

A Scenario Based Evaluation of Global Urban Air Mobility Demand

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OASyS: Overall Air Transport System Vehicle Scenarios



Introduction



Urban Air Mobility (UAM): Air transportation system capable of transporting people directly above populated areas

Develop high and low demand scenarios for Urban Air Mobility demand estimation across top 542 global cities

Elements of the UAM flight movement forecasting methodology

Research Questions

- 1 **UAM Aircraft (Vehicle) Demand**
- 2 **UAM Utilization**
- 3 **UAM Performance & Infrastructure**
- 4 **Flight Demand Forecasting**

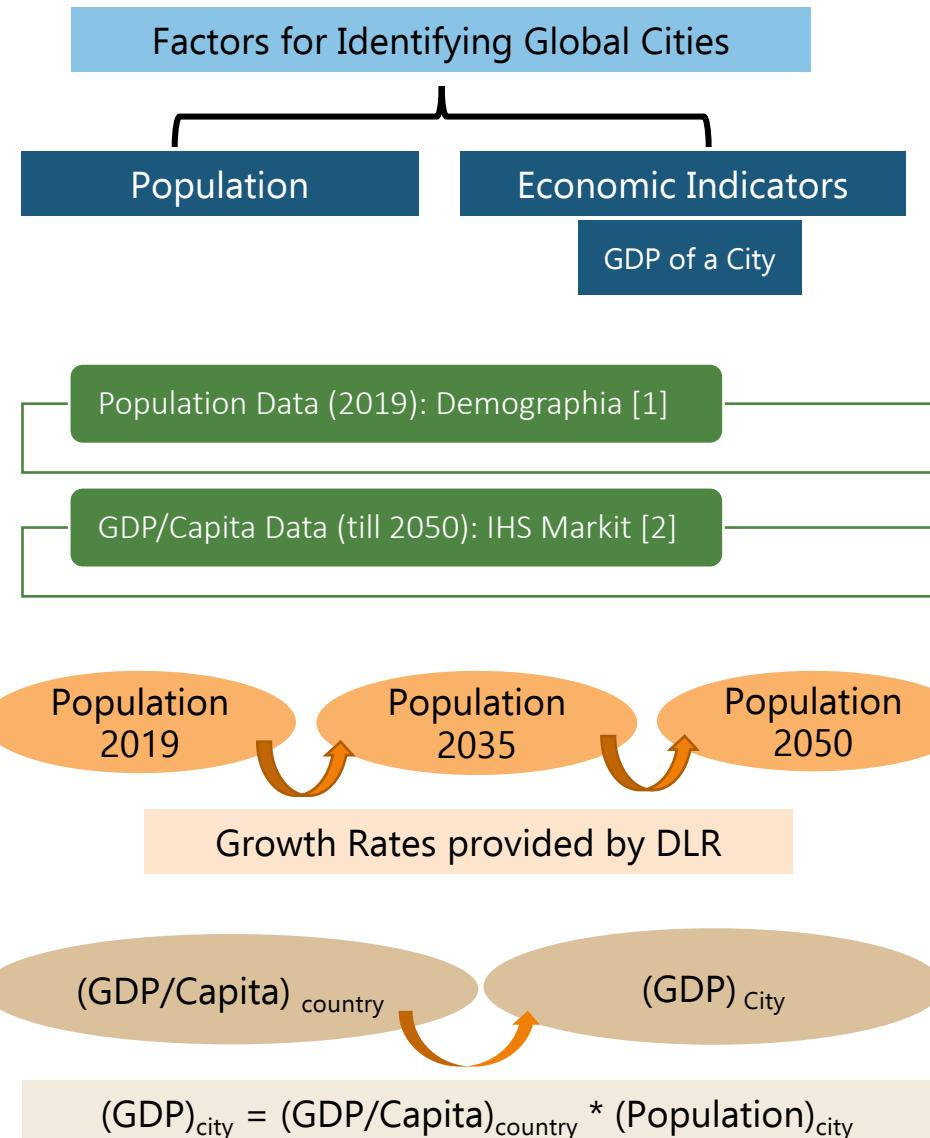
- How many UAMs will be flying?
- When will they enter the market?
- How often will UAMs be flown?
- What would be the total flight hours?
- What would be the trip purpose?
- What is the speed and range of the UAM?
- Where will be vertiports located?
- How WTP for UAM will compete other modes of transport?
- Will the service be socially accepted?

