

Performance Measure Summary

There are several inventory and performance measures listed in the pages of this Urban Area Report for the years from 1982 to 2005. There is no single performance measure that experts agree “says it all.” The best comparison of congestion levels and trends is done between regions of similar size, over several years, and with a few measures of congestion aspects. Examining a few measures over many years reduces the chance that data variations or the estimating procedures may have caused a “spike” in any single year. A few key points should be recognized by users of the Urban Mobility Report data.

Use the Trends – The multi-year performance measures are better indicators, in most cases, than any single year. *(5 years is 5 times better than 1 year).*

Use several measures – Each performance measure illustrates a different element of congestion. *(The view is more interesting from the top of a few measures).*

Compare to similar regions – Congestion analyses that compare areas with similar characteristics (for example population, growth rate, road and public transportation system design) are usually more insightful than comparisons of different regions. *(Los Angeles is not Peoria).*

Compare ranking changes and performance measure values – In some performance measures a small change in the value may cause a significant change in rank from one year to the next. This is the case when there are several regions with nearly the same value. *(15 hours is only 1 hour more than 14 hours).*

Consider the scope of improvement options – Any improvement project in a corridor within most of the regions will only have a modest effect on the regional congestion level. *(To have an effect on areawide congestion, there must be significant change in the system or service).*

Comparison of Several Key Mobility Performance Measures Very Large Group – over 3 million population urban areas

Urban Area	Delay per Traveler	Travel Time Index	Total Delay	1982 to 2005	
				Delay per Traveler	Total Delay
New York-Newark, NY-NJ-CT	L	0	H+	0	F+
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA	H+	H+	H+	S	F+
Chicago, IL-IN	L	H+	H	0	F+
Miami, FL	L	0	L	0	0
Philadelphia, PA-NJ-DE-MD	L-	L-	L-	S-	S-
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	H	L	L	F+	F
Washington, DC-VA-MD	H	0	L	F+	S-
Atlanta, GA	H	L	L	0	S-
San Francisco-Oakland, CA	H	H	L	F	S-
Boston, MA-NH-RI	L	L-	L-	0	S-
Detroit, MI	0	L-	L-	S	S-
Houston, TX	H	0	L-	S	S-
Phoenix, AZ	L	L	L-	S-	S-
Seattle, WA	L-	L-	L-	0	S-

0 – Average congestion levels or average congestion growth

H Higher congestion; H+ Much higher congestion; F Faster congestion growth; F+ Much faster growth

L Lower congestion; L- Much lower congestion; S Slower congestion growth; S- Much slower growth

Performance Measures and Definition of Terms

Travel Time Index – A measure of congestion that focuses on each trip and each mile of travel. The ratio of travel time in the peak period to travel time in free-flow. A value of 1.30 indicates a 20-minute free-flow trip takes 26 minutes in the peak.

Peak Travelers – Number of travelers (using any travel mode) who begin a trip during the morning or evening peak travel periods (6 to 9 a.m. and 4 to 7 p.m.).

Annual Delay per Traveler – A yearly sum of all the per-trip delays. This measure illustrates the effect of the per-mile congestion as well as the length of each trip. The extra time required to travel in the peak period is divided by the number of travelers who begin a trip during the peak period (6 to 9 a.m. and 4 to 7 p.m.).

Total Delay – The overall size of the congestion problem. Measured by the total travel time above that needed to complete a trip at free-flow speeds. The ranking of total delay usually follows the population ranking (larger regions usually have more delay).

Free-Flow Speeds (60 mph on freeways and 35 mph on arterials) – These values are used as the national comparison thresholds. Other speed values may be appropriate for urban areas or sub-regions.

Excess Fuel Consumed – Increased fuel consumption due to travel in congested conditions rather than free-flow conditions.

Public Transportation – Regular route service from all public transportation providers in an urban area.

Operations Treatments – Freeway incident management, freeway ramp metering, arterial street signal coordination and arterial street access management.

Congestion Cost – Value of travel delay for 2005 (estimated at \$14.60 per hour of person travel and \$77.10 per hour of truck time) and excess fuel consumption (estimated using state average cost per gallon).

Annual Increase Needed to Maintain Constant Congestion Level – Number of lane-miles that must be added to the road system each year – or – the number of new transit riders or carpoolers that must be added to keep congestion levels the same as the previous year.

Urban Area – The developed area (population density more than 1,000 persons per square mile) within a metropolitan region. The urban area boundaries change frequently (every year for most growing areas). The annual change in miles traveled, therefore, includes both new travel due to growth and travel that previously occurred in areas designated as rural.

