



# Travel Modeling at MTC

Presentation to Travel Model Improvement Program Community

06 June 2013

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Context

Development

Applications

Challenges

Lessons Learned

Questions

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Context

Regional

Organizational  
Planning

9 counties.  
7 million people.  
7,000 sq miles.  
3 big cities.



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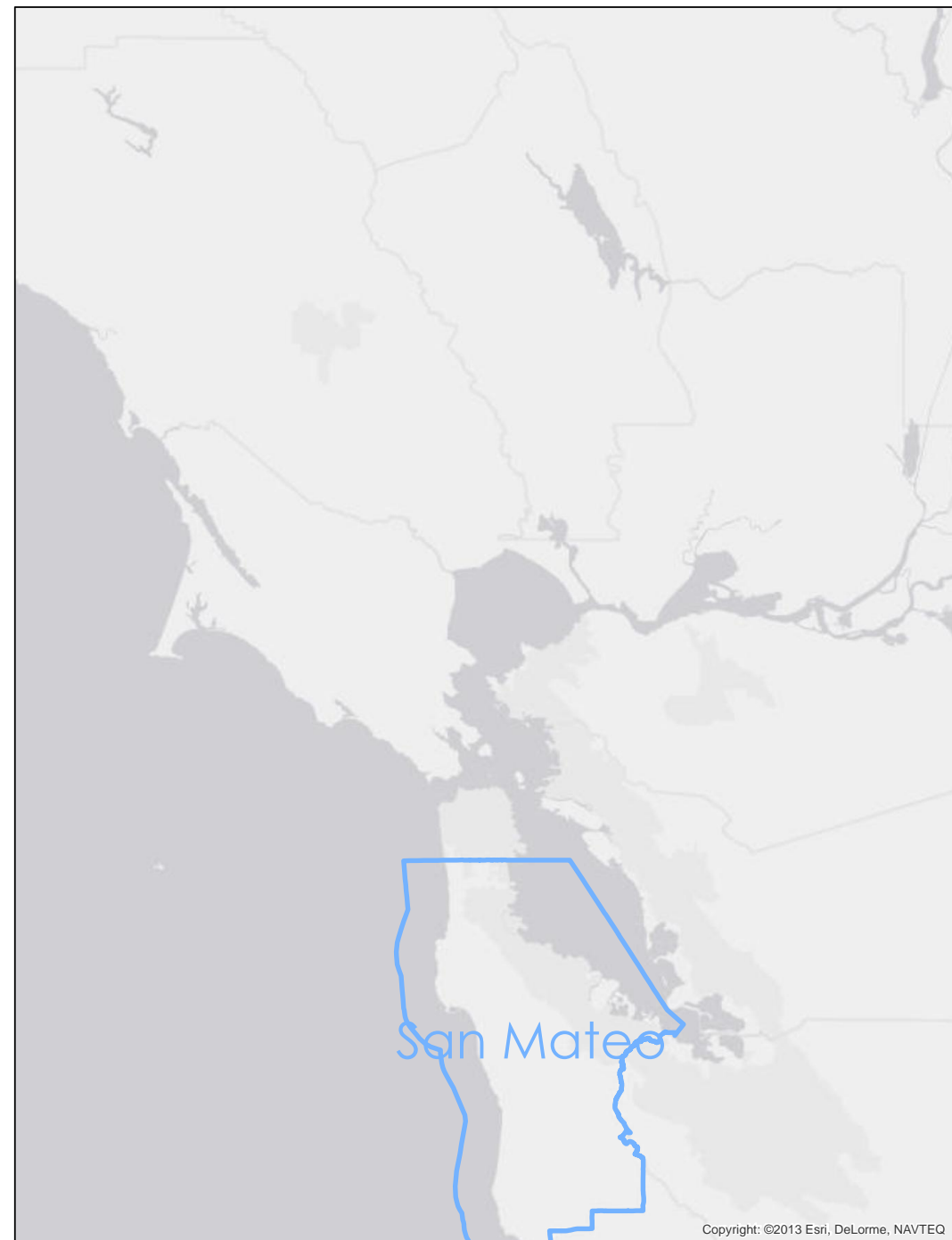
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Image: flickr.com/Rebecca Williamson





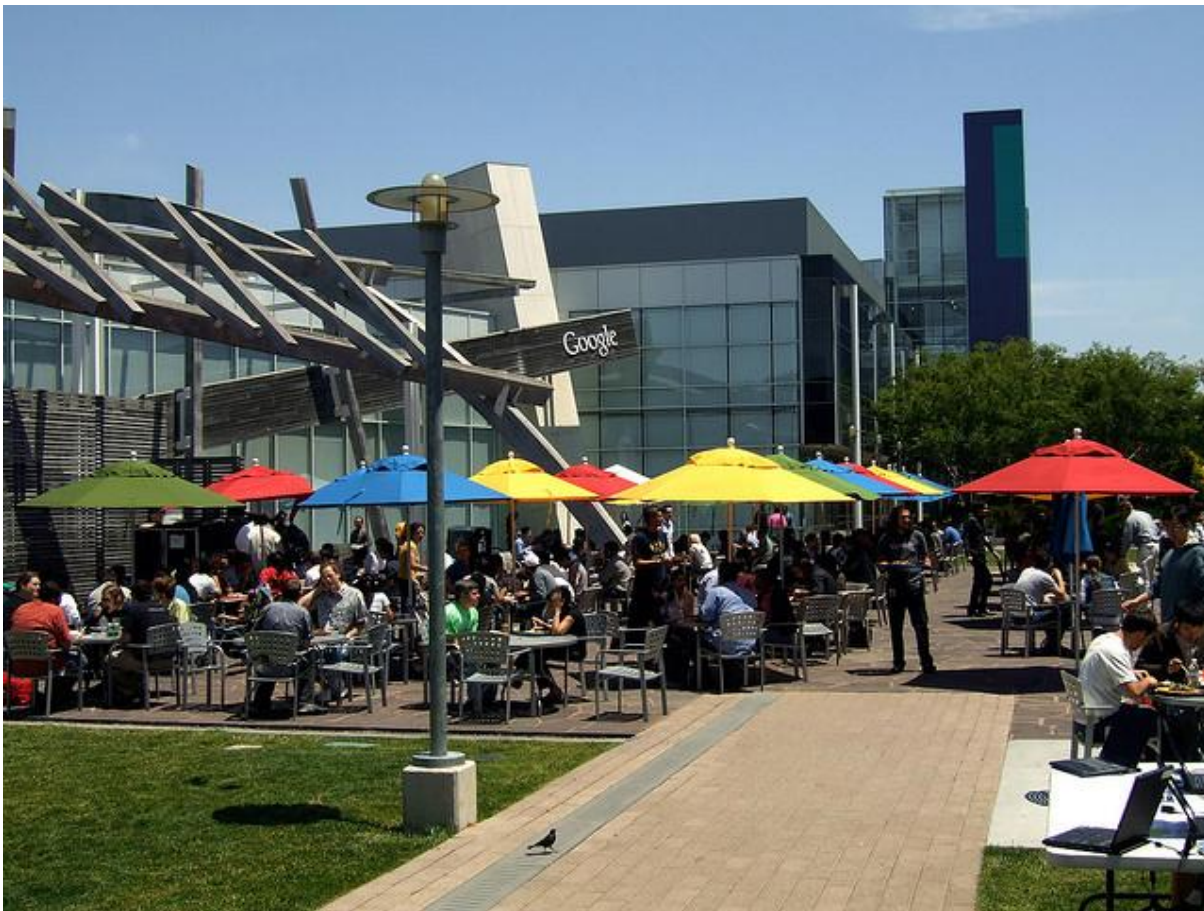


Image: flickr.com/Fotinakis

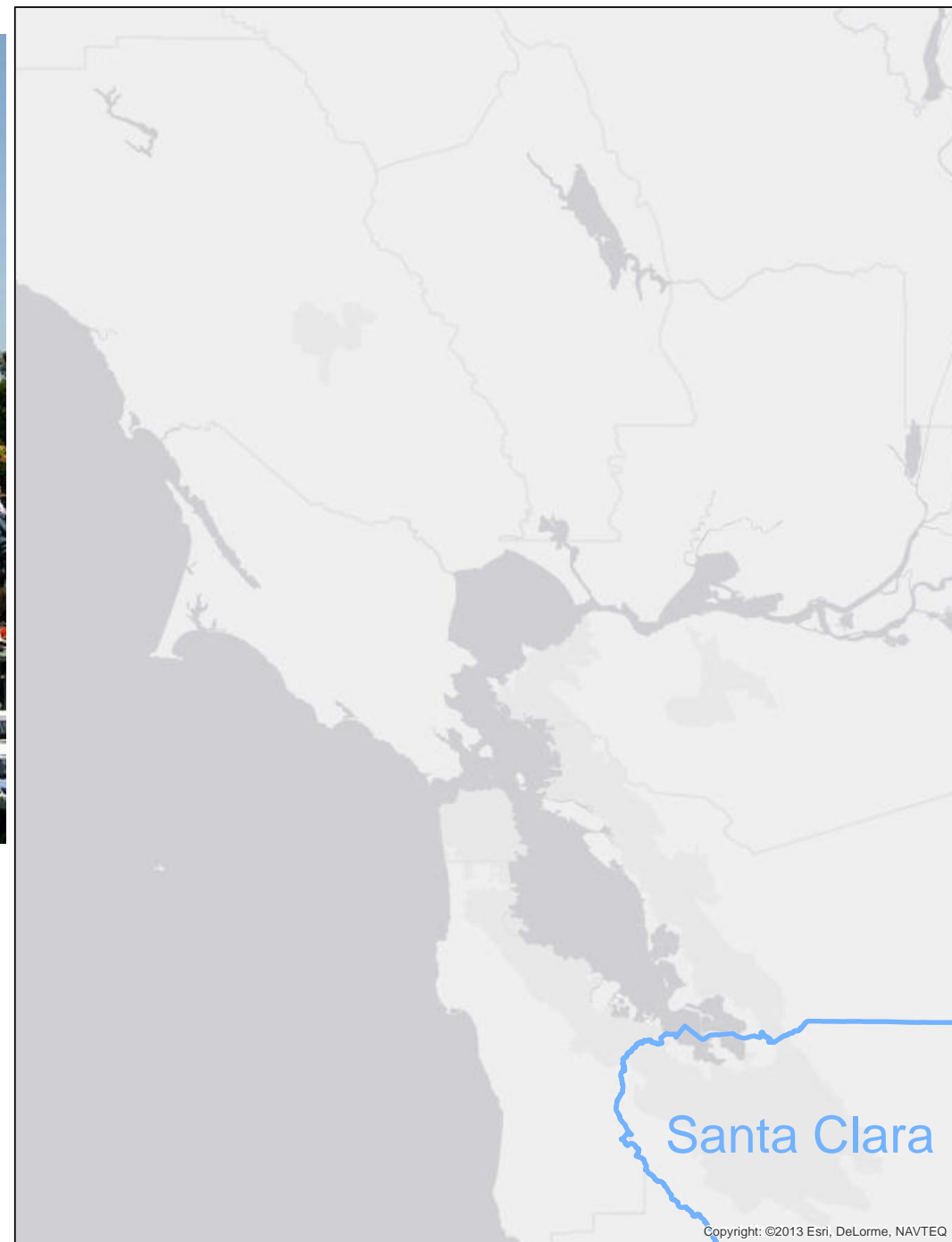
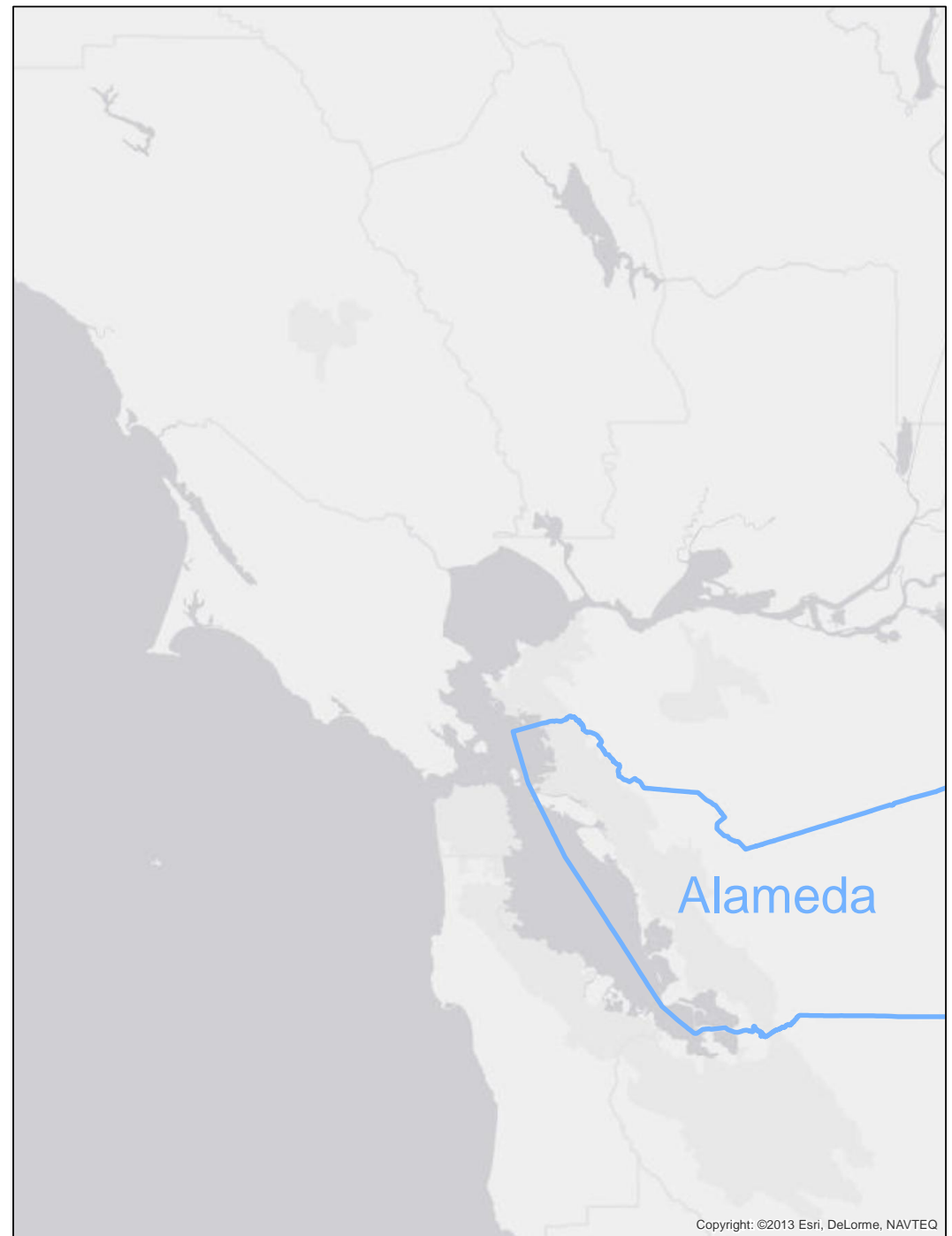






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# County Models. Transit Agencies. Customers.



