

User Documentation

Onward

Group 4

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Onward is an advanced traffic monitoring application that allows users to view future traffic conditions to properly plan future trips and to address traffic concerns in areas of interest.

System Requirements

To use this program, we recommend that you use a desktop, laptop or mobile device with any of the following:

The current version of Microsoft Edge or Internet Explorer 10 or 11 (Windows).

The current and previous version of Chrome or Firefox (Windows, macOS, or Linux).

The current and previous version of Safari (macOS or iOS).

Landing Page

To begin using Onward, go to the browser of choice and enter the following url address <http://www.onwardtraffic.com/> and you will be greeted with the following Landing Page.

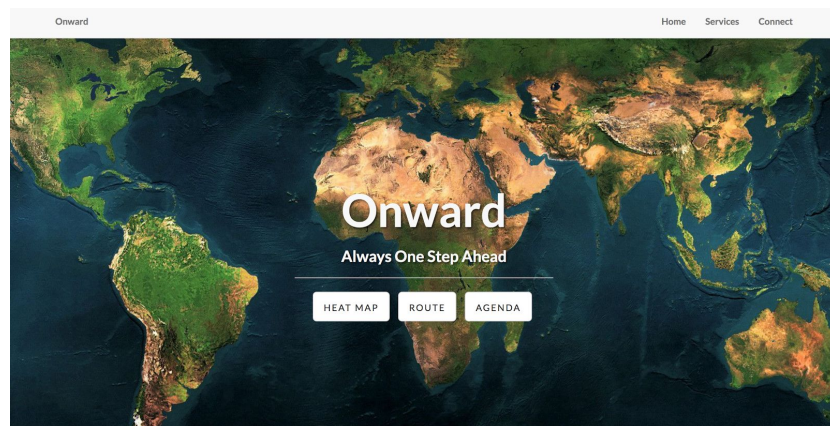


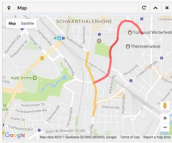
Figure 1: Landing Page (1)

Here you can view the options to navigate to the features Heat Map, Route, or Agenda. Currently, the functional features are Heat Map and Route and you will be directed to the respective web pages for those features if you click their respective buttons. If you would like to view information about the features you can scroll down on the same landing page to see a brief description of each feature, as seen in Figure 2.

Our Services

Heat Map

Do you want to see traffic patterns in an area? Onward has you covered. Simply input the zip code and range of miles of the area that you would like to see the Heat Map for. You will also specify day and time of interest, the traffic severities of interest, and the weather. If you don't know the weather, don't worry. The website can also provide the forecast for up to 10 days ahead. Onward will then show you color coded traffic patterns based on your inputs.



Route

Do you have a specific destination in mind and want to see what possible traffic you may run into? Then this feature is the one for you! Input the starting and ending address along with the time of day and day of week of travel and traffic severities of interest. The website can also forecast the weather for up to 10 days in advance. Onward will show the route of travel from the starting to the ending address and color-coded predicted traffic along the route!

Figure 2: Landing Page (2)

Heat Map Feature

Choosing the “Heat Map” feature from the landing page will direct you to the following web page.

