

1 **AN INTEGRATED LAND USE – TRANSPORT MODEL SYSTEM WITH DYNAMIC TIME-DEPENDENT**
2 **ACTIVITY-TRAVEL MICROSIMULATION**

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1 **ABSTRACT**

2 The development of integrated land use – transport model systems has long been of much interest to
3 the profession due to the complex inter-relationships among land use, transport demand, and network
4 supply. This paper describes the design and prototype implementation of an integrated model system
5 which involves the microsimulation of location choices within the land use domain, of activity-travel
6 choices within the travel demand domain, and of individual vehicles on networks within the network
7 supply modeling domain. While many erstwhile applications of integrated transport demand – supply
8 models have relied on a sequential coupling of the models, the system presented in this paper involves a
9 dynamic integration of the activity-travel demand model and the dynamic traffic assignment and
10 simulation model, with appropriate feedback to the land use model system. The system has been fully
11 implemented and initial results of model system runs in a case study test application suggest that the
12 proposed model design provides a robust behavioral framework for simulating human activity-travel
13 behavior in space, time, and networks. The paper provides a detailed description of the design together
14 with results from initial test runs.

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Keywords: integrated models, dynamic transport models, microsimulation models, activity-based models, prototype demonstration

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1 **INTRODUCTION**

2 Microsimulation approaches to land use and transport modeling allow one to realistically represent
3 choice making behavior of individuals while recognizing the interactions, constraints, and underlying
4 decision making mechanisms at play (Kitamura et al 2000). The implementation of microsimulation
5 approaches has been facilitated by advances along three fronts, namely, the availability of rich data on
6 individual decision making behavior in the form of activity-travel surveys and diaries, advances in
7 econometric and statistical modeling methods which allow one to model the complex behaviors of
8 individual agents without making simplifying assumptions, and advances in computational technologies,
9 both in the software and hardware domains, which have allowed for the efficient estimation of complex
10 models and the simulation of millions of agents within reasonable computational time (Goulias and
11 Kitamura 1992).

12 Advances in microsimulation approaches to modeling urban environments have happened
13 rather independently in three different streams of research, namely, land use, travel demand, and
14 network supply. In the area of land use modeling, microsimulation approaches are applied to model the
15 urban form in a region including, land use choices of individuals, businesses, governments and
16 developers. Households within a region make choices about their residential location, while individuals
17 within a household make choices about their fixed activity locations including work place location,
18 school location, and college location (while accounting for intra-household interactions and constraints).
19 Businesses make choices about locating their offices, and other related facilities. Developers make
20 decisions regarding development (on empty parcels of land) or redevelopment (on parcels of land with
21 existing facilities). These land use choices, along with the socio-demographic and economic evolutionary
22 processes, government regulations, and zoning policies comprise the urban form in a region (Martinez
23 1992, Waddell 2002, Hunt and Abraham 2005, Salvini and Miller 2005).

24 In the travel demand arena, the field has experienced an increasing use of activity-based
25 microsimulation approaches to travel demand modeling and forecasting. Activity-based approaches
26 explicitly recognize the fact that individuals travel in order to fulfill their need to engage in activities. The
27 primary output from an activity-based travel demand model is the activity-travel patterns of individuals
28 within a household along a continuous time axis (Kitamura and Fujii 1998). The model system comprises
29 of various sub-models that closely interact with each other to generate household activity agendas,
30 individual activity schedules, activity linkages, trip chaining, destination and mode choices subject to the
31 different household interactions (including interactions among household members), and temporal,
32 spatial, and monetary constraints (Arentze and Timmermans 2004). There is a rich body of literature on
33 various implementations of activity-based model systems (Henson and Goulias 2006). These model
34 systems differ from each other on the underlying behavioral paradigms to represent activity-travel
35 decision making behavior and by the varying degrees to which choice processes are represented
36 (Pendyala et al. 2008).

37 Network assignment is typically the last step in any transport model. Conventional assignment
38 methods have do not recognize that transportation networks evolve continuously through the day, and
39 the underlying assumption of static network conditions in many assignment models in practice lead to
40 results that are unlikely to be representative of actual network conditions. With microsimulation
41 models of travel demand now capable of generating demand at a fine temporal resolution (e.g., one
42 minute), there is increasing interest in the deployment of dynamic traffic assignment models which
43 explicitly account for network dynamics along a continuous time axis allowing for an accurate
44 representation of people's path choices and resulting network conditions (Peeta and Ziliaskopoulos
45 2001, Friedrich et al. 2000). Dynamic traffic assignment models provide the same outputs as static
46 assignment models, but with an added time dimension, i.e., they generate time varying transport
47 accessibility measures of the network. This makes dynamic traffic assignment models ideally suited to

1 simulate the impacts of dynamic pricing strategies, emerging real-time information technologies, and
2 intelligent transportation systems deployments.