Context

Regional

Organizational

Planning

Travel modeling: Two staff

Data: One

Emissions/Conformity: One

Performance/Planning Liaison: One

GIS: Three (agency wide)

Land use modeling: ABAG (Two)

R & D: ARC, SFCTA, SANDAG, ODOT,  
MAG

Context

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Planning

Express (HOT) lanes.

Roadway efficiency.

Transit efficiency.

GHG.

Land use.

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# Development

## Origin Story

## Model Overview

Reports, presentations, memorandums, interactive maps, etc, etc:

<http://analytics.mtc.ca.gov/foswiki/Main/Development>

# Development

## Origin Story

### Model Overview

Started in 2005.

Best available: 2010.

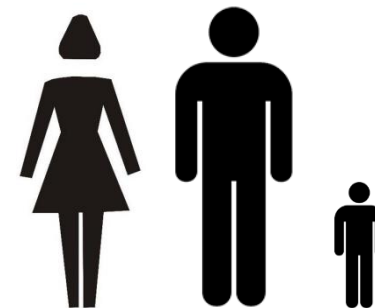
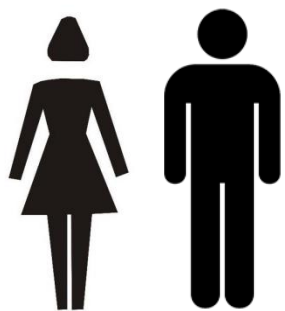
CT-RAMP family.

Discarded BAYCAST.

# Development

## Origin Story

## Model Overview

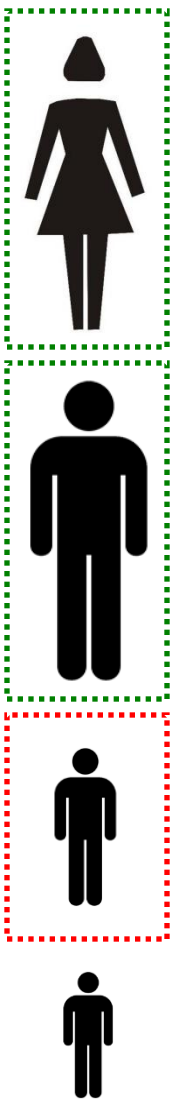


# Synthetic

Devised, arranged, or fabricated for special situations to imitate or replace usual realities.

*(merriam-webster.com)*





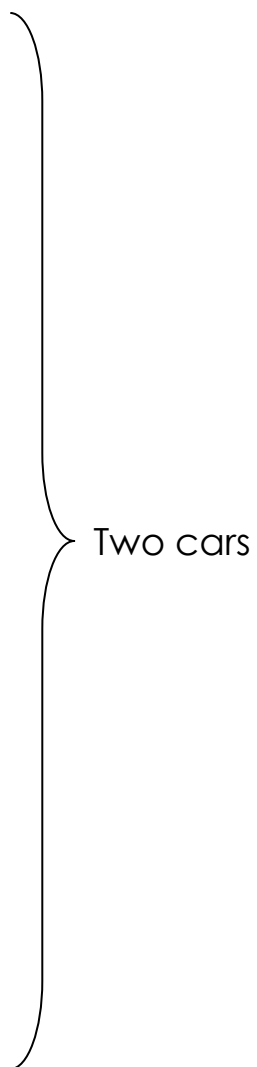
Worker  
or  
student  
status  
(from  
census)

→ SF CBD

→ Google

→ Zone X

Work and  
school  
locations  
selected



Household  
auto ownership  
level chosen

→ Not work

→ Work

→ School

→ Not school

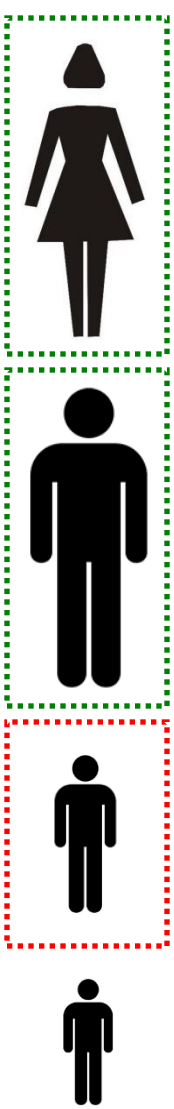
Daily  
activity  
patterns  
chosen  
jointly

→ 1 Tour

→ 1 Tour

Mandatory  
tours  
generated





→ Drive to zoo; walk to market

→ No stops

→ Shared ride 2; Walk

→ Drive to work; drive to lunch

→ Starbucks near home

→ Drive; Drive; Drive

→ Transit to school; bike to Jimmy's

→ No stops

→ Transit; Bicycle

→ Ride to zoo; walk to market

→ No stops

→ Shared ride 2; Walk

Mode choice for all tours

Stop frequency;  
stop location;  
stop time

Trip mode choice

Assignment.

Feedback.

Temporal fidelity.

Spatial fidelity.

On-line User's Guide, which includes computing resources, model inputs & outputs, etc, etc:

<http://analytics.mtc.ca.gov/foswiki/Main/UsersGuide>

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# Applications

Project Performance

Sensitivity Tests

RTP Performance

Climate Action Plans

UrbanSim Integration



# Applications

Project Performance

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~100 projects.

Individual model runs.

Informed benefits:

- travel time,

- travel cost,

- vehicle delay,

- emissions,

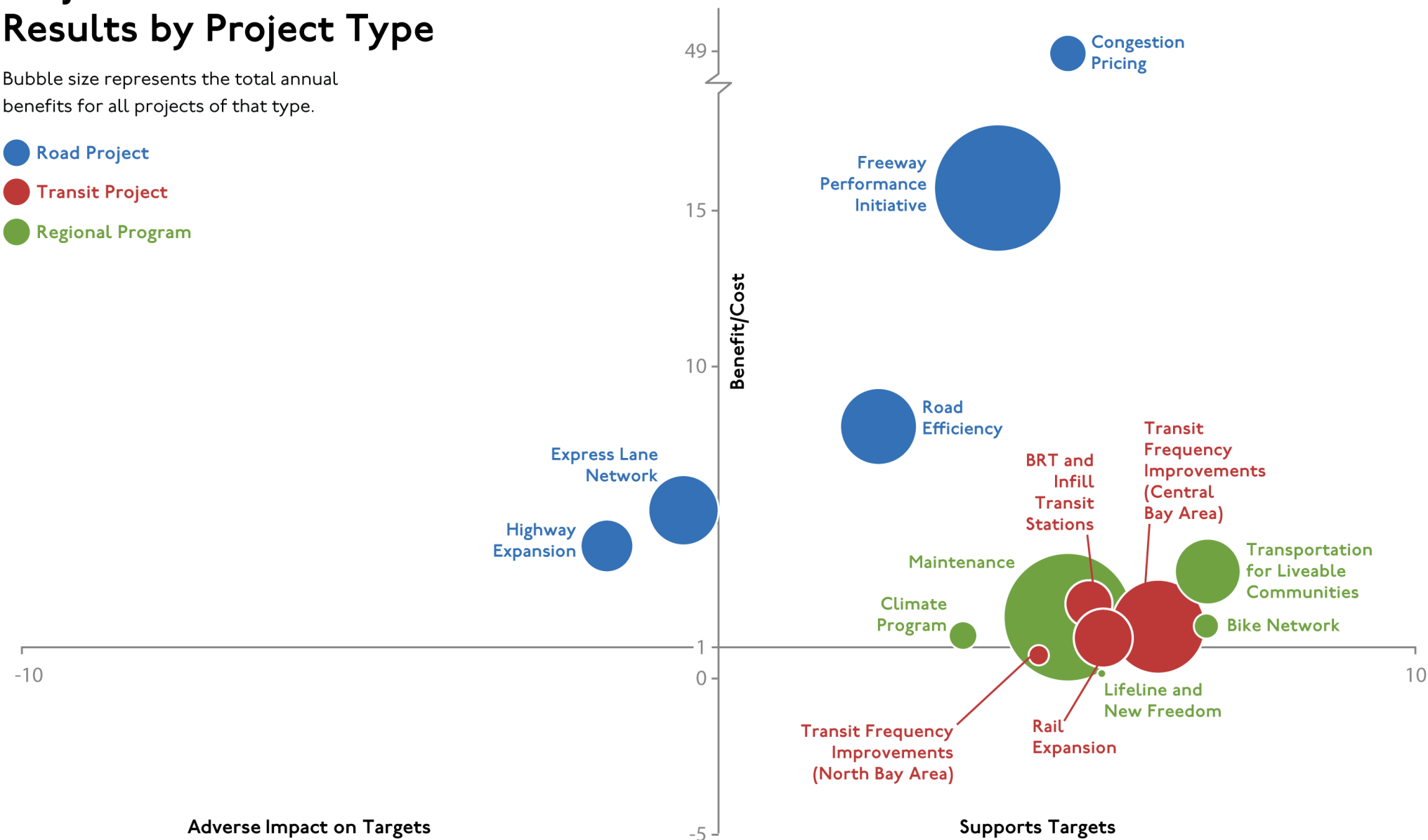
- non-recurring delay,

- transit ridership.

# Project Performance Assessment: Results by Project Type

Bubble size represents the total annual benefits for all projects of that type.

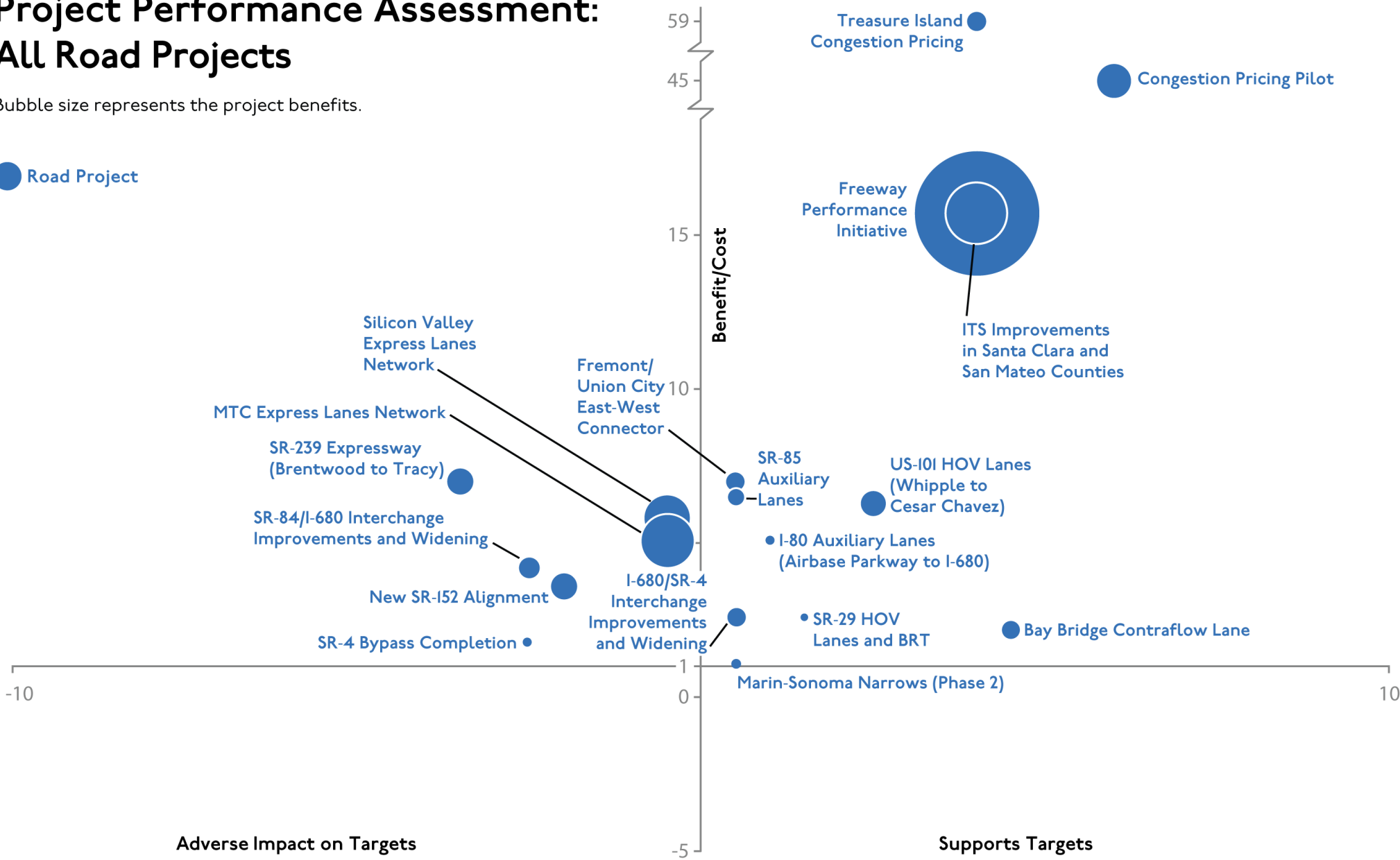
- Road Project
- Transit Project
- Regional Program



# Project Performance Assessment: All Road Projects

Bubble size represents the project benefits.

