



CITY BIKES WRAPPED

2024



The city bikes of Helsinki and Espoo, also known as Alepa bikes, are share-use bicycles that can be used by anyone.

The city bike season of 2024 lasted from April to October.

The scale is impressive...



2 600 000
BIKE RIDES



457
STATIONS

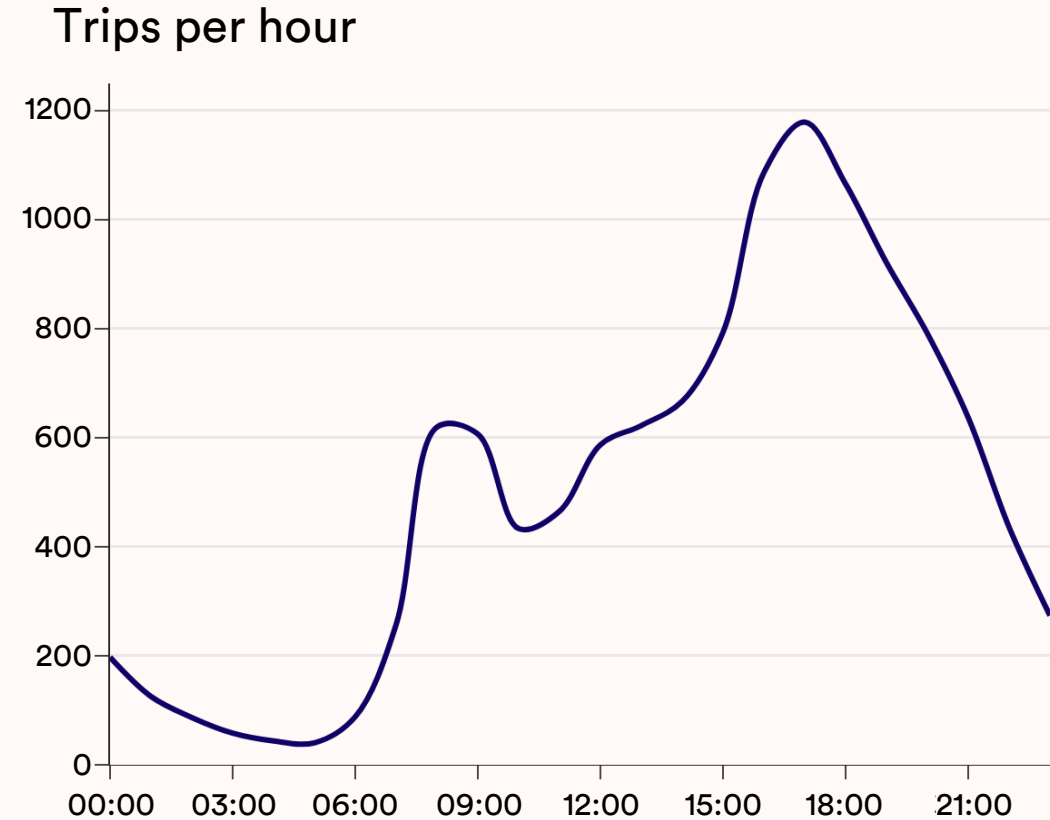
...but not all rides and stations are created equal.

Traffic peaks mirror commuting hours

There are traffic peaks at 8.00-10.00 and 15.00-20.00, reflecting commuting hours.

However, there is more traffic in the afternoon.

Are people more inclined to bike the commute in the afternoon? What else fuels the afternoon surge?



Leisure trips fuel the afternoon surge!

Take a look at rides departing from Herttoniemenranta – a residential area.

