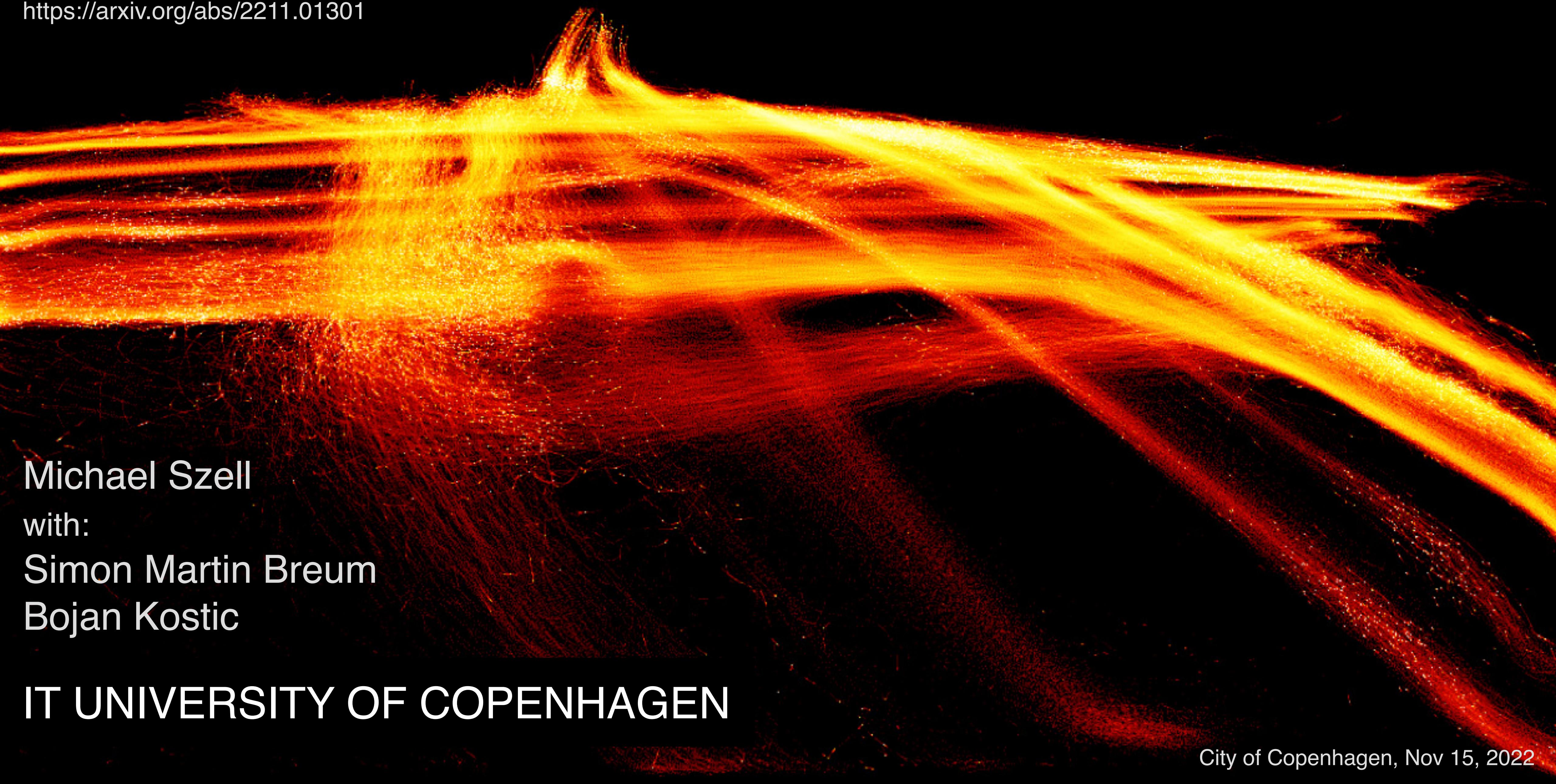


# Computational desire line analysis of cyclists on the Dybbølsbro intersection

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2211.01301>



Michael Szell

with:

Simon Martin Breum

Bojan Kostic

IT UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

# We are NERDS

NEtworks, Data, and Society

[nerds.itu.dk](http://nerds.itu.dk)

14 members, founded 2019, Network science expertise

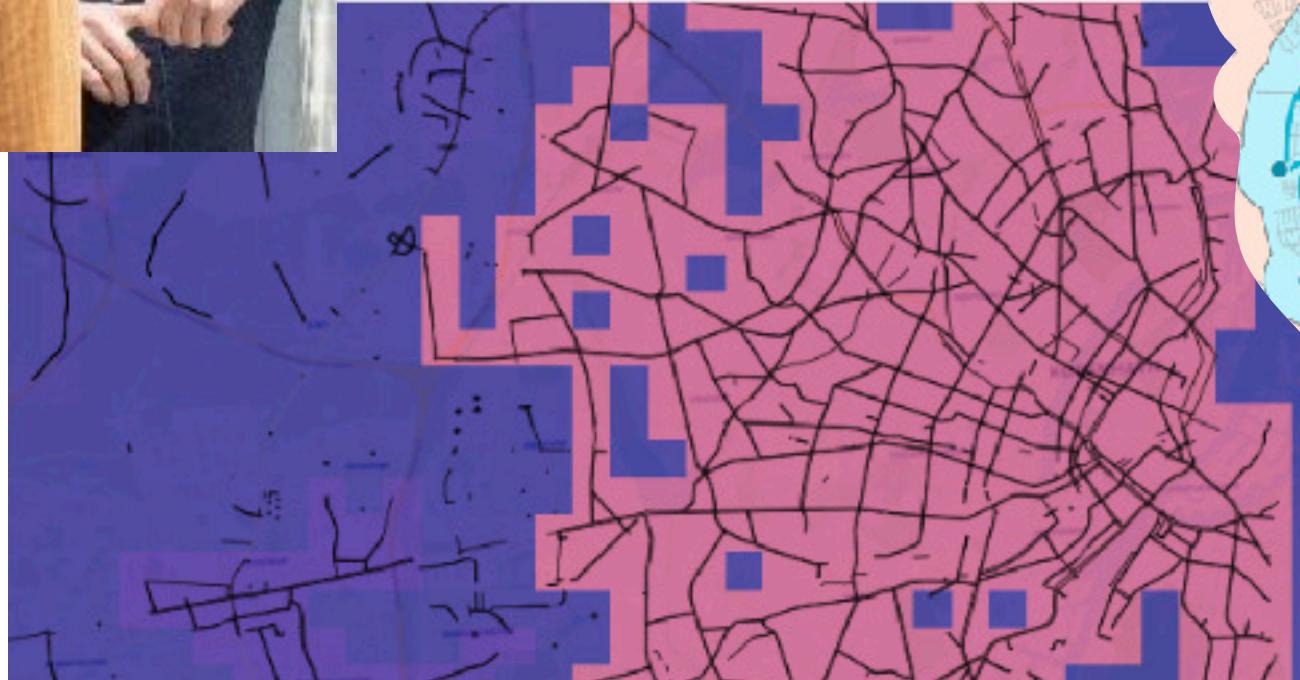
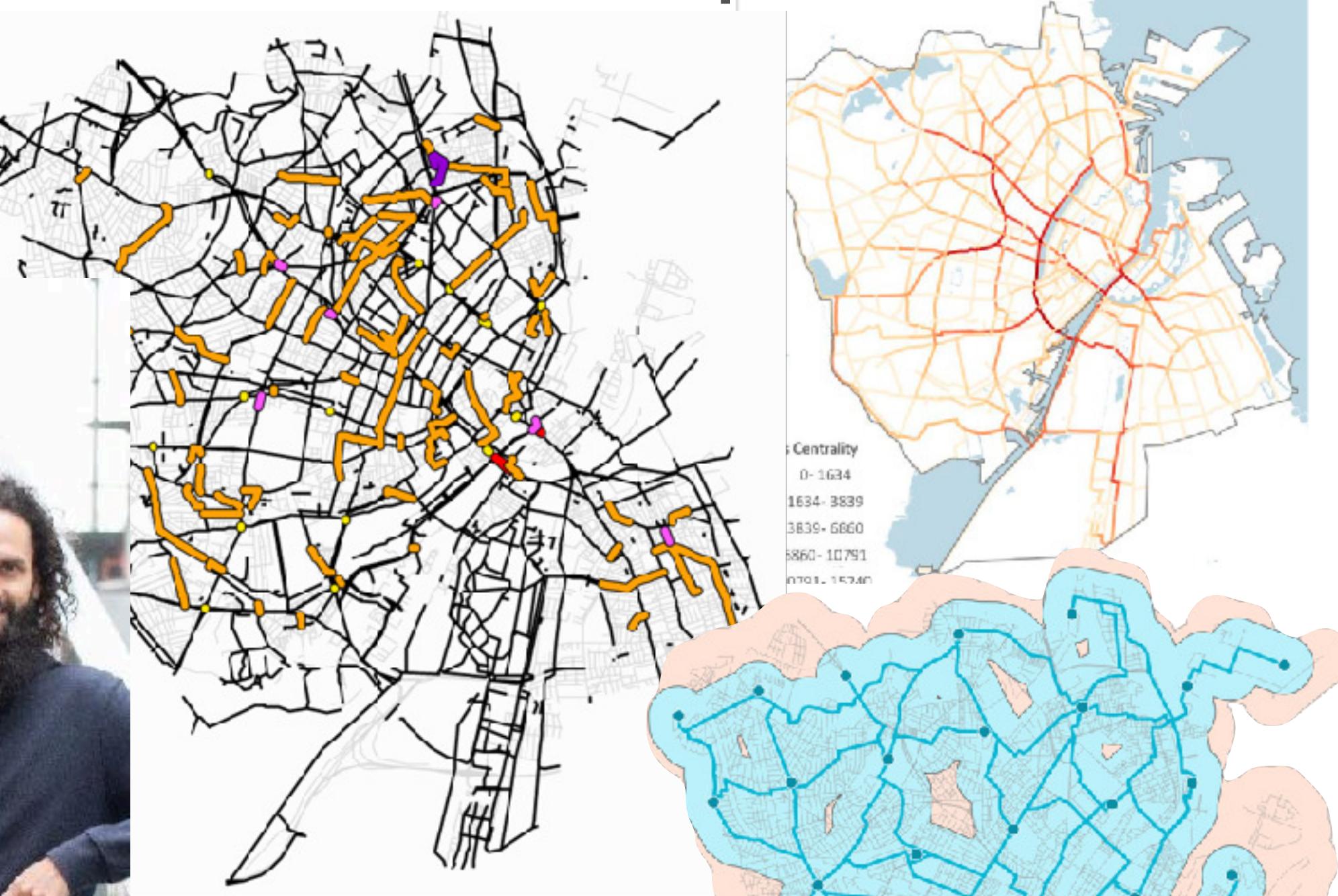


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NEtwoRks, Data, and Society

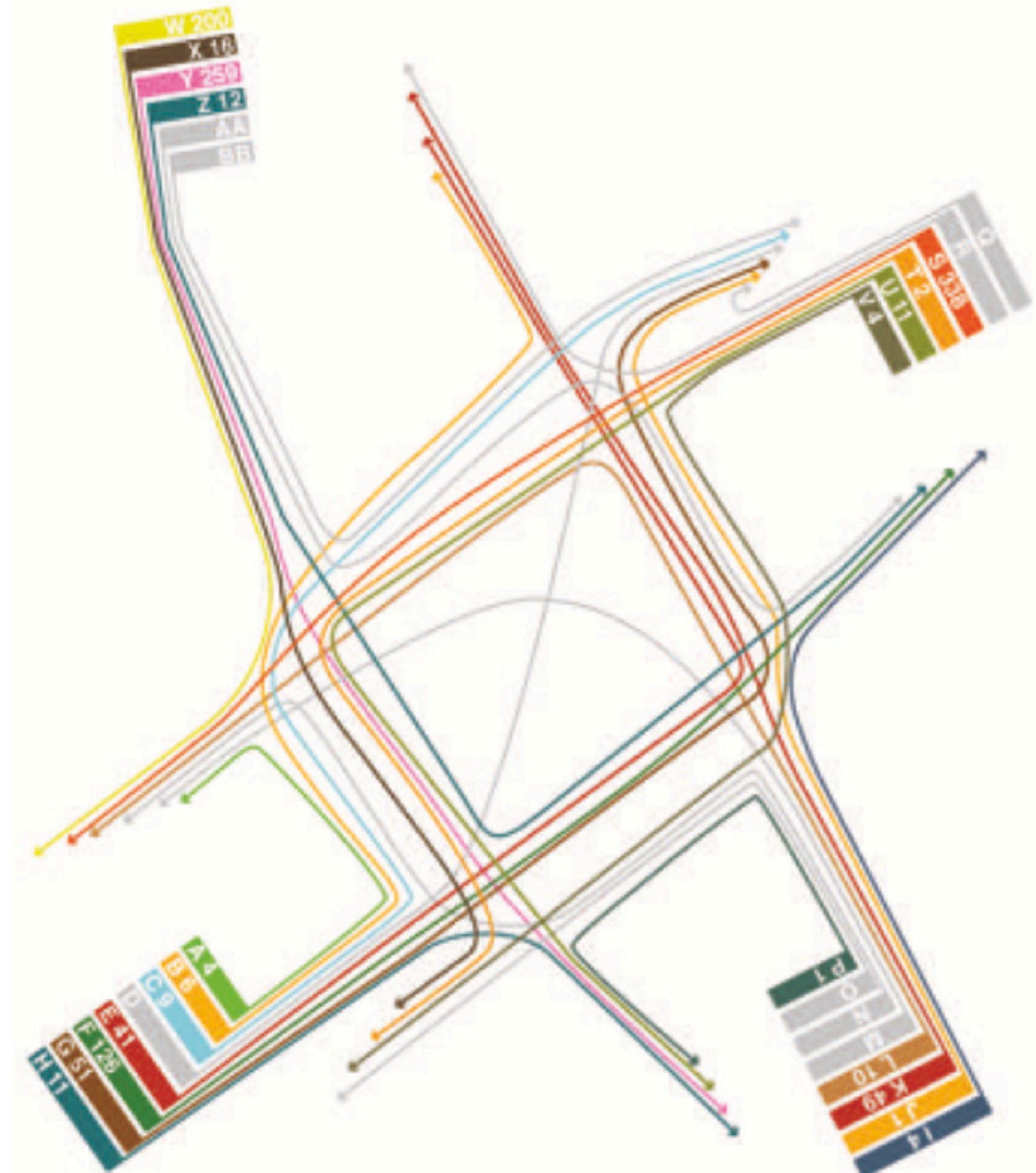
[nerds.itu.dk](http://nerds.itu.dk)

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# Desire line analysis is important