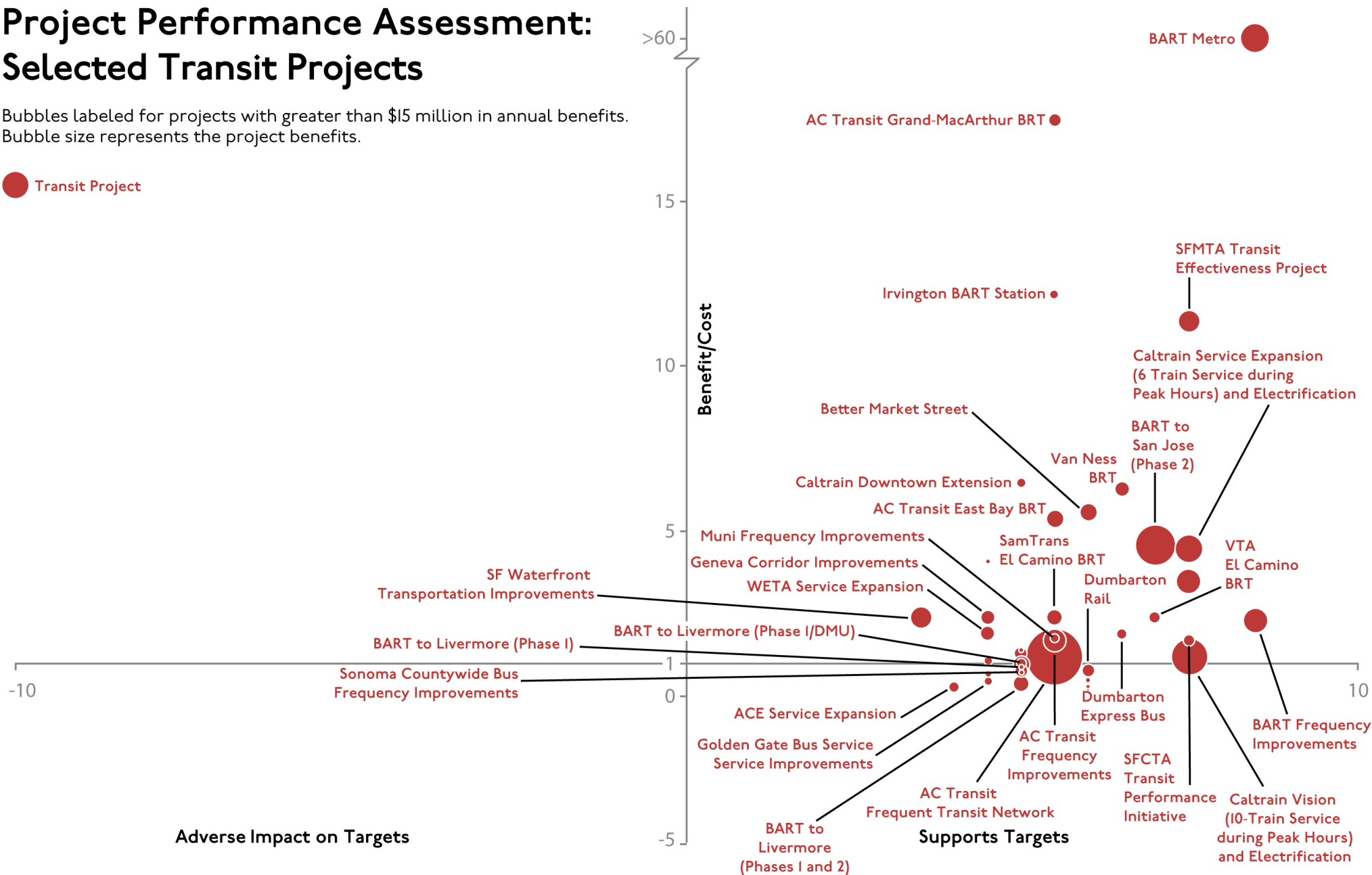
Road Project



# Project Performance Assessment: Selected Transit Projects

Bubbles labeled for projects with greater than \$15 million in annual benefits.  
Bubble size represents the project benefits.

● Transit Project



# Applications

Project Performance

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RTP Performance

Climate Action Plans

UrbanSim Integration

Automobile operating cost.

Express lane toll.

Housing concentration.

Telecommuting.

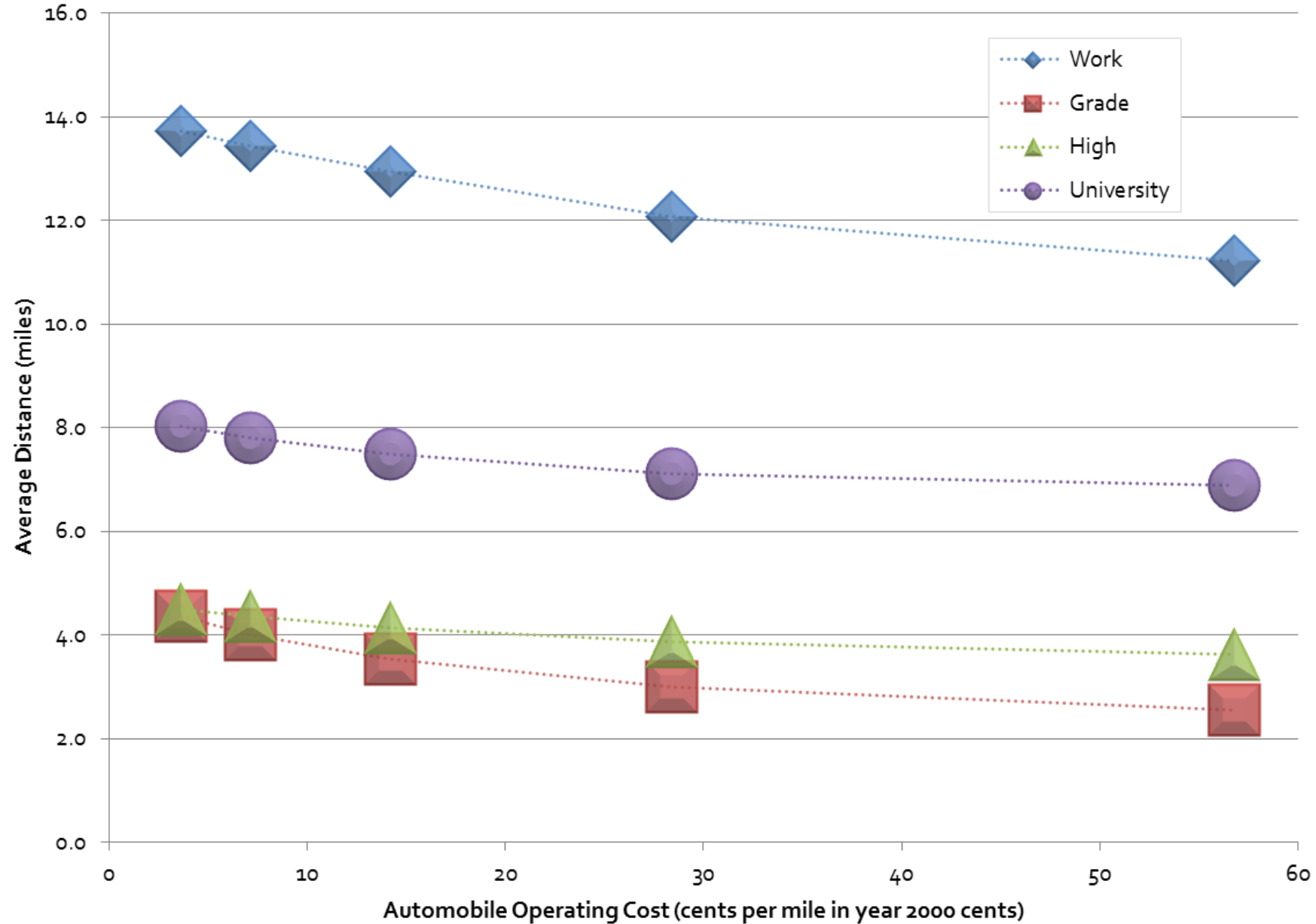
DRAFT report:

[http://analytics.mtc.ca.gov/foswiki/pub/Main/Documents/2013\\_03\\_18\\_DRAFT\\_Sensitivity\\_Testing.pdf](http://analytics.mtc.ca.gov/foswiki/pub/Main/Documents/2013_03_18_DRAFT_Sensitivity_Testing.pdf)

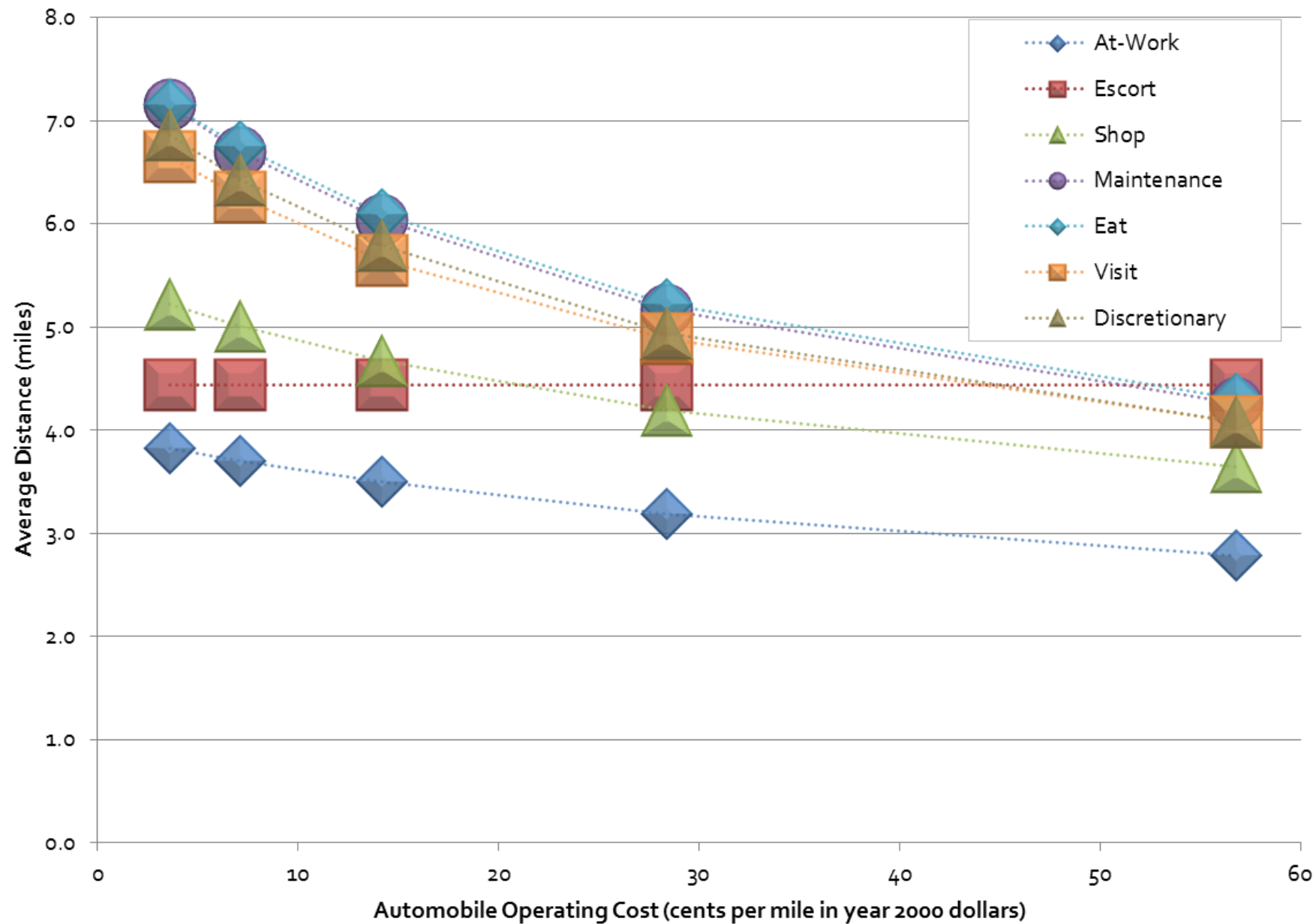
# Automobile operating cost.



