

# SYNERGIES BETWEEN OPEN SOURCE AND PROPRIETARY SOFTWARE

Modeling Mobility Conference • September 16, 2025

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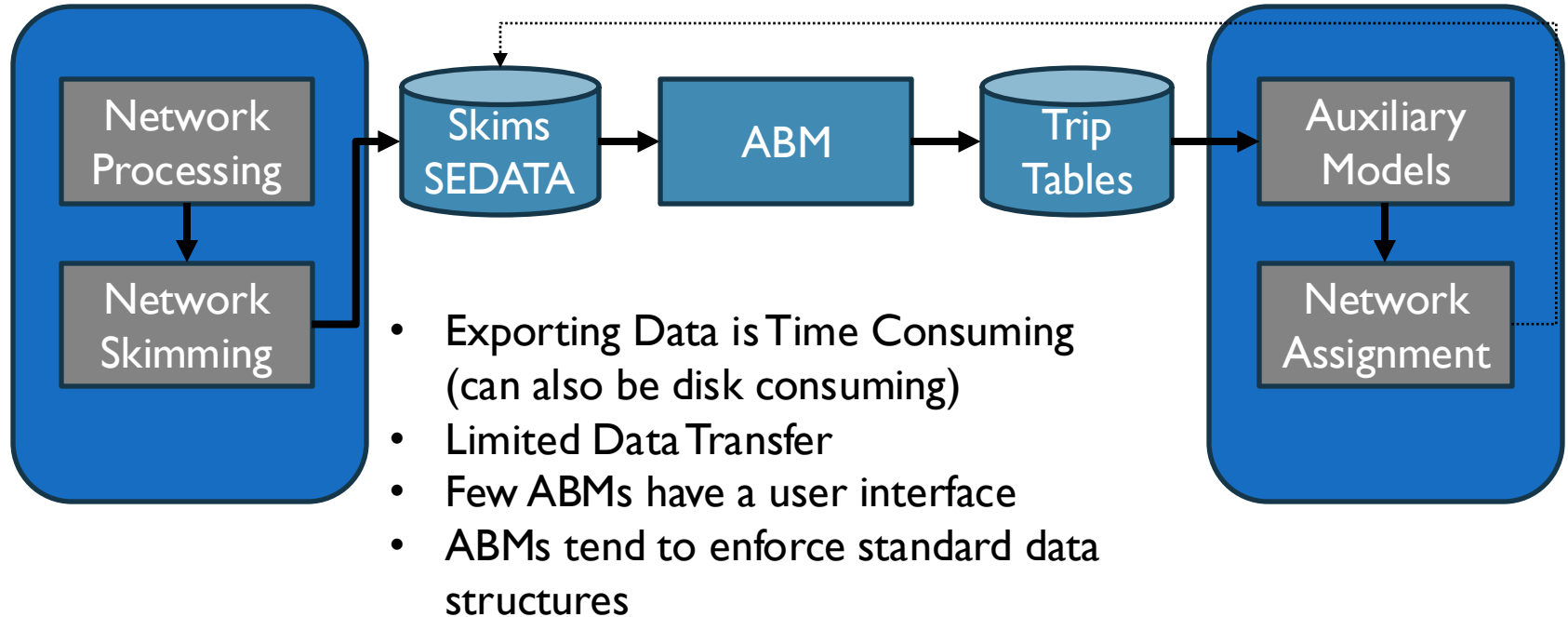