Uncovers discrepancy between cyclist behaviour and design

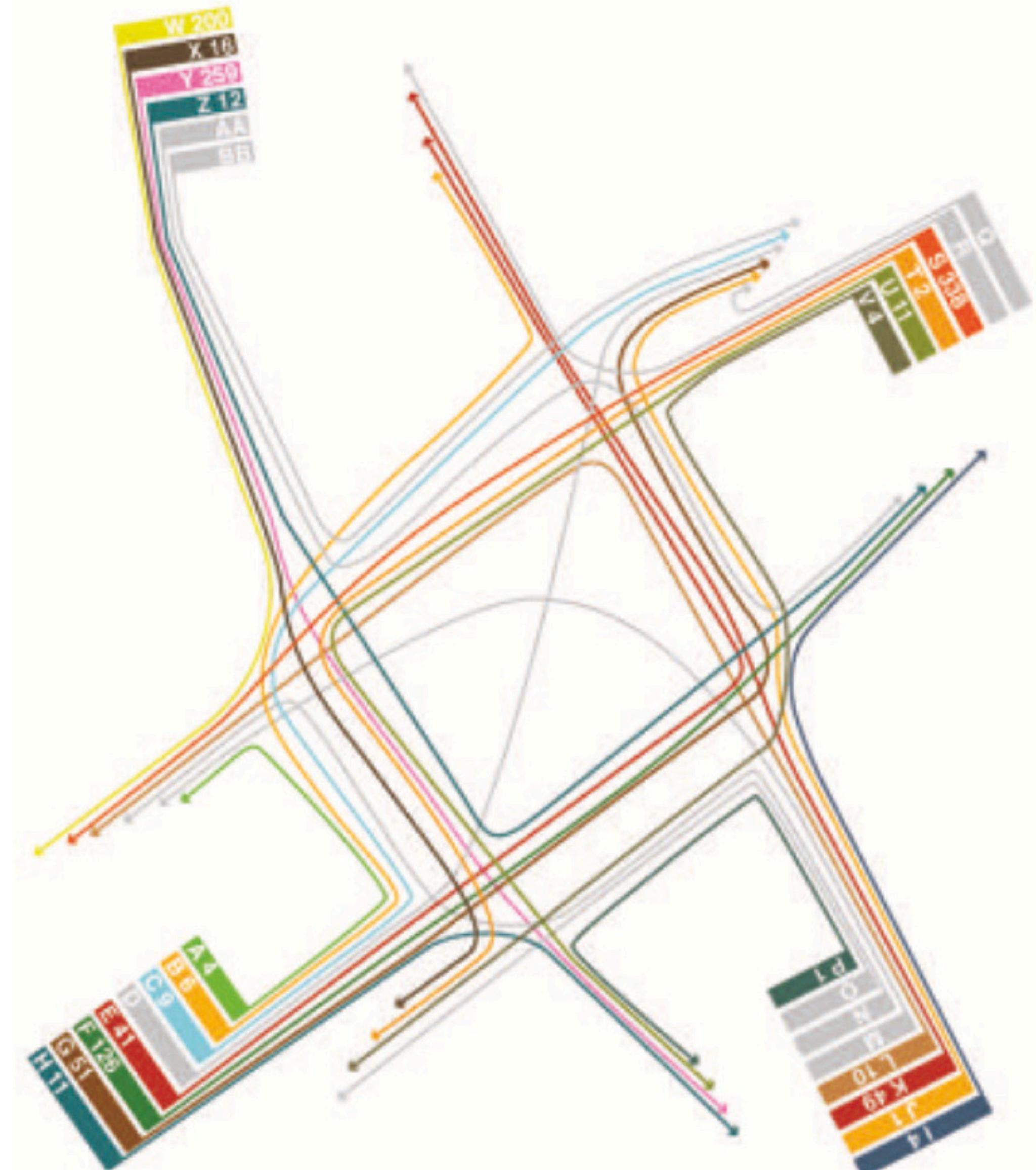


# Desire line analysis is manual, therefore **costly**

*What I learned from staring  
at 106,000 cyclists*



Can count paths, but not  
quantify them rigorously



Copenhagenize

# Automated methods have some problems

Heavy-weight



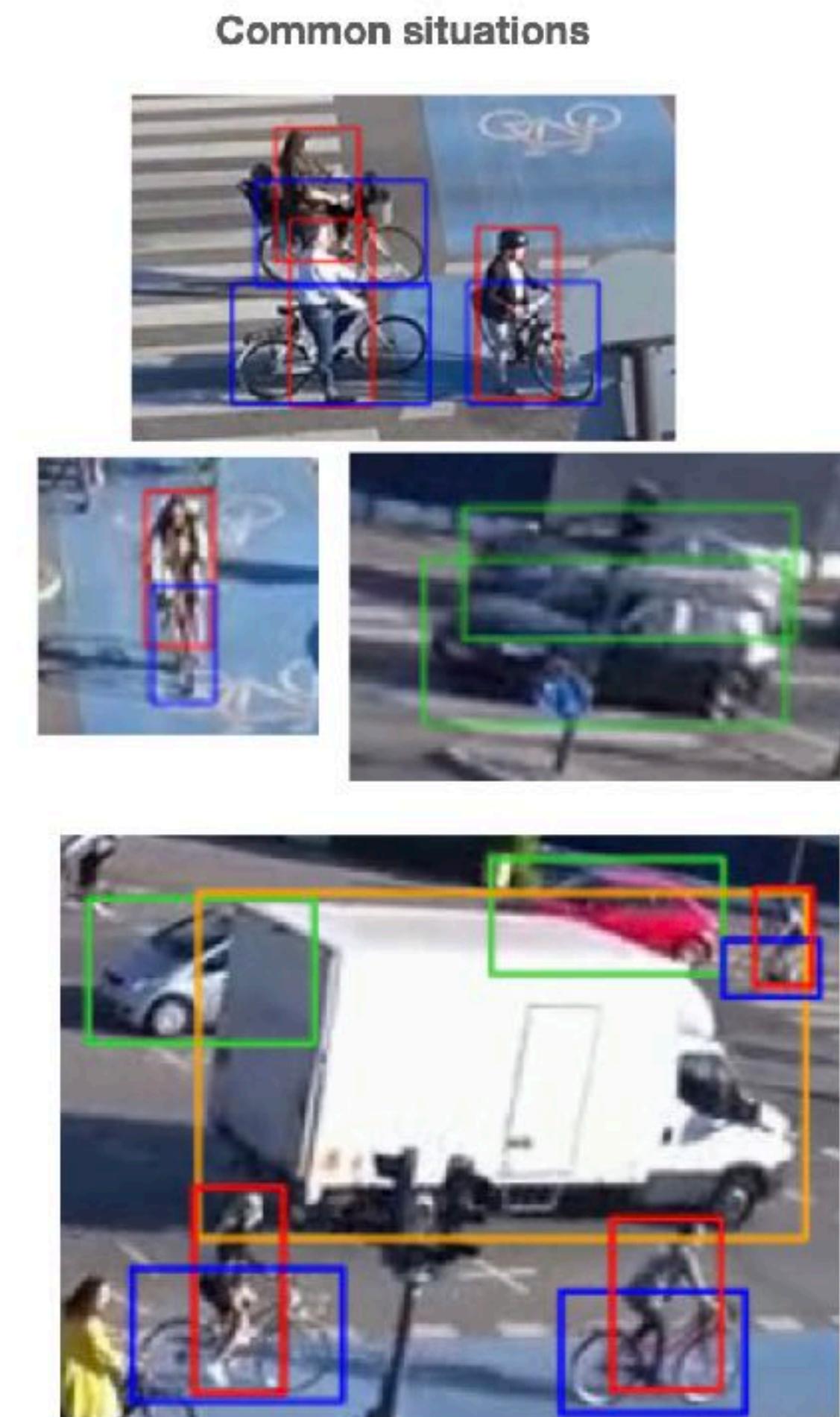
Car-centric



Focus on counting

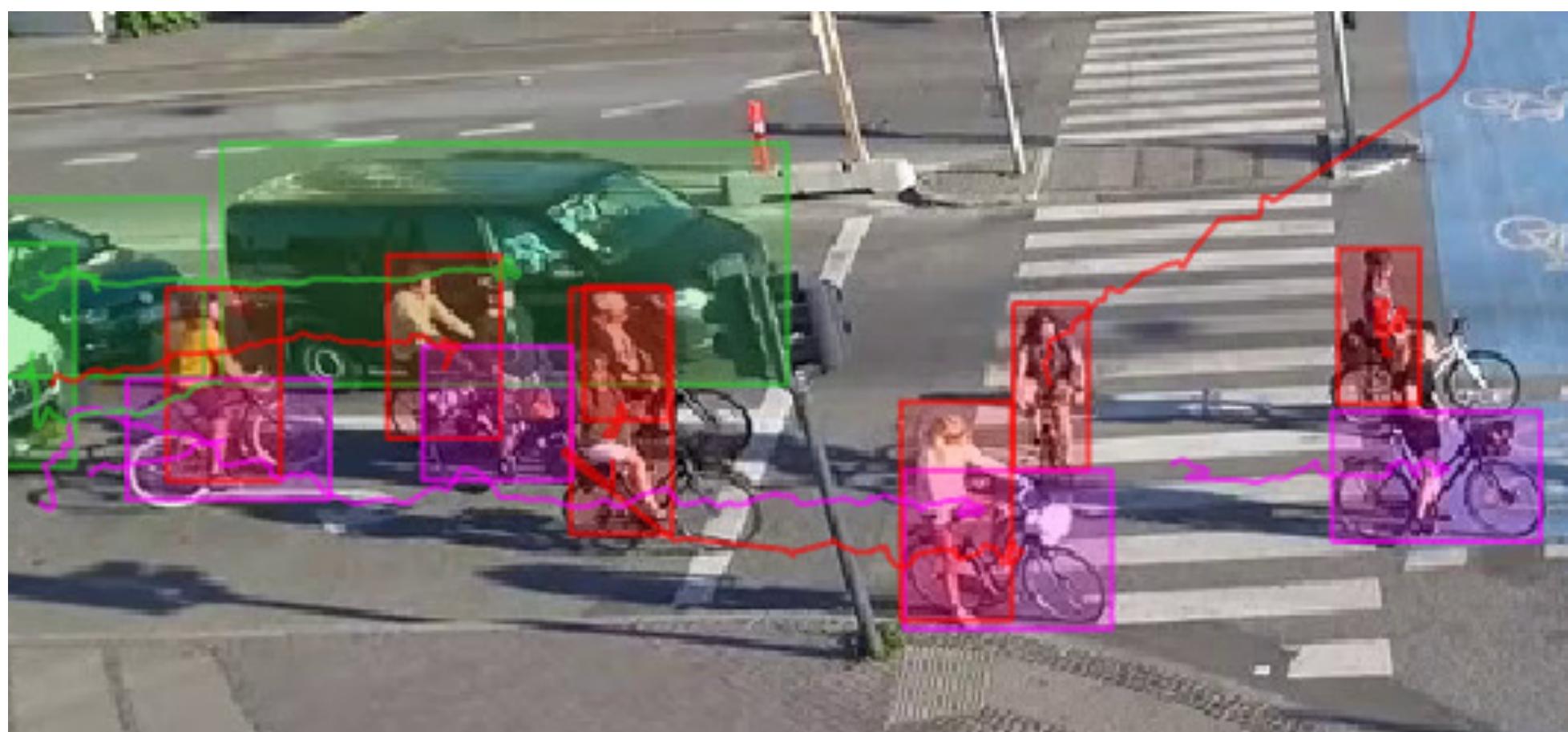
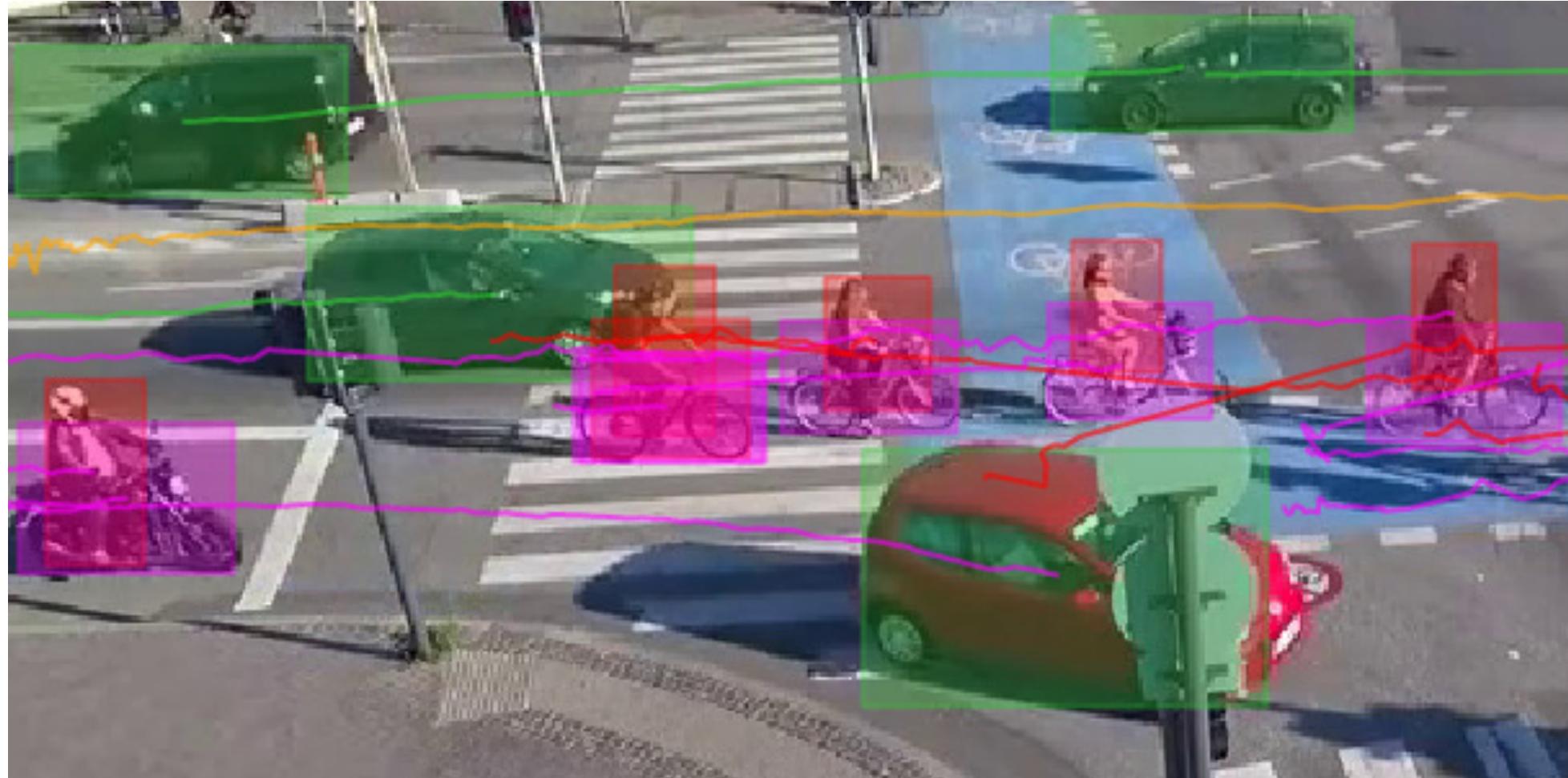
# To fix this, we trained a detection algorithm for cyclists

## Manual annotation



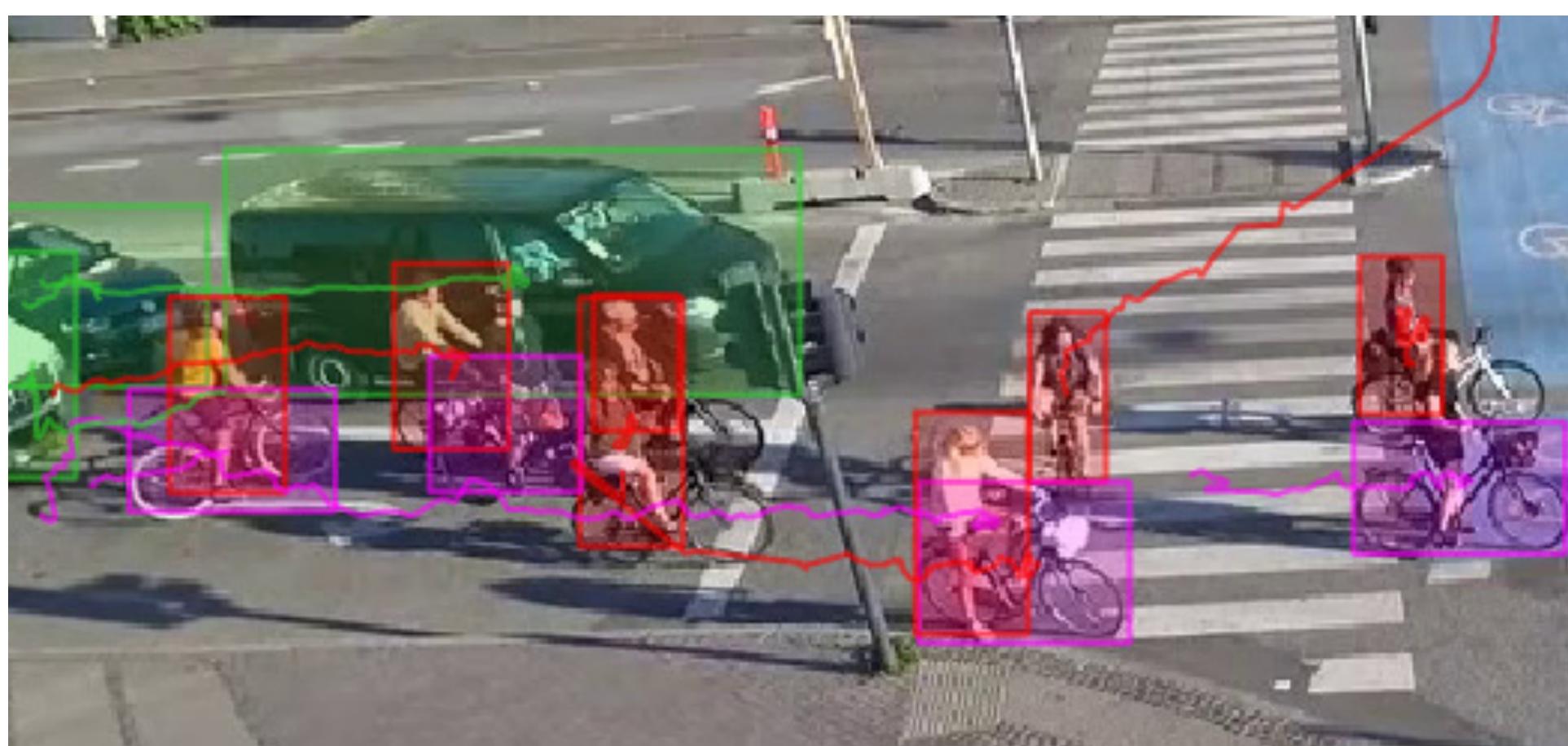
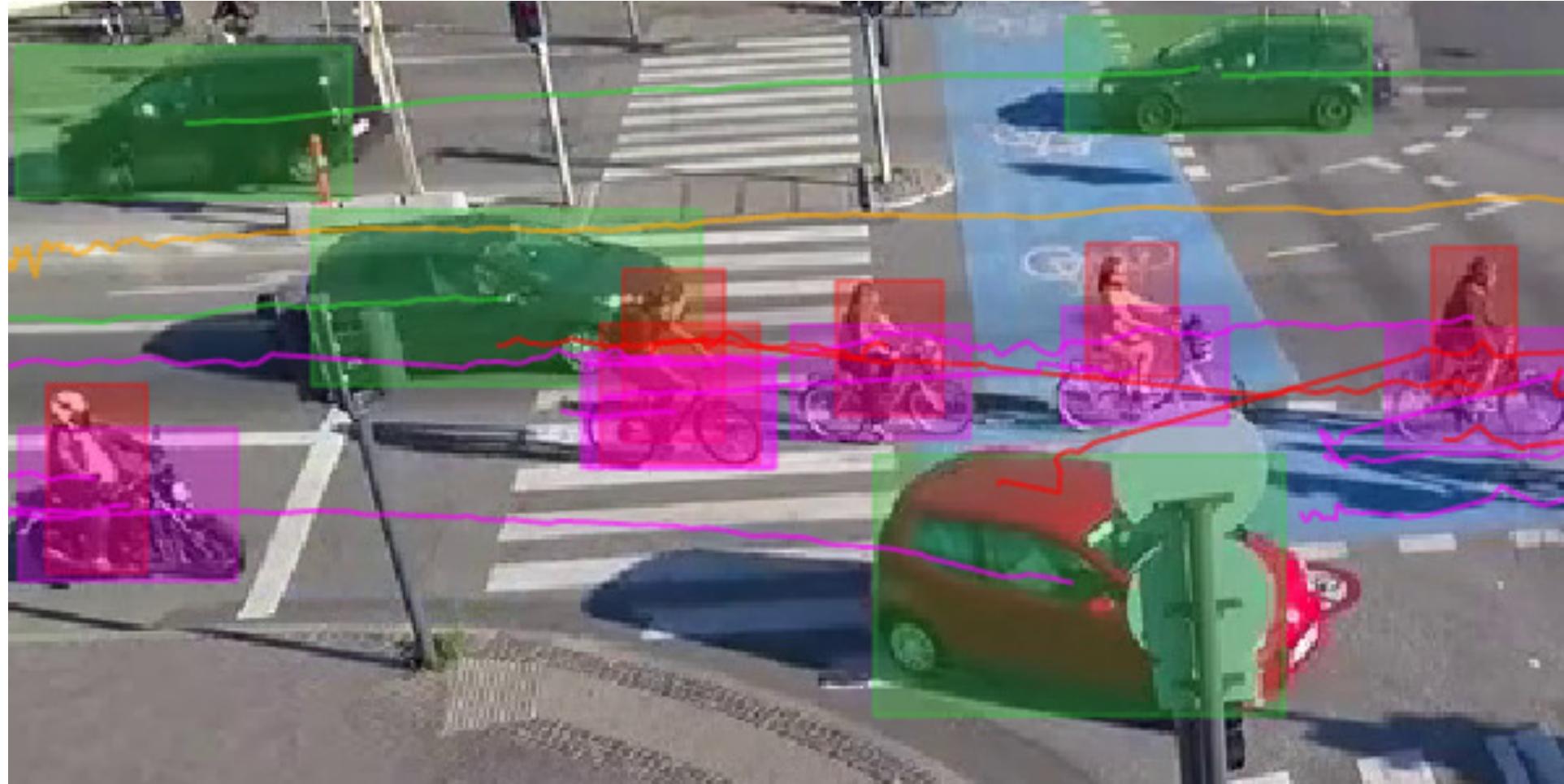
# To fix this, we trained a detection algorithm for cyclists