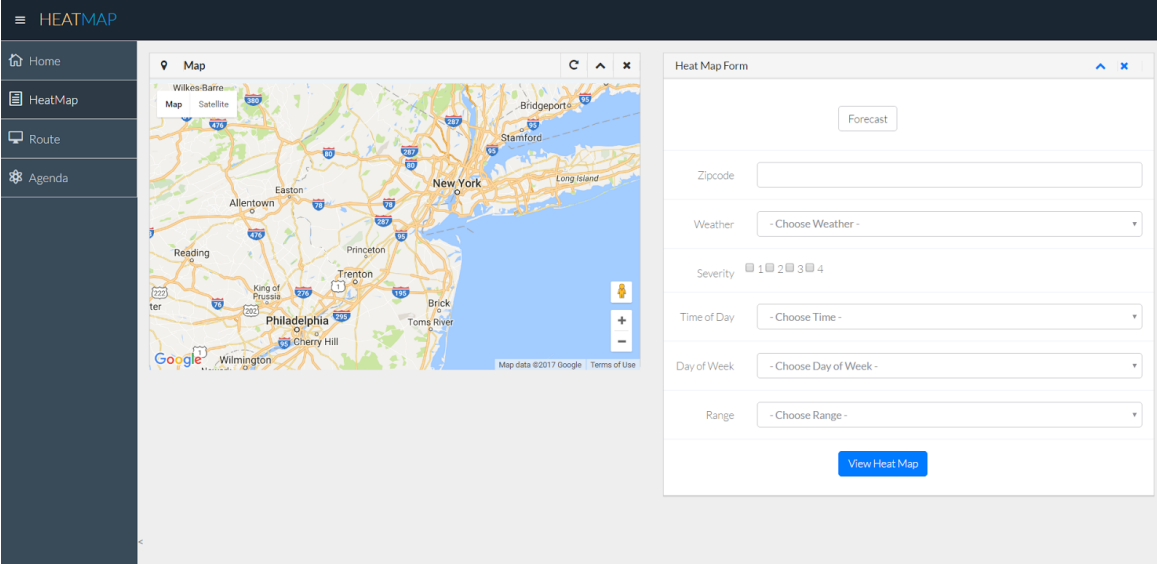


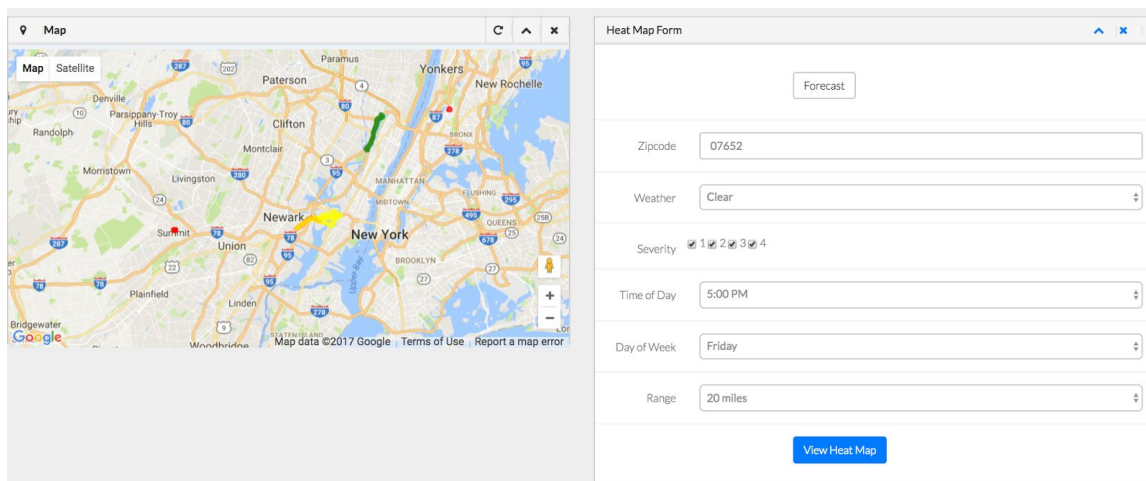
Figure 3: Heat Map

This web page shows an interactive map and an input form. The Heat Map feature will show users the traffic for a specific area, based on a Zip Code and a range of miles for a time of day for a day of the week or date based on a weather condition, as traffic depends on these parameters. There is a “Forecast” button at the top of the form that gives you the choice to use forecasted weather or weather conditions that they are specifically interested in.

If you wish to use weather conditions of your own interest, don't click the "Forecast" button and fill the form shown above.

- Enter a 5 digit valid zip code in the "Zip Code" field.
- Select "Weather" from the drop down "Choose Weather" that has the options "Any Weather", "Clear", "Snow", "Cloudy", "Rain", and "Fog". The last 5 options are general weather conditions the you may choose from to see how that weather condition may affect traffic conditions in the area of interest, and the option "Any Weather" will show the traffic conditions independent of weather condition.
- Choose what "severities" of traffic you want to view on the map via a checkbox input. A "1" is low impact traffic (color: green), a "2" is minor impact traffic (color: yellow), "3" is moderate impact traffic (color: orange) , and "4" is serious impact traffic (color: red). You may input any combination of severities and those respective severities will be shown on the map indicated by the colors stated.
- Next Select the "Time of Day" from the "Choose Time" dropdown that will provide the options of 12:00 AM to 11:00 PM as well as "All Times". Choosing a time will tell Onward to show traffic that will likely occur at that time for the Day that you will choose. If you would like to see Heat Map without a specific time in mind, you would select "All Times".
- Next Select "Day of Week" from the "Choose Day of Week" drop down to choose either "Monday", "Tuesday", "Wednesday", "Thursday", "Friday", "Saturday" or "Sunday". This will be the day of the week Onward will display the traffic condition for.
- Next Select a "Range" from the "Choose Range" drop down. This will be how many miles from the center of the zip code that you have chosen that you wish for Onward to report traffic information for. The options are "5", "10", "15", "20" miles.
- Click "View Heat Map". Onward will now use your inputs to show you traffic information on the map based on these specific inputs.