3 Although research in these three fields has proceeded somewhat in parallel, it is widely
4 recognized that there are important inter-relationships and dependencies among these modeling
5 domains and there is a need to account for linkages across the model systems in an integrated
6 framework to accurately model urban environments (Timmermans 2003, Miller 2006). Land use choices
7 are affected by network travel accessibility measures. In turn, land use choices affect travel demand;
8 one of the major factors affecting the activity-travel choices of individuals is their location choices
9 including home location, work location, and school location, among others. Travel demand is affected
10 by network accessibility measures, i.e., the temporal and spatial coordinates of the destination
11 opportunity space is limited by conditions on the network (e.g., speed, delays). Finally, network
12 conditions are affected by travel demand that is generated; where people travel and the routes they
13 take affect conditions on the network.

14 There has been considerable progress made in the conceptualization and operationalization of
15 integrated modeling approaches which seek to model the different components of the urban
16 environments, namely, land use, activity-travel demand, and network supply in a single unifying
17 framework. While some frameworks have emphasized the linkages between land use and travel
18 demand (Waddell et al 2008, Salvini and Miller 2005, Wagner and Wegener 2007), other frameworks
19 have focused on the travel demand and network supply interrelationships (Lin et al 2008, Cetin 2002,
20 Kitamura et al 2008, Rossi 2011, Castiglione et al 2011). However, in most of these integration
21 approaches, linkages across model systems are established rather loosely through sequential feedback
22 processes and data exchange mechanisms. There have been very limited attempts to integrate the three
23 model systems in a single unifying framework largely due to the complexity associated with individual
24 model systems, the analytical challenges associated with linking these systems which operate at
25 different temporal and spatial resolutions, and computational challenges associated with
26 microsimulating all three components of an urban environment.

27 In this research effort, an integrated modeling system dubbed SimTRAVEL- Simulator of
28 Transport, Routes, Activities, Vehicles, Emissions, and Land - is presented with a view to more tightly tie
29 together component model systems in a behaviorally consistent fashion. A prototype has been
30 developed and tested on a three city subarea in the southeast region of the Phoenix metropolitan area.
31 The next section provides an overview of the integrated model design. The third section describes the
32 operational implementation of the integrated model system along with a description of the individual
33 model systems and the software that support it. In the fourth section, a brief overview of the study area
34 is presented; this is followed by a presentation of results in the fifth section and concluding thoughts in
35 the final section.

36 37 **INTEGRATED MODEL SYSTEM DESIGN**

38 The proposed design comprises a generalized framework for integrating land use, travel demand and
39 traffic assignment models and is not limited to any particular implementation of the individual model
40 systems. Figure 1 presents a high-level overview of the proposed integrated model design. The process
41 starts with a bootstrapping step. A key input to the integrated model system is origin-destination (O-D)
42 travel times. One can obtain an initial set of travel times from a calibrated four-step travel demand
43 model. However, these travel times are based on coarse aggregations of time (the day is divided into
44 four or five time periods) and the origin-destination matrices used are obtained from trip-based
45 modeling approaches. As a result, the travel times may not reflect actual network conditions and are
46 likely to be inconsistent with the paradigms adopted in activity-based travel demand and network
47 dynamics models. A bootstrapping procedure allows one to generate time varying O-D matrices
48 consistent with the notion of networks which evolve over the course of a day.

1 In a bootstrapping procedure, the peak and off-peak O-D travel time matrices from a four-step
2 model serve as inputs to a land use model to generate the location choices of all agents within an urban
3 environment. The location choices along with the four-step O-D travel time matrices are then used to
4 generate activity-travel patterns for the entire population in a region. The demand that is generated is
5 then routed and simulated using a dynamic traffic assignment model to obtain time varying travel times
6 consistent with the paradigm of time varying network conditions. In subsequent iterations of the
7 bootstrapping step, the time varying travel time matrices are fed back to the activity-based travel
8 demand model and the process is repeated until convergence in the travel time matrices is achieved.
9 The converged travel time matrices are then used to kick off a simulation run of the integrated model
10 for the base year.

11 In the base year simulation of the integrated model, first a synthetic population is generated for
12 the region using a synthetic population generator. The land use microsimulation model is then run to
13 simulate the longer term location choices of households, persons, firms and real estate developers. The
14 activity-based travel demand model system then simulates the activity-travel patterns of individuals
15 along a continuous time axis. Both the land use microsimulation model and the activity-based travel
16 demand model utilize network accessibility measures by time of day in generating choices. Trips
17 generated are then routed and simulated through the network in the dynamic traffic assignment model
18 along a continuous time axis. The resulting network conditions, namely, the O-D travel times are then
19 fed back into the activity-based travel demand model. Activity-travel patterns are adjusted in response
20 to the modified network conditions and the trips are re-routed and re-simulated in the dynamic traffic
21 assignment model. This last step is repeated until convergence is achieved in the network conditions.

22 The converged base year network conditions are then fed into the land use microsimulation
23 model to simulate the location choices for a future year including the land use development patterns,
24 household and business location choices, and other real-estate market processes (rents, prices). There
25 are two approaches to generating the synthetic population for a future year. The first approach is to
26 generate a synthetic population again for the future year based on the control marginal distributions for
27 a future year. Alternatively one could evolve the base year synthetic population by subjecting it to
28 various individual, household lifecycle socio-economic and demographic events to create a synthetic
29 population for a future year. The activity-travel demand generation and the dynamic traffic assignment
30 steps are then iteratively repeated (with network conditions fed back) until convergence is achieved.
31 This process is repeated for each horizon year.

