# Practical Uses of Big Transportation Data for Cities and Municipalities

Penn State

Traffic Engineering and Safety Conference

Stephen Buckley, P.E., AICP Northeast Regional Manager for Planning, Environment and Traffic WSP <u>December 6, 2018</u>







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# Practical Uses of Big Data in Transportation

## Data in Transportation

#### Asset Management



### Mobility



504 King Link Times From John To Spadina Westbound May 2014





### Safety



## Data in Transportation

### Mobility



504 King Link Times From John To Spadina Westbound May 2014



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## **Transportation Data Collection**



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## **Traffic Data Collection**

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### **Traffic Data Collection**



### Travel Data





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## Travel Data



19

So How Can We Use Big Transportation Data?

## How We Can Use Big Transportation Data?

Describing	<ul> <li>Understanding what is happening</li> </ul>
Evaluating	Measuring changes
Operating	<ul> <li>Identifying issues real-time</li> </ul>
Planning	Modelling
Predicting	<ul> <li>Proactively communicating trip info</li> </ul>

# Describing

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## **Changes in Congestion**





Source: Inrix

### **Toronto ranked last in survey of commuting times** -Toronto Star, March 29, 2010

### Gridlock a grind on Toronto's economy: report - CBC News, June 28, 2011

### Congestion cost may be up to \$11 billion for GTA, study says - Toronto Star, July 11, 2013

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### How Does Toronto Stack Up?



Annual Average Hours Lost Due to Congestion in the Metropolitan Area

Source: Inrix

### -vsp

# McMaster University Research

26

#### **Congested Days in Toronto**

September 15, 2015

Funded by City of Toronto [20002856]





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# Study Coverage



### Data Companies

28









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# Where and When is Delay Occurring?



29

	January							February									March							
BEST/WORST	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Τнυ	Fri	Sat		Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Τнυ	Fri	Sat		Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Тни	Fri	Sa	
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# Quantifying Congestion



31

## **Corridor Report Cards**



INRIX TRANSPORTATION

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# Mapping Congestion

PM Peak Period Travel Time Index (Peak Time / Free Flow Time)

1.00 - 1.18 1.18 - 1.25 1.25 - 1.50 1.50 - 1.75 1.75 - 2.00 > 2.00



# Evaluating

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# Before and During Gardiner Construction/Pan AM HOV

36



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### TTC AVL Data

37



### Real Time Monitoring of Travel Patterns

Ready to See StreetLight InSight® in Action?

StreetLight InSight is an online platform that offers the best Big Data resources for understanding travel patterns - and the processing software that makes Big Data useful.

Fill out this form to watch all of our demo videos.



# Operating

# Most Congested

40

PM Peak Period Travel Time Index (Peak Time / Free Flow Time)

1.00 - 1.18 1.18 - 1.25 1.25 - 1.50 1.50 - 1.75 1.75 - 2.00 > 2.00

# **Causes of Congestion**



## Perception of Congestion

How traffic conditions have been communicated



# Small improvement in average travel time



#### What travellers experience...



Source: FHWA

### What we were seeing in Toronto



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### TTC AVL Data



44

### TTC AVL Data



45

# Factors Impacting Congestion and Variability

- Regional Growth
- Private Sector Construction
- Public Sector Construction
- O&M (repairs, winter maintenance, new connections, etc.)
- Rise of On-Demand Delivery
- Ride-hailing

### Least Reliable

47

PM Peak Period Coefficient of Variation (SD Time / Mean Time)

