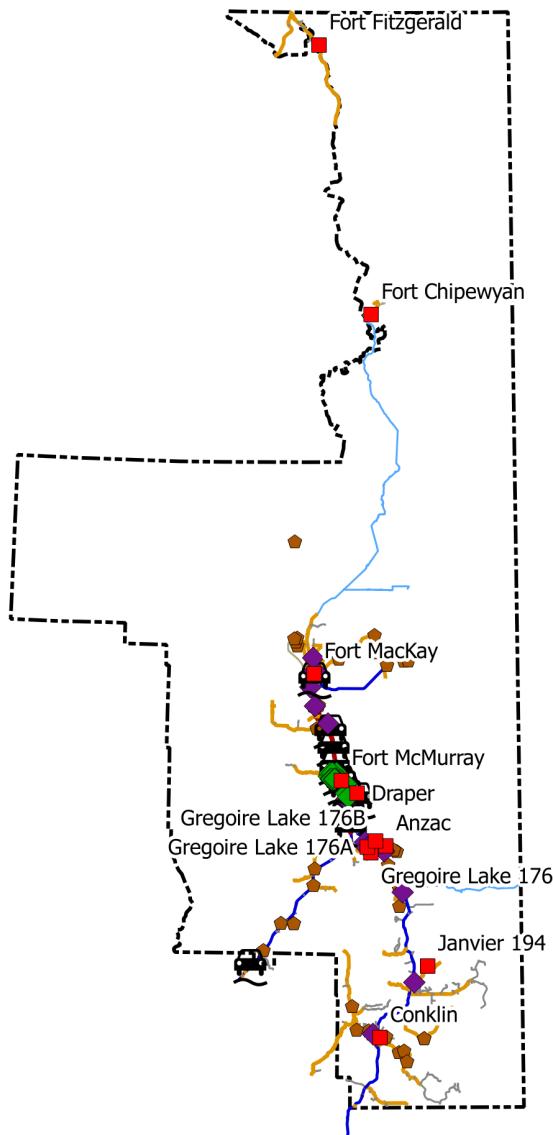
Model inputs

- Population
- Employment
- Networks
- Plant operation details
 - Plant employment
 - Shift time periods

Model inputs

- Population
- Employment
- Networks
- Plant operation details
- Need above for present “base” year and future scenarios
 - RSAS report key source for future scenarios
 - AT for strategic roadway improvements

Counts



Legend

Counts

- ◆ 2011+
- 🚗 ATR
- ◆ Traffic counts RMWB

Roads

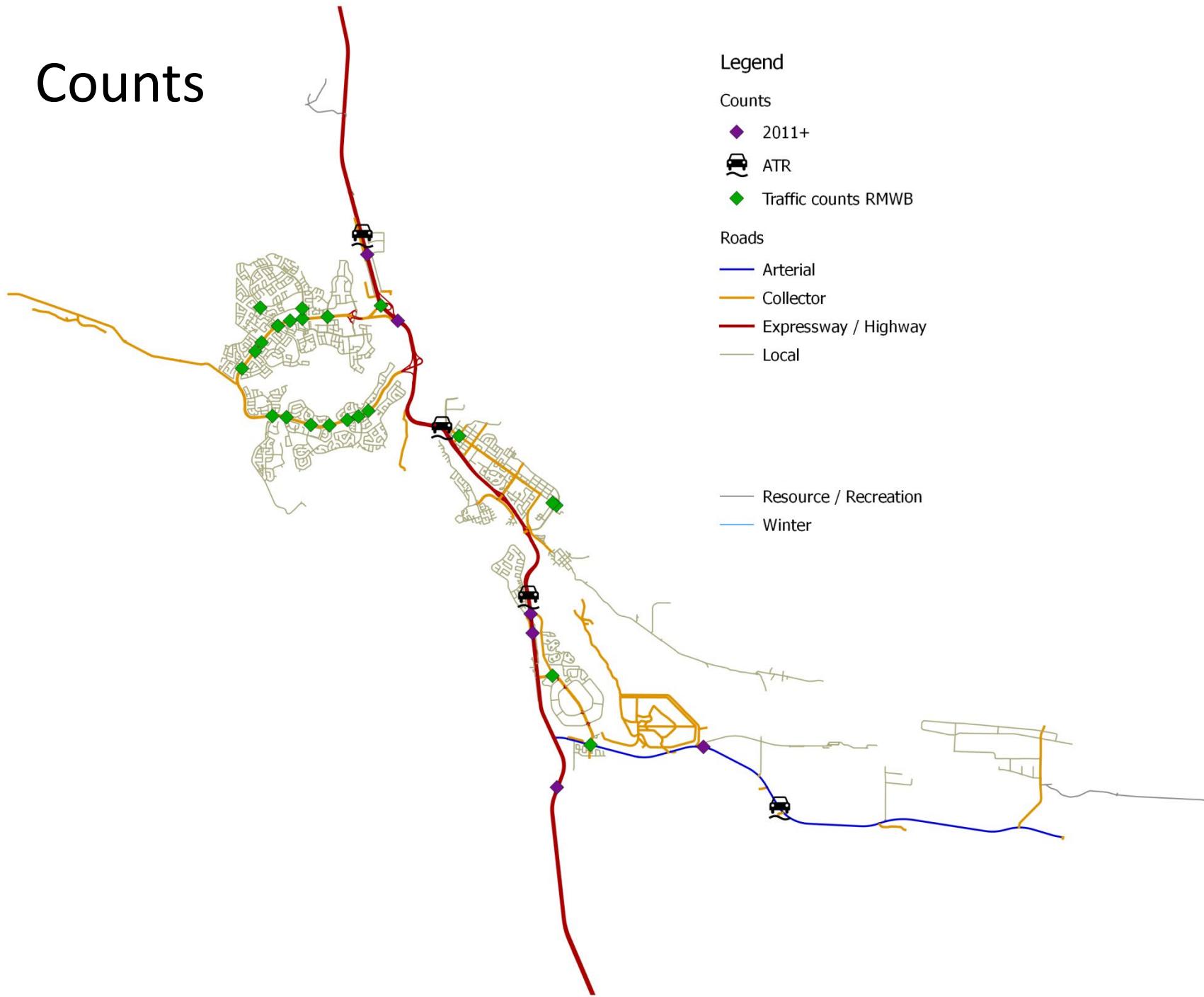
- Arterial
- Collector
- Expressway / Highway
- Local

— Winter

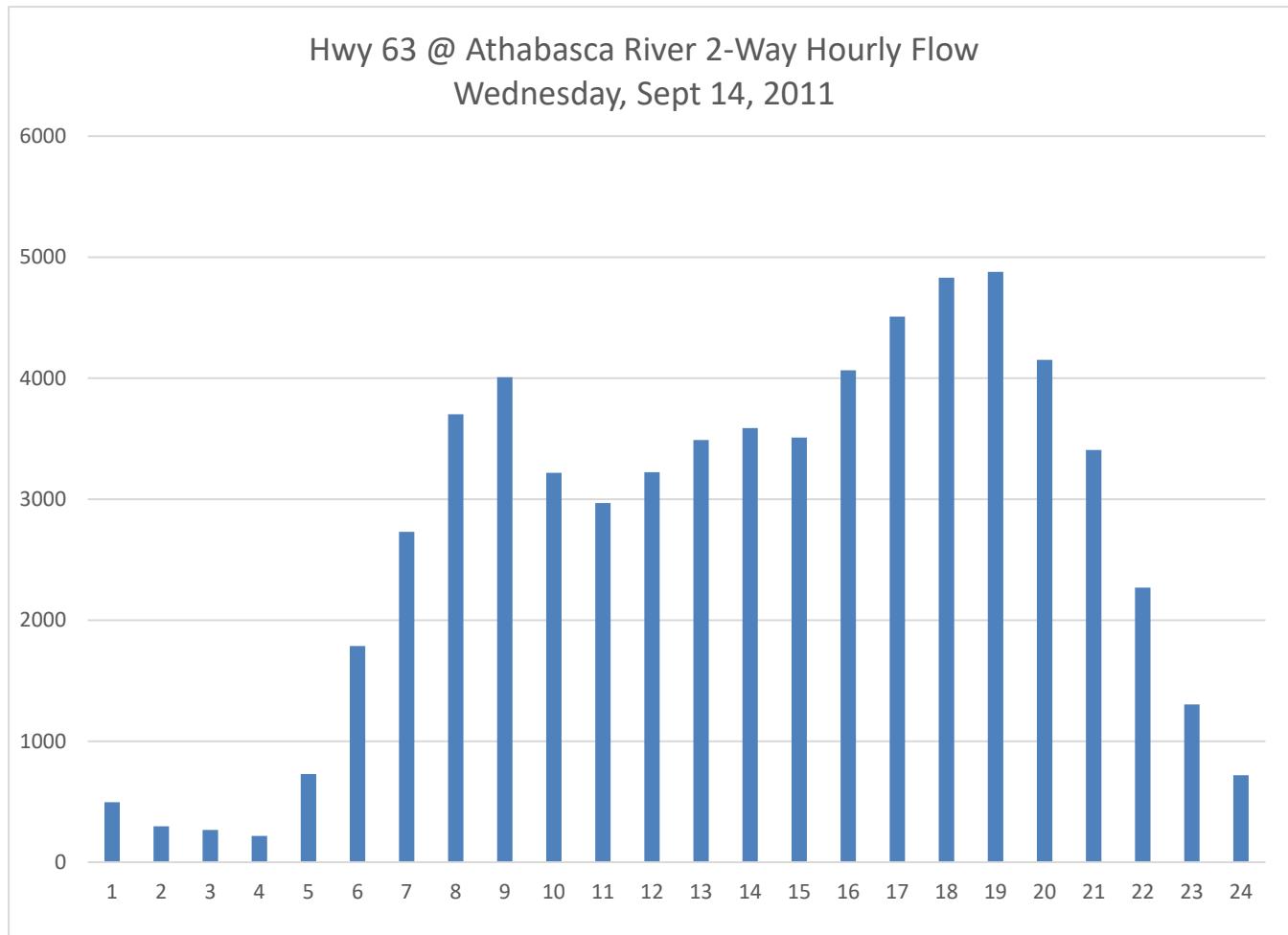
◆ WorkCamps

■ RMWB_admin areas

Counts



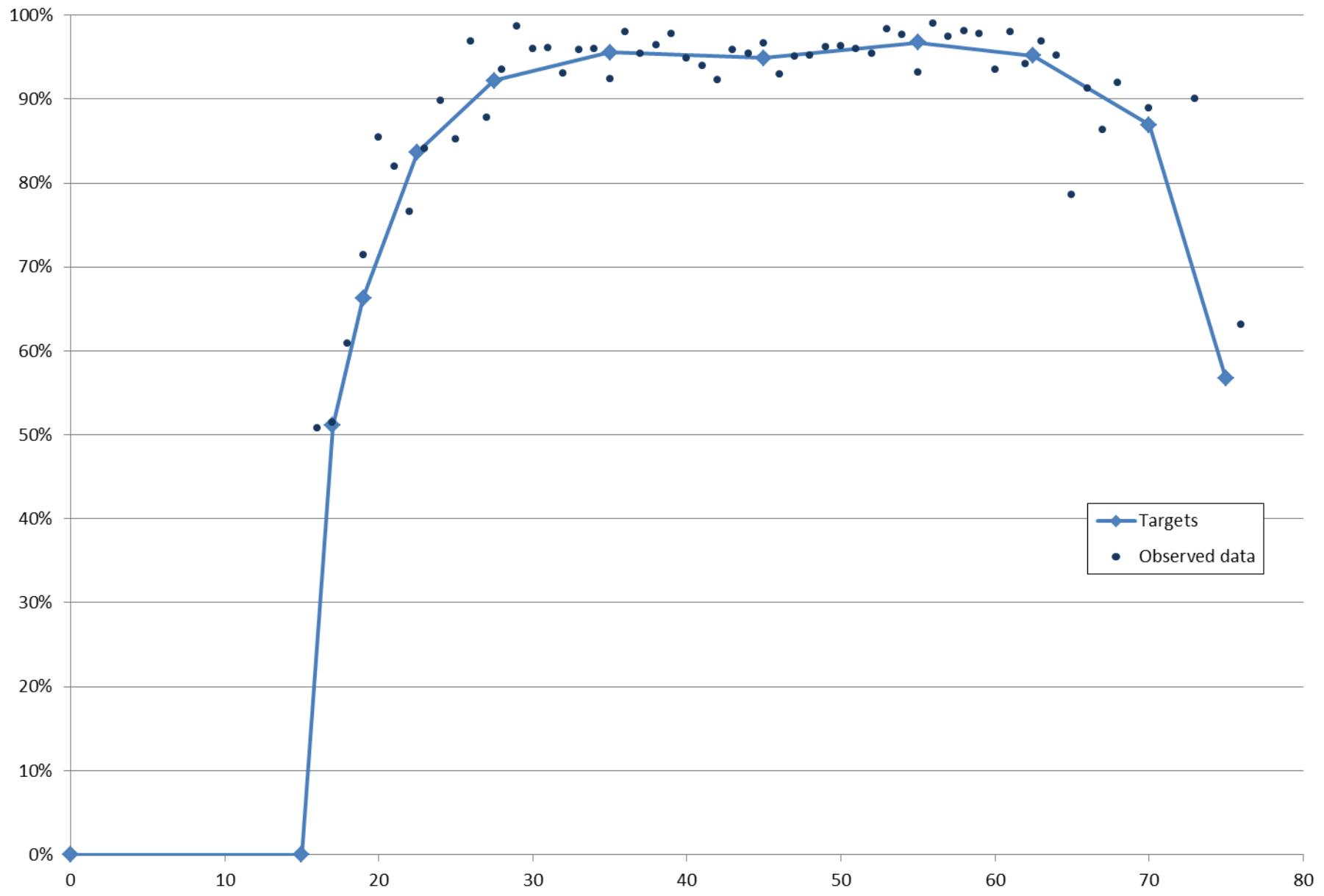
Traffic Flow by Time of Day



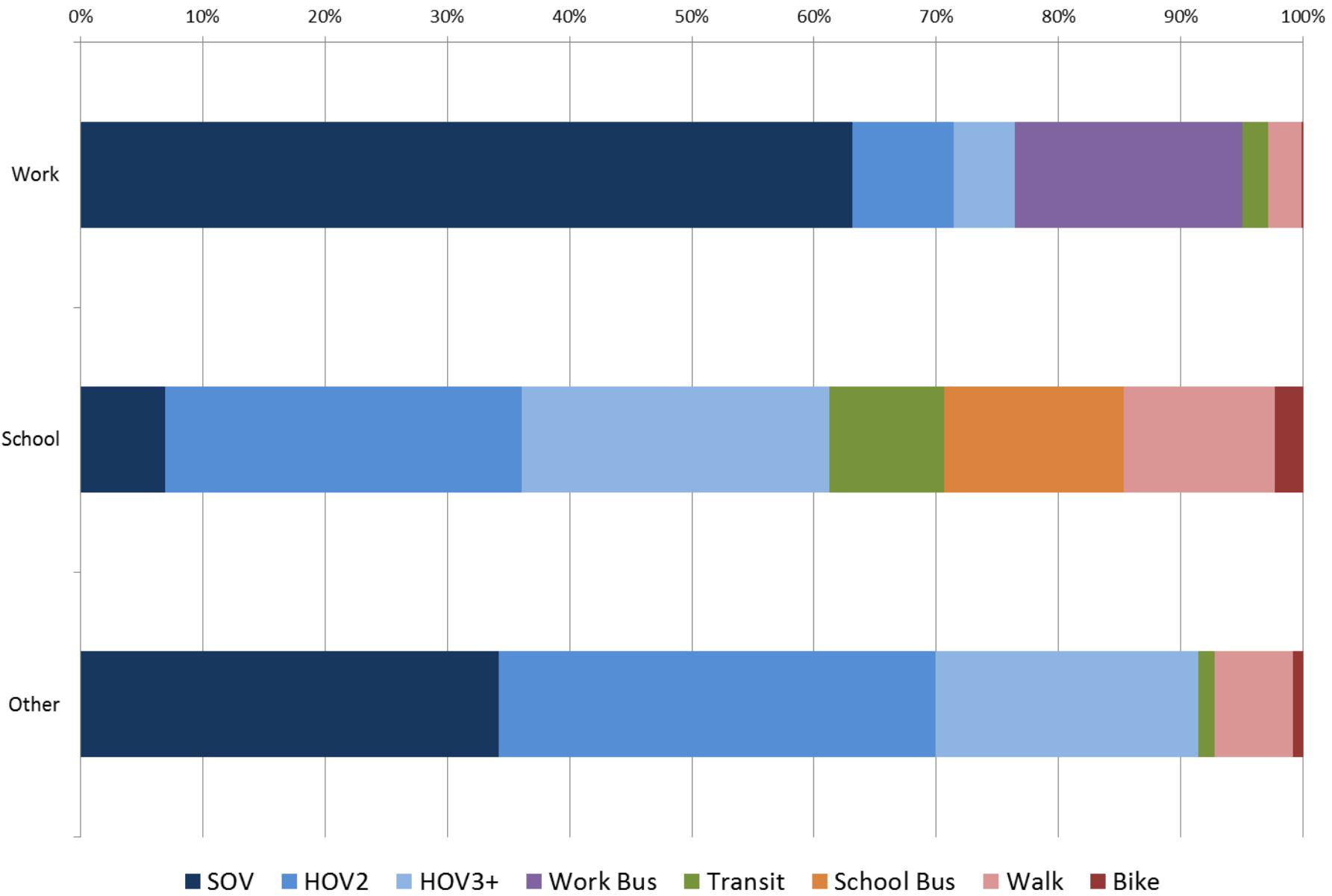
Calibration

- Use “targets” developed from RM of Wood Buffalo household survey data
- Adjust model parameters to match distributions seen in household survey targets