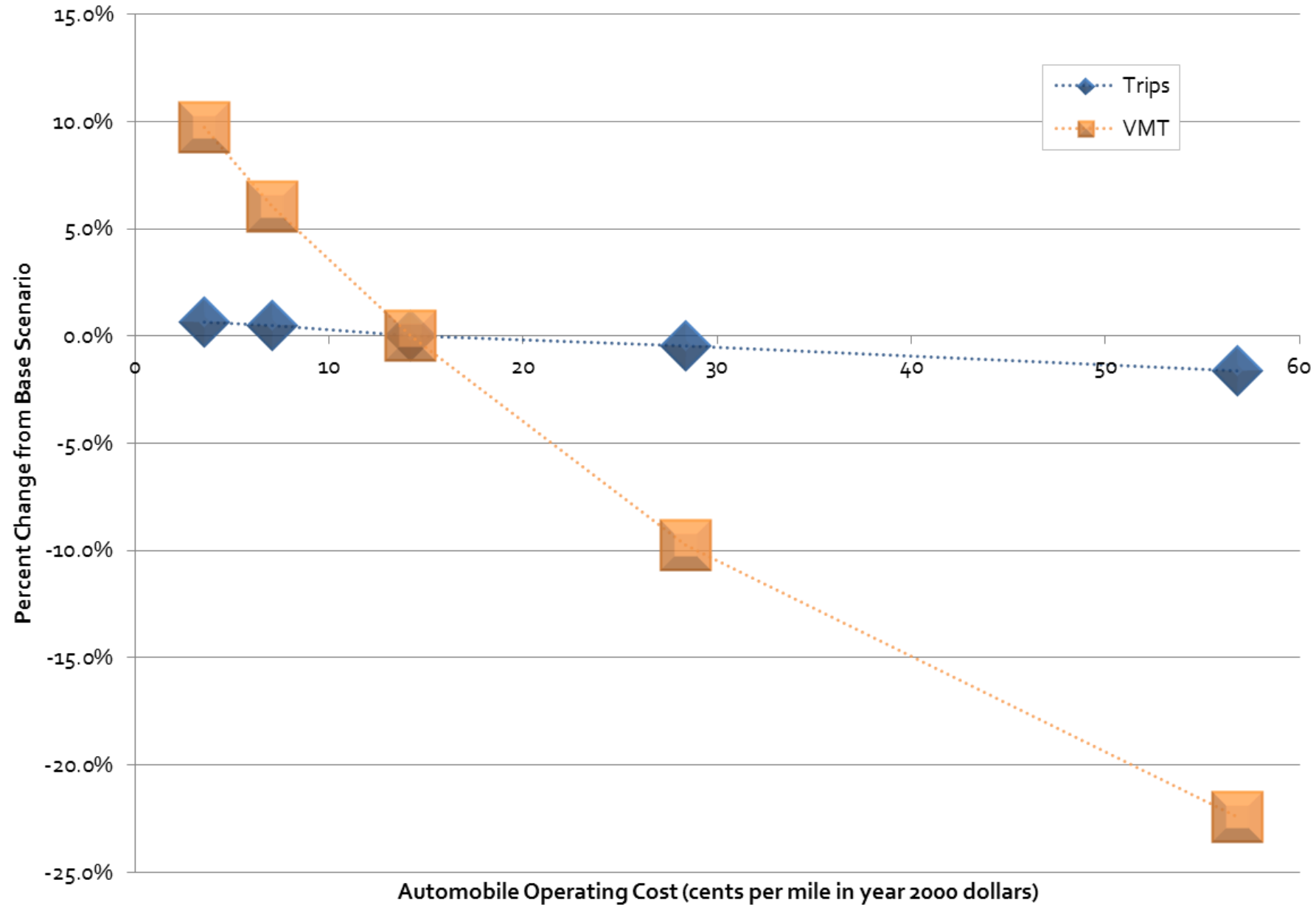
## Average Distance for Mandatory Tours



## Average Distance for Non-Mandatory Tours

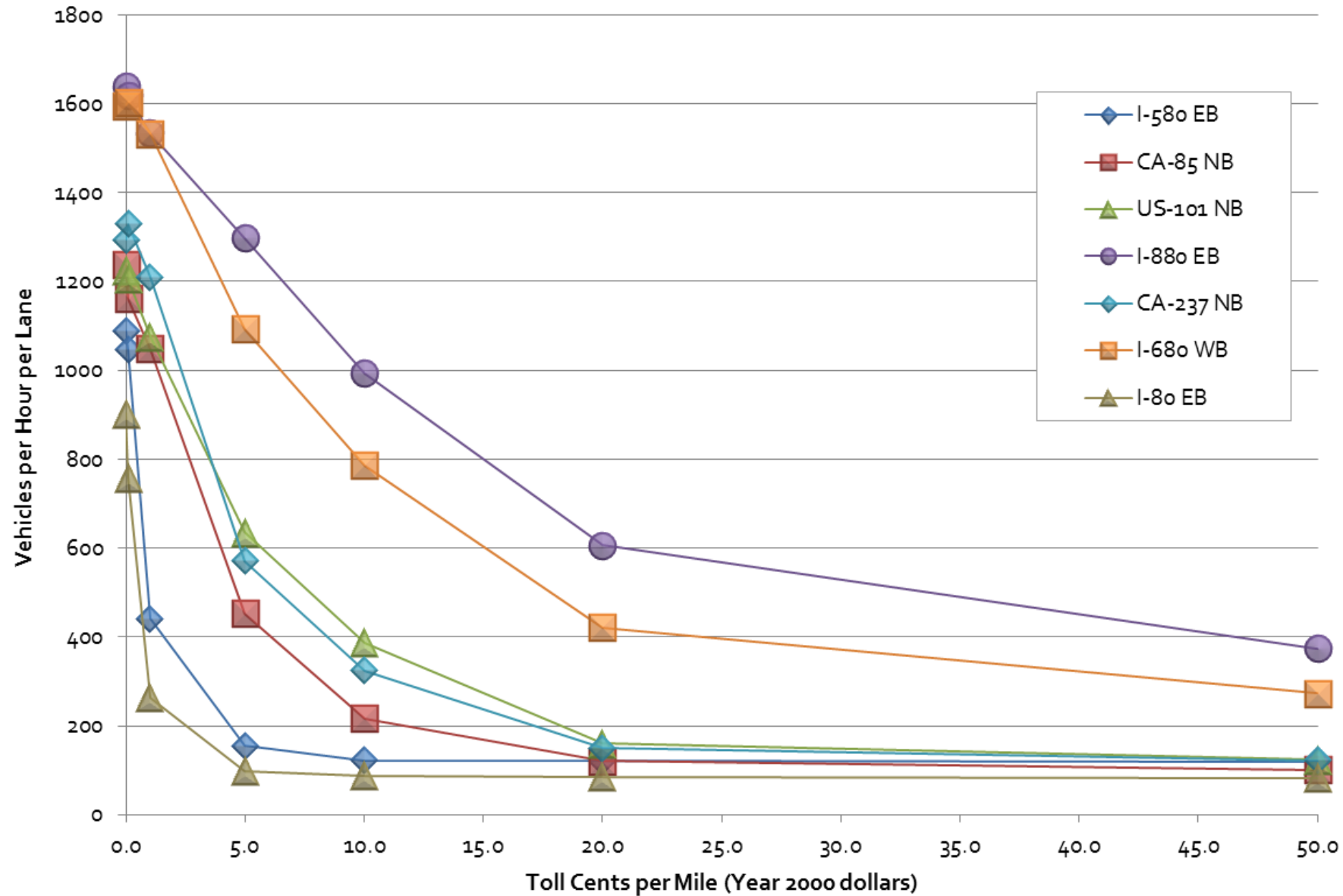


## Change in Trip Making and Vehicle Miles Traveled

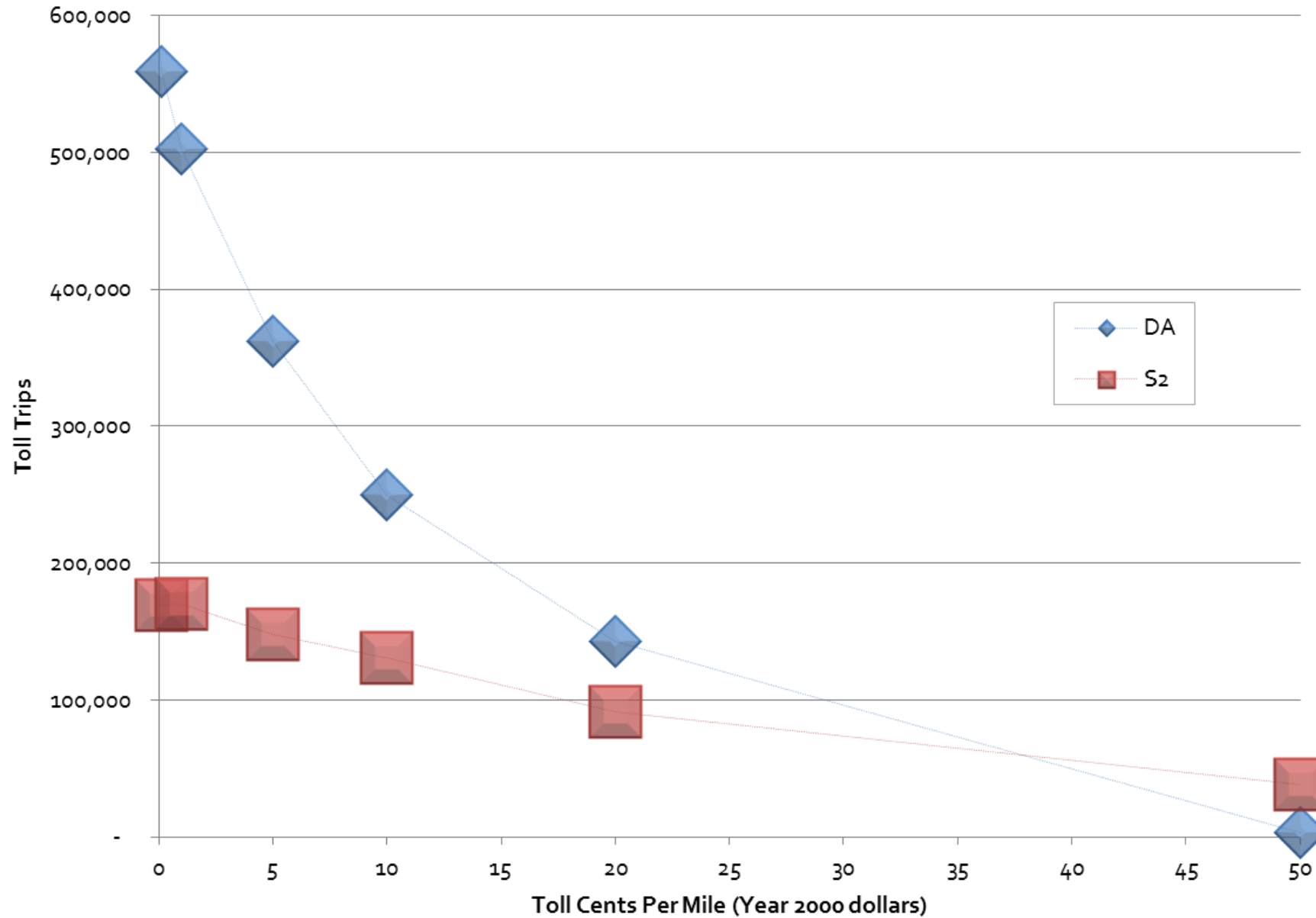


Express lane toll.

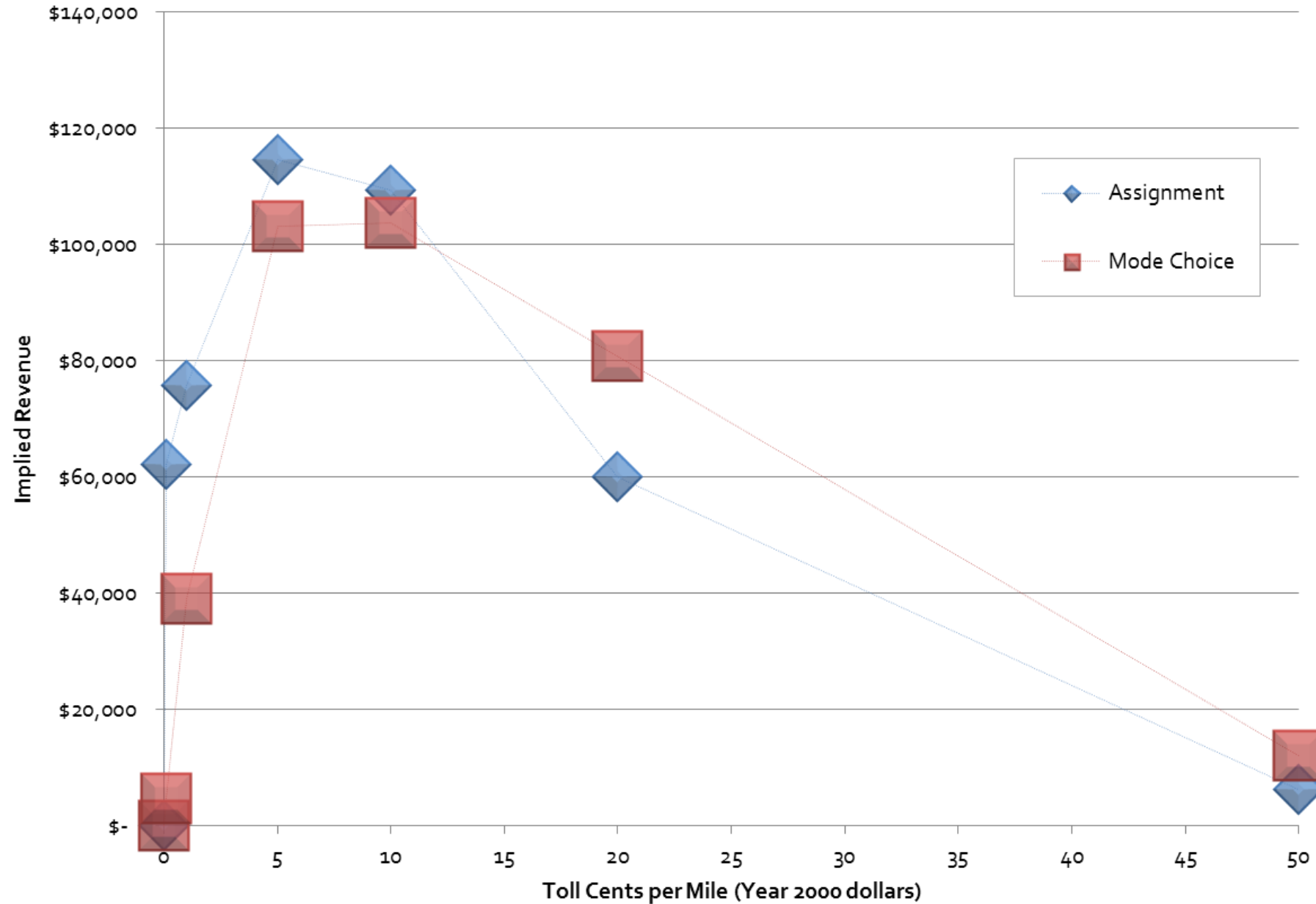
## Average Morning Commute Peak One Hour Express Vehicles per Lane, Dir. 1