32 As can be seen from Figure 1, there is no instantaneous (“real-time”) feedback from the traffic
33 assignment model to the land use microsimulation model. This can be explained by the horizon of the
34 choices that each of these model systems aim to simulate. The land use model deals primarily with
35 longer term choices (location, employment, residential land use) whereas the activity-travel demand
36 model and the dynamic traffic assignment model deal with shorter term activity-travel choices which are
37 closely linked together. The accessibility indicators that people experience in one year are assumed to
38 affect the location choice decisions for a subsequent year. Therefore the land use microsimulation
39 operates at a temporal resolution of one year. The network level of service and accessibility measures
40 from one year affect the location choice decisions of the next year, and the location choices in turn then
41 affect the integrated activity-travel demand and supply model system for that year.

42 The proposed approach is quite generic and can be operationalized using any land use, travel
43 demand, and traffic assignment models so long as consistency in the treatment of behaviors, and
44 consistency in the representation of behavioral units, space, and time are maintained across model
45 systems. While it may appear that the integrated modeling framework presented in this section
46 resembles sequential integrated modeling approaches that have been proposed in the literature and
47 implemented in practice, an important distinction can be drawn in the processes used to establish the

1 linkages and inter-dependencies between the travel demand and the traffic assignment components of
2 the integrated model system. This linkage is described in the next section.

3 4 **Dynamic Activity-Travel Simulation**

5 An approach often proposed to integrate the demand model and the network supply model is to run the
6 models sequentially with feedback of the network conditions to the demand model until convergence is
7 achieved. In this naïve sequential approach to integration, the individual model systems are run
8 independently and loosely coupled together with input-output data flows (Kitamura et al 2005). In
9 sequential implementations of integrated model systems, the activity-based travel demand model is run
10 first to simulate the activity-travel patterns for the entire population for a full 24 hour period. The
11 activity-travel patterns are then converted to trip lists (Castiglione 2011) or trip tables (Lin et al 2008) to
12 feed into a dynamic traffic assignment model. It can be seen that, in this approach, there is a potential
13 loss of information as well as the possibility to introduce spatial and temporal inconsistencies into the
14 activity-travel schedules of individuals. If one considers the approach in which trip tables are created
15 from individual activity-travel schedules, trips can no longer be traced back to the individual that
16 engages in the activity/trip and hence there is a loss of information. Even in approaches where trip lists
17 are passed with individual information attached to each trip, the sequential approach fails to capture
18 the “emergent” nature of activity-travel scheduling behavior in response to “actual” arrival time
19 (network conditions). For example, if a person arrives at his or her destination earlier than expected, the
20 sequential approach would not allow the person to alter or modify his or her activity agenda and will be
21 made to wait until the next activity-travel decision point. However, it is very likely that the person may
22 start pursuing the activity early and also potentially finish the activity early, leaving a larger time-space
23 prism window for engaging in other activities or rescheduling subsequent activities. Thus, sensitivity and
24 response to actual arrival information is very important in simulating activity-travel engagement and
25 scheduling decisions for fixed, and more importantly, for non-fixed (discretionary and maintenance)
26 activities.

27 Figure 2 presents a framework to accomplish a dynamic integration between an activity-based
28 travel demand model and a dynamic traffic assignment model. This framework overcomes the above
29 mentioned limitations of sequential integration approaches by maintaining consistency in the
30 representation of behavioral units, spatial relationships, and temporal scales. The model design can be
31 traced to the attempts to integrate an activity-based travel demand model system called PCATS - Prism
32 Constrained Activity-Travel Simulator – with a micro-meso scale dynamic traffic assignment model
33 system called DEBNetS - Dynamic Event-Based Network Simulator. Early efforts to integrate the two
34 model systems adopted the sequential approach with simple input-output flows enabling the
35 integration (Kitamura et al 2005). A tighter integration paradigm was proposed to overcome the various
36 challenges associated with sequential approaches (Kitamura et al 2008), wherein the travel demand
37 model and the dynamic traffic assignment model constantly communicate with each other along a
38 continuous time axis. The resulting activity-travel engagement decisions are truly emergent and the
39 decision to engage in activities, and the various activity-travel dimensions including activity type, activity
40 duration, destination, departure time, route, and arrival time are generated and simulated as they
41 happen. The design presented here builds on the event-based approach proposed by Kitamura et al
42 (2008) with major enhancements in the heuristics employed to re-schedule activities in response to
43 arrival time information.

44 After obtaining network conditions by time of day from a bootstrapping procedure, the
45 framework as shown in Figure 2 can be employed to simulate activity-travel decisions. The typical time
46 resolution of an activity-travel demand model is one minute. Thus the day can be broken down into
47 1440 intervals in which activity-travel choices need to be simulated for the entire population. Within
48 each minute, the demand model simulates the activity-travel engagement decisions of all individuals.