Example:



The screenshot displays the Onward Heat Map interface. On the left is a Google Map of New York City, with a green line indicating traffic severity along a route. On the right is the "Heat Map Form" with the following fields:

- Forecast**: A button.
- Zipcode**: A text input field containing "07652".
- Weather**: A dropdown menu set to "Clear".
- Severity**: A row of checkboxes for 1, 2, 3, and 4. All four checkboxes are checked.
- Time of Day**: A dropdown menu set to "5:00 PM".
- Day of Week**: A dropdown menu set to "Friday".
- Range**: A dropdown menu set to "20 miles".
- View Heat Map**: A blue button at the bottom of the form.

Figure 4: Heat Map Example

If you are interested in a specific day that is in the next 10 days, Onward provides you the option to use forecasted weather provided by “The Weather Company” so you do not need to choose a weather condition. To exercise this option, click the “Forecast” button and the form will then update to the following.

Figure 5: Heat Map With Forecast

- Enter a 5 digit valid zip code in the “Zip Code” field.
- Choose what “severities” of traffic you want to view on the map via a checkbox input. A “1” is low impact traffic (color: green), a “2” is minor impact traffic (color: yellow), “3” is moderate impact traffic (color: orange) , and “4” is serious impact traffic (color: red). You may input any combination of severities and those respective severities will be shown on the map indicated by the colors stated.
- Next Select the “Time of Day” from the “Choose Time” dropdown that will provide the options of 12:00 AM to 11:00 PM. Choosing a time will tell Onward to show traffic that will likely occur at that time for the Day that you will choose. “All Times” is not an option here because our weather forecasting requires a specific time.
- Next Select “Date” from the “Date” drop down. You will be able to choose a date that is within the next days from the current date. Onward will then use this date to get weather from The Weather Channel and use this date for day of the week.
- Next Select a “Range” from the “Choose Range” drop down. This will be how many miles from the center of the zip code that you have chosen that you wish for Onward to report traffic information for. The options are “5” , “10” , “15” , “20” miles.
- Click “View Heat Map”. Onward will now use your inputs to show you traffic information on the map based on these specific inputs, as well as inform you the weather for the time and day.

Example:

The image shows a web application interface for generating a heat map. On the left is a Google Map of the New York area, with a red dot indicating a location near New York City. On the right is a 'Heat Map Form' with the following fields:

- Back** button
- Zip Code**: 08817
- Severity**: 1, 2, 3, 4 (radio buttons)
- Time of Day**: 5:00 PM
- Date**: March 29, 2017
- Range**: 20 miles
- View Heat Map** button

Figure 6: Heat Map With Forecast Example

Route Feature

Choosing the “Route” feature from the landing page will direct you to the following web page.

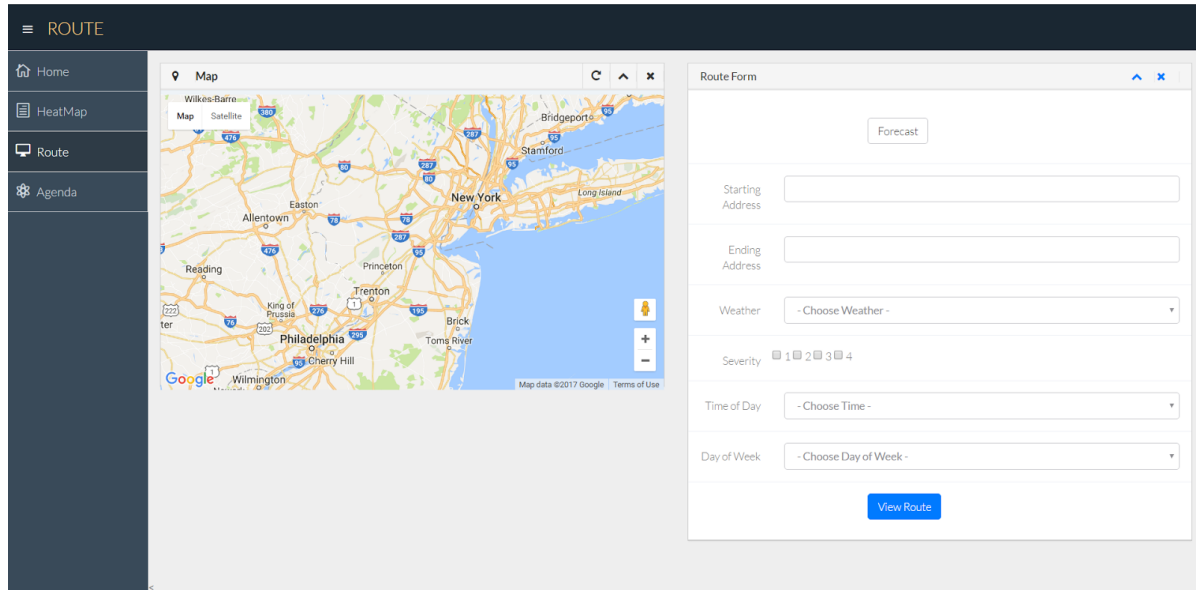
The screenshot shows a web application interface for the "Route" feature. On the left is a dark sidebar with a menu containing "Home", "HeatMap", "Route", and "Agenda". The "Route" option is highlighted. The main area is split into two panels. The left panel, titled "Map", displays a Google Map of the Northeastern United States, centered on New York City, with various cities like Allentown, Easton, Princeton, Trenton, Philadelphia, and Wilmington labeled. The right panel, titled "Route Form", contains several input fields: "Starting Address" and "Ending Address" (text boxes), "Weather" (a dropdown menu currently showing "- Choose Weather -"), "Severity" (checkboxes for 1, 2, 3, and 4), "Time of Day" (a dropdown menu showing "- Choose Time -"), and "Day of Week" (a dropdown menu showing "- Choose Day of Week -"). At the top of the form is a "Forecast" button, and at the bottom is a blue "View Route" button.