## Drive Alone (DA) and Shared Ride 2 (S2) Toll Trips



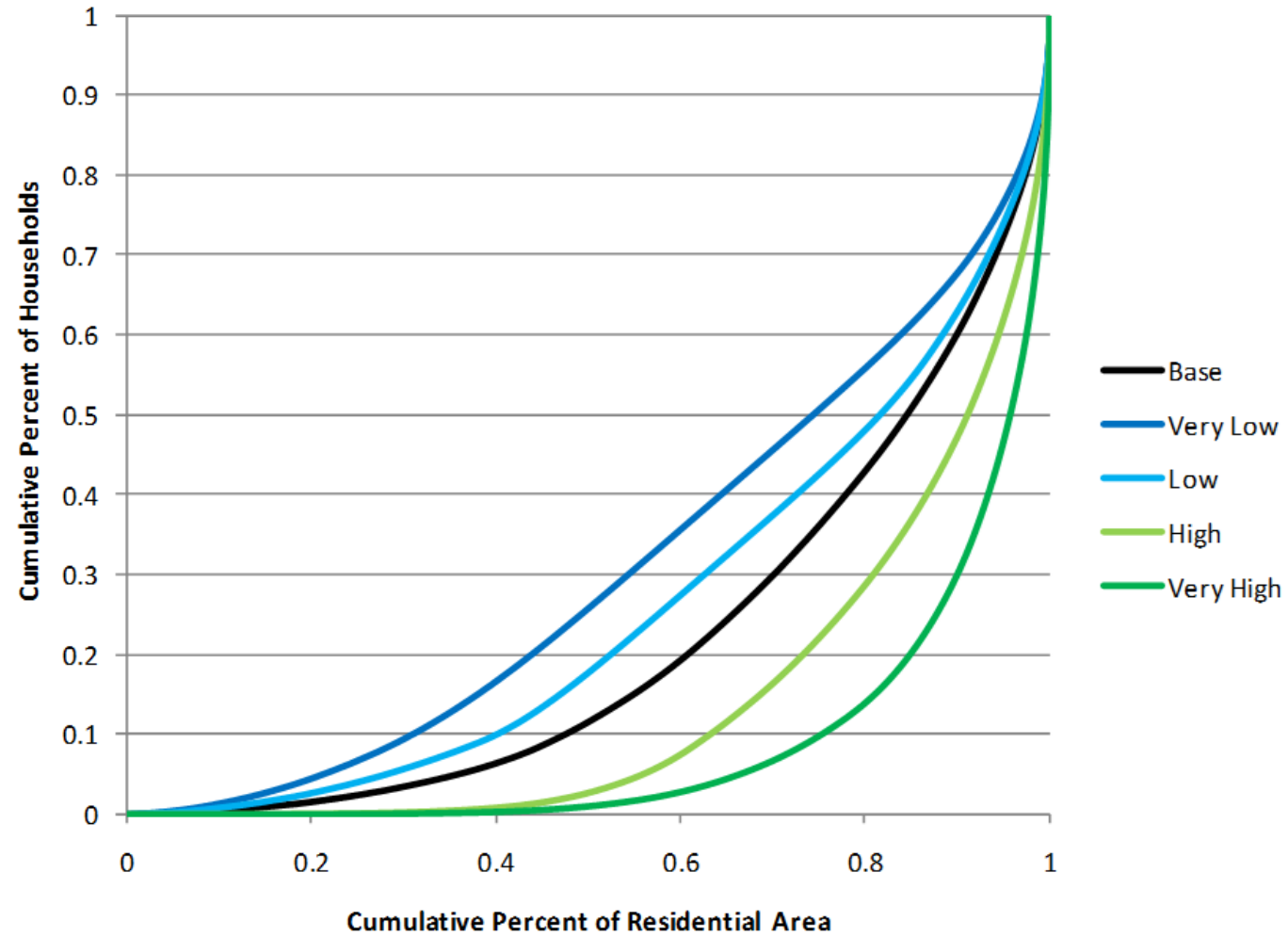
## Implied Value Toll Revenue



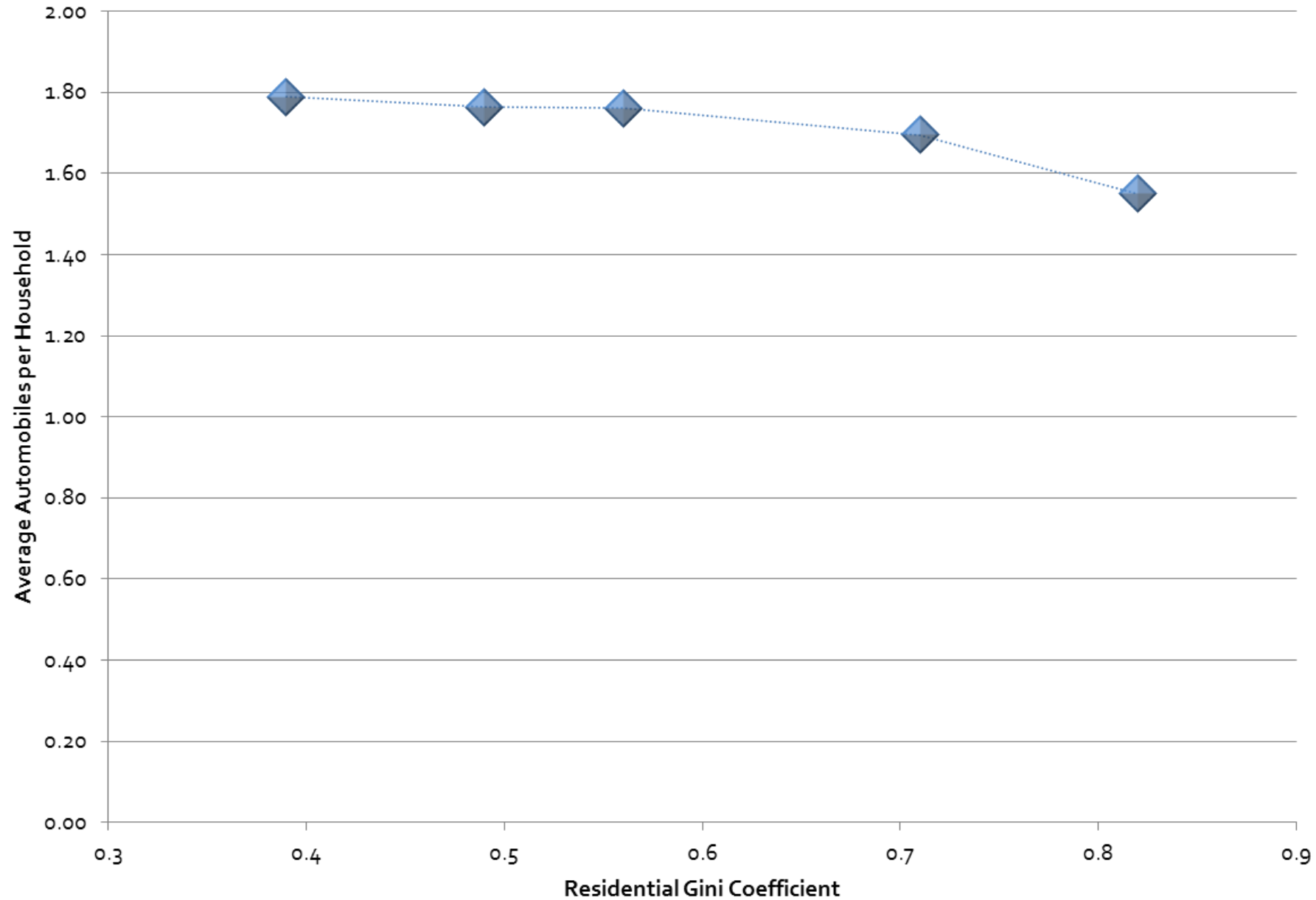
# Housing Concentration.



