Transportation in the Next American City

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STRONG TOWNS

THE MISSION OF STRONG TOWNS IS TO SUPPORT A MODEL OF GROWTH THAT ALLOWS AMERICA'S CITIES, TOWNS AND NEIGHBORHOODS TO BECOME FINANCIALLY STRONG AND RESILIENT.

STRONG TOWNS

Too many needs….

….and not enough money.

Too many demands….

….and not enough money.

Too many additional things to do….

….and not enough money.

We need more money.

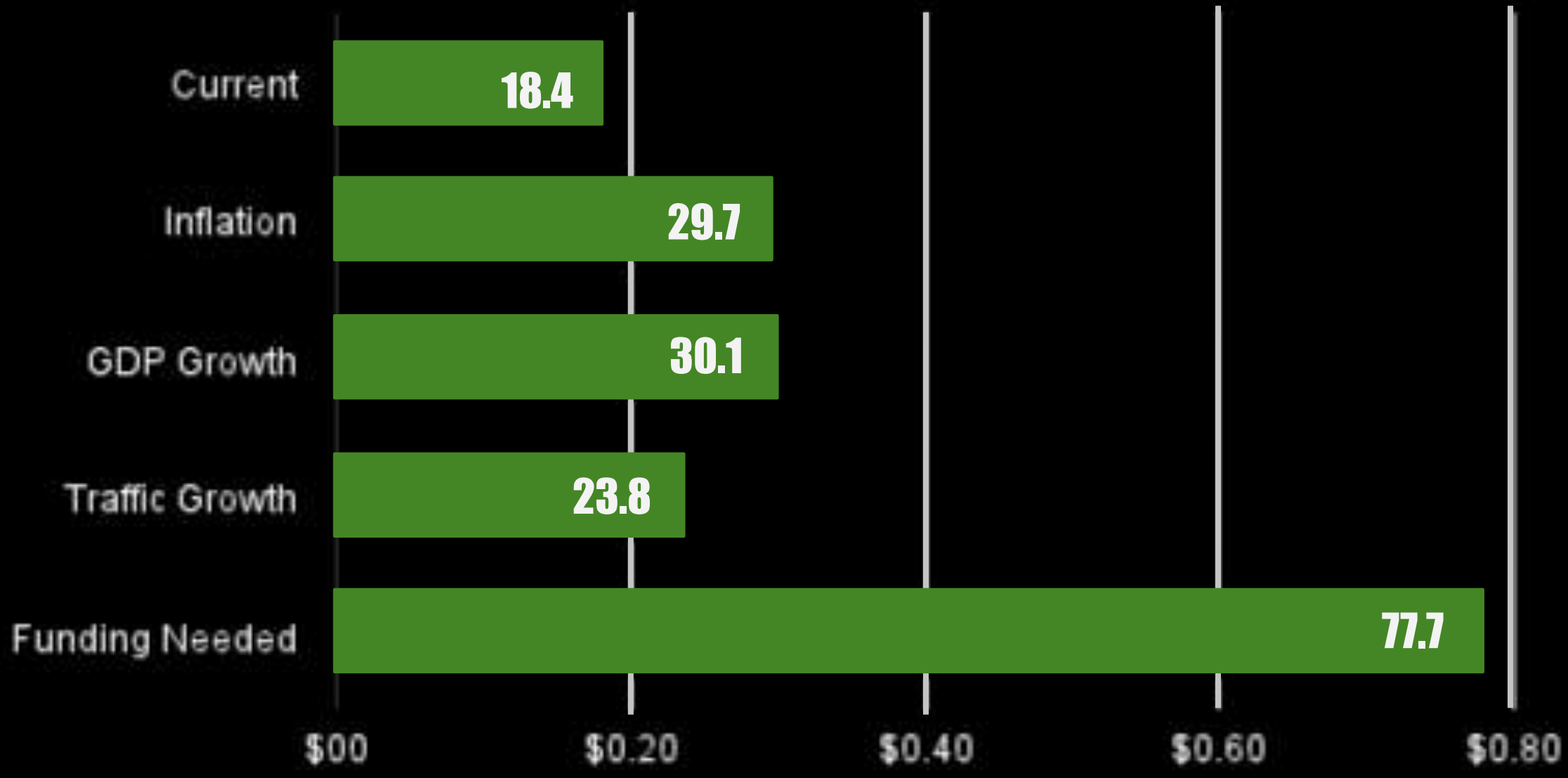
Transportation Funding Gap

$94 Billion/Year