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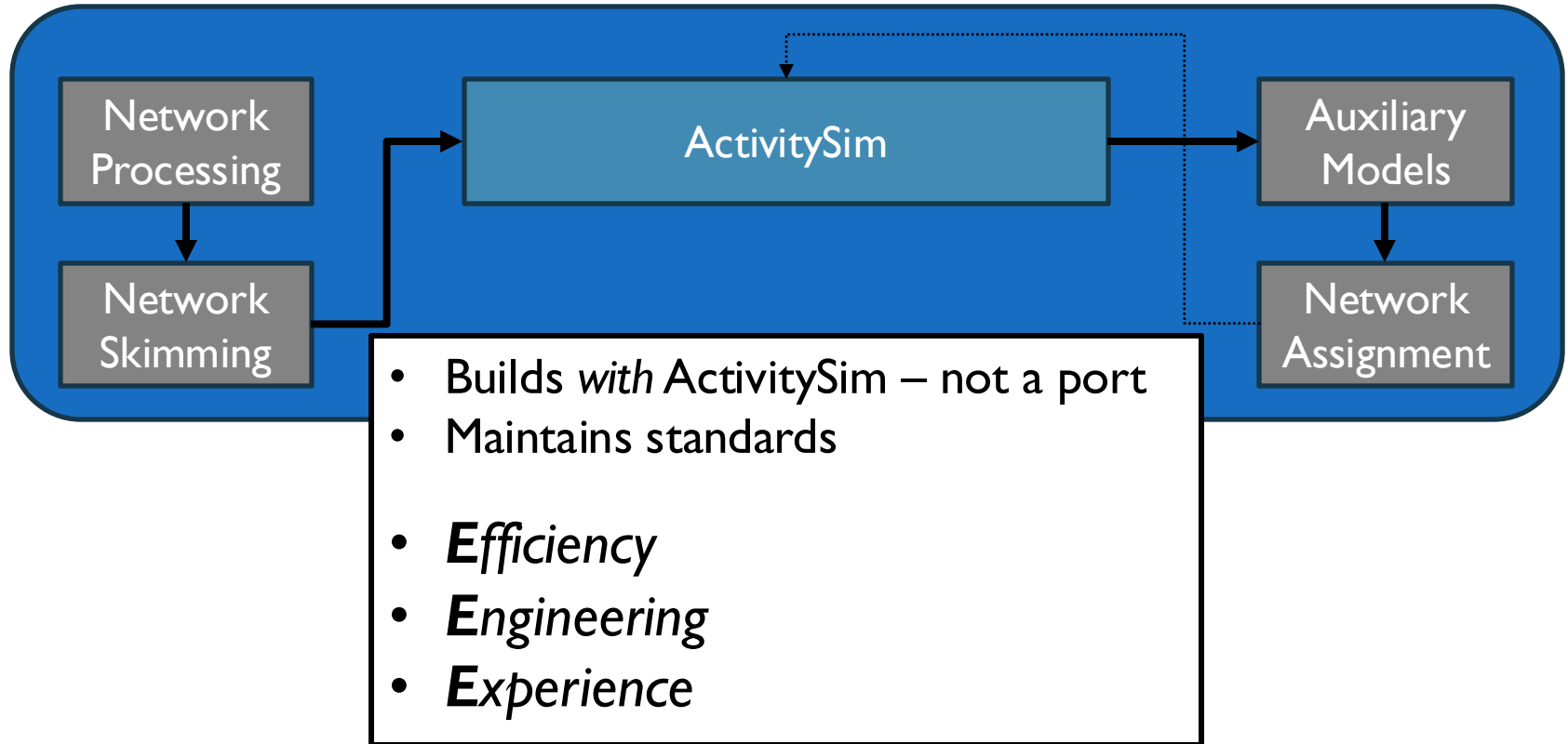
**Transportation & Mapping Solutions**  
Maptitude • TransCAD • TransModeler

Synergy: The interaction or cooperation of two or more organizations, substances, or other agents to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects.

# MOTIVATION



# WHAT IF...



# INTEGRATION – NOT REPLICATION

- ActivitySim and TransCAD are both flexible and extensible modeling systems
  - Call TransCAD functionality from Python
  - Call Python libraries & functionality from TransCAD
- Freedom to use individual components from ActivitySim together with components from TransCAD
- Minimalist approach to replacing ActivitySim code with TransCAD calls – only where it offers a computational or methodological advantage





# COMPUTATIONAL EFFICIENCY

# EFFICIENCY

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- No exporting (huge time saver!)
- Access all data in network and ABM
  - Call matrices as needed,  
no need to hold in memory
- Works to reduce resource needs
- Leverage both the benefits of ActivitySim & TransCAD
  - Open-source contributions from consortium
  - Proprietary contributions from Caliper