Number of Rush Hours – Time when system might have congestion

Key Mobility Performance Measure Labels

Note: Designation of an urban area congestion problem as “Much higher”, “Much faster growth”, etc. is determined using a general indicator of the accuracy of the congestion estimates. For regions with the same indicator label, there may be no difference in congestion levels. Different values are used for the indicators in regions over 1 million population and below 1 million population.

Measures	Differences Within These Values May Not Indicate a Difference in Congestion Level	
	Above 1M Population	Below 1M Population
2005 Values Delay per Traveler - Travel Time Index - Total Delay -	5 Hours 5 Index Points 5 Hours x Average Population	3 Hours 3 Index Points 3 Hours x Average Population
1982 to 2005 Trends Delay per Traveler - Total Delay -	5 Hours 5 Hours x Average Population	3 Hours 3 Hours x Average Population

The Mobility Data for Washington, DC-VA-MD

Inventory Measures	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Urban Area Information						
Population (1000s)	4,280	4,275	4,250	4,185	4,030	3,900
Rank	7	7	7	7	8	9
Urban Area (square miles)	1,310	1,310	1,305	1,270	1,230	1,200
Popn Density (persons/sq mile)	3,267	3,263	3,257	3,295	3,276	3,250
Peak Travelers (1000s)	2,131	2,120	2,100	2,072	1,999	1,938
Freeway						
Daily Vehicle-Miles of Travel (1000s)	38,580	38,200	37,815	36,200	35,770	34,535
Lane Miles	2,050	2,050	2,040	1,970	1,970	1,960
Arterial Streets						
Daily Vehicle-Miles of Travel (1000s)	41,195	40,960	40,395	38,385	36,000	35,395
Lane Miles	6,100	5,945	5,915	5,850	5,800	5,740
Public Transportation						
Annual Psgr-Miles of Travel (millions)	2,195	2,267	2,193	2,156	2,055	1,854
Annual Unlinked Psgr Trips (millions)	462	443	434	430	415	381
Cost Components						
Value of Time (\$/hour)	14.60	14.10	13.75	13.45	13.25	12.85
Commercial Cost (\$/hour)	77.10	74.60	72.65	71.05	69.95	68.00
Fuel Cost (\$/gallon)	2.40	2.04	1.62	1.53	1.75	1.61
System Performance						
Congested Travel (% of peak VMT)	81	81	81	80	79	74
Congested System (% of lane-miles)	63	63	63	63	63	59
Congested Time (number of "Rush Hours")	8.0	8.0	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.6
Annual Increase Needed To Maintain Constant Congestion Level:						
Lane-Miles	218	219	204	152	94	82
Transit Riders or Carpoolers (millions)	74	75	70	51	30	26
Annual Excess Fuel Consumed						
Total Fuel (1000 gallons)	90,861	90,260	88,867	83,650	77,626	70,687
Rank	9	8	7	7	7	7
Fuel per Peak Traveler (gallons)	43	43	42	40	39	36
Rank	5	5	3	4	5	6
Annual Delay						
Total Delay (1000s of person-hours)	127,394	126,341	124,738	117,397	109,143	101,155
Rank	8	7	5	6	6	8
Delay per Peak Traveler (person-hrs)	60	60	59	57	55	52
Rank	2	3	3	4	5	6
Delay due to Incidents (percent)	51	50	50	50	50	50
Travel Time Index						
Rank	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.36	1.35	1.33
Rank	7	5	4	4	3	4
Congestion Cost						
Total Cost (\$ millions)	2,331	2,210	2,099	1,927	1,783	1,596
Rank	8	7	6	7	7	8
Cost per Peak Traveler (\$)	1,094	1,042	1,000	930	892	823
Rank	4	4	3	5	5	7

Note: System Performance statistics for 2000 through 2005 data reflect the effects of operational treatments.

Note: Zeroes in the table reflect values less than 0.5.