Good detection → easier tracking

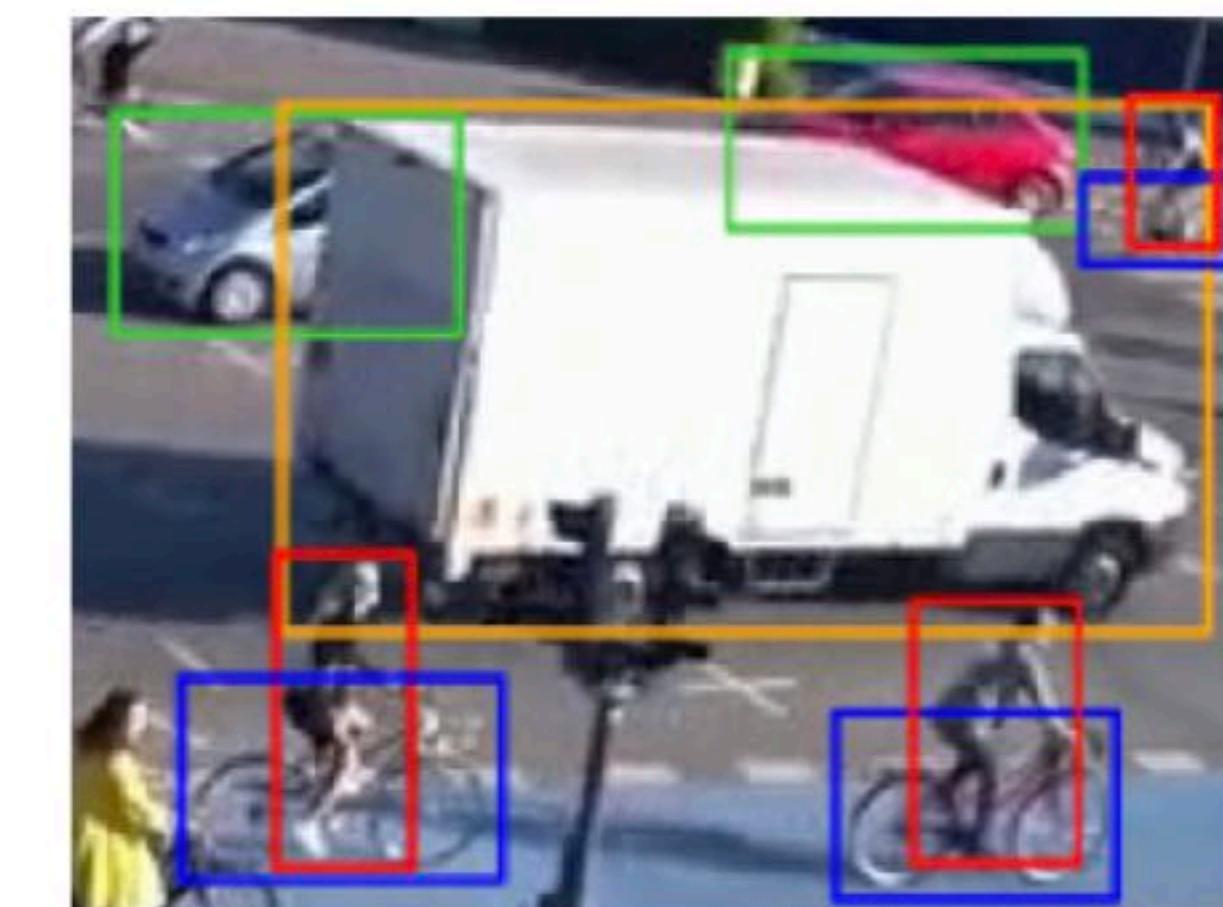


# To fix this, we trained a detection algorithm for cyclists

Good detection → easier tracking



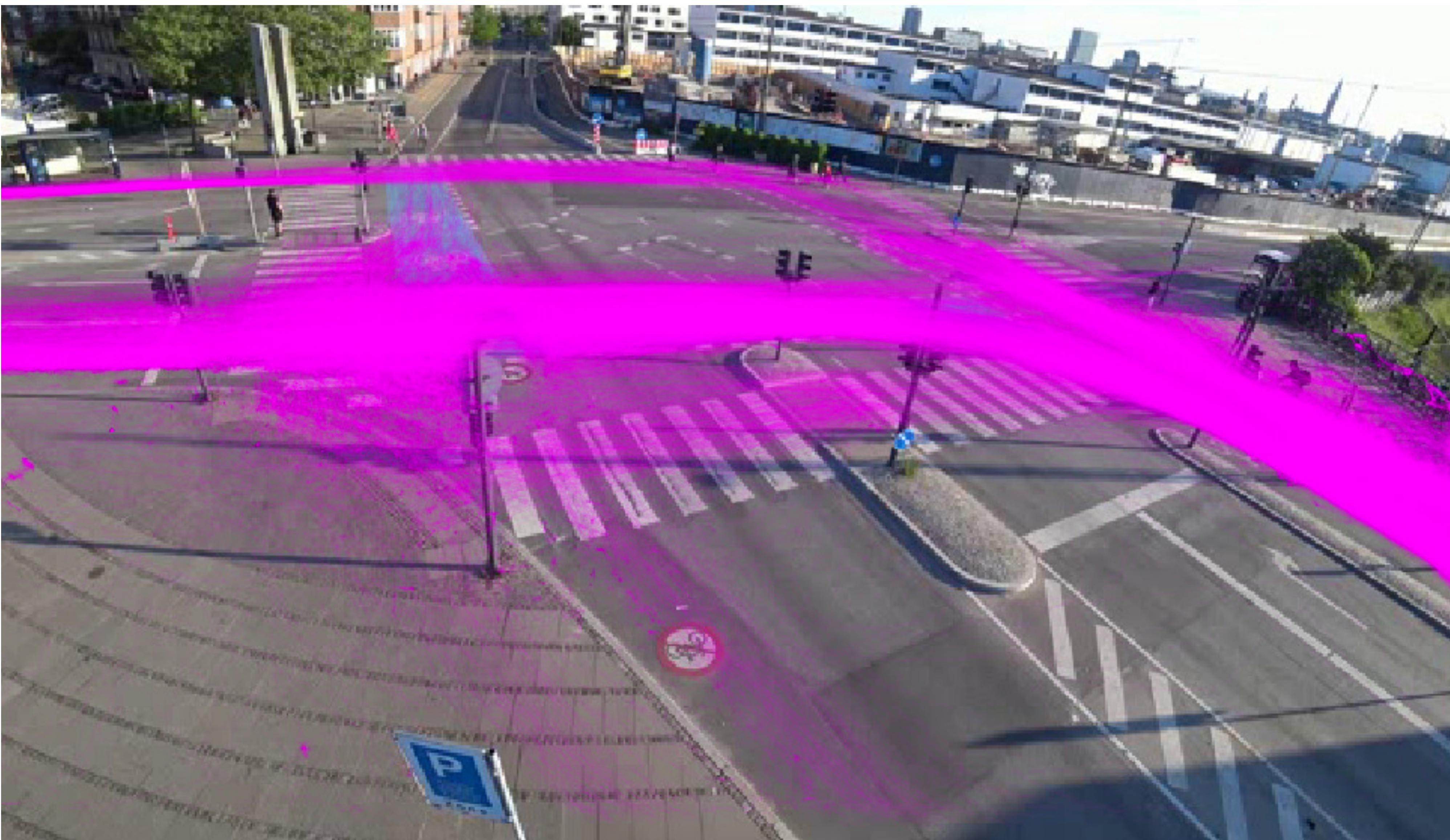
Bad detection → difficult tracking



There are still many issues...

Here we work with 11,553 cyclist trajectories

Wednesday, June 9th, 2021, 7:00-8:00



Video was taken by COWI, but mobile phone also possible

Wednesday, June 9th, 2021, 7:00-17:00



Adjustable arm with grip



Self-made cardboard holder

"Citizen science"?

# The Dybbølsbro intersection is a tough nut

**Local Round-Up: City planners rethink problematic Fisketorvet junction – again!**

Also evolving is the way we sort our rubbish, with residents heavily involved in the process!

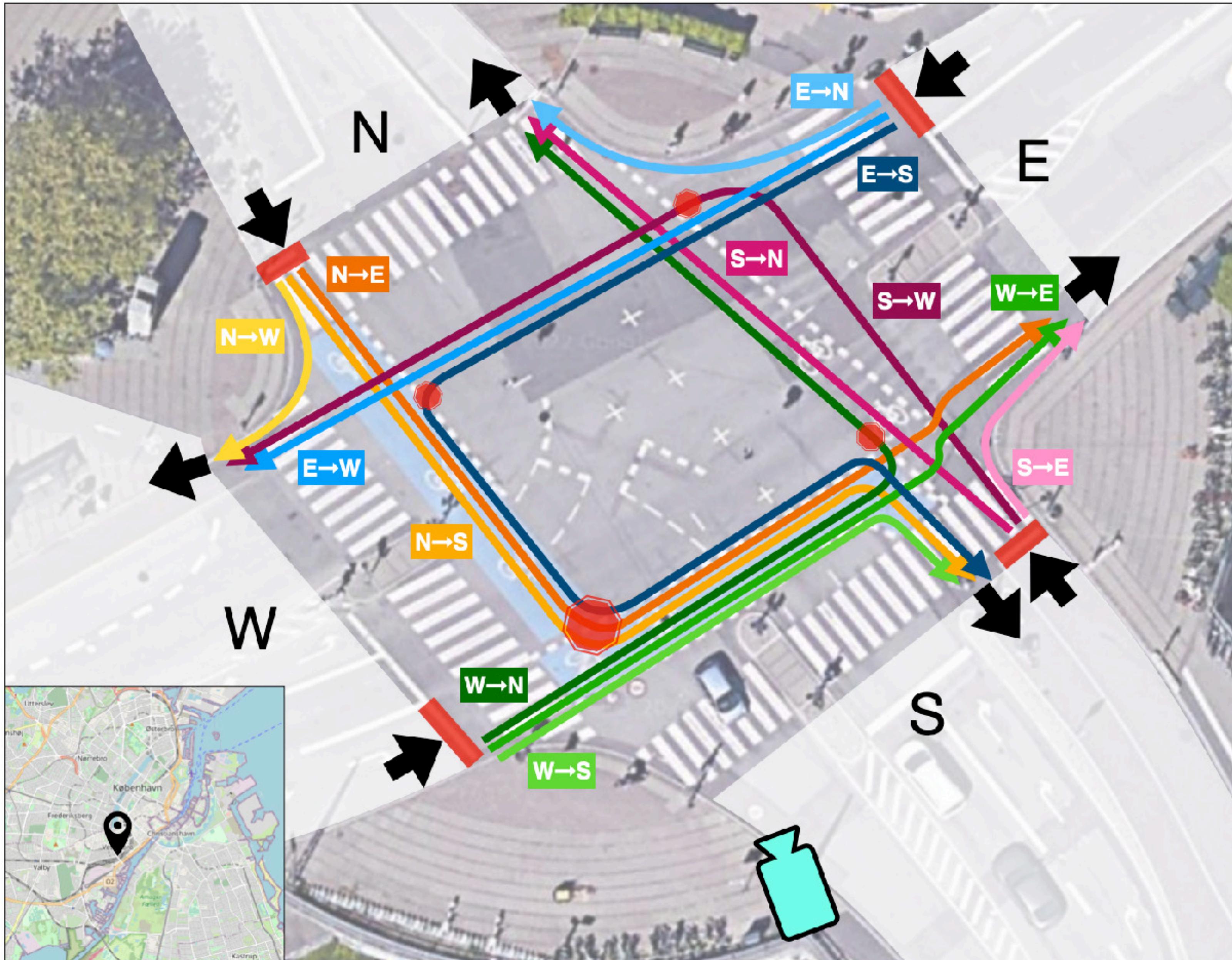
## **Omstridt og berygtet lyskryds får løsning, der aldrig før er set i Danmark**

Politikerne i Københavns Kommune sætter nu 3,5 millioner kroner af til at forsøge at rette op på det trafikale kaos i lyskrydset ved Dybbølsbro. Skulptur må lade livet.



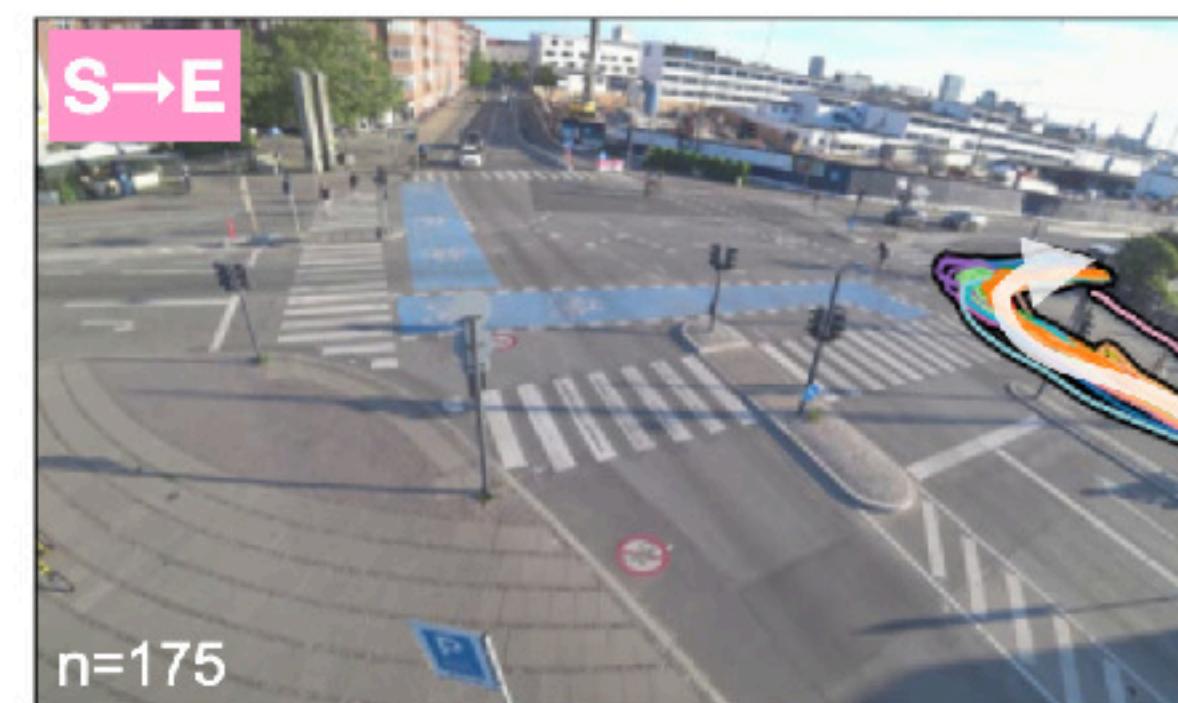
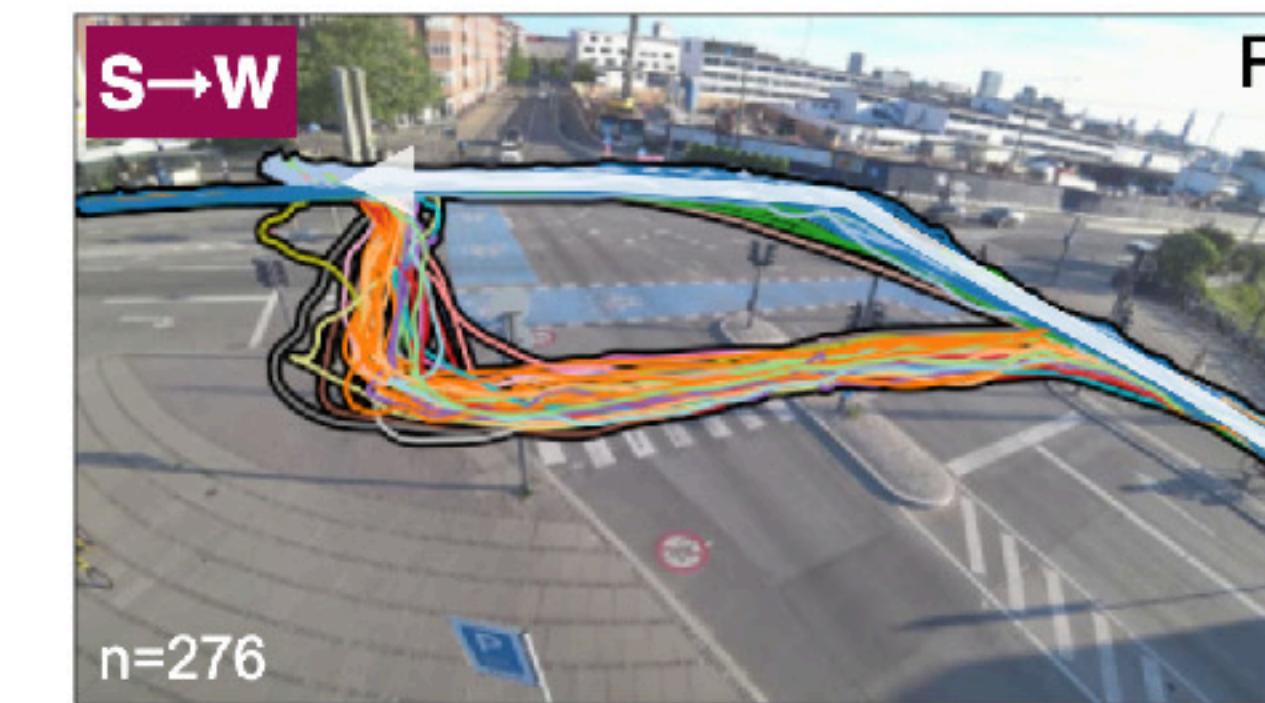
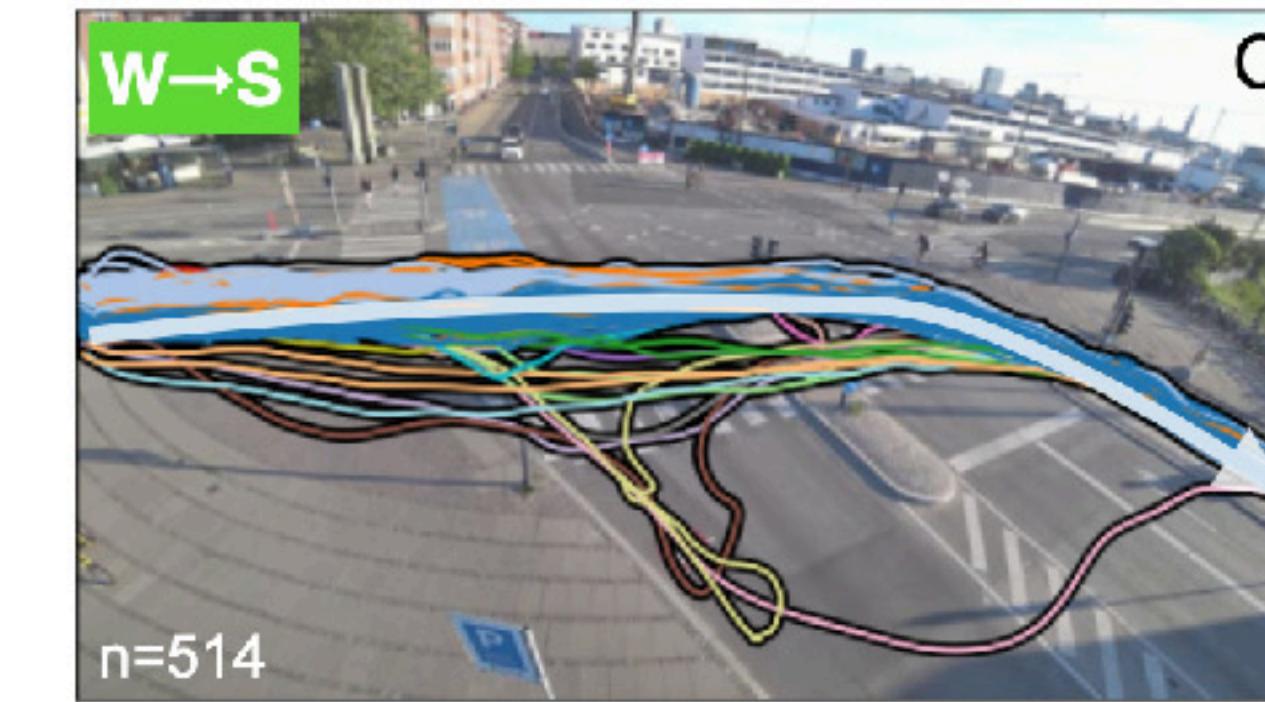
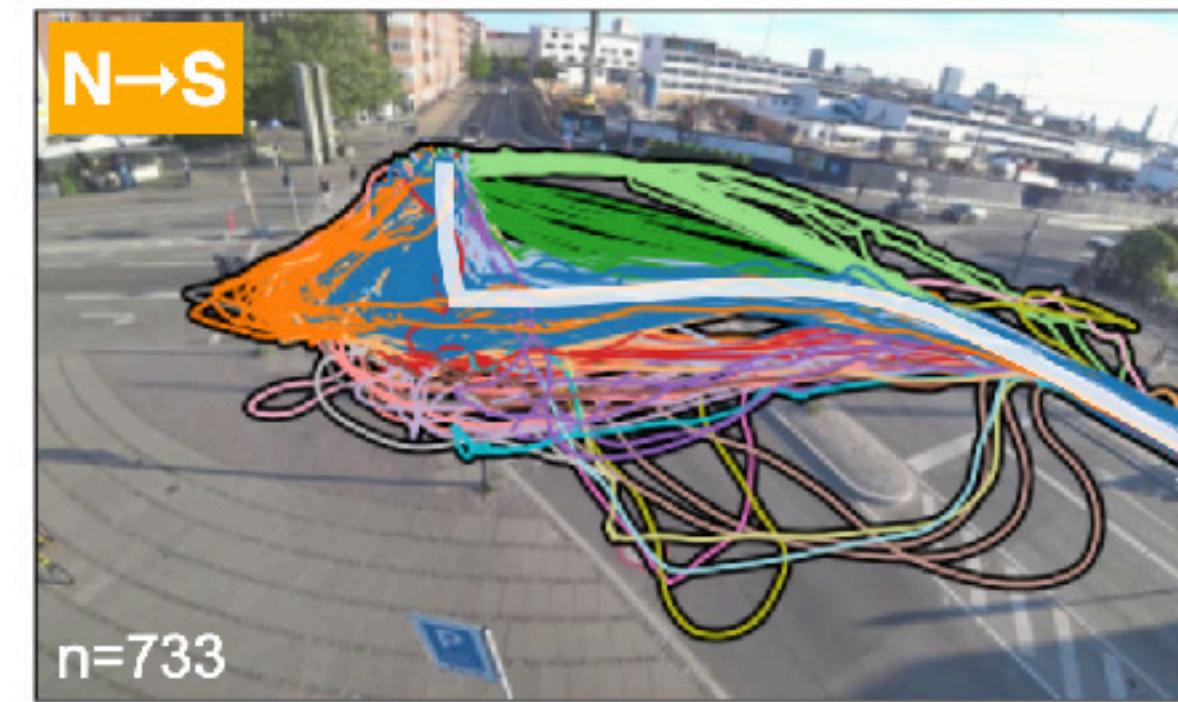
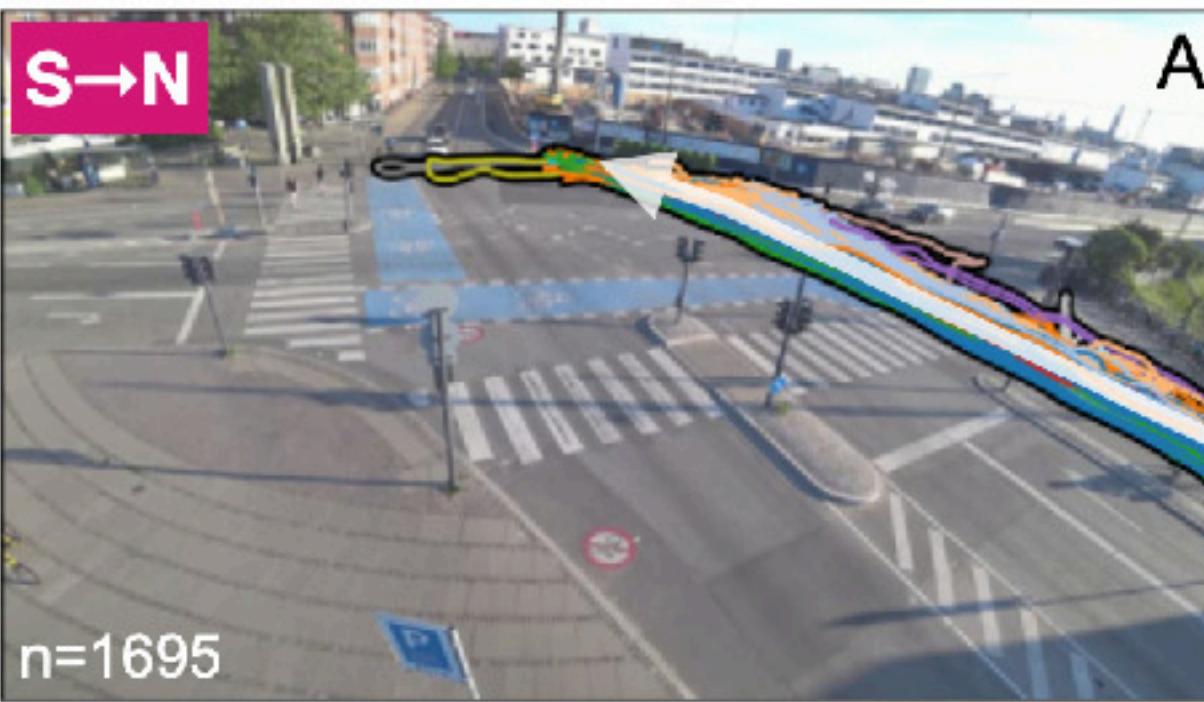
You know all the issues...