The Business Case of Urban Air Mobility

RANK BY FILTER	WORLD RANK	CITY	COUNTRY	CONGESTION LEVEL	
1	1	Bengaluru	India	71%	>
2	2	Manila	Philippines	71%	>
3	3	Bogota	Colombia	68% ↑ 5%	>
4	4	Mumbai	India	65% 0%	>
5	5	Pune	India	59%	>
6	6	Moscow region (oblast)	Russia	59% ↑ 3%	>
7	7	Lima	Peru	57% ↓ 1%	>
8	8	New Delhi	India	56% ↓ 2%	>
9	9	Istanbul	Turkey	55% ↑ 2%	>
10	10	Jakarta	Indonesia	53% 0%	>

- High and rising levels of roadway congestion is driving the need for a new, faster mode of transport
 - In 2017, roadway congestion cost US commuters and companies an estimated \$166B for extra time and wasted fuel
- Source: TAMU Mobility Report
- Congestion level indicates additional time spent per trip, respective to uncongested baseline

Identification of cities viable for UAM Operations



Cut-off for Population and GDP

1 Million Population, 5 Billion GDP = 717 cities

1 Million Population, 100 Billion GDP = 535 cities

7 Cities Suggested by Topic Leader (DLR) 

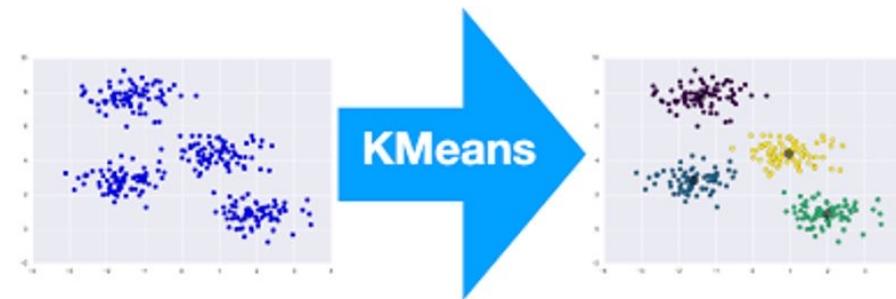
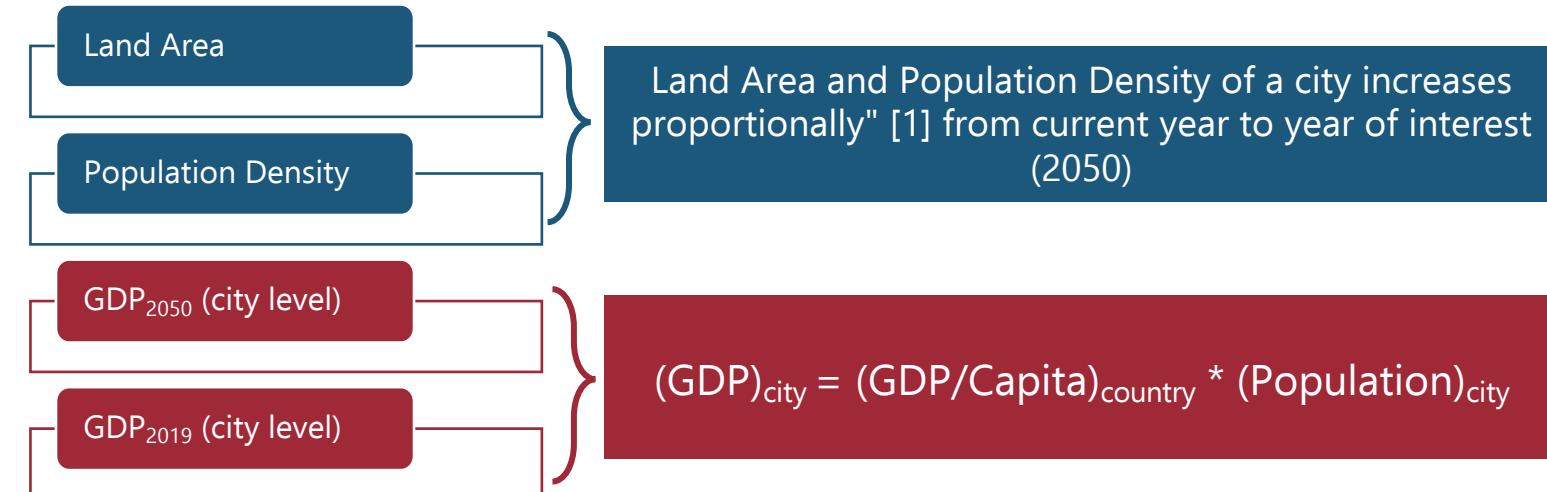
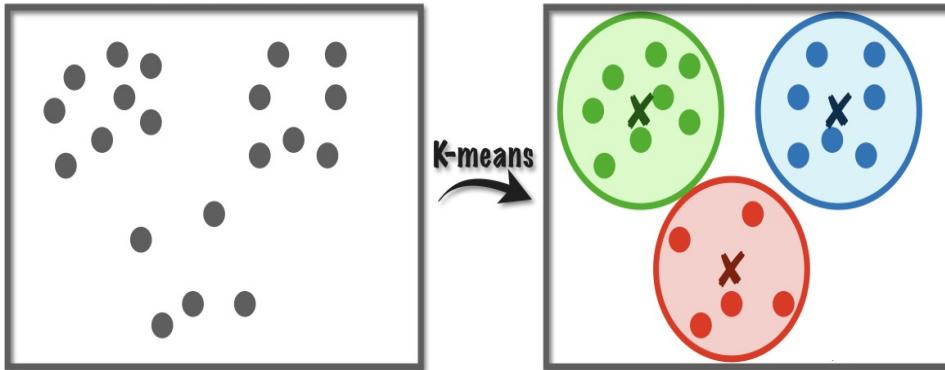
542 Global Cities Viable for UAM Operations