The Mobility Data for Washington, DC-VA-MD, Continued

Inventory Measures	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994
Urban Area Information						
Population (1000s)	3,885	3,800	3,660	3,570	3,510	3,480
Rank	9	10	10	10	9	9
Urban Area (square miles)	1,160	1,125	1,085	1,040	1,000	995
Popn Density (persons/sq mile)	3,349	3,378	3,373	3,433	3,510	3,497
Peak Travelers (1000s)	1,935	1,892	1,826	1,785	1,759	1,743
Freeway						
Daily Vehicle-Miles of Travel (1000s)	33,975	33,930	33,340	33,045	32,460	31,565
Lane Miles	1,950	1,935	1,930	1,925	1,920	1,915
Arterial Streets						
Daily Vehicle-Miles of Travel (1000s)	35,165	34,965	34,370	34,575	33,880	34,080
Lane Miles	5,665	5,600	5,550	5,440	5,385	5,270
Public Transportation						
Annual Psgr-Miles of Travel (millions)	1,703	1,679	1,499	1,435	1,701	1,595
Annual Unlinked Psgr Trips (millions)	387	369	323	318	370	343
Cost Components						
Value of Time (\$/hour)	12.40	12.15	12.00	11.70	11.40	11.05
Commercial Cost (\$/hour)	65.80	64.35	63.40	61.95	60.20	58.50
Fuel Cost (\$/gallon)	1.10	1.11	1.21	1.32	1.24	1.10
System Performance						
Congested Travel (% of peak VMT)	73	71	73	73	71	70
Congested System (% of lane-miles)	59	59	59	59	58	61
Congested Time (number of "Rush Hours")	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.4
Annual Increase Needed To Maintain Constant Congestion Level:						
Lane-Miles	79	152	225	352	414	429
Transit Riders or Carpoolers (millions)	25	48	71	112	130	136
Annual Excess Fuel Consumed						
Total Fuel (1000 gallons)	72,603	67,625	68,790	68,992	63,690	61,371
Rank	6	6	5	5	5	5
Fuel per Peak Traveler (gallons)	38	36	38	39	36	35
Rank	6	6	6	4	4	5
Annual Delay						
Total Delay (1000s of person-hours)	106,382	97,902	100,519	100,555	93,939	91,314
Rank	6	7	4	5	5	5
Delay per Peak Traveler (person-hrs)	55	52	55	56	53	52
Rank	5	7	5	5	5	4
Delay due to Incidents (percent)	50	50	50	50	51	52
Travel Time Index						
Rank	1.35	1.33	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.31
Rank	3	4	2	3	3	3
Congestion Cost						
Total Cost (\$ millions)	1,585	1,440	1,467	1,441	1,306	1,223
Rank	7	7	5	5	6	5
Cost per Peak Traveler (\$)	819	761	803	807	743	702
Rank	7	8	6	6	7	7

Note: System Performance statistics for 2000 through 2005 data reflect the effects of operational treatments.

Note: Zeroes in the table reflect values less than 0.5.

The Mobility Data for Washington, DC-VA-MD, Continued

Inventory Measures	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988
Urban Area Information						
Population (1000s)	3,420	3,300	3,250	3,100	3,080	3,040
Rank	9	10	10	10	10	10
Urban Area (square miles)	975	925	920	840	835	830
Popn Density (persons/sq mile)	3,508	3,568	3,533	3,690	3,689	3,663
Peak Travelers (1000s)	1,717	1,660	1,638	1,566	1,540	1,505
Freeway						
Daily Vehicle-Miles of Travel (1000s)	29,320	27,985	26,000	25,080	24,590	23,455
Lane Miles	1,900	1,825	1,750	1,675	1,600	1,500
Arterial Streets						
Daily Vehicle-Miles of Travel (1000s)	33,035	30,420	27,525	25,305	24,530	24,045
Lane Miles	5,250	5,210	5,180	5,145	5,125	5,105
Public Transportation						
Annual Psgr-Miles of Travel (millions)	1,447	1,559	1,642	1,713	1,640	1,607
Annual Unlinked Psgr Trips (millions)	353	354	383	376	370	354
Cost Components						
Value of Time (\$/hour)	10.75	10.50	10.25	10.00	9.25	8.80
Commercial Cost (\$/hour)	57.05	55.40	53.80	51.60	48.95	46.70
Fuel Cost (\$/gallon)	1.12	1.18	1.12	1.08	1.10	1.02
System Performance						
Congested Travel (% of peak VMT)	69	70	67	66	69	67
Congested System (% of lane-miles)	61	61	61	61	62	61
Congested Time (number of "Rush Hours")	7.2	7.2	6.8	6.6	6.8	6.8
Annual Increase Needed To Maintain Constant Congestion Level:						
Lane-Miles	400	335	269	300	383	442
Transit Riders or Carpoolers (millions)	121	96	72	77	97	110
Annual Excess Fuel Consumed						
Total Fuel (1000 gallons)	58,458	55,584	46,952	41,965	41,857	38,163
Rank	6	6	6	6	6	6
Fuel per Peak Traveler (gallons)	34	33	29	27	27	25
Rank	6	7	8	9	9	7
Annual Delay						
Total Delay (1000s of person-hours)	87,187	82,211	69,538	62,309	61,325	56,253
Rank	6	6	6	6	6	6
Delay per Peak Traveler (person-hrs)	51	50	42	40	40	37
Rank	7	6	8	9	9	8
Delay due to Incidents (percent)	52	52	52	52	53	53
Travel Time Index						
Rank	3	3	4	5	4	5
Congestion Cost						
Total Cost (\$ millions)	1,138	1,048	866	750	691	600
Rank	6	6	6	6	6	6
Cost per Peak Traveler (\$)	663	631	529	479	449	399
Rank	6	7	8	11	9	9