Time: 6:00 - 10:00

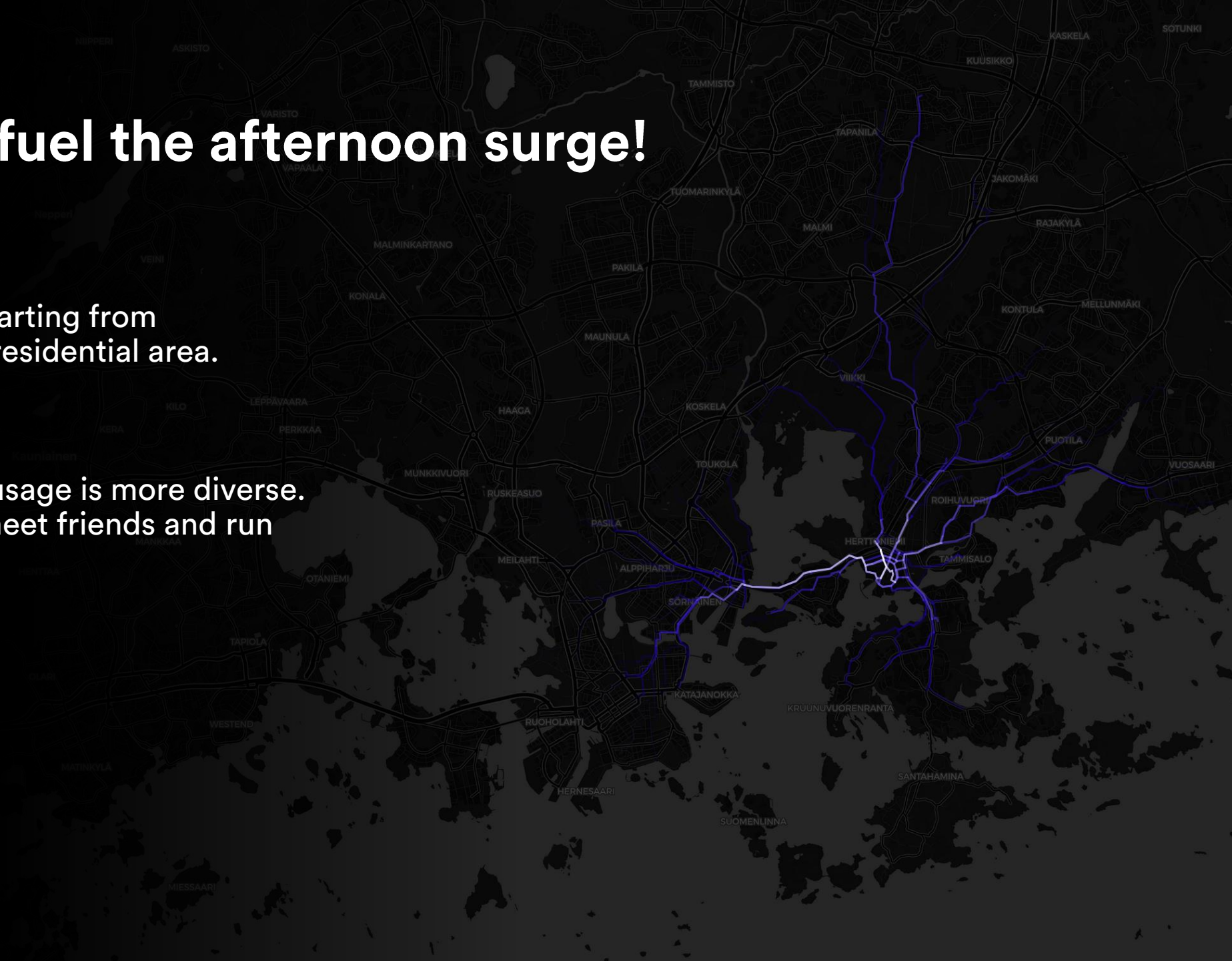
In the morning, most traffic is heading towards the city center or the Herttoniemi metro station.

Leisure trips fuel the afternoon surge!

Take a look at rides departing from Herttoniemenranta – a residential area.

Time: 14:00 - 18:00

In the afternoon, route usage is more diverse. People go to hobbies, meet friends and run errands.



Hold on, metro station?

Take a look at rides departing from this station in Tapanila – a residential area.