Clustering Approach

After identifying the global cities viable for UAM operation, clustering approach was performed to merge cities with similar characteristics

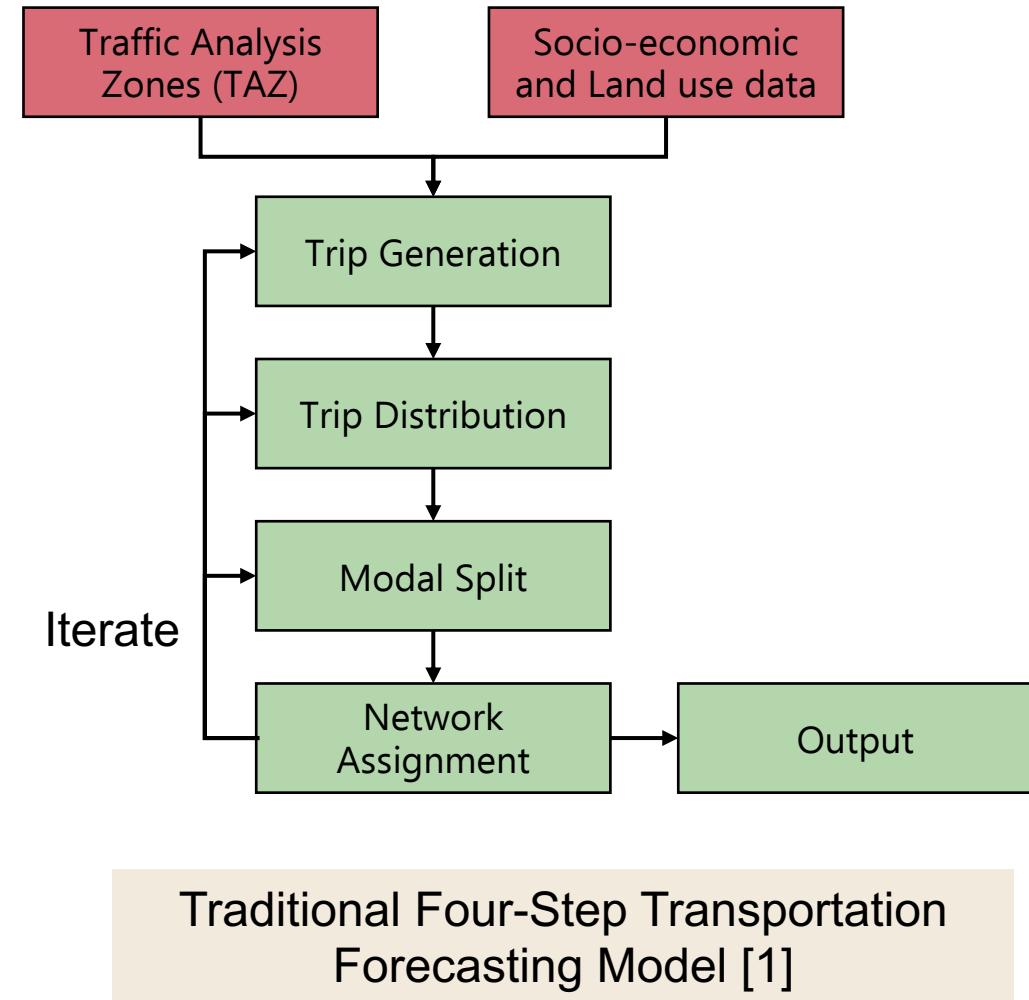
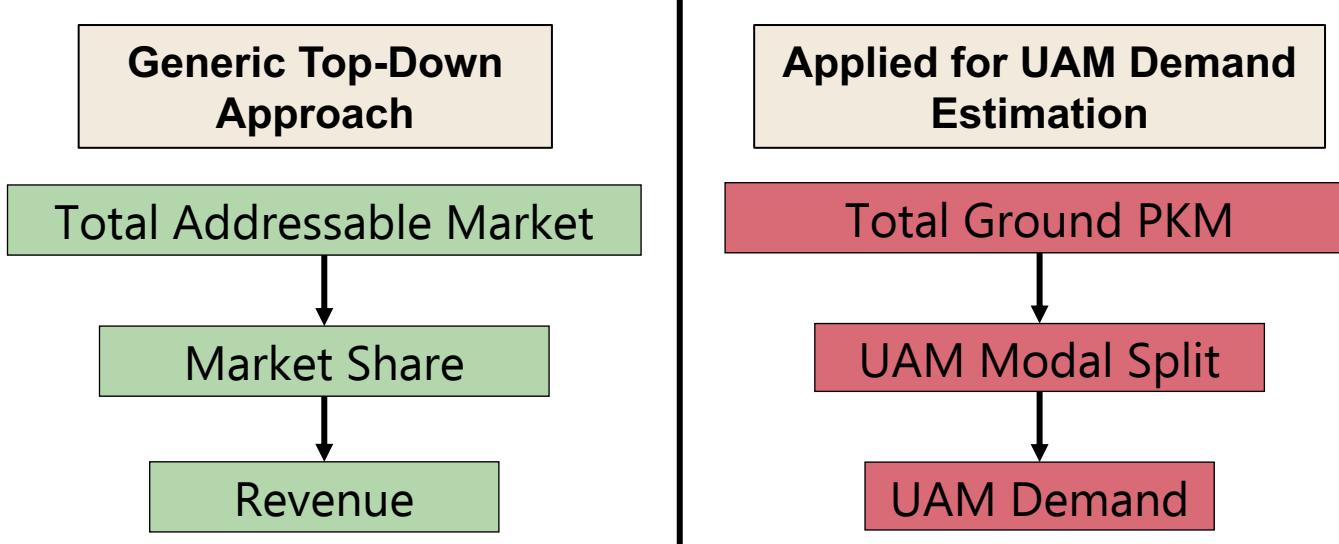
- Clustering goal is to reduce data dimensionality by finding sets of cities with similar characteristics
- Good clustering algorithm must produce high quality cluster in which
 - The intra-class similarity is high
 - The inter-class similarity is low



The authors pursued the K-Means Algorithm for the clustering analysis and identified 22 clusters

UAM Forecasting Assumptions

- UAM passenger kilometers traveled (PKM) may be estimated as a portion of the total PKM across all modes of ground transport
- Traffic forecasting typically conducted using four-step transportation model
 - **Infeasible to implement due to data unavailability, effort required, and computational expense**



Traditional Four-Step Transportation Forecasting Model [1]

[1] Kofi, G. E., "Network based indicators for prioritising the location of a new urban transport connection: Case study Istanbul, Turkey," 2020