Note: System Performance statistics for 2000 through 2005 data reflect the effects of operational treatments.

Note: Zeroes in the table reflect values less than 0.5.

The Mobility Data for Washington, DC-VA-MD, Continued

Inventory Measures	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982
Urban Area Information						
Population (1000s)	2,980	2,920	2,860	2,810	2,780	2,700
Rank	10	9	9	9	9	9
Urban Area (square miles)	820	815	810	805	800	795
Popn Density (persons/sq mile)	3,634	3,583	3,531	3,491	3,475	3,396
Peak Travelers (1000s)	1,463	1,422	1,379	1,343	1,318	1,266
Freeway						
Daily Vehicle-Miles of Travel (1000s)	22,365	21,345	19,460	18,015	16,255	15,200
Lane Miles	1,425	1,345	1,290	1,285	1,260	1,230
Arterial Streets						
Daily Vehicle-Miles of Travel (1000s)	23,930	22,885	21,165	19,230	18,105	17,375
Lane Miles	5,065	5,015	4,960	4,940	4,900	4,850
Public Transportation						
Annual Psgr-Miles of Travel (millions)	1,456	1,360	1,258	1,163	1,163	1,163
Annual Unlinked Psgr Trips (millions)	354	328	311	309	309	309
Cost Components						
Value of Time (\$/hour)	8.50	8.20	8.00	7.75	7.45	7.20
Commercial Cost (\$/hour)	44.85	43.30	42.50	41.05	39.35	38.10
Fuel Cost (\$/gallon)	1.02	0.99	1.30	1.31	1.34	1.41
System Performance						
Congested Travel (% of peak VMT)	63	63	55	48	40	36
Congested System (% of lane-miles)	56	56	55	50	45	44
Congested Time (number of "Rush Hours")	6.8	6.8	6.2	5.4	4.6	4.2
Annual Increase Needed To Maintain Constant Congestion Level:						
Lane-Miles	473	--	--	--	--	--
Transit Riders or Carpoolers (millions)	117	--	--	--	--	--
Annual Excess Fuel Consumed						
Total Fuel (1000 gallons)	34,104	30,957	24,811	19,479	14,294	12,373
Rank	5	7	7	7	8	9
Fuel per Peak Traveler (gallons)	23	22	18	15	11	10
Rank	5	6	7	11	16	15
Annual Delay						
Total Delay (1000s of person-hours)	51,164	46,325	38,635	30,651	23,043	20,011
Rank	6	7	7	7	8	9
Delay per Peak Traveler (person-hrs)	35	33	28	23	17	16
Rank	6	8	9	12	16	18
Delay due to Incidents (percent)	53	53	53	53	54	54
Travel Time Index						
Rank	5	5	6	6	10	9
Congestion Cost						
Total Cost (\$ millions)	530	464	385	297	215	182
Rank	6	7	7	7	8	10
Cost per Peak Traveler (\$)	362	326	279	221	163	143
Rank	7	8	9	12	16	18

Note: System Performance statistics for 2000 through 2005 data reflect the effects of operational treatments.