1 For those individuals that make a decision to pursue an activity away from the current location, trip
2 information including, origin, destination, mode, and vehicle is extracted and passed to the dynamic
3 traffic assignment model for loading the trip on the network. The dynamic traffic assignment model
4 routes the trips and simulates them on the network. The routes are generated in the dynamic traffic
5 assignment model based on the Wardrop's principle of user equilibrium (i.e. the trips are assigned to
6 paths between an origin-destination pair such that the travel time across all paths between the O-D pair
7 are equal). A dynamic traffic assignment model is usually capable of simulating vehicular movements
8 and positions at a finer temporal resolution (less than one minute). In order to avoid lumpy loading of
9 the vehicles onto the network within a one minute simulation, the dynamic traffic assignment model
10 uniformly distributes the trips across the one minute simulation interval. For example, if the dynamic
11 traffic assignment operates at a resolution of six seconds, then the trips are distributed uniformly across
12 the one minute simulation interval and loaded on the network every six seconds.

13 After loading the trips, the dynamic traffic assignment model simulates the movement of
14 vehicles on the network. The vehicle's position is updated at the end of every six seconds. The dynamic
15 traffic assignment stores network level of service conditions (typically the link travel times, volumes, and
16 delays, among others). It is theoretically possible for the traffic assignment model system to store
17 network level of service measures at a resolution of six seconds and then feed those back for the
18 subsequent iteration. However, it becomes computationally burdensome and it may be behaviorally
19 unwarranted to store network conditions at such a fine temporal resolution. In addition, it is difficult to
20 imagine that individuals consider network conditions at a resolution of six seconds when they make
21 activity-travel decisions. It may be reasonable to store network conditions at the same resolution as the
22 activity-travel demand model (at a one minute resolution or higher). The vehicular movements are
23 executed on the network until the trips arrive at their intended destinations. Once the trips have arrived
24 at their destinations, the dynamic traffic assignment model passes back the arrival information to the
25 demand model so that the latter can simulate subsequent activity-travel engagement decisions. After
26 receiving the arrival information, the demand model makes appropriate adjustments to the activity-
27 travel schedule of an individual in response to his or her arrival time and the individual pursues the
28 activity at the destination before reaching the next activity-travel engagement decision point. Since the
29 dynamic traffic assignment model operates at a resolution of six seconds, all of the trips that have
30 arrived at their destination within any one minute interval are collected and then the arrival information
31 is sent to the demand model.

32 At the end of the simulation for a day, the network conditions by time of day are processed to
33 generate origin-destination travel time matrices by time of day for use in the travel demand model, and
34 time-dependent shortest paths between origin-destination pairs are generated for use in the dynamic
35 traffic assignment model in the subsequent iteration. The updated network conditions are fed into both
36 the demand model and traffic assignment model for the next iteration. The process is repeated until
37 convergence is achieved in both the travel demand and network conditions. It must be noted that the
38 shortest paths are based on network conditions from a previous iteration because link conditions cannot
39 be forecast into the future without actually simulating trips (future period network conditions are
40 needed to calculate time-dependent shortest paths). Similarly, the network conditions from a previous
41 iteration are used to simulate activity-travel engagement decisions in any given iteration. However, the
42 arrival time information, based on which activity-travel schedule adjustments and activity engagement
43 decisions are made, is generated in "real-time" as trips are simulated along the day.

44 The proposed approach to dynamic linkage between the activity-travel demand system and the
45 dynamic traffic assignment model has some very behaviorally appealing features. First, arrival times are
46 determined by "real-time" conditions on the network along a continuous time axis and are not based on
47 a pre-determined network state from a previous iteration. This process maintains continuity and
48 consistency in temporal and spatial representation of activity-travel engagement decisions, which is

1 often a point of contention in the more naïve sequential approach to integration. Second, the feedback
2 of network conditions from one iteration to the next mimics a day-to-day learning process wherein
3 individuals make activity-travel engagement decisions and adjust schedules in response to their travel
4 experience from the previous iteration. This learning behavior is captured by the outer feedback loop
5 shown in Figure 2. Finally, the framework lends itself to evaluating policies and scenarios that involve
6 network dynamics, and understanding the impact of such dynamics on activity-travel engagement
7 behavior. For example, one can evaluate the impact of traveler information systems, or model the
8 dissipation of network shocks (incidents) and their effects on individual time use and activity
9 engagement decisions. Scenarios of network disruption can be setup and evaluated in the proposed
10 integrated model design because of the dynamic minute-by-minute handshaking which allows one to
11 capture the scheduling and re-scheduling decisions, and alternative routing decisions that people would
12 pursue, in response to network dynamics. If an individual arrived late at a certain destination (say, due
13 to congestion on the network), then the duration of that activity, as well as the pattern of engagement
14 in subsequent activities, may be affected. Certain discretionary activities that would have been
15 otherwise pursued (had the individual not been delayed) may instead be eliminated to meet various
16 daily schedule constraints. The evaluation of such scheduling dynamics in a sequential design would
17 inevitably entail the use of ad-hoc procedures to modify activity-travel patterns. The proposed design
18 offers a behaviorally intuitive framework for modeling dynamics associated with the demand for and
19 supply of transportation systems.