Figure 7: Route

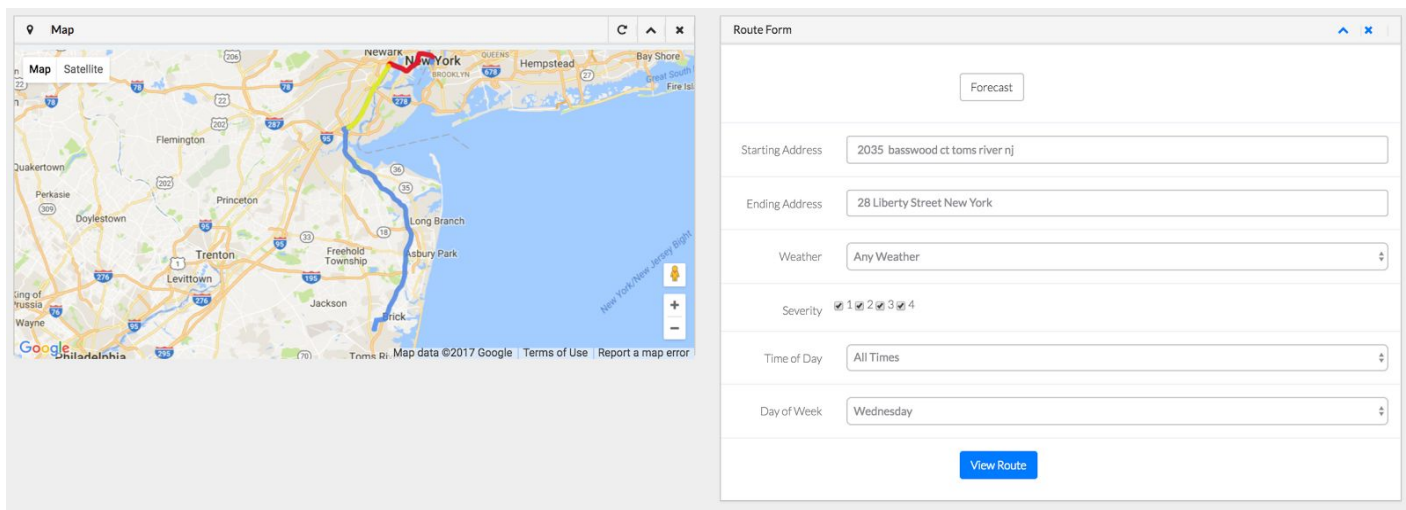
This web page shows an interactive map and an input form. The Route feature will show users the traffic for a route for which the user will specify “Starting Address”, “Ending Address”, “Weather”, “Severity”, “Time of Day”, “Day of Week”. There is a “Forecast” button at the top of the form that gives you the choice to use forecasted weather.

If you wish to use weather conditions of your own interest, do not click the “Forecast” button.