# We spatially cluster trajectories into origin-destination clusters



12 possible  
intended paths

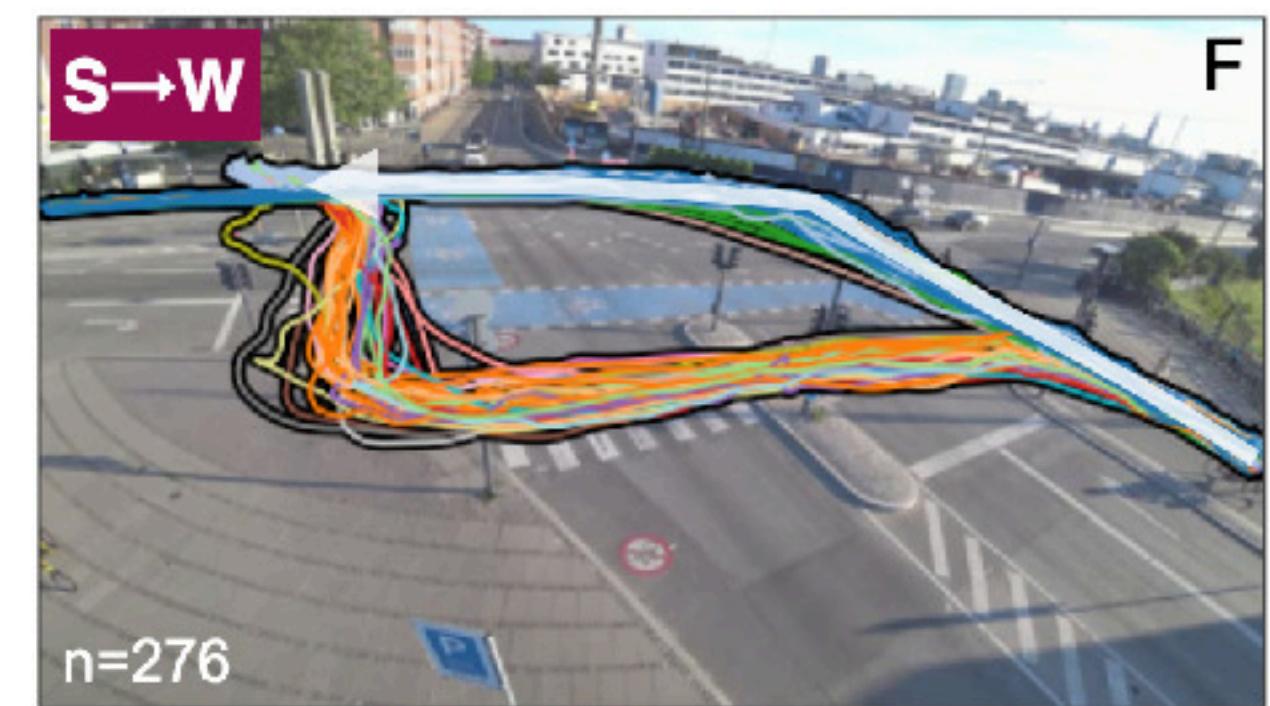
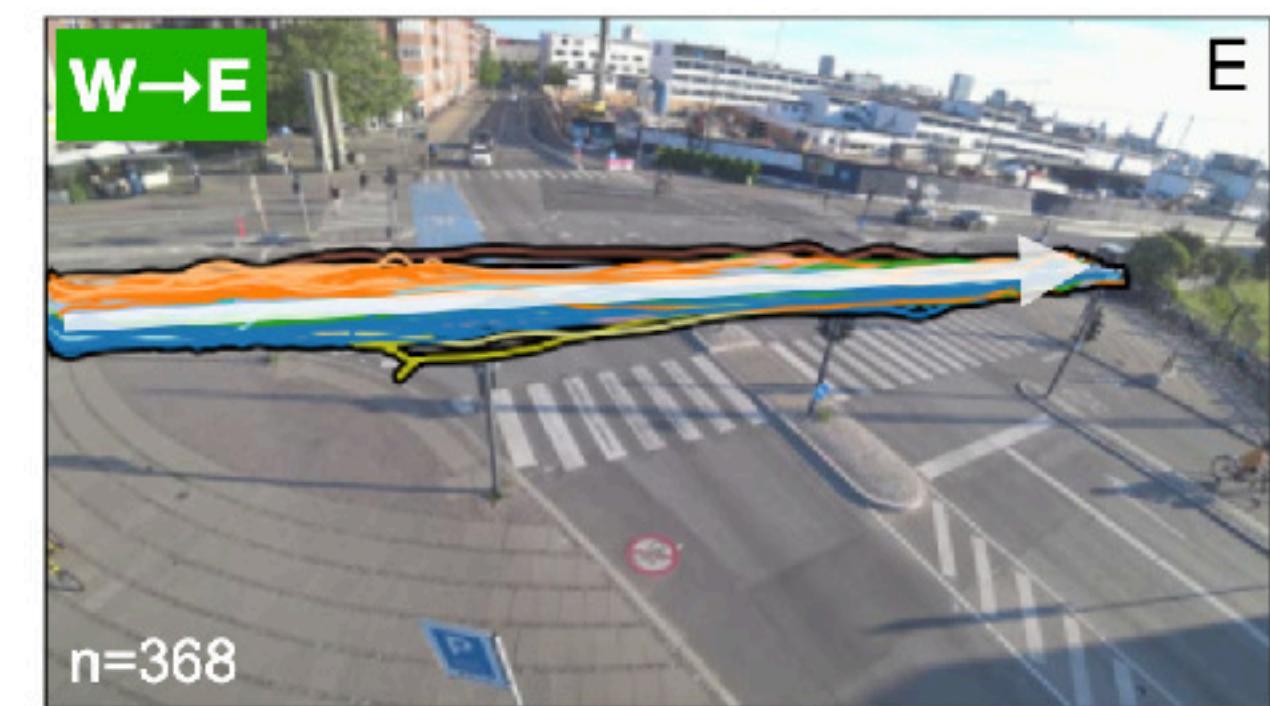
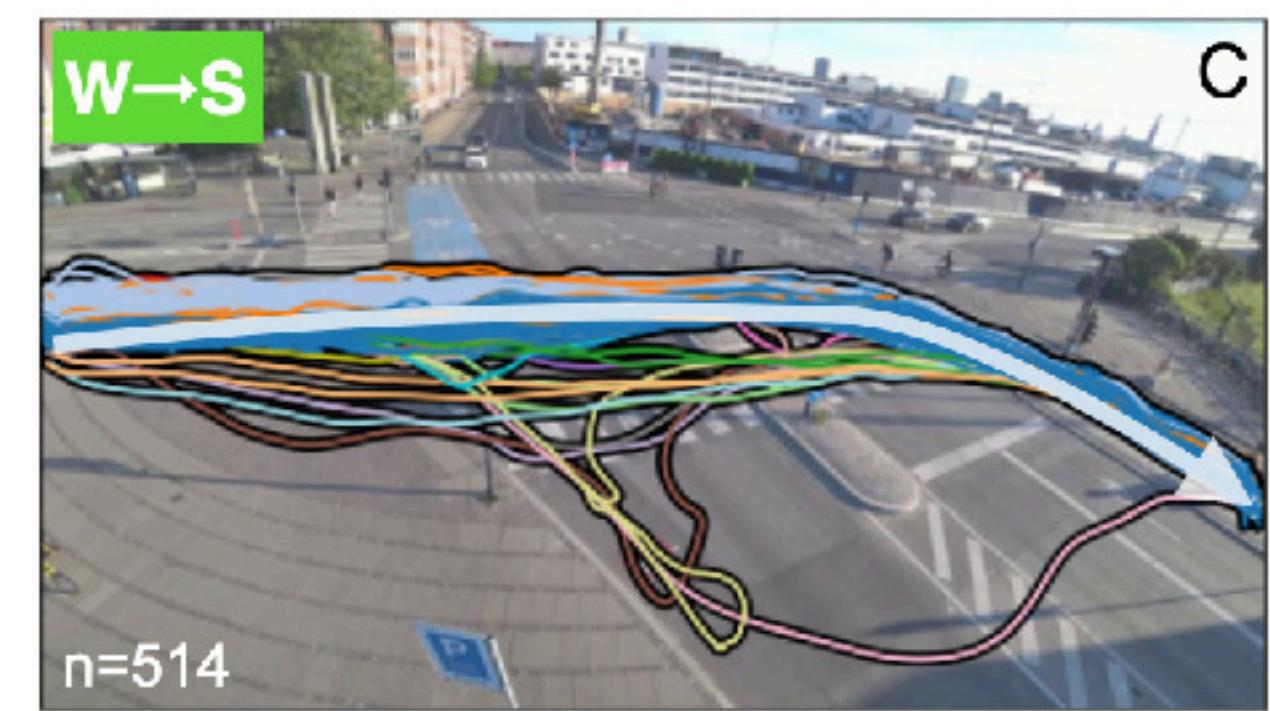
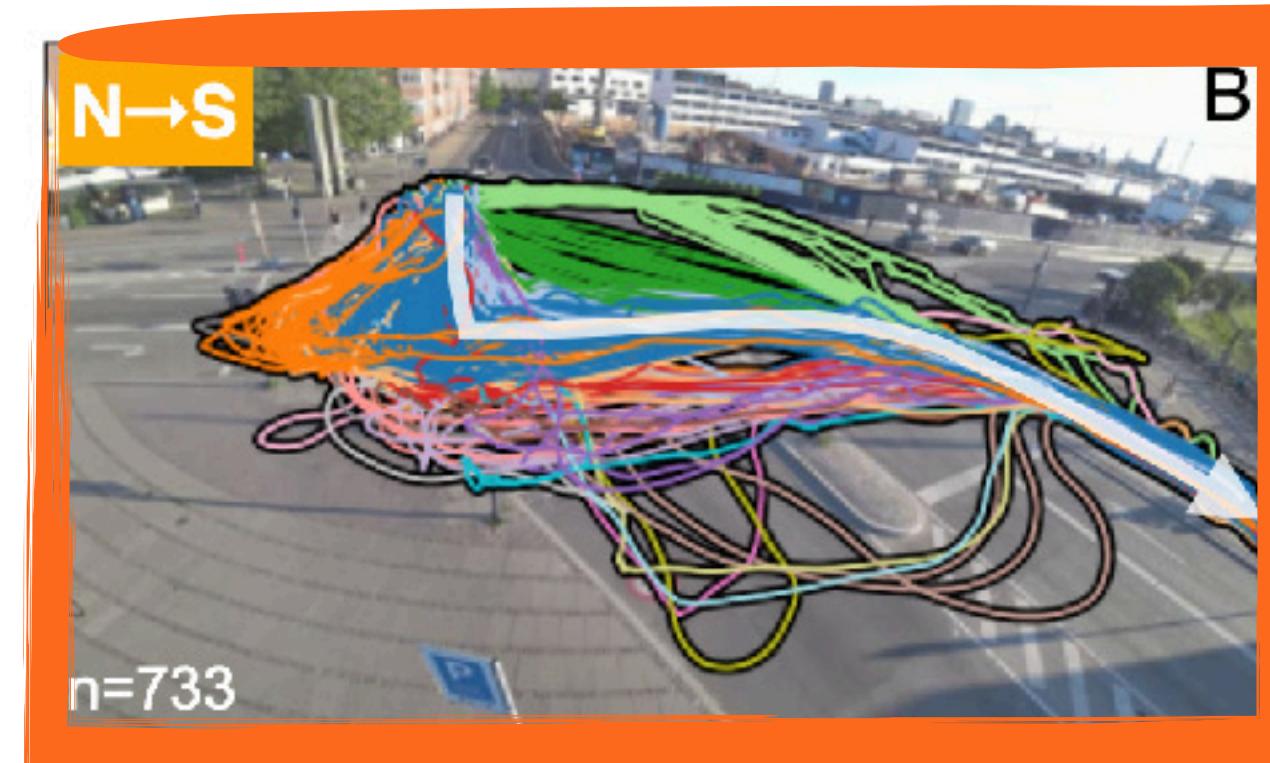
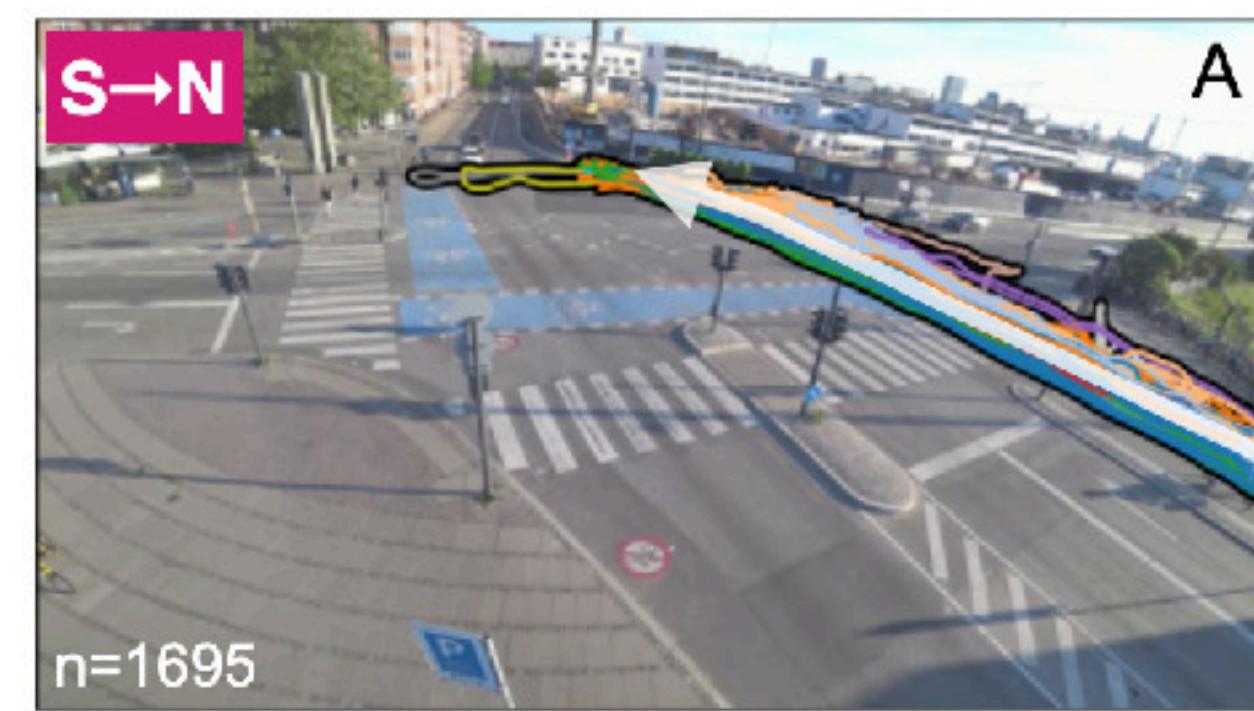
# We can match 4432 trajectories to 9 origin-destination clusters



