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# Pricing and Reliability Enhancements in the San Diego Activity-Based Travel Model

Joel Freedman  
*Portland State University*

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# Pricing and Reliability Enhancements in the San Diego Activity-Based Travel Model

Joel Freedman, RSG

Portland State University Seminar Series

December 2, 2016

# Overview

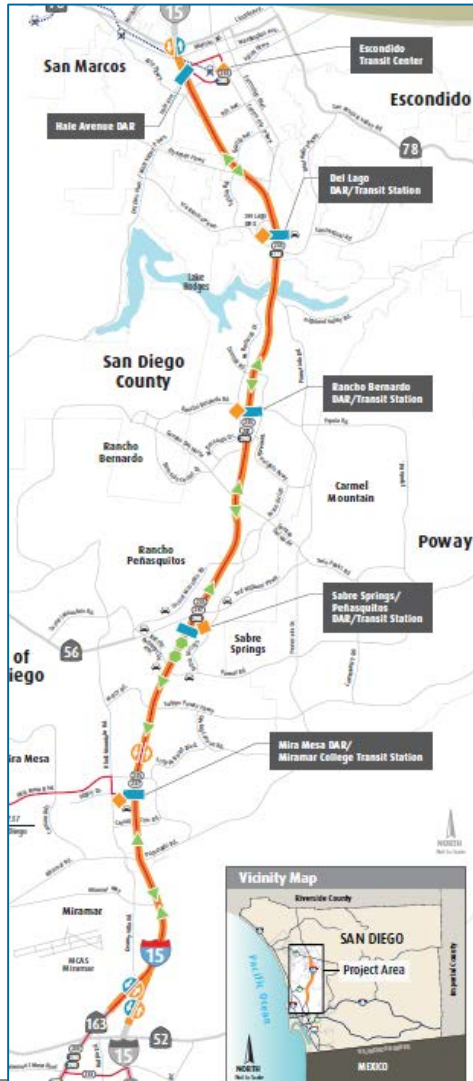
## Objectives

- Modify San Diego Activity-Based Model to increase sensitivity to pricing alternatives
  - Travel time sensitivity heterogeneity
  - Value-of-time segmentation in skimming and assignment
- Add sensitivity to highway network reliability

## Move research into practice

- SHRP Project C04: Improving Our Understanding of How Highway Congestion and Pricing Affect Travel Demand
- SHRP Project L04: Incorporating Reliability into Travel Models

# Why is SANDAG interested in C04?



- Improved analysis tools for **San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan**
- Two existing toll facilities in San Diego (I-15 and SR-125)
- Additional ML facilities under consideration



# What is an Activity-Based Model?

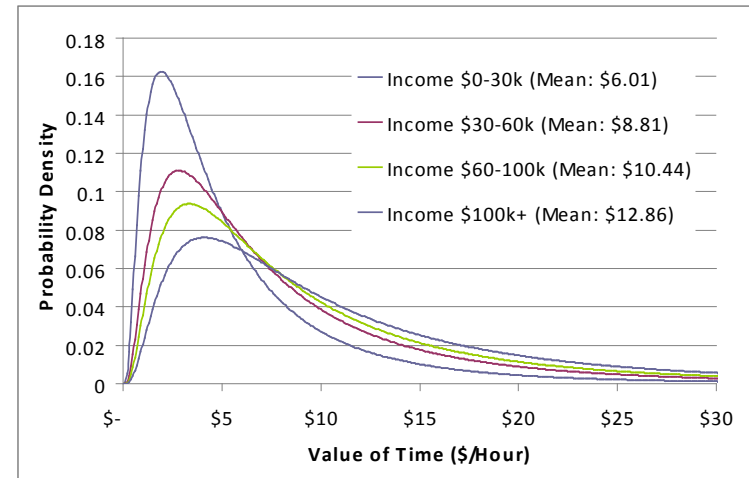
- Model travel by *individuals*
  - Socio-economic characteristics are tracked explicitly
  - Decisions are simulated
- Model trips as part of *tours*
  - A series of trips beginning and ending at home or work (anchor locations)
- Schedule activities consistently in *time* and *space*
  - Activities occur in available time windows
  - No person can be in two places at the same time

# Activity-Based Models: Micro-simulation

- A synthetic population is created that represents the actual population
- Travel is explicitly modeled for each person/household
- Monte Carlo simulation is used instead of fractional probability aggregation
- Results are aggregated and:
  - Assigned to transport networks
  - Compiled into reports

# Examples of other AB Models with Pricing Enhancements

- San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SF-CHAMP)
  - Commuter value-of-time study used for random cost parameters
- Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CT-RAMP)
  - Eight time periods for skimming\assignment
- Sacramento Council of Governments (DaySim)
  - Distributed time sensitivity and continuous income as recommended by C04



# C04 Highway Utility Function (implemented)

$$Utility_{ij} = \alpha \times Time_{ij} + \beta \times [Cost_{ij} / (I^e \times O^f)] + \gamma \times \frac{STD}{Distance_{ij}} + \delta$$

where:

$\alpha$  is a log-normally distributed random parameter representing unobserved user heterogeneity with respect to travel time sensitivity

$\beta$  is the travel cost coefficient

$\gamma$  is the reliability coefficient

$\delta$  is an alternative-specific constant for toll usage

$I^e$  captures the effect of income ( $I$ ) on travel cost sensitivity

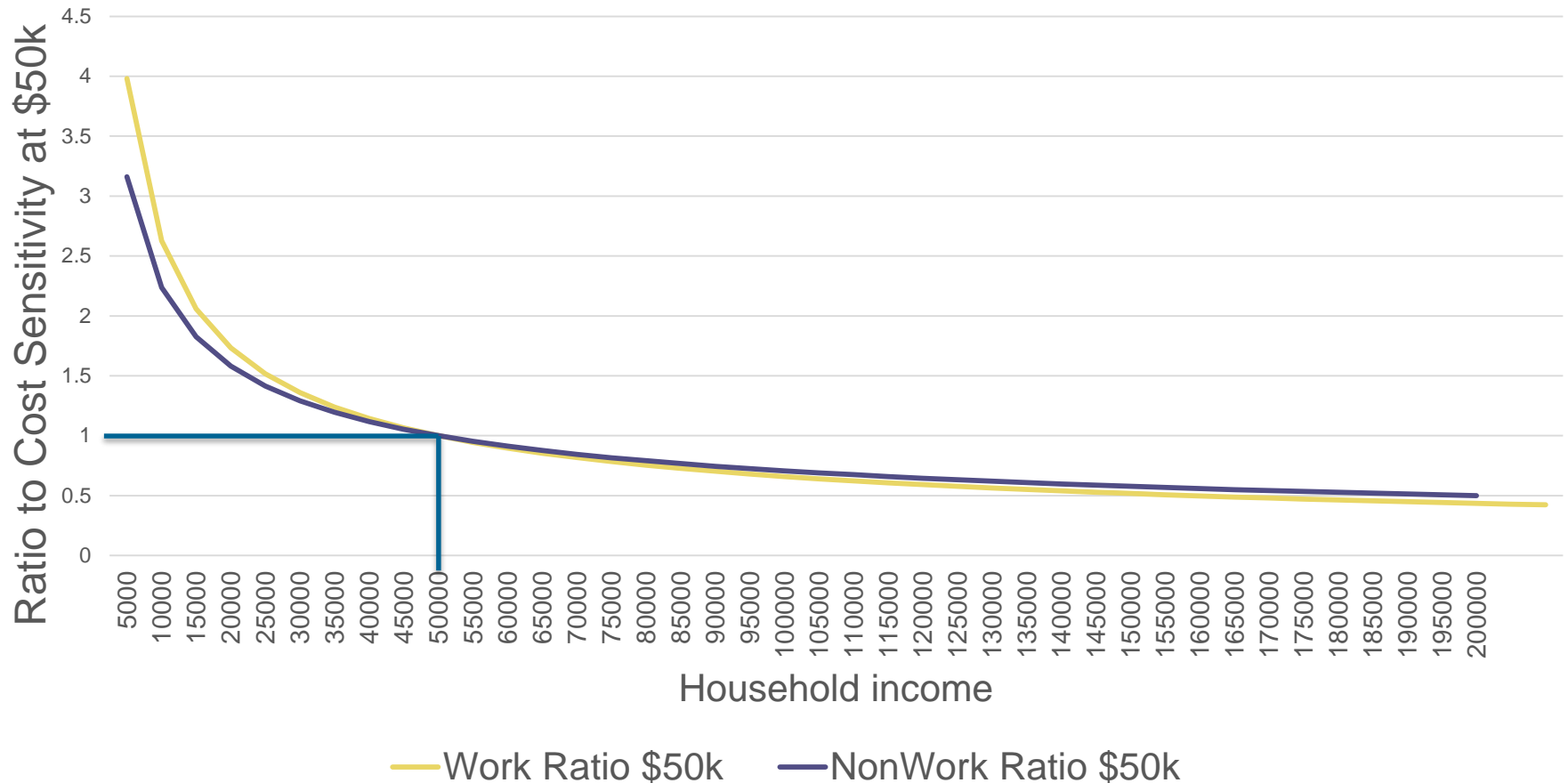
$O^f$  captures the effect of auto occupancy on travel cost sensitivity