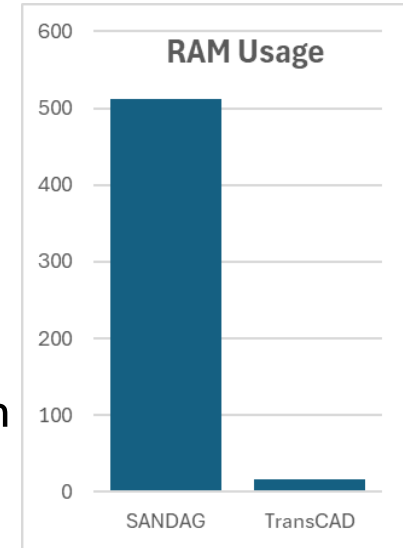
# SOFTWARE ENGINEERING



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## ■ Initial focus on RAM requirements

- SANDAG with 5,000 TAZ plus MAZ/TAPs needs minimum **512 GB of RAM**
- RAM required to deal with over a thousand matrices (primarily transit skim matrices) loaded into memory at the beginning of the model, their primary use being tour mode choice
- Replaced existing native python ActivitySim tour mode choice model with python script using TransCAD NL procedure and matrices implementing the same tour mode choice specification
- Reproduce native ActivitySim results with similar runtime but **only 16 GB RAM!**



## ■ Runtime

- Plan to test distributed computing

# TRANSCAD'S POPULATION SYNTHESIS

- Most new travel models in the US, whether trip-based or activity-based, use a population synthesizer
- TransCAD's developed our own FAST Iterative Proportional Updating algorithm
  - Household and Person level controls
  - Controls at multiple levels of geography
  - Subarea re-synthesis
  - More stable than PopulationSim
  - **Can synthesize 1 million people a minute!!!**

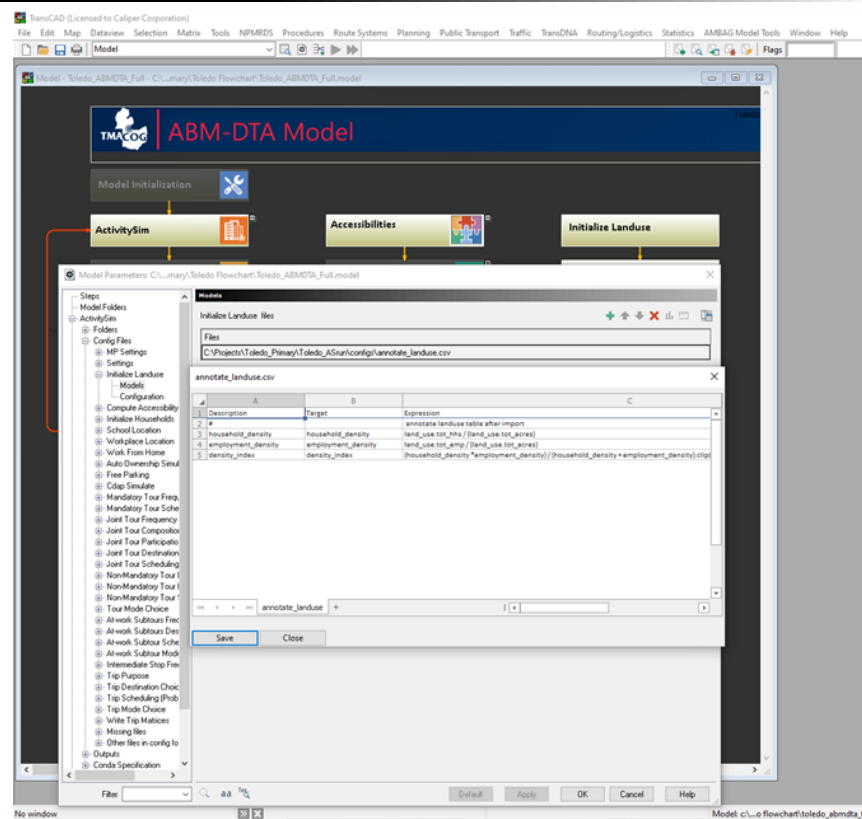
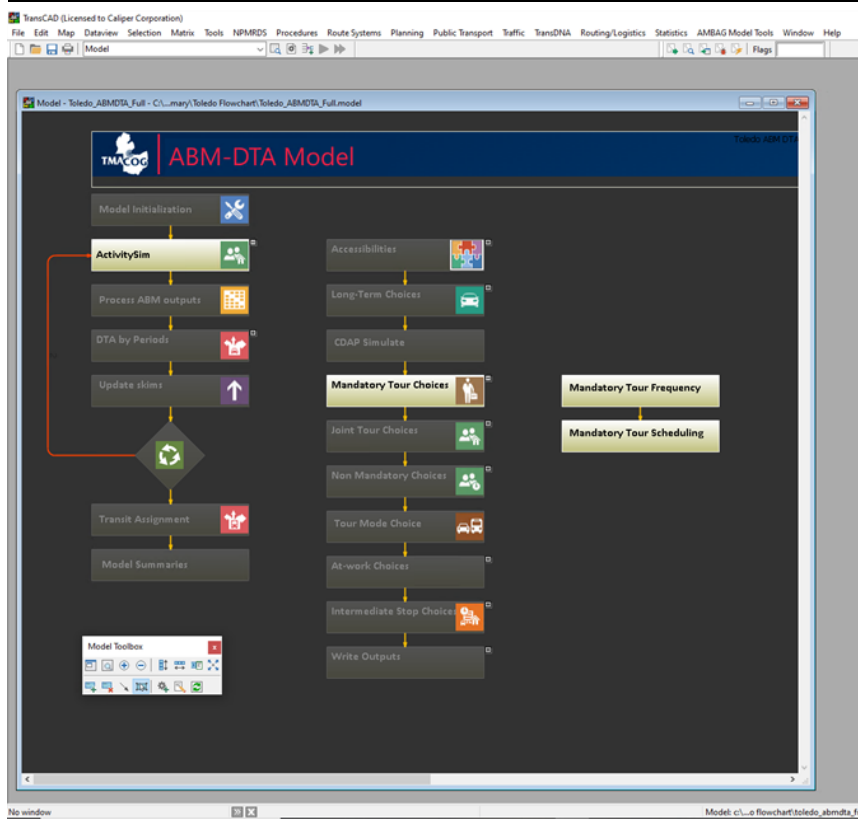
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# USER EXPERIENCE