We discarded  
7121 trajectories

Not enough for  
 $N\rightarrow E$ ,  $W\rightarrow N$ ,  $E\rightarrow N$ ,

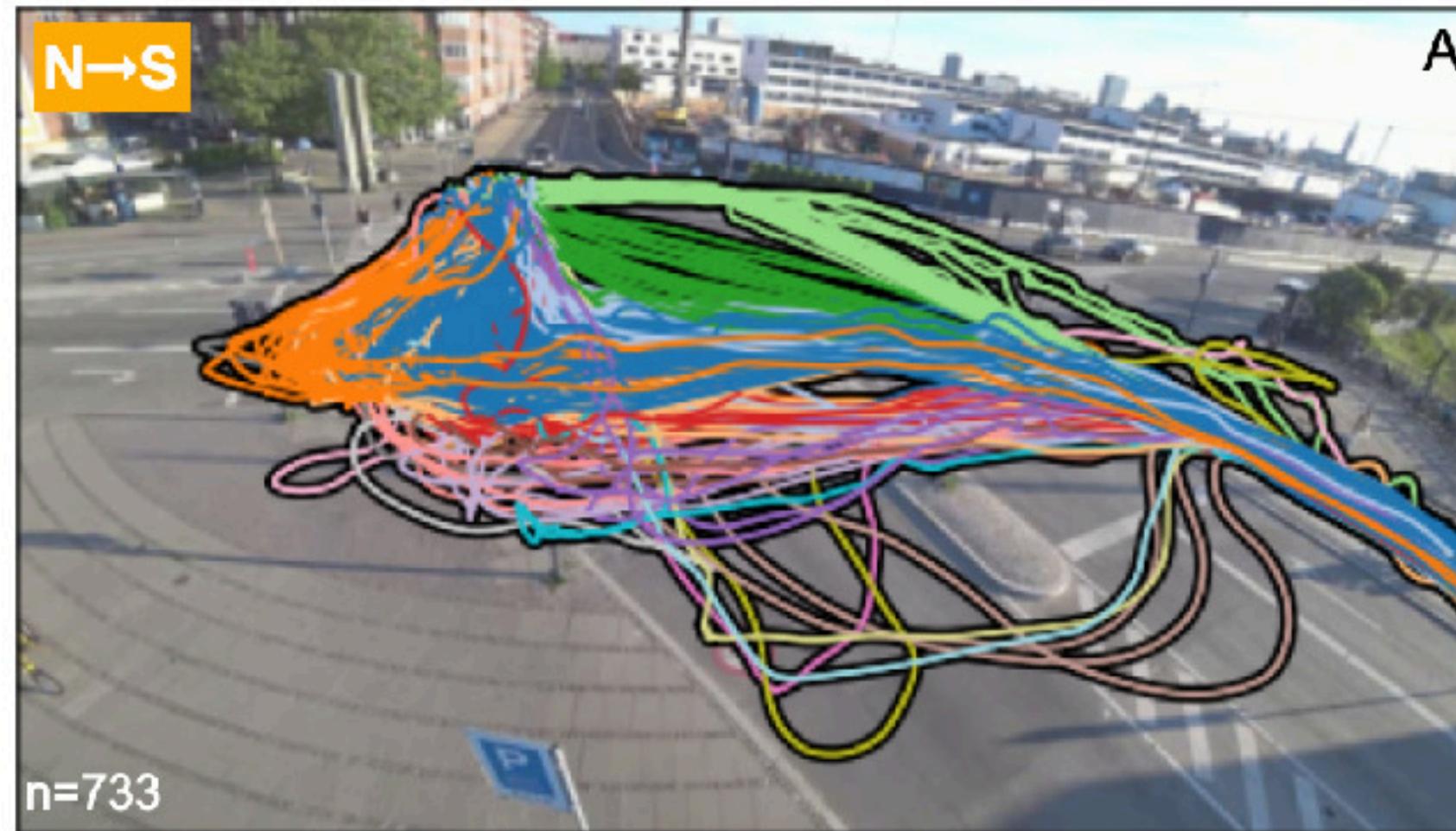
# Next we focus on N→S and E→S



We discarded  
7121 trajectories

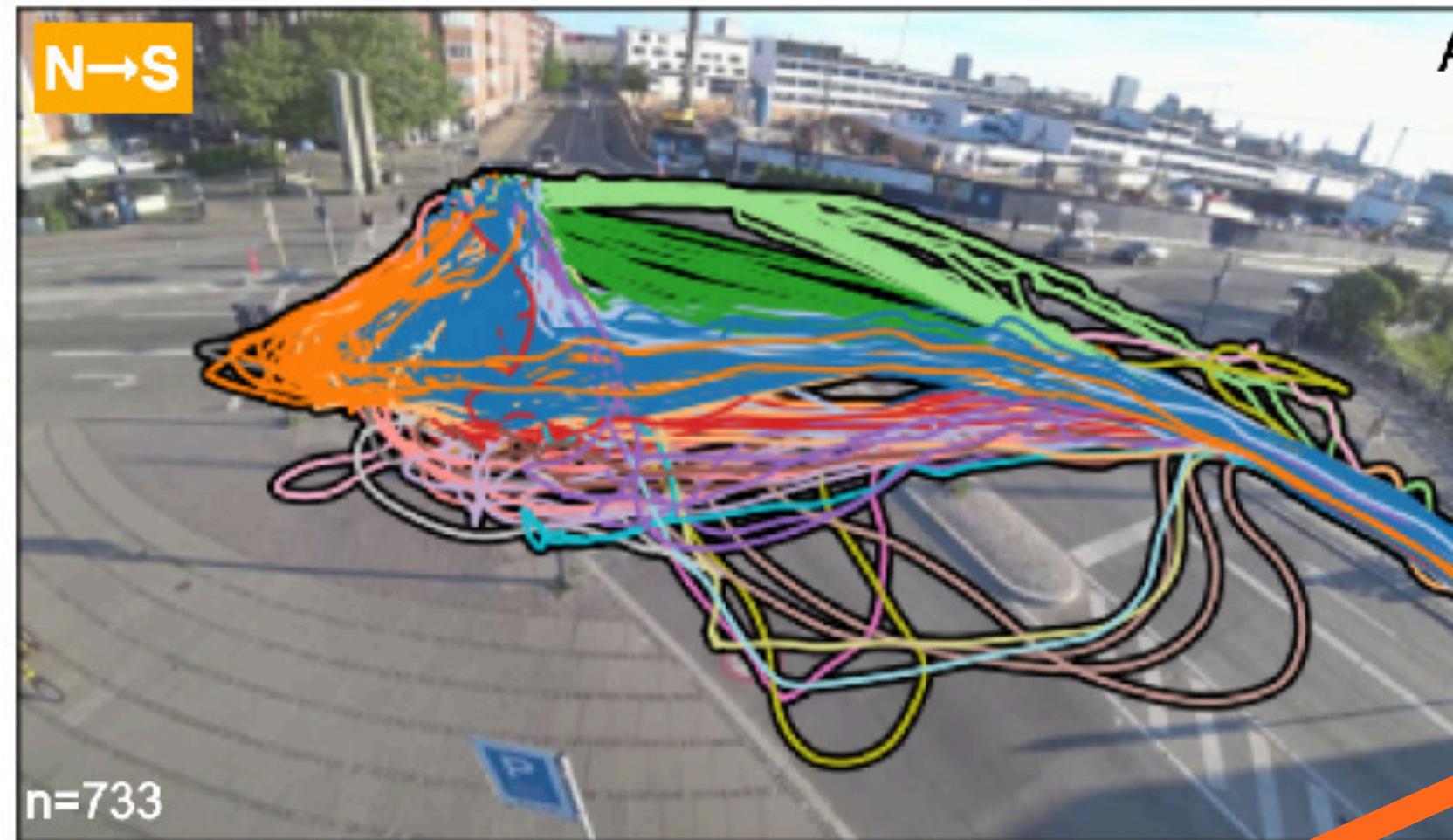
Not enough for  
N→E, W→N, E→N,

We separated trajectories into path-clusters with dynamic time warping



In just  
1 hour!

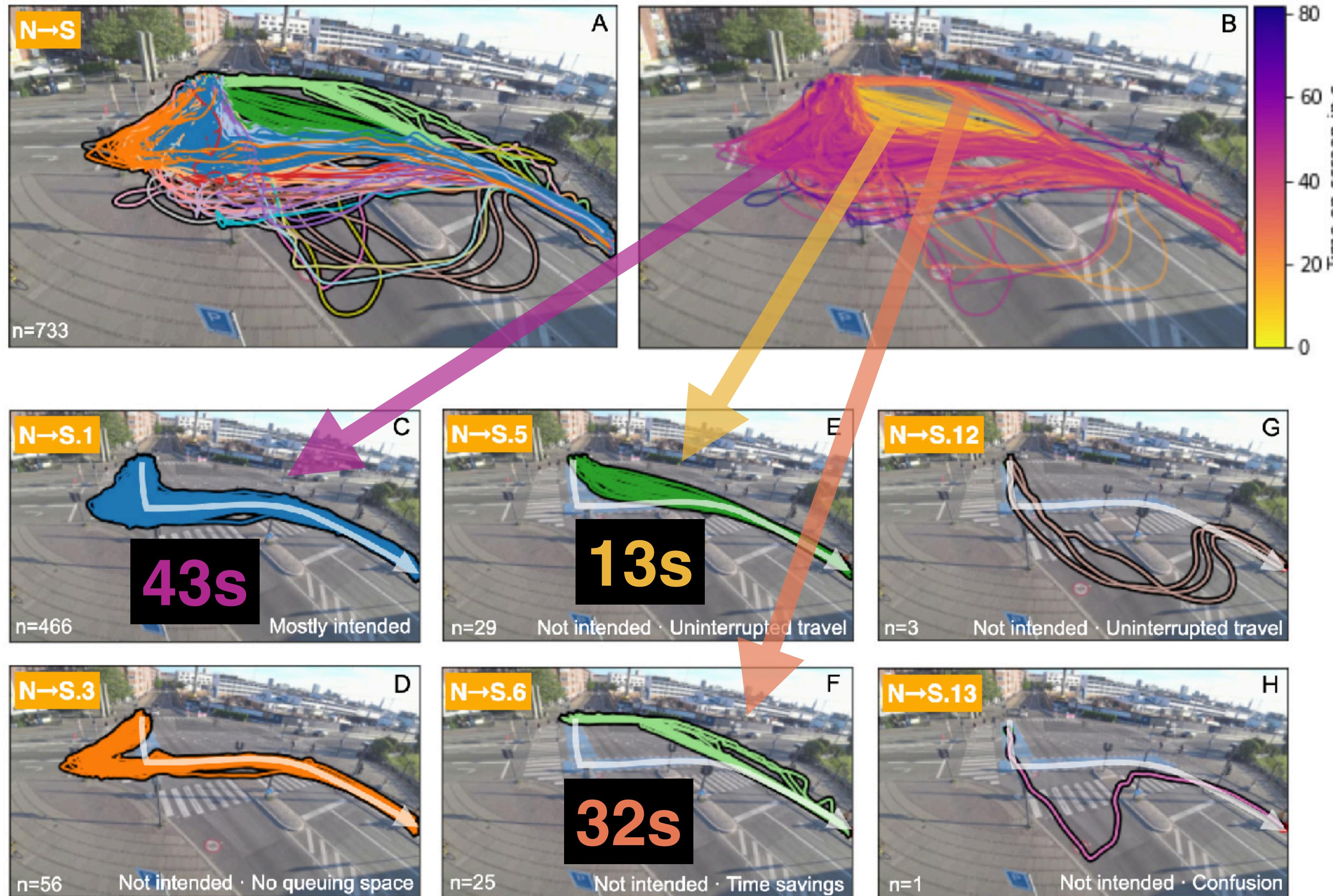
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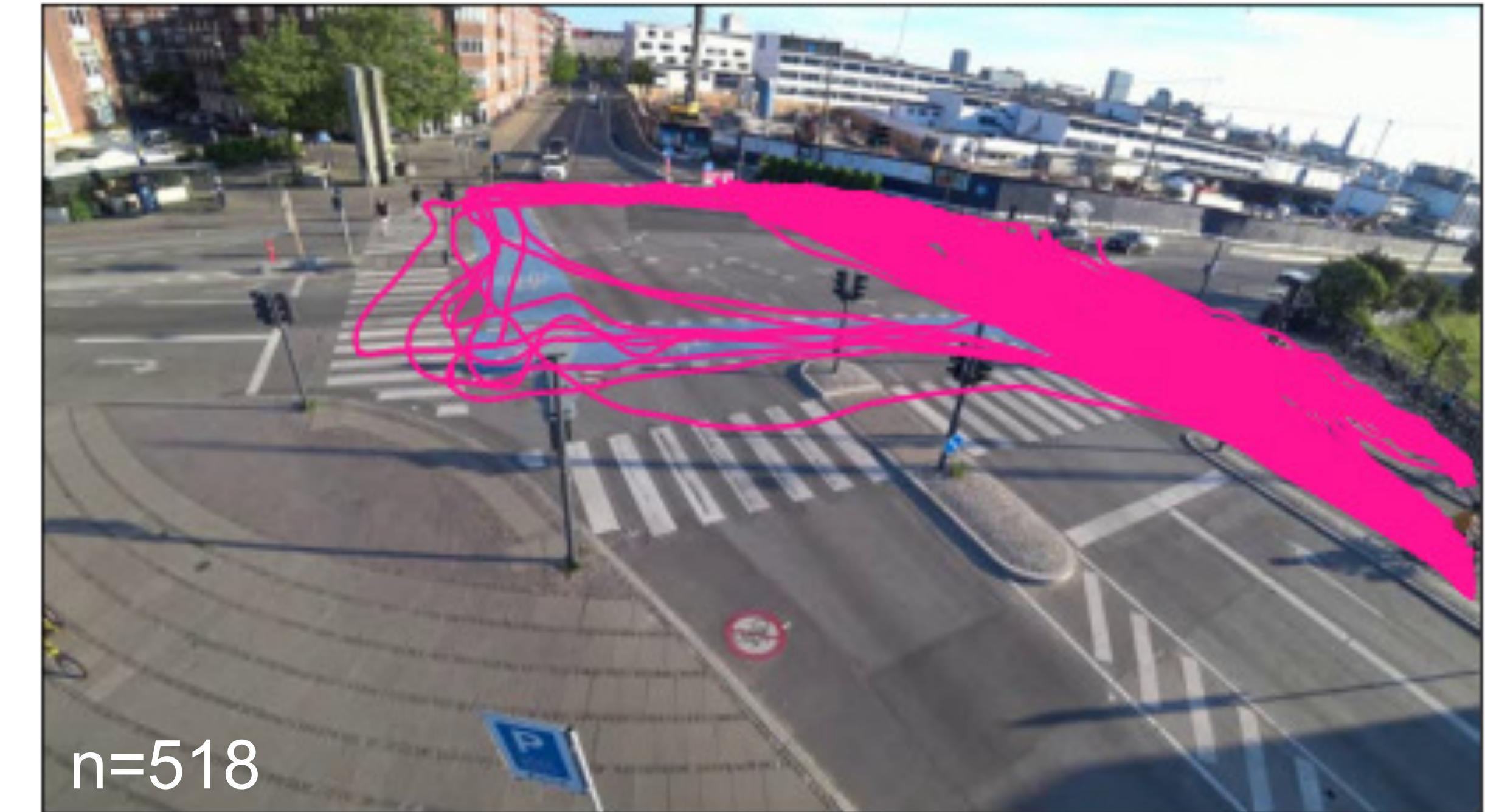
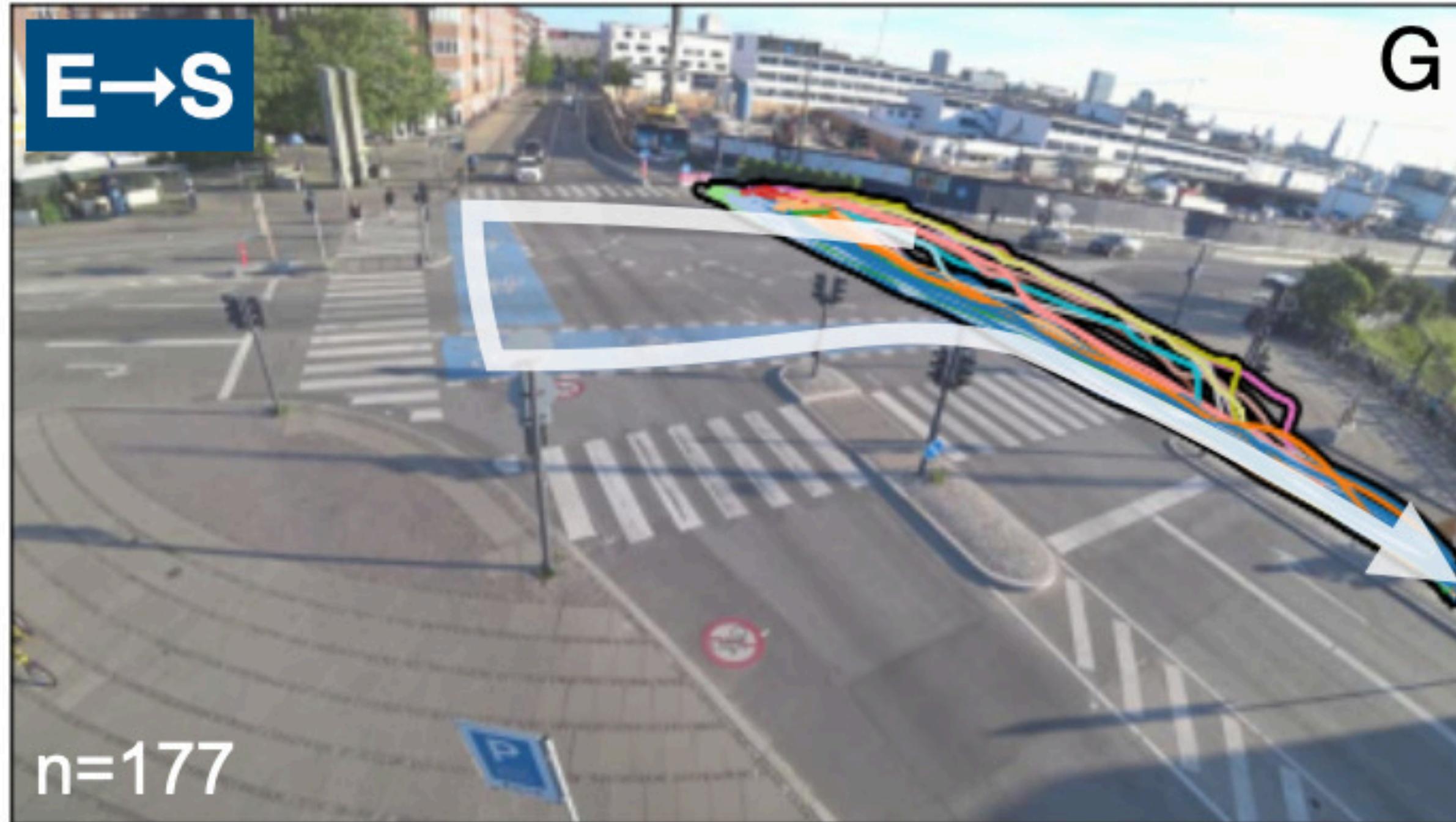
Only 466 are "mostly intended"  
Mismatch: 36%