$STD/Distance$  is the standard deviation of travel time per mile



# Cost Sensitivity By Household Income

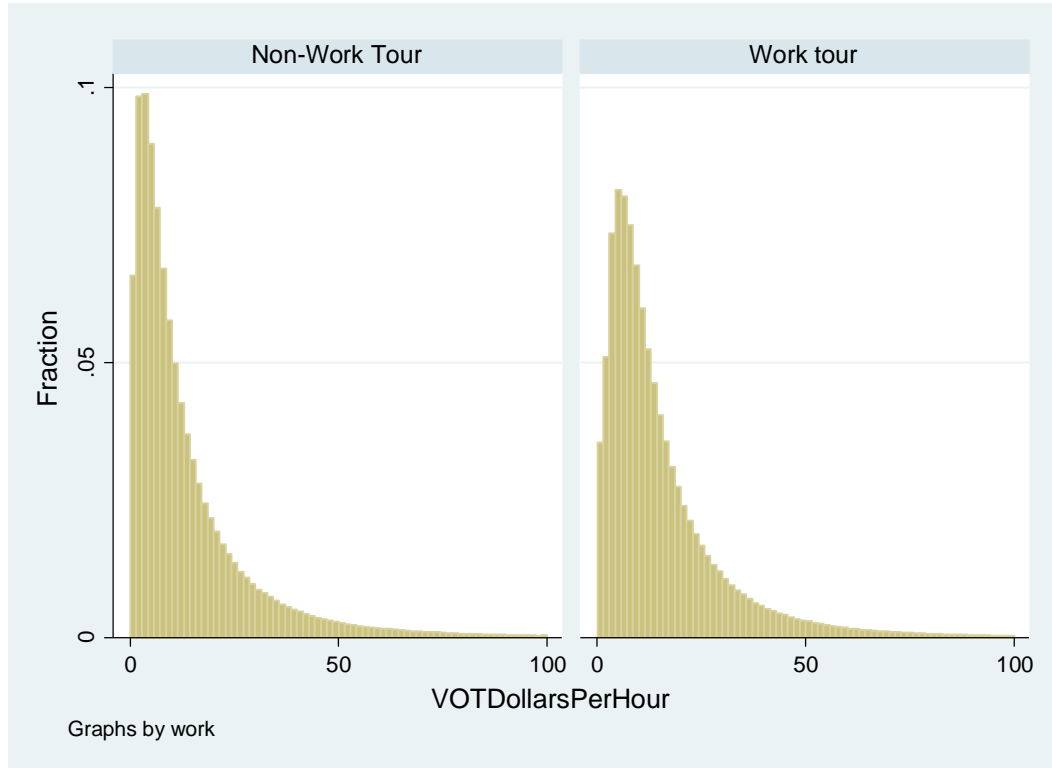
Cost Sensitivity By Income Compared to Cost Sensitivity for \$50k Household



# Travel Time Sensitivity

- Report recommends average travel time parameters but does not recommend specific location and scale parameters for distributed time sensitivity
- Our approach was to multiply estimated travel time coefficient by  $\ln N (\mu, \sigma^2)$  with (non-log) mean = 1.0 and standard deviation calibrated to match other recent SP VOT studies
- Separate draws for each person for both work and non-work
  - Time sensitivity for joint tours set to oldest tour member

# Resulting Value of Time Distributions



Statistic	Work	Non-Work
Mean	\$ 16.24	\$ 14.78
Std. Dev	\$ 18.35	\$ 20.16
Minimum	\$ 0.04	\$ 0.03
Maximum	\$ 955.18	\$ 1,317.83

Percentiles	Work	Non-Work
1%	\$ 0.51	\$ 0.46
5%	\$ 1.96	\$ 1.21
10%	\$ 3.19	\$ 1.99
25%	\$ 5.93	\$ 4.15
50%	\$ 10.95	\$ 8.75
75%	\$ 19.92	\$ 17.79
90%	\$ 34.24	\$ 33.23
95%	\$ 47.53	\$ 48.04
99%	\$ 88.43	\$ 95.32

All trips:

33<sup>rd</sup> percentile VOT = \$6.00/hour

66<sup>th</sup> percentile VOT = \$14.30/hour

# SHRP Project C04 Key Recommendations: Reliability

- Incorporation of reliability
  - C04 suggests perceived travel time by congestion as proxy for reliability
  - Requires travel time skims by LOS (D, E, F, F+?)
  - Would not affect path (problem)

Travel time conditions	Weight
Free Flow	1.00
Busy	1.05
Light Congestion	1.10
Heavy Congestion	1.20
Stop Start	1.40
Gridlock	1.80

# INRIX Travel Time Data

October 2012. Weekdays. Joined to network. 1400 centerline miles.

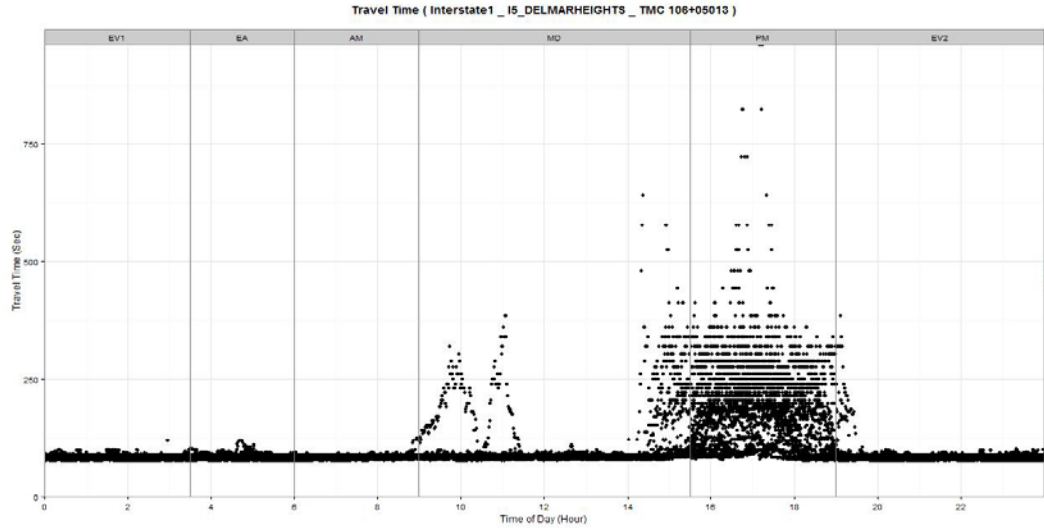
Facility Type	Data Size (number of segments)	Est. Sample Size – 80% (number of segments)
Freeways	1,020	816
Arterials	1,482	1,185
Ramps	130	104
Others (collectors and local roads)	355	284
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,987</b>	<b>2,389</b>

- Low sample size for ramps and others

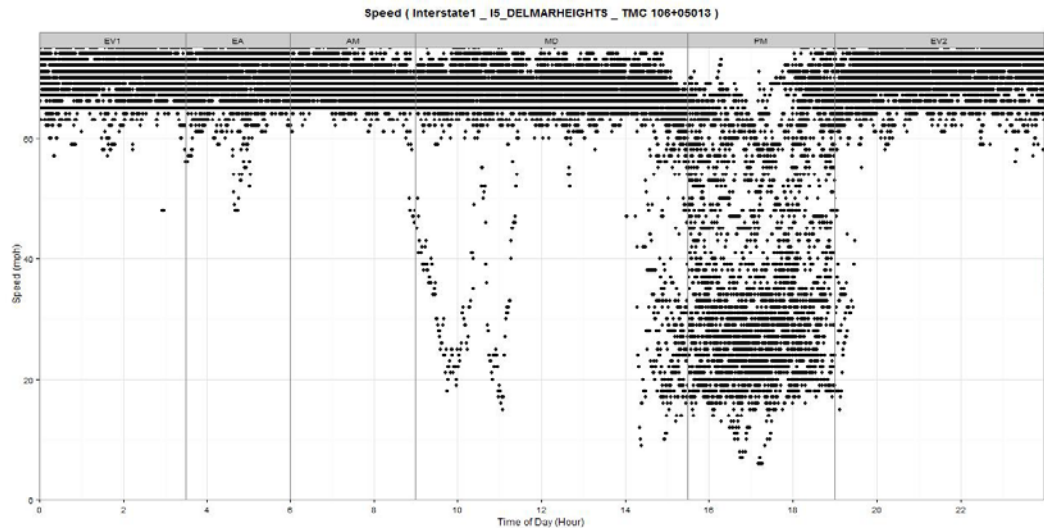
Estimations for freeway and arterial facility types