0.05 - 0.13 0.13 - 0.16 0.16 - 0.25 0.25 - 0.32 0.32 - 0.38 > 0.38

# Operations



48

# Arterial Camera Program (2016 Build-out)



## **Transportation Operations Centre**



# Not Speed.....but "Different from Normal"



















# UAV Demo



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# UAV Demo



# UAV Demo



http://portal.cvst.ca/

# Predicting

# **Predictive Tools**











# Actionable Information



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PRO

EVENT

#### Cycling App

- TTC AVL
- Bluetooth Probe

#### GPS Probe

### Cycle & Ped Counts

**RESCU Detectors** 

#### Traffic Counts

Weather

#### **Road Closures**

**Collisions / Incidents** 

# 2 Projects

#### 1. VALIDATING

Validating GPS Probe Data

#### 2. DESCRIBING

- Measuring Congestion
- Measuring Reliability
- Impact of Incidents
- Non-Recurring Congestion

#### 3. EVALUATING

- Peak Hour Clearance
- Before/After Studies
- Incident Response Time

#### 4. OPERATIONAL

- Arterial Monitoring
- Positioning Emergency Response

#### **3** Key Questions

What questions can be addressed under each project?

#### Potential Actions

What actionable information will these projects supply?

#### 67

# 2. DESCRIBING

#### I. VALIDATING

Validating GPS Probe Data

#### 2. DESCRIBING

Measuring Congestion

Measuring Reliability

- Impact of Incidents
- Non-Recurring Congestion

#### **B. EVALUATING**

- Peak Hour Clearance
- Before/After Studies
- Incident Response Time
- I. OPERATIONAL
- Arterial Monitoring
- Positioning Emergency Response

#### **Key Questions**

• How is congestion changing?

#### **Potential Actions**

- Ability to communicate congestion to the public
- Better understanding for policy, planning and operational decisions
- Audits of segments and intersections for bottlenecks



**RESCU Detectors** 

**Traffic Counts** 

PROBE

EVENT

## 2. DESCRIBING

#### 1. VALIDATING

Validating GPS Probe Data

#### 2. DESCRIBING

Measuring Congestion

GPS Probe

RESCU Detectors

EVENT

PROBE

#### Weather

- Heasuring Reliability
  - mpact of Incidents
  - Non-Recurring Congestion

#### **B. EVALUATING**

- Peak Hour Clearance
- Before/After Studies
- Incident Response Time
- 4. OPERATIONAL
- Arterial Monitoring
- Positioning Emergency
  Response

#### **Key Questions**

What are the least reliable roads? And why?

#### **Potential Actions**

- Warn the public of anticipated impacts
- Target traffic management resources
  more effectively

### 2. DESCRIBING

#### I. VALIDATING

• Validating GPS Probe Data

#### 2. DESCRIBING

Measuring Congestion

Measuring Reliability

#### Impact of Incidents

Non-Recurring Congestion

#### **EVALUATING**

- Peak Hour Clearance
- Before/After Studies
- Incident Response Time

#### **1. OPERATIONAL**

- Arterial Monitoring
- Positioning Emergency Response

#### **Key Questions**

• What are the impacts of incidents / collisions on travel times?

#### **Potential Actions**

Make the case for better incident response

Bluetooth Probe

GPS Probe

RESCU Detectors

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OBE

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69

Collisions / Incidents



# **Building Capacity**

Integration of Skill Sets

Statistics / Data Analysis

**Computer Science** 



**Design & Visualization** 



Transportation



Database / Data Management



Cartography / GIS


# **Technology and Analytics Team**

- -Build capacity and embed within your organization
- Dedicate resources

73

- Establish partnerships with academia
- -Build a pipeline through internships
- Ensure a strong champion