UAM Forecasting Assumptions

A binary choice model considering value of travel time savings(VTTS) offers a solution [1]

$$Cost_{UAM} \leq WTP = Cost_m + VTTS * (Time_m - Time_{UAM})$$

Cost_{UAM}

Cost_m

VTTS

Time_m

Time_{UAM}

Cost of a specific trip using UAM

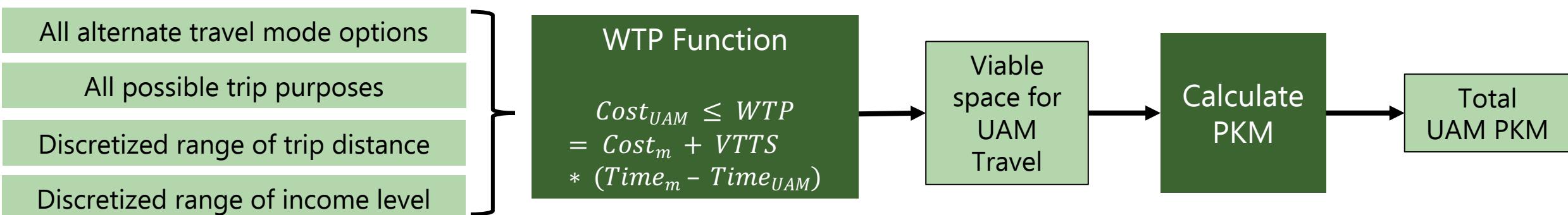
Cost of a specific trip using an alternate mode m

Dollar value an individual places per unit time saved

Trip time of a specific trip using alternate mode m

Trip time of a specific trip using UAM

This approach has been implemented in past UAM studies for local areas [1,2]

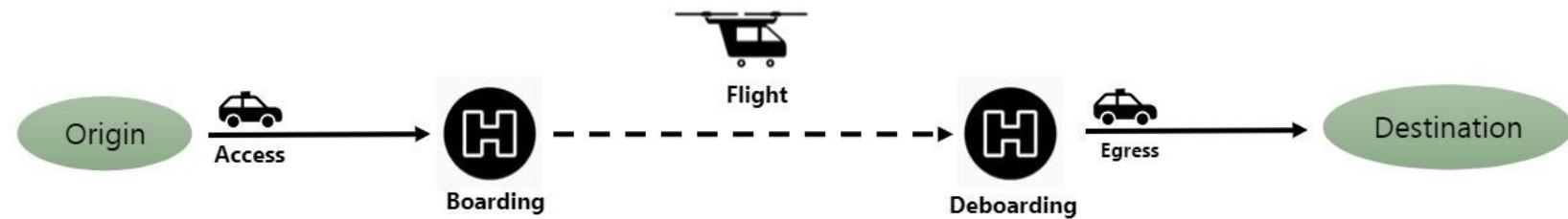


[1] N. Sirirojvisuth, S. Briceno, and C. Justin, "Life-Cycle Economic Analysis and Optimization for Urban Air Mobility (UAM)" (2020)

[2] Booz Allen Hamilton, "UAM Market Study - Technical Out Brief" (2018)

UAM Concept of Operations

- Range and Cruise Speed
- UAM Ticket Cost
- Time for Alternate Mode
- Trip Time for UAM
- Vertiport Density
- Cost for Alternate Mode + Parking Cost
- VTTS: Value of Travel Time Savings
- Purpose Split
- Mode Split
- Trip Distribution
- Income Distribution
- Total Ground PKM



Assumed Demand Parameters		
Parameter	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Average Speed of UAM Vehicle	120 km/hr	240 km/hr
Range of UAM Vehicle	60 km	120 km
VTTS (Personal, Business) [1]	(35%, 80%)	(60%, 120%)
Vertiport Network Density [2]	300 sq. km	120 sq. km

[1] P. Belenky, "Revised Departmental Guidance on Valuation of Travel," U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, DC, 2011

[2] Mayakonda M. et al. "A Top-Down Methodology for Global Urban Air Mobility Demand Estimation," AIAA Aviation Forum (2020)

Concept of Operations

The elements of the CONOPS can be filled by different data sources or combinations of the data sources