Time: 6:00 - 10:00

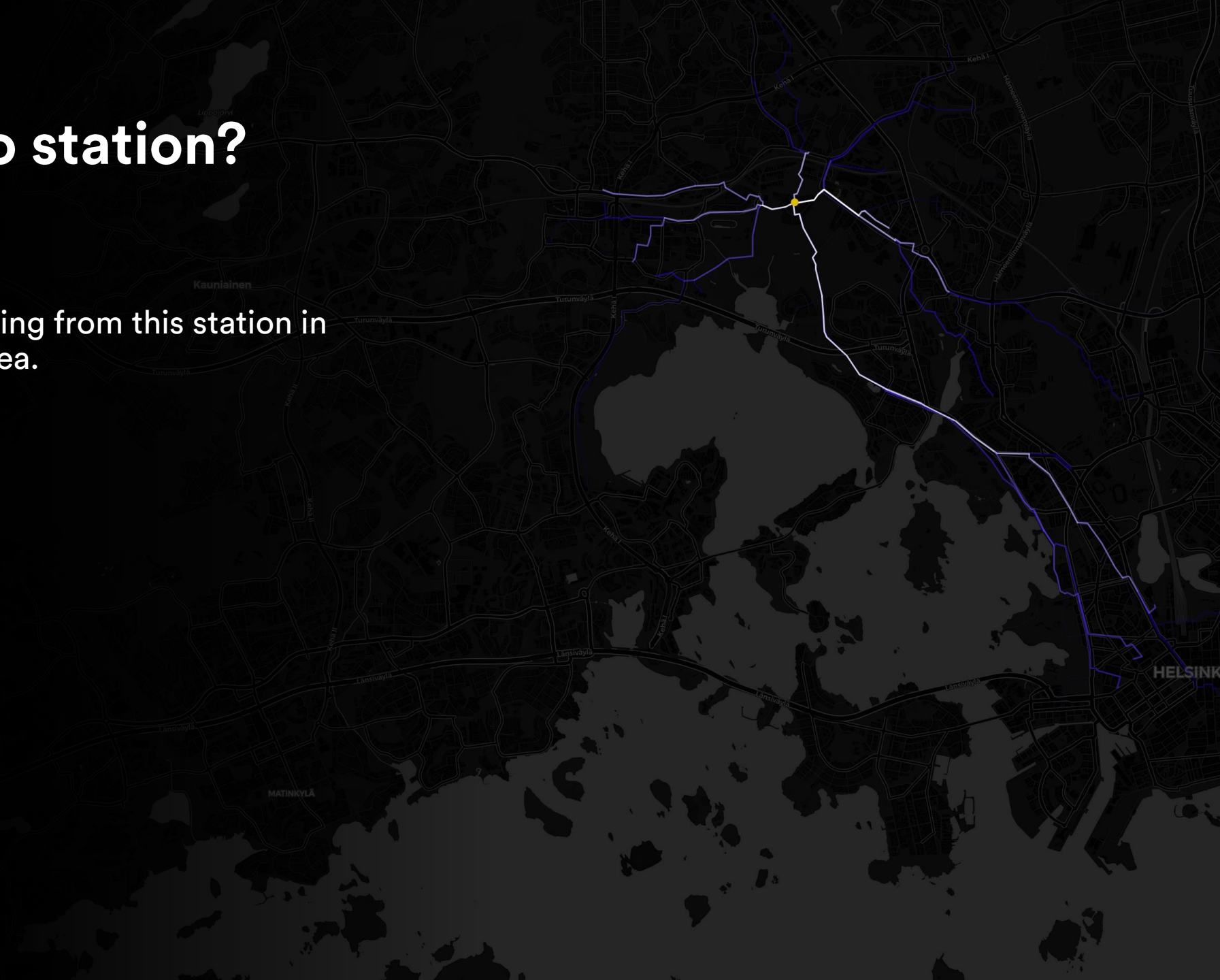
And...

Hold on, metro station?

Take a look at rides departing from this station in Pajamäki – a residential area.

Time: 6:00 - 10:00

And...

