



# A Systems Dynamics Model to Improve Service and Maximize Benefits of Public Transit for STM

**INSE 691: System Modeling and  
Simulation**

# Team Members

ALAMEEN SAJEEV	40221192
HIMANSHU DAHIYA	40234526
SYED MUHAMMAD IRTAZA RIZVI	40272071
AADIL AMIN JIWANI	40237187

*Disclaimer: This class project was conducted utilizing the research framework, design, methodology, and data analysis developed by Sarah Farahdel as part of her PhD research.*

# Introduction and Scope

- ▶ **Objective** - Building a system dynamics model in AnyLogic software to increase service capabilities and the number of trips of the STM.
- ▶ **Aim**: Explore interdependencies among social sustainability indicators within STM's transit system.
- ▶ **Scope** - Identify and analyse the key drivers that can enhance service quality and, in turn, attract more riders to use public transit - thereby maximizing the benefits and efficiency of the system.

# System Dynamics

Method for analyzing complex systems over time, utilizing stocks, flows, feedback loops, and time delays.

**Stocks:** Accumulation of ridership level and service quality.

**Flows:** Rates at which ridership level and service quality increase or decrease.

**Causal loops:** Determining reinforcing or balancing loops when two stock values are connected. (primary objective).

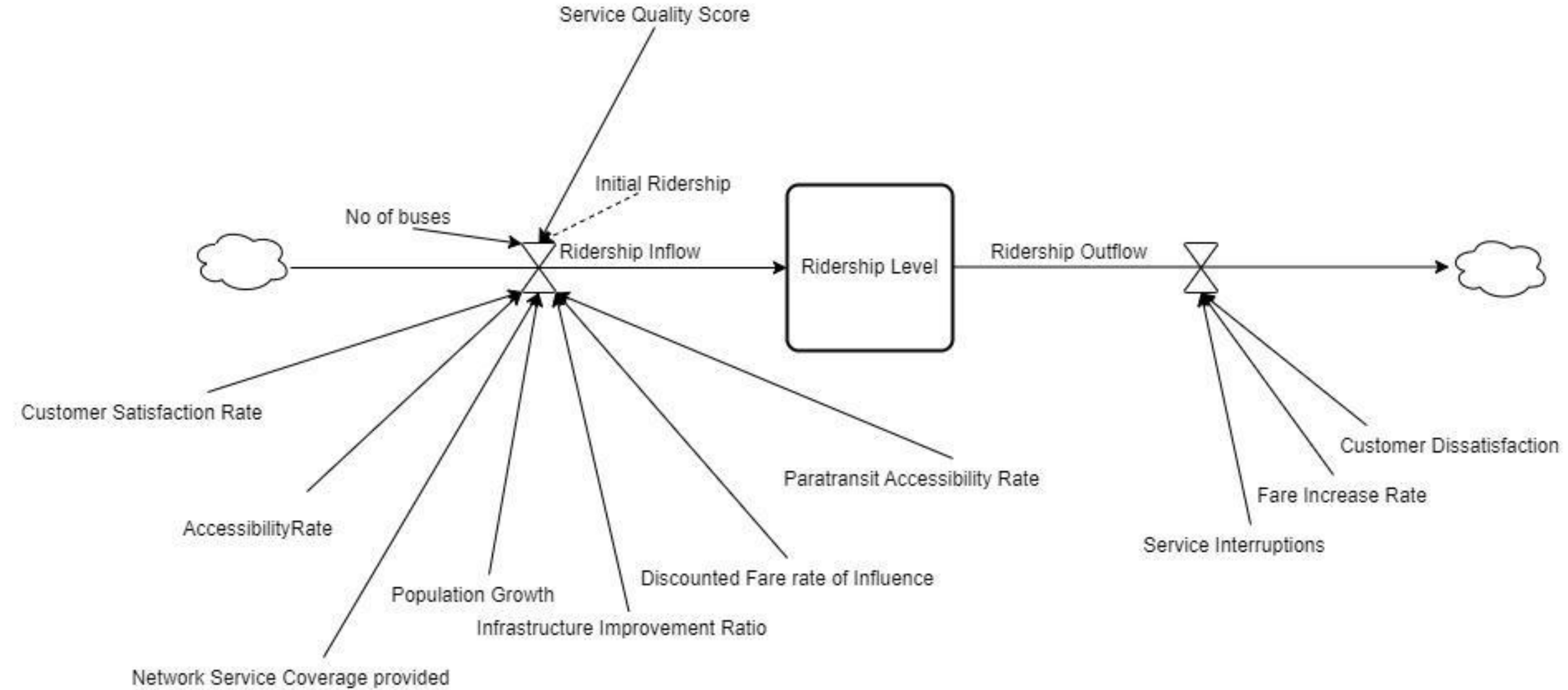
**Data Utilization:** Historical data from 2006 to 2014 on various social sustainability indicators and other sources.

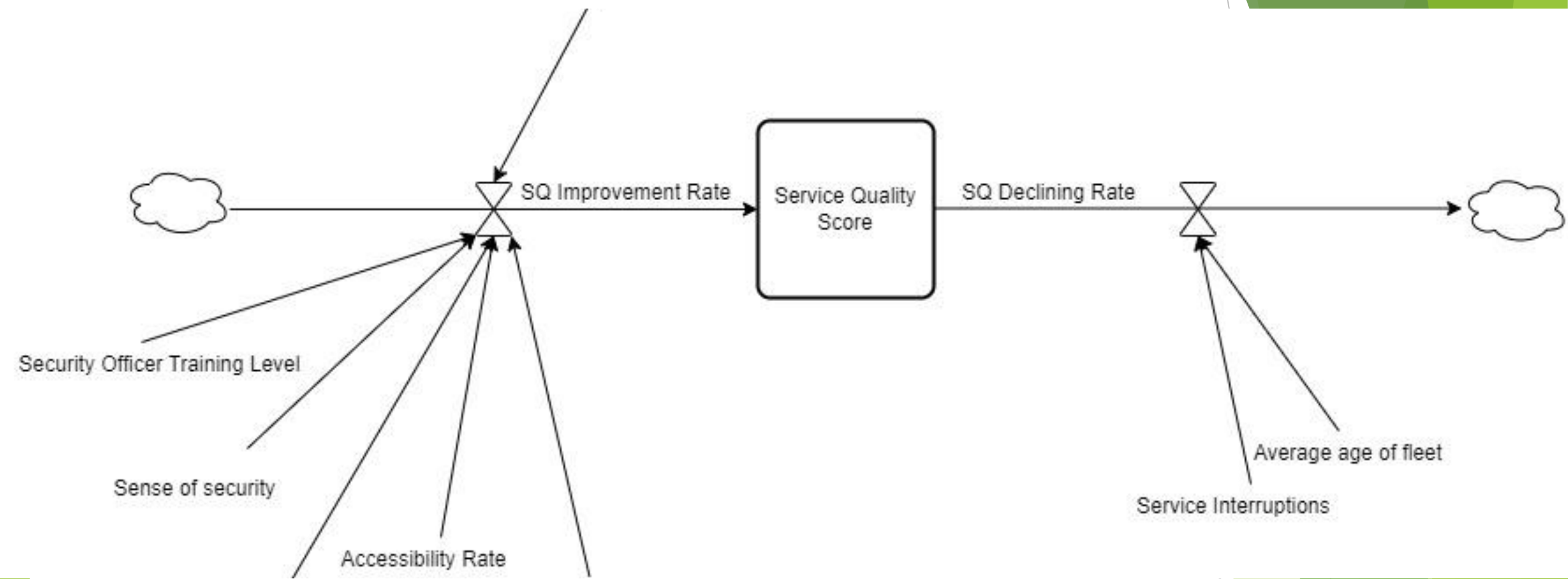
**Verification:** Correlation analysis and regression analysis.

**Validation:** Sensitivity analysis and predictive analysis.

# Description of the System

1. A dependency diagram between two stocks - Ridership level and service quality
2. Defined using various dynamic variables which changes with respect to the historic data.
3. Creation of causal loop diagram that influences both the stock levels to explore and understand the intricate dynamics of its public transit system.
4. Understanding the interconnection among the dynamic variables such as accessibility rate to create inflows and outflows.