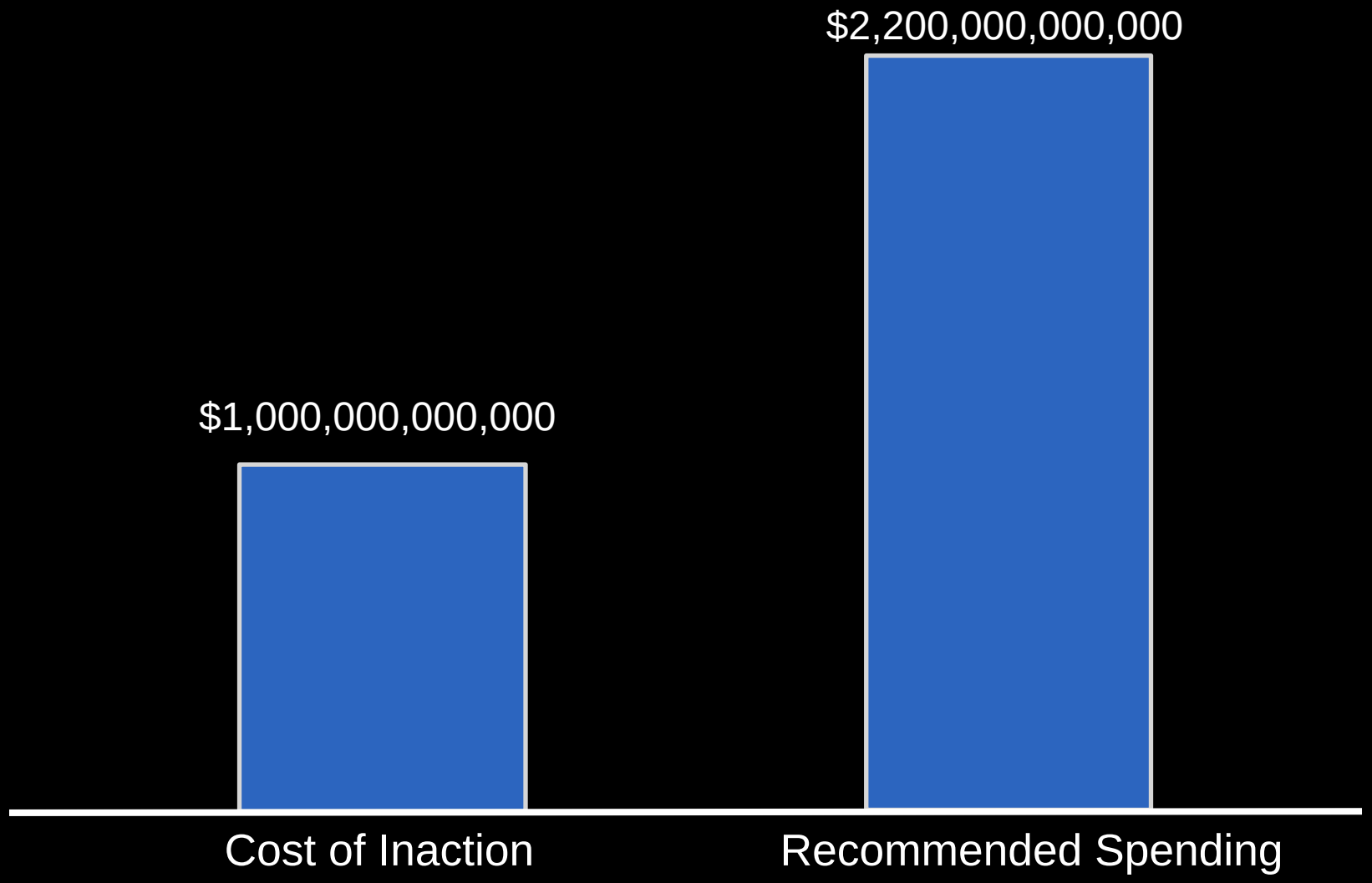
ASCE

American Society of Civil Engineers

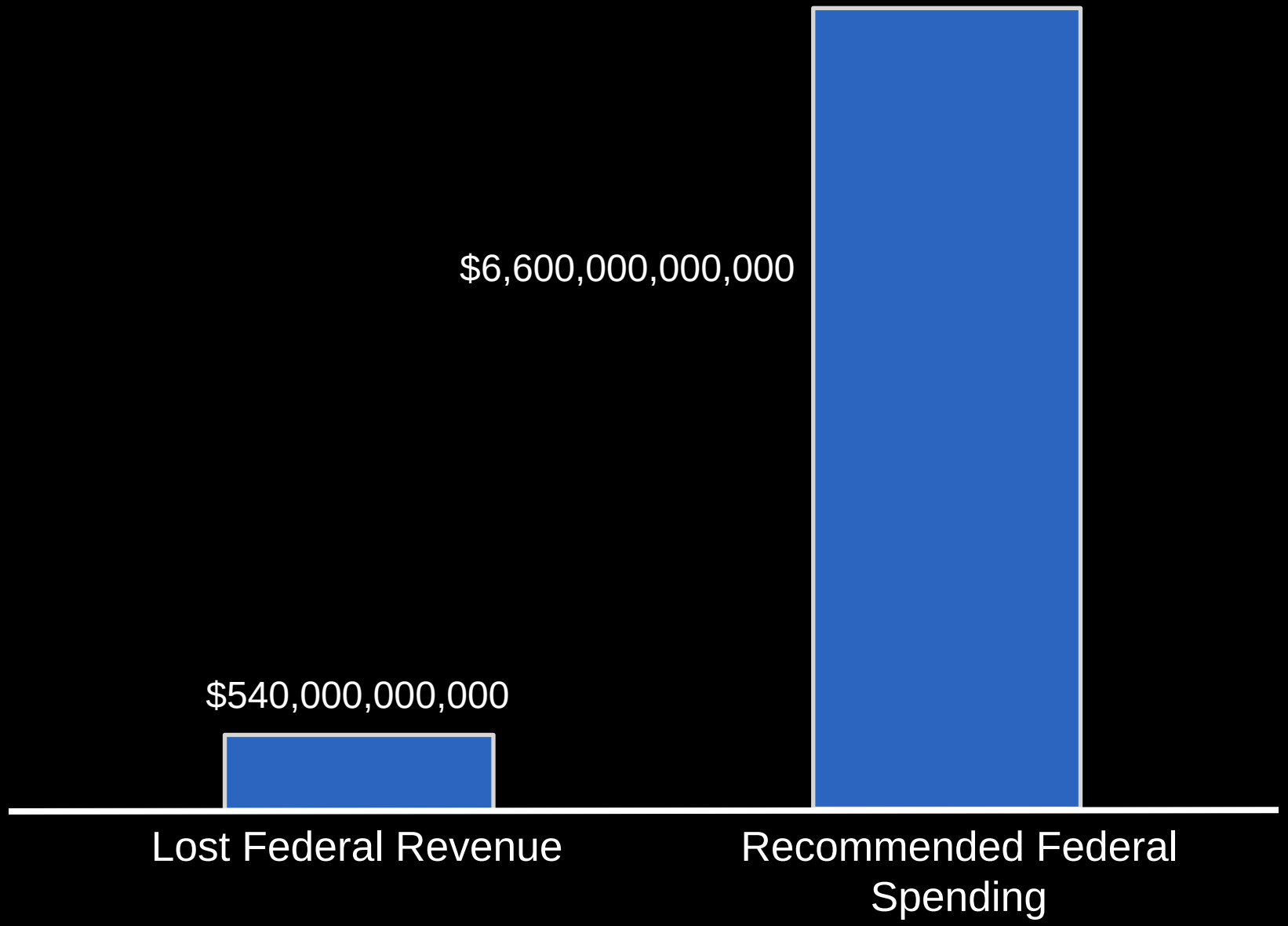
Federal Gas Tax



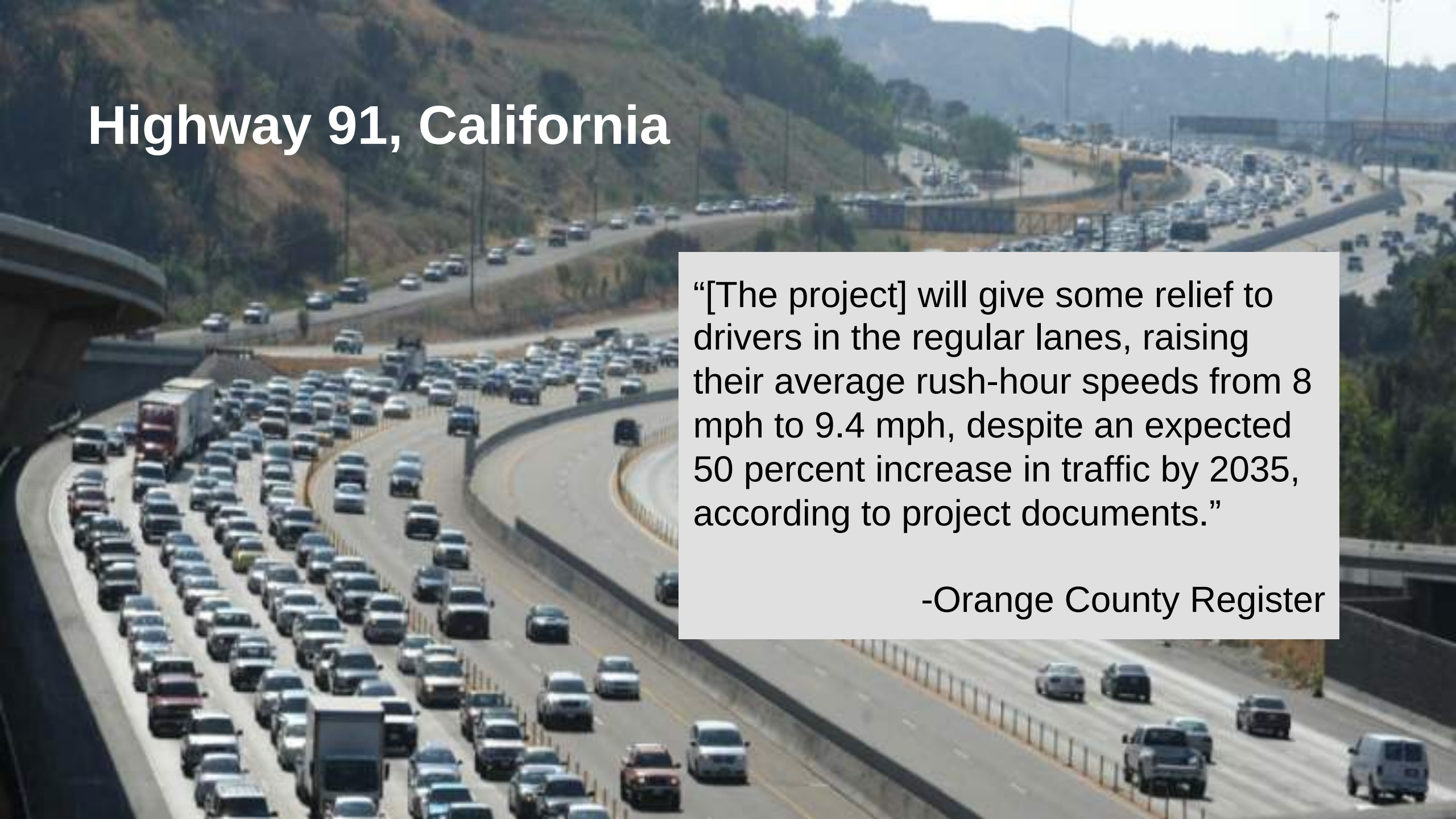
ASCE Estimates, 2012-2020



ASCE Estimates, 2012-2040



Highway 91, California

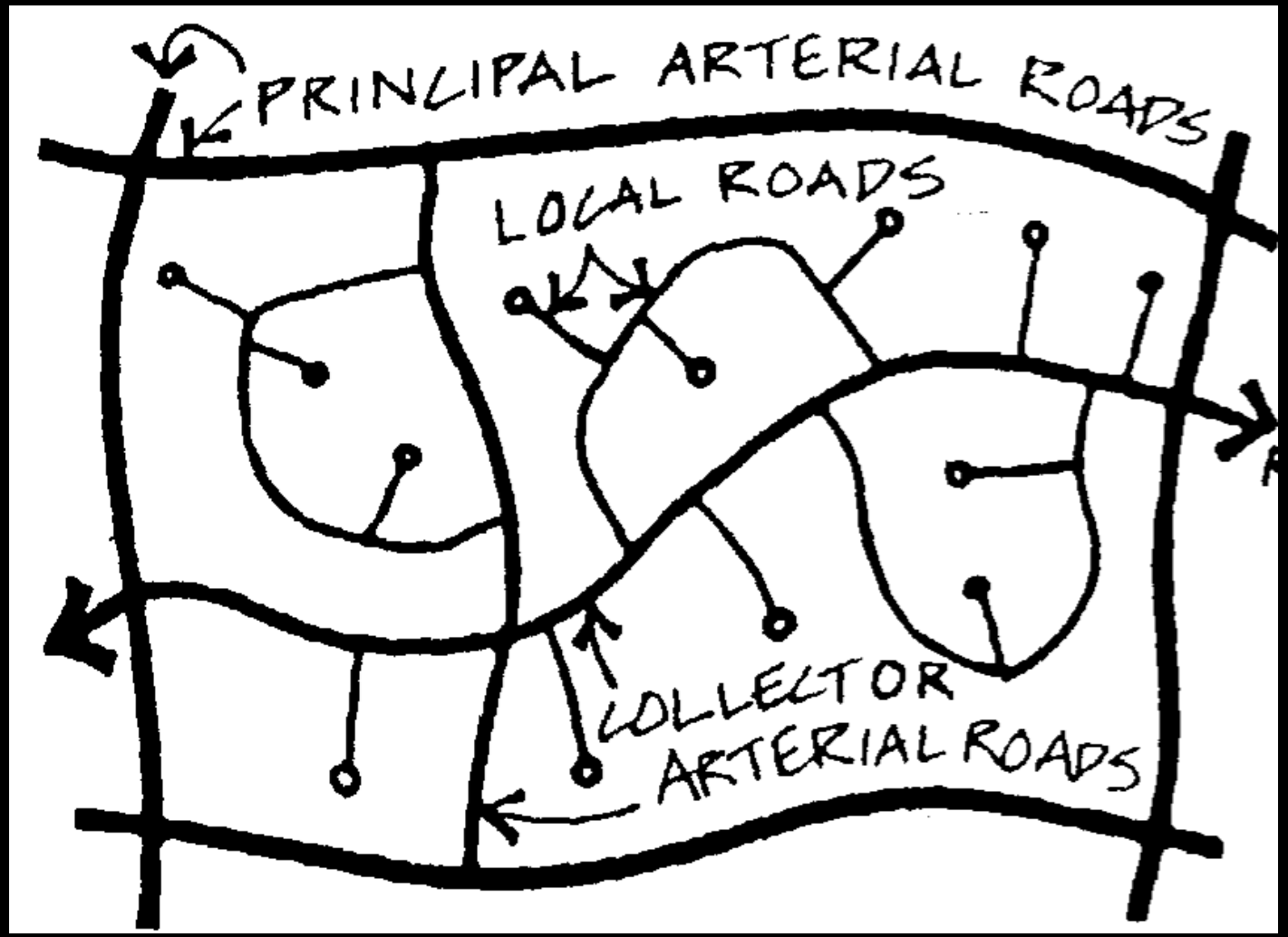


"[The project] will give some relief to drivers in the regular lanes, raising their average rush-hour speeds from 8 mph to 9.4 mph, despite an expected 50 percent increase in traffic by 2035, according to project documents."