Caliper®



# TRANSCAD ACTIVITYSIM GUI





# SANDAG MODE CHOICE PARAMETERS

Model Parameters: C:\...ActivitySimModeChoice\ActivitySimTourMC.model

Runtime  
Parameters  
Tour Mode Choice  
Work  
Modes  
Auto  
Non-Motorized  
Ride Hail  
Micromobility  
Transit Walk Access  
Transit PNR Access  
Transit KNR Access  
Transit TNC Access  
Display Properties  
Help Document

**Modes**

Tour Work Modes

Parent	Alternatives	ParentNestCoeff
Root	AUTO, NONMOTORIZED, MICROMOBILITY, TRANSIT, RIDEHAIL	
AUTO	DA, SR2, SR3	0.5
NONMOTORIZED	WALK, BIKE	0.5
MICROMOBILITY	EBIKE, ESCOOTER	0.5
TRANSIT	WALKACCESS, PNRACCESS, KNRACCESS, TNCACCESS	0.5
RIDEHAIL	TAXI, TNC_SINGLE, TNC_SHARED	0.5
WALKACCESS	WALK_LOC, WALK_PRM, WALK_MIX	0.5
PNRACCESS	PNR_LOC, PNR_PRM, PNR_MIX	0.5
KNRACCESS	KNR_LOC, KNR_PRM, KNR_MIX	0.5
TNCACCESS	TNC_LOC, TNC_PRM, TNC_MIX	0.5