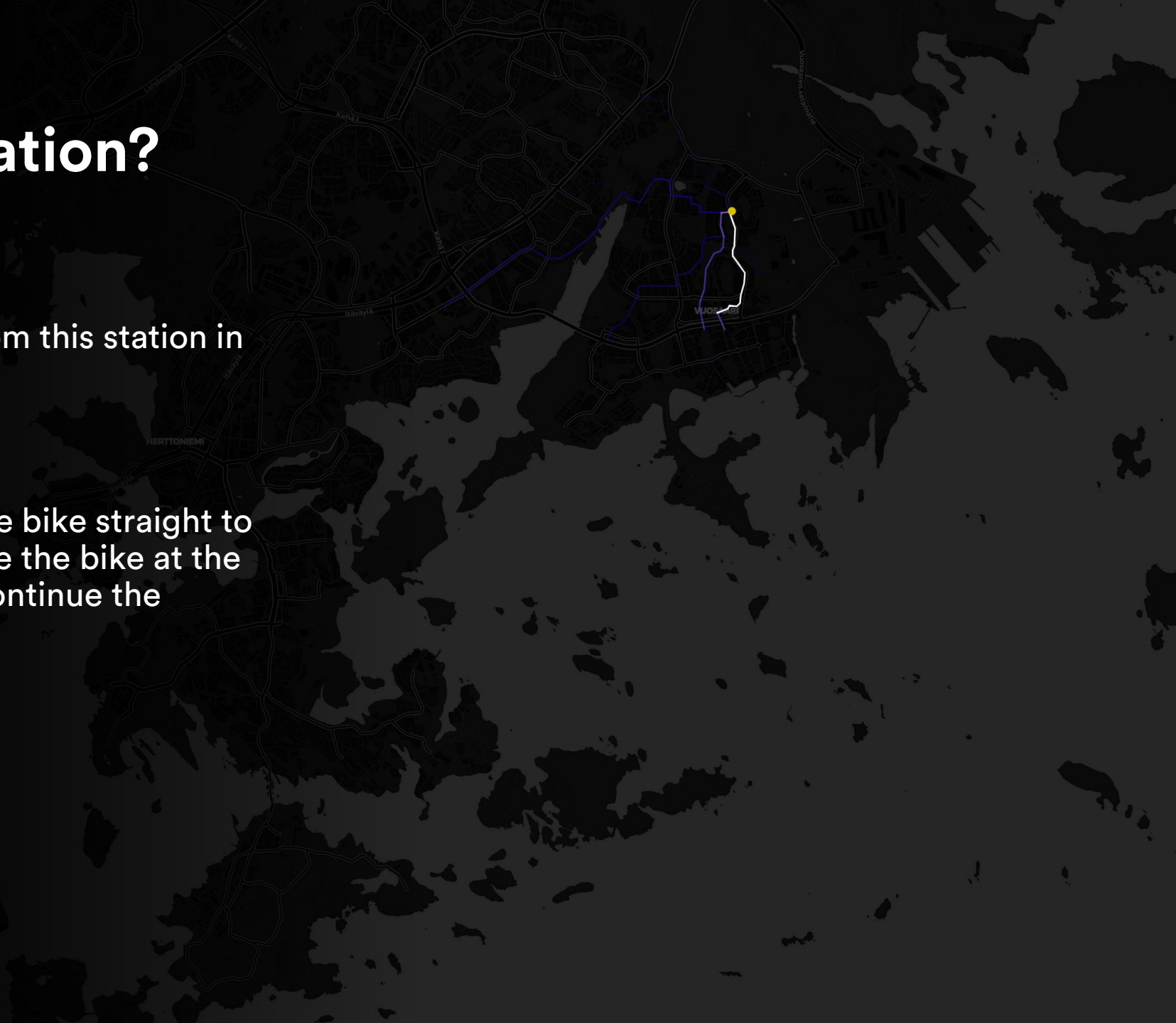


Hold on, metro station?

Take a look at rides departing from this station in Vuosaari – a residential area.

Time: 6:00 - 10:00

Indeed, it seems like some people bike straight to the city center, while others leave the bike at the nearest public transit stop and continue the journey by bus, train or metro.



What's going on in the city center then?

Let's look at rides departing from Helsinki Central Station.

Time: 6:00 - 10:00

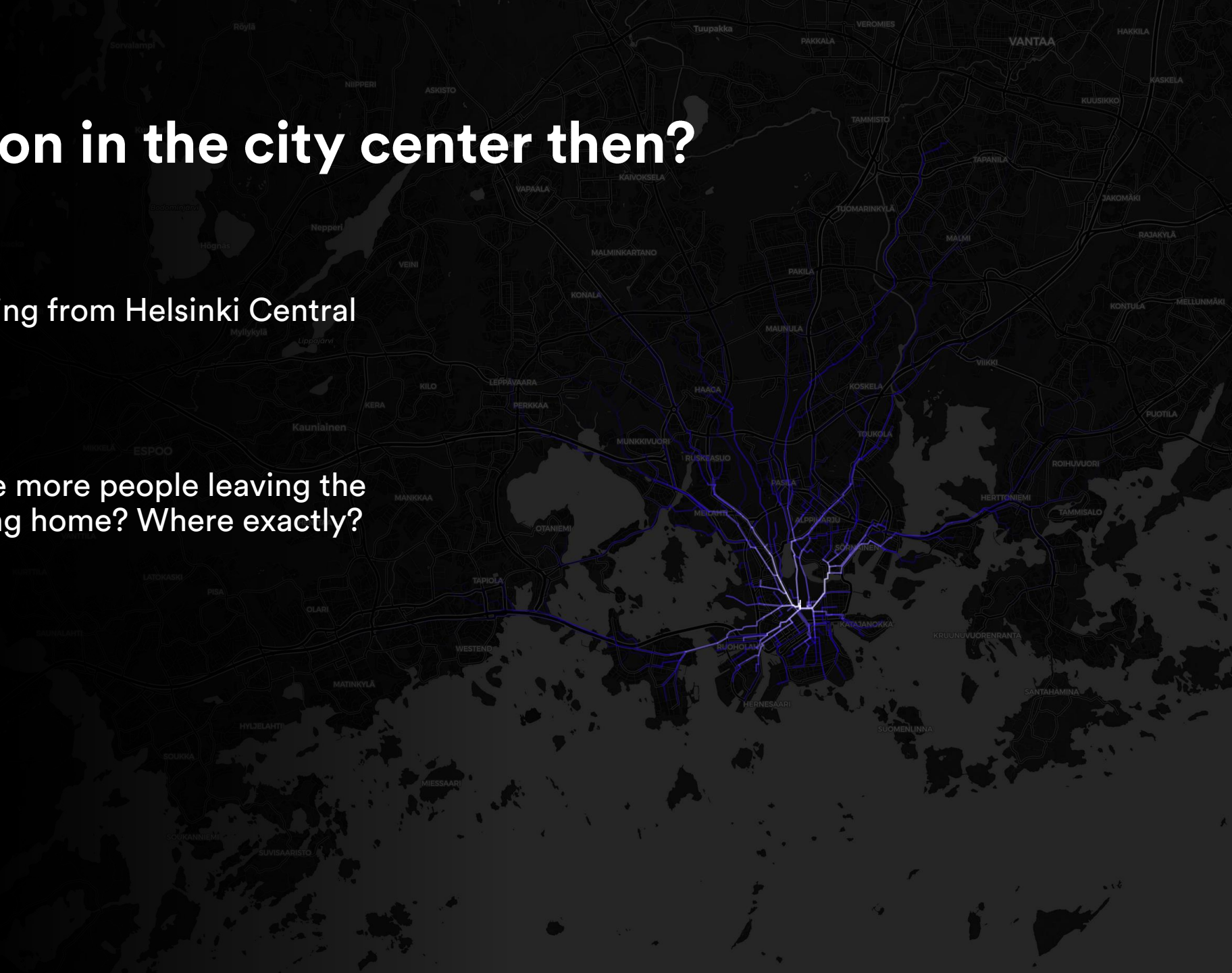
In the morning people are riding the bikes from the station to nearby areas in the city center.