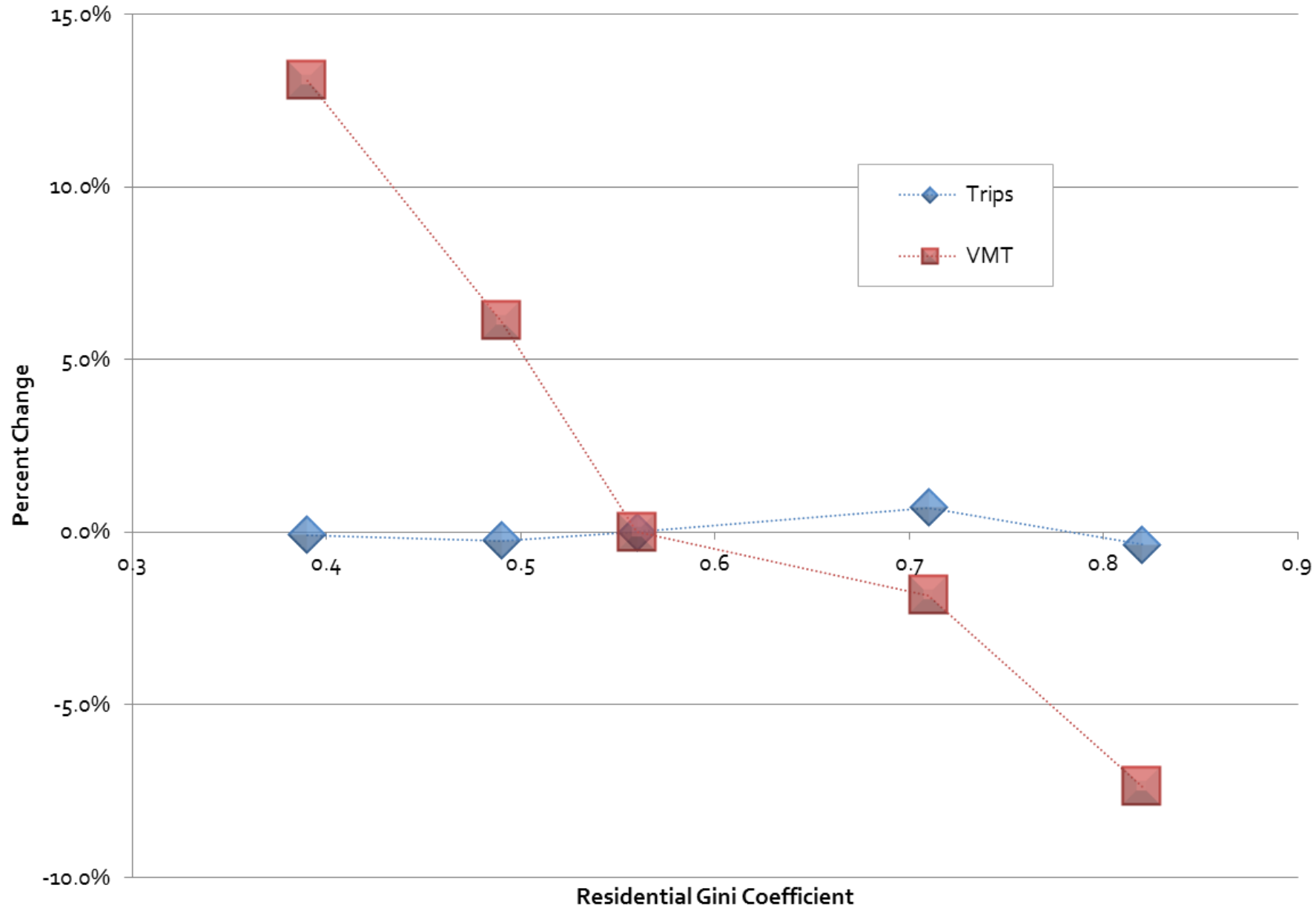
## Density Gradient Scenarios



## Average Household Automobile Ownership

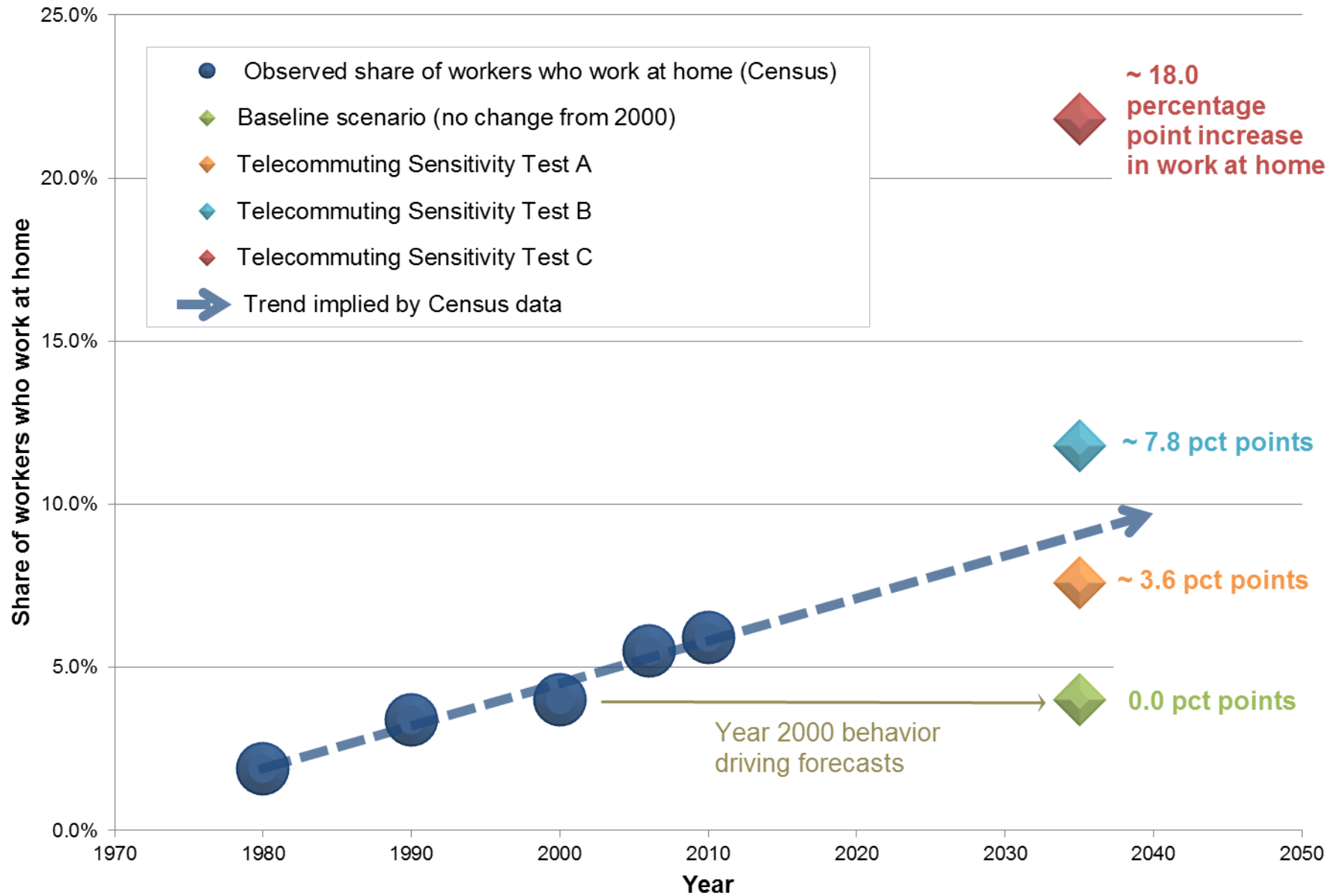


## Percent Change in Number of Trips & VMT

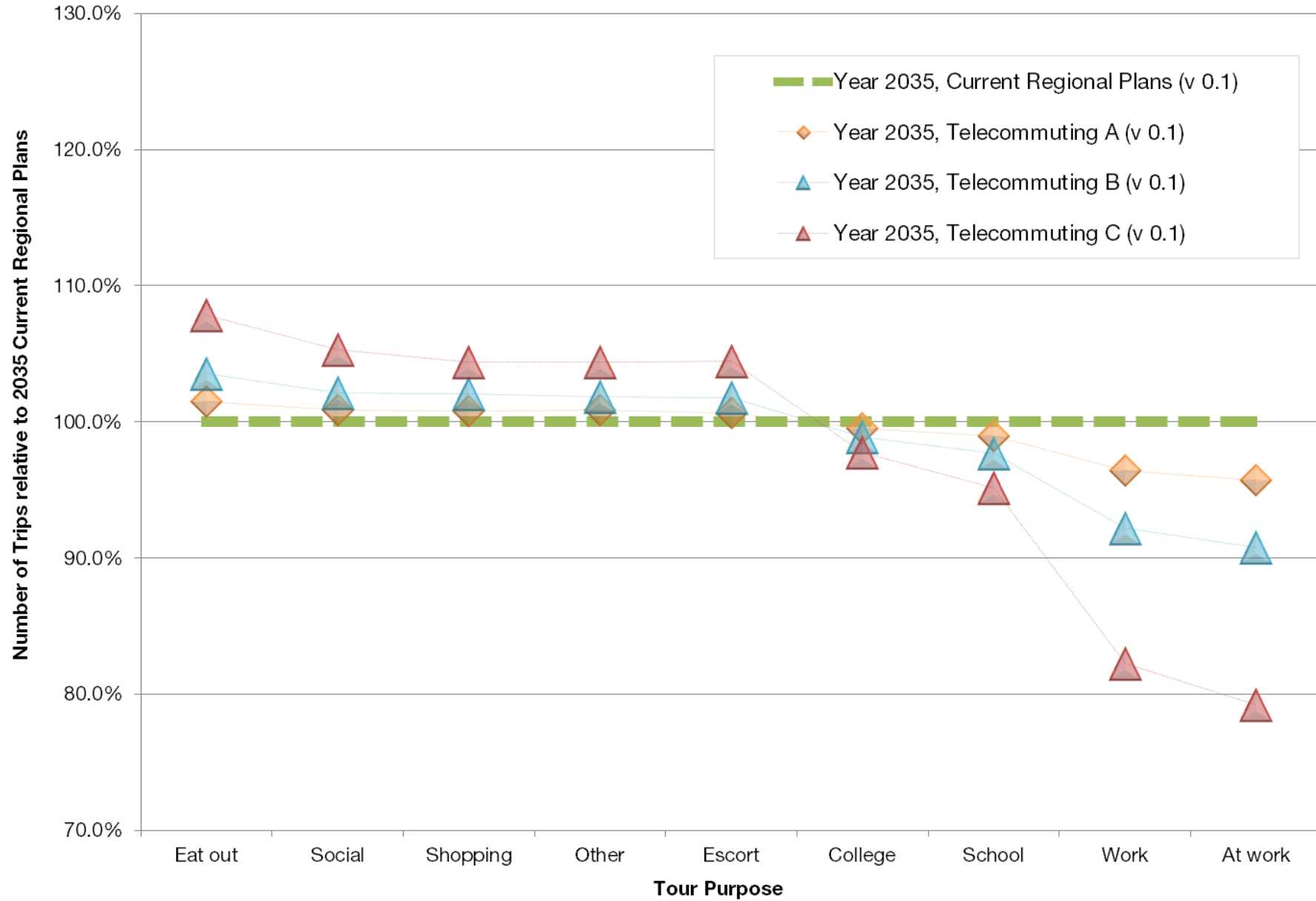


# Telecommuting.

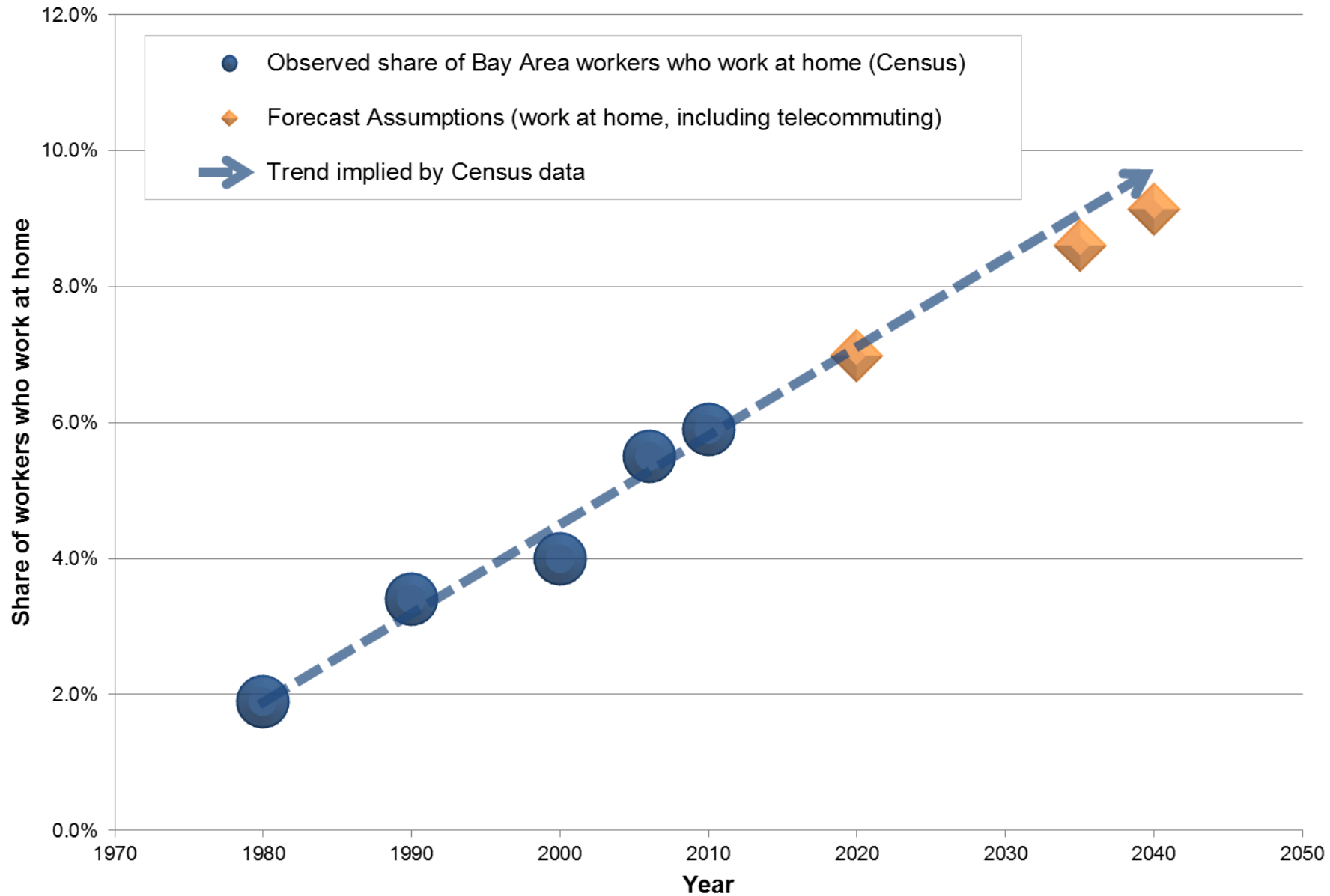
## Telecommuting Trends and Forecast Assumptions



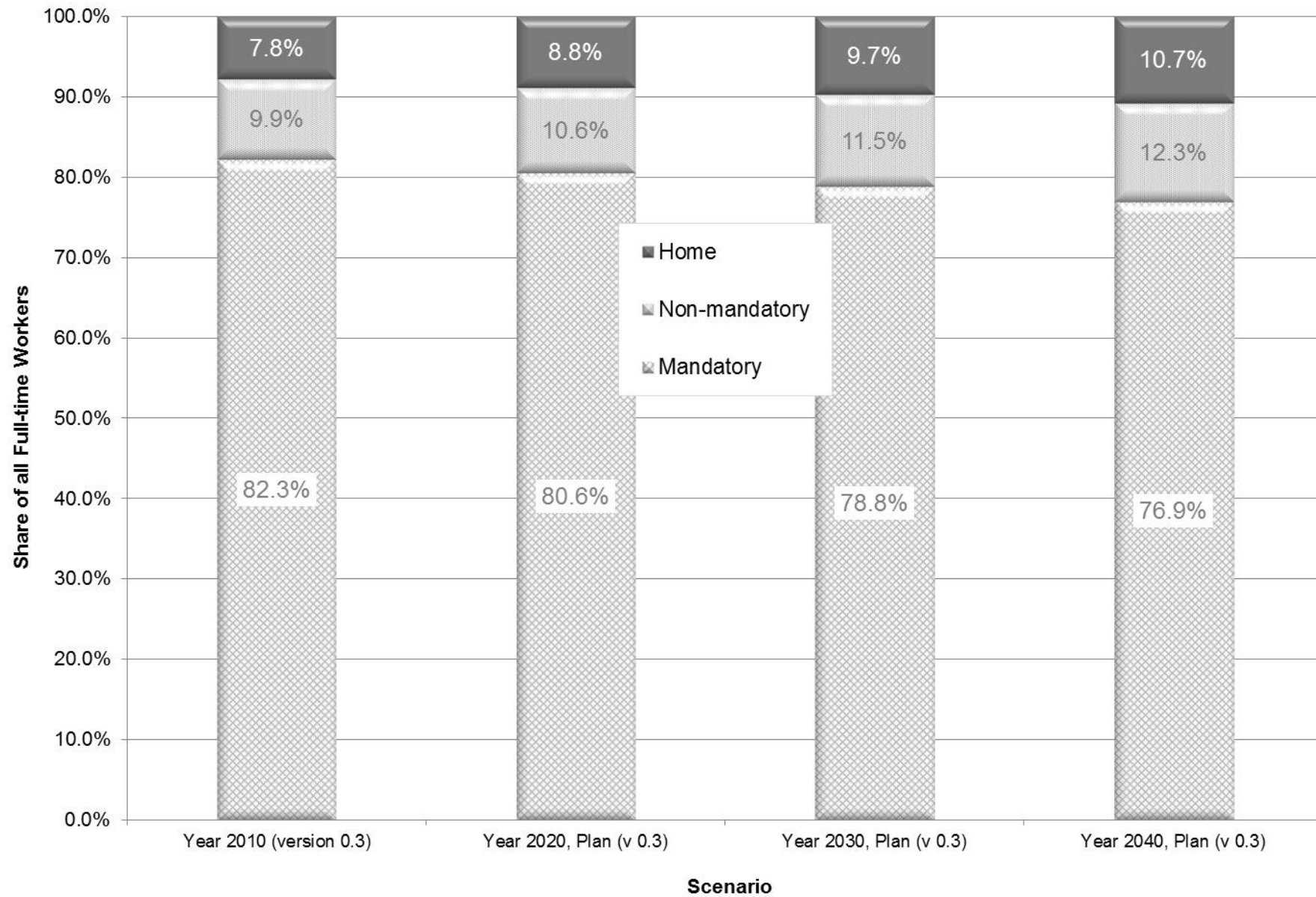
## Change in Number of Trips by Tour Purpose