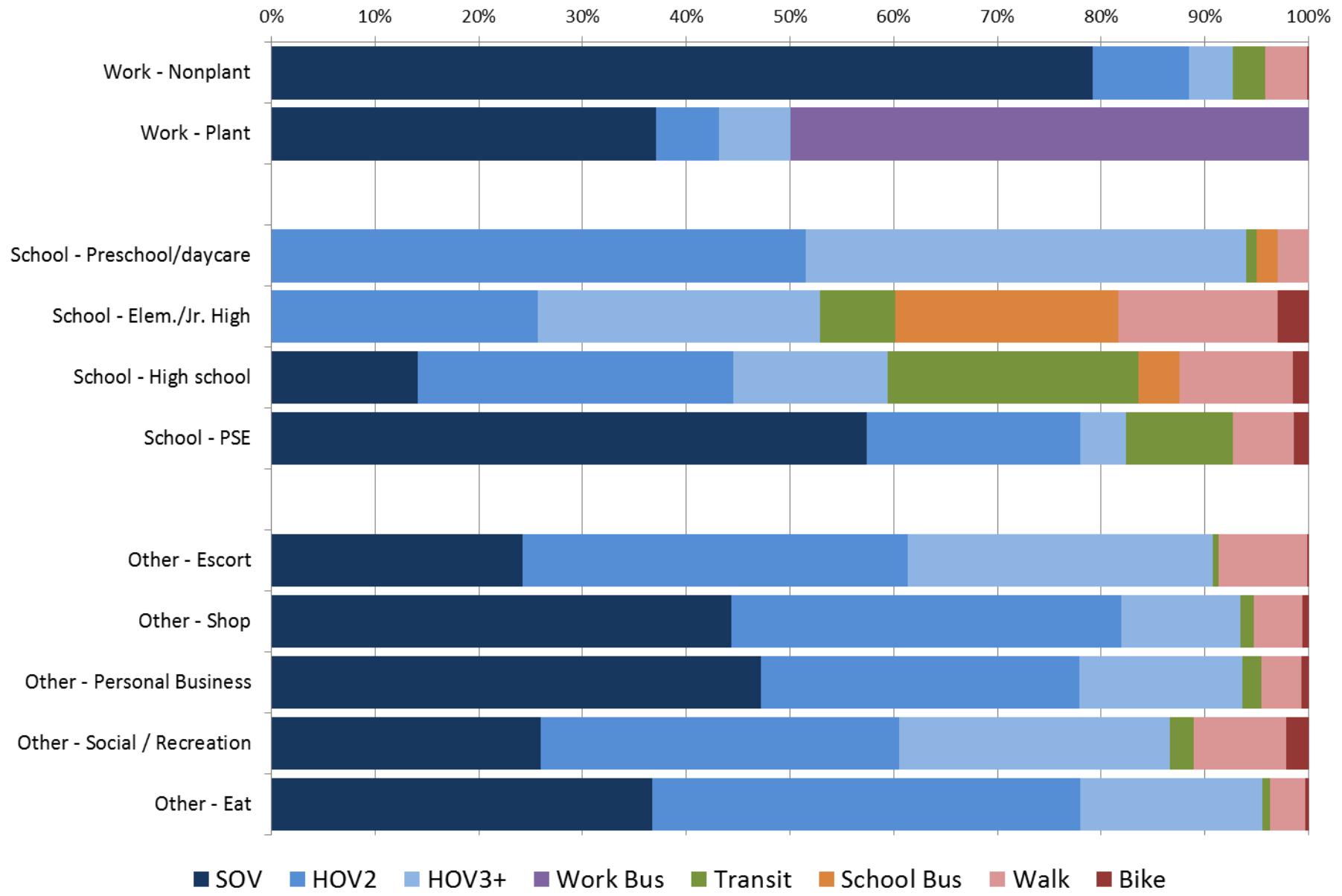
Driver's license rate by age



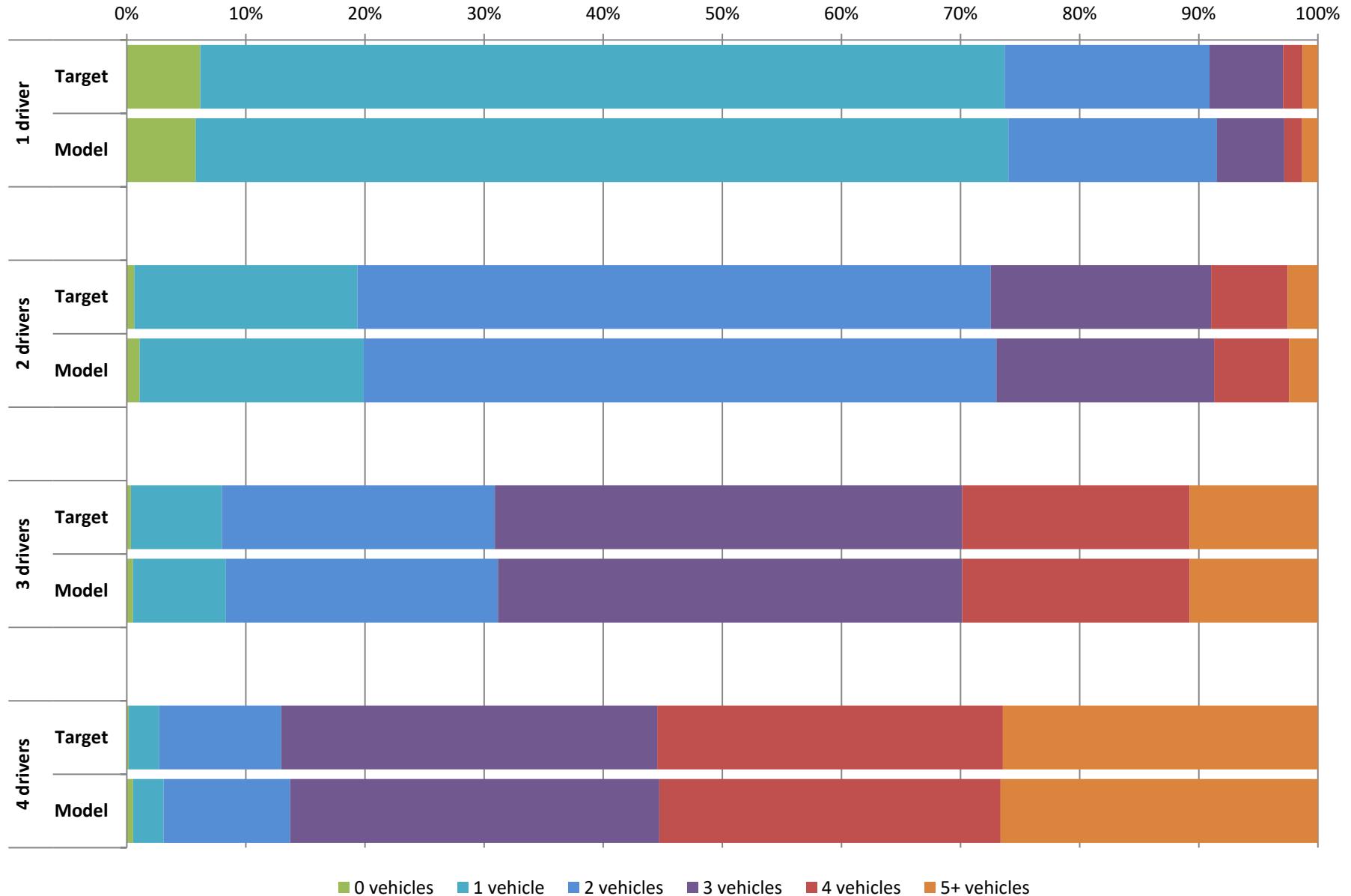
Tour Mode Choice



Tour Mode Choice

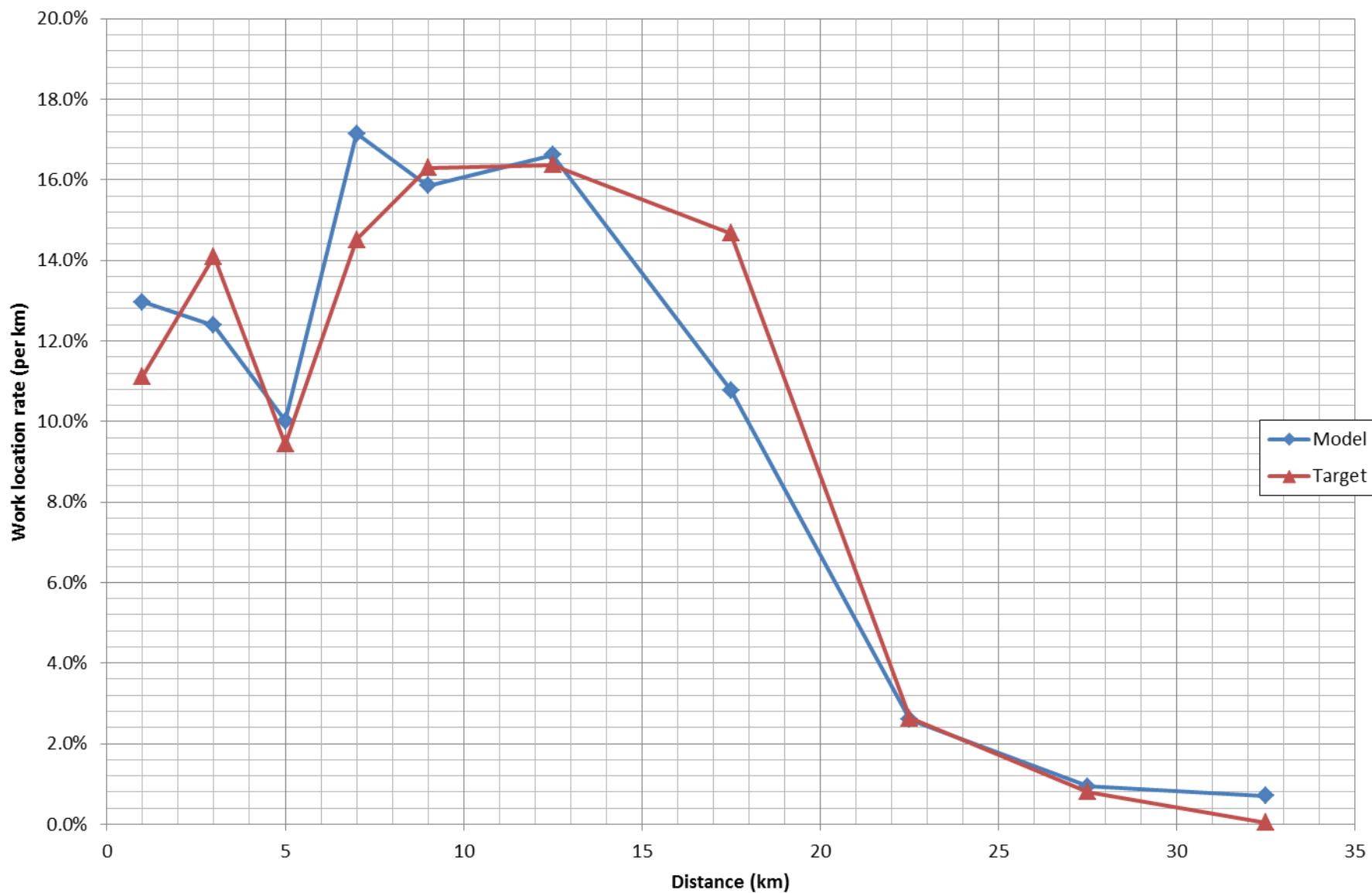


Auto ownership by number of drivers



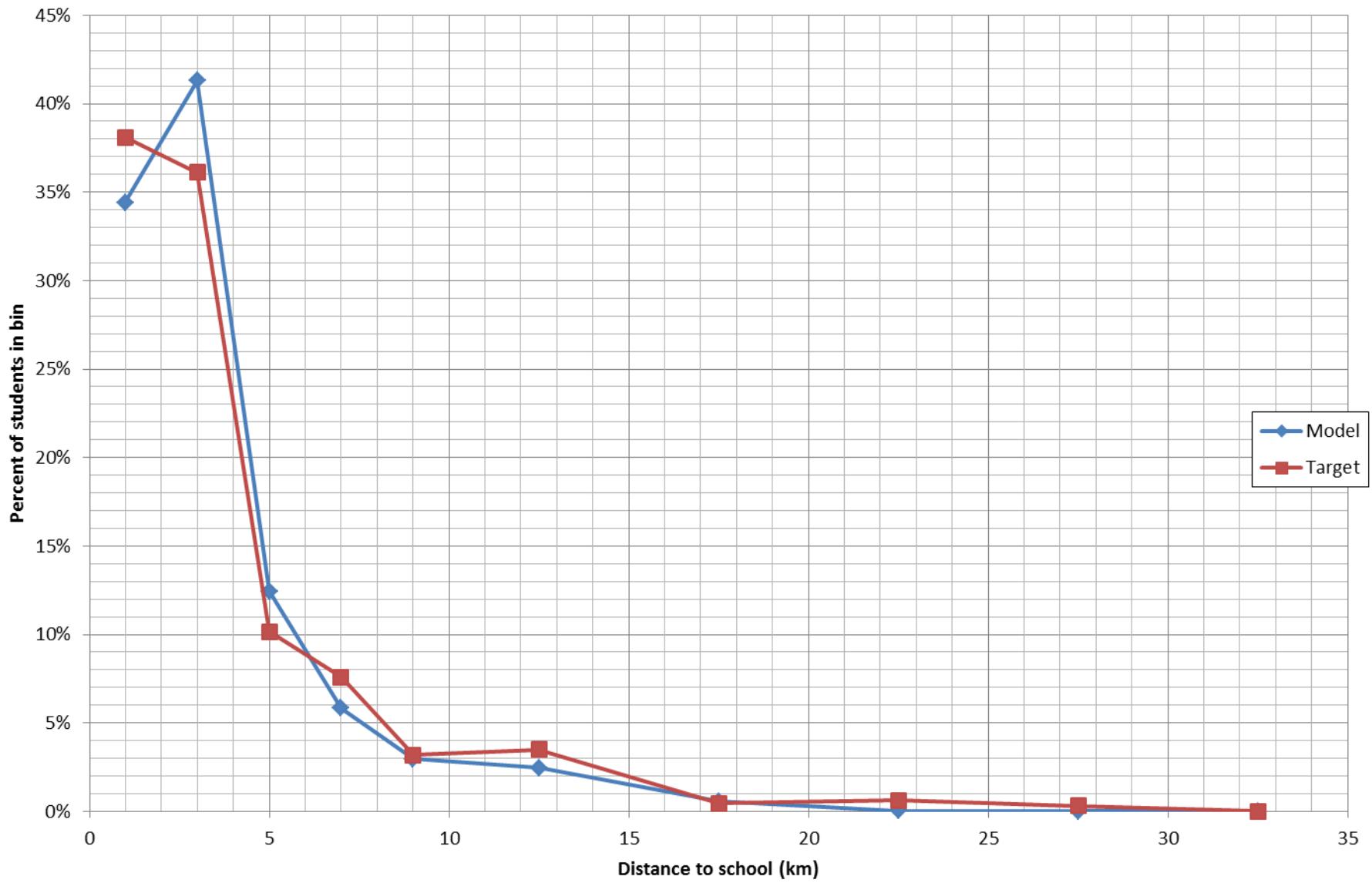
Work location distance distribution

non-plant workers



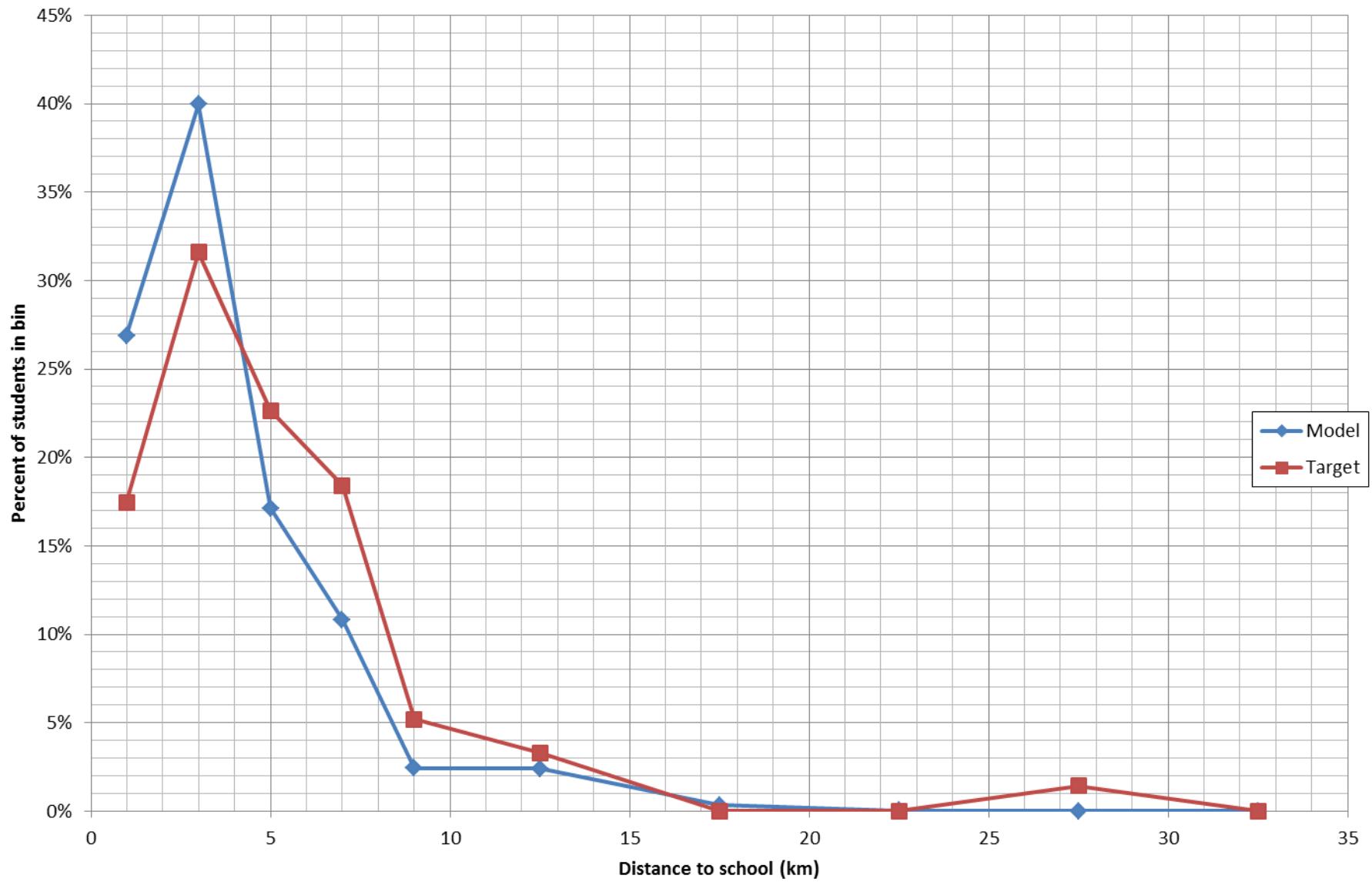
School location distance distribution

Elementary / Jr. High students



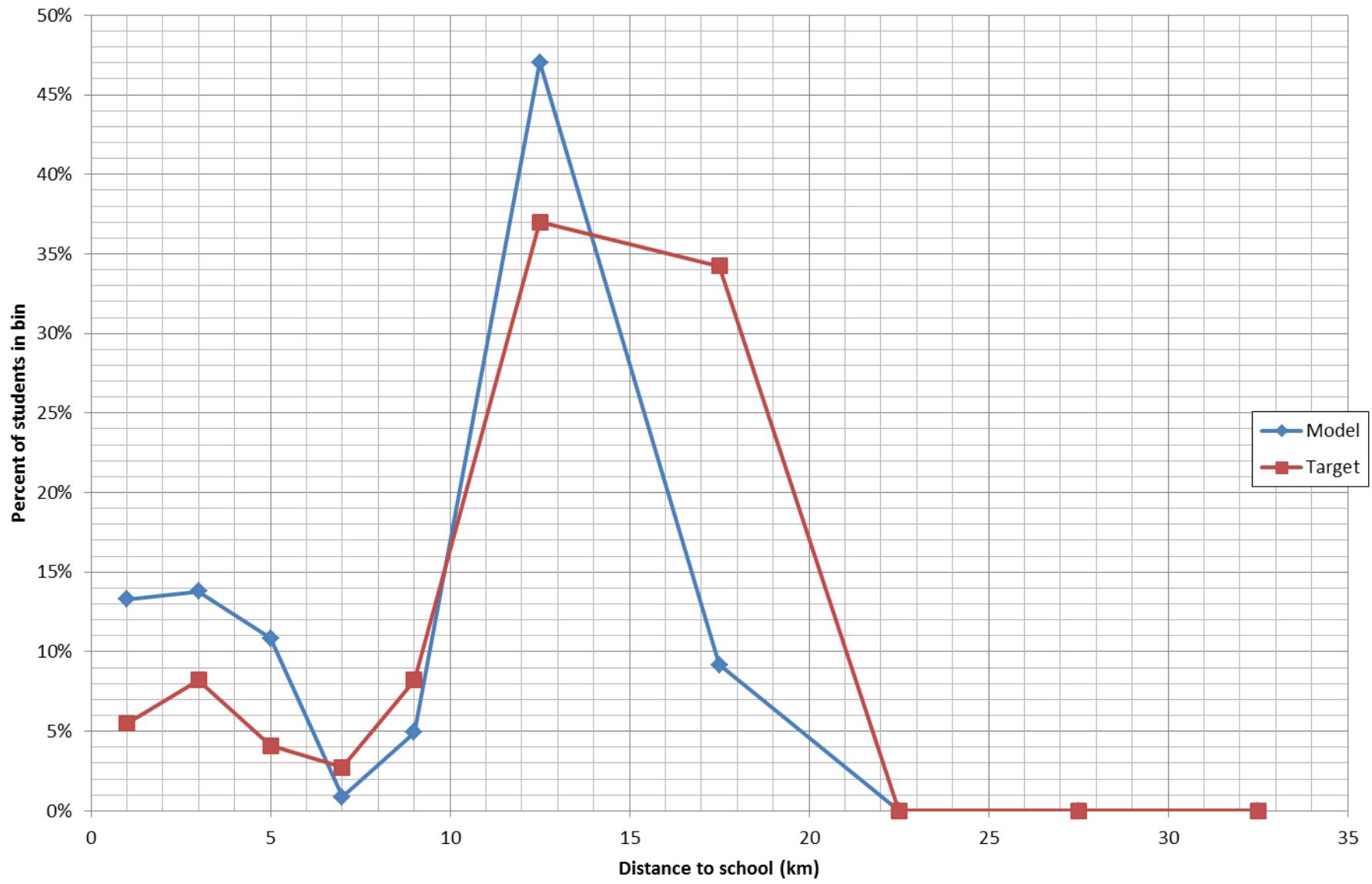
School location distance distribution

High school students

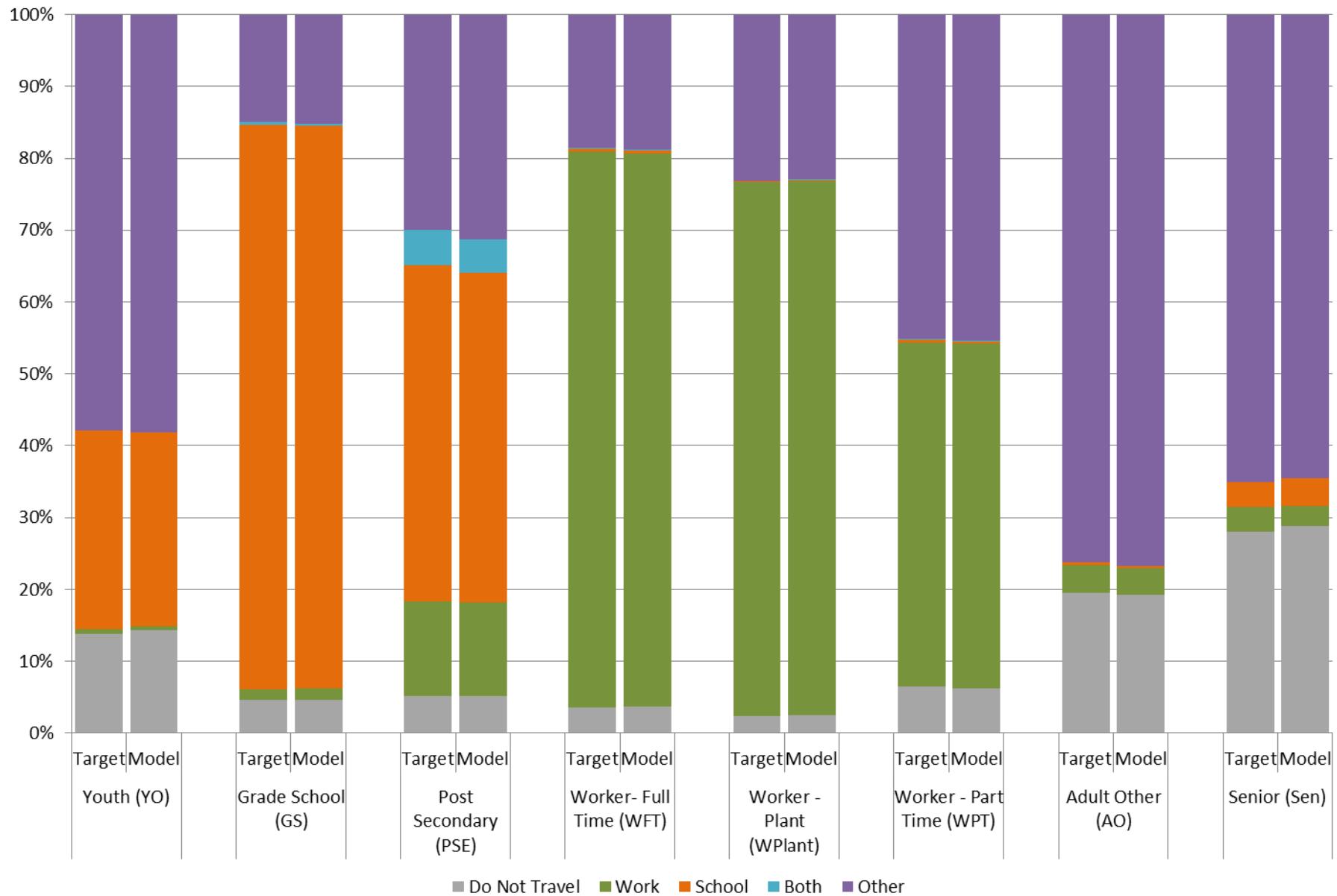


School location distance distribution

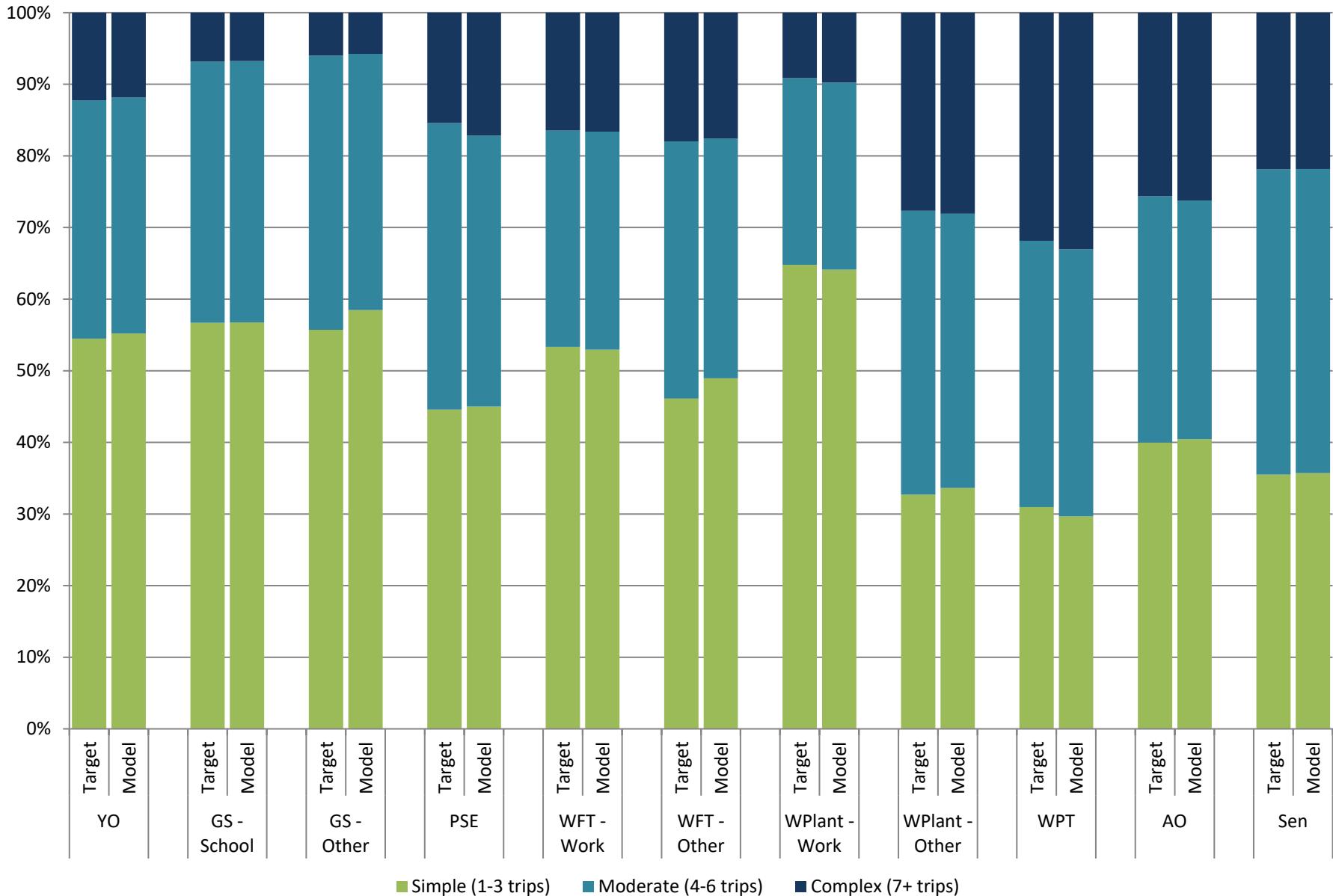
Postsecondary students



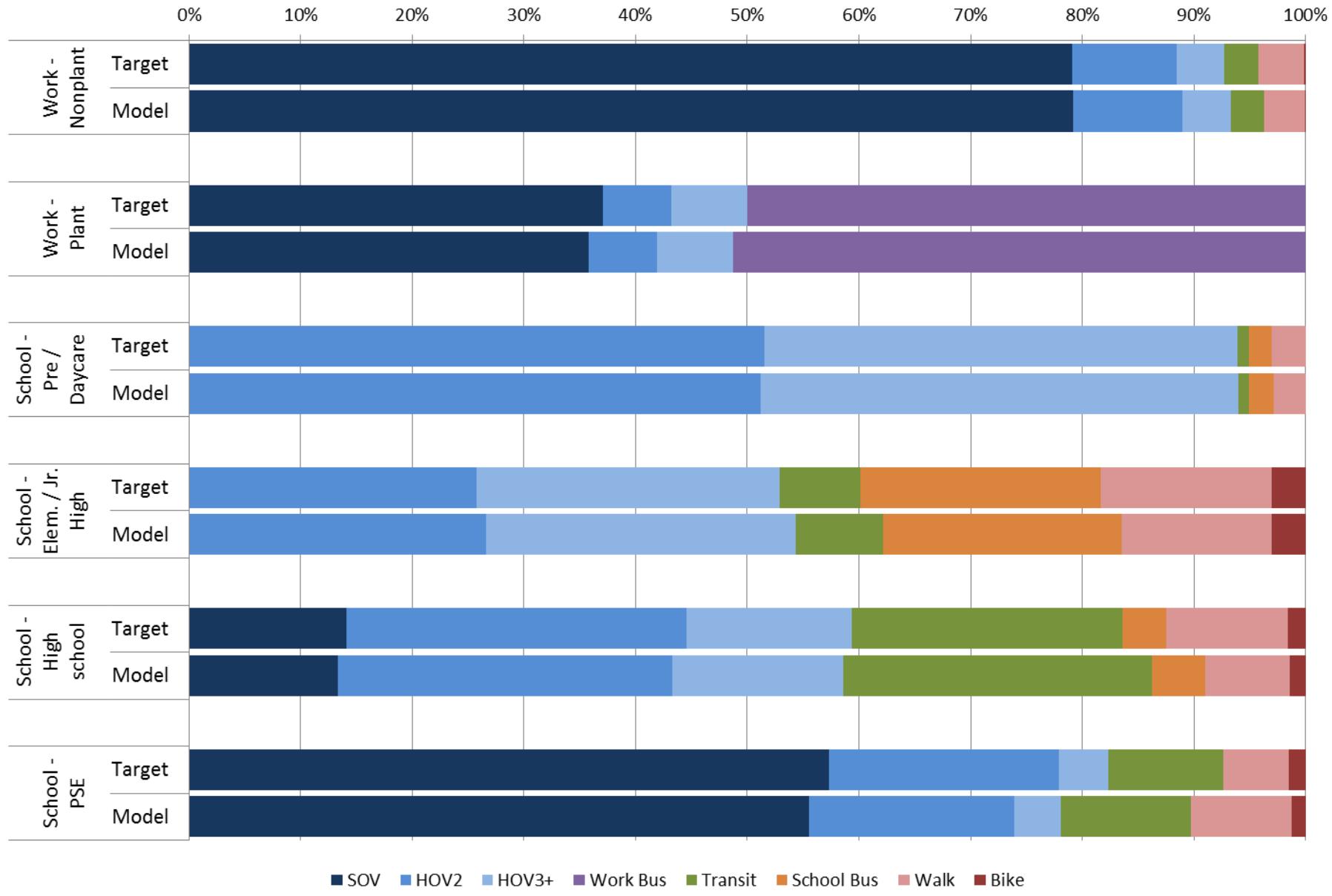