# Interstate (I5) – Del Mar Heights (TMC 106+05013)

Travel Time



Speed

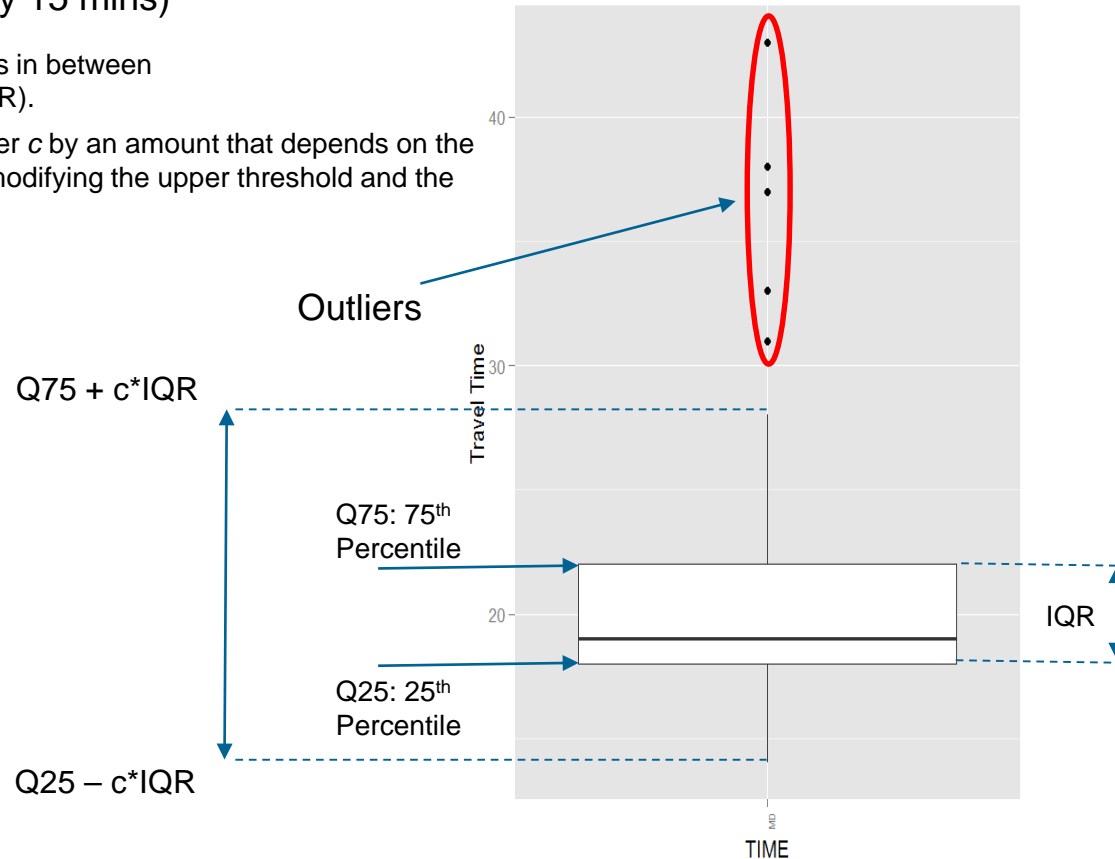


# Outlier Detection

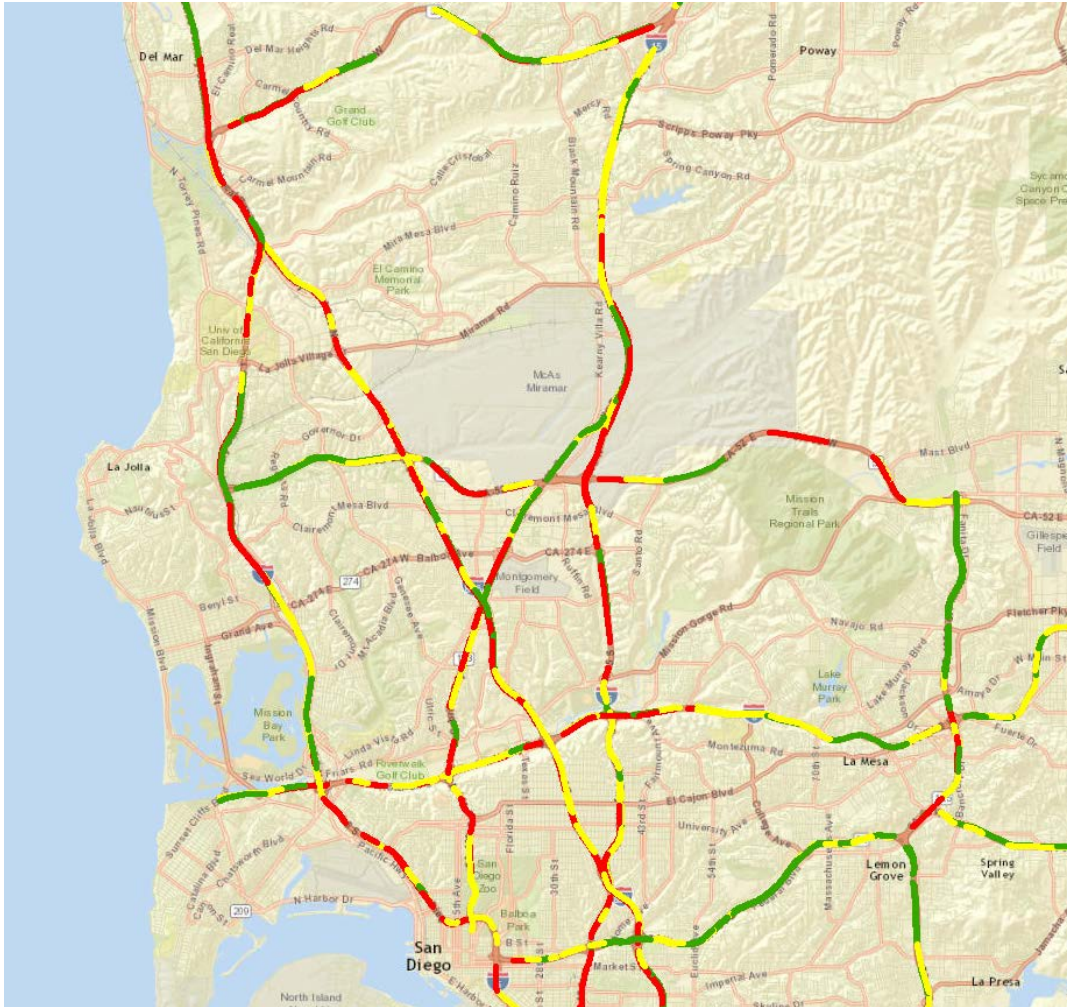
## Adjusted Box Plot (every 15 mins)

Data is considered valid if it falls in between  $(Q25 - c \cdot IQR)$  and  $(Q75 + c \cdot IQR)$ .

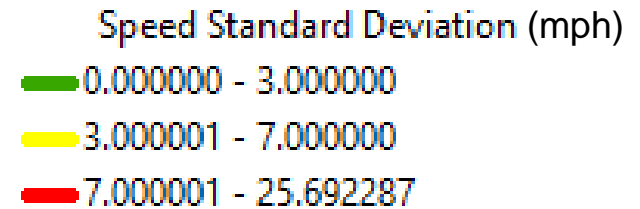
Modifies the threshold parameter  $c$  by an amount that depends on the asymmetry of the distribution, modifying the upper threshold and the lower threshold differently.



# Speed Variability (Freeways)



5:30 pm – 5:45 pm  
(PM peak period)





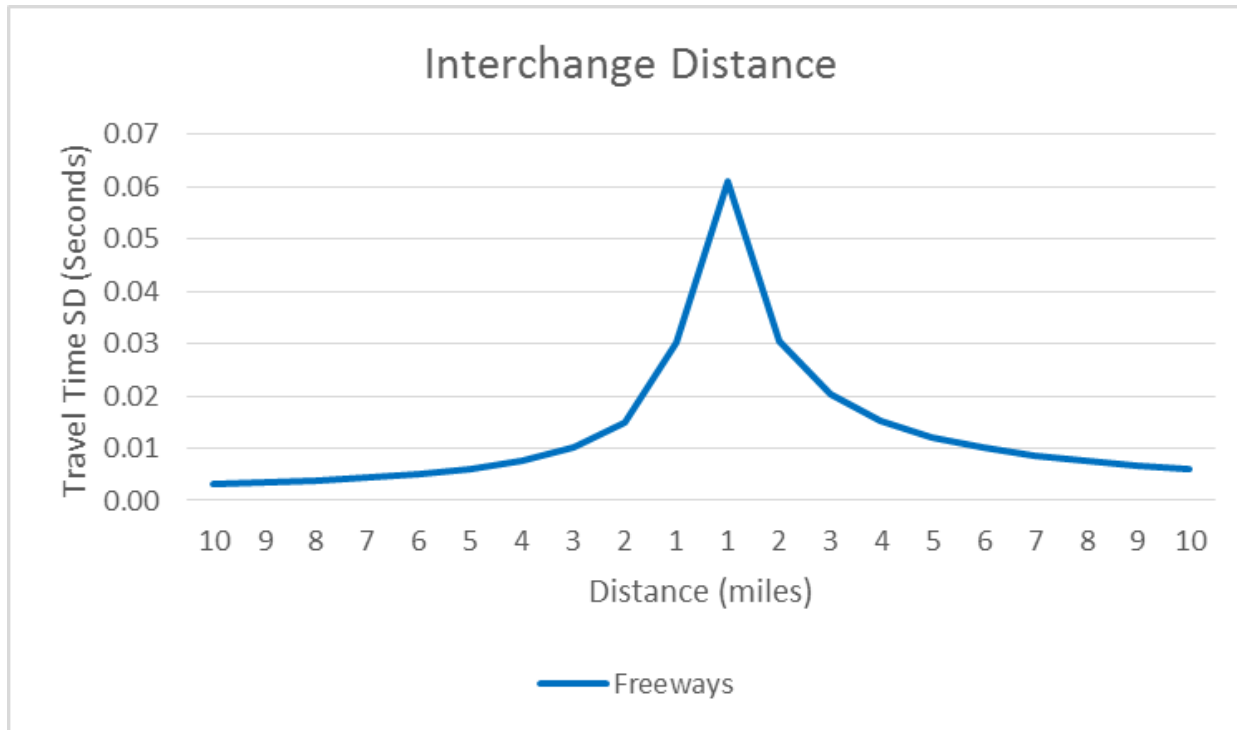
# Travel Time Reliability Regression Model

$$\frac{\sigma_{\text{min per mile}}}{\mu_{\text{min per mile}}} = f(\text{speed, lanes, control type, distance to freeway, time period, volume/capacity})$$