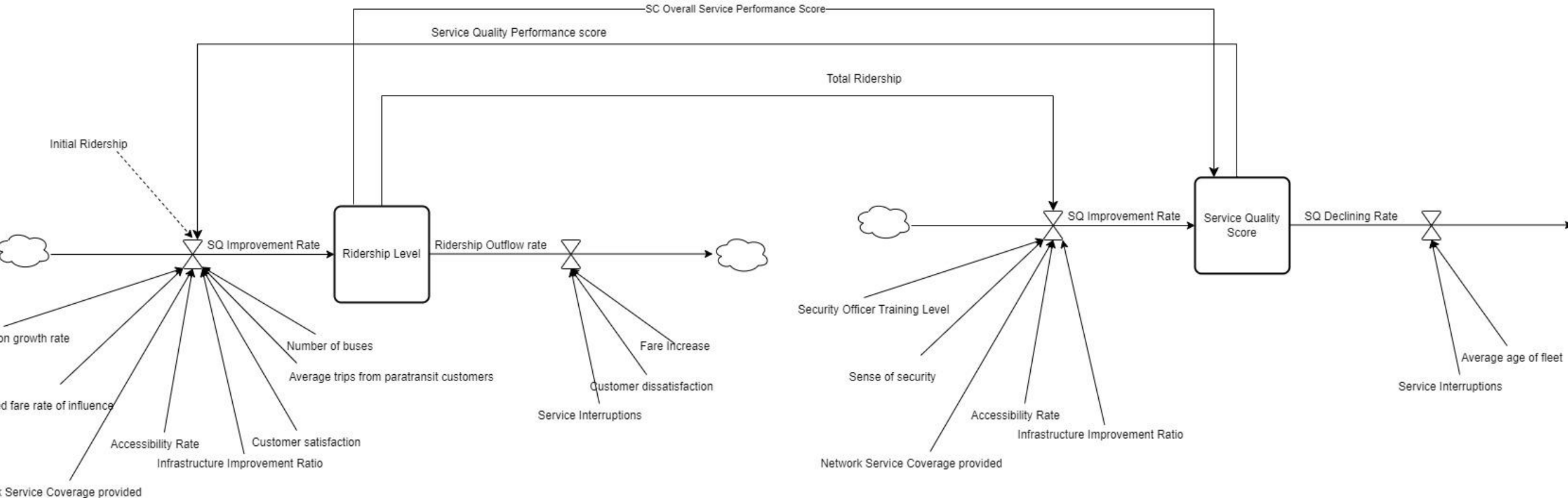




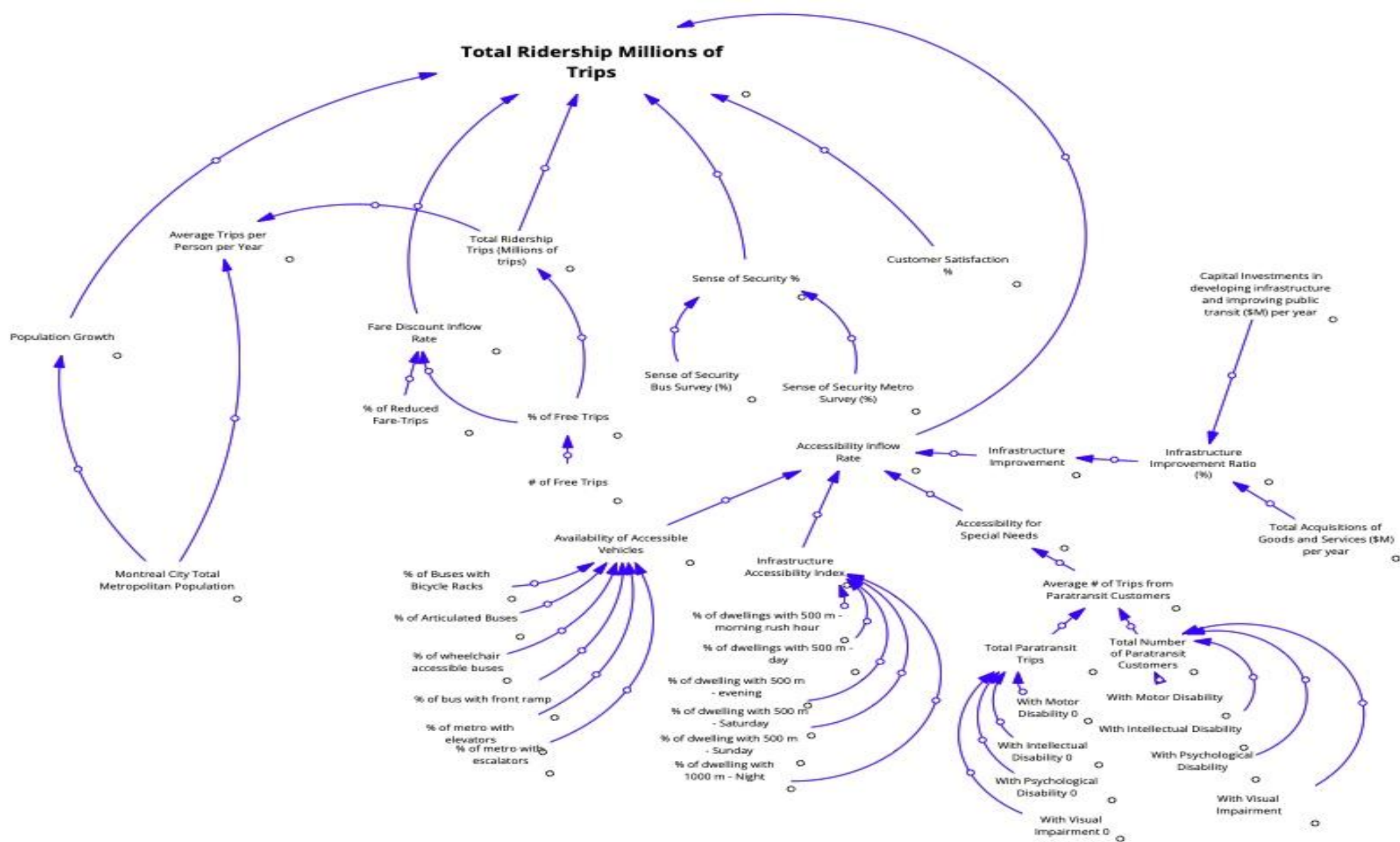


# Causal Loops

- ▶ Feedback Loops- Cause and effect connections create feedback among the ridership level and service quality level
- ▶ Positive perception of both the levels using a reinforced loop.
- ▶ Creation of a service quality performance score as an indicator or variable value







# Steps Involved

- **Problem Definition:** Define objectives and scope.
- **System Conceptualization:** Develop conceptual model outlining key components and interactions.
- **Model Formulation:** Translate conceptual model into formal SD model using mathematical equations.
- **Data Collection:** Gather historical data on ridership levels and service quality indicators.
- **Simulation and Testing:** Run simulations to test model behavior under different scenarios.
- **Verification and Validation.**
- **Additional system development and continuous improvement.**

# Modeling Process - Questions Answered

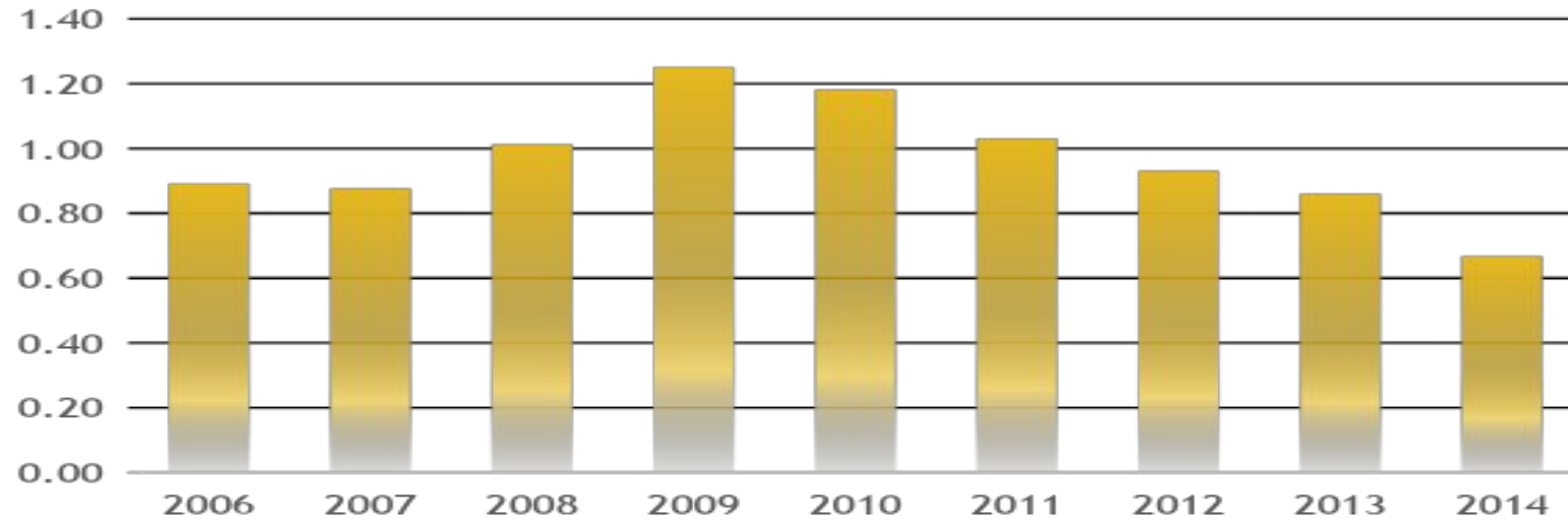
1. **What parameters should be taken into consideration before building the model? (brainstorming and data collection)**
2. **Which parameters are the right ones to be connected to the dynamic variables that are dependent on the flow rate of ridership as well as service quality? (developing equations)**
3. **What are the most effective strategies for increasing ridership while maintaining or improving service quality which can be used as an end goal for developing the system? (developing causal loop diagram)**
4. **How do changes in service quality influence the other stock – Ridership Level? (connecting influencing factors to test the model)**
5. **What are the potential impacts of variables such as fare increase, accessibility rate etc. on dynamic variables? (Creating functions to call in various values of parameters from the dataset)**
6. **How can the transit system optimize its resources to achieve long-term sustainability goals? (optimisation and prospects)**
7. **What values can be altered to observe various model modifications, how is the procedure verified to see accurate values, and how do the models respond to various values? (Validation and verification)**

# Data Availability

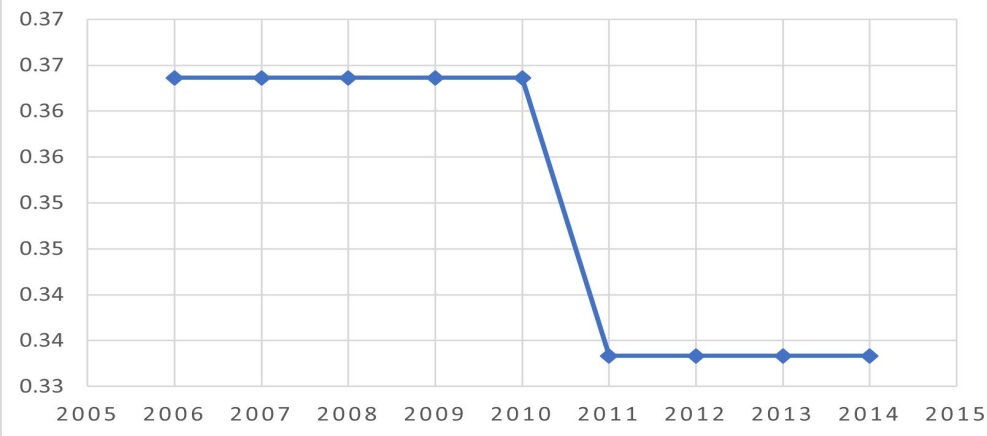
- **STM Annual reports on financial indicators.**
- **STM Sustainability reports on social indicators.**
- **Other websites for referencing and analysing key dependencies.**
- **Statistical charts for analysing population growth rate of Montreal.**
- **Other sources to gather further social sustainability parameters.**

