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Major Arteries and Motor Vehicle Theft: Investigating the Spatial Distribution of MVT in the Lower Mainland District

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Vehicle theft, like most crime types, is spatially concentrated, with more than one quarter of these crimes occurring within fifty meters of a major roadway. Spatial analysis and mapping of all motor vehicle thefts (MVT) occurring in the PIRS system for the Lower Mainland District in 2004 and 2005 emphasize clear clustering around major roads (see Figure 1, below). This map also reveals hotspots of MVT intensity occurring in specific point locations across the landscape. Future fact sheets will analyze these activity nodes to determine the specific land uses around which MVT events tend to cluster.