-Orange County Register

We need more money.

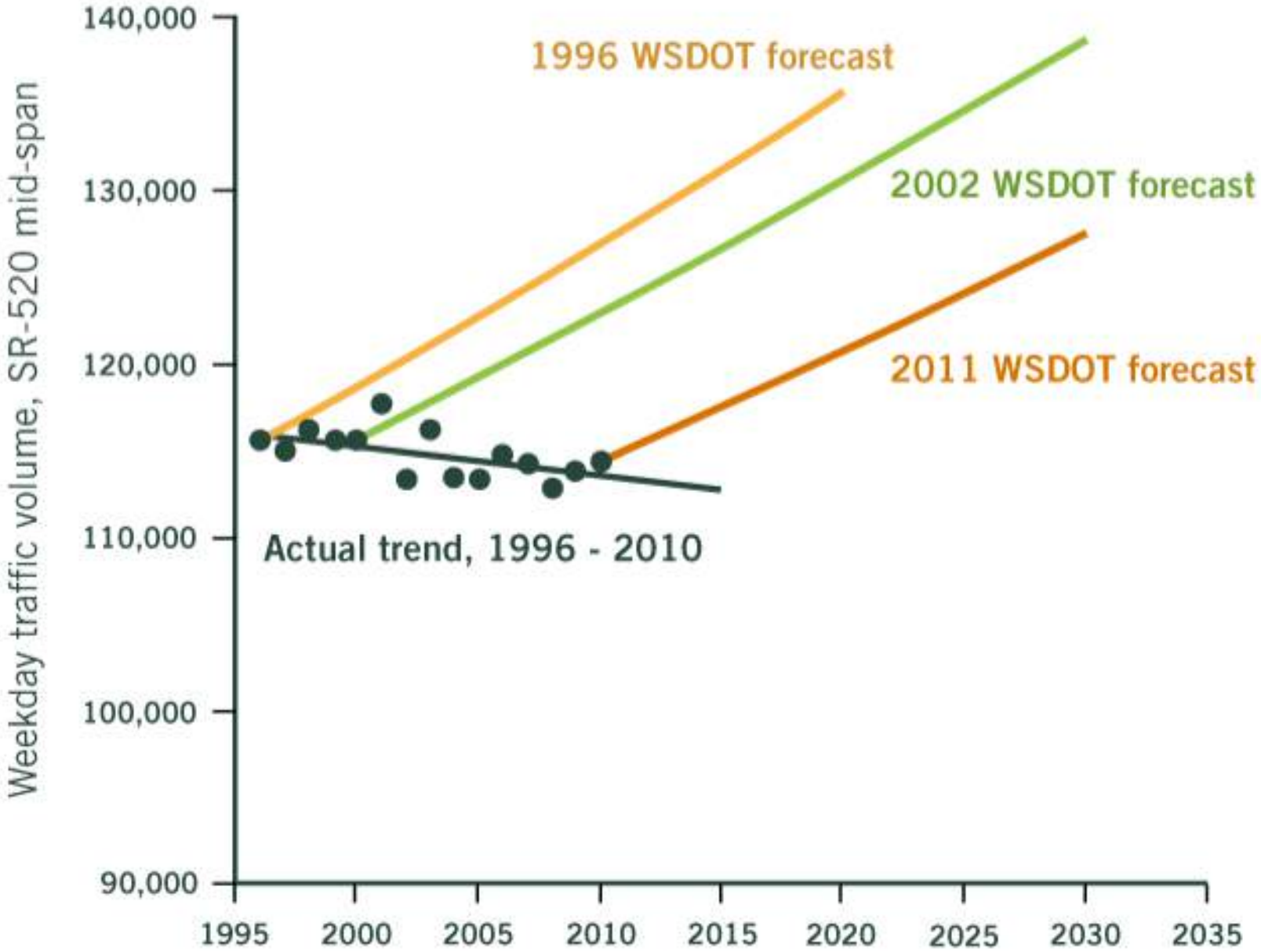
If we don’t have the money, what then?