#### **DI** TORONTO A↑ A↓ S Search Living In Toronto -Doing Business -Visiting Toronto -Accessing City Hall -A City of Toronto / Living In Toronto / Transportation / Big Data Innovation Transportation 🛃 Share Transportation 3 Road Safety **Big Data Innovation** Winter Maintenance Traffic Conditions and Restrictions Maintenance and Traffic Management **Big Data Innovation** Contact Us Cycling The Big Data Innovation team was created in 2015 with the mission of leveraging Walking Jesse Coleman emerging transportation datasets together with existing City data to develop a new Big Data Lead **Beautiful Streets** understanding of transportation issues across all modes in the City. The focus of the Big Data Innovation Team will be on conducting practical analyses of transportation data to City of Toronto StreetARToronto be able to more easily measure the impact and benefits of policies and solutions. The City Hall, 100 Queen Street West team will be partnering with researchers and will focus on providing excellence in the Graffiti Management communication and visualization of findings. Toronto, ON M5H 2N2 Parking Permits E: jcolema3@toronto.ca The Innovation Team will begin by building on some current work being conducted Street Events by Transportation Services, including: · Partnering with McMaster University to analyze historical travel data on city Construction Permit Information

### Google: Toronto Big Data Innovation

## LA Metro

#### **Office of Extraordinary Innovation** (M) Metro Extraordinary Innovation Initiatives & Interests Who We Are The Source Newsletter Archive ~ **Going Metro** February 2018 Projects SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER September 2017 About Us anuary 2017 We live in extraordinary times. While Los Angeles presents some of the October 2016 toughest mobility challenges in America, the world is experiencing levels of transportation innovation unprecedented in recent memory. And these August 2016 changes are in turn redefining what an agency like Metro should be. Off Peak Podcast $\sim$ To take advantage of the promise offered by these opportunities, Metro has 8 Partners set a goal to be the most innovative transportation agency in the country, OEI in the News $\sim$ ensuring that we are using every tool at our disposal to help improve mobility Comments Whitepapers $\sim$ in LA County. Website Help P<sub>3</sub> Resources $\sim$ With that in mind, the Office of Extraordinary Innovation was established to explore new ways to move LA by finding and testing leading-edge ideas that Internal Consulting $\sim$ have potential to improve mobility for the people in the region. From public private capital partnerships to cutting edge new technologies, OEI is tasked Advisory Board $\sim$ with identifying, evaluating, developing, and implementing these new approaches. These efforts may be undertaken by Metro on its own or jointly Contact $\sim$ 🔥 Accessibility in collaboration with private sector firms through public-private partnership

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### Public Procurement Technology Innovation Labs Launching in Los Angeles via Public Spend Forum's Collaboration with the Los Angeles Mayor's Office

May 09, 2018



Public Spend Forum which is a market intelligence platform and community for public sector buyers and suppliers is collaborating with the Los Angeles Mayor's Office to launch a new lab that showcases new and disruptive approaches and technologies in government called the Public Procurement Technology and Innovation Labs. The Innovation Labs will serve to connect emerging and established procurement technology firms, experts, and entrepreneurs with

government agencies when it launches on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The Shatter Fund which invests capital in

BIG TRANSPORTATION DATA FOR BIG CITIES CONFERENCE

77



The Big Transportation Data for Big Cities Conference will enable city transportation officials, technical staff, academics, and public sector and industry leaders from **18 big cities across North America** to commence dialogue on the practical and actionable use of urban transportation data. The platform will provide an opportunity for

- City transportation officials to engage and educate the industry about city transportation data wants and needs;
- Cities to share knowledge, experiences, and best practices with each other;
- Academics to show how to blend cutting edge data with pragmatic solutions and ideas;

http://bigdatabigcities2016.org/

## DC Mobility Report

78



# **Getting Started**

- Partner with an institution that can support you
- Prepare an inventory of existing City data sets
- Develop your "making the case" strategy for generating support
- Conduct research on existing and new data sets, including opportunities & limitations
- Develop a data improvement strategy; Investigate data procurement
- Avoid getting into primary data collection; consider purchasing *information*
- Identify quick win projects to show value
- -Borrow liberally (R&D program)
- Perfect is the enemy of really good, but understand limitations!
- Manage the expectations of your senior leadership

## Offense through Defense

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— With a new Foreword by H. J. de Blij -

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# Understanding the Dangers of Data-Driven Models



Practical Uses of Big Transportation Data for Cities and Municipalities

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