## Work at Home Observations, Trends, and Forecasts



## Activity Pattern Rate for Full-time Workers





# Applications

Project Performance

Sensitivity Tests

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Climate Action Plans

UrbanSim Integration

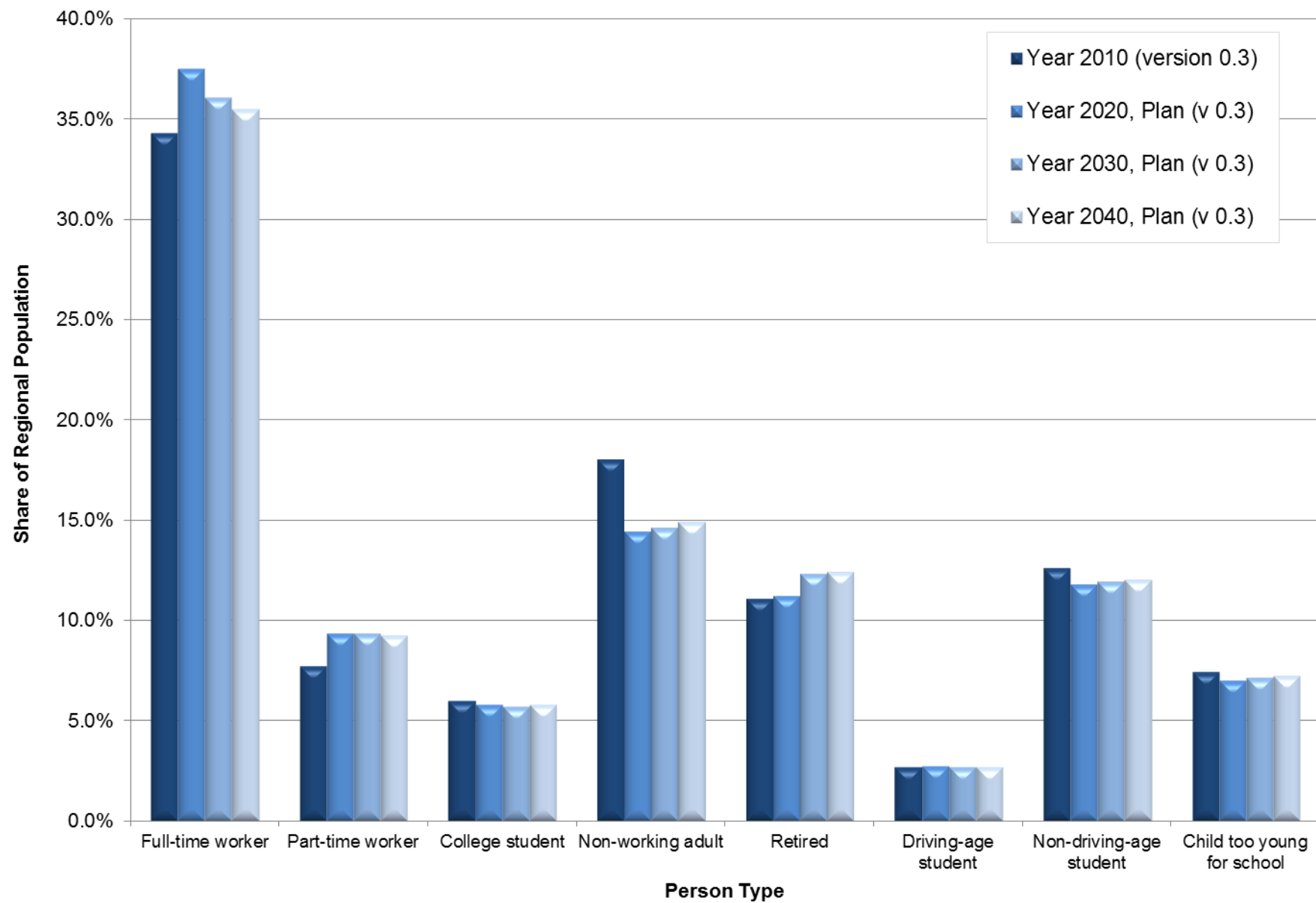
Per capita minutes of active transportation.

Daily out-of-pocket transportation costs (by household income category).

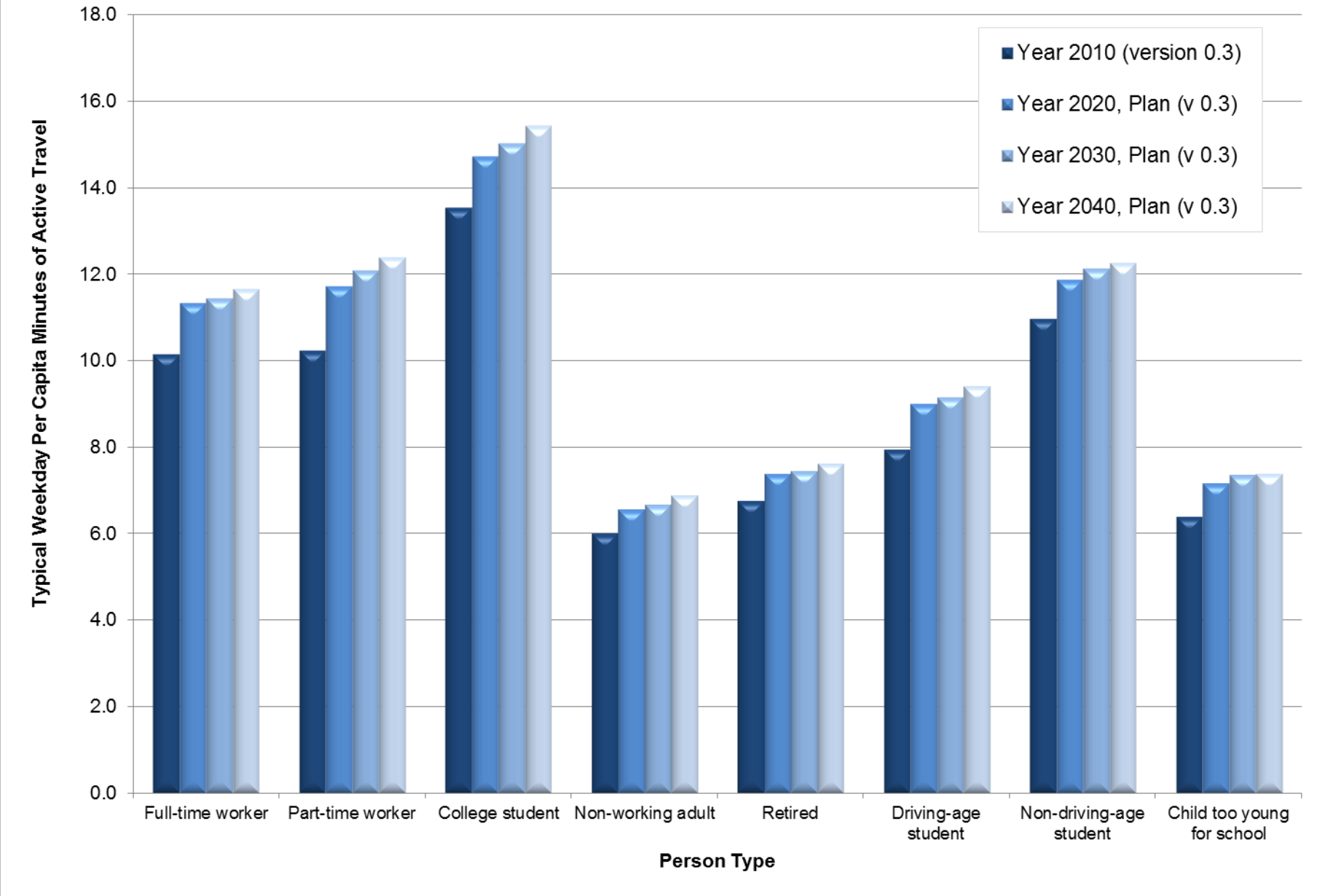
Vehicle-miles-traveled per capita (distribute spatially).

Non-automobile mode share.

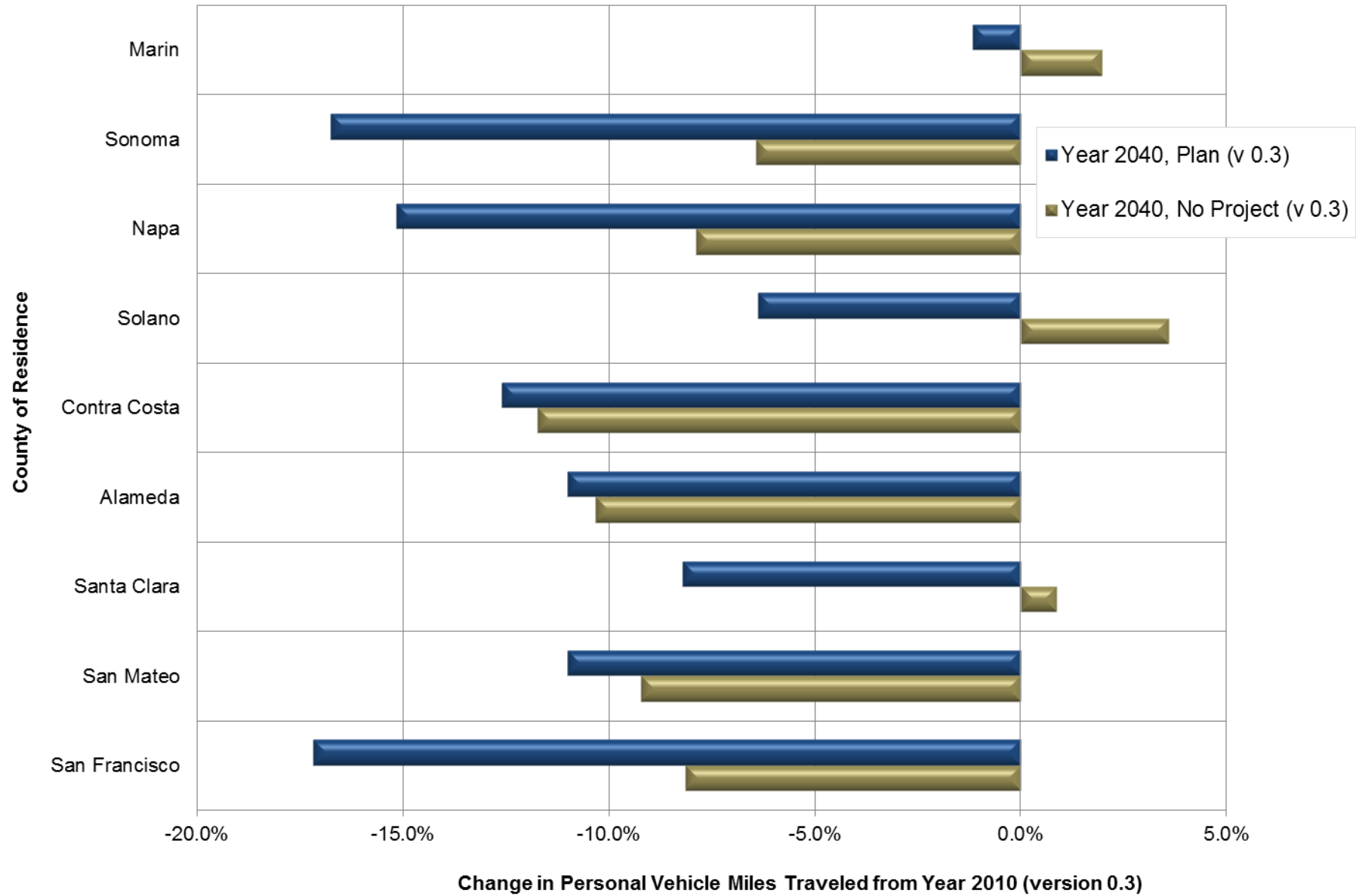
## Person Type Distribution



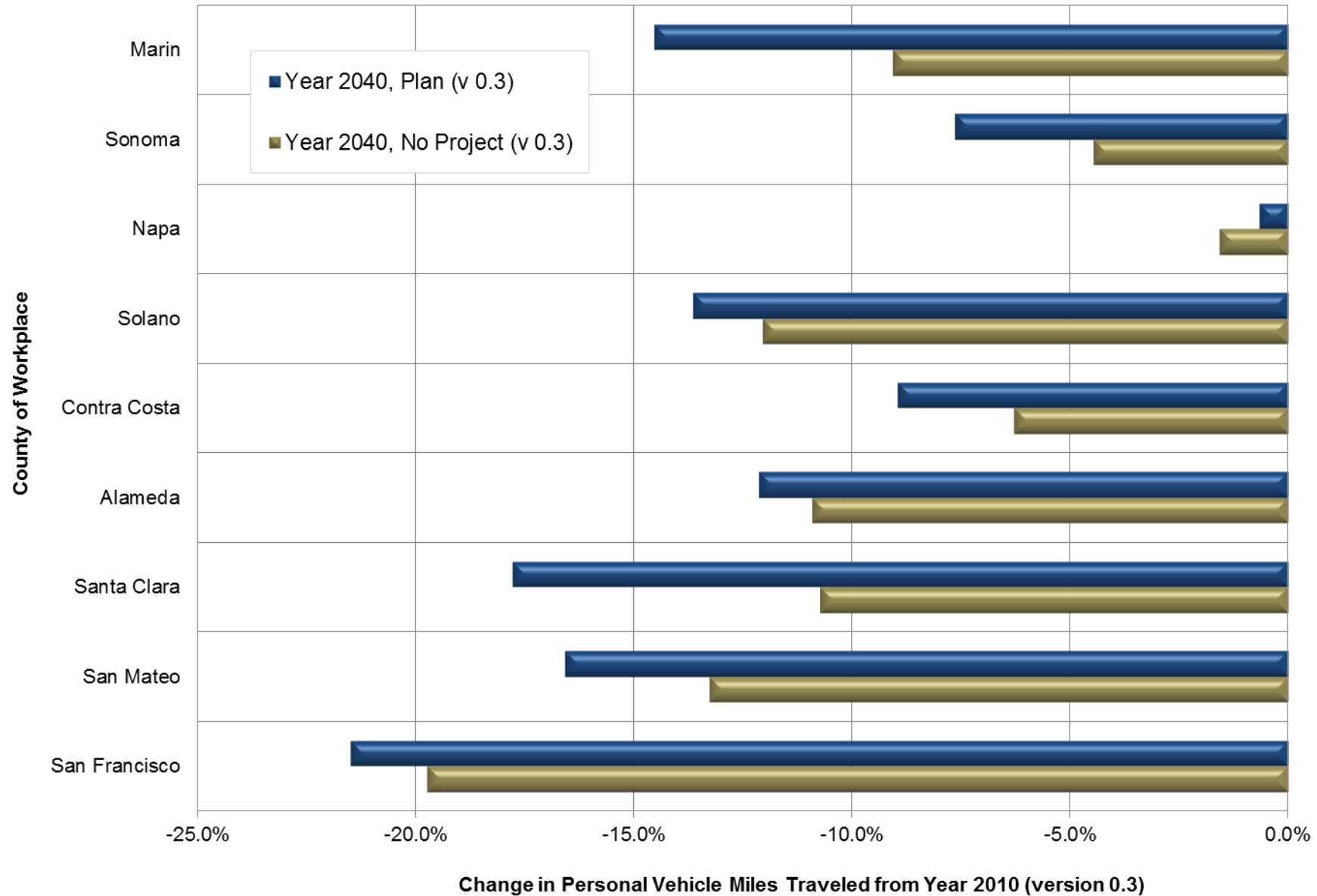
# Typical Weekday Minutes of Active Travel



## Change in Per Capita VMT by County of Residence



## Change in Per Worker VMT by County of Workplace



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How much personal travel-related GHG is my city responsible for?