What's going on in the city center then?

Let's look at rides departing from Helsinki Central Station.

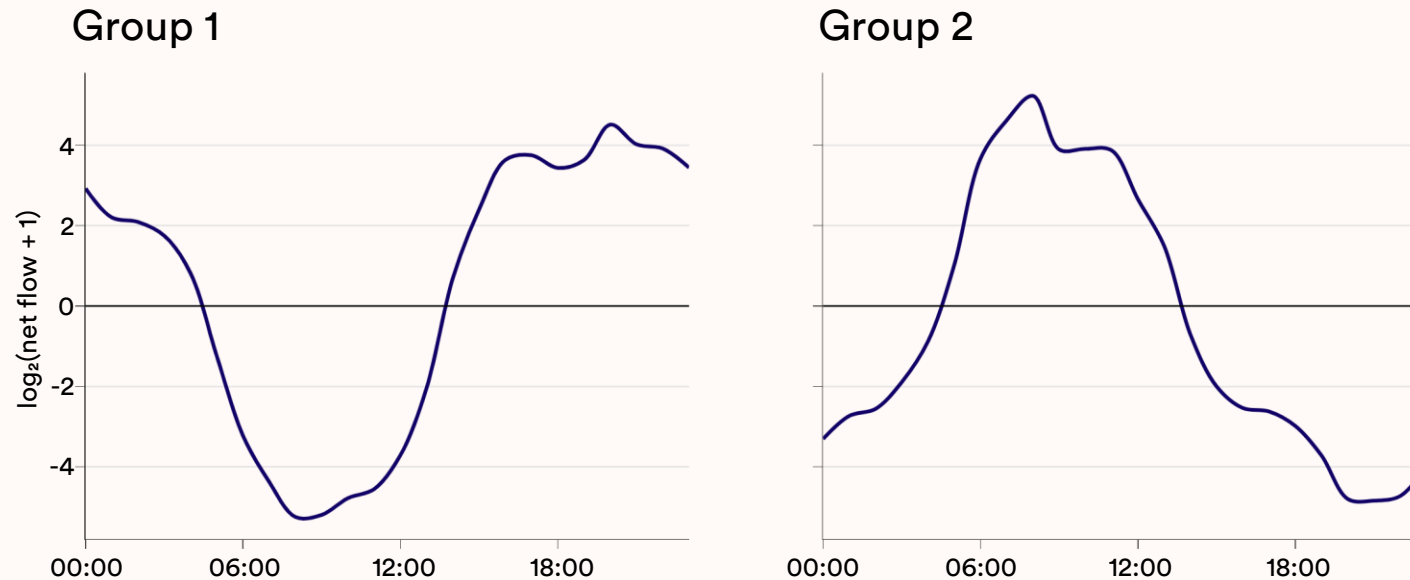
Time: 14:00 - 18:00

In the afternoon there are more people leaving the city center. Are they going home? Where exactly?