- Dependent variable formulated so that it can be implemented in volume-delay function
- Posted speed represents facility type variations for arterials
- (Inverse of) Distance to major freeway captures potential weaving conflicts: upstream (past) versus downstream (to)
- Control type - signalized, stop-controlled, metered, rr-xing, none)
- Time period captures time-of-day effects within broad periods
- V/C ratio captures congestion effects

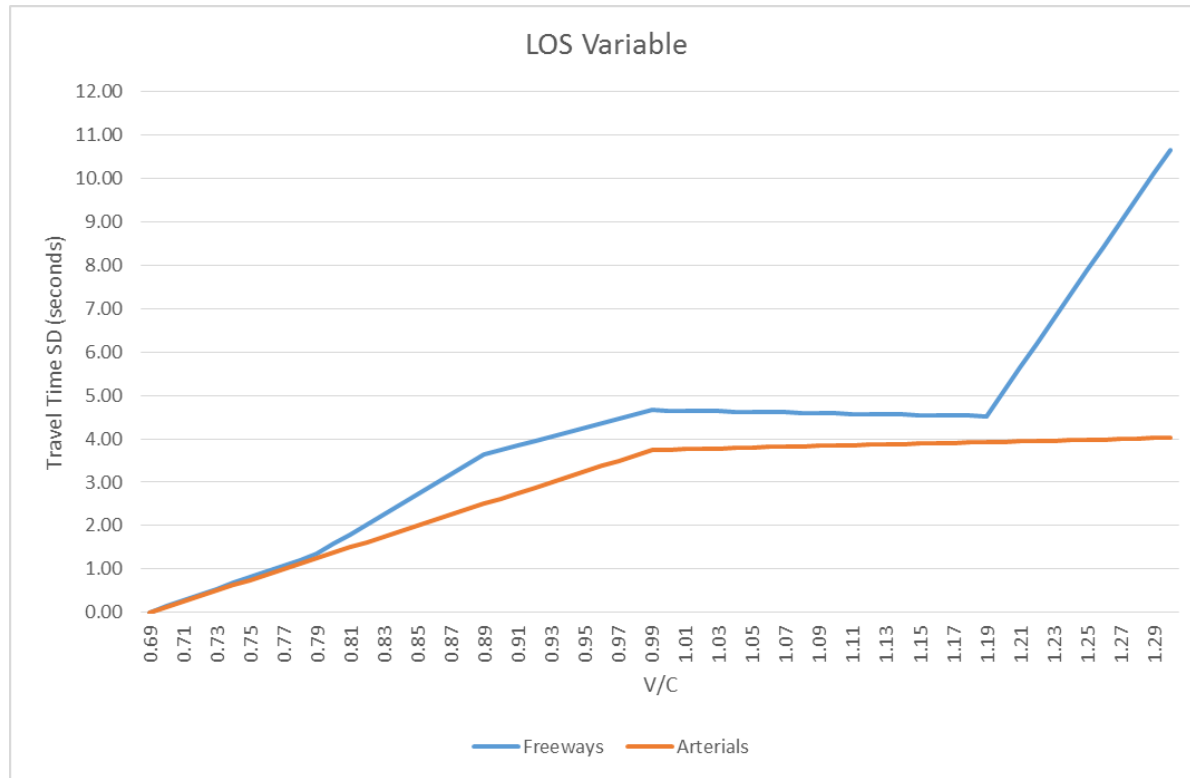


# Major Interchange Distance



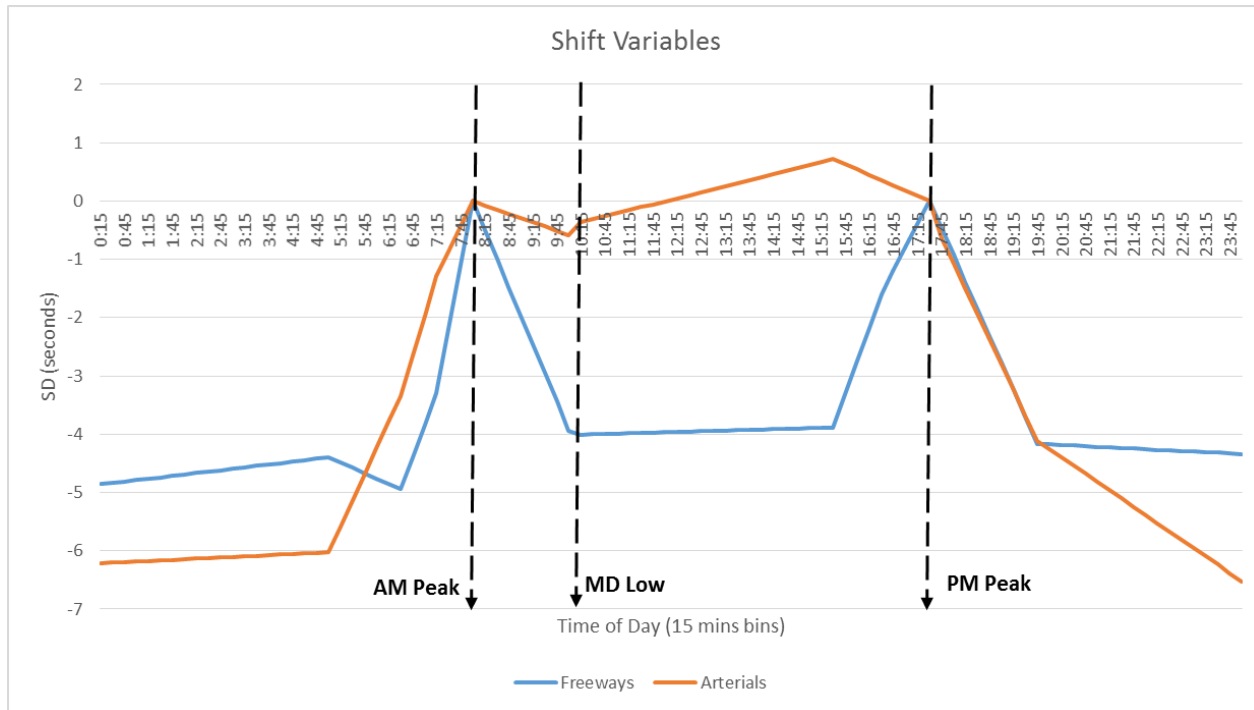
Facility	Avg. Speed (mph)	Mean TT (secs)
Freeway	65	55

# Level of Service (LOS)



Facility	Avg. Speed (mph)	Mean TT (secs)
Freeway	65	55
Arterial	45	80

# Shift Variables



Facility	Avg. Speed (mph)	Mean TT (secs)
Freeway	65	55
Arterial	45	80

# Estimation Results

- Two estimations – one with time-of-day effects and one without
- Significant time-of-day effects capturing within period variability
- Distance to/from major interchanges significant for freeways
- Reasonable LOS effects
  - Flatter for arterials than freeways
- Adjusted  $r^2$ 
  - 0.18 for freeways
  - 0.37 for arterials

# Reliability Implementation

## Original VDF Model Form

$$T_f = T_0 * \left[ 1 + \alpha_i * \left( \frac{v}{C_s} \right)^{\beta_i} \right] + P * \frac{c}{2} * \left( 1 - \frac{g}{c} \right)^2 * \left[ 1 + \alpha_i * \left( \frac{v}{C_i} \right)^{\beta_i} \right]$$

$C_i = S * \frac{g}{c}$

## Modified VDF Model Form

$$T_{f+r} = T_f + T_f * \left[ \sum_{t=1,n} \left( \gamma_t * \frac{v}{c} - t + 0.01 \right) + R \right]$$

Where:

$T_{f+r}$  = Travel time with (un)reliability

$T_f$  = Travel time without (un)reliability

$t$  =  $v/c$  thresholds (C, D, E, F-low, F-high)