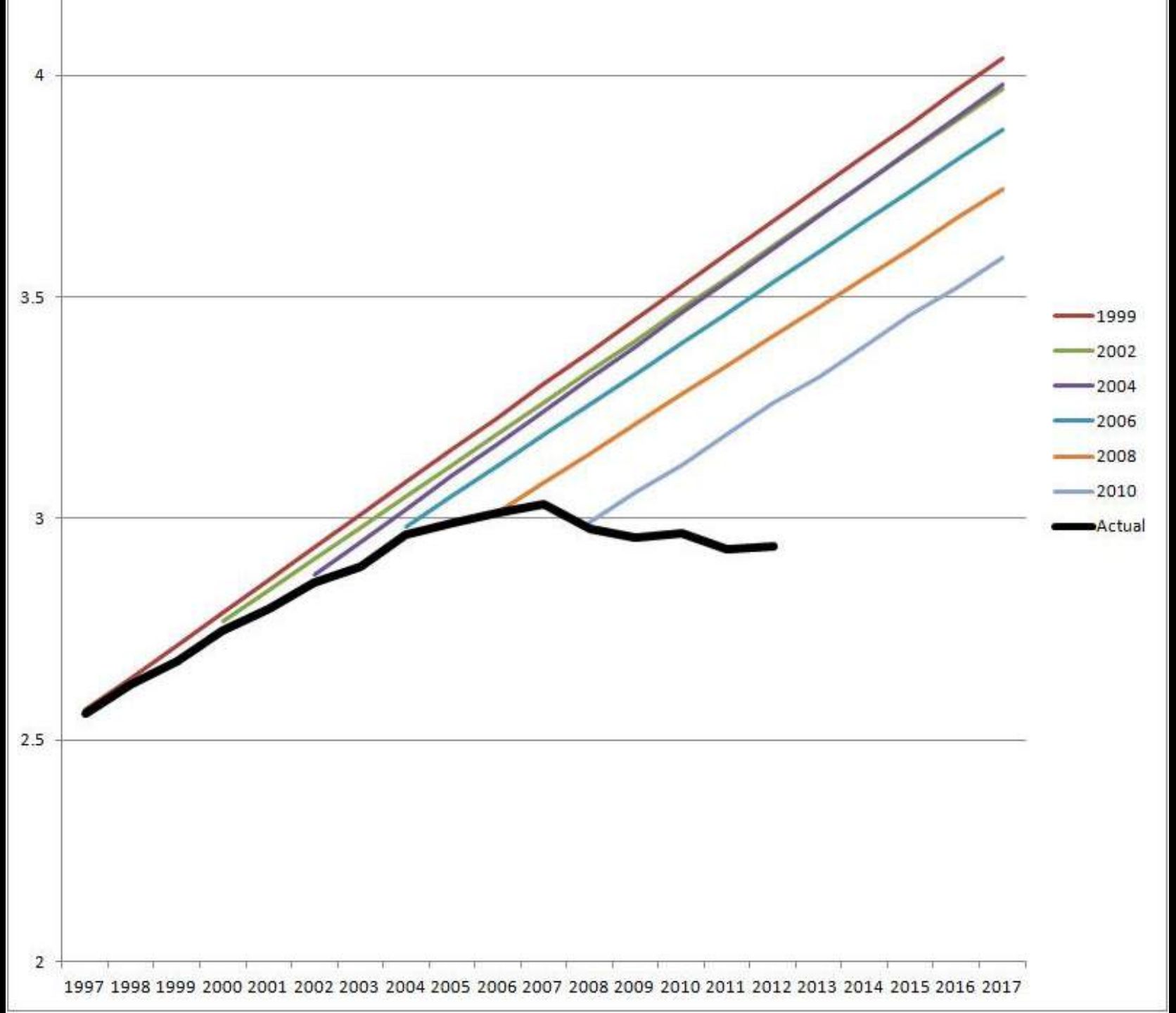

PRINCIPAL ARTERIAL ROADS
LOCAL ROADS
COLLECTOR
ARTERIAL ROADS

389 JRT

$$$$

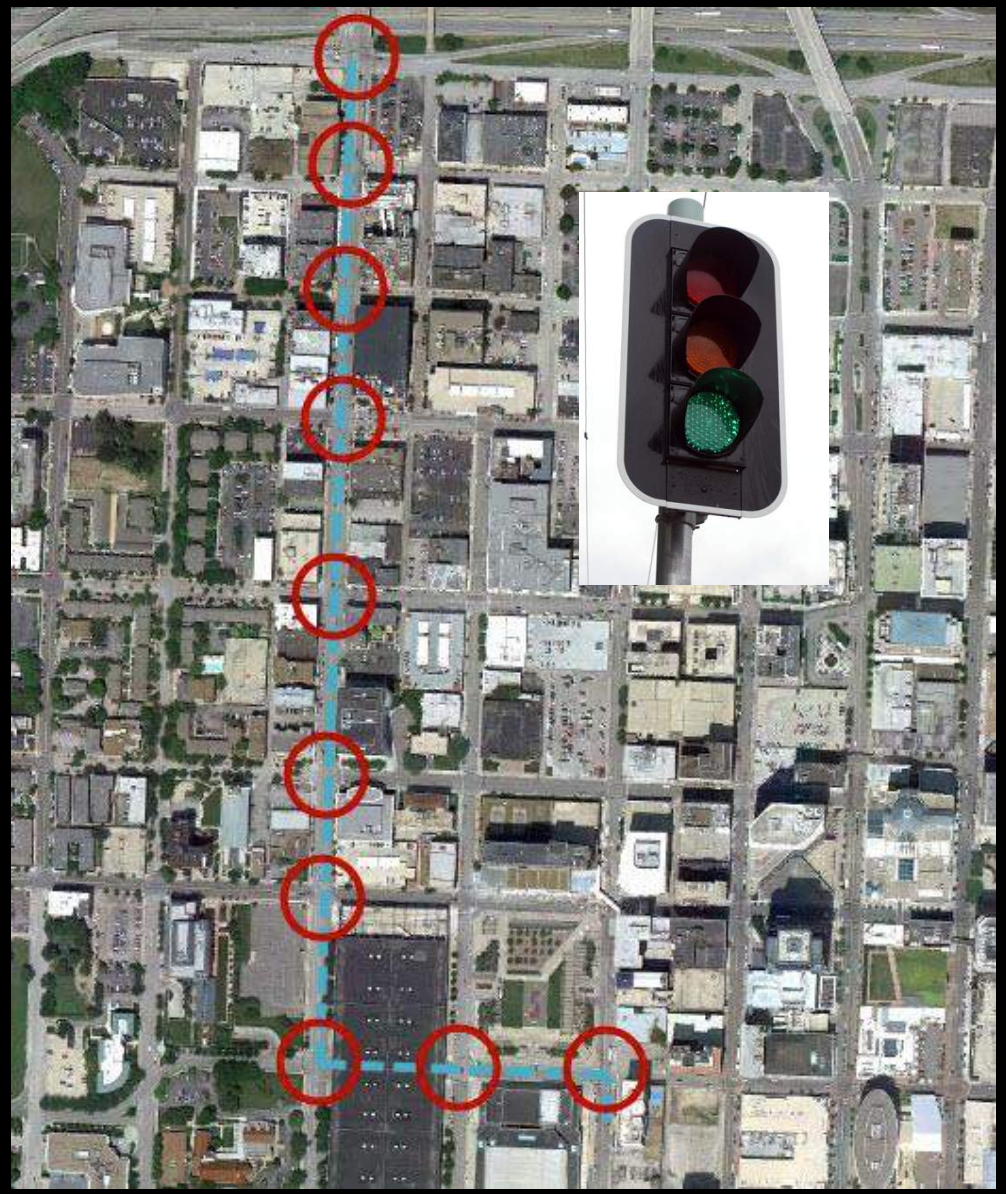
Actual weekday traffic on SR-520 vs. WSDOT forecasts.




4
3.5
3
2.5
2
1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017
1999
2002
2004
2006
2008
2010
Actual

Rush Hour

PEAK EFFICIENCY



3,700 ft travel distance

Traveling 30 mph…..

Signals	Time
0	1:24
1	2:09
2	2:54
4	3:39

Traveling 15 mph…..

2:48

“Being a good American that I am and thinking we fought a war with Europe over some things, this is one of those things that seems to me to be European.”

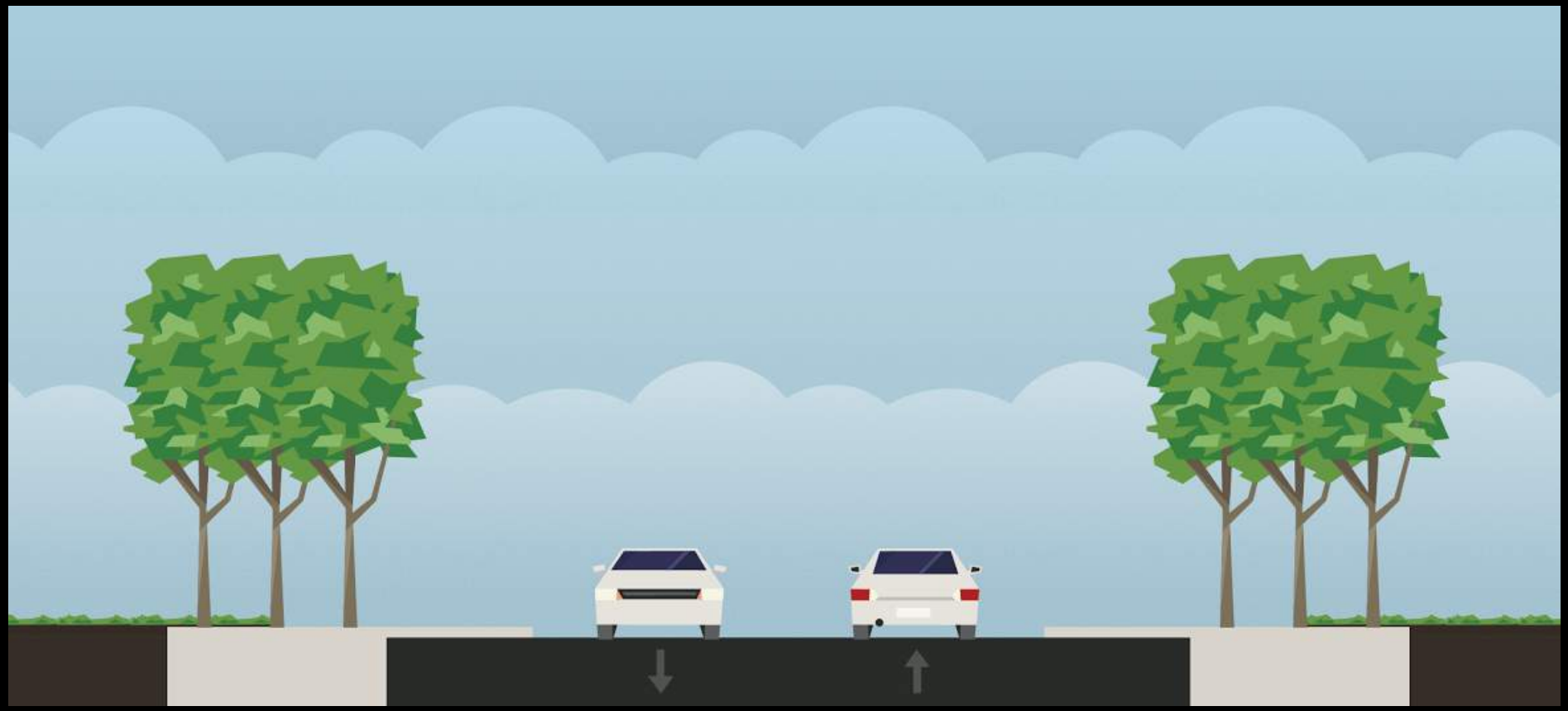
- Paul Thiede
Crow Wing County Commissioner