There are two types of stations

If we examine the net flow of each station (i.e. returns – departures), we see two distinct groups of stations.



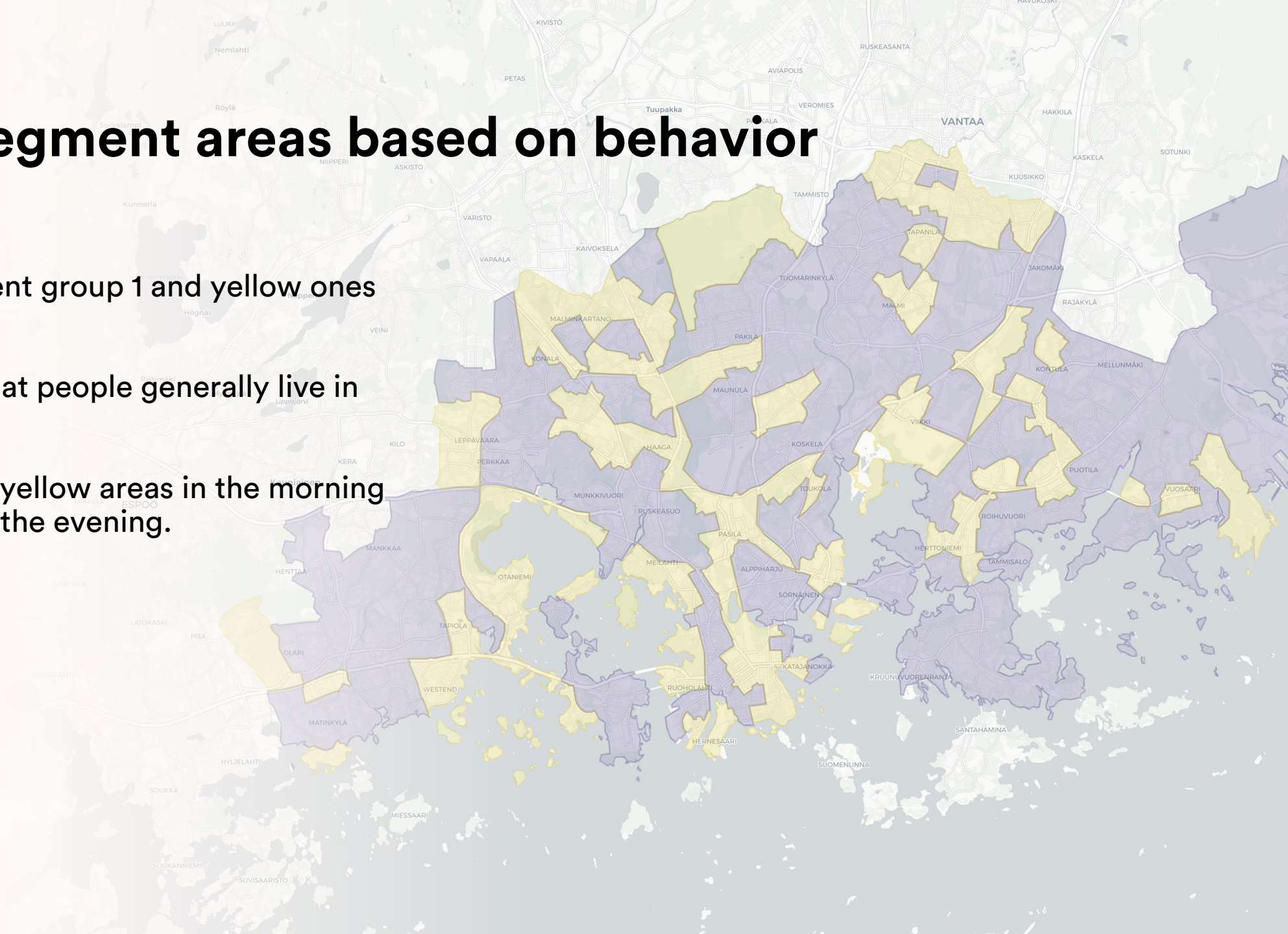
Some stations see a lot of bikes leaving in the morning and returning in the evening, while others see the opposite.

We can segment areas based on behavior

Blue areas represent group 1 and yellow ones group 2.

We can deduce that people generally live in the blue areas.