$\gamma_t$  = Coefficients for  $v/c$  thresholds

$R$  = non- $v/c$  link (un) reliability

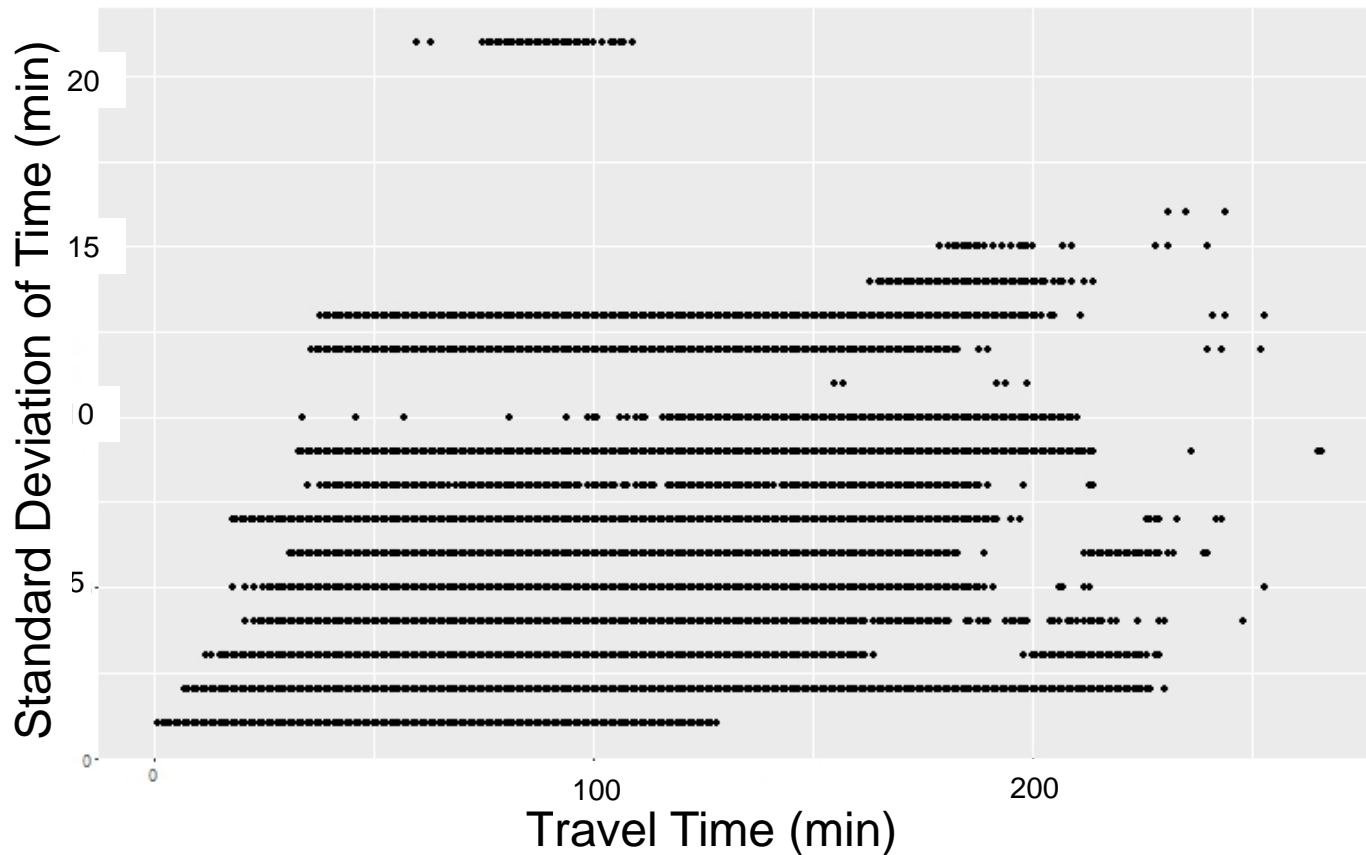
# Skimming

Problem: Standard deviation is not additive  
but variance is

- Path reliability calculation is not theoretically consistent
- To compensate, we square the unreliability portion of the cost for each link and skim
- Final skims are square root of the skimmed value

# Scatterplot of Reliability versus Travel Time (skim)

Reliability vs Travel Time



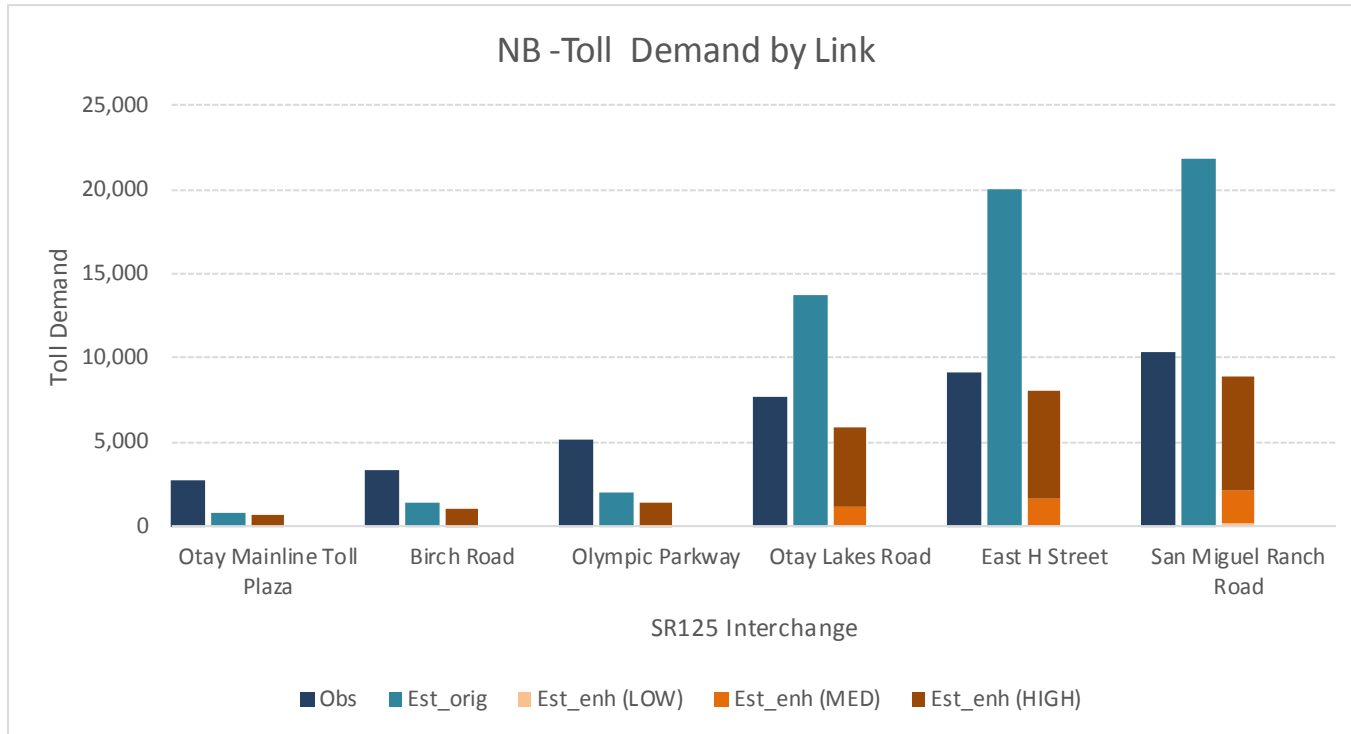


# Validation Results



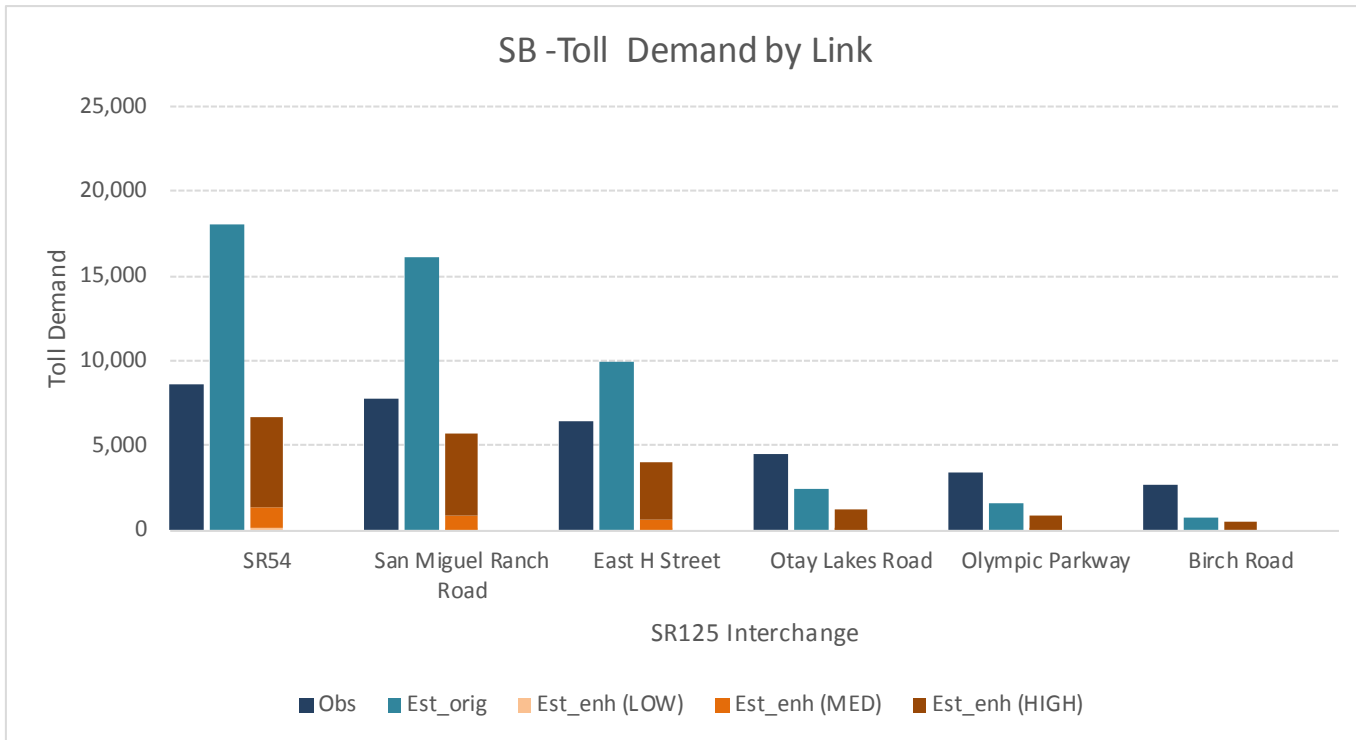
- Link level and gate-to-gate comparisons on I-15 and SR-125 toll facilities