Filter

aa Tex

Default Apply OK Cancel Help

# SANDAG MODE CHOICE PARAMETERS

Model Parameters: C:\\_jects\ActivitySimTourMC\ActivitySimTourMC.model

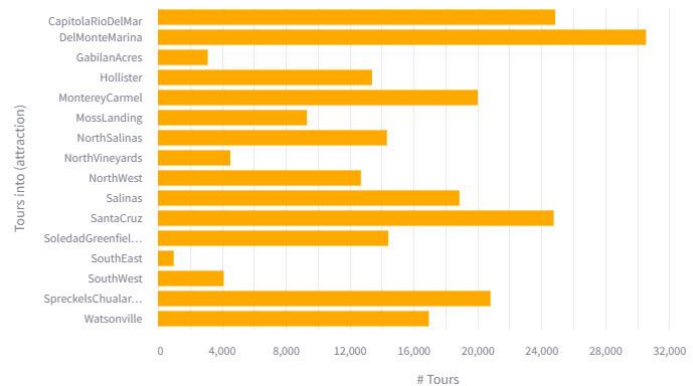
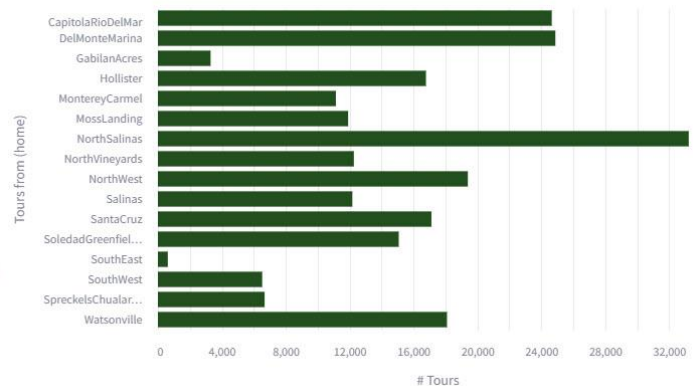
Runtime  
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**Non-Motorized**