They travel to the yellow areas in the morning and come back in the evening.

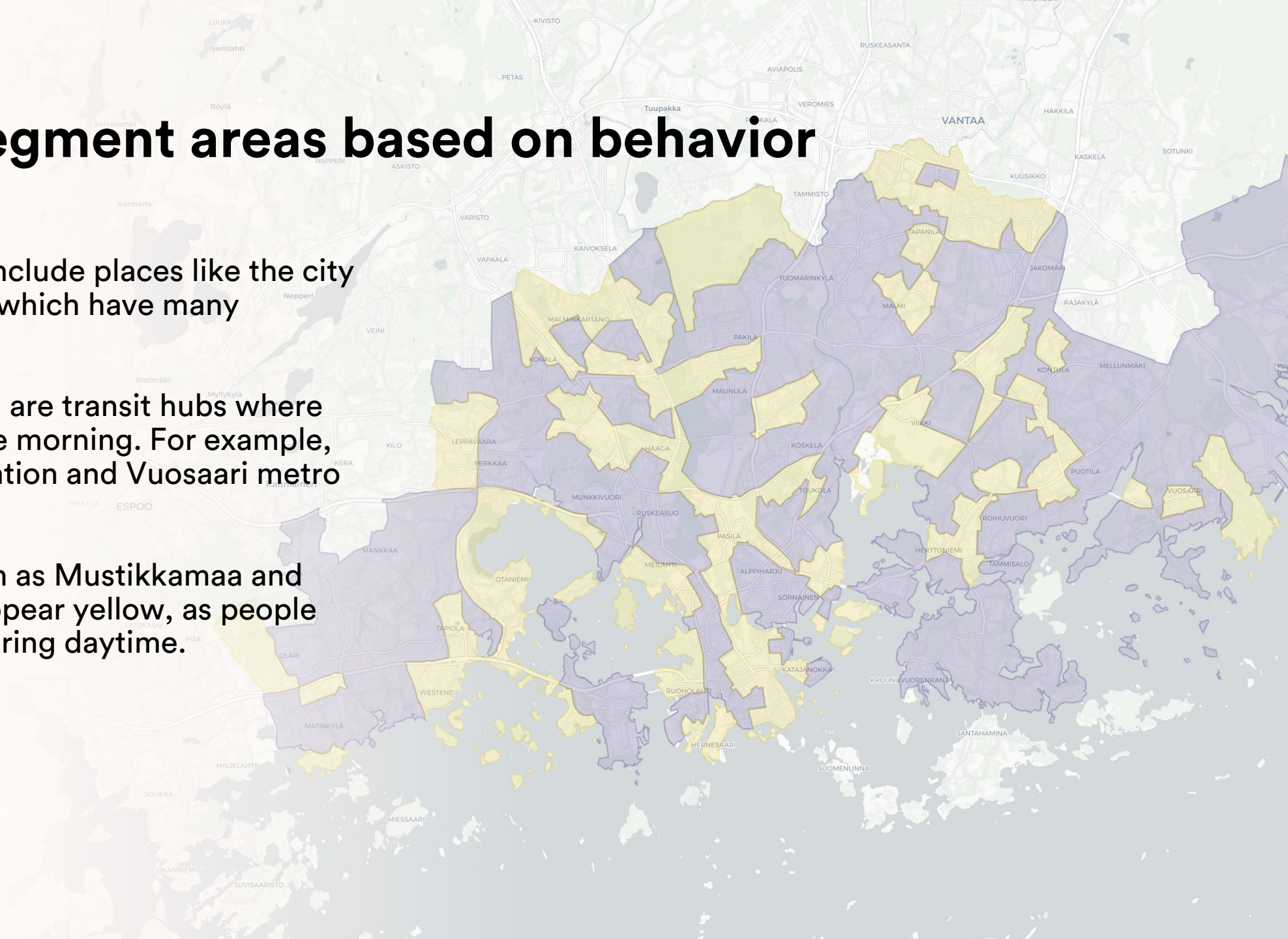


We can segment areas based on behavior

The yellow areas include places like the city center and Pasila, which have many workplaces.

Some yellow areas are transit hubs where people come in the morning. For example, Oulunkylä train station and Vuosaari metro station.

Leisure spots, such as Mustikkamaa and Seurasaari, also appear yellow, as people often visit them during daytime.