# Validation Results



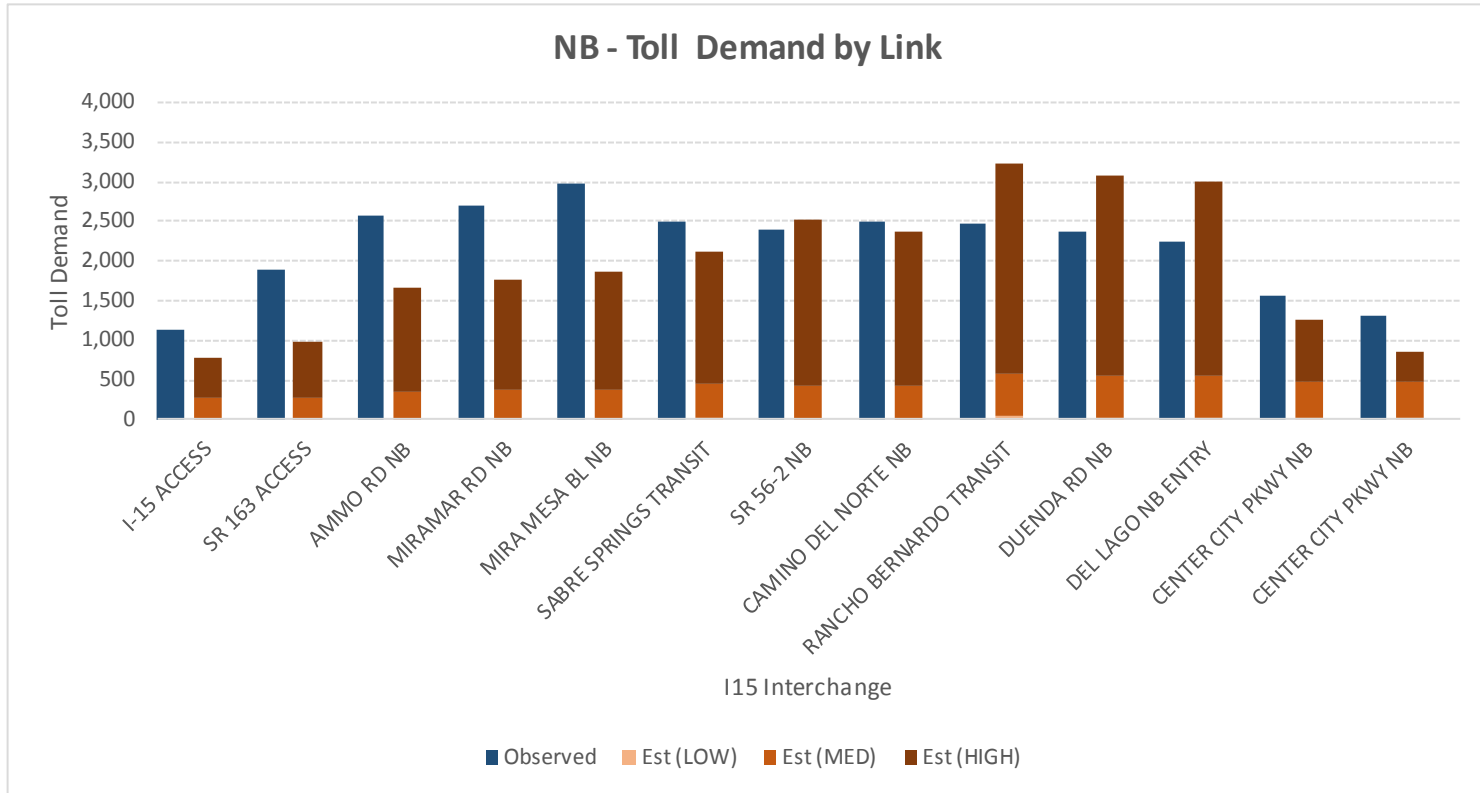
## SR-125: Northbound by Segment

# Validation Results



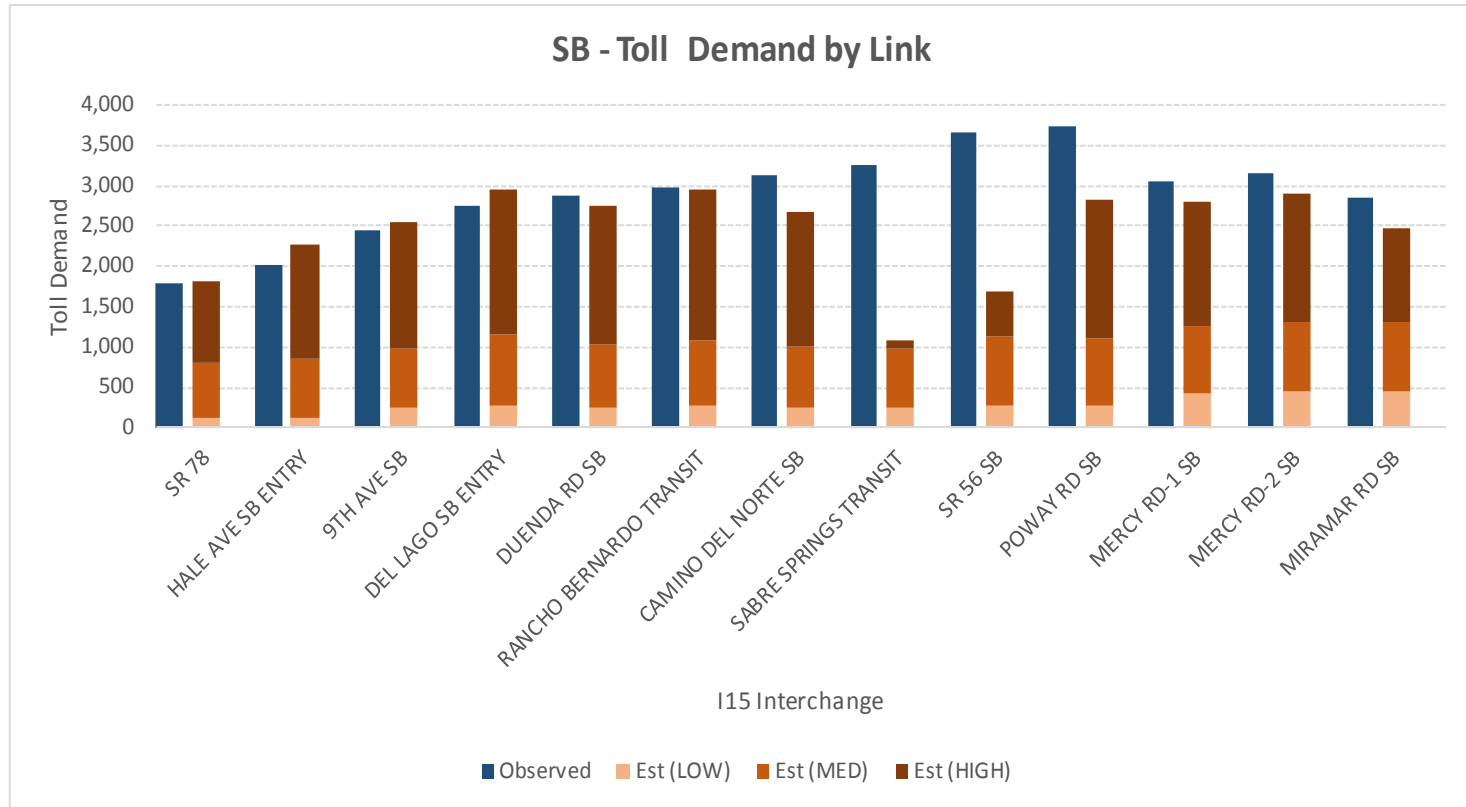
## SR-125: Southbound by Segment

# Validation Results



## I-15: Northbound by Segment

# Validation Results



## I-15: Southbound by Segment

# Sensitivity Tests

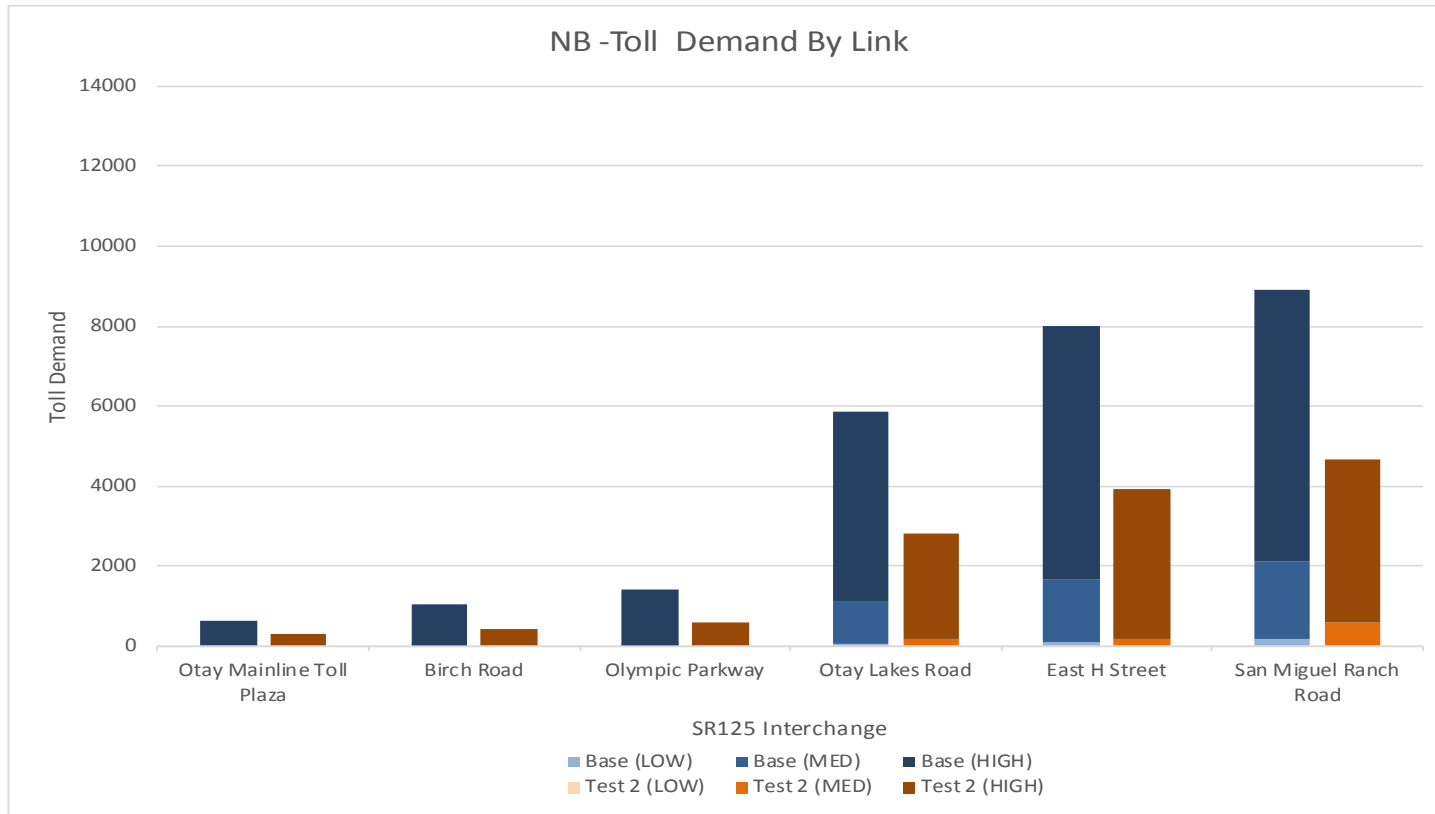
- Test 1: Half toll
  - All tolls reduced to 50% of reference case
- Test 2: Double toll
  - All tolls doubled
- Literature review of toll elasticity ranges
- Results
  - Reasonable demand responses
  - Higher elasticities for toll decrease than toll increase (right-skewed VOT distribution)
  - Elasticities generally in range of literature

# Toll Elasticities

Plaza 1	Plaza 2	Base	Test 2	Diff (%)	Elasticity
Otay Mainline Toll Plaza	Birch Road	643	278	-57%	-0.57
Birch Road	Olympic Parkway	1038	422	-59%	-0.59
Olympic Parkway	Otay Lakes Road	1397	571	-59%	-0.59
Otay Lakes Road	East H Street	5867	2810	-52%	-0.52