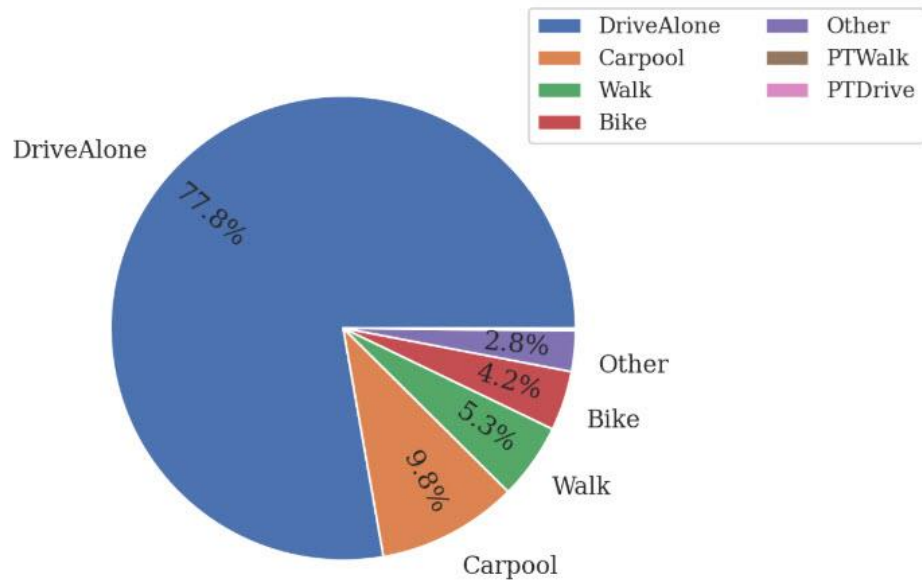
Work Mode Utility - Non-Motorized Modes

Description	Expression	Coefficient	WALK	BIKE
Walk: Unavailable	df.walkavailable = 0	-99.0000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walk: Age < 16	df.age < 16	2.1884	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walk: Age [16, 24]	(df.age >= 16) and (df.age <= 24)	1.4306	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walk: Age [41, 55]	(df.age >= 41) and (df.age <= 55)	-0.4321	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walk: Age [56, 64]	(df.age >= 56) and (df.age <= 64)	-0.5200	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walk: Age >= 65	df.age >= 65	-0.8316	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walk: Income [60000, 99999]	(df.income > 59999) and (df.income < 100000)	-0.2084	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walk: Normalized Landuse Var Sum [Origin Intersection = DU]	df.LUVarsNormalized_walk	0.0093	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walk: Normalized Dest Emp Density	df.dMGRAEmpDenNorm_walk	0.0998	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walk: Time	(df.walk_time_skims_inb + df.walk_time_skims_out) * df.time_factor	-0.0424	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walk: ASC Zero Auto HH	df.is_indiv and df.auto_ownership = 0	2.6903	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walk: ASC Auto Insuff HH	df.is_indiv and (df.auto_ownership < df.num_adults) and (df.auto_owners	-0.7049	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walk: ASC Auto Suff HH	df.is_indiv and (df.auto_ownership >= df.num_adults) and (df.auto_owne	-3.4983	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bike: Unavailable	df.bikeavailable = 0	-99.0000	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bike: Age [41, 55]	(df.age >= 41) and (df.age <= 55)	-0.7311	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bike: Age [56, 64]	(df.age >= 56) and (df.age <= 64)	-0.6435	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bike: Age >= 65	df.age >= 65	-1.5487	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bike: Female	df.female = 1	-1.1936	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bike: Income 100k+	df.income > 100000	0.6414	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bike: Normalized Landuse Var Sum [Origin Intersection = DU]	df.LUVarsNormalized_bike	0.0833	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bike: Logsum	df.bikelSI + df.bikelSO	0.1343	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bike: Miles to coast from origin MGRA	df.DistanceToCoast	-1.4202	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bike: Miles greater than 2 to coast from origin MGRA	Max(df.DistanceToCoast-2,0)	1.3251	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bike: Miles greater than 5 to coast from origin MGRA	Max(df.DistanceToCoast-5,0)	0.0796	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bike: ASC Zero Auto HH	df.is_indiv and df.auto_ownership = 0	-7.6023	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bike: ASC Auto Insuff HH	df.is_indiv and (df.auto_ownership < df.num_adults) and (df.auto_owners	-6.6419	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bike: ASC Auto Suff HH	df.is_indiv and (df.auto_ownership >= df.num_adults) and (df.auto_owne	-3.6053	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bike: Pro Bike District	(df.district27=8) or (df.district27=9)	1.5524	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

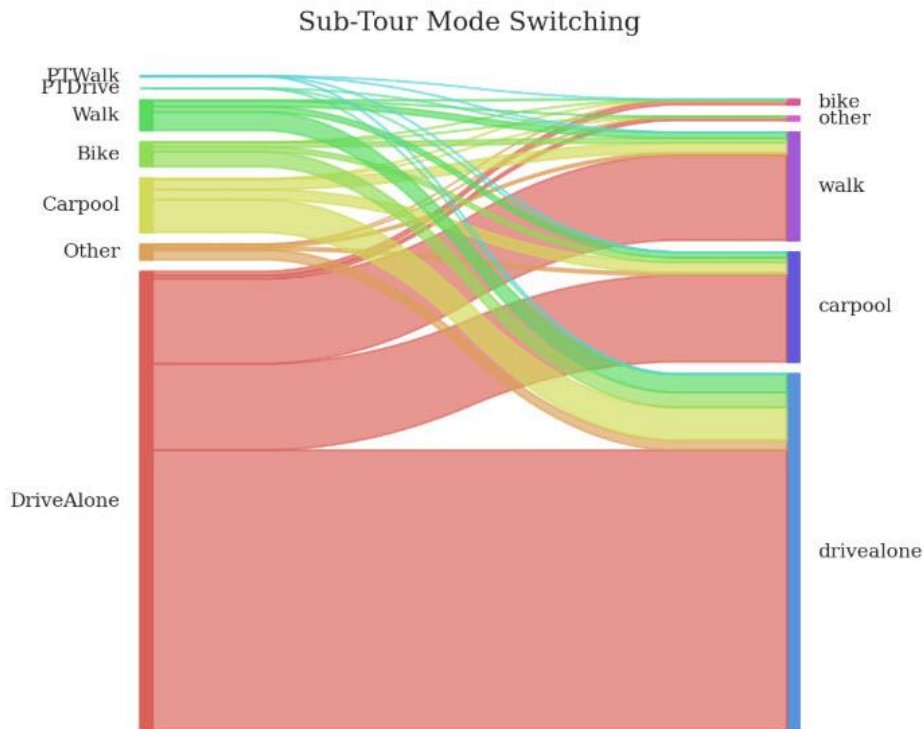
# DISTRICT FLOWS DASHBOARD



# MODE SUMMARY DASHBOARD



Mandatory Tour Mode Shares





# ASSIGNMENT DASHBOARD

☐ EA ☒ AM ☐ MD ☐ PM ☐ EV ☐ NT

Total Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)