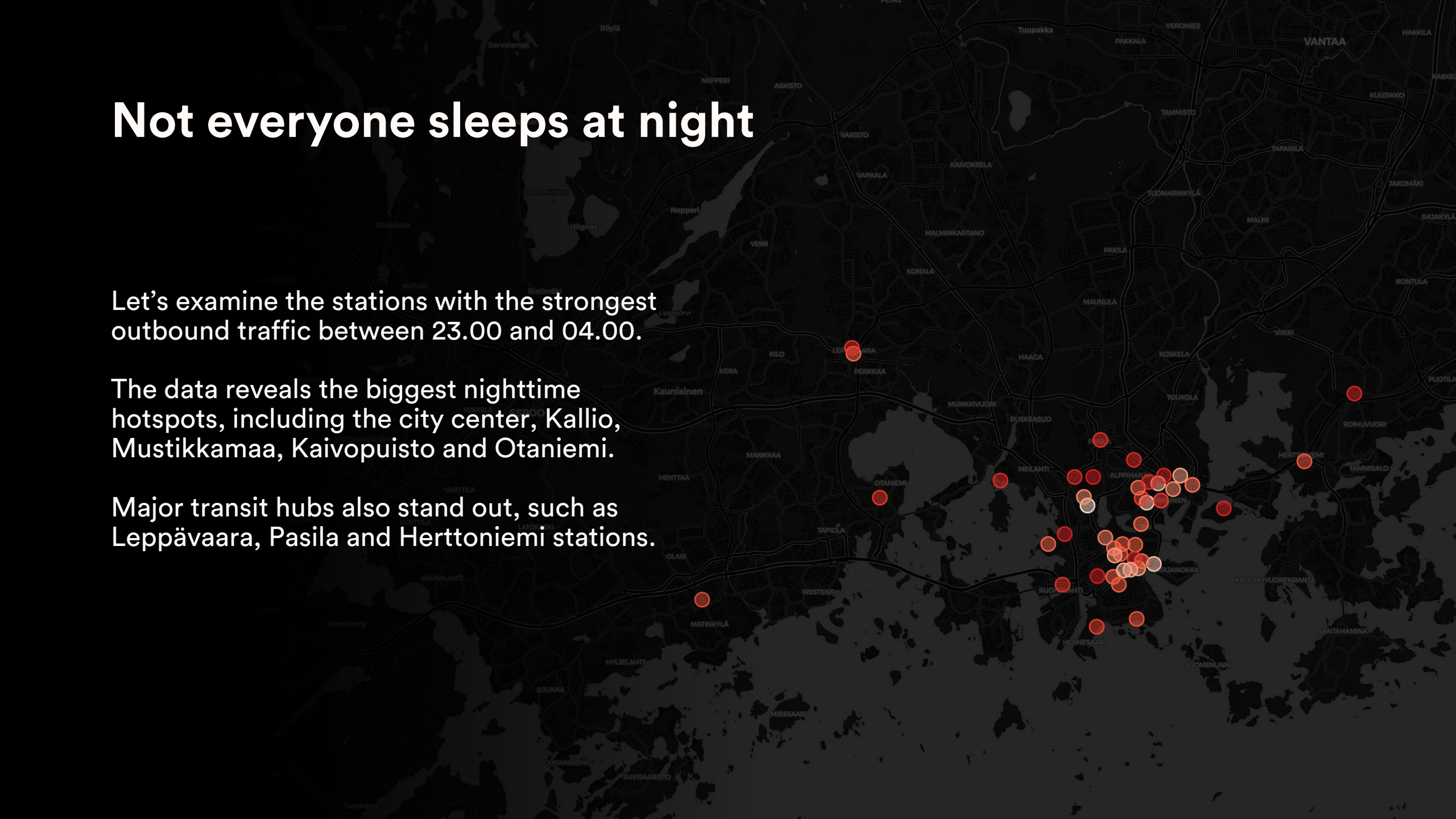


Not everyone sleeps at night

Let's examine the stations with the strongest outbound traffic between 23.00 and 04.00.

The data reveals the biggest nighttime hotspots, including the city center, Kallio, Mustikkamaa, Kaivopuisto and Otaniemi.

Major transit hubs also stand out, such as Leppävaara, Pasila and Herttoniemi stations.



What did we learn?

- The bikes are used for commuting and leisure trips
- Bike stations near transit hubs are important
 - Many bike from homes to transit hubs
- Guidance on the most important areas for bike infrastructure
 - There is a lot of traffic in and towards the city center
 - We identified areas where people go in the morning and in the evening
 - We identified the biggest nightlife areas

Sources

- City bike image by Tuomas Puikkonen/CC BY-NC 2.0
- City bike data: © City Bike Finland 2024
- Maps: © OpenStreetMap contributors