# The Social Dataset

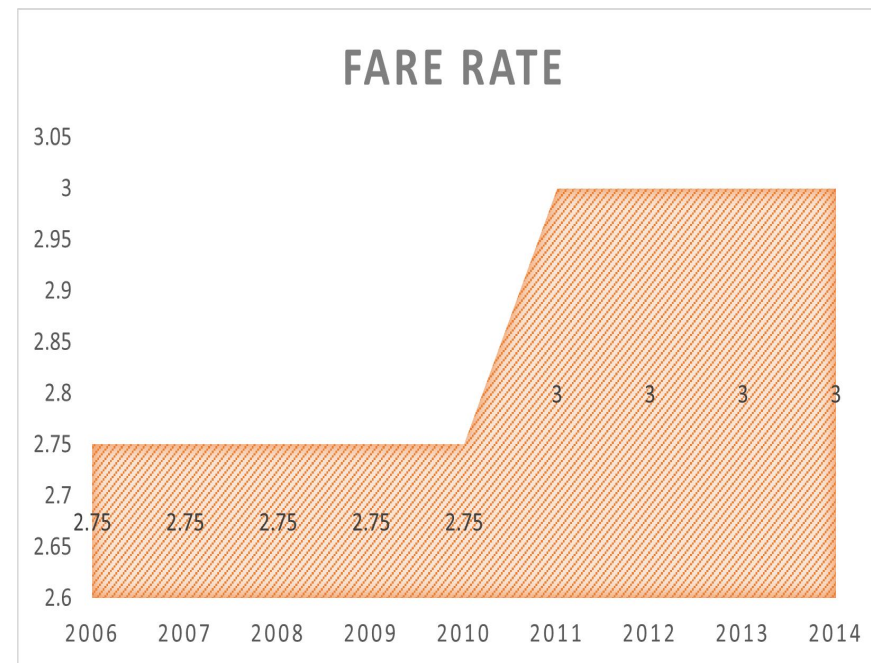
Montreal Population Growth rate



DISCOUNT RATE



# The Social Dataset



# Defining Dynamic Variables

- Population growth rate
- Total Number of Paratransit Trips
- Security Officer Training Level as a parameter
- Number of buses available with the STM.
- Sense of security in both metro and buses.
- Total Number of Buses in Fleet
- Total acquisition of goods and services
- Operational metrics in terms of reliability
- Dwelling Proximity
- Station and Infrastructure accessibility
- Percentage of Reduced Fare-Trips
- Total Ridership
- Network Service Coverage Provided
- Rate of Increase in Fare
- Number of free trips



# Defining Dynamic Variables

- **Rate of satisfaction and dissatisfaction**
- **Sense of Security**
- **Average age of fleet**
- **Infrastructure Improvement ratio**
- **Service Interruptions**
- **Discounted fare rate of influence**

# Description of the system

Structured as two interconnected diagrams:

- Ridership Level and related variables
- Service Quality and its variables

Causal relationships link these diagrams. For example, Service Quality Score influences Ridership Level through the Service Quality Overall Performance Score.

## **Ridership Level**

Represented by the number of people using the transit service.

Influenced by factors like:

### **Ridership Inflow:**

- Service Quality Score (Higher quality attracts more riders)
- Initial Ridership (Baseline number of users)
- Number of Buses (Service capacity)
- Customer Satisfaction Rate
- Accessibility Rate
- Population Growth
- Infrastructure Improvement Ratio
- Network Service Coverage (Wider accessibility)
- Discounted Fare Rate (Attractiveness and accessibility)
- Paratransit Accessibility Rate

- **Ridership Outflow:**
  - Customer Dissatisfaction
  - Fare Increases
  - Service Interruptions
  - **Service Quality Score (SQS)**
- A crucial indicator for evaluating the level of services provided.
- Impacted by:
  - **SQ Improvement Rate:**
    - Total Ridership (Passenger impact on perceived quality)
    - Security Officer Training Level
    - Sense of Security
    - Accessibility Rate
    - Infrastructure Improvement Ratio
    - Network Service Coverage Provided
  - **SQ Declining Rate:**
    - Average Age of Fleet (Older vehicles decrease quality)
    - Service Interruptions

# Simulation System Implementation

## Defining Influential Variables

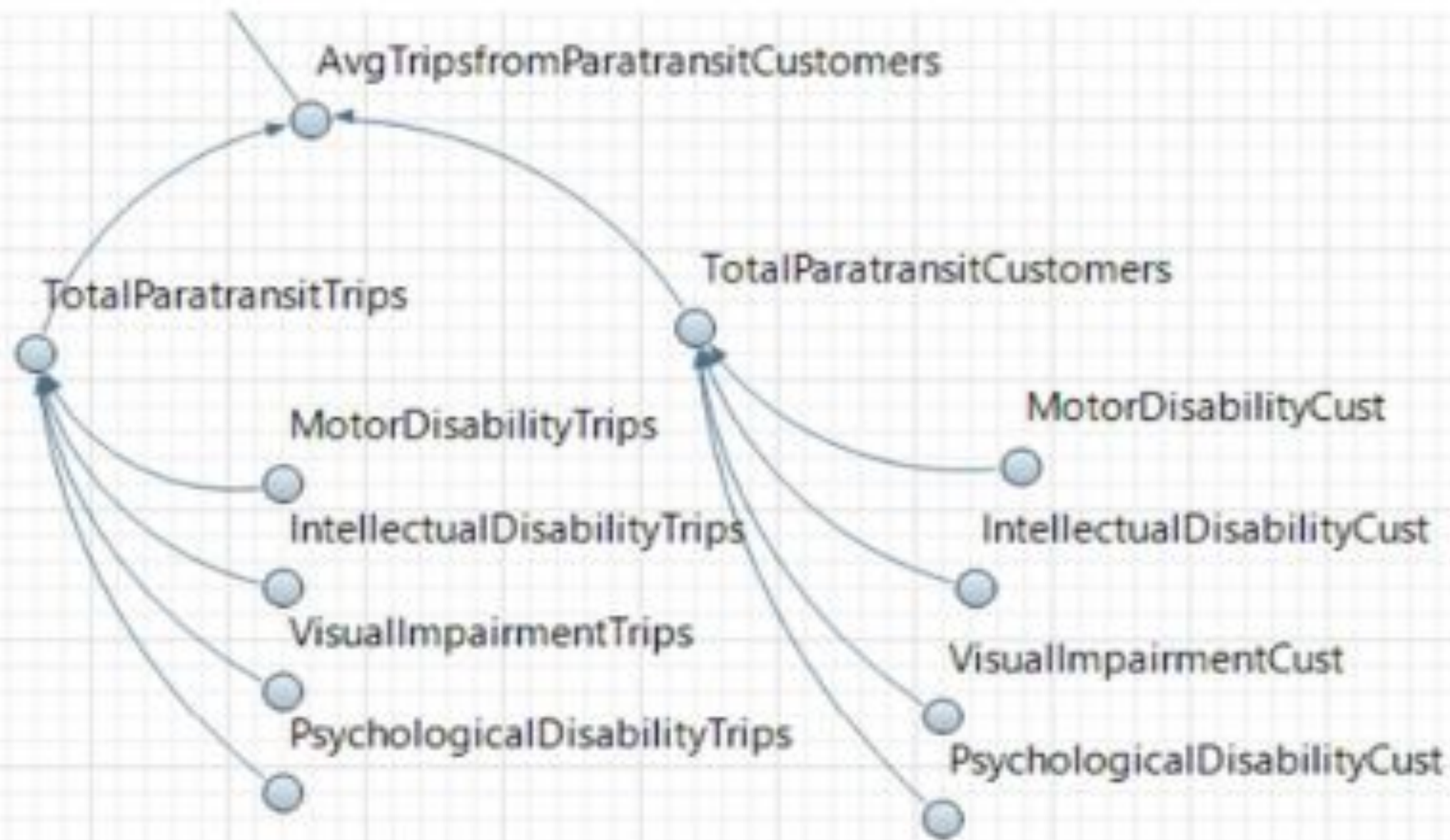
Data from various sources (sustainability reports, surveys) is used to identify and establish parameters influencing the flows. Examples include:

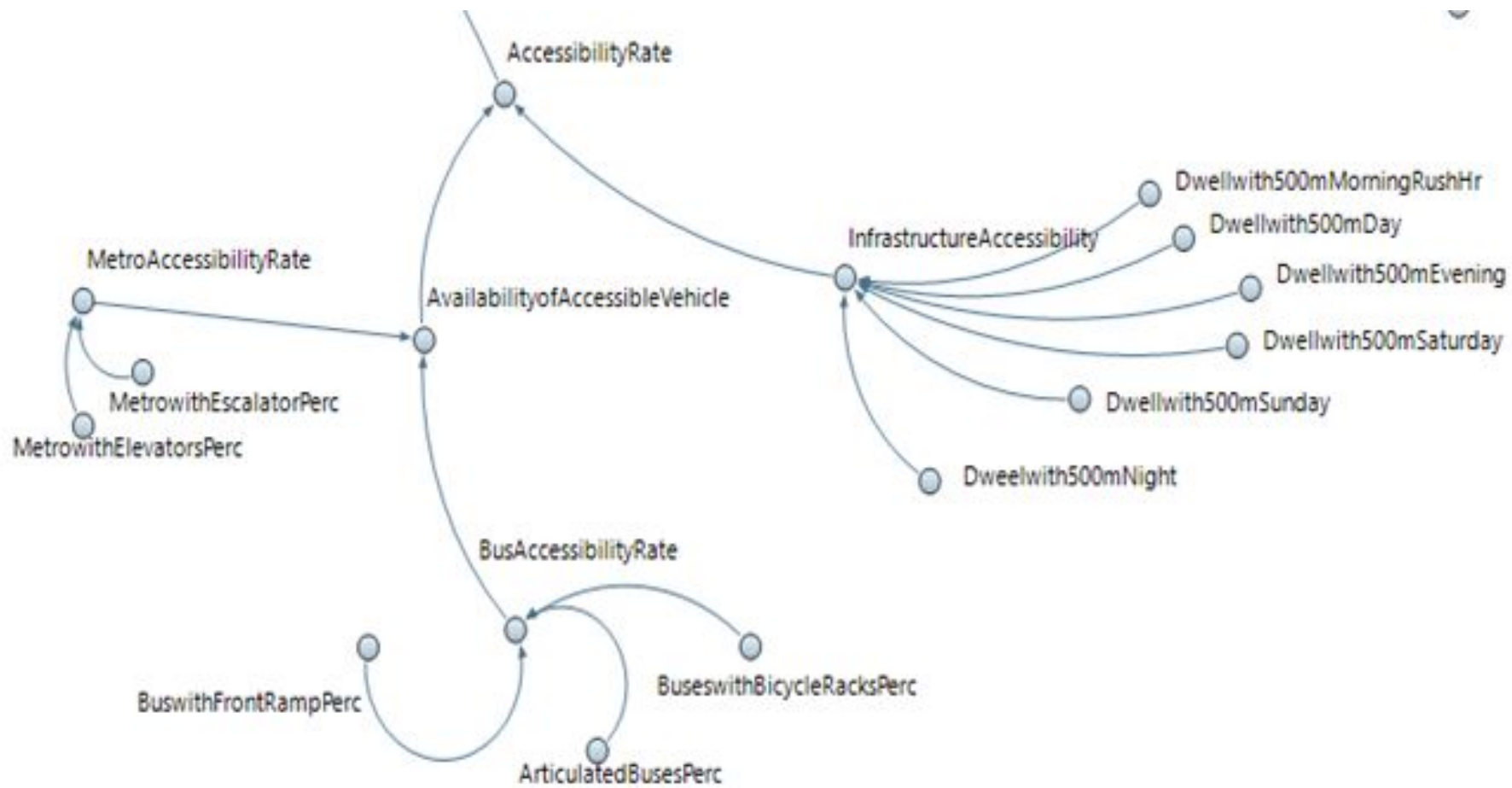
- Population growth rate
- Customer satisfaction/dissatisfaction
- Accessibility enhancements (infrastructure and vehicles)
- Equipment failure rate
- Security level
- Fare policies
- Paratransit ridership
- Capital investment
- Security officer training level
- Number of buses
- Bus fleet composition (bicycle racks, articulated buses, front ramps)
- Operational reliability (delays)
- Dwelling proximity to transit stops (various times of day)
- Metro station accessibility (elevators, escalators)
- Reduced fare-trips

- Equations are established to represent the relationships between variables.
  - Sense of Security: Overall perception of safety in metro and buses, influencing passenger satisfaction.
  - Accessibility Rate: Ease of access for all users, combining infrastructure and vehicle accessibility.
  - Network Service Coverage Provided: Extent of the transit network's reach.
  - Average Age of Fleet: Average age of buses and metro cars.
  - Infrastructure Improvement Ratio: Rate of system upgrades and maintenance, impacting service quality and ridership.
  - Service Interruptions: Frequency and severity of service disruptions.
  - Discounted Fare Rate of Influence: Impact of fare discounts on ridership.
  - Paratransit Accessibility Rate: Level of accessibility for paratransit users.

## Model Benefits

- Understand the dynamics between service quality and ridership
- Predict future trends in ridership and service quality
- Make data-driven decisions for system optimization
- Enhance social sustainability through affordability and accessibility