Forgiving Design

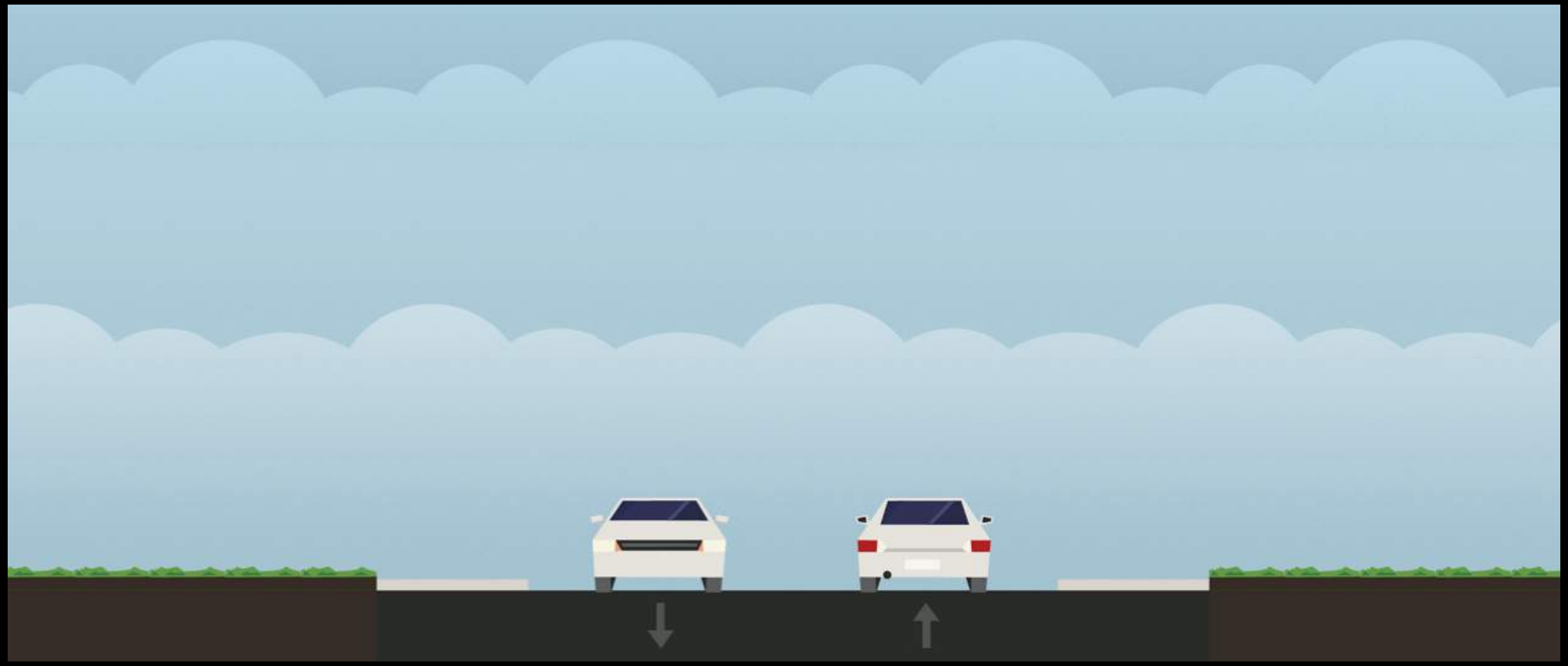
Forgiving Design

Forgiving Design

Forgiving Design



Forgiving Design



Forgiving Design

If you need a sign to tell people to slow down….

….you designed your street wrong.

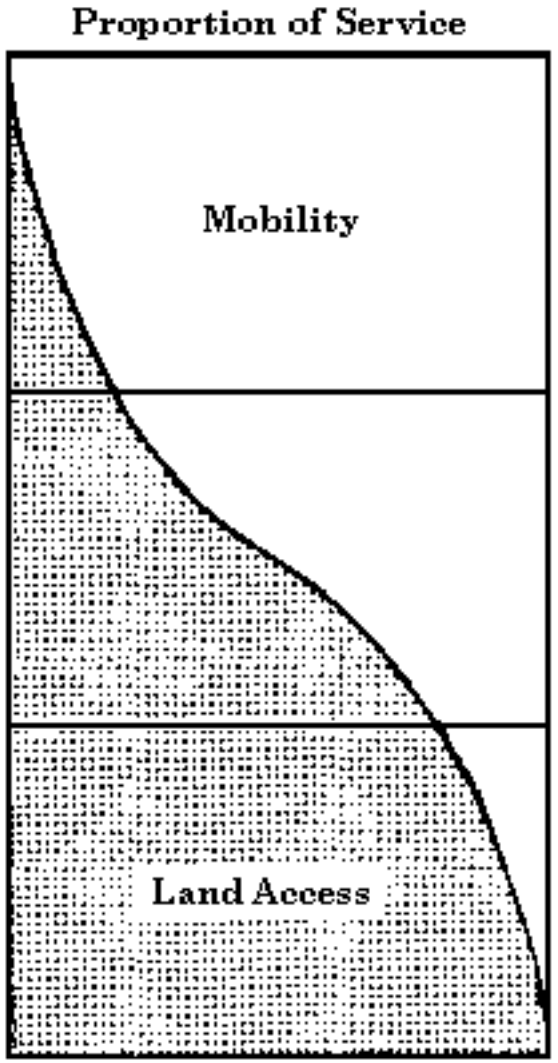
+$$$

-$$$

+$$$

Figure II-4

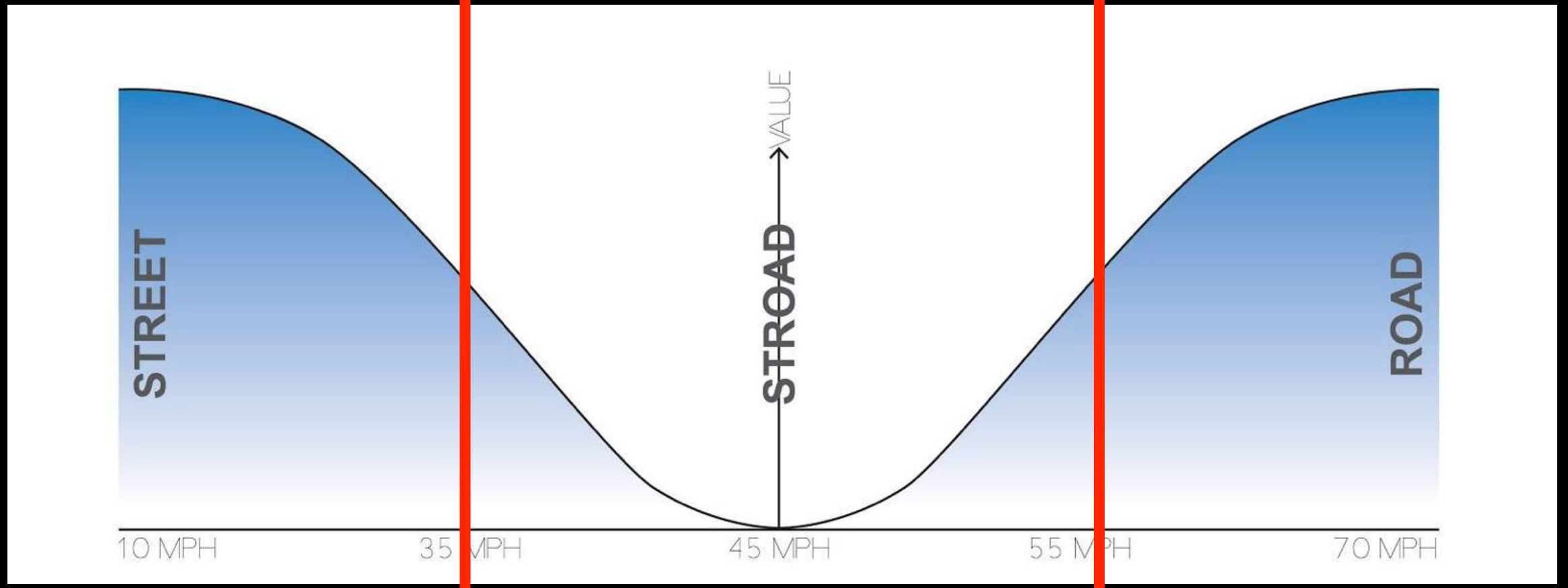
Relationship of functionally Classified Systems in Serving Traffic Mobility and Land Access



SAFE

DANGEROUS

SAFE


STREET
VALUE
STROAD
ROAD
10 MPH
35 MPH
45 MPH
55 MPH
70 MPH

MOVIE GALLERY
KBMW
A Friend You Can Count On.
alltel
YIELD
ONLY

STROAD

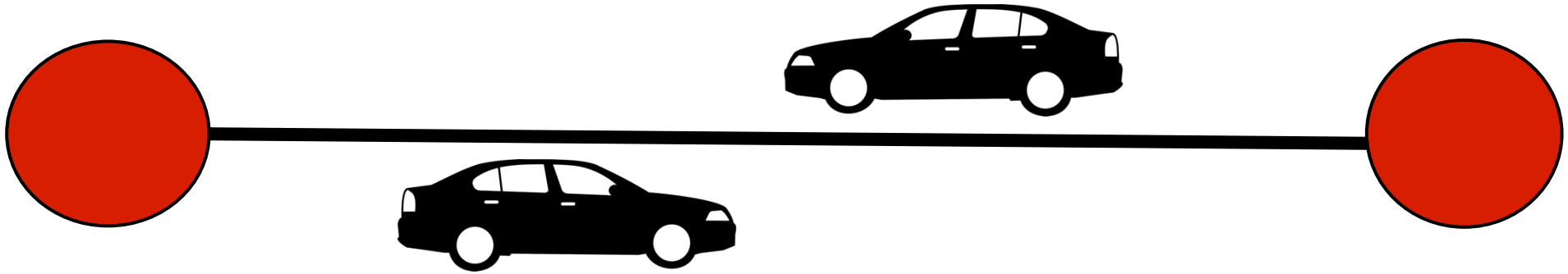
STREET

1. Slow traffic
2. Prioritze pedestrians, bikers, transit over automobiles
3. Intensify adjacent land use
4. Embrace complexity

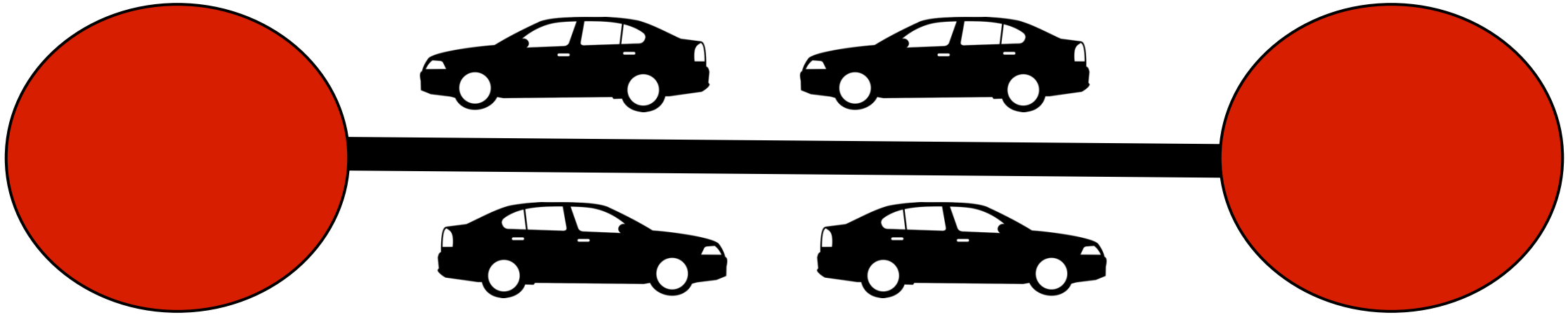
ROAD

1. Limit access
2. Segregate automobiles from other modes
3. Do not allow adjacent land use to degrade capacity
4. Simplify