East H Street	San Miguel Ranch Road	8010	3902	-51%	-0.51
San Miguel Ranch Road	SR54	8889	4645	-48%	-0.48

Elasticities for toll increase on SR-125 Northbound

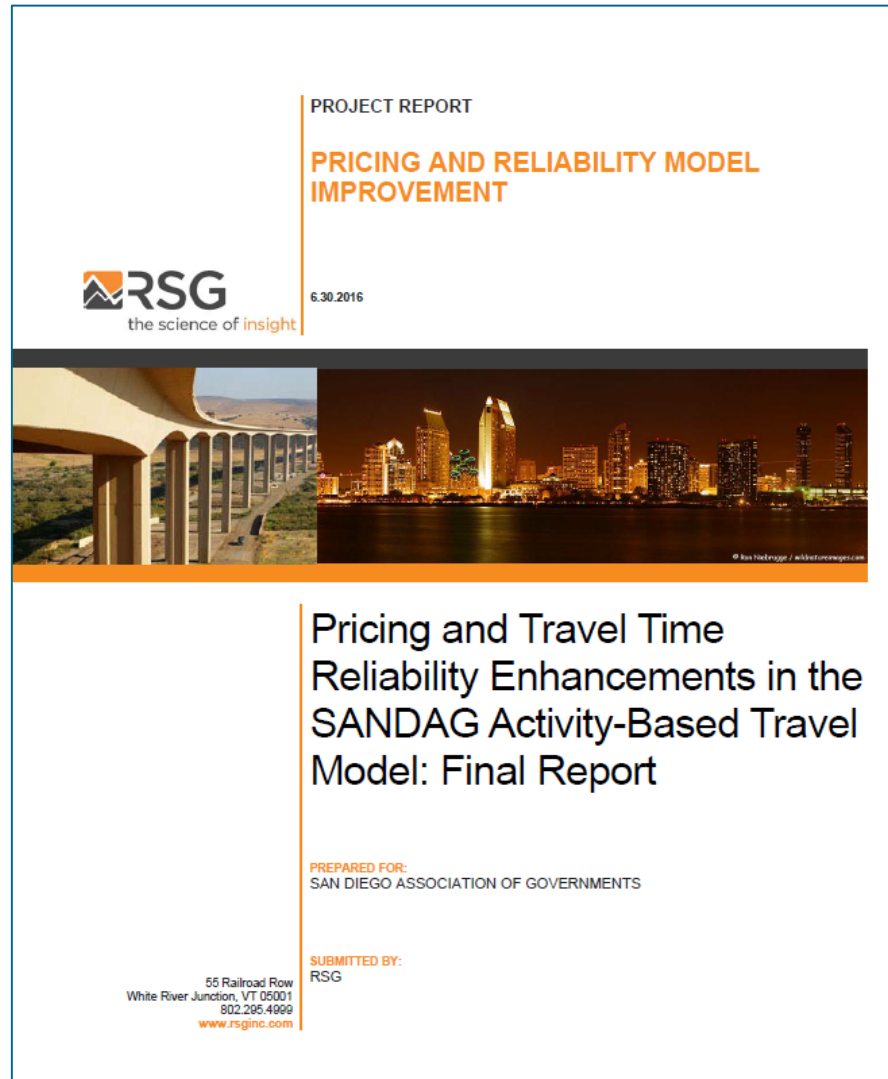
# Toll Volume by Value-of-Time



**Volumes for base and toll increase on SR-125 Northbound by VOT**



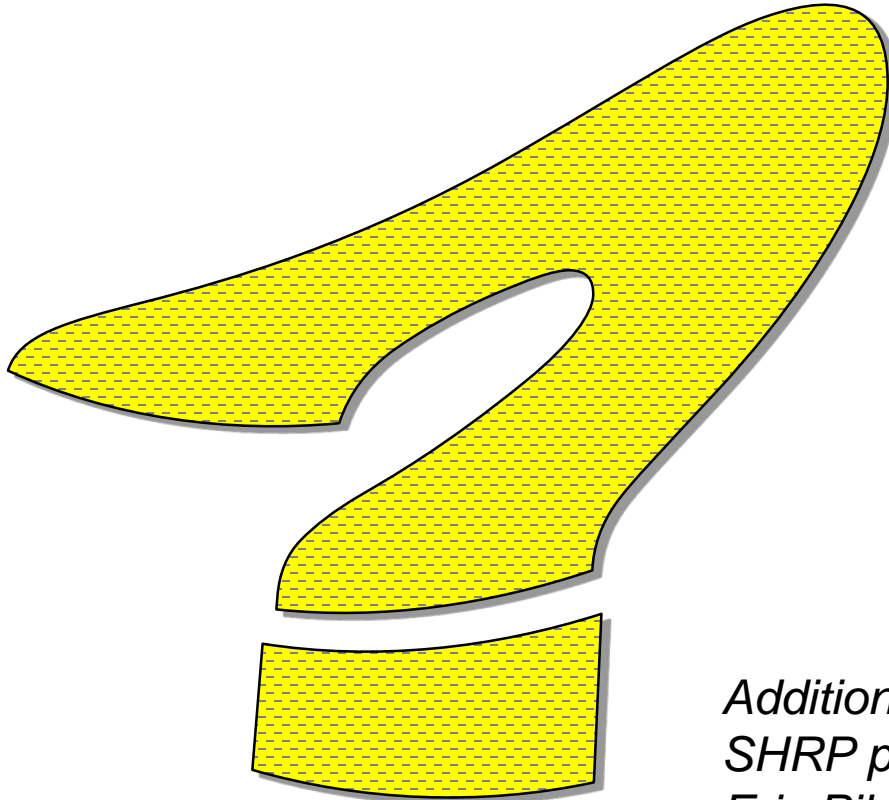
# Final Report Completed



# Conclusions and Future Directions

- Overall improvement in model validation
  - Little change on overall PRMSE, somewhat better performance on toll roads
  - Able to remove ‘reliability factor’ for SR-125
  - I-15 improvement largely due to transponder ownership model implementation
- Value-of-time bins provide variable and consistent toll/non-toll paths
- Final report complete, code checked into github, models installed and run on SANDAG servers
- More work is needed on reliability processing and inclusion in network models
  - Time dependent paths through observed data