*San Francisco Example  
(2005 simulation)*



Population Segment	Size x1000 (share)				
Live in / work in	289 (4%)				
Live in / work out	100 (1%)				
Live in / non-workers	398 (6%)				
Live out / work in	236 (3%)				
Live out / work out	2,600 (37%)				
Live out / non-workers	3,383 (48%)				
Everyone	7,007 (100%)				

		VMT x1000 entirely within (share)	VMT x1000 partially in (share)	VMT x1000 entirely outside (share)	
		<i>3,253 (3%)</i>	<i>10,725 (9%)</i>	<i>102,075 (88%)</i>	

					VMT per capita
					16.7

Population Segment	Size x1000 (share)	VMT x1000 entirely within (share)	VMT x1000 partially in (share)	VMT x1000 entirely outside (share)	VMT per capita
Live in / work in	289 (4%)	1,299 (82%)	285 (18%)	10(1%)	5.5
Live in / work out	100 (1%)	276 (10%)	2,280 (80%)	283 (10%)	28.4
Live in / non-workers	398 (6%)	1,396 (69%)	589 (29%)	31 (2%)	5.1
Live out / work in	236 (3%)	186 (3%)	4,283 (73%)	1,413 (24%)	24.9
Live out / work out	2,600 (37%)	31 (0%)	1,456 (2%)	69,493 (98%)	27.3
Live out / non-workers	3,383 (48%)	65 (0%)	1,831 (6%)	30,845 (94%)	9.7
Everyone	7,007 (100%)	3,253 (3%)	10,725 (9%)	102,075 (88%)	16.7

# Applications

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SB 375.

Draft Environmental Impact  
Report.

Range of reasonable  
alternatives.

State of the practice.

01 No Project.

~~02 Proposed Plan.~~

03 Transit Priority Focus.

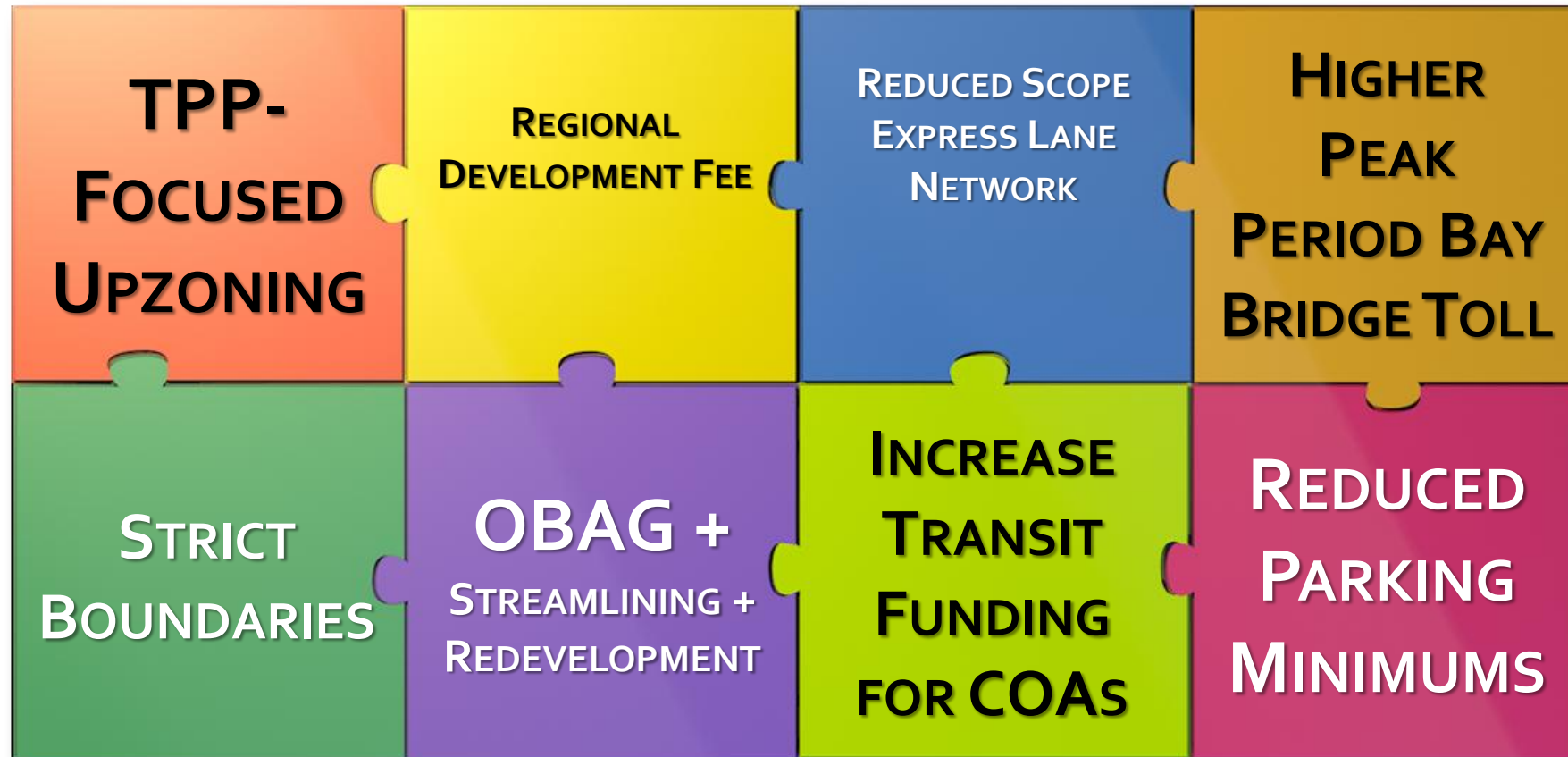
~~04 Enhanced Network.~~

05 Environ., Equity, Jobs.

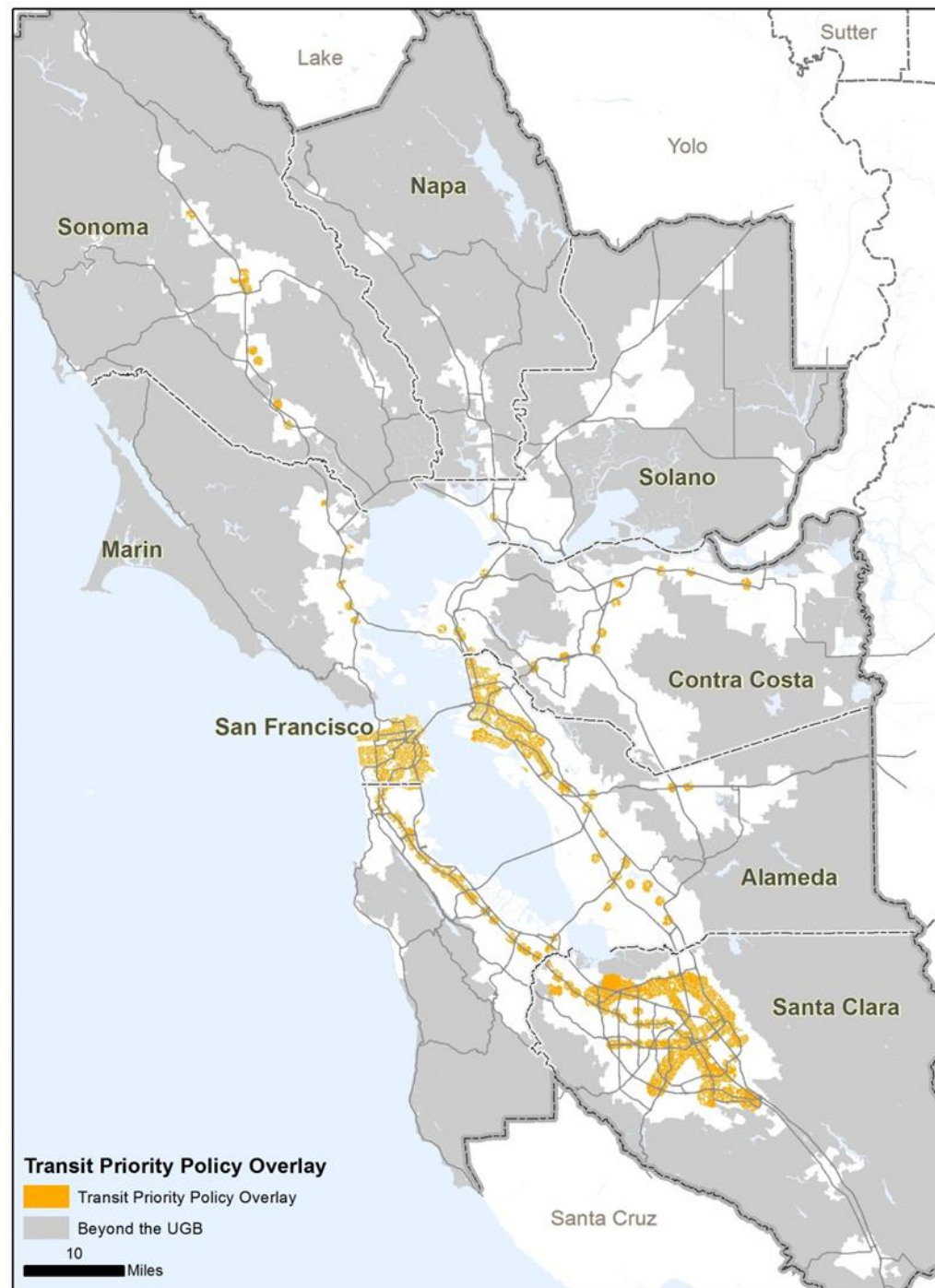


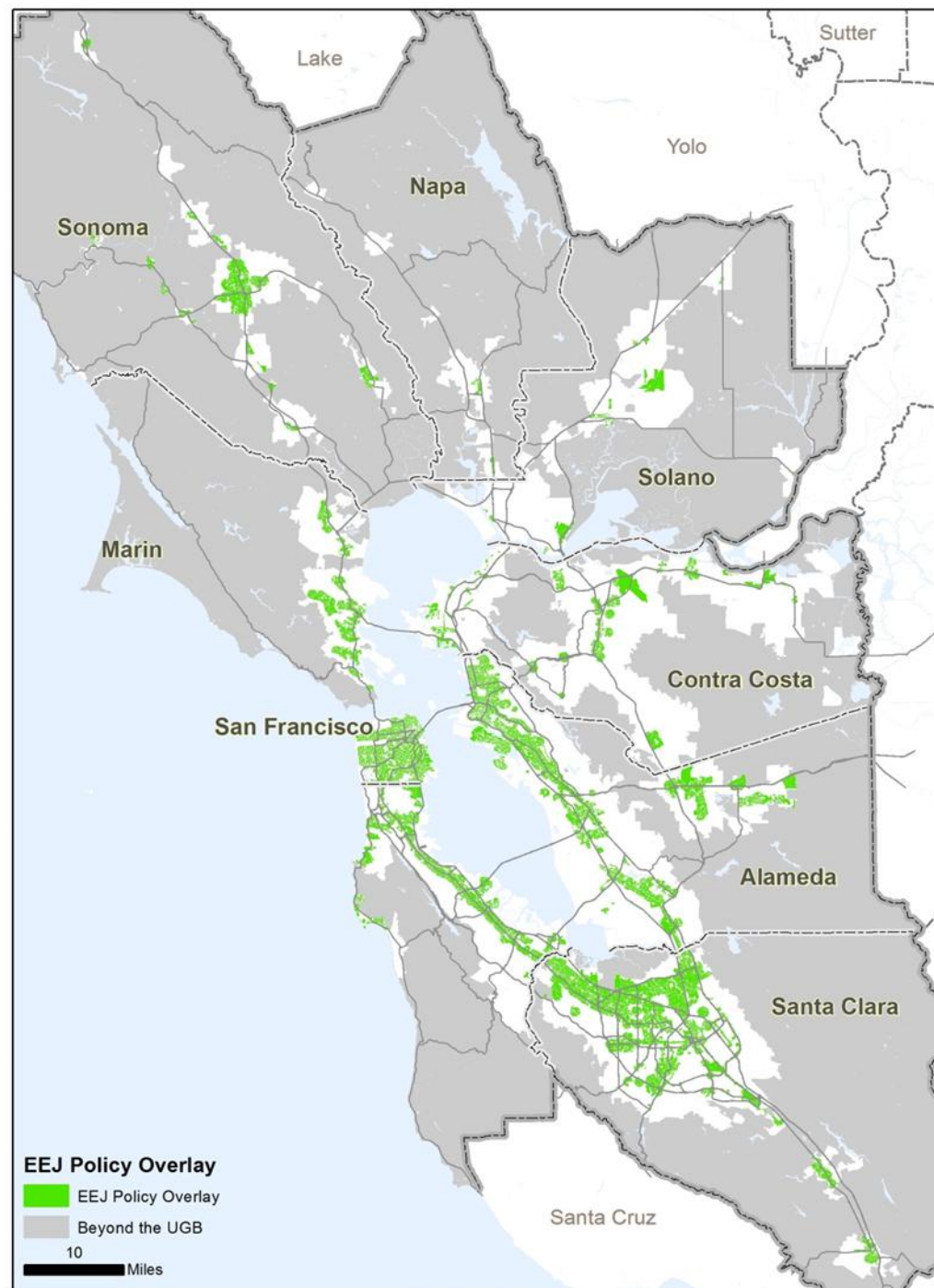
- Required by CEQA
- Assumes the continuation of locally-adopted general plans





- Leverage policy toolbox of SB 375 – emphasize focused growth via TPP framework, CEQA streamlining, and potential redevelopment funding





UrbanSim: 2010 → 2018

ABM: 2018 (w/ 2020)

UrbanSim: 2019 → 2025

ABM: 2025 (w/ 2035)

UrbanSim: 2026 → 2040

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Handling output.

Saying yes ... but.

Consultants.

Supporting other users.

Context

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Communication is greatest  
benefit.

Know your skills.

Downplay change.



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