2,585,099

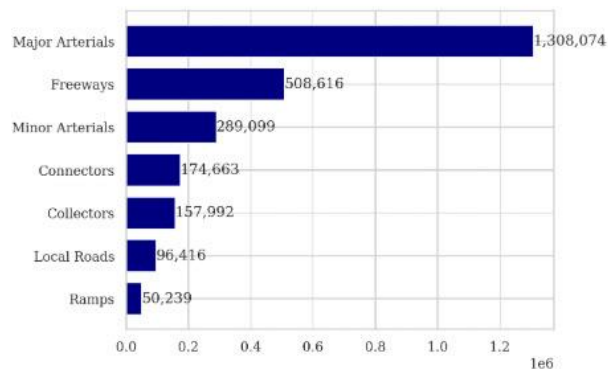
Total Vehicle Hours Traveled (VHT)

68,969

Total Link Flow

9,118,435

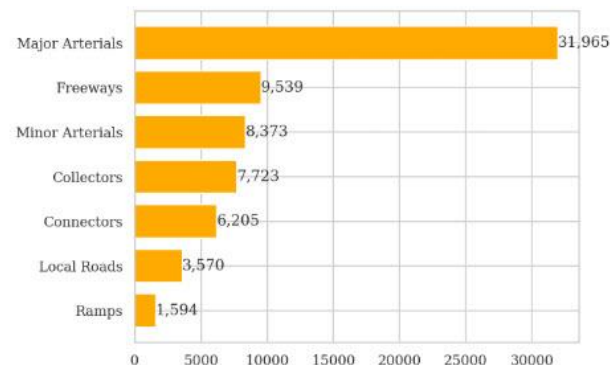
## VMT by Class



## Average Speed by Class

Class	AvgSpeed	Tot_Flow
Collectors	20.5	938,557
Connectors	28.1	479,231
Freeways	53.3	1,178,572
Local Roads	27.0	823,234
Major Arterials	40.9	3,817,819
Minor Arterials	34.5	1,652,444
Ramps	31.5	228,578

## VHT by Class



Medium-High congestion mileage: VOC [0.75, 0.90)

86.4 miles (1.2%)

High congestion mileage: VOC [0.90, 1.00)

29.5 miles (0.4%)

Severe congestion mileage: VOC  $\geq 1$

25.2 miles (0.4%)

# REPRESENTATIVE REALIZATION

# SIMULATION VARIATION

- How many simulations are needed to ensure Monte Carlo results are stable and converged to the analytic solution?



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# SIMULATION VARIATION

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226,000 runs

# AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH

- The Law of Large Numbers requires LARGE NUMBERS
- Fixing a random seed DOES NOT reduce simulation variation, only hides it
- We do not have the computational resources to do real Monte Carlo simulation of an activity-based model.
- So, what should we do?



# REPRESENTATIVE REALIZATION

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- The most likely single set of choices with the correct shares chosen of each alternative.



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- The most likely single set of choices with the correct shares chosen of each alternative.
- In other words, most-likely, least biased realization
- In math,

$$\text{Max } LL = \sum_{i,j,k} \ln(P_{ij} \delta_{ijk})$$

Subject to

$$\text{Min Bias} = \sum_j \left( \sum_i P_{ij} - \sum_i \frac{\sum_k \delta_{ijk}}{K} \right)^2$$

# BOTH CRITERIA ARE NECESSARY

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- Not simply the most likely realization
  - The most likely realization is where everyone chooses their most likely alternative (i.e., everyone drives)
- There are many, many unbiased realizations
  - Where the share of people choosing each alternative is equal to the shares given by the analytic solution
- But the most likely unbiased realization is practically unique

## ON-GOING WORK

- Testing a variety of heuristic algorithms
  - Rigorous Myopic
  - Shadow-Pricing
  - Top-Down
- Exploring the mathematical properties



# MOST LIKELY OUTCOME

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- You can entirely eliminate random number draws and have 100% confidence that a single run of your activity-based model gives you exactly the right solution
- It will probably take marginally longer (compared to current, improper practice)
  - Probably less than twice as long
  - Hopefully much less than twice as long

# CONTACTS

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