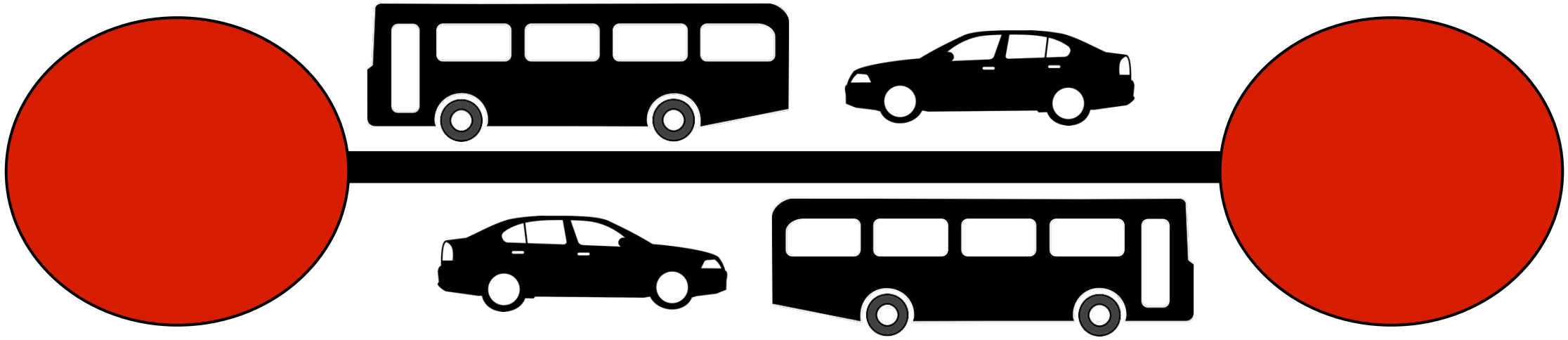
Quality Roads



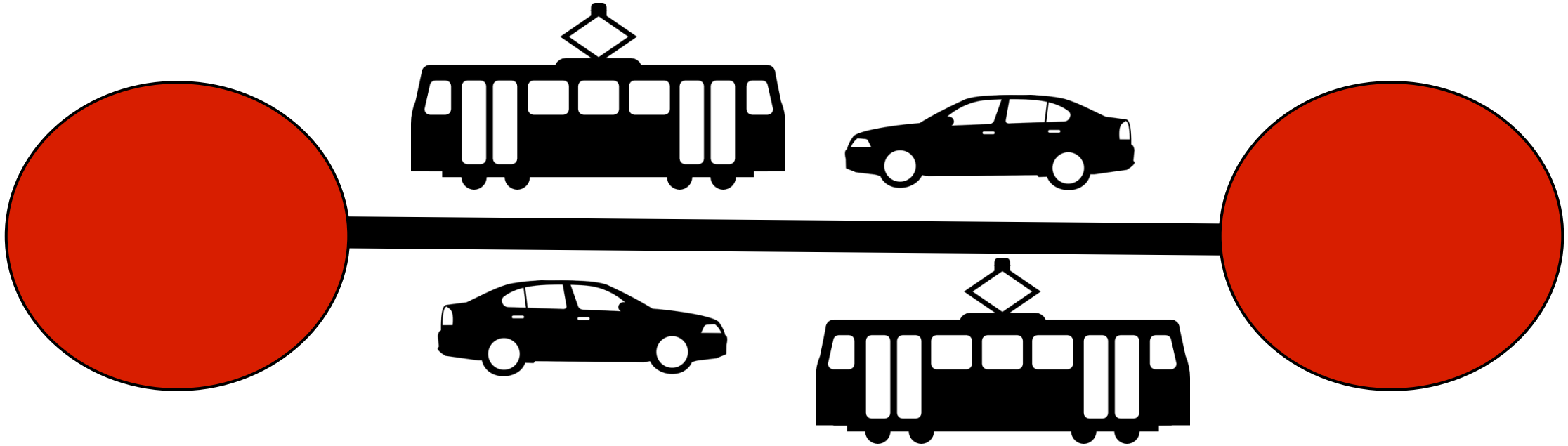
Quality Roads



Quality Roads



Quality Roads



Building financially productive places is more art….

…than science.