Day role by person type



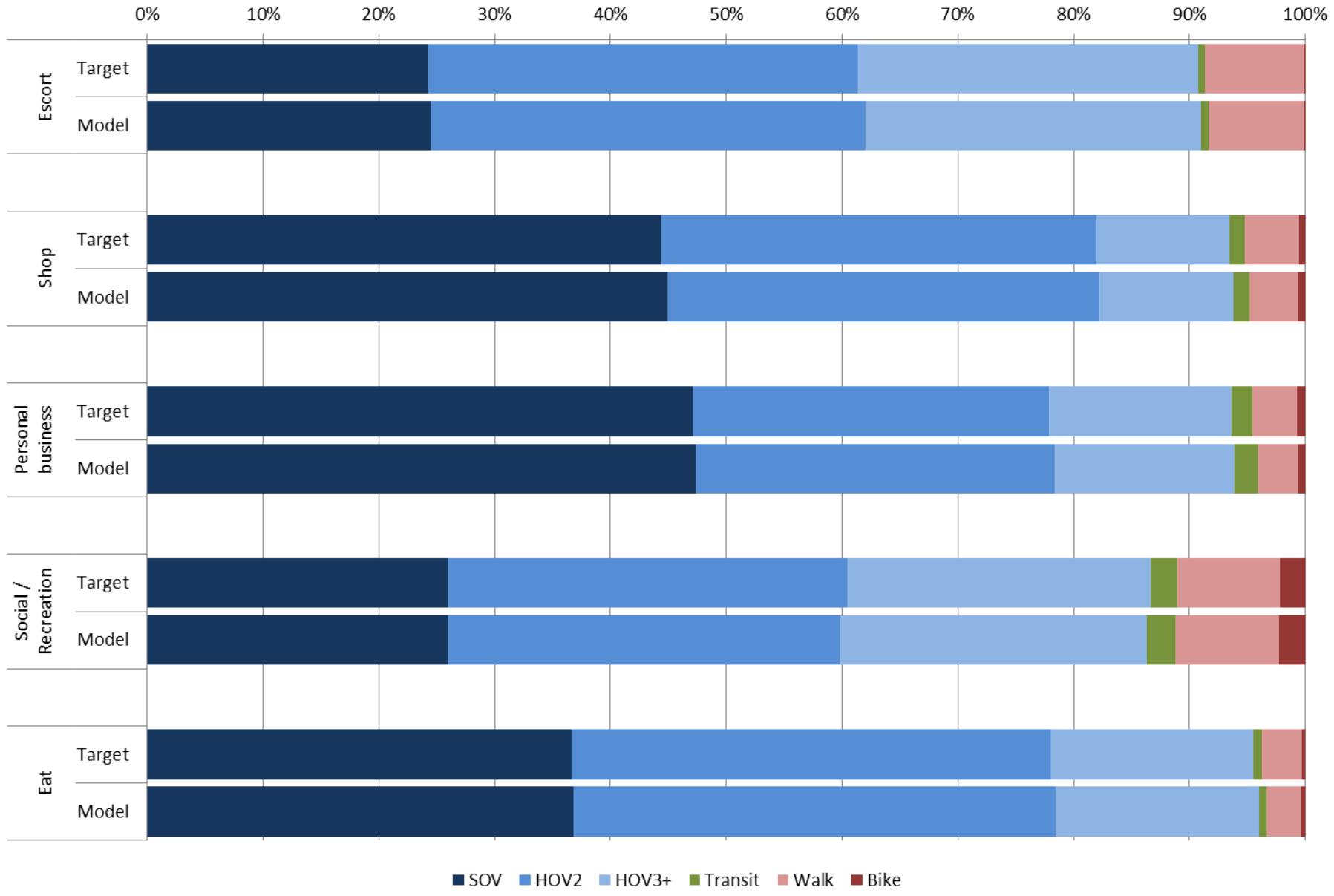
Pattern Group Complexity by Person Type and Day Role



Work and School Tour Mode Choice



Other Tour Mode Choice By Purpose



Challenges in Worker Allocation Model Development

- Lack of data for calibration, so forced to perform validation with few adjustment ‘levers’
- Explicit mode shifts built into PTM to shift trips toward bus (i.e. fewer vehicle trips per worker trip) for more distant plants
- Atypical land use pattern with roughly 70 km separation b/w residential home locations and industrial work locations

Validation

- Compare model performance versus “external” sources of data
- Traffic count comparison
- Challenge: rapid changes in RMWB area