# Cyclists prefer uninterrupted travel, which the intersection fails to provide



Cyclists prefer uninterrupted travel, which the intersection fails to provide



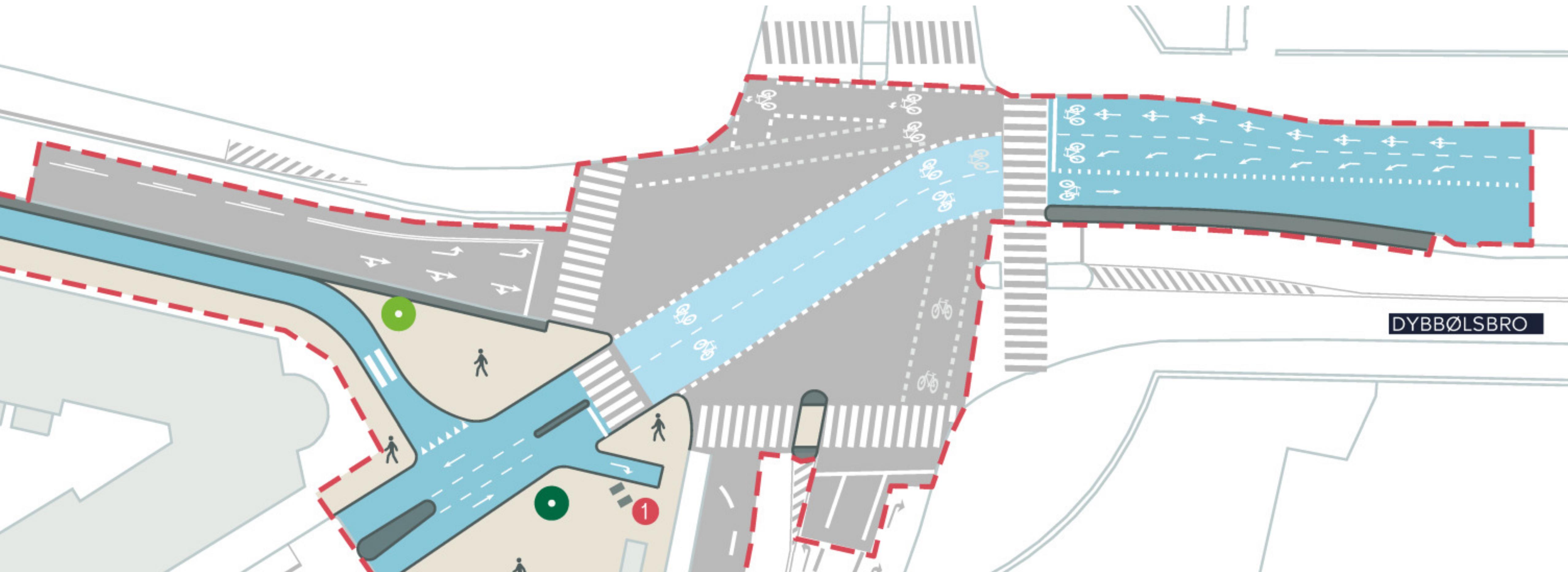
Only 9 are "mostly intended"  
Mismatch: 98%

# 495 trajectories are not intended, potentially life-threatening



In just 1 hour!

# The re-design

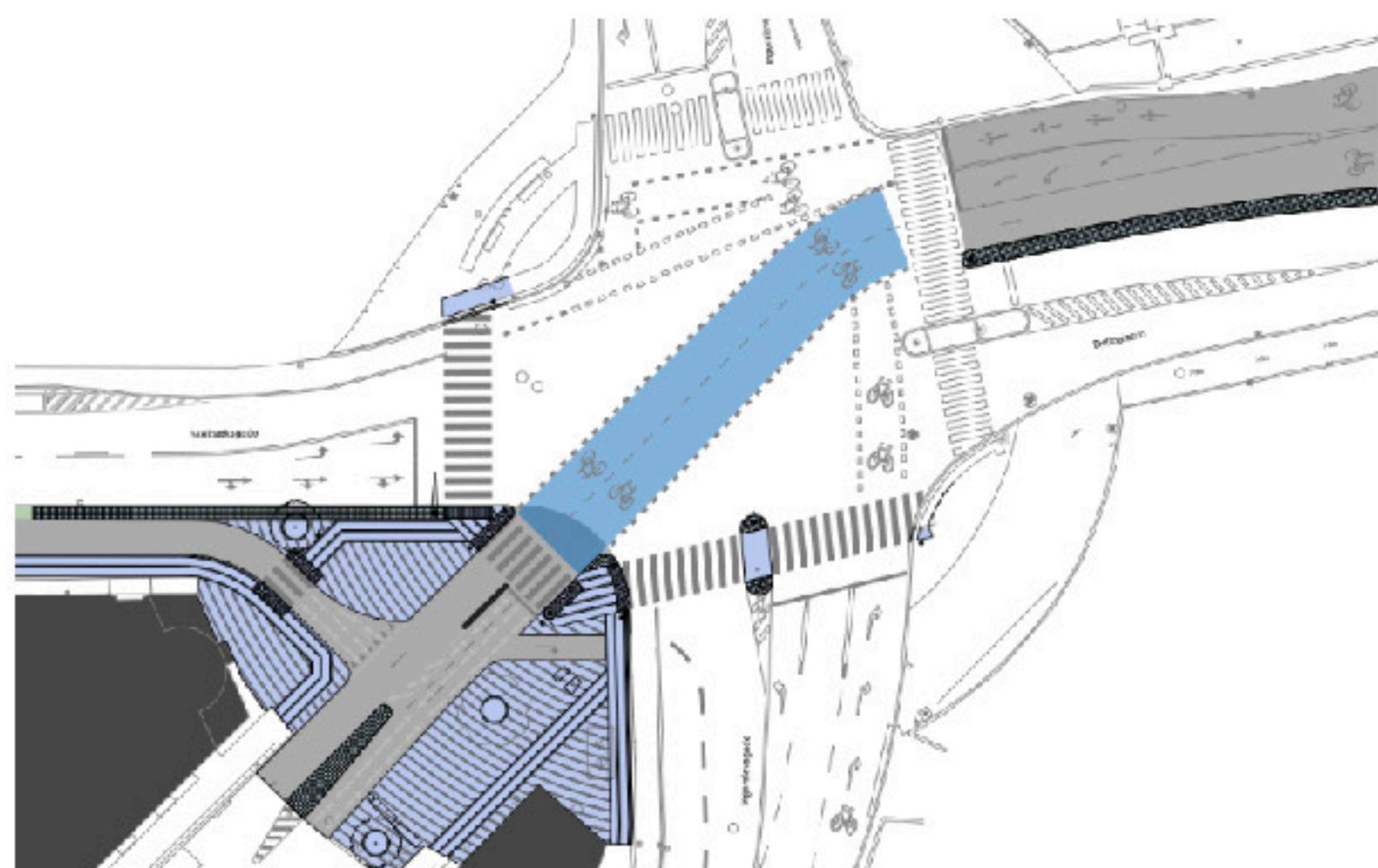


KØBENHAVNS KOMMUNE

**DOBBELTRETTET CYKELSTI I KRYDSET  
INGERSLEVSGADE-DYBBØLSBRO**

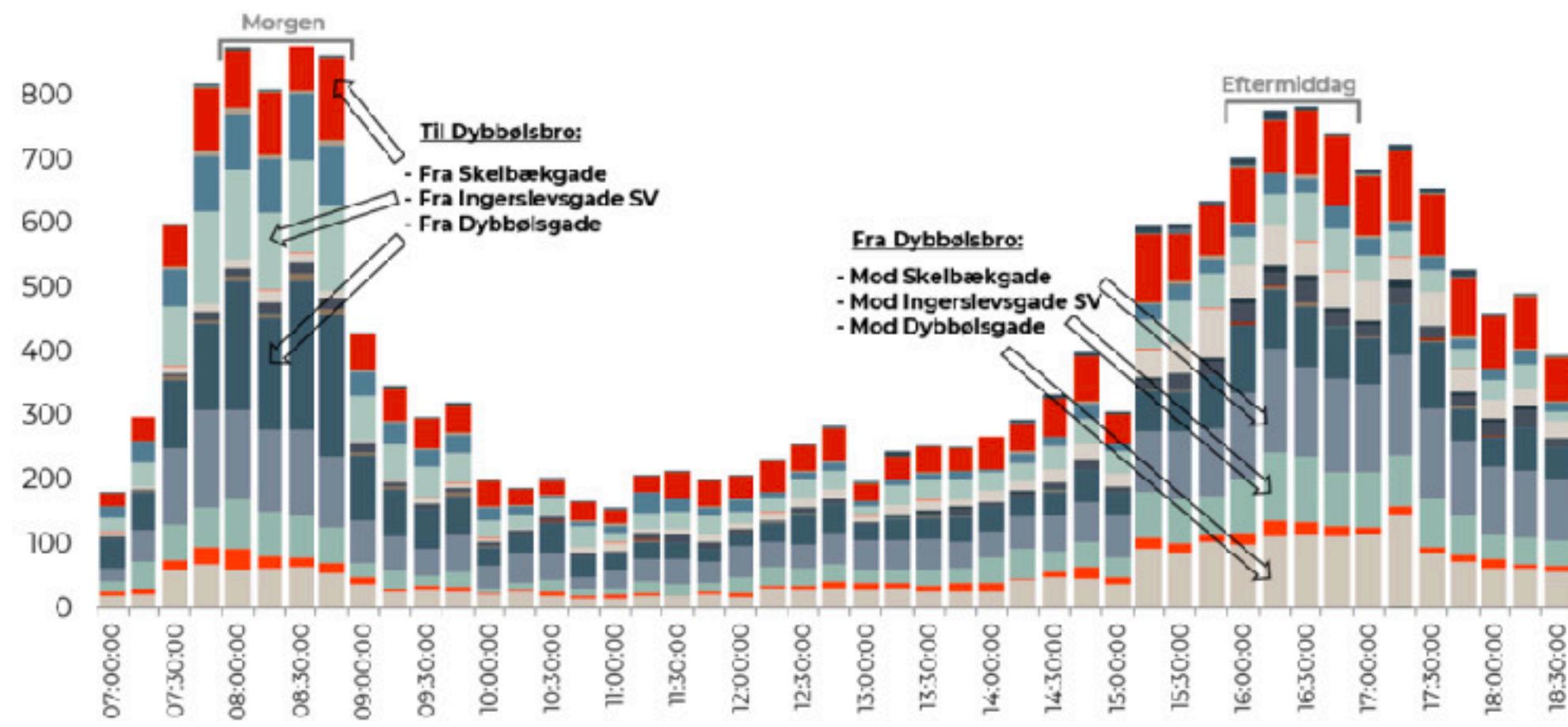
**DISPOSITIONSFORSLAG**

22-12-2021

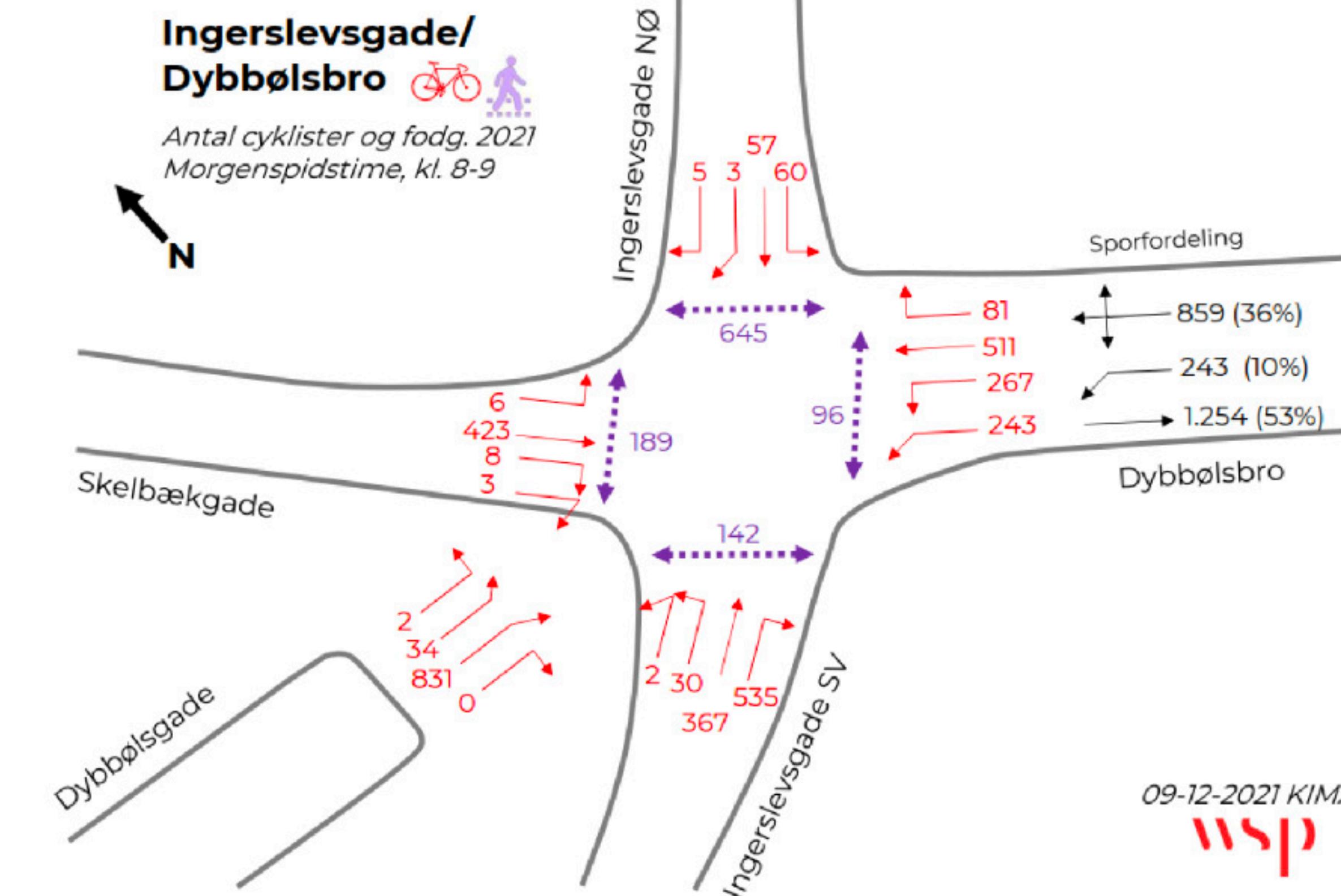


**WSP**

# Video analysis is used only for counting trajectories

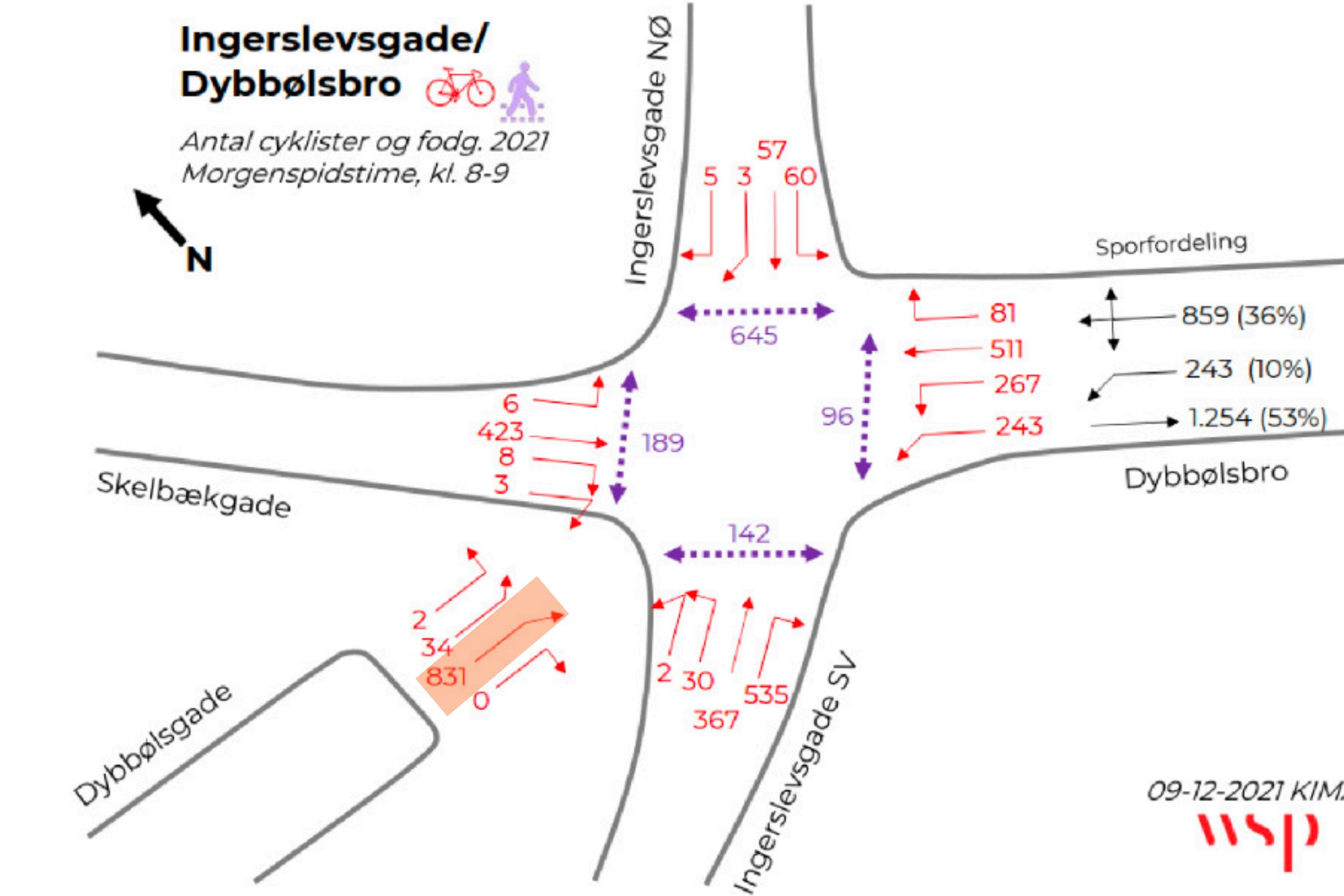
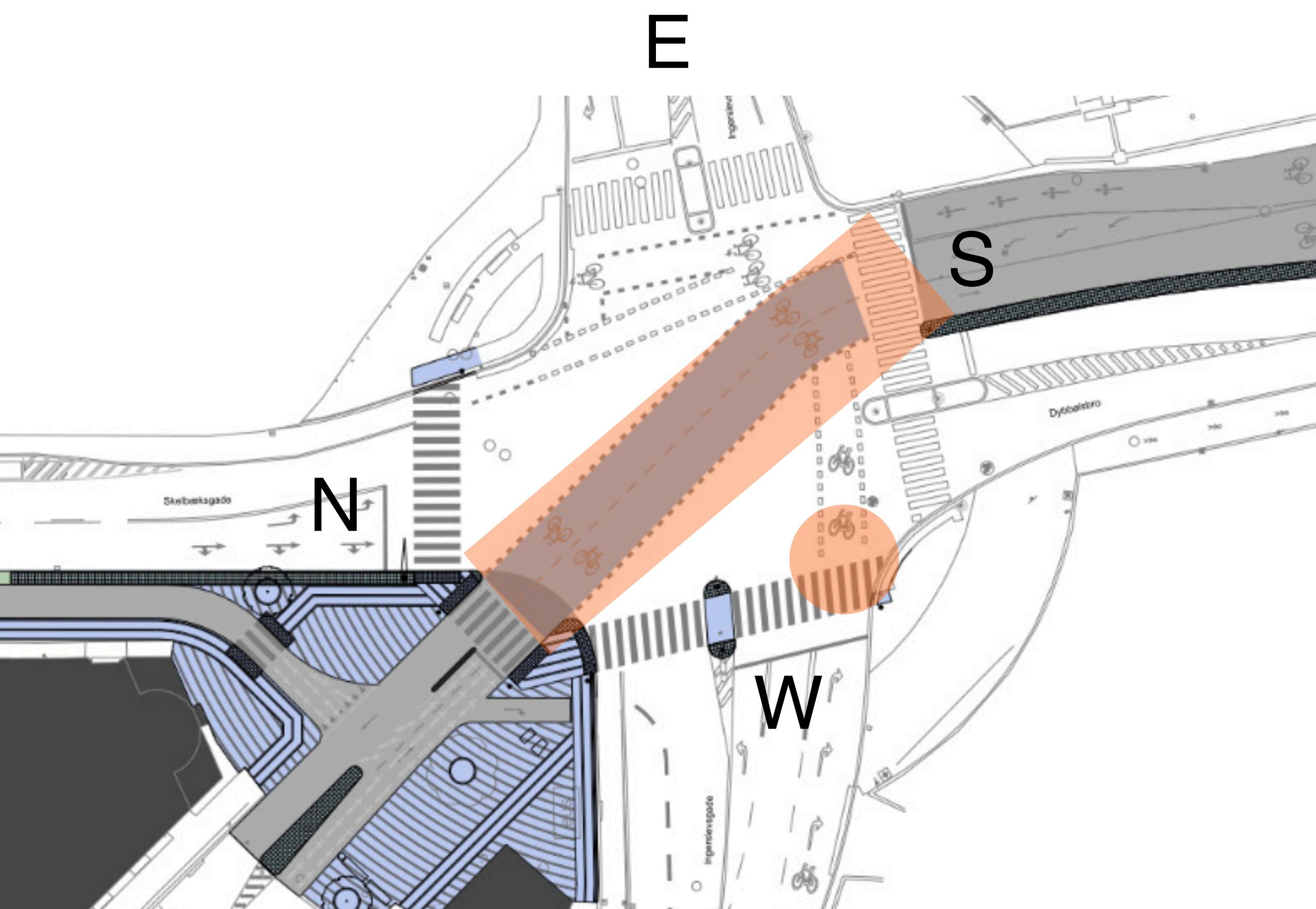