BILLIARD HALL

West Front Street, Brainerd, Minn

HOTEL
RANSFORD
WESTERN UNION

High Return Investments

$1,136,500

$803,200

~~$1,136,500~~

$1,104,500

$803,200

-3%

~~$1,136,500~~

$1,104,500

$618,500

~~$803,200~~

-23%

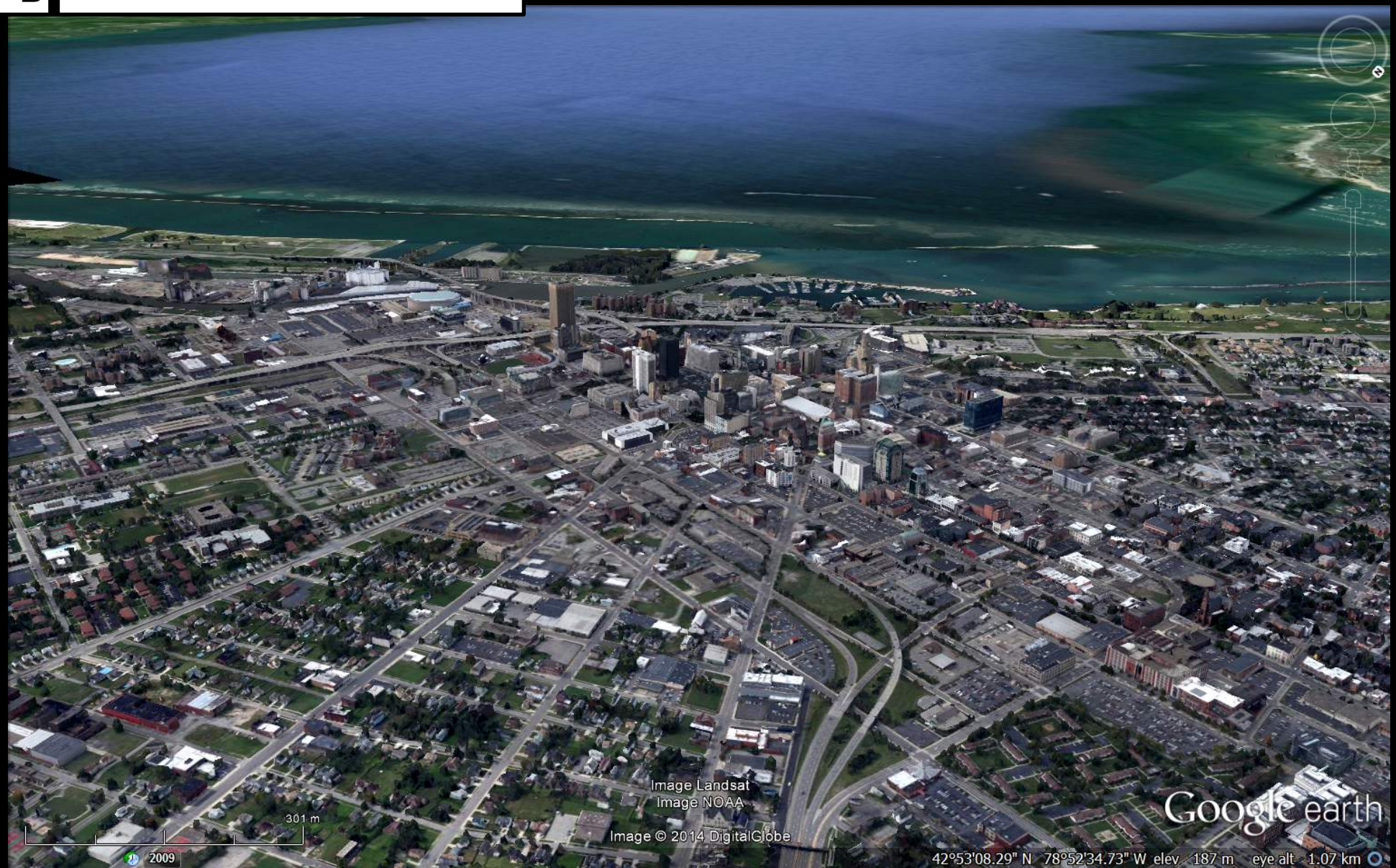
Auto Oriented $0.6 million/acre

Traditional Pattern $1.1 million/acre

High Return Investments

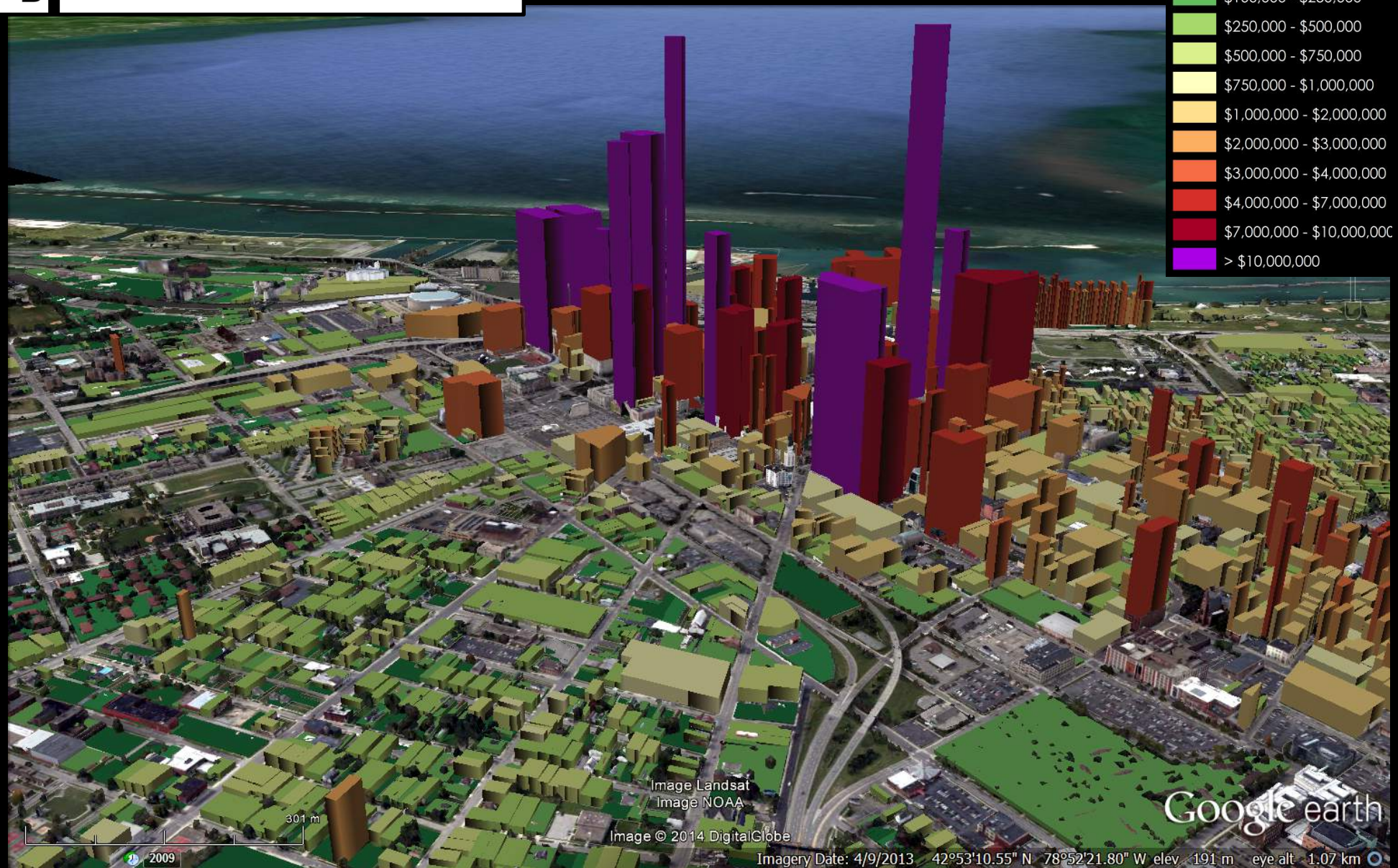
Buffalo 3-D Model

Connecting Urban Design to Economics



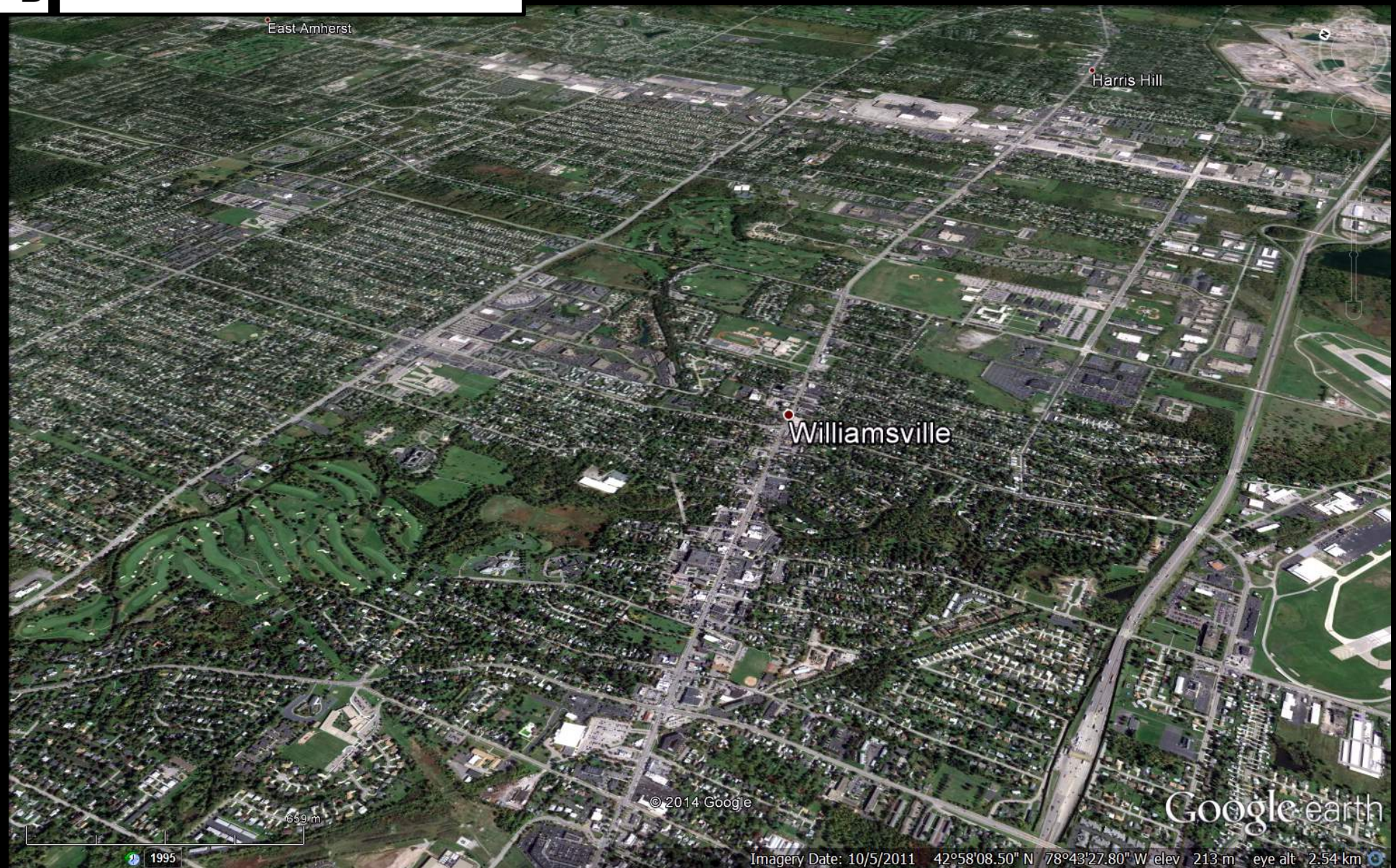
Buffalo 3-D Model

Connecting Urban Design to Economics



Williamsville 3-D Model

Connecting Urban Design to Economics



Williamsville 3-D Model

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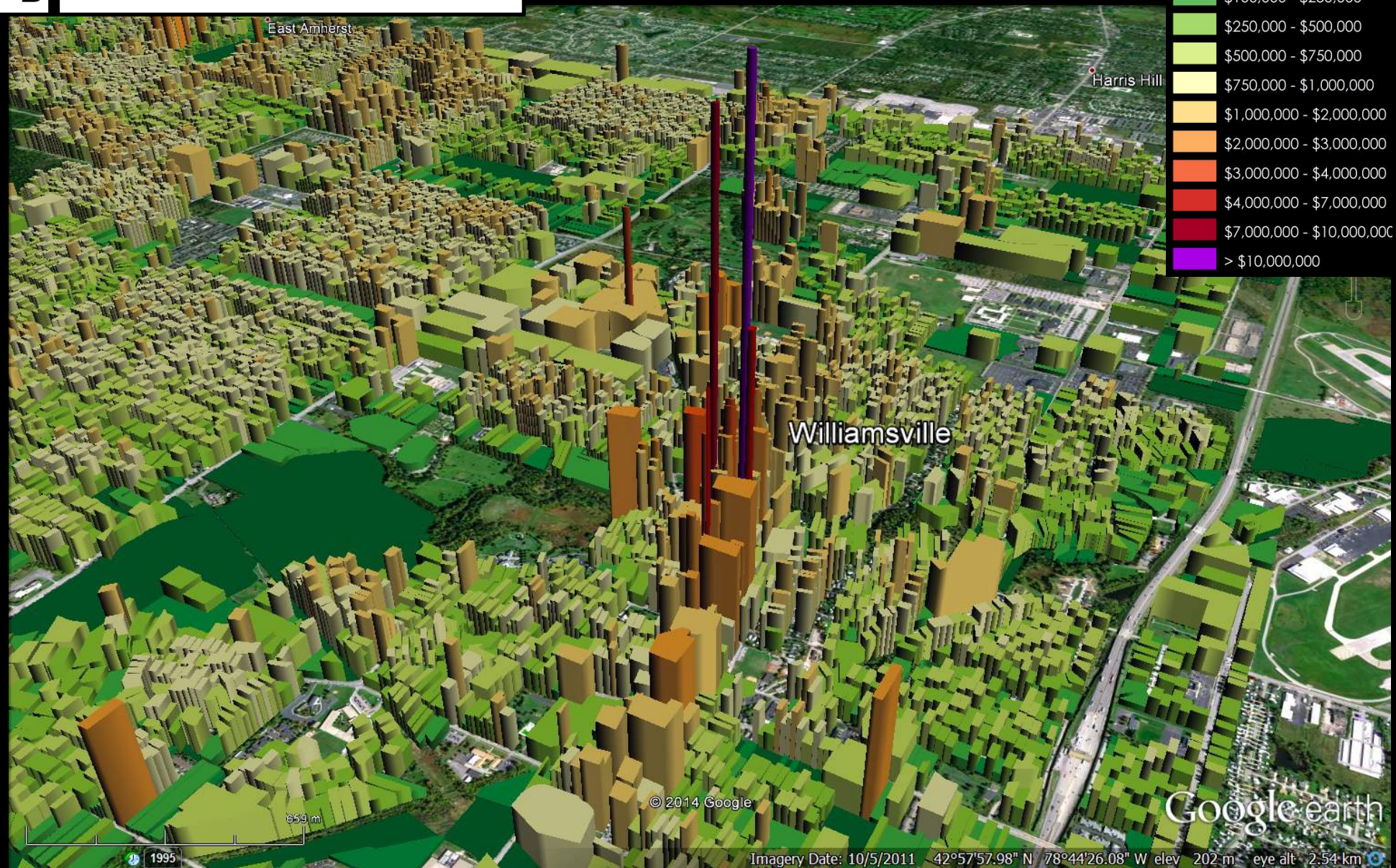
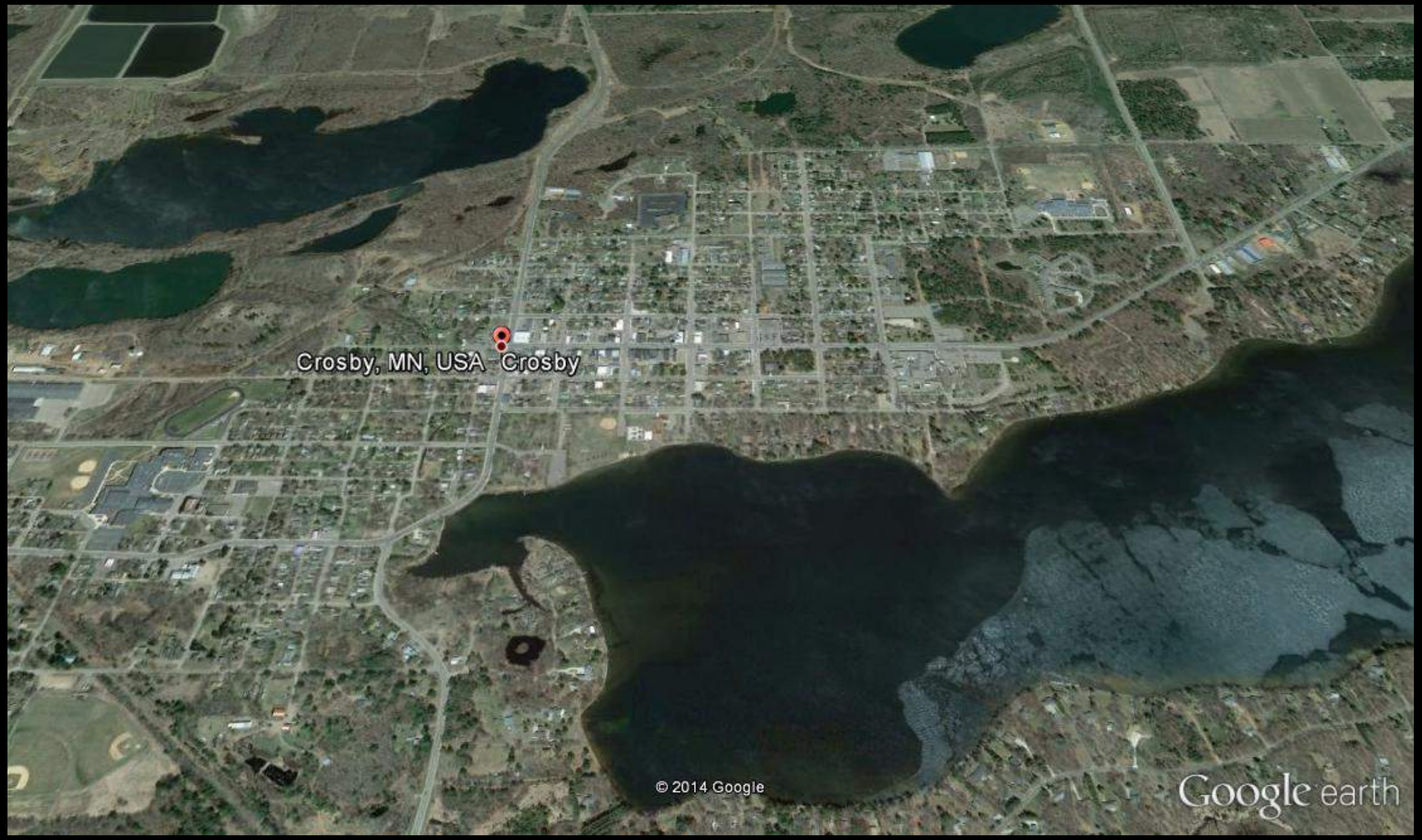


parcel total value

Taxvalue

- no tax value
- < $50,000
- $50,000 - $100,000
- $100,000 - $250,000