 - Counts predating major infrastructure projects
 - Uncertainty about levels of oilsands activity and shadow population
 - Variability in oilsands activity

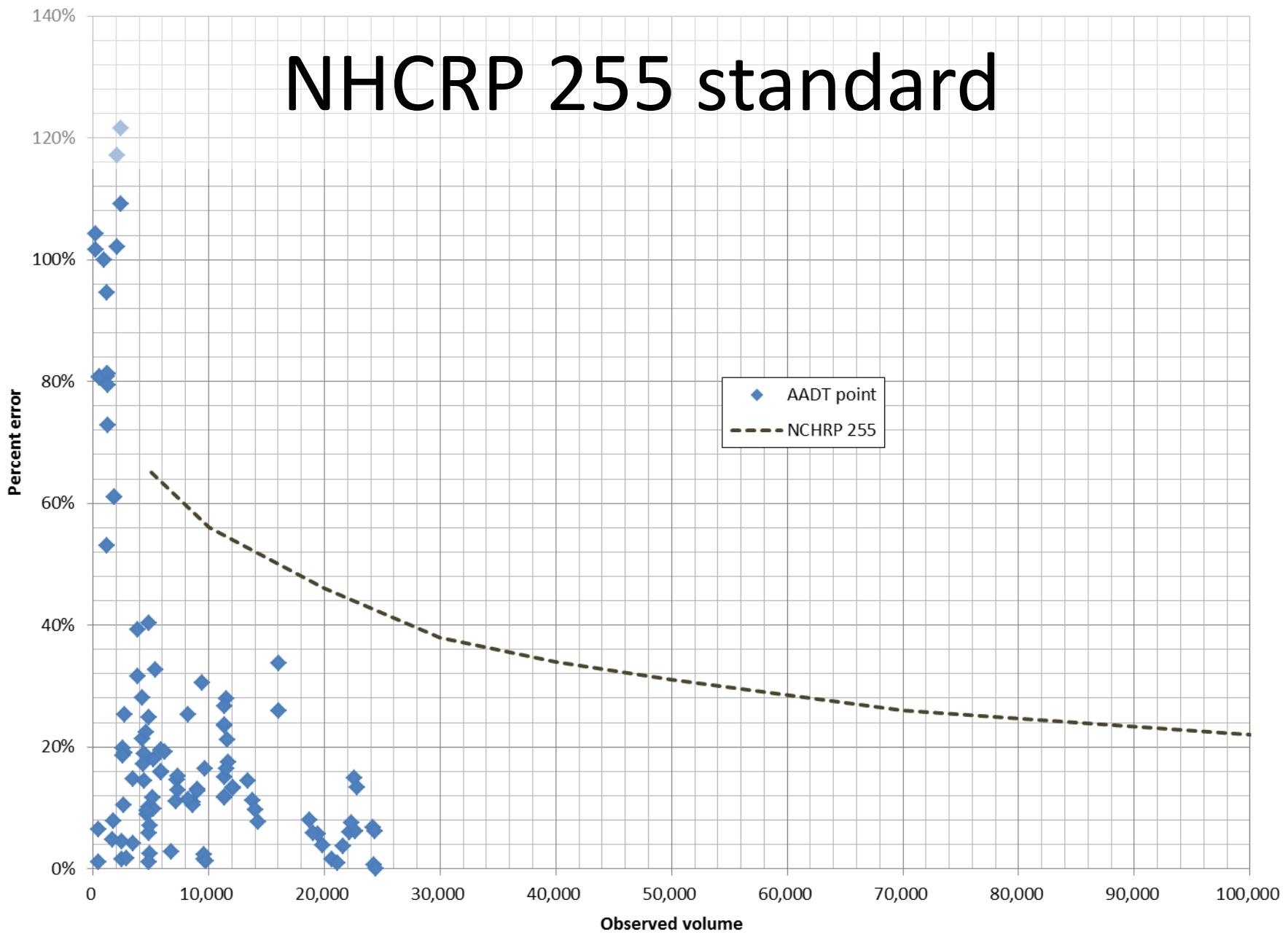
Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE)

Count category	Model	Objective
All counts	27%	39%
Lower volume (<2500 veh/day)	67%	100%
Medium low volume (2500-5000 veh/day)	36%	54%
Medium high volume (5000-10000 veh/day)	26%	42%
Higher volume (10000-15000 veh/day)	28%	34%
High volume (>15000 veh/day)	12%	28%

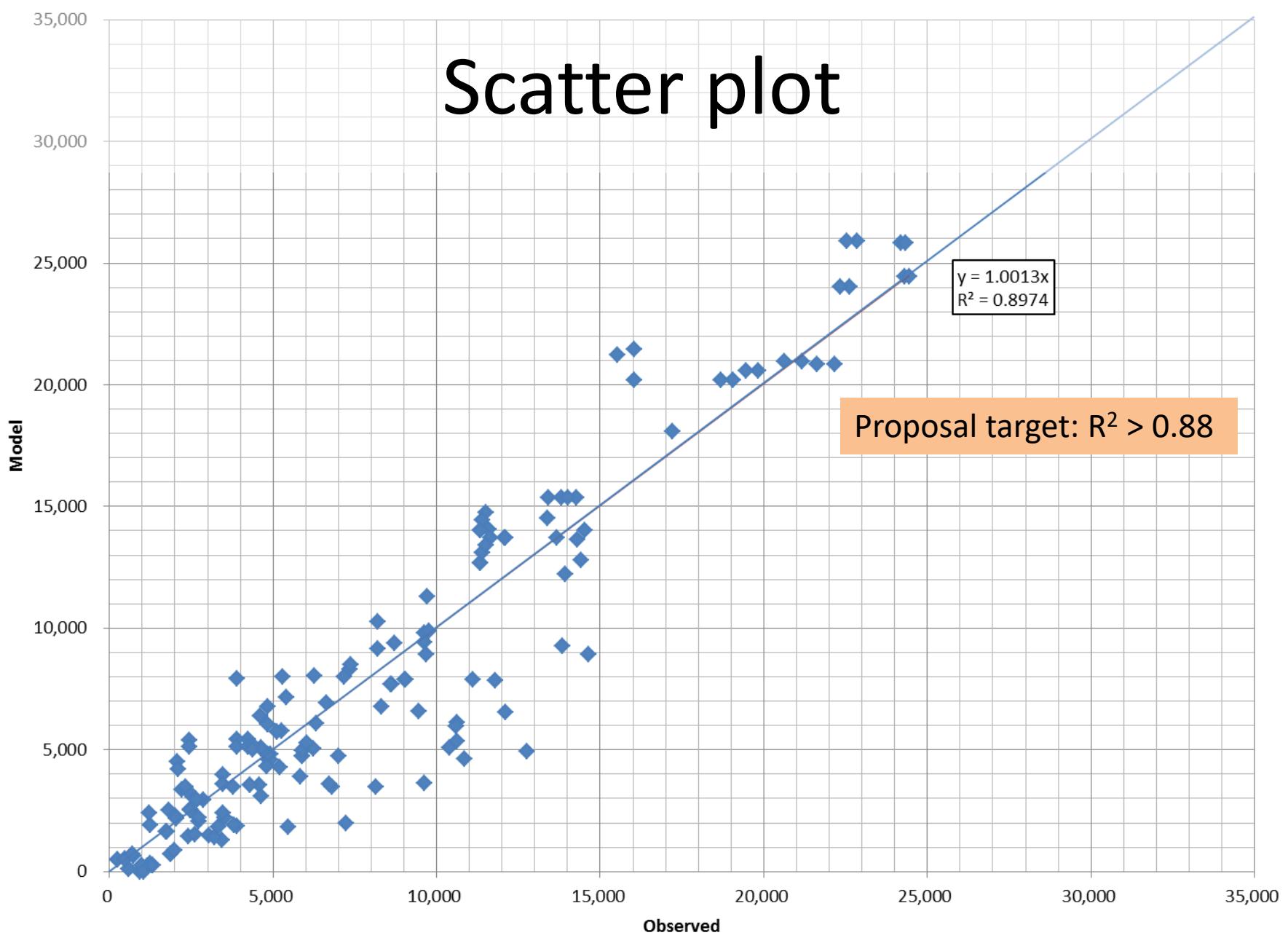
Lower RMSE indicates better performance;
objective values from 2002 Ohio DOT manual

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{\sum error^2}{num_{counts} - 1}} / average\ volume$$