Figur 10. Antal cyklister fordelt på svingbevægelser i perioden kl. 07-19. Trafiktælling 2021. Komplet udgave af grafen visende samtlige signaturforklaringer kan ses på bilag A.



Figur 11. Antal cyklister og fodgængere i morgenspidstimen. Trafiktælling 2021.

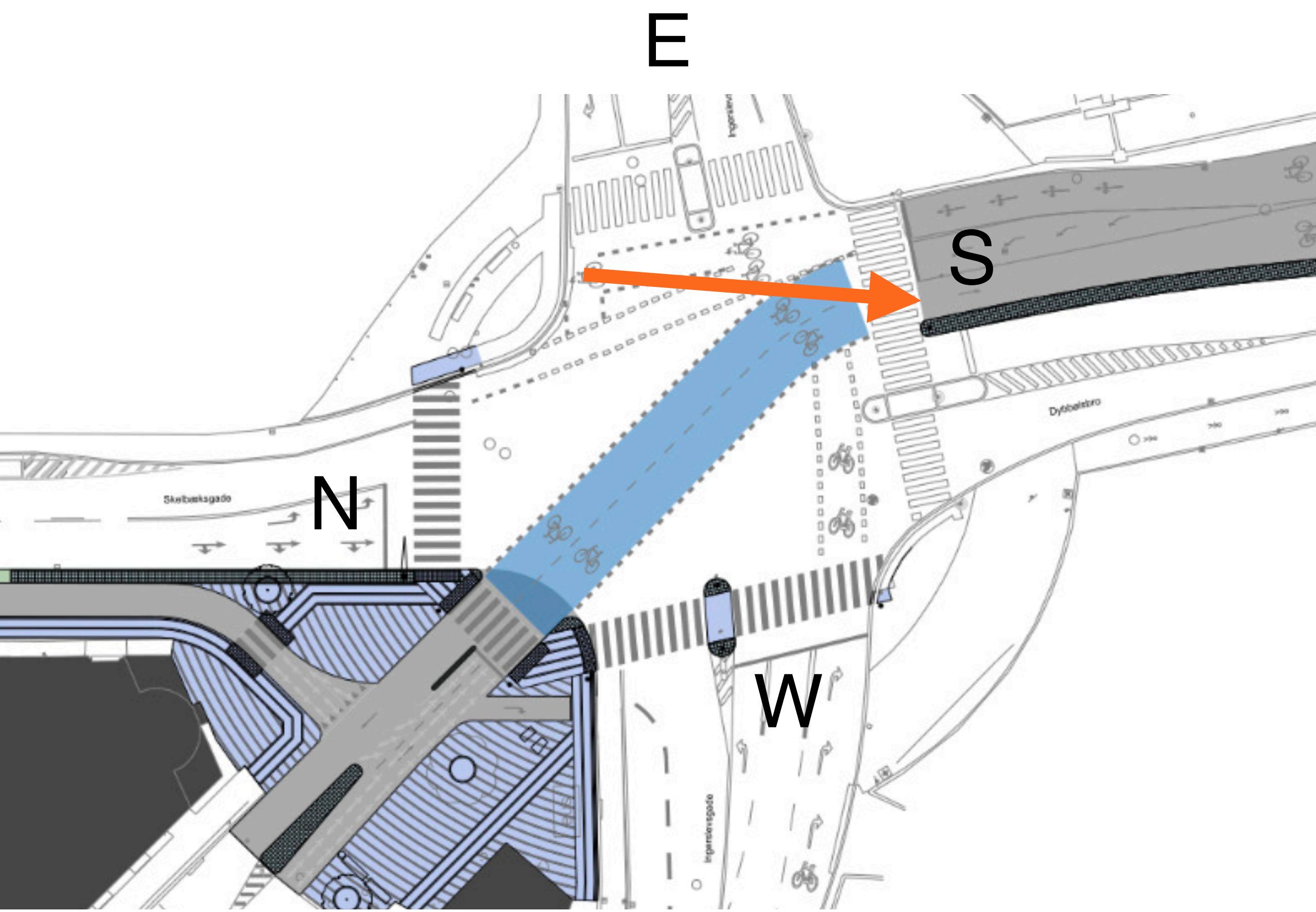
# Fixed issues



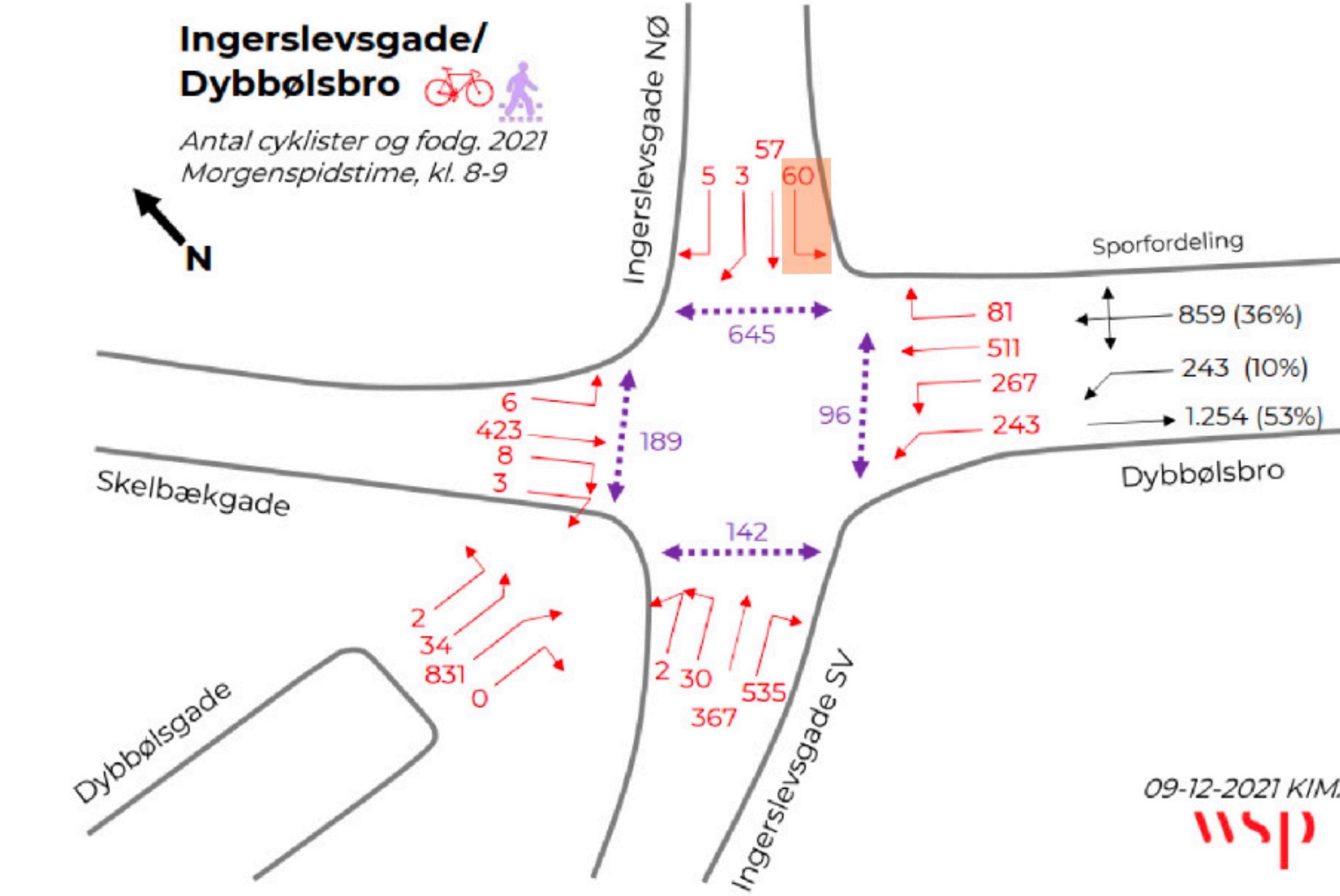
Figur 11. Antal cyklister og fodgængere i morgenspidstimen. Trafiktælling 2021.