# Questions & Additional Information



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*Eric Pihl, Federal Highway Administration*

*Rick Curry, SANDAG*

# Example of Travel Time Variability Calculations

Link	Travel Time Observations (min)					Average time	Standard Deviation	Variance
	1	2	3	4	5			
1	2	5	1	2	1	2.2	1.6	2.7
2	5	7	9	9	9	7.8	1.8	3.2
3	8	8	8	13	13	10	2.7	7.5
4	3	1	3	3	3	2.6	0.9	0.8
5	7	2	4	2	7	4.4	2.5	6.3
6	2	3	2	2	3	2.4	0.5	0.3
7	5	6	6	6	5	5.6	0.5	0.3
8	9	9	9	10	7	8.8	1.1	1.2
9	5	5	5	5	5	5	0.0	0.0
10	3	2	1	2	2	2	0.7	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>50.8</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>22.8</b>

Standard deviation across all links\observations = 3.1 minutes

Standard deviation not additive (but used in VDF\path selection)

Square root of variance (4.8 min) taken for skim  
(better but not perfect. Ignores correlation)

# What the user experiences

Link	Travel Time Observations (min)					Average time	Standard Deviation	Variance
	1	2	3	4	5			
1	2	5	1	2	1	2.2	1.6	2.7
2	5	7	9	9	9	7.8	1.8	3.2
3	8	8	8	13	13	10	2.7	7.5
4	3	1	3	3	3	2.6	0.9	0.8
5	7	2	4	2	7	4.4	2.5	6.3
6	2	3	2	2	3	2.4	0.5	0.3
7	5	6	6	6	5	5.6	0.5	0.3
8	9	9	9	10	7	8.8	1.1	1.2
9	5	5	5	5	5	5	0.0	0.0
10	3	2	1	2	2	2	0.7	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>50.8</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>22.8</b>

We need studies that measure *actual* travel time variability by tracing time-dependent paths through a network using *real data*

# Freeways: SD of travel time/mean travel time

Coefficients:					
	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t )	
(Intercept)	1.08E-01	1.17E-03	91.768	< 2e-16	***
LOSC.Up	2.43E-01	1.48E-02	16.405	< 2e-16	***
LOSD.Up	1.71E-01	3.52E-02	4.842	1.29E-06	***
LOSE.Up	-2.28E-01	4.62E-02	-4.935	8.02E-07	***
LOSF.Low.Up	-1.98E-01	4.64E-02	-4.276	1.90E-05	***
LOSF.High.Up	1.02E+00	8.61E-02	11.874	< 2e-16	***
ISPD70	1.39E-02	1.03E-03	13.505	< 2e-16	***
BeforeAM.Step1	-1.83E-02	7.63E-04	-23.998	< 2e-16	***
BeforeAM.Step2	9.17E-03	1.56E-03	5.9	3.66E-09	***
BeforeAM.Step3	1.07E-02	1.17E-03	9.144	< 2e-16	***
BeforeAM.Step4	-1.92E-03	4.21E-04	-4.556	5.23E-06	***
AfterAM.Step1	-8.20E-03	2.68E-04	-30.531	< 2e-16	***
BeforePM.Step1	-6.67E-03	5.24E-04	-12.742	< 2e-16	***
BeforePM.Step2	-2.85E-03	9.90E-04	-2.875	4.04E-03	**
BeforePM.Step3	9.43E-03	5.85E-04	16.124	< 2e-16	***
AfterPM.Step1	-7.71E-03	1.84E-04	-41.958	< 2e-16	***
AfterPM.Step3	7.54E-03	2.64E-04	28.6	< 2e-16	***
MajorUpstream.Inverse	1.10E-03	1.15E-04	9.529	< 2e-16	***
MajorDownstream.Inverse	5.45E-04	9.12E-05	5.969	2.40E-09	***

Adjusted R<sup>2</sup>

0.181

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 Signif. codes: 0 '\*\*\*' 0.001 '\*\*' 0.01 '\*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

# Arterials: SD of travel time/mean travel time

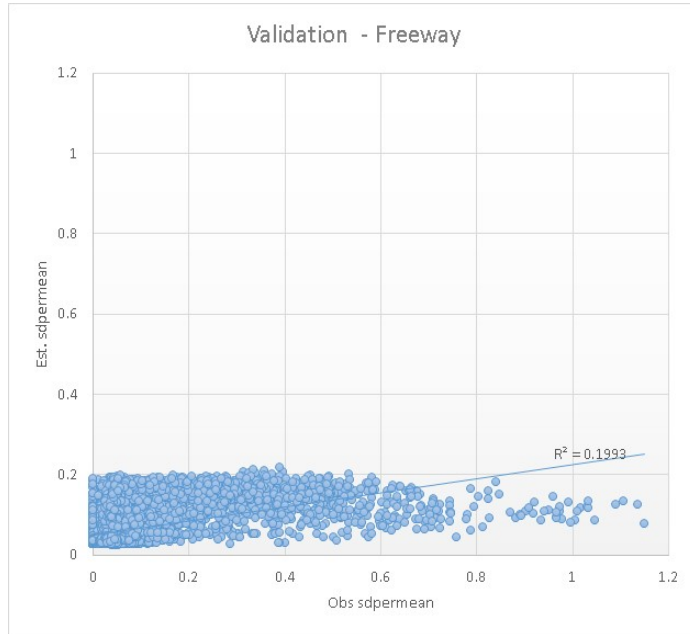
Coefficients:					
	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t )	
(Intercept)	5.47E-02	8.87E-04	61.615	< 2e-16	***
NumLanesCatTwoLane	1.04E-02	4.88E-04	21.223	< 2e-16	***
NumLanesCatThreeLane	3.61E-02	5.44E-04	66.394	< 2e-16	***
NumLanesCatFourLanes	4.47E-02	1.16E-03	38.436	< 2e-16	***
LOSC.Up	1.56E-01	1.44E-02	10.828	< 2e-16	***
LOSF.Low.Up	-1.45E-01	4.42E-02	-3.278	1.05E-03	**
ISPD.CatISPD35	7.57E-03	6.61E-04	11.453	< 2e-16	***
ISPD.CatISPD40	9.10E-03	6.90E-04	13.189	< 2e-16	***
ISPD.CatISPD45	8.10E-03	6.68E-04	12.117	< 2e-16	***
ISPD.CatISPD50	-2.29E-03	7.09E-04	-3.234	1.22E-03	**
ISPD.CatISPD50More	-4.62E-03	7.60E-04	-6.078	1.22E-09	***
BeforeAM.Step1	-5.37E-03	3.95E-04	-13.595	< 2e-16	***
BeforeAM.Step2	-3.17E-03	7.94E-04	-3.996	6.46E-05	***
BeforeAM.Step3	2.95E-03	5.90E-04	5.003	5.65E-07	***
BeforeAM.Step4	5.47E-03	2.11E-04	25.926	< 2e-16	***
AfterAM.Step1	-9.09E-04	1.39E-04	-6.554	5.63E-11	***
BeforePM.Step1	1.13E-03	1.02E-04	11.075	< 2e-16	***
BeforePM.Step3	-1.78E-03	1.32E-04	-13.478	< 2e-16	***
AfterPM.Step1	-7.92E-03	9.83E-04	-8.052	8.24E-16	***
AfterPM.Step2	2.49E-03	1.09E-03	2.29	2.20E-02	*
AfterPM.Step3	3.66E-03	1.75E-04	20.88	< 2e-16	***
ICNT.EstSignal	3.10E-03	2.93E-04	10.576	< 2e-16	***
ICNT.EstStop	-6.33E-03	1.49E-03	-4.24	2.24E-05	***
ICNT.EstRailRoad	1.28E-02	2.83E-03	4.517	6.26E-06	***

Adjusted R<sup>2</sup>

0.374

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 Signif. codes: 0 '\*\*\*' 0.001 '\*\*' 0.01 '\*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

# Regression Validation



Low  $R^2$  due to model aggregation bias, equilibrium assignment, and lack of unpredictability of non-recurring congestion