- Enter a valid starting address in the “Starting Address” field.
- Enter a valid ending address in the “Ending Address” field.
- Select “Weather” from the drop down “Choose Weather” that has the options “Any Weather”, “Clear”, “Snow”, “Cloudy”, “Rain”, and “Fog”. The last 5 options are general weather conditions the you may choose from to see how that weather condition may affect traffic conditions in the area of interest, and the option “Any Weather” will show the traffic conditions independent of weather condition.
- Choose what “severities” of traffic you want to view on the map via a checkbox input. A “1” is low impact traffic (color: green), a “2” is minor impact traffic (color: yellow), “3” is moderate impact traffic (color: orange) , and “4” is serious impact traffic (color: red). You may input any combination of severities and those respective severities will be shown on the map indicated by the colors stated.

- Next Select the “Time of Day” from the “Choose Time” dropdown that will provide the options of 12:00 AM to 11:00 PM as well as “All Times”. Choosing a time will tell Onward to show traffic that will likely occur at that time for the Day that you will choose. If you would like to see Heat Map without a specific time in mind, you would select “All Times”.
- Next Select “Day of Week” from the “Choose Day of Week” drop down to choose either “Monday”, “Tuesday”, “Wednesday”, “Thursday”, “Friday”, “Saturday” or “Sunday”. This will be the day of the week Onward will display the traffic condition for.
- Click “View Route”. Onward will now use your inputs to show you traffic information on the map based on these inputs.

Example:



The screenshot displays the Onward Route Form and a corresponding map. The map on the left shows a route from 2035 basswood ct toms river nj to 28 Liberty Street New York. The Route Form on the right contains the following fields:

- Forecast
- Starting Address: 2035 basswood ct toms river nj
- Ending Address: 28 Liberty Street New York
- Weather: Any Weather
- Severity: 1 2 3 4
- Time of Day: All Times
- Day of Week: Wednesday
- View Route

Figure 8: Route Example

If you are interested in a specific day that is in the next 10 days, Onward provides you the option to use forecasted weather provided by The Weather Company so you do not need to choose a weather condition. To exercise this option, click the “Forecast” button and the form will then update, as shown below.

The screenshot shows the 'ROUTE' section of the Onward application. On the left is a sidebar with navigation links: Home, HeatMap, Route, and Agenda. The main area is split into two panels. The left panel displays a Google Map of the Northeast United States, centered on New York City and Philadelphia, with various highways and city names labeled. The right panel is titled 'Route Form' and contains the following fields and controls:

- A 'Back' button at the top.
- 'Starting Address' and 'Ending Address' text input fields.
- 'Severity' checkboxes for 1, 2, 3, and 4.
- 'Time of Day' dropdown menu with '- Choose Time -' selected.
- 'Date' dropdown menu with '- Choose Date -' selected.
- A blue 'View Route' button at the bottom.

Figure 9: Route With Forecast

- Enter a valid starting address in the “Starting Address” field.
- Enter a valid ending address in the “Ending Address” field.
- Choose what “severities” of traffic you want to view on the map via a checkbox input. A “1” is low impact traffic (color: green), a “2” is minor impact traffic (color: yellow), “3” is moderate impact traffic (color: orange) , and “4” is serious impact traffic (color: red). You may input any combination of severities and those respective severities will be shown on the map indicated by the colors stated.
- Next Select the “Time of Day” from the “Choose Time” dropdown that will provide the options of 12:00 AM to 11:00 PM. Choosing a time will tell Onward to show traffic that will likely occur at that time for the Day that you will choose. “All Times” is not an option here because our weather forecasting requires a specific time.
- Next Select “Date” from the “Date” drop down. You will be able to choose a date that is within the next days from the current date. Onward will then use this date to get weather from The Weather Channel and use this date for day of the week.
- Click “View Route”. Onward will now use your inputs to show you traffic information on the map based on these inputs as well as inform you the weather for the time and day.

Example:

The screenshot displays a Google Maps interface with a route highlighted in blue. The route starts at 7 Hancock Court in East Brunswick, NJ, and ends at Times Square in New York, NY. The map shows major highways and surrounding areas. A weather forecast overlay at the bottom left indicates clear conditions for April 2, 2017, at 9:00 AM. To the right of the map is a 'Route Form' panel with the following fields:

- Back** button
- Starting Address:** 7 Hancock Court East Brunswick NJ
- Ending Address:** Times Square New York
- Severity:** Radio buttons for 1, 2, 3, and 4. Option 2 is selected.
- Time of Day:** 9:00 AM
- Date:** April 2, 2017
- View Route** button

Figure 10: Route With Forecast Example

Contact Us

If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback please contact any members of the Onward Team. We would love to hear from you.

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