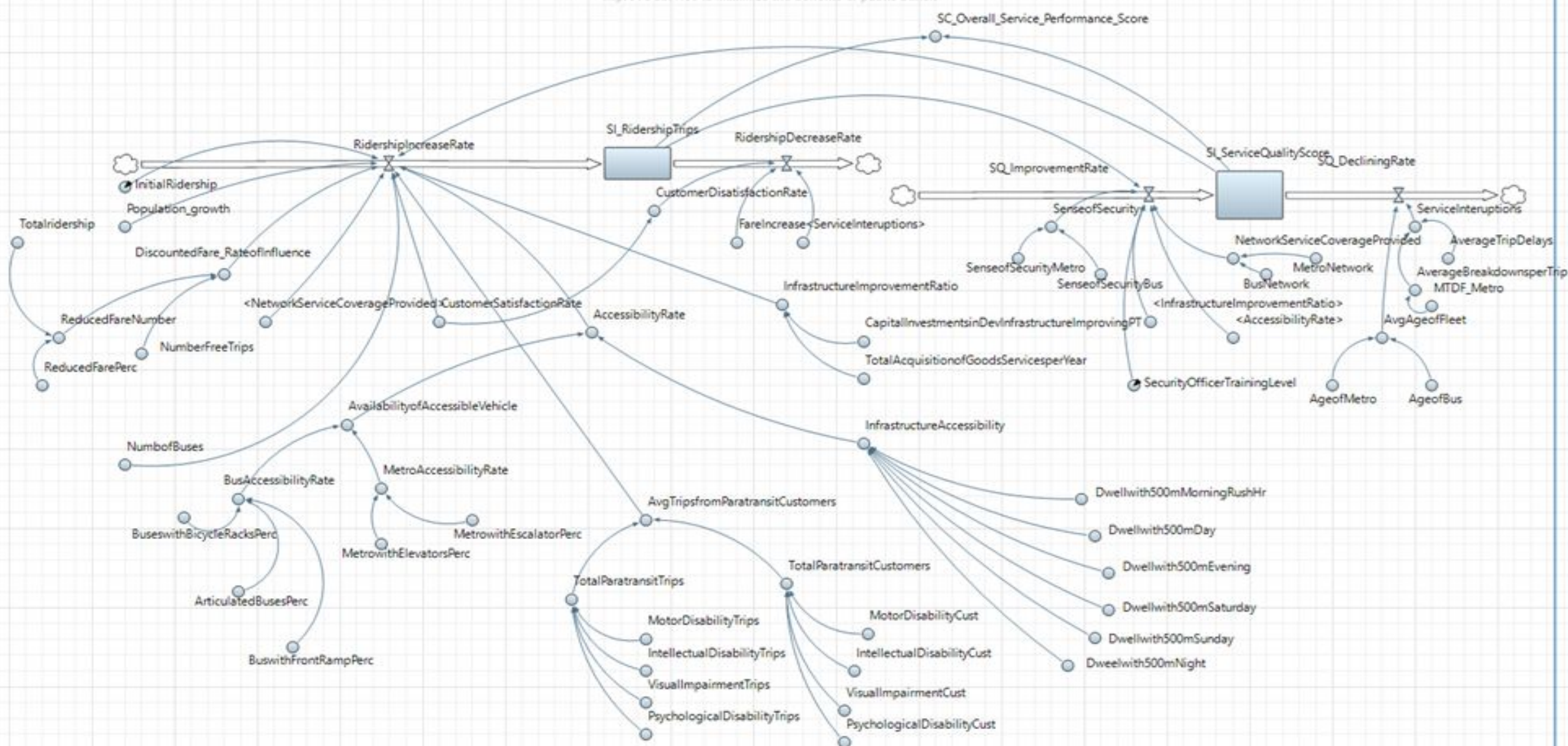




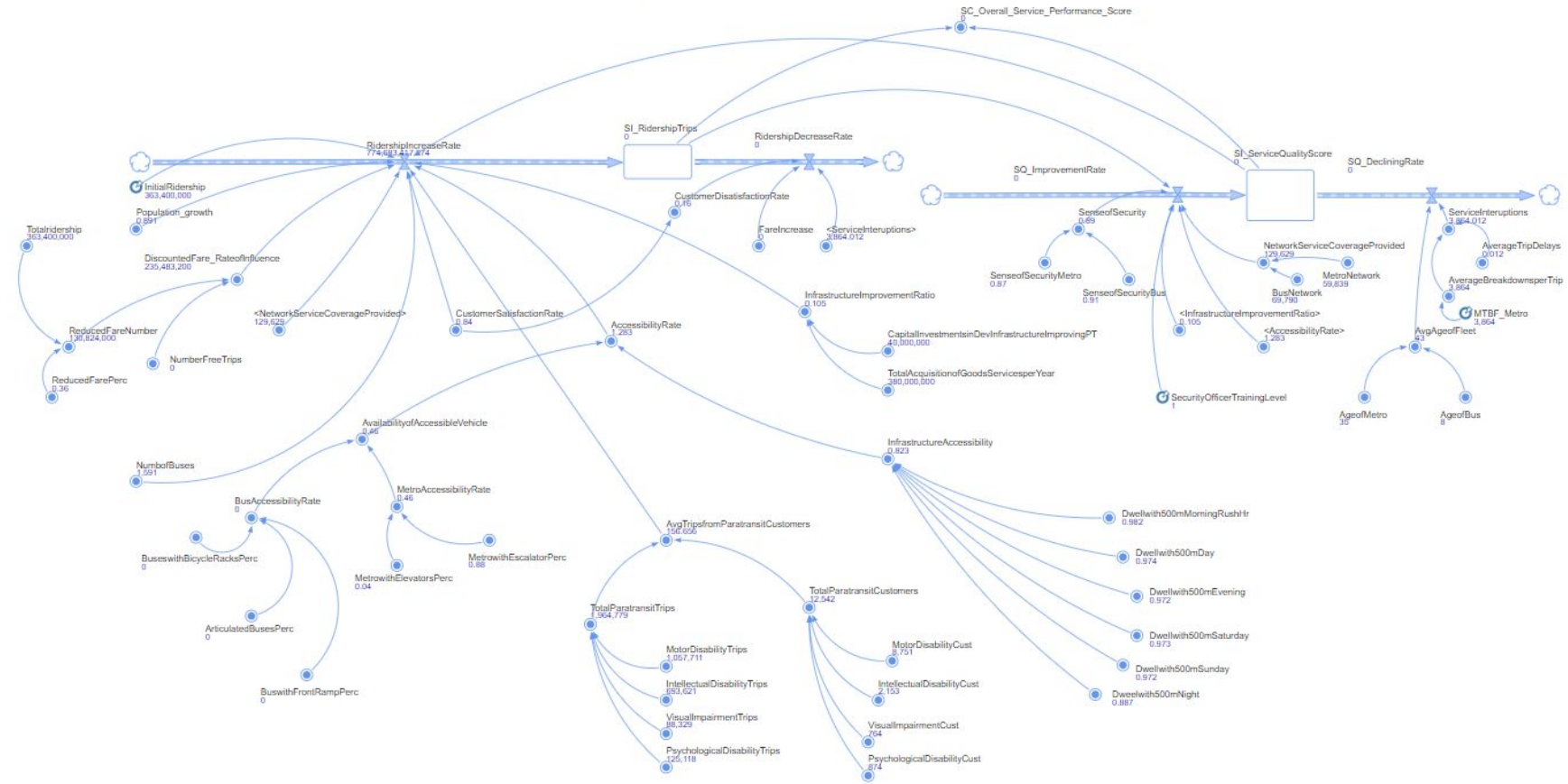


# Implementation

Improve service to maximize the benefits of public transit



# Improve service to maximize the benefits of public transit



**Using linear regression, the tested Inflow rate and outflow rate of ridership level and service quality level are mentioned below:**

Ridership Increase Rate = (Population growth x -56470000) + (Network Service Coverage Provided x 1806.5578) + (Infrastructure Improvement Ratio x -21750000) + Initial Ridership + (Customer Satisfaction Rate x 219200000) + (Accessibility Rate x -114900000) + (Discounted Fare Rate of Influence x -0.1916) + (SI Service Quality Score x 47690000) + (Number of Buses x -143700) + (Average Trips from Paratransit Customers x -374600) + 525400000

Ridership Decrease Rate = (Customer Dissatisfaction Rate x -107800000) + (Fare Increase x 351400000) + (Service interruptions x -381000000) + 399100000

Service Quality Improvement Rate = (Sense of Security x 13.5264) + (Accessibility Rate x 0.4941) + Security Officer Training Level + (Network Service Coverage Provided x 0.000005797) + (Infrastructure Improvement Ratio x -0.5282) + (SI Ridership Trips x 0.000000007788) + -13.8509

Service Quality Declining Rate = (Average Age of Fleet x 0.1310) + (Service Interruptions x 32.1900) + -6.0412

Then, another algorithm (Ridge regression) is used to test it again.

Using ridge regression, the tested Inflow rate and outflow rate of ridership level and service quality level are mentioned below:

Ridership Increase Rate = (Population growth x -2961082.903265464) + (Network Service Coverage Provided x 3964623.043734427) + (Infrastructure Improvement Ratio x 3043965.9452915816) + Initial Ridership + (Customer Satisfaction Rate x 285177.6661953458) + (Accessibility Rate x 1902041.2240823647) + (Discounted Fare Rate of Influence x 4925824.7209089445) + (SI Service Quality Score x 2662485.2886600737) + (Number of Buses x 2123833.910029024) + (Average Trips from Para transit Customers x -1147113.1980347312) + 393148208.636197

Ridership Decrease Rate = (Customer Dissatisfaction Rate x -4760698.105800799) + (Fare Increase x 10348287.315796513) + (Service interruptions x -3125059.3947411813) + 391786237.4749965

(Sense of Security x 0.07882208967083519) + (Accessibility Rate x 0.08737008149756291) + (Network Service Coverage Provided x 0.05903564460948984) + (Infrastructure Improvement Ratio x 0.05104743950421533) + (SI\_RidershipTrips x 0.045355233539337125) + 0.3921025675527193 + Security Officer Training Level

Service Quality Declining Rate = (Average Age of Fleet x 0.1310) + (Service Interruptions x 32.1900) + -6.0412

## Event Updation Element

- We developed a code that is designed to dynamically update and retrieve various transportation-related statistics for a given year, initially set to 2006.
- `getValueFromTable`, to access values from pre-defined tables corresponding to different variables
- Each dynamic variable has a dedicated method that invokes this helper method to fetch the relevant value.
- The `updateYear` method increments the `current_year` and traces/logs updated values for all dynamic variables, thus simulating a year-by-year update of these statistics.
- The main function demonstrates the incrementing process.
- This approach ensures that the variables are kept current and reflect the latest available data.

# Verification and Validation

## Methods Verification:

Model Inspection

Structural Verification

a. Correlation Analysis

b. Regression Analysis

Dimensional Verification

## Methods Validation:

Baseline Testing

Sensitivity Analysis

Predictive Analysis



# Verification and Validation

## Verification:

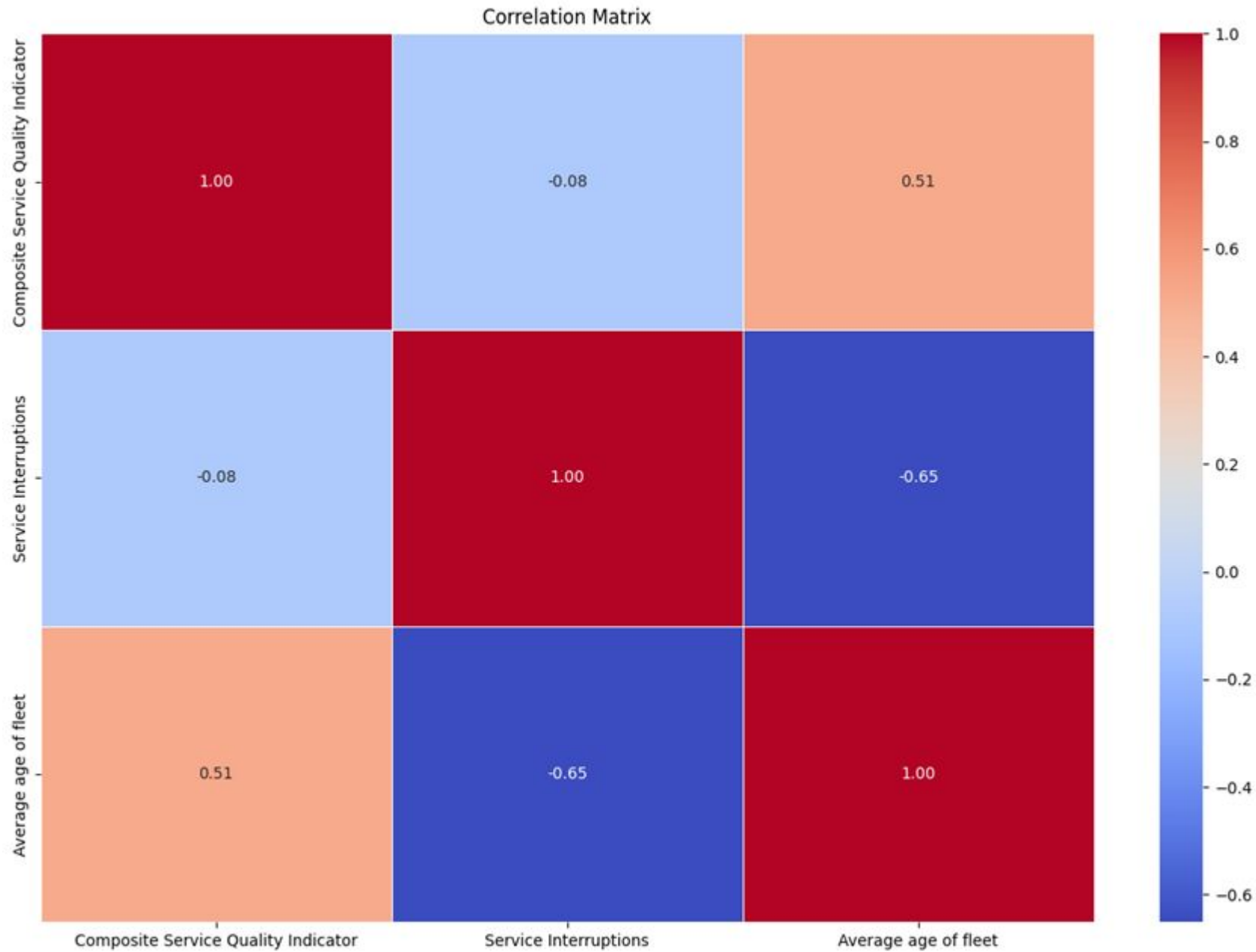
### **Model Inspection -Data Cleaning**

Reduced data redundancy by processes such as linear interpolation, assumption of missing values, researching and averaging out