20

21 **OPERATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF INTEGRATED MODEL DESIGN**

22 The framework presented in the previous section has been used to build an integrated model system
23 dubbed SimTRAVEL – Simulator of Transport, Routes, Activities, Vehicles, Emissions, and Land. In order
24 to start the microsimulation of the urban continuum, a synthetic population for the entire region is
25 necessary. In this context, it is important to ensure that the synthetic population not only matches
26 known distributions of household variables of interest but also known distributions of person variables
27 of interest. This will ensure that the synthetic population closely matches the household and individual
28 socio-economic and demographic profiles of the region, which in turn affect the land use, activity-travel
29 engagement, and route choice decisions. PopGen (Version 1.1) is the synthetic population generator
30 used in SimTRAVEL (Ye et al. 2009). PopGen is a stand-alone open-source package developed using
31 Python and is available to the public under the GNU General Public License (GPL) agreement. The land
32 use microsimulation model that was employed in the development of the SimTRAVEL prototype is
33 UrbanSim (Waddell et al 2008). UrbanSim is an open-source land use microsimulation model which
34 comprises of a series of models that simulate the location choices of households, persons, businesses,
35 real-estate agents while explicitly considering the zoning policies and restrictions that built
36 environments experience. UrbanSim is also developed using Python and available under the GNU GPL
37 agreement.

38 The travel demand microsimulation model system incorporated in SimTRAVEL is OpenAMOS.
39 OpenAMOS is an open-source activity-based travel demand model system which generates the daily
40 activity-travel patterns of individuals. OpenAMOS builds on a long legacy of activity-based model
41 development (Pendyala et al 2005, Kitamura et al 2005). Some fundamental behavioral paradigms, such
42 as the explicit modeling and recognition of time-space prism vertices, have been preserved in
43 OpenAMOS from the legacy implementation. However, OpenAMOS enhances the earlier model
44 framework to account for child dependency and allocation processes, intra-household activity-travel
45 engagement interactions, and multi-modal travel simulation. OpenAMOS is implemented in Python and
46 is available to the public under the GNU GPL agreement.

47 Finally, the dynamic traffic assignment (DTA) microsimulation model system that was deployed
48 in the integrated model prototype is MALTA (Multi-Resolution Assignment and Loading of Traffic

1 Activities) (Chiu and Villalabos 2008). The traffic assignment process is handled by a new Hierarchical
2 Time Dependent Shortest Path (HTDSP) algorithm for the highway modes, and a new microsimulation
3 model for the transit modes. The MALTA model system is primarily written in C++. The model system is
4 also open-source, similar to other packages that are used in the development of the prototype, and is
5 available to the public under the GNU GPL agreement.

6 7 **Convergence Criterion**

8 The demand and supply model systems are run iteratively with feedback loops, and hence convergence
9 criteria need to be established to stop the iterative process. While the concept of convergence and
10 stopping criteria are well established in the field of traffic assignment, the concept is relatively less
11 established in the travel demand modeling arena. On the demand side, every simulation run represents
12 one stochastic realization of the underlying activity-travel behavior, and convergence is neither
13 monitored nor characterized across loops of a feedback procedure. Traditionally in traffic assignment
14 models, convergence is monitored by comparing origin-destination travel time matrices (Boyce and Bar-
15 Gera 2003) or by comparing a gap measure (Rose et al 1988) across iterations, and the iterative process
16 is stopped once the difference in the convergence measure across iterations is small.

17 In addition to monitoring convergence on the traffic assignment side, it is also important to
18 monitor convergence on the travel demand side as well. This is because, in the proposed design, the
19 number of iterations required to achieve convergence in the traffic assignment model will be directly
20 dependent on the extent to which activity-travel patterns vary across iterations. In the system
21 prototype, convergence on the travel demand end is monitored by comparing aggregate O-D matrices
22 across iterations. In the future, it is envisioned that more disaggregate measures of convergence may be
23 monitored.

24 In any iterative process, there is always a concern of feedback measures oscillating across
25 iterations and leading to unstable and inefficient characterization of convergence. Boyce and Bar-Gera
26 (2003, 2006) suggest the use of averaging techniques in feedback processes to avoid oscillations and to
27 proceed towards convergence more efficiently. In the proposed design, the time-varying link attributes
28 are averaged across iterations. The link attributes were selected because they are used to generate O-D
29 travel time matrices for use in the travel demand model and update time-dependent shortest paths for
30 use in the dynamic traffic assignment model for the next iteration.

31 32 **Case Study Test Site**

33 Initial tests of the prototype are being conducted for a three city subarea in the southeast region of the
34 Phoenix Metropolitan region. The subarea covers the City of Chandler, Town of Gilbert, and Town of
35 Queen Creek. There are about half a million people (505350) in this subarea residing in 167738
36 households. Although activity-travel engagement decisions are being generated only for the three city
37 region in OpenAMOS, the dynamic traffic assignment model (MALTA) is utilizing the entire network of
38 the Phoenix Metropolitan region for routing and simulation. Therefore, in an effort to reflect the
39 presence of congestion on the network, the background traffic that is generated by the population
40 outside the study area was also loaded. Background traffic was incorporated by disaggregating peak-
41 and off-peak O-D matrices obtained from the four-step travel model for the region into trip lists by
42 employing temporal distributions from the latest National Household Travel Survey. In each time step,
43 the disaggregated trip lists were then added as background traffic to supplement the demand generated
44 by OpenAMOS for the subarea and thus capture real world network conditions.