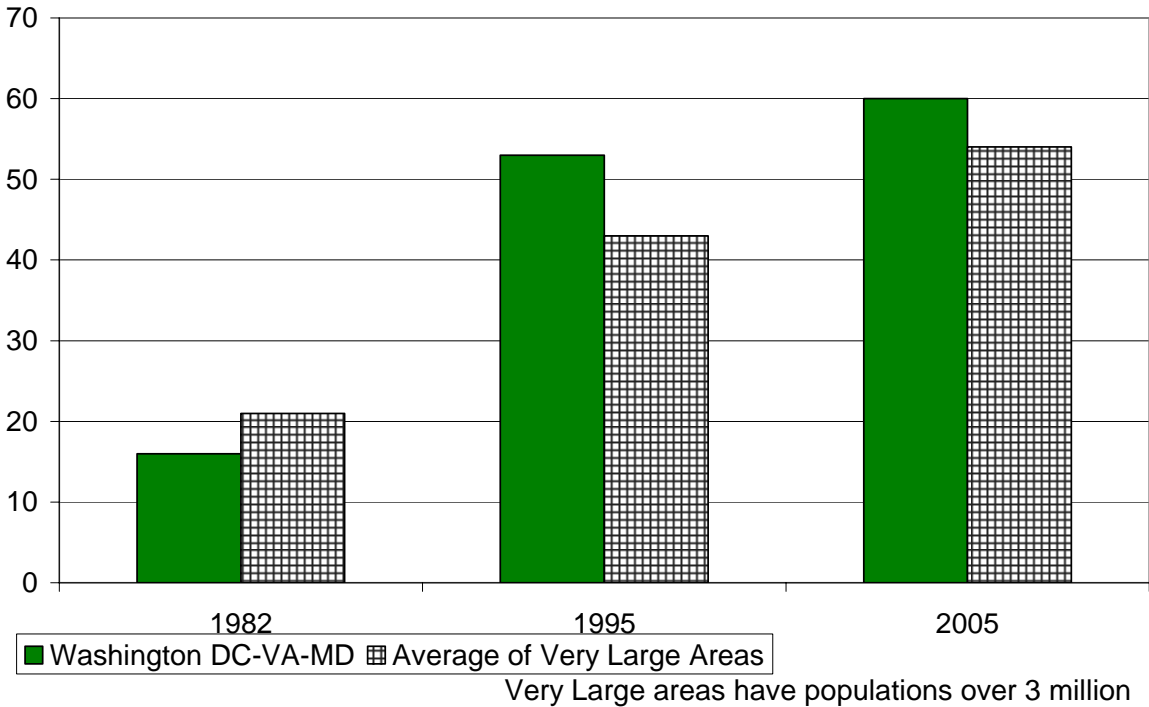
Note: Zeroes in the table reflect values less than 0.5.

Benefits From Public Transportation Service and Operations Strategies for Washington, DC-VA-MD

Operations Strategies	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Freeway Ramp Metering						
Percent of Roadway Miles	6	6	6	6	6	6
Annual Delay Reduction (1000 hours)	112	116	97	93	141	139
Freeway Incident Management						
Cameras						
Percent of Roadway Miles	66	66	67	69	57	44
Service Patrols						
Percent of Roadway Miles	54	54	54	56	72	93
Annual Delay Reduction (1000 hours)	2,002	1,996	2,009	1,899	2,161	2,553
Arterial Signal Coordination						
Percent of Roadway Miles	54	56	48	46	46	45
Annual Delay Reduction (1000 hours)	785	768	589	619	626	467
Arterial Access Management						
Percent of Roadway Miles	34	35	36	34	31	27
Annual Delay Reduction (1000 hours)	2,660	2,801	2,638	2,188	2,174	1,499
HOV Lanes						
Daily Passenger-miles of Travel (1000s)	2,774	2,523	2,294	2,087	1,898	1,726
HOV User Delay Savings	3,384	3,135	2,777	2,461	2,003	1,696
Total Effect of Operations Treatments						
Annual Delay Reduction (1000 hours)	8,942	8,816	8,110	7,260	7,105	6,354
Annual Delay Saved per Peak Traveler (hours)	4	4	4	4	4	3
Annual Congestion Cost Savings (\$million)	162.8	153.4	136.0	119.0	115.8	100.6
Travel Time Index with Strategies	1.367	1.369	1.369	1.365	1.351	1.325
Travel Time Index (Base)	1.397	1.398	1.396	1.390	1.376	1.347
Public Transportation Service						
Existing Service						
Annual Passenger-miles of Travel (million)	2,195	2,267	2,193	2,156	2,055	1,854
Unlinked Passenger Trips (million)	462	443	434	430	415	381
Travel Time Index (combined road and transit)	1.327	1.327	1.328	1.323	1.311	1.292
Condition if Public Transportation Service were Discontinued						
Travel Time Index	1.436	1.443	1.443	1.445	1.430	1.388
Annual Delay Increase (1000 hours)	25,655	27,551	26,565	27,996	25,685	20,371
Annual Delay Increase per Peak Traveler (hours)	12	13	13	14	13	11
Annual Congestion Cost Increase (\$million)	456.4	471.4	436.5	451.6	411.6	313.1

Growth in Delay per Peak Traveler

Hours of Delay



Annual Hours of Delay (million)

Growth in Total Delay