- $250,000 - $500,000
- $500,000 - $750,000
- $750,000 - $1,000,000
- $1,000,000 - $2,000,000
- $2,000,000 - $3,000,000
- $3,000,000 - $4,000,000
- $4,000,000 - $7,000,000
- $7,000,000 - $10,000,000
- > $10,000,000


Crosby, MN, USA
Crosby
© 2014 Google
Google earth

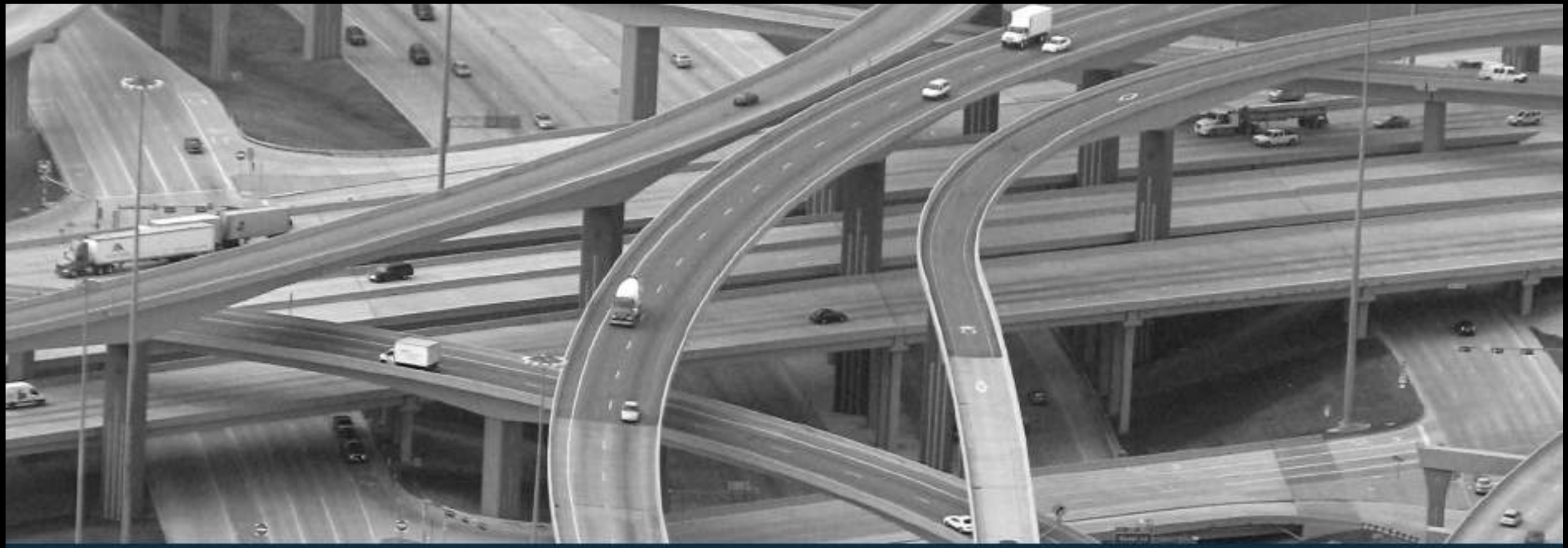
Crosby, MN, USA Crosby
© 2014 Google
Google earth

VICTORY
DOWN COLD.
FANTASY'S LAST STAND.

NO PARKING
ANYTIME
WAY
W 11 ST
ONE WAY
NO STANDING
ANY TIME

DOWLING HOUSE
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
OPEN
SHOPPING AND DINING CONTINUES
DIAGONAL ST
SPECIALTY GIFTS
RAZZLE DAZZLE
GALENA GALLERY
INN

H&M
Sweater
$19.95
W 14 ST
DO NOT
ENTER



"Any intelligent fool can make things bigger, more complex, and more violent.
It takes a touch of genius, and a lot of courage, to move in the opposite direction."

STRONG TOWNS

-E.F. Schumacher

www.StrongTowns.org/chat

STRONG TOWNS