45 46 **RESULTS**

47 Within the scope of this paper, it is impossible to provide comprehensive results of the case study
48 application of SimTRAVEL. Such a comprehensive case study description will be the primary focus of a

1 future paper. Interested readers may view more detailed results of various tests and model runs at the
2 SimTRAVEL wiki site (ASU, 2011). Within the context of this paper, and relevant to the description of the
3 design, two key measures are examined and discussed here.

4 One of the major design objectives of the tightly integrated model design was to ensure that
5 time of day distributions of activity-travel engagement were accurately replicated by the model system.
6 In the dynamic integrated model design, activity start times get adjusted in response to actual arrival
7 times at destinations simulated by the dynamic network model. In other words, one of the key aspects
8 of the design is the ability to accurately replicate time of day distributions of travel. Now, if the origin-
9 destination travel time matrices are very accurate representations of travel times one would actually
10 experience in the network, then it is unlikely that the dynamic model design and the sequential model
11 design would yield differing results. This is because the travel time matrices that dictate time of day
12 distributions in the sequential model design would be very similar to actual travel times experienced by
13 travelers in the network as simulated by the dynamic integrated model design. However, the question
14 remains whether the dynamic integrated model design, with all of its schedule adjustments in response
15 to network arrival times, would be able to accurately replicate true time of day distributions of travel in
16 the region. Figures 3 and 4 show time of day distributions of trip start times for adult workers and adult
17 non-workers respectively. It can be seen that the time of day distributions for these two demographic
18 groups compare remarkably well against values derived from the latest edition of the National
19 Household Travel Survey. For workers, one can see the typical peaks in the morning and evening with a
20 smaller peak in the noon period, presumably due to the lunch hour. For non-workers, the distributions
21 also match extremely well, although it appears that SimTRAVEL is yielding a slight over-prediction of
22 trips between 11:00 AM and 5PM and a slight under-prediction of trips beyond 8 PM. These extremely
23 good matches in time of day distributions suggest that the dynamic design is able to represent broad
24 temporal patterns of travel demand. It should be noted, however, that the true merits of the proposed
25 design can only be assessed when the model system is applied to a scenario in which the network is
26 subjected to a perturbation and disaggregate results from the activity-travel simulation process are
27 examined to the fullest extent.

28 Another key dimension of the integrated model design is investigated through the information
29 in Figure 5. This figure compares the overall trip rates for maintenance and discretionary activities for
30 worker and non-worker segments. The comparison is made between trip rates provided by the
31 sequential model design and the dynamic integrated model design described in this paper. In virtually
32 all cases, it is found that the sequential model design is yielding a higher trip rate than the dynamic
33 integrated model design. In fact, the dynamic integrated model design generated a total of 1.456
34 million trips for the subarea that constitutes the test area, while the sequential model design generated
35 a total of 1.506 million trips. It appears that the sequential model design may not accurately capture the
36 adjustments in activity engagement that people make as a result of experienced travel times being
37 different from expected travel times. When an actual arrival time is later than an expected arrival time,
38 then the remaining time in the open time-space prism is less than what would be otherwise available.
39 As a result of this shrinkage of the time space prism, an individual might forego undertaking an
40 additional activity, and instead, postpone the activity to the next day. This type of activity generation
41 adjustment is not reflected in the sequential model design. As a result, the average trip rates for non-
42 mandatory activities are higher in the sequential model design than in the dynamic integrated model
43 design. Indeed, one should note that, if the expected travel times closely replicate actual travel times
44 that would be experienced on the network, then these differences would be negligible. However, the
45 dynamic integrated model design ensures that effects of network congestion, that would inevitably
46 impact arrival times, are accurately captured in simulating activity engagement behavior of individuals.

47 Now, it is entirely possible to argue that even a sequential model design can replicate patterns
48 without much difficulty as long as expected travel times (in the skim matrices) are accurately reflecting

1 true travel times in the network. The issue, however, is not whether a sequential model design
2 accurately replicates network conditions and travel demand under normal conditions. The question is
3 whether a simpler naïve sequential model design can replicate behaviors and network conditions when
4 a shock or policy is introduced in the system in the middle of a day (simulation). From a pure conceptual
5 standpoint, the dynamic integrated model design presented in this paper would have the ability to
6 simulate adjustments in schedules and behaviors that would follow such an event. It would be virtually
7 possible for a sequential design to mimic such behavioral adjustment processes.

8 The results demonstrate the feasibility of the integrated modeling approach presented in this
9 paper. An issue that merits further exploration is that of computational tractability. Run times are
10 naturally dependent on the hardware configuration. On a standard quad-core personal computer
11 workstation, run times for a simulation of just over 15 million trips are on the order of about 24 hours
12 per complete iteration, with the dynamic model design taking on the order of about 3-4 hours longer
13 than a sequential model design run. It is envisioned that these run times will come down as computing
14 power improves and parallel computing capabilities are harnessed to the extent possible.