- Diagonal lane provides uninterrupted N→S travel

# Anticipated issues

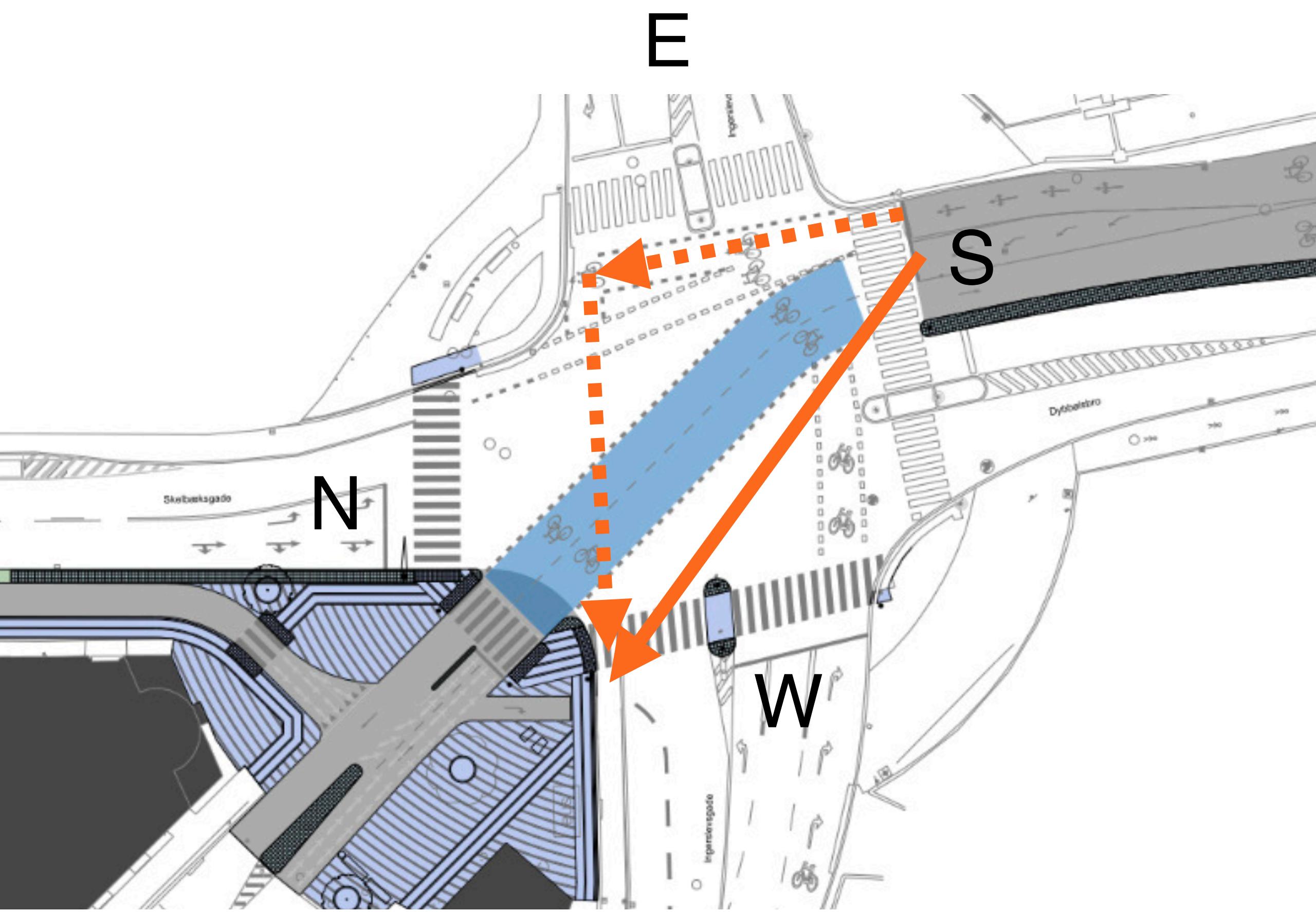


- No solution for E→S

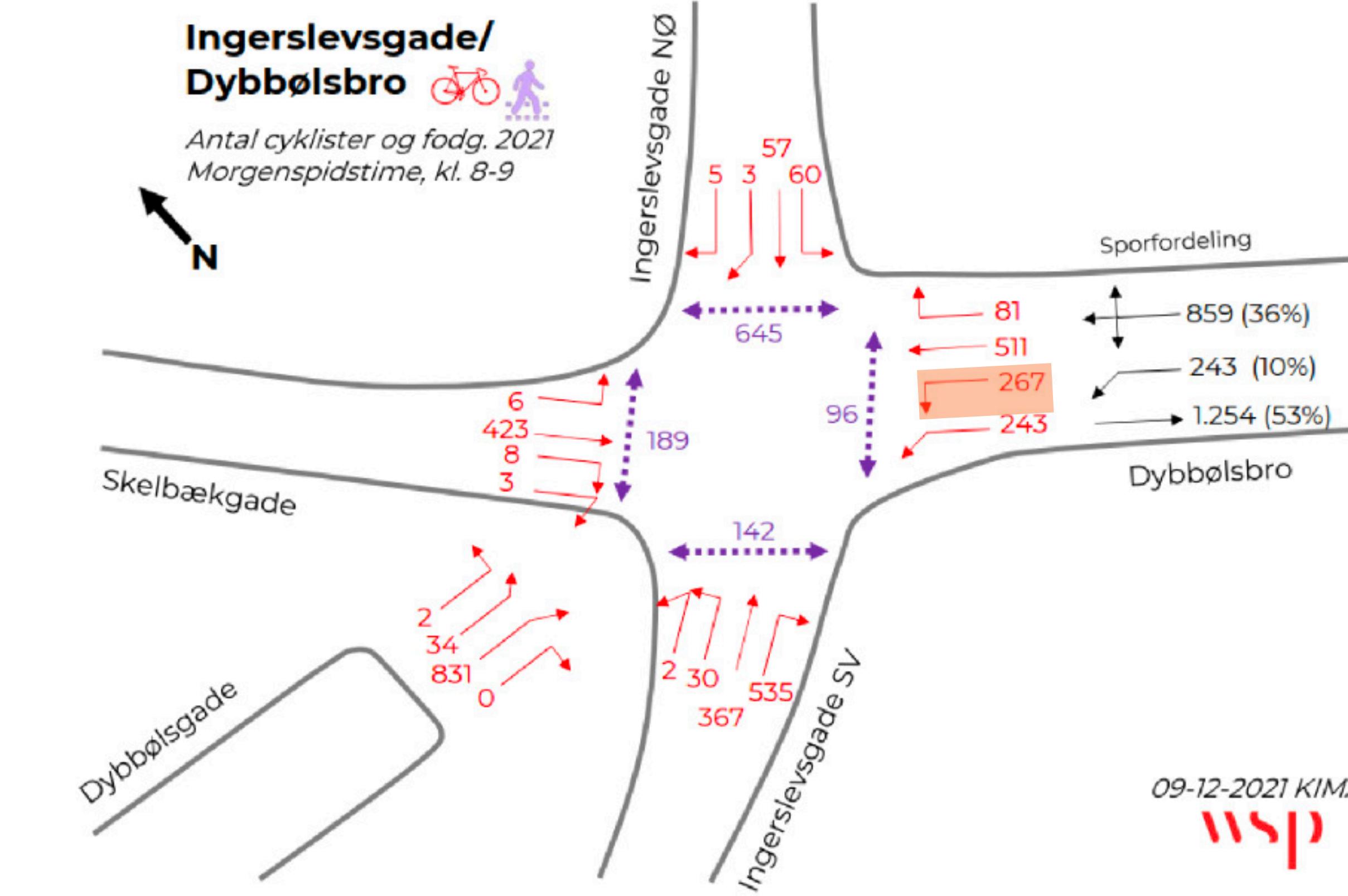


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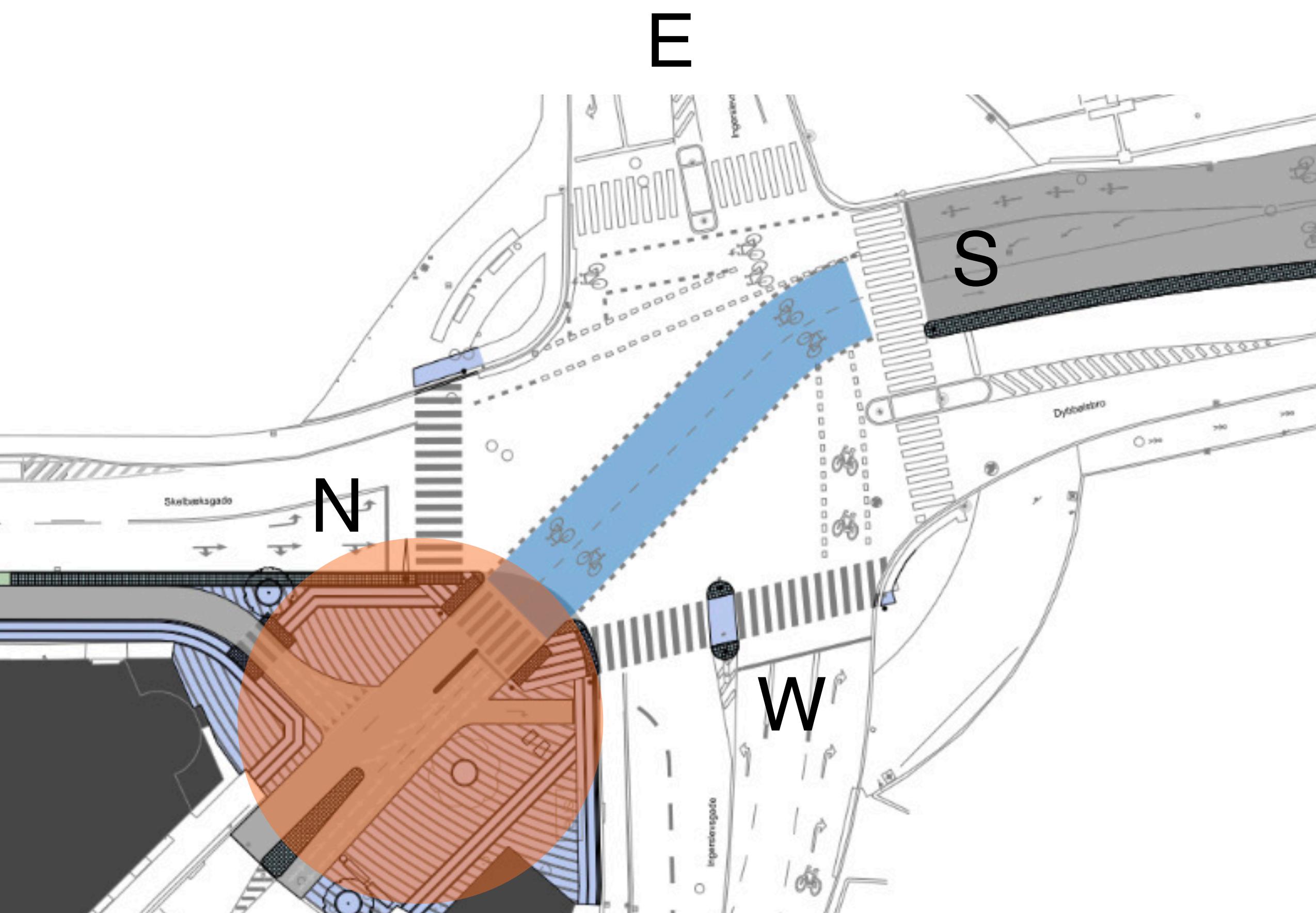


- No solution for E→S
- New problem: S→W

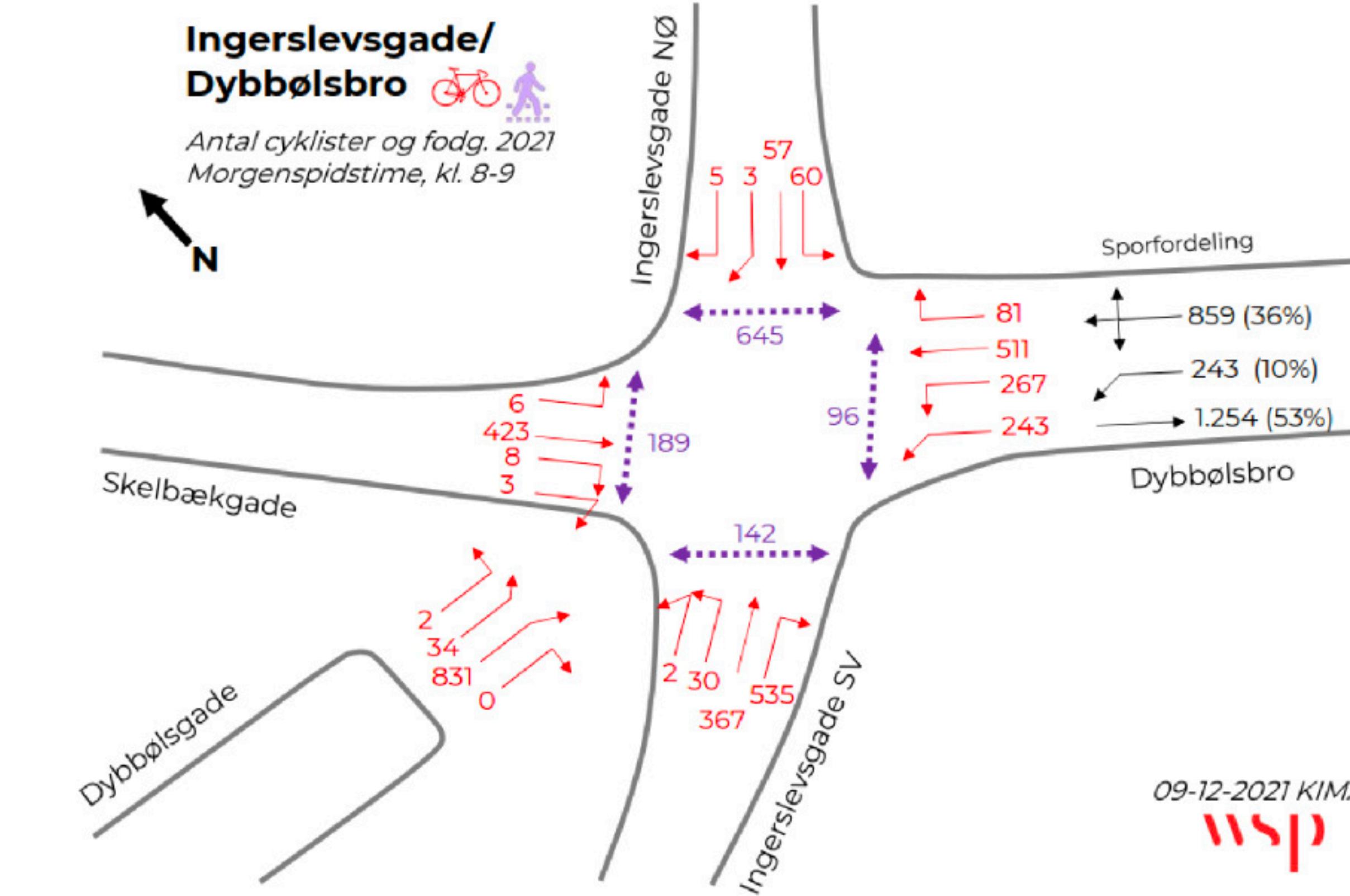


Figur 11. Antal cyklister og fodgængere i morgenspidstimen. Trafiktælling 2021.

# Anticipated issues



- No solution for E→S
- New problem: S→W
- Increasing complexity (Yrsa plads)



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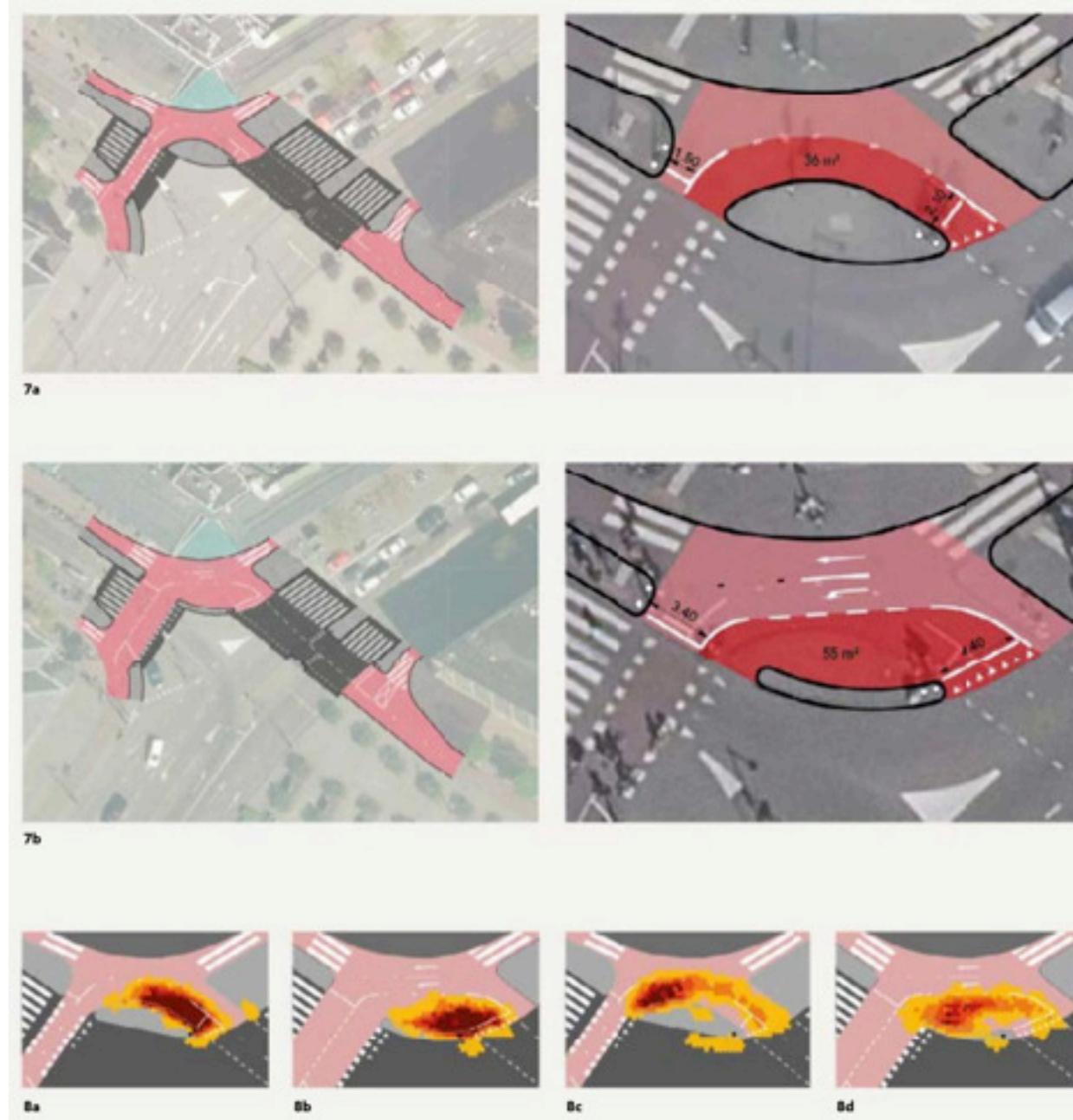
- Lack of queuing spaces
- Uni- to Bi-directional switch

The underlying issue is car-centric design

Why is vehicular traffic flow prioritized in CPH?  
Goes against science and international best practices

# The underlying issue is car-centric design

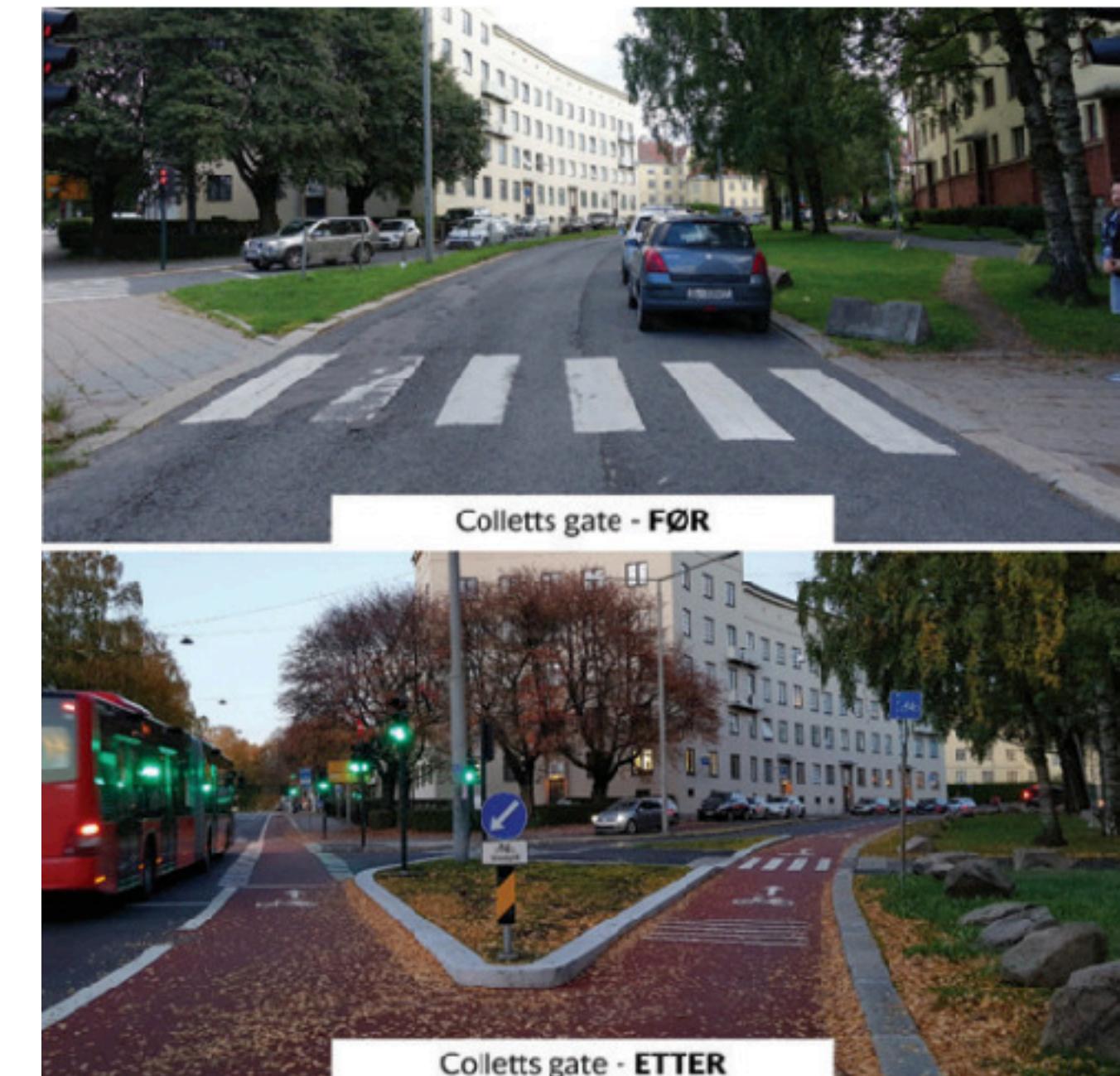
## Why is vehicular traffic flow prioritized in CPH? Goes against science and international best practices



Evidence-based "agile" design  
of crossing/queuing spaces



Removal of traffic lights on  
Alexanderplein



Prioritizing cycling  
desire lines (Oslo)

Drastic speed reductions to protect people  
from massive public health hazard of cars

Hahn & te Broemmelstroet, Transp Res Int P 9, 100289 (2021)  
Gemeente Amsterdam (2018)  
Hartmann & Abel, ITE J 90(5), 32-38 (2020)  
Klanjcic, Gavin, Tizzoni, Szell, EPJ Data Sci 11, 27 (2022)

# For pre/post analysis, we could re-run our study after re-design

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2211.01301>

Computational Desire Line Analysis of Cyclists  
on the Dybbølsbro Intersection in Copenhagen

Simon Martin Breum<sup>a</sup>, Bojan Kostic<sup>a</sup>, and Michael Szell<sup>\*a,b,c</sup>

<sup>a</sup>NETwoRks, Data, and Society (NERDS), IT University of Copenhagen, 2300 Copenhagen, Denmark

<sup>b</sup>ISI Foundation, 10126 Turin, Italy

<sup>c</sup>Complexity Science Hub Vienna, 1080 Vienna, Austria

## Future research/improvements:

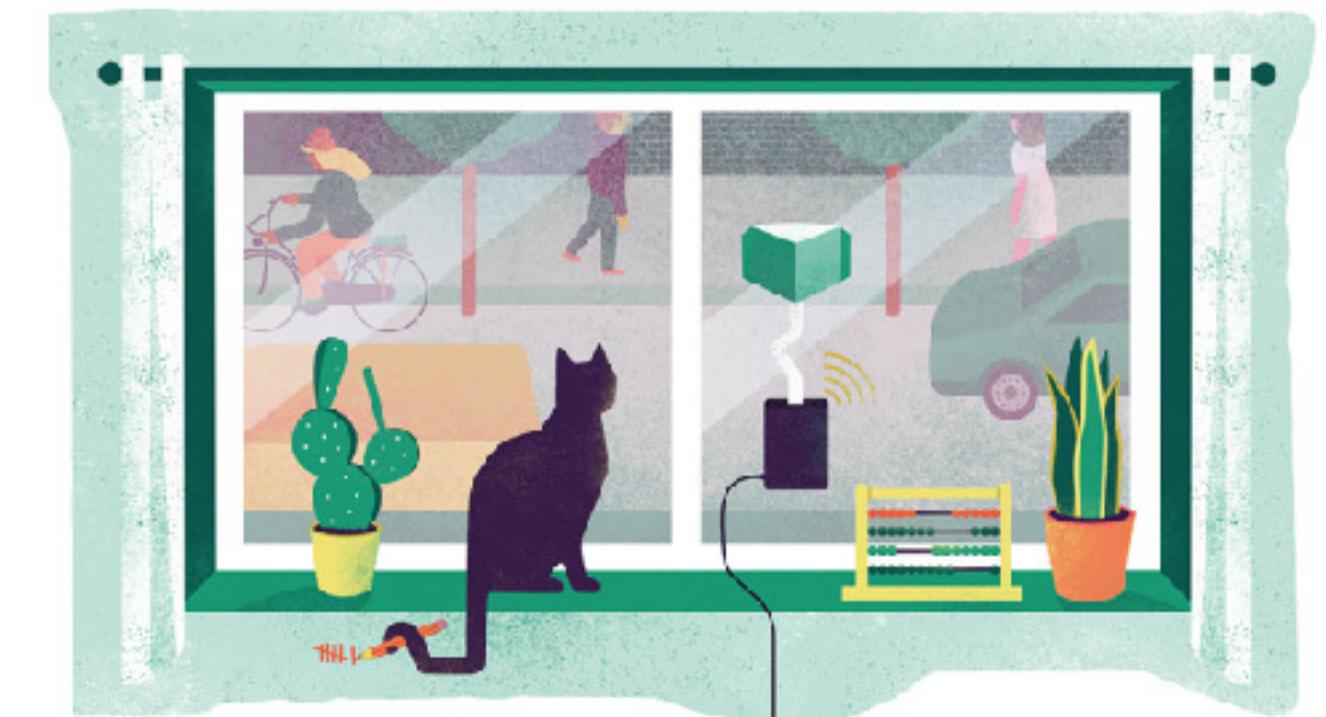
Videos for counting already recorded, add our algorithms

Extend algorithms: Near-misses

Use multiple cams to prevent occlusion/bias

Scale up to many intersections

Citizen science: like Telraam



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## Bottleneck: Funding