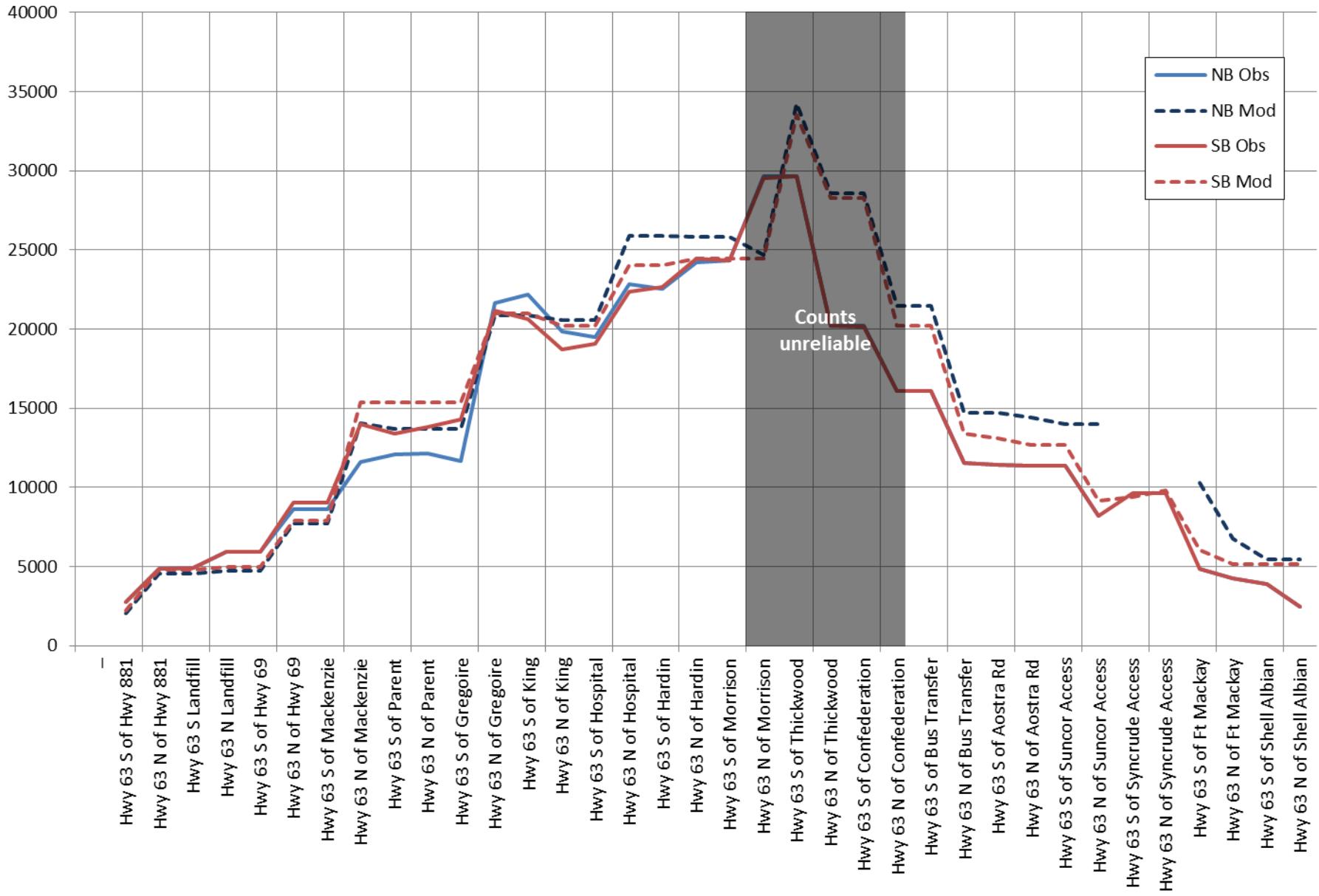
NHCRP 255 standard



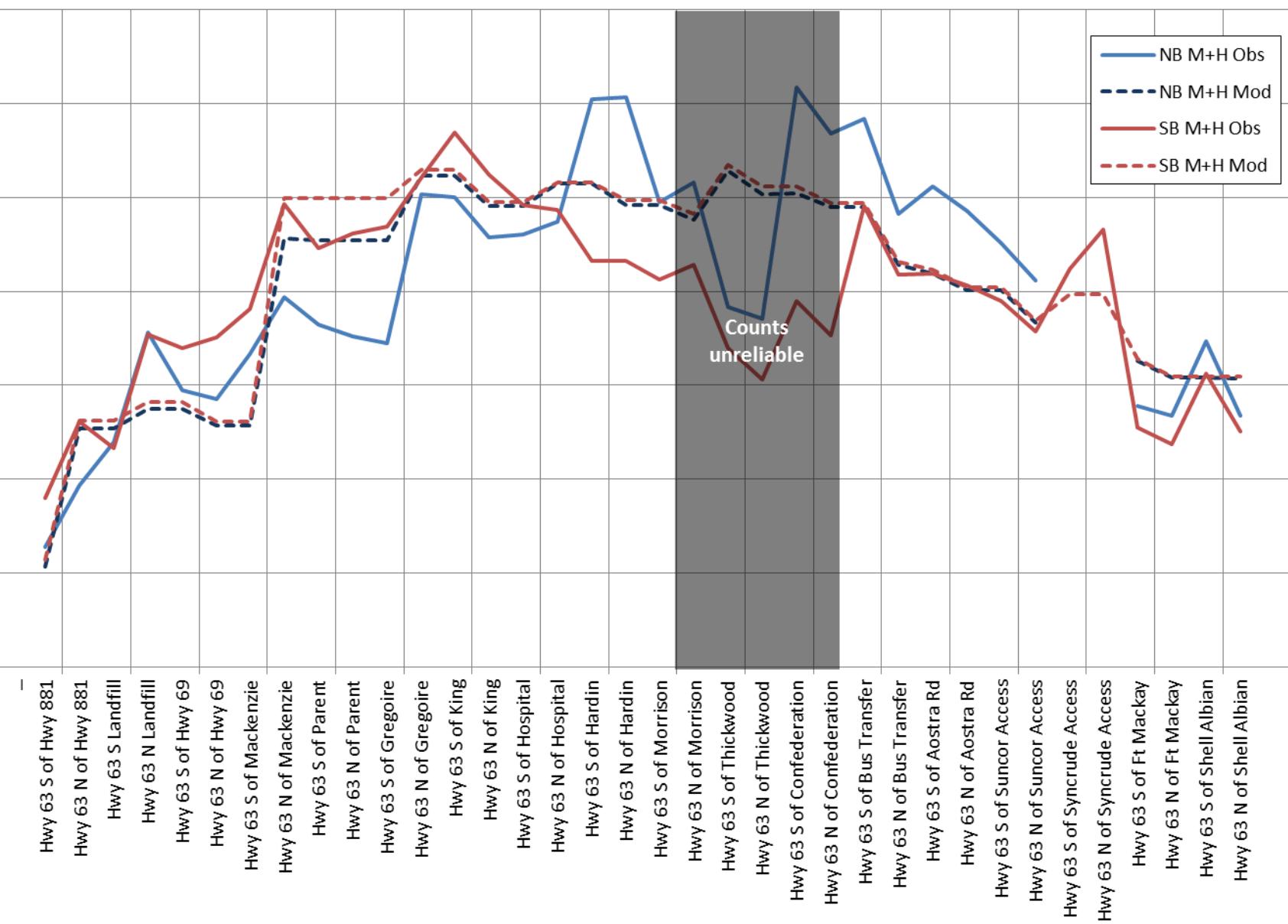
Scatter plot



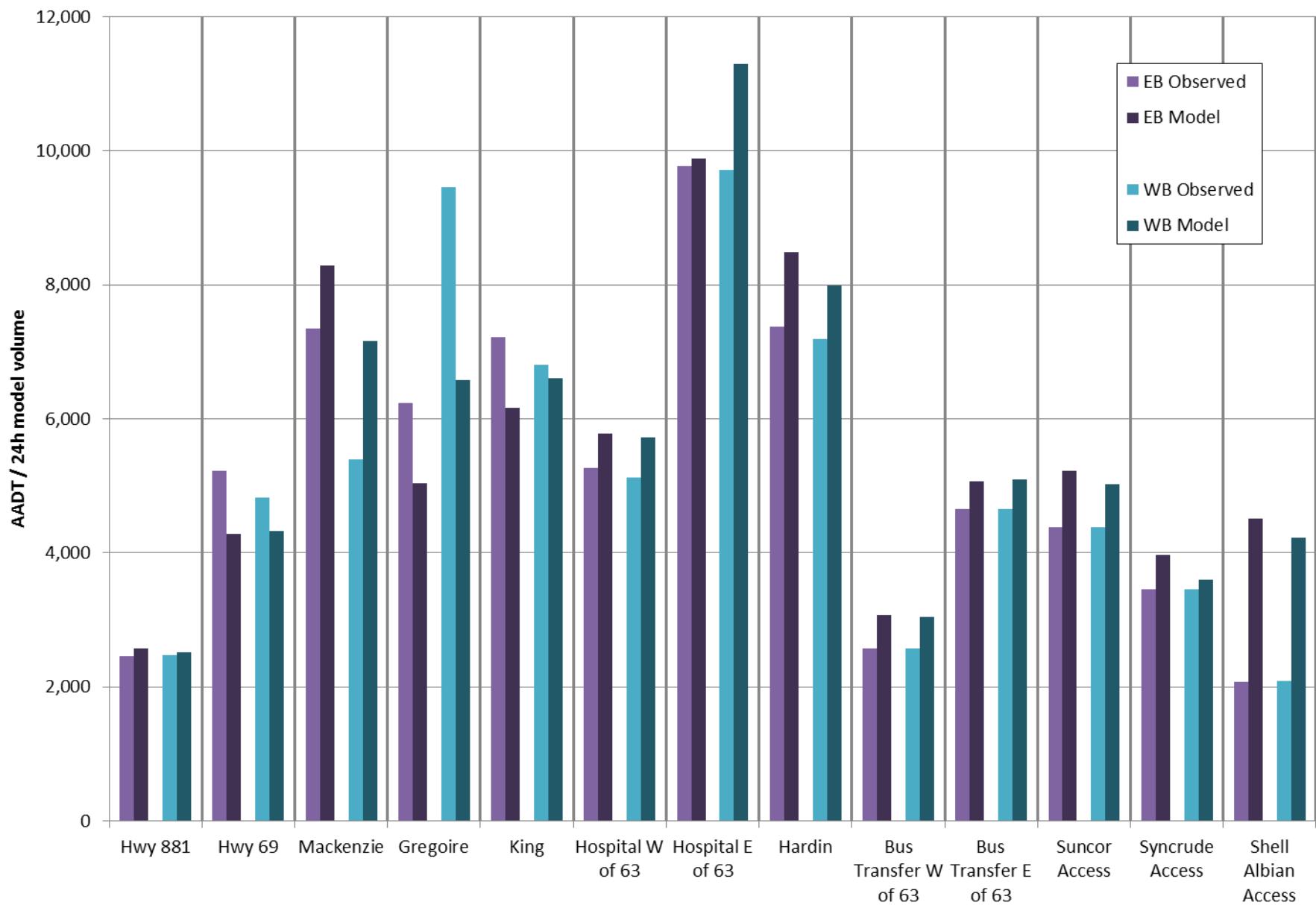
AADT - Highway 63



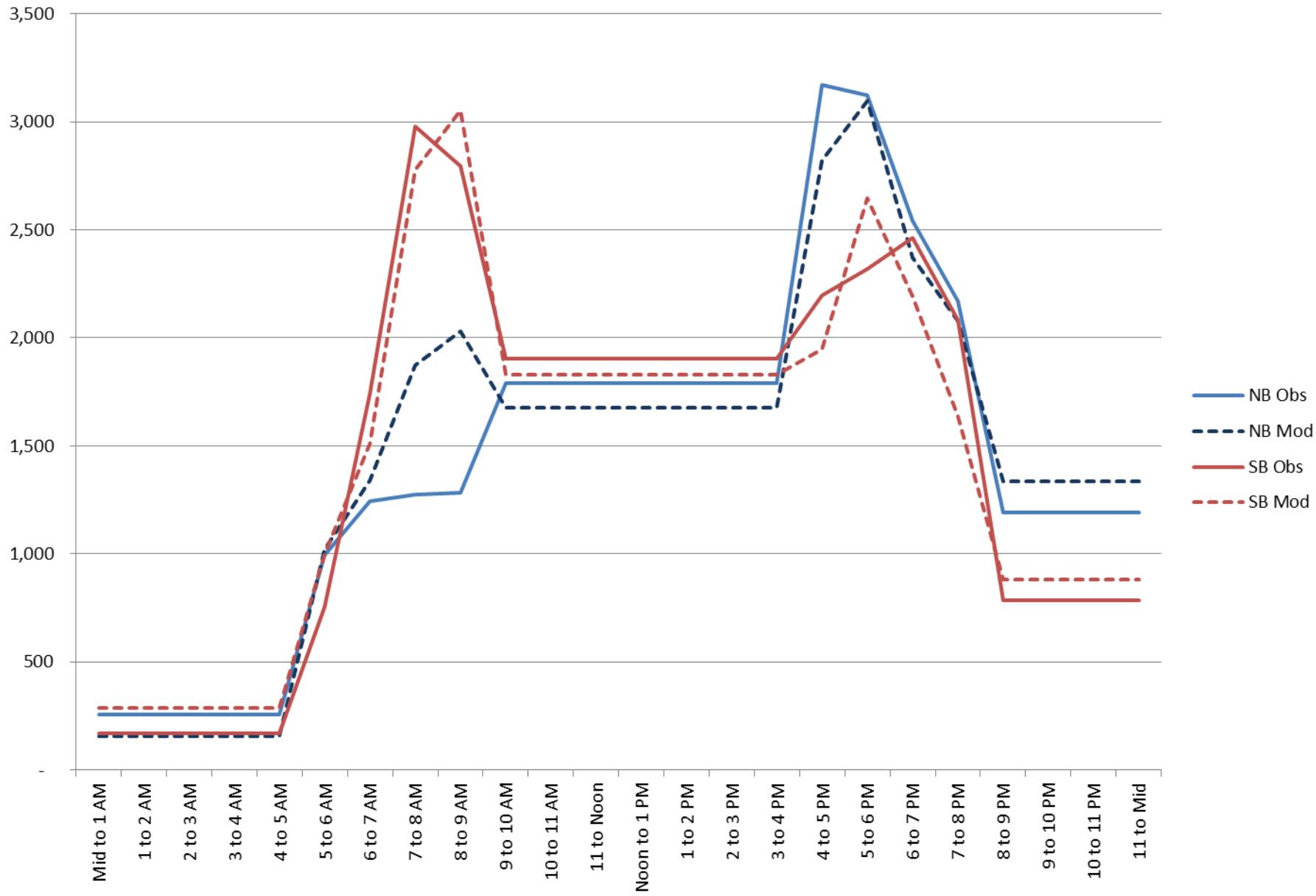
AADT - Highway 63 - Medium & Heavy



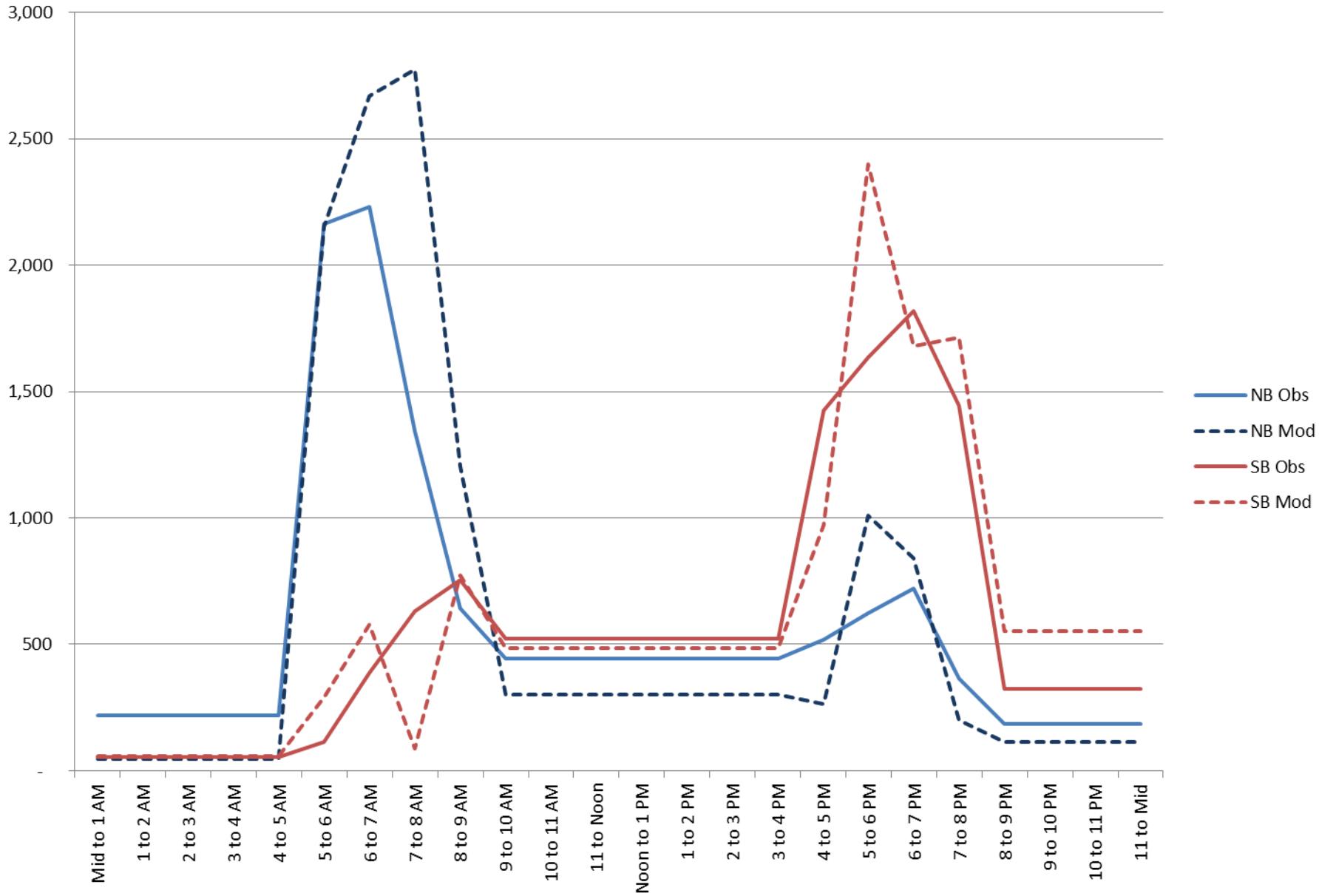
Major roads at intersection with Hwy 63



Hourly volumes - Hwy 63 @ Athabasca River (Grant MacEwan Bridge)

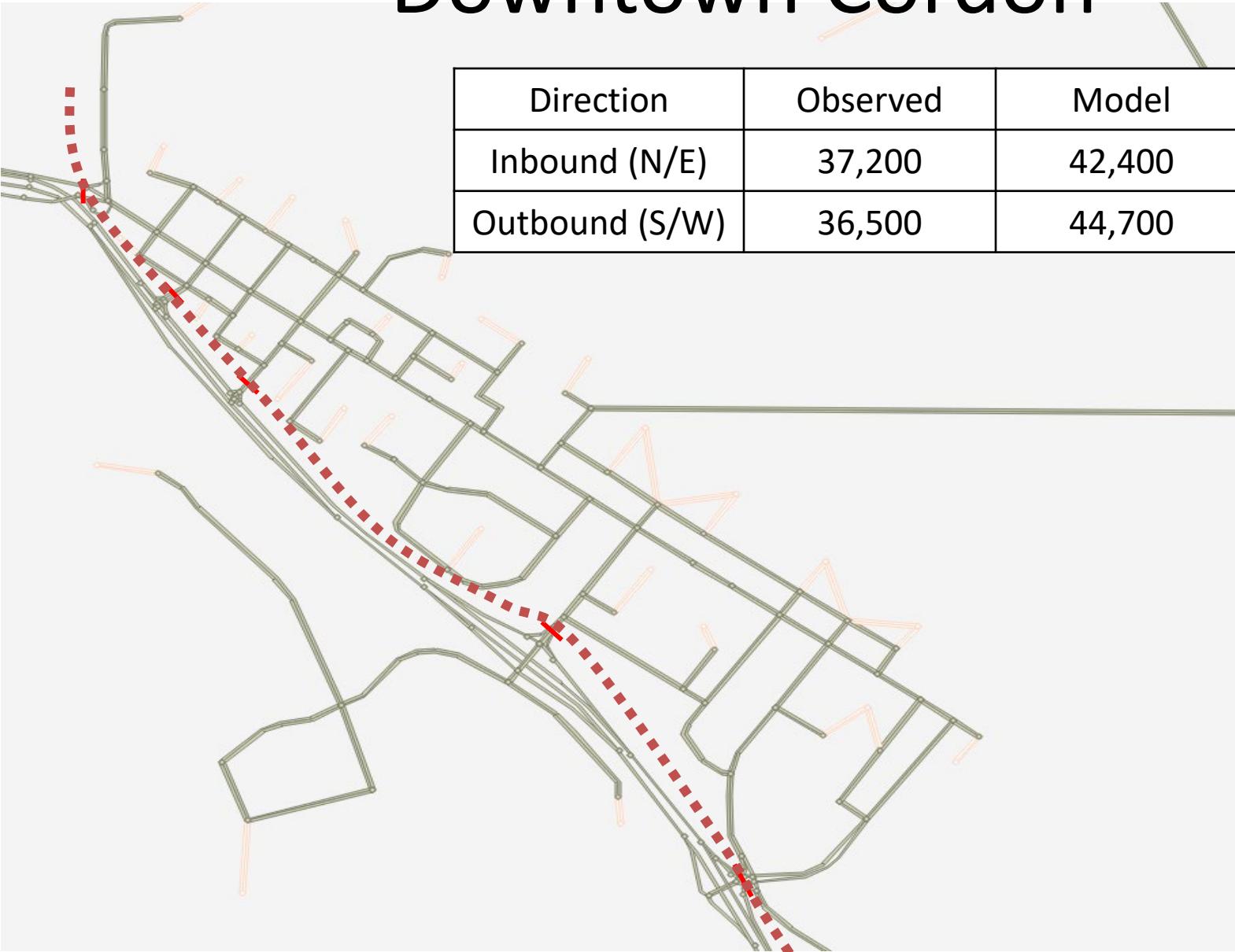


Hourly volumes - Hwy 63 North of Confederation Way

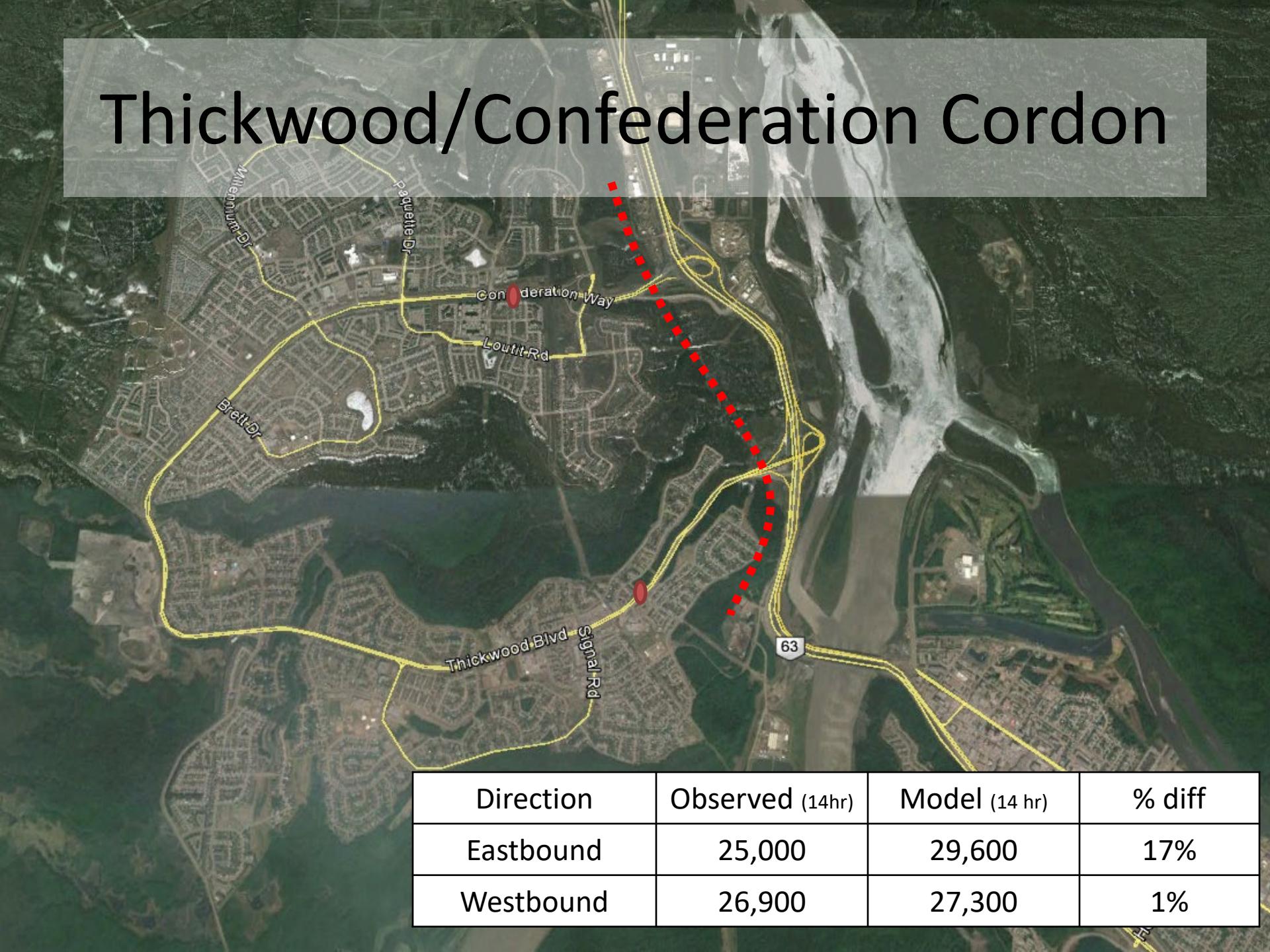


Downtown Cordon

Direction	Observed	Model	% diff
Inbound (N/E)	37,200	42,400	14%
Outbound (S/W)	36,500	44,700	23%



Thickwood/Confederation Cordon

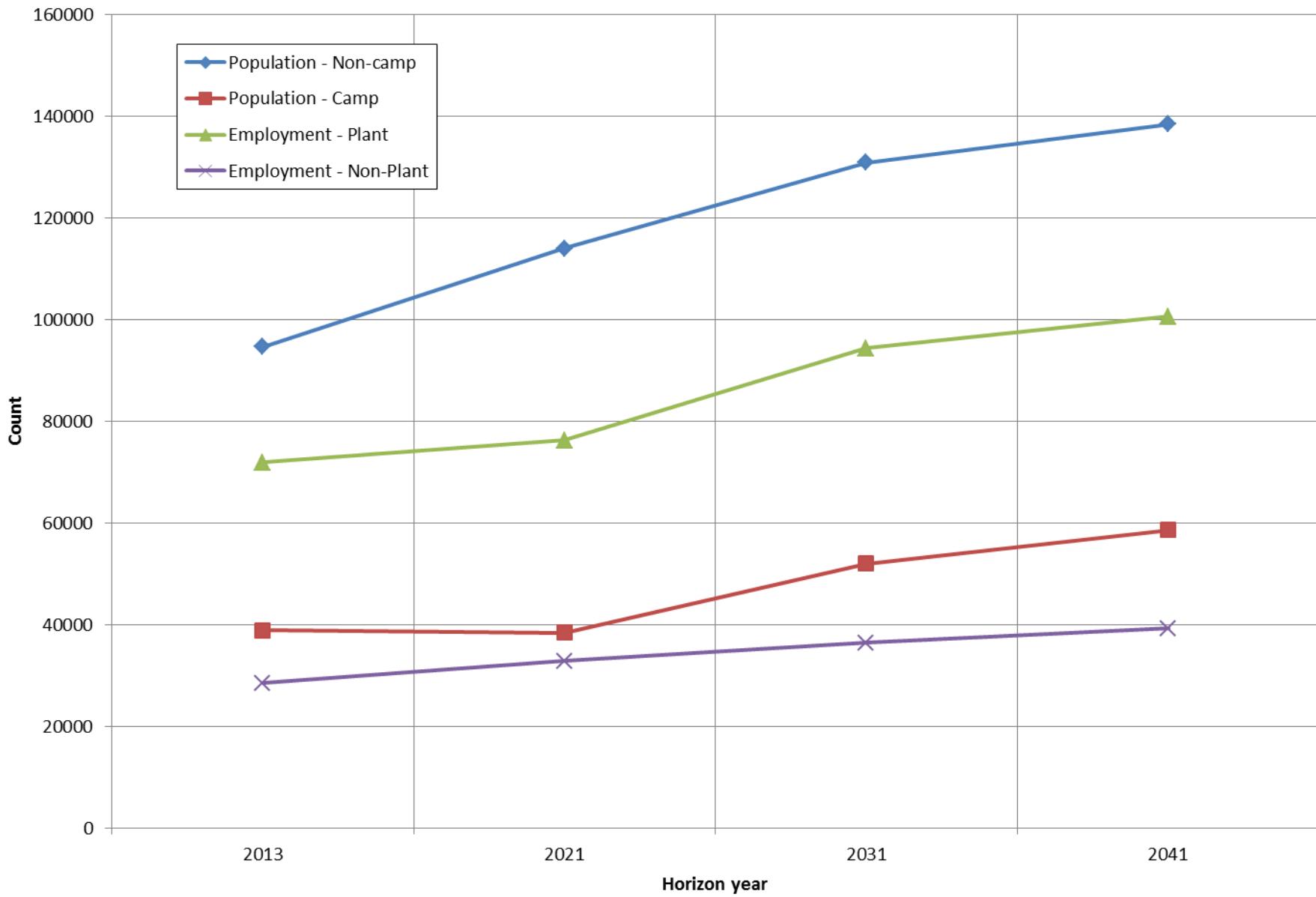


Direction	Observed (14hr)	Model (14 hr)	% diff
Eastbound	25,000	29,600	17%
Westbound	26,900	27,300	1%

Key project phases

- Data collection / processing
- Model development / calibration / validation
- Future scenario series
 - Develop future land use scenarios
 - Population, employment, school enrollment
 - Develop future transportation system alternatives
 - Roads and transit
 - Multiple years: 2021, 2031, 2041 (“full build out”)

Population and employment - base and future scenarios

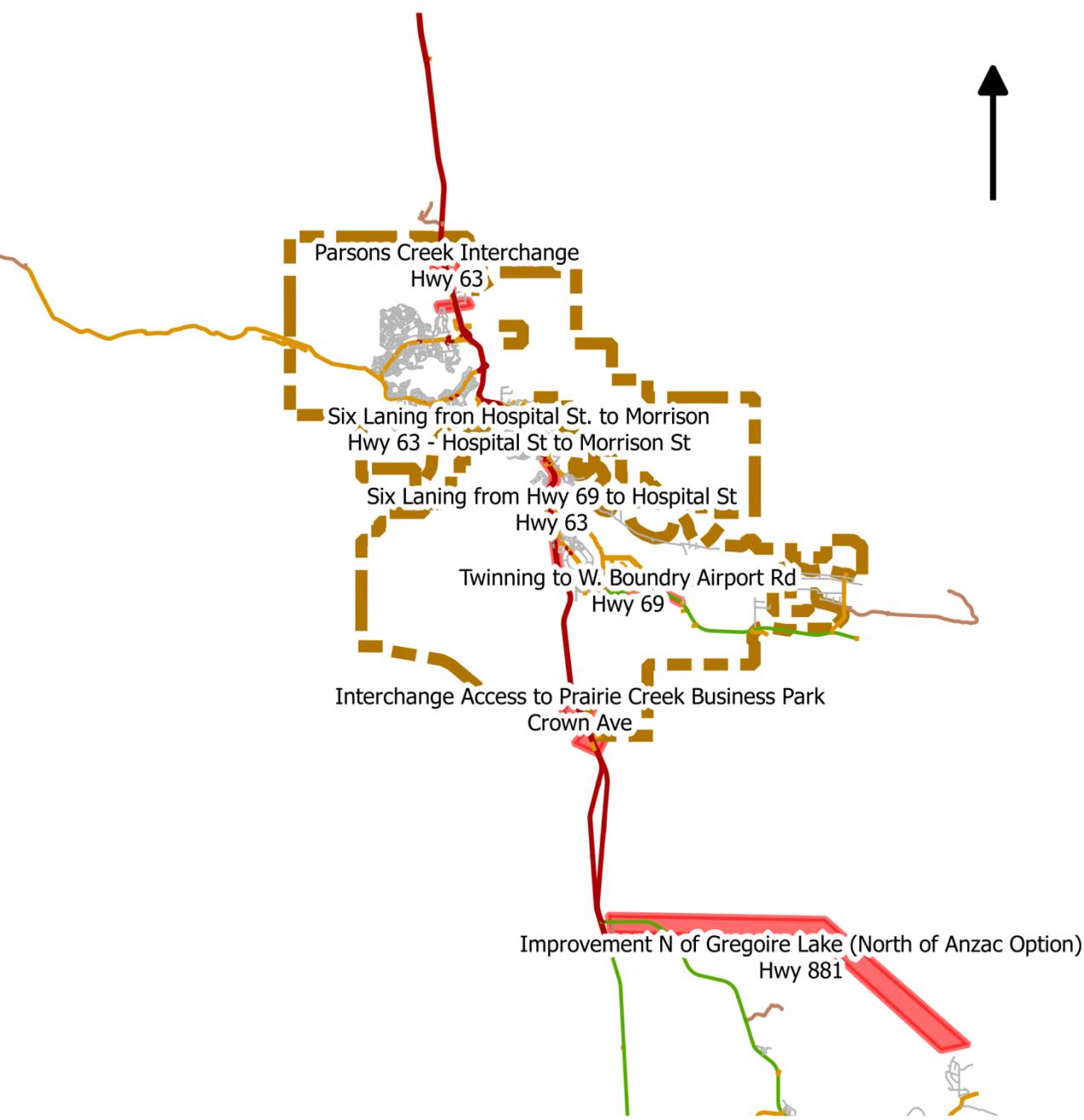


2021 improvements

Legend

RMWB ROADS & FLOWS (NRN)

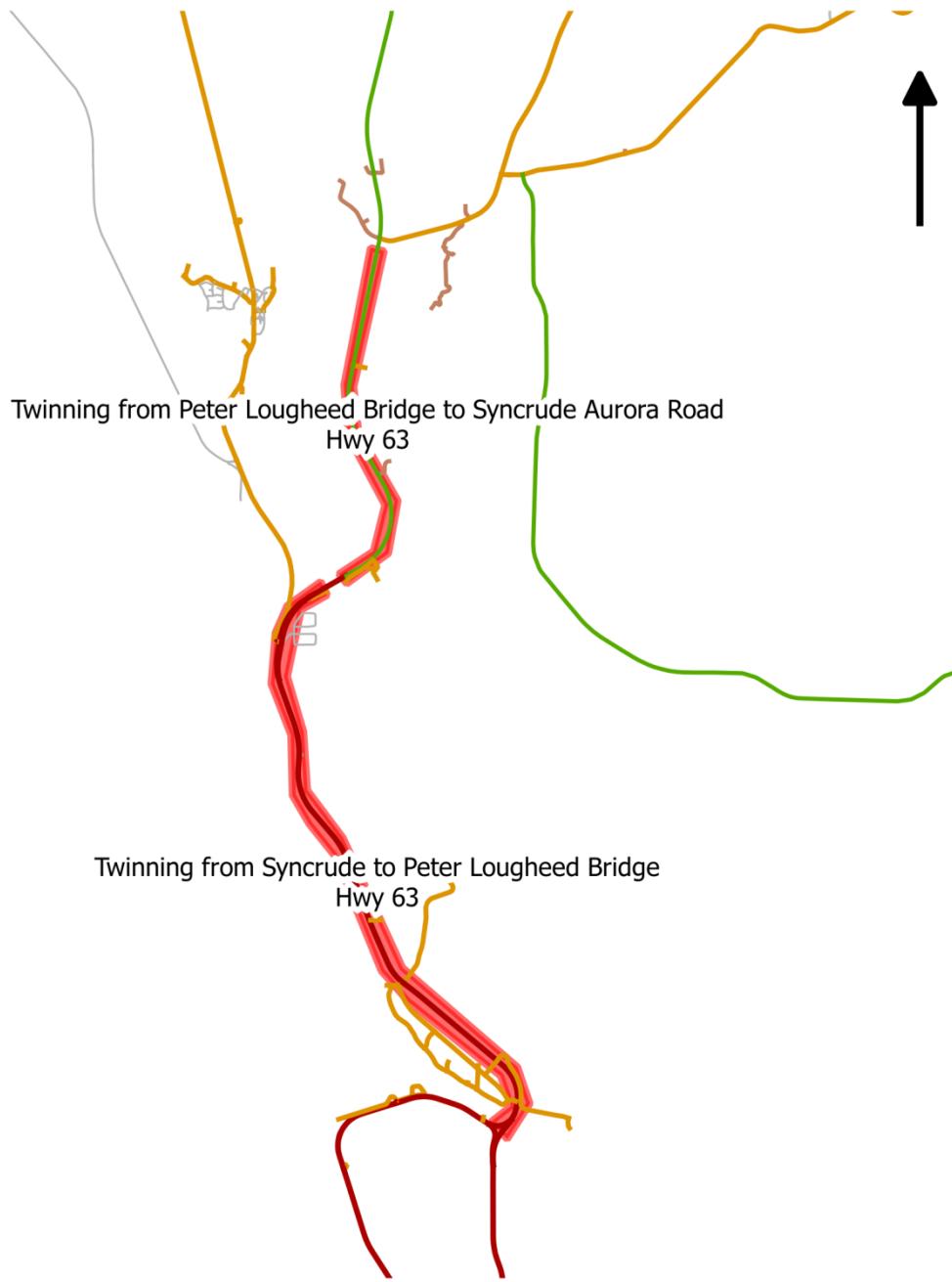
- Alleyway / Lane
- Arterial
- Collector
- Expressway / Highway
- Local / Street
- Local / Unknown
- Ramp
- Rapid Transit
- Resource / Recreation
- Service Lane
- Winter
- Resource (new)
- Future Infrastructure
 - 2021
 - 2031
 - 2041



2021 improvements

Legend

RMWB ROADS & FLOWS (NRN)



Alleyway / Lane

Arterial

Collector

Expressway / Highway

Local / Street

Local / Unknown

Ramp

Rapid Transit

Resource / Recreation Service Lane

Winter

Resource (new)

Future Infrastructure

2021

2031

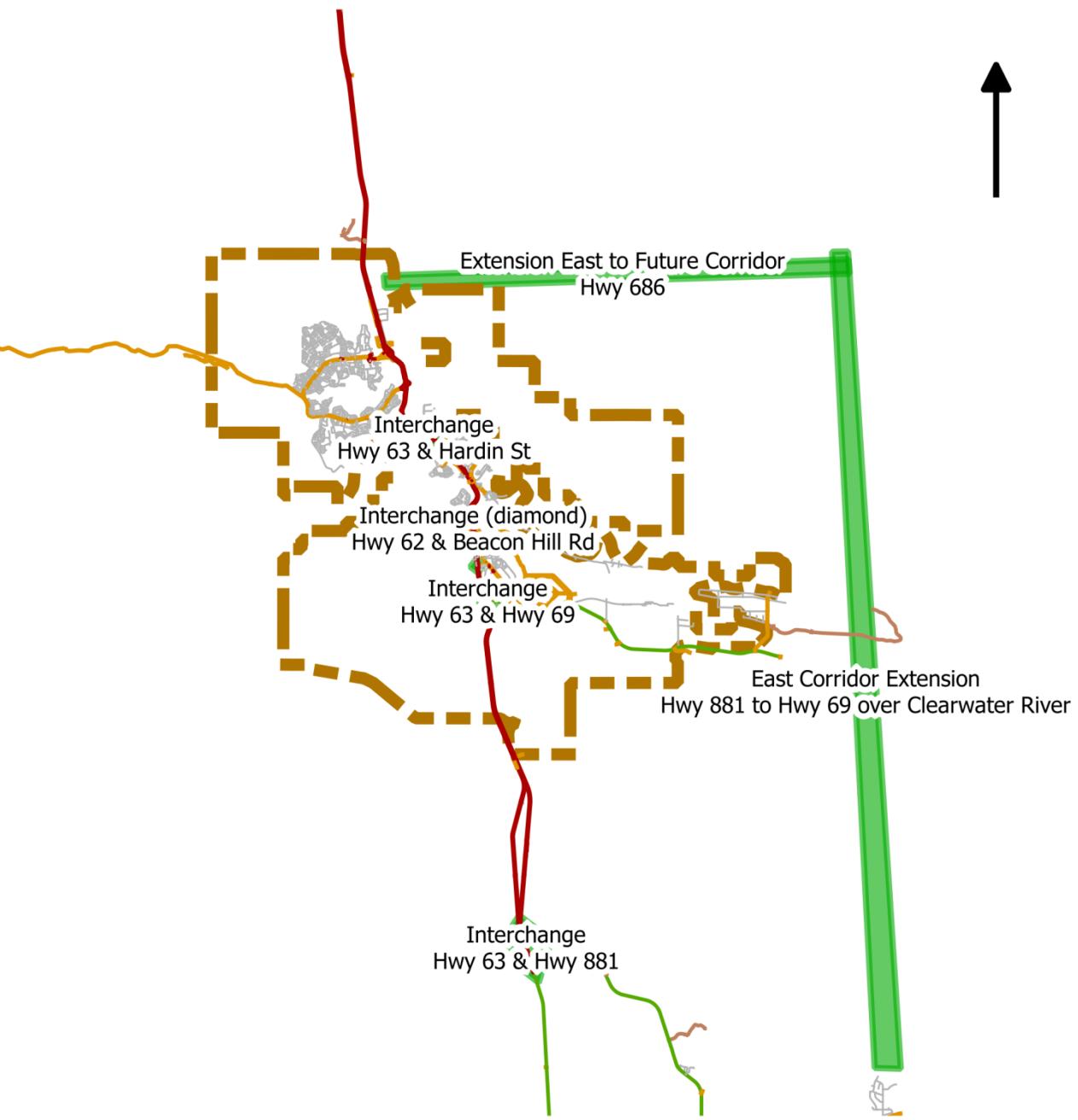
2041

2031 improvements

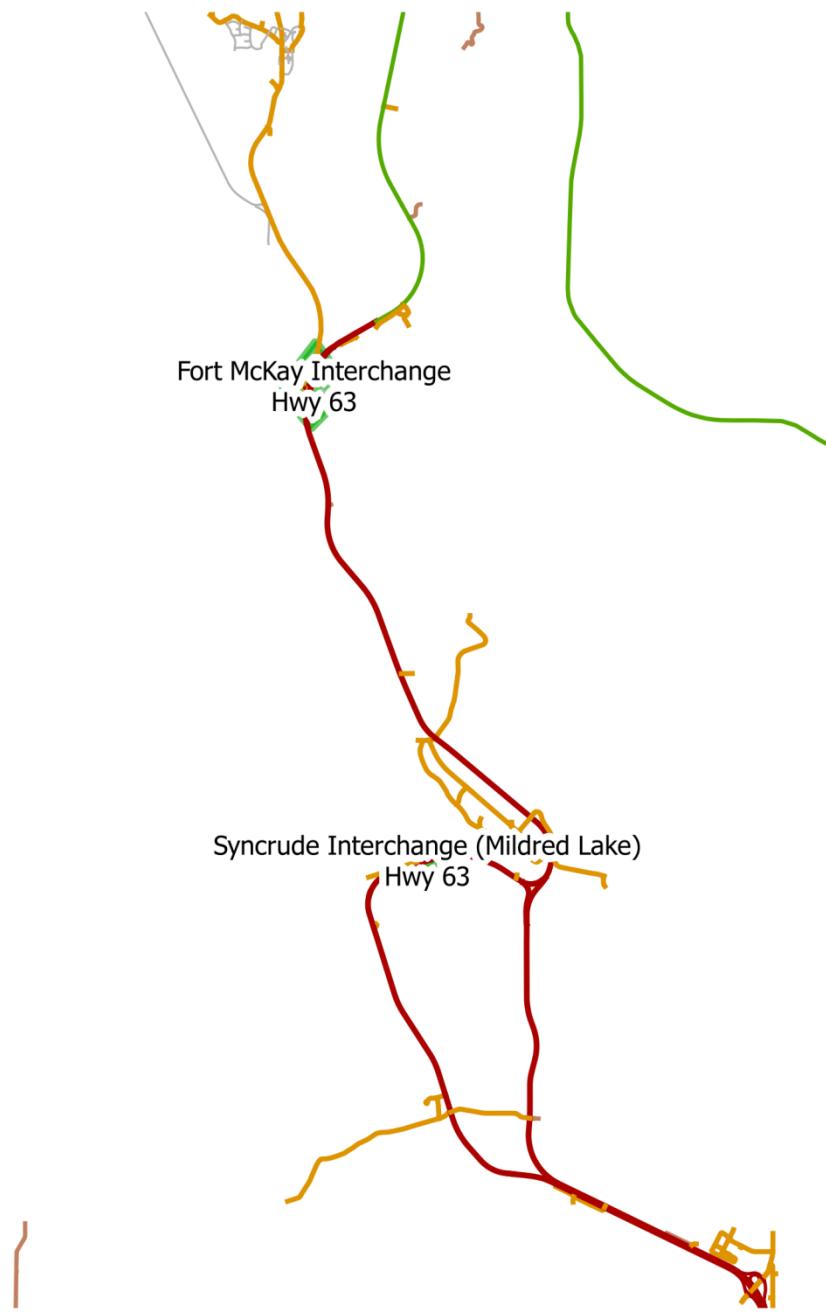
Legend

RMWB ROADS & FLOWS (NRN)

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2031 improvements



Legend

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2041 improvements

Legend

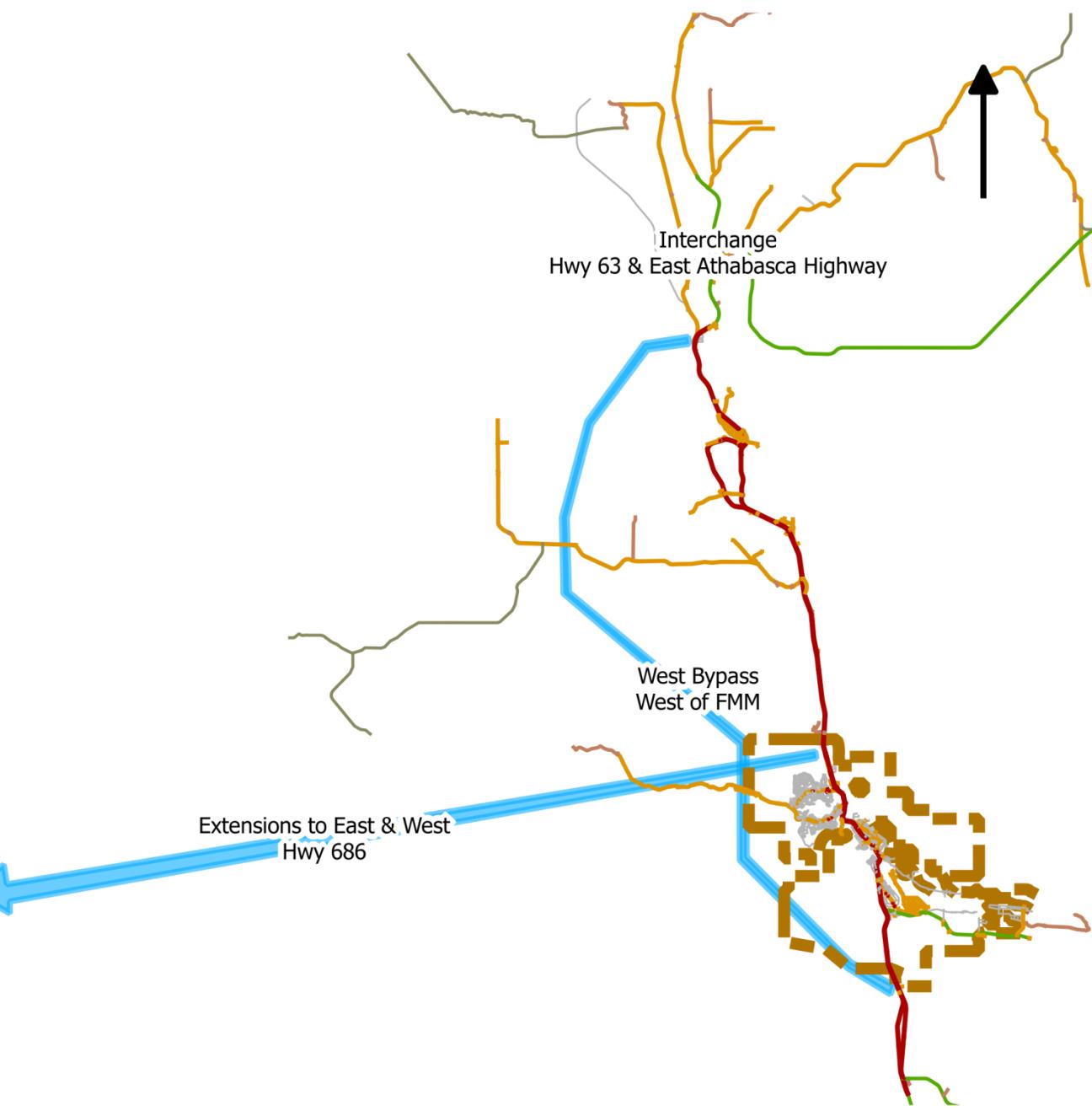
RMWB ROADS & FLOWS (NRN)

- Alleyway / Lane
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- Future Infrastructure
- 2021
 - 2031
 - 2041

Hwy 63 & East Athabasca Highway

West Bypass
West of FMM

Extensions to East & West
Hwy 686



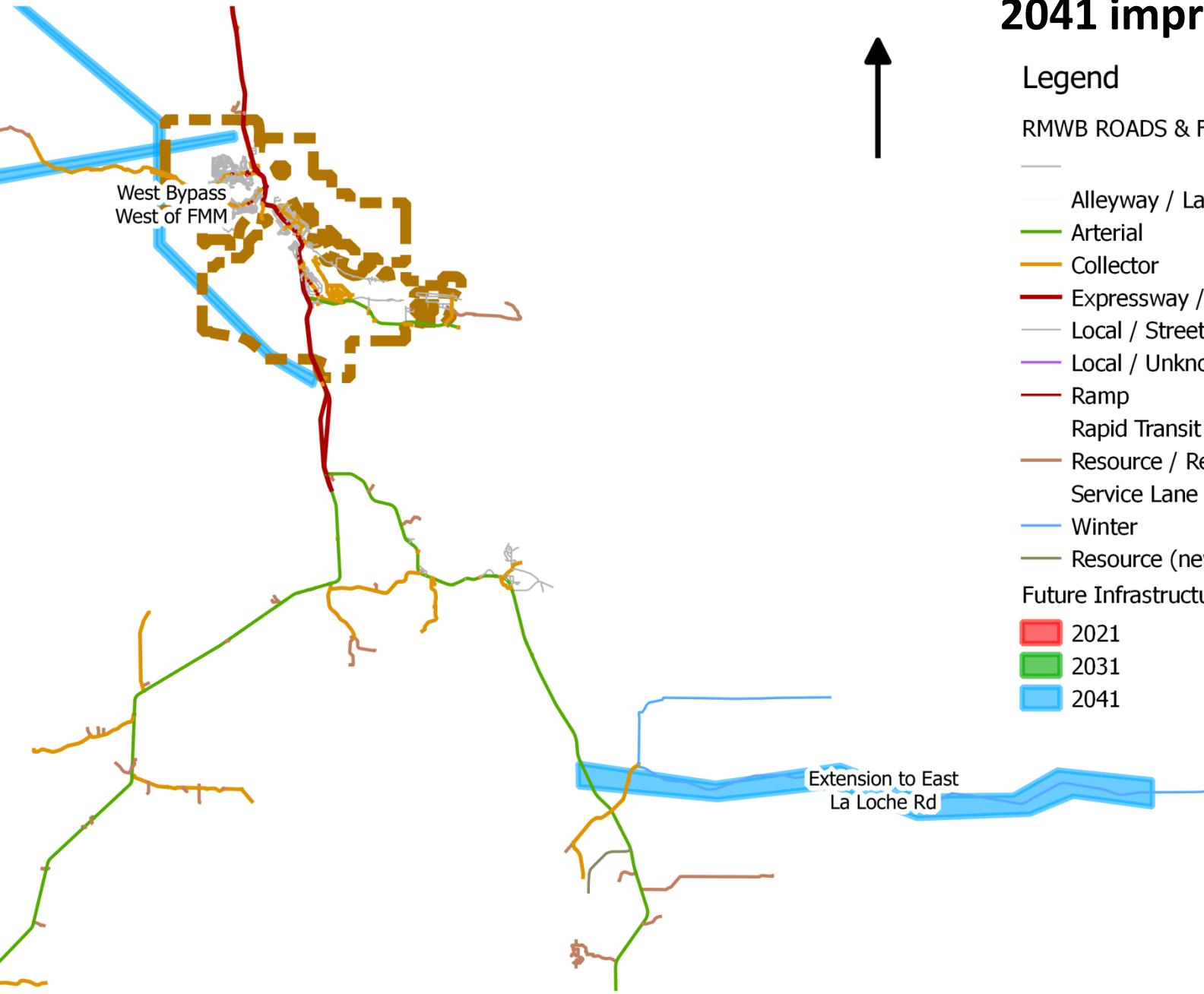
2041 improvements



Legend

RMWB ROADS & FLOWS (NRN)

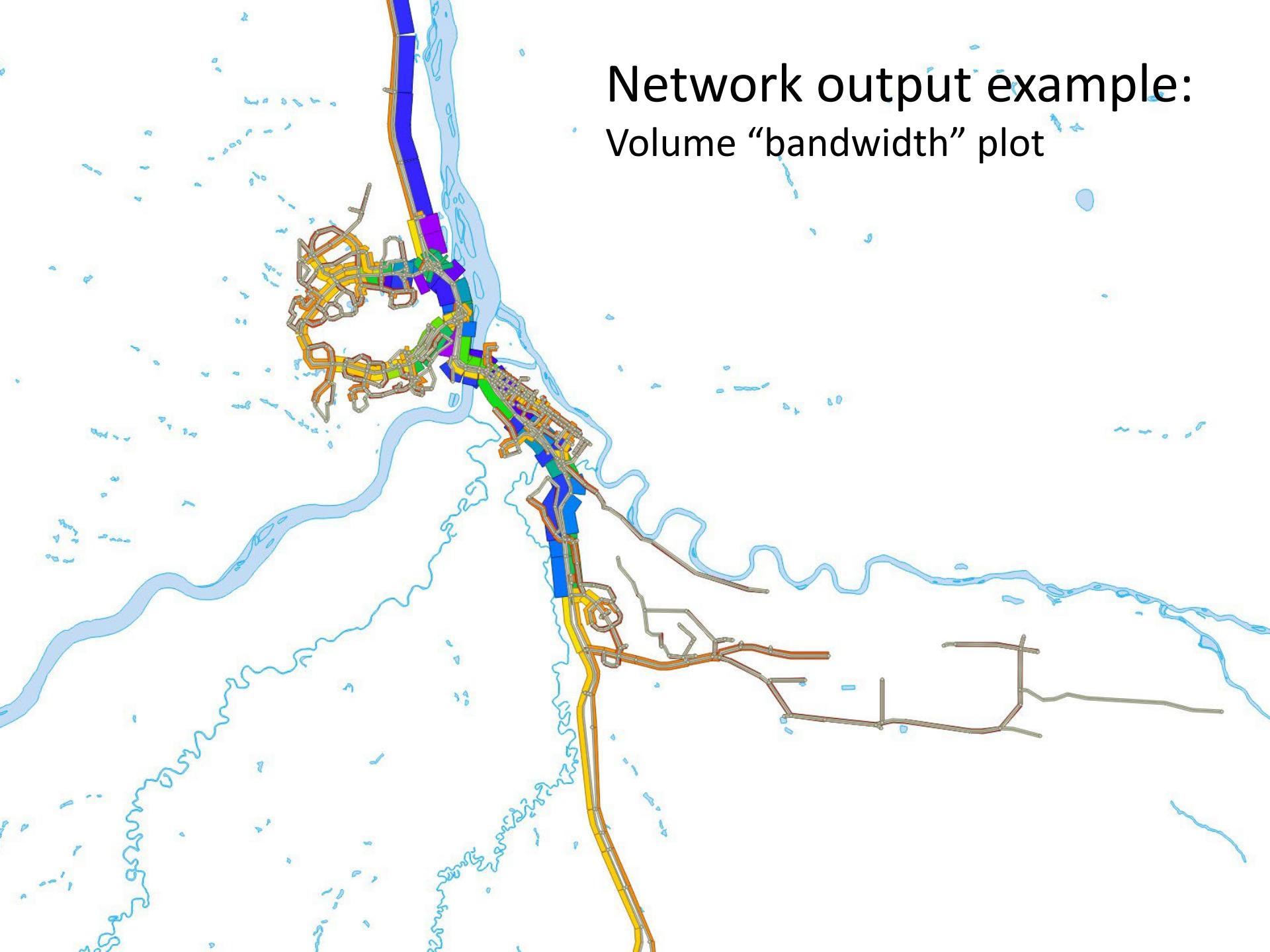
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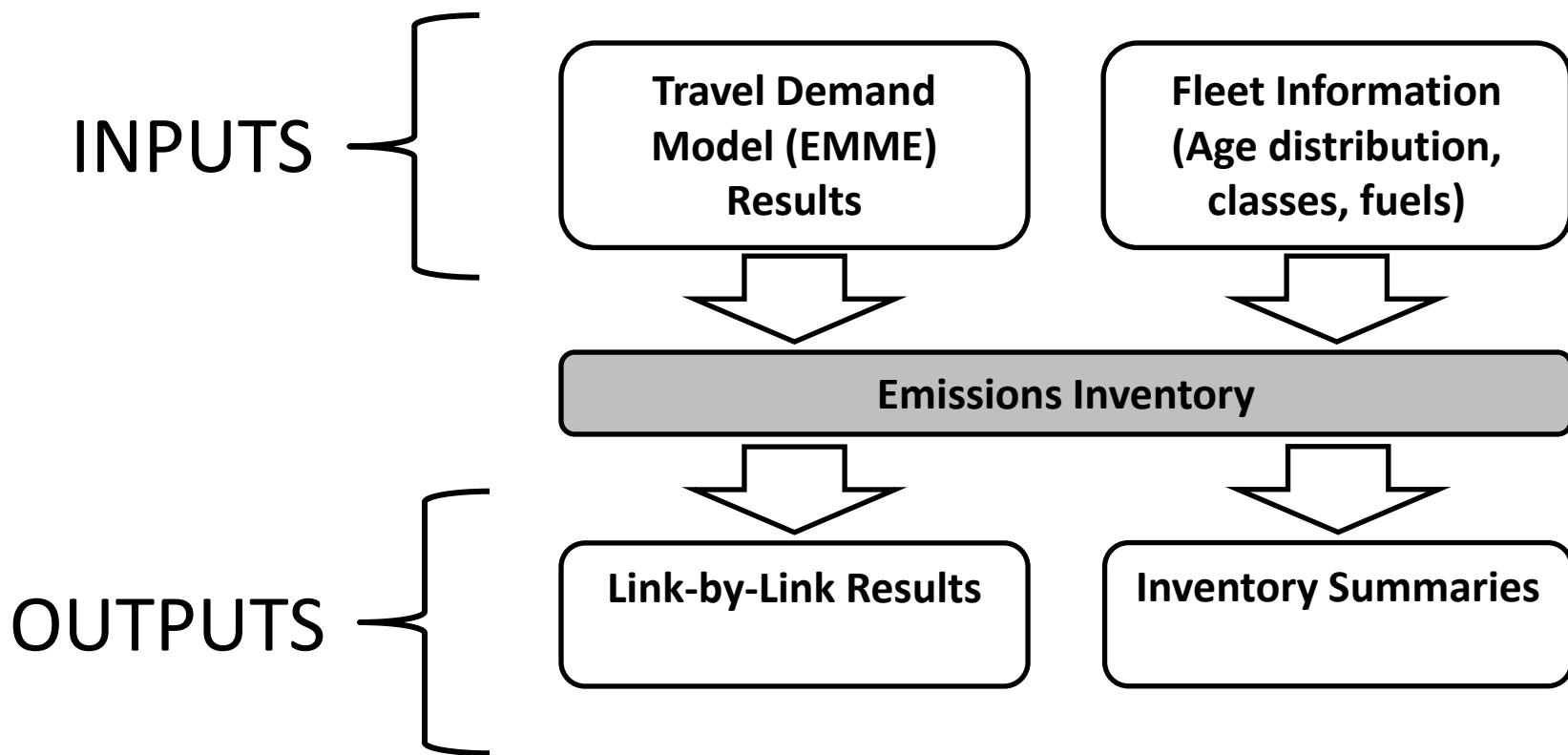


Network output example:

Volume “bandwidth” plot



Vehicle Emissions Sub-Model



A photograph capturing a massive wildfire. The sky is filled with thick, dark smoke, with bright orange and yellow flames visible on the right side. In the foreground, a multi-lane highway is filled with cars driving away from the fire. A street lamp stands on the right side of the road. The background shows a line of trees and a hillside.

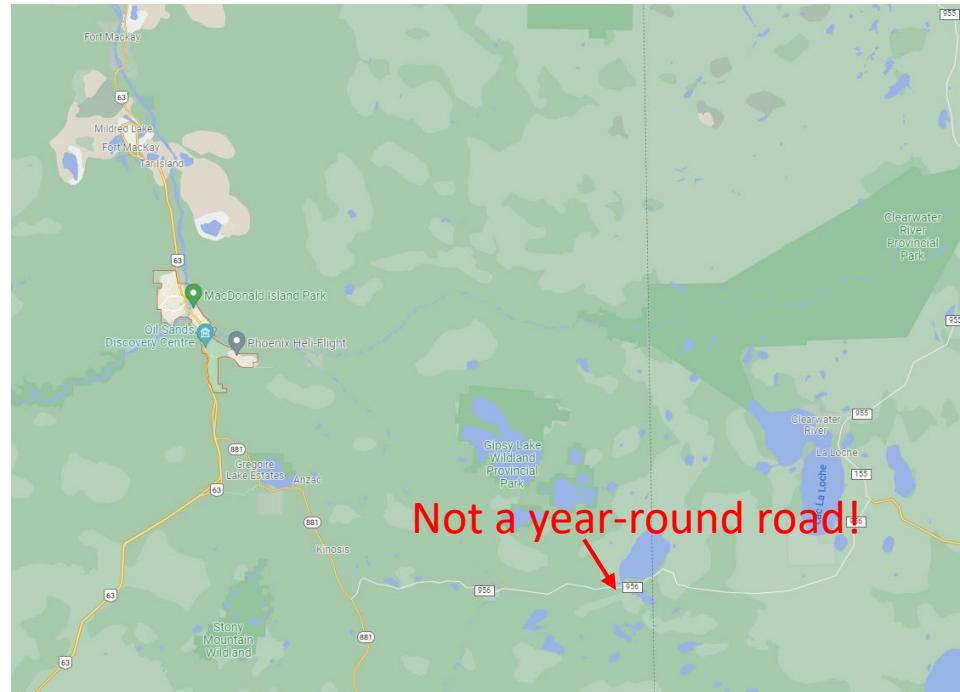
2016 Wildfire

Just as we were finishing the model...

- May 3, 2016 a wildfire SW of Fort McMurray forced the largest evacuation in provincial history - ~88,000 people
- Fire destroyed 2,400 homes and buildings and displaced 2,000 residents.
- 9.9B CAD in damage – most costly disaster in Canadian history.
- Declared under control on July 5, 2016 and fully contained August 2, 2017.

New Scenarios

- How can we evacuate Fort McMurray?
- Could we use the winter road to the east into Saskatchewan?
- What is the cost to upgrade the road and what is the typical use (i.e., during non-evacuation scenarios)?



Questions?