15 **CONCLUSIONS**

16 This paper presents an integrated land use – transport model system design that incorporates a tight
17 dynamic coupling between an activity-based microsimulation model system of travel demand and a
18 dynamic network assignment and simulation model of network supply. Although there have been
19 considerable developments over the past decade in the integrated transport model formulation arena,
20 the implementation of a tightly integrated model system has remained a major challenge to the
21 profession. There are many emerging policy questions that call for an integrated transport demand –
22 supply model system capable of responding to changing network conditions through the course of a
23 day. In the event of unexpected congestion (say, due to an incident), travelers may arrive at their
24 destination location later than expected. This late arrival would have cascading effects on the
25 subsequent activities, destinations, and durations. Through a tightly integrated model design, it is
26 possible to reflect the effects of such network dynamics on emergent activity-travel behavior. Similarly,
27 in the event that intelligent transportation systems or dynamic pricing strategies are deployed, travelers
28 may be able to arrive more quickly at their destinations than originally anticipated. The additional time
29 that becomes available to the traveler may lead to induced travel or activity engagement. This
30 comprises shorter-term induced or suppressed demand in response to network conditions. Additionally,
31 an integrated model system that can account for longer-term land use changes on the transport system
32 would be of considerable value to the profession which is constantly grappling with the complex inter-
33 relationship between land use development and network accessibility. The integrated model system
34 presented in this paper is able to capture both shorter-term and longer-term impacts noted above.

35 The integrated model design described in this paper is a continuous time model system capable
36 of simulating activities and travel patterns in response to actual network conditions experienced by
37 travelers as they execute their daily activities and travel in time and space. The model operates at the
38 level of resolution of one minute. In each minute of the day, the activity-travel demand model provides
39 the network supply model the list of trips that need to be routed to their destination, while the network
40 supply model returns the list of trips that have arrived at their destination locations. This results in
41 dynamic interaction between the demand and supply models on a minute by minute basis. The model
42 system includes algorithms to facilitate convergence, and the final accessibility measures from any single
43 simulation year inform the land use choices of a subsequent simulation year. Thus, the model design
44 accommodates the time lags that are inevitably involved in land use changes in response to changes in
45 network conditions. The integrated land use – transport model system explicitly recognizes that
46 different choice processes operate on different temporal and spatial scales.
47

1 The model system has been implemented as an open source software package and a prototype
2 has been tested in a three city jurisdiction of the southeast region of the Greater Phoenix metropolitan
3 area. The model system is found to perform quite well in replicating observed activity-travel patterns as
4 reported in national travel survey data. The results are quite promising and the model design appears to
5 provide a conceptually appealing framework for tying together microsimulation model systems of
6 activity-travel demand, network supply, and land use. It should be noted, however, that the richness of
7 the specification of the model system dictates the extent to which the model system can be used to
8 analyze the effects of alternative policies or socio-economic shifts. In other words, the model design
9 presented in this paper is not a substitute for the adoption of rich specifications that include numerous
10 explanatory variables capturing the effects of socio-economics, demographics, built environment
11 attributes, and policy interventions. Future work in this arena should be aimed at addressing
12 implementation challenges and issues that inevitably arise when large-scale integrated microsimulation
13 model systems are being transitioned into practice. Issues of data availability, disaggregate and
14 aggregate validation, convergence, sensitivity to alternative policies and built environment changes, and
15 computational tractability need to be tackled before model systems of the nature described in this
16 paper can be implemented in the real-world.

17

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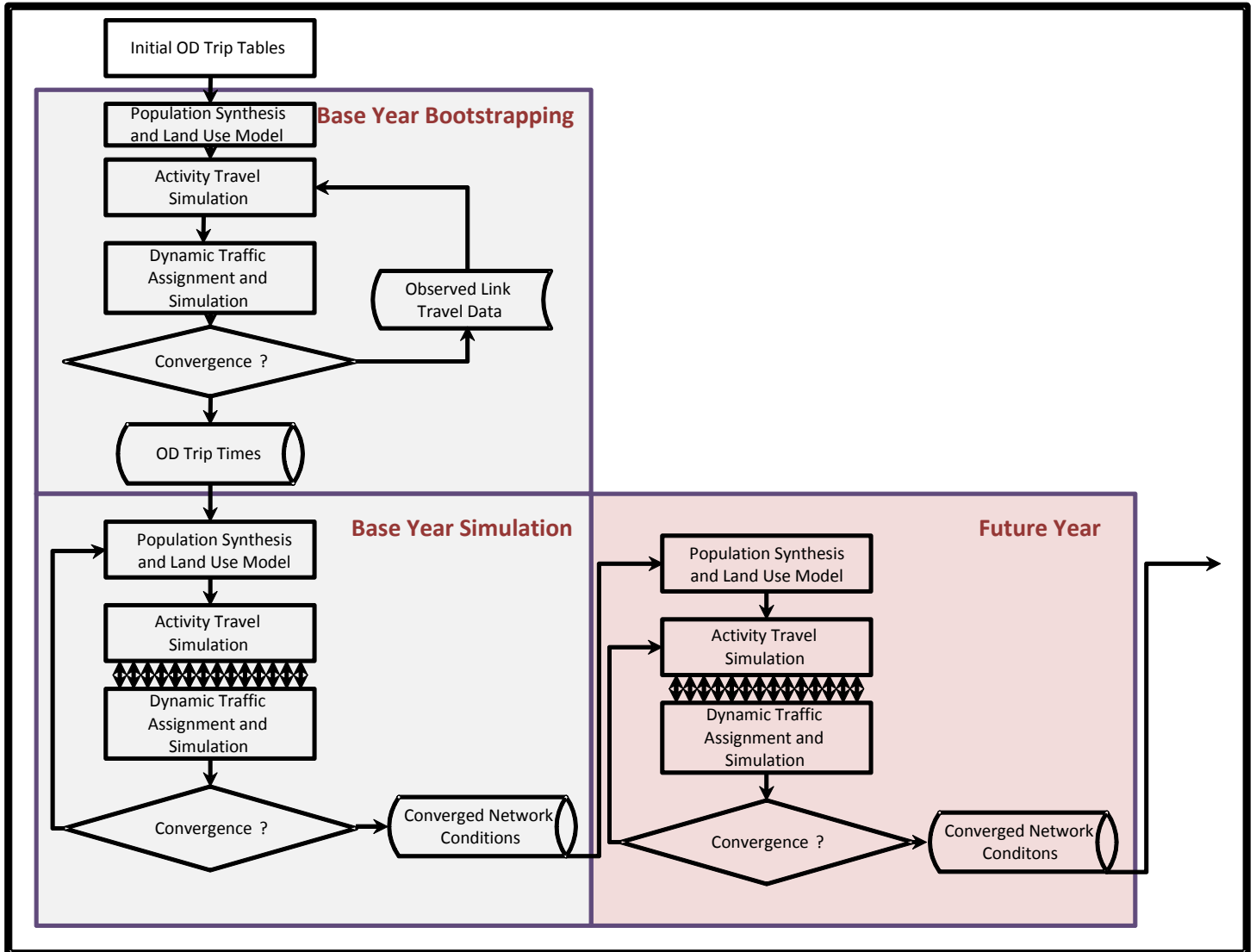
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- 4