1

**Population, GDP
Data**



2

**Trip Distribution
Data**



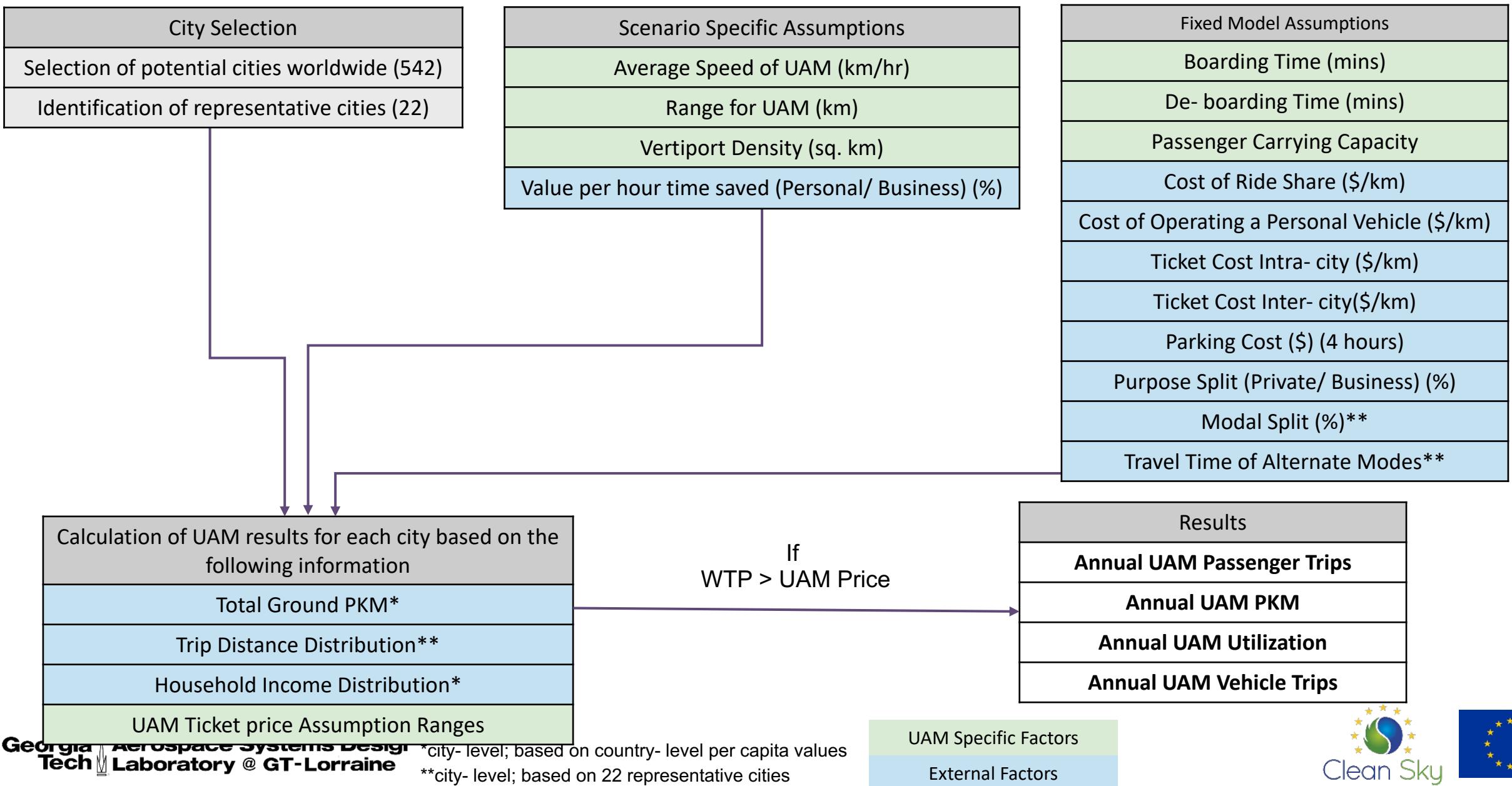
3

Income Data



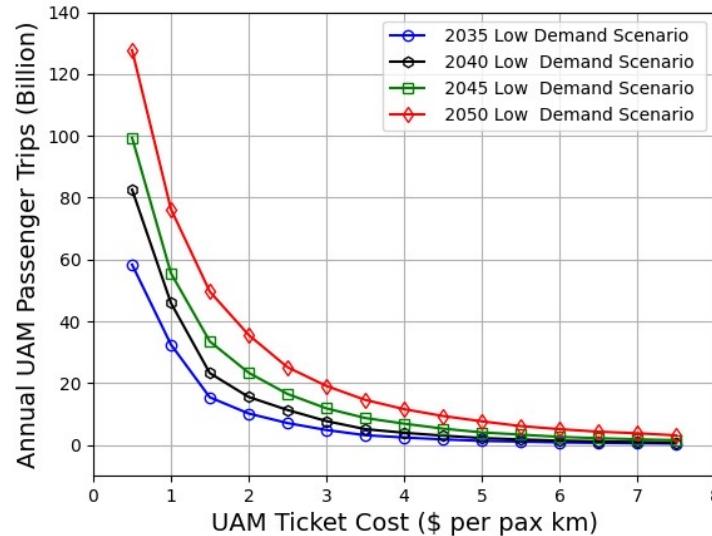
Each module can be supplied or filled with different levels or sources of data

UAM Demand Forecast Algorithm

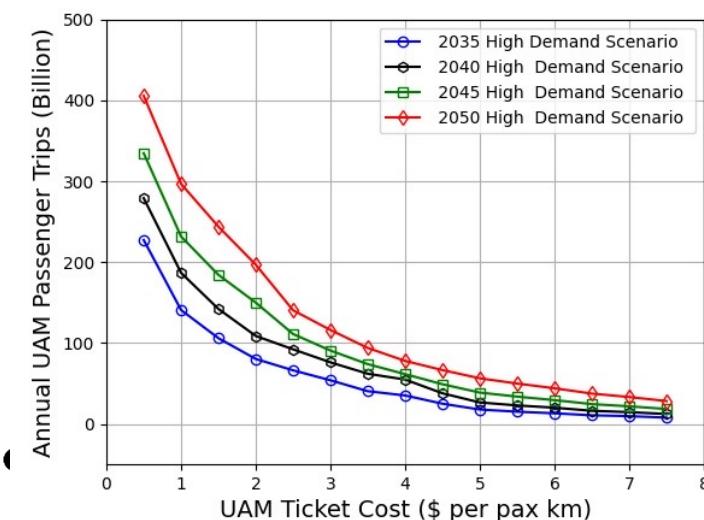


UAM Results and Conclusions

Low Demand



High Demand



Overall Bounded Scenario Outcomes (Low – High)

	2035	2050
UAM Pax Trips (Billion)	0.43 - 227.35	3.09- 405.54
UAM Utilization (Billion Hrs)	0.07 - 11.51	0.37 - 20.79
UAM PKM (Billion)	8.68 - 2762.11	43.88- 4990.71