### **Dimensional Verification**

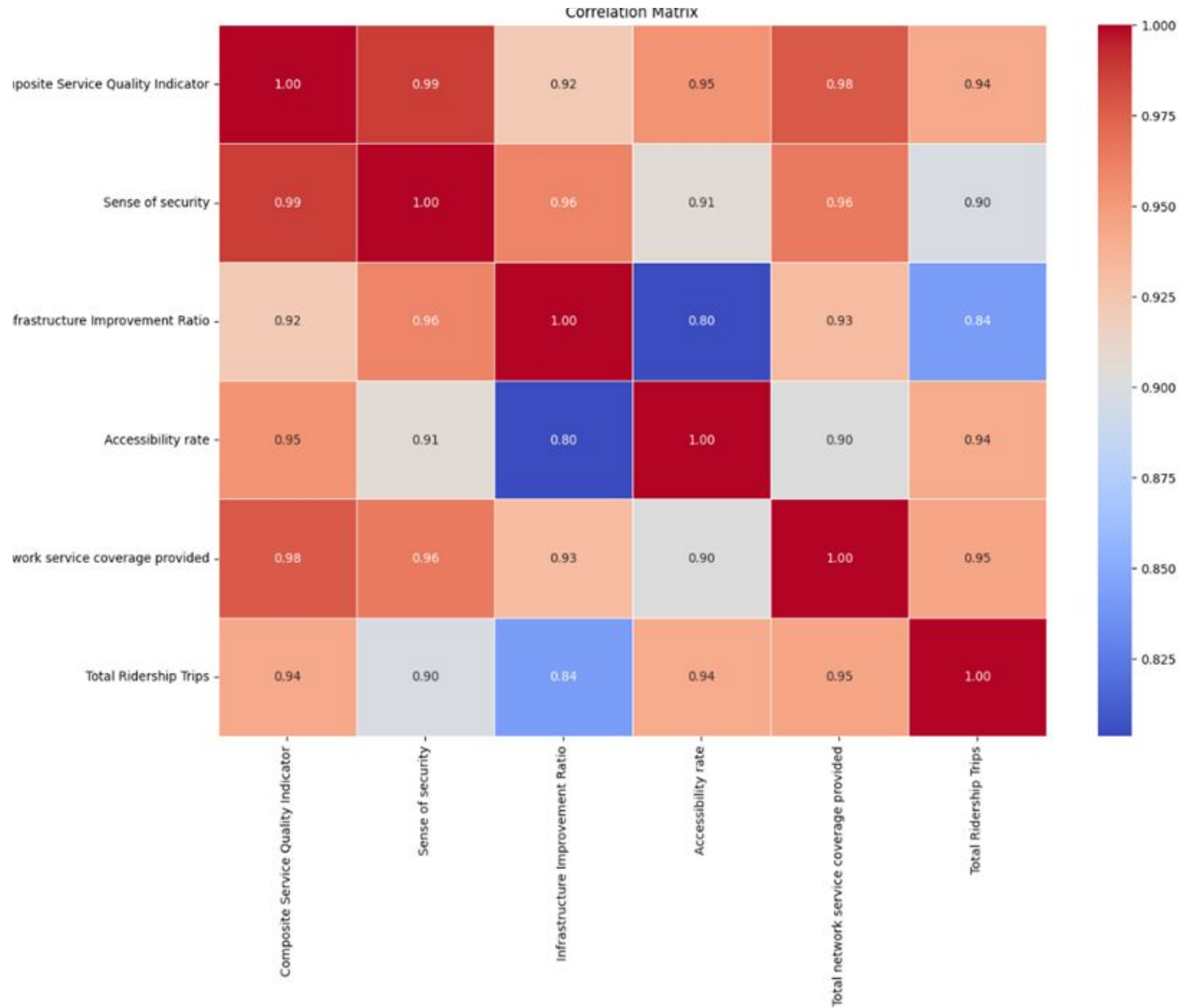
Checking variables with same measurement (for instance, ratio, percentage) etc and compared with a baseline data. eg, population growth rate as a percentage).

# Correlation Analysis

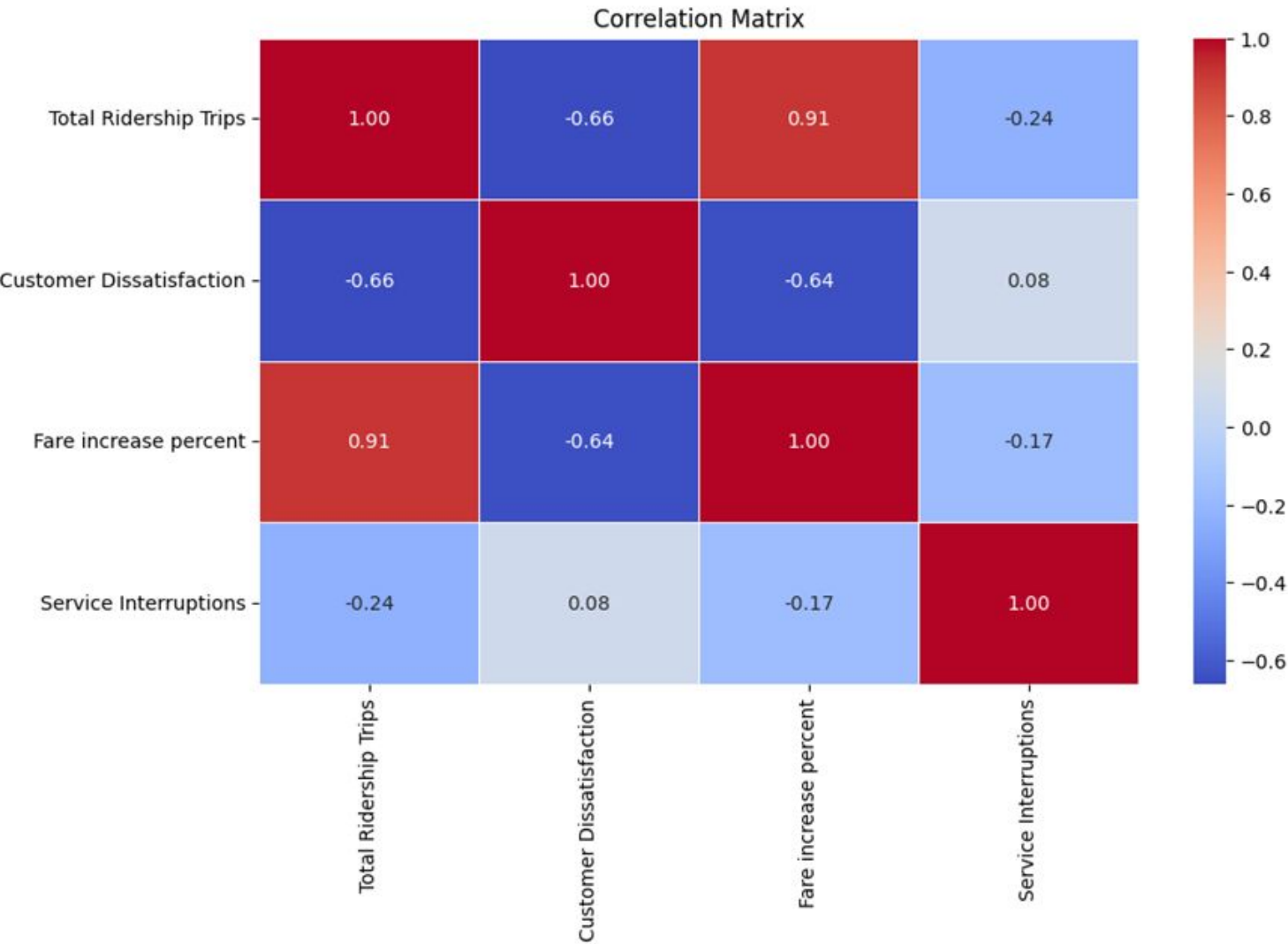




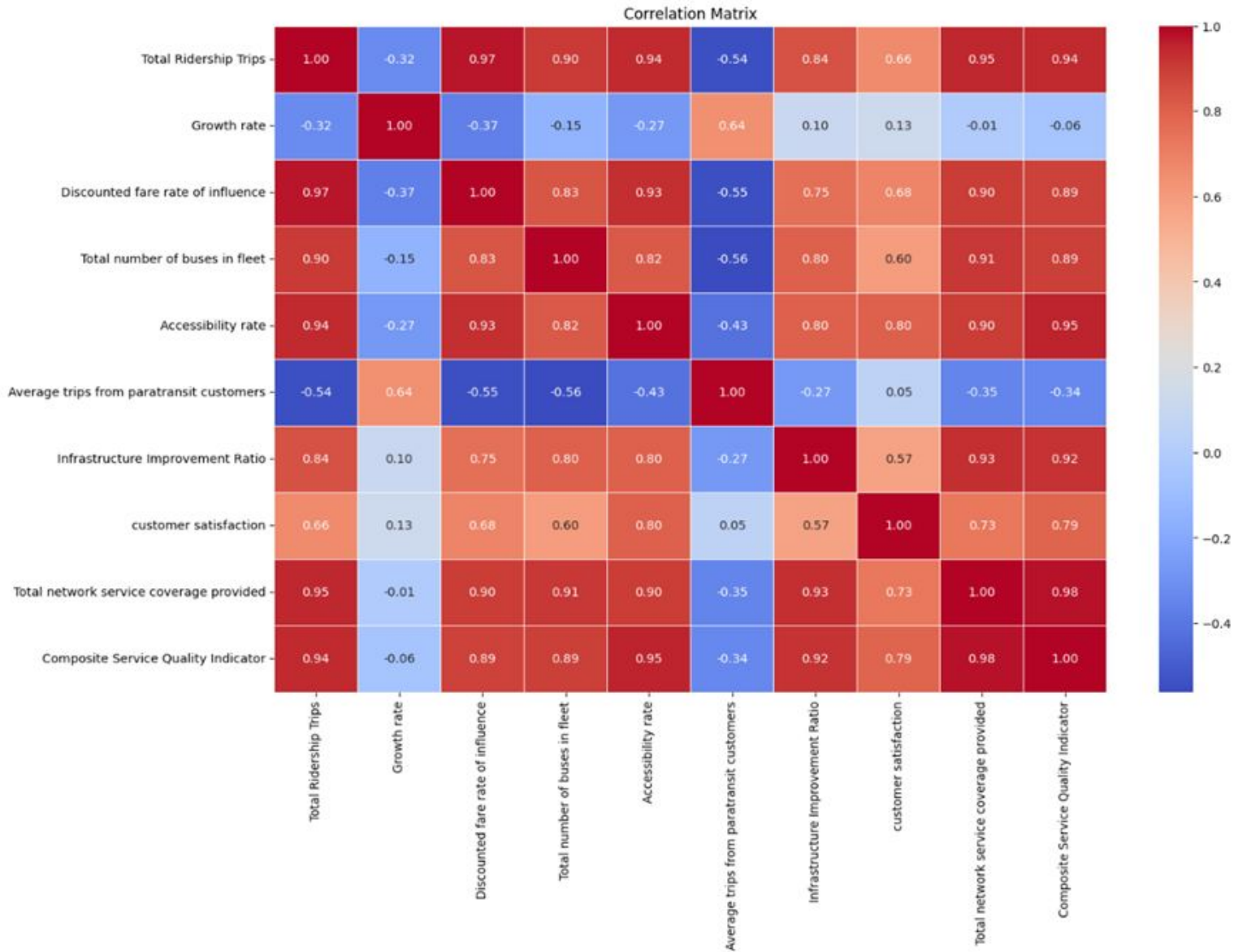
# Correlation Analysis



# Correlation Analysis



# Correlation Analysis



# Regression Analysis

## OLS Regression Results

```

=====
Dep. Variable:      Total Ridership Trips      R-squared:                1.000
Model:              OLS                      Adj. R-squared:           -inf
Method:             Least Squares             F-statistic:              nan
Date:               Mon, 24 Jun 2024          Prob (F-statistic):       nan
Time:               02:11:49                  Log-Likelihood:           -26.525
No. Observations:   9                        AIC:                      71.05
Df Residuals:       0                        BIC:                      72.82
Df Model:           8
Covariance Type:    nonrobust
=====

```

	coef	std err	t	P> t	[0.025	0.975]
const	1.431e+08	inf	0	nan	nan	nan
Growth rate	-7.803e+07	inf	-0	nan	nan	nan
Discounted fare rate of influence	-0.6269	inf	-0	nan	nan	nan
Total number of buses in fleet	-1.608e+05	inf	-0	nan	nan	nan
Availability of Accessible Vehicle	-1.41e+08	inf	-0	nan	nan	nan
Infrastructure accessibility	1.458e+08	inf	0	nan	nan	nan
Accessibility rate	4.847e+06	inf	0	nan	nan	nan
Average trips from paratransit customers	-5.967e+05	inf	-0	nan	nan	nan
Infrastructure Improvement Ratio	2.27e+07	inf	0	nan	nan	nan
customer satisfaction	5.048e+08	inf	0	nan	nan	nan
Total network service coverage provided	2818.7365	inf	0	nan	nan	nan

```

=====
Omnibus:           0.251  Durbin-Watson:           2.321
Prob(Omnibus):     0.882  Jarque-Bera (JB):           0.393
Skew:              0.009  Prob(JB):                   0.821
Kurtosis:          1.976  Cond. No.                   1.64e+11
=====

```



# Regression Analysis

## OLS Regression Results

```
=====
Dep. Variable:      Total Ridership Trips    R-squared:                0.850
Model:              OLS                    Adj. R-squared:           0.759
Method:             Least Squares          F-statistic:             9.415
Date:               Mon, 24 Jun 2024        Prob (F-statistic):      0.0169
Time:               02:12:17               Log-Likelihood:          -155.32
No. Observations:   9                     AIC:                    318.6
Df Residuals:       5                     BIC:                    319.4
Df Model:           3
Covariance Type:    nonrobust
=====
```

```
=====
               coef      std err          t      P>|t|      [0.025      0.975]
-----
const                3.987e+08   3.17e+07    12.569    0.000    3.17e+08    4.8e+08
Customer Dissatisfaction -1.077e+08   1.87e+08    -0.577    0.589   -5.88e+08    3.72e+08
Fare increase percent    3.524e+08   9.85e+07     3.576    0.016    9.91e+07    6.06e+08
% of Trips with Delays  -3.726e+08   7.73e+08    -0.482    0.650   -2.36e+09    1.61e+09
=====
```

```
=====
Omnibus:                1.083    Durbin-Watson:           1.552
Prob(Omnibus):           0.582    Jarque-Bera (JB):         0.775
Skew:                   -0.445    Prob(JB):                 0.679
Kurtosis:                1.871    Cond. No.                  231.
=====
```

# Regression Analysis

## OLS Regression Results

```
=====
Dep. Variable:      Composite Service Quality Indicator    R-squared:                0.999
Model:              OLS                                   Adj. R-squared:           0.998
Method:             Least Squares                         F-statistic:              902.0
Date:               Mon, 24 Jun 2024                       Prob (F-statistic):       3.68e-06
Time:               02:31:00                               Log-Likelihood:           28.039
No. Observations:   9                                     AIC:                      -46.08
Df Residuals:       4                                     BIC:                      -45.09
Df Model:           4
Covariance Type:    nonrobust
=====
```

```
=====
               coef      std err          t      P>|t|      [0.025      0.975]
-----
const          -13.1623      1.655      -7.952      0.001     -17.758     -8.567
Sense of security      12.7979      2.070       6.183      0.003       7.052     18.544
Infrastructure Improvement Ratio    -0.4875      0.242      -2.015      0.114     -1.159      0.184
Accessibility rate      0.5740      0.127       4.530      0.011       0.222      0.926
Total network service coverage provided  6.76e-06    1.65e-06       4.105      0.015     2.19e-06     1.13e-05
=====
```

```
=====
Omnibus:          1.782    Durbin-Watson:           2.752
Prob(Omnibus):    0.410    Jarque-Bera (JB):           0.776
Skew:             -0.150    Prob(JB):                 0.678
Kurtosis:         1.593    Cond. No.                  7.63e+07
=====
```

# Regression Analysis

## OLS Regression Results

```
=====
Dep. Variable:      Composite Service Quality Indicator    R-squared:                0.384
Model:              OLS                                  Adj. R-squared:           0.179
Method:             Least Squares                        F-statistic:              1.872
Date:               Mon, 24 Jun 2024                     Prob (F-statistic):       0.233
Time:               02:35:18                             Log-Likelihood:           -0.40471
No. Observations:   9                                    AIC:                      6.809
Df Residuals:       6                                    BIC:                      7.401
Df Model:           2
Covariance Type:    nonrobust
=====
```

```
=====
              coef      std err          t      P>|t|      [0.025      0.975]
-----
const                -6.0559      3.378      -1.793      0.123     -14.322      2.210
% of Trips with Delays  33.2654     30.348       1.096      0.315     -40.994     107.525
Average age of fleet    0.1315      0.068       1.927      0.102      -0.036      0.299
=====
```

```
=====
Omnibus:              0.001    Durbin-Watson:              0.846
Prob(Omnibus):        1.000    Jarque-Bera (JB):         0.206
Skew:                 -0.001    Prob(JB):                 0.902
Kurtosis:             2.259    Cond. No.                  1.35e+04
=====
```



# Ridge Regression Analysis

Mean Squared Error: 0.13760391346167514  
R-squared: 0.21452499289648852  
Intercept: 0.4380536437130083  
Coefficient for Service Interruptions: 0.11082642771960971  
Coefficient for Average age of fleet: 0.1911197342938665

Mean Squared Error: 1917932756374.437  
R-squared: 0.9968047767490639  
Intercept: 393148208.636197  
Coefficient for Growth rate: -2961082.903265464  
Coefficient for Discounted fare rate of influence: 4925824.7209089445  
Coefficient for Total number of buses in fleet: 2123833.910029024  
Coefficient for Accessibility rate: 1902041.2240823647  
Coefficient for Average trips from paratransit customers: -1147113.1980347312  
Coefficient for Infrastructure Improvement Ratio: 3043965.9452915816  
Coefficient for customer satisfaction: 285177.6661953458  
Coefficient for Total network service coverage provided: 3964623.043734427  
Coefficient for Composite Service Quality Indicator: 2662485.2886600737

Mean Squared Error: 158067782606815.03  
R-squared: 0.7366634192306288  
Intercept: 391786237.4749965  
Coefficient for Customer Dissatisfaction: -4760698.105800799  
Coefficient for Fare increase percent: 10348287.315796513  
Coefficient for Service Interruptions: -3125059.3947411813

Mean Squared Error: 0.003956080757542365  
R-squared: 0.9774177748077048  
Intercept: 0.3921025675527193  
Coefficient for Sense of security: 0.07882208967083519  
Coefficient for Infrastructure Improvement Ratio: 0.05104743950421533  
Coefficient for Accessibility rate: 0.08737008149756291  
Coefficient for Total network service coverage provided: 0.05903564460948984  
Coefficient for Total Ridership Trips: 0.045355233539337125

# Verification and Validation

## Validation

### Predictive Analysis

Comparing actual data with predicted data and see how the model behaves

### Sensitivity Analysis

Changing the values of outliers to create a new model and see how the model behaves

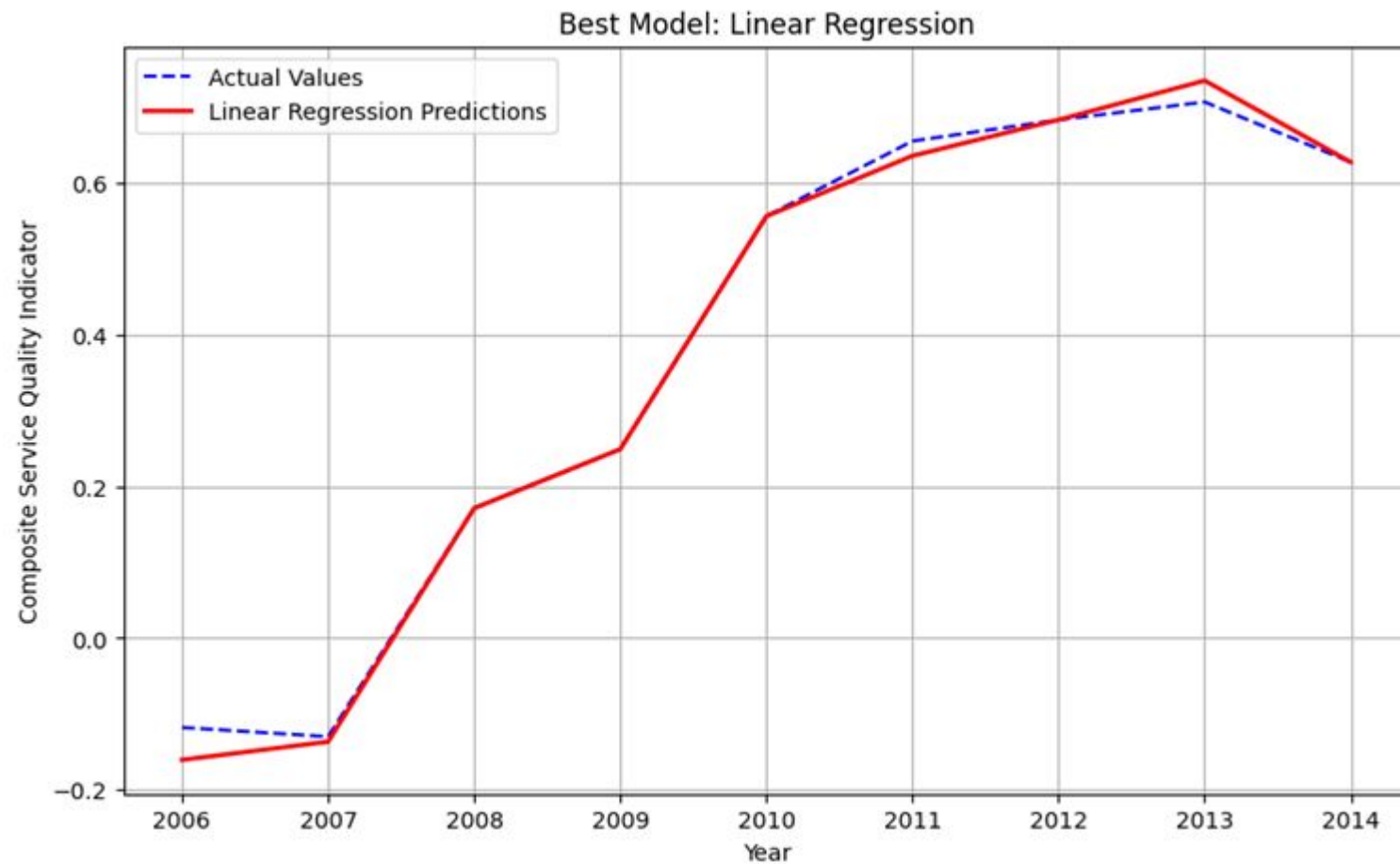
For instance, Ridership data for initial year

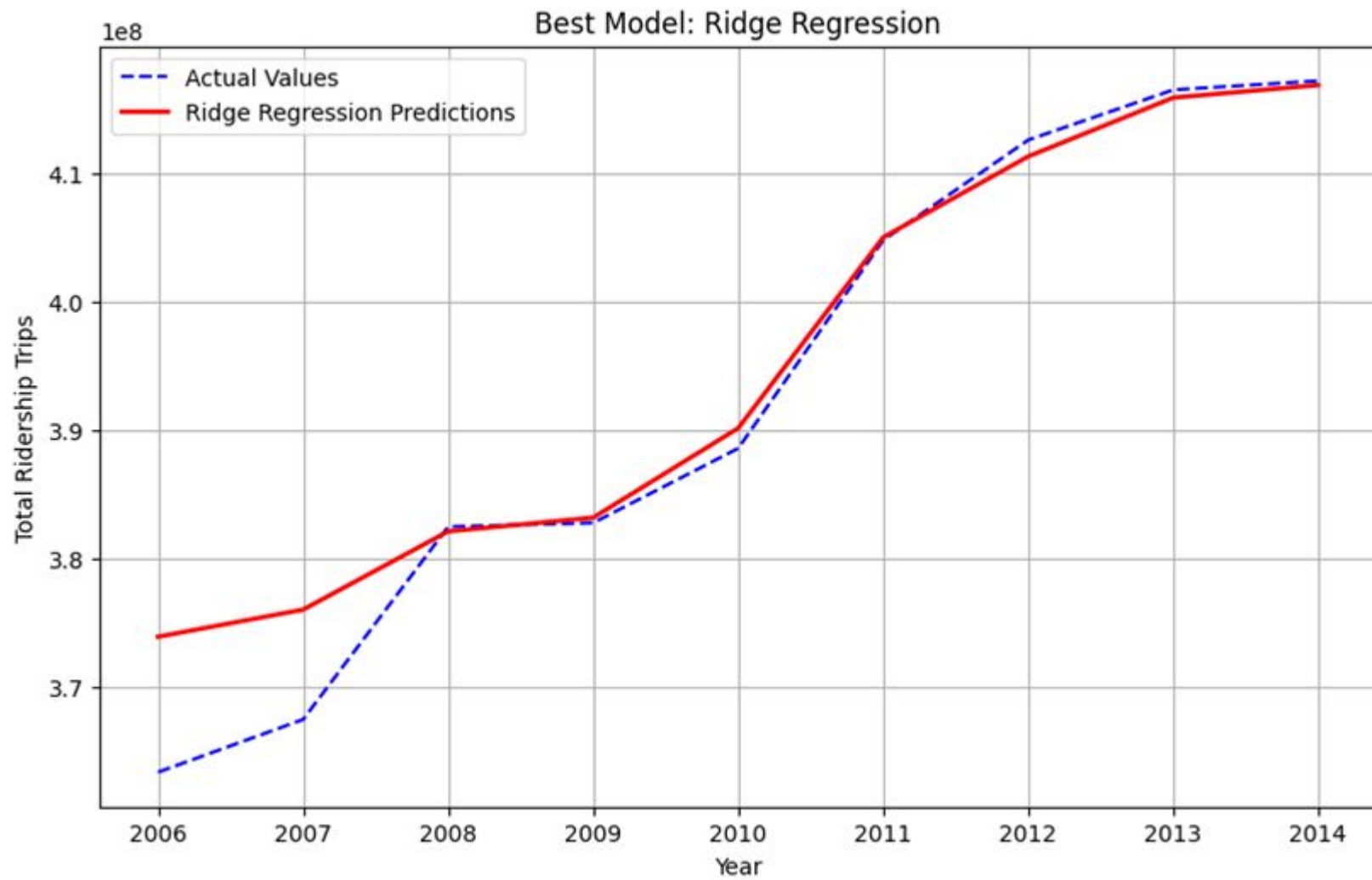
By comparing the baseline results with future simulation outcomes, we were able to identify the impact of different variables and interventions on the overall system performance.

# Predictive Validation

```
Predicted values and errors for the test data:  
Linear Regression Predictions: [ 0.73542126 -0.1366888  0.63611742 -0.16059699]  
Linear Regression Error: 0.024317115738519208  
Ridge Regression Predictions: [ 0.76661471 -0.14089135  0.59571248 -0.19588179]  
Ridge Regression Error: 0.052088551138390574  
SVR Predictions: [0.53683413 0.44960652 0.53039889 0.45649831]  
SVR Error: 0.3623574888996221  
Random Forest Predictions: [0.62083766 0.25286714 0.60407931 0.24004019]  
Random Forest Error: 0.21963712760979653
```

```
Predicted values and errors for the test data:  
Linear Regression Predictions: [4.17090219e+08 3.77376338e+08 4.05654175e+08 3.74559336e+08]  
Linear Regression Error: 5620017.024271101  
Ridge Regression Predictions: [4.15890033e+08 3.76046519e+08 4.05020635e+08 3.73936980e+08]  
Ridge Regression Error: 4978525.385139182  
SVR Predictions: [3.88600001e+08 3.88600000e+08 3.88600001e+08 3.88600000e+08]  
SVR Error: 22599999.557607055  
Random Forest Predictions: [4.08959e+08 3.86739e+08 4.04642e+08 3.86525e+08]  
Random Forest Error: 12515750.0
```





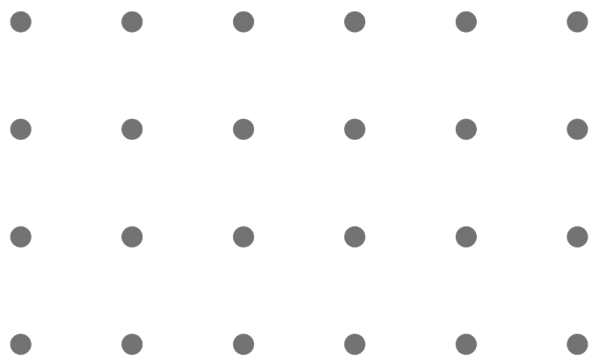
# Future Prospects

- Optimisation of the system in system dynamics by understanding the influential factors.
- State transformations from one state to another when a parameter is invoked using the switch function. eg, Security training level during the years can be monitored.
- Incorporating Environmental factors-population density, walkability, urban design factors, level of carbon emissions affecting the social parameters etc.
- Integrate more variables like staff training level, public perception level, marketing effectiveness and attrition.
- Creating agents in the system dynamics model that can entirely change the pattern and analyse the behaviour of the system. Eg, agent can be a person's travel behaviour over the system.

# References

- Investigating carbon footprint reduction potential of public transportation in United States: A system dynamics approach, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0959652616307284>
- <https://blog.fagstein.com/2013/12/27/stm-rate-hikes-2008-2014/>
- <https://donnees.montreal.ca/dataset/?q=stm+>
- <https://www.anylogic.com/resources/case-studies/>
- Annual Report STM 2006-2014
- <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/as-sa/fogs-spg/page.cfm?topic=2&lang=e&dguid=2021S0503462>
- <https://www.stm.info/en/press/news/2019/update-on-stm-hybrid-buses---efficient--reliable-and-environmentally-friendly-vehicles>
- <https://www.stm.info/sites/default/files/a-ra2008.pdf>
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**- THANK YOU -**