2 **Figure 1. Overview of the Framework for Integrating Travel Demand and Supply Models**

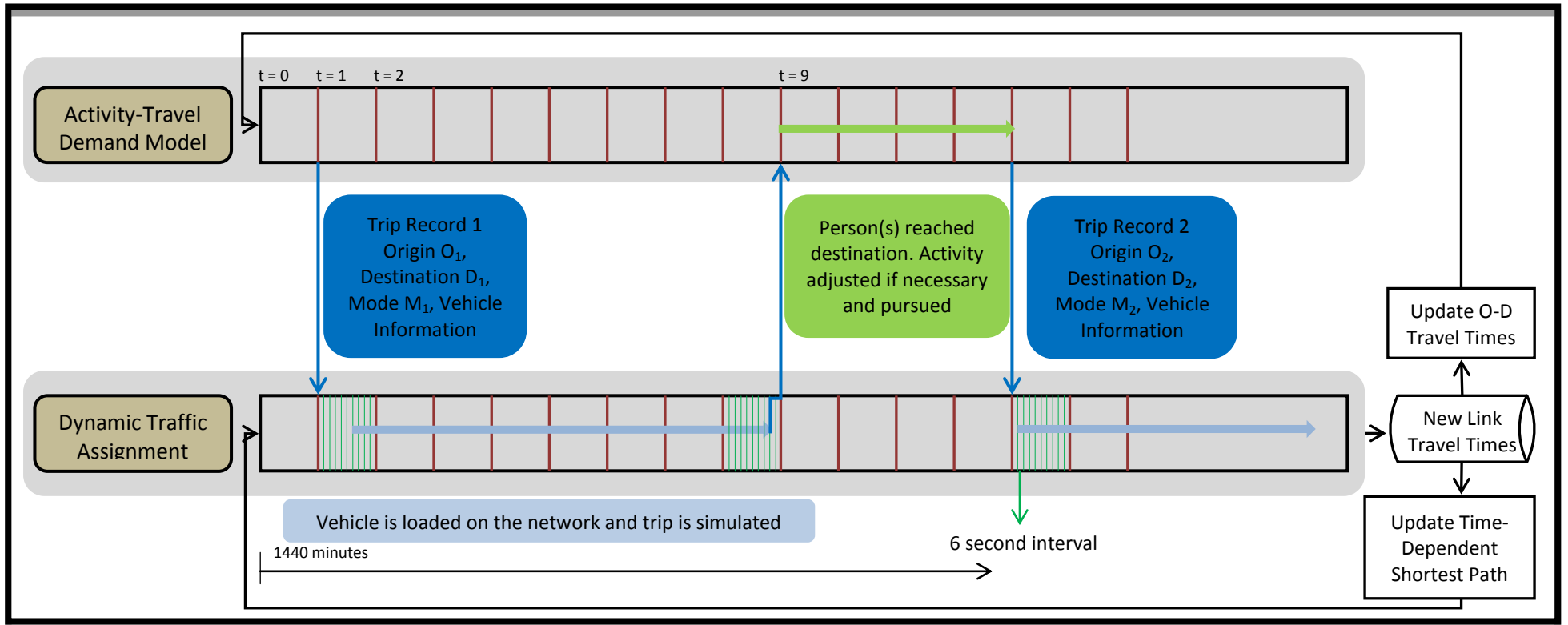


Figure 2. Conceptual Overview of the Framework for Integrating Travel Demand and Supply Models