- Strong market demand exists for a range of UAM ticket prices and vertiport densities, ranging from 0.43 billion annual pax trips globally up to 400 billion pax trips
- Demand expands exponentially with decreases in ticket price and vertiport network density
- Manufacturers may leverage these results to identify and plan for an optimal production rate
- City planners must focus on developing vertiport infrastructure quickly and efficiently
- UAM demand estimates are highly sensitive to the assumption made during the research

Acknowledgments

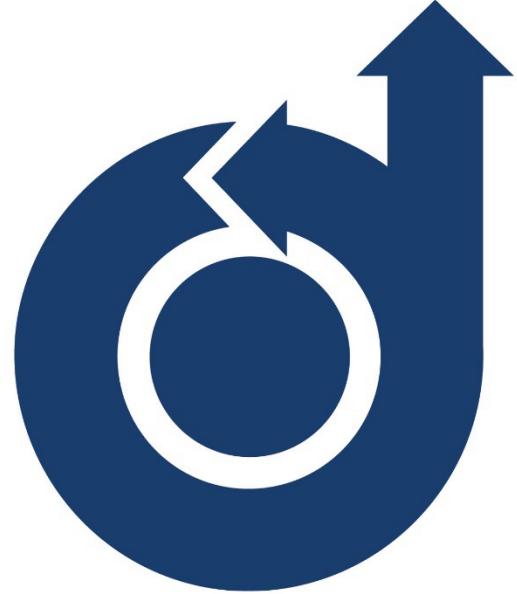
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Thank you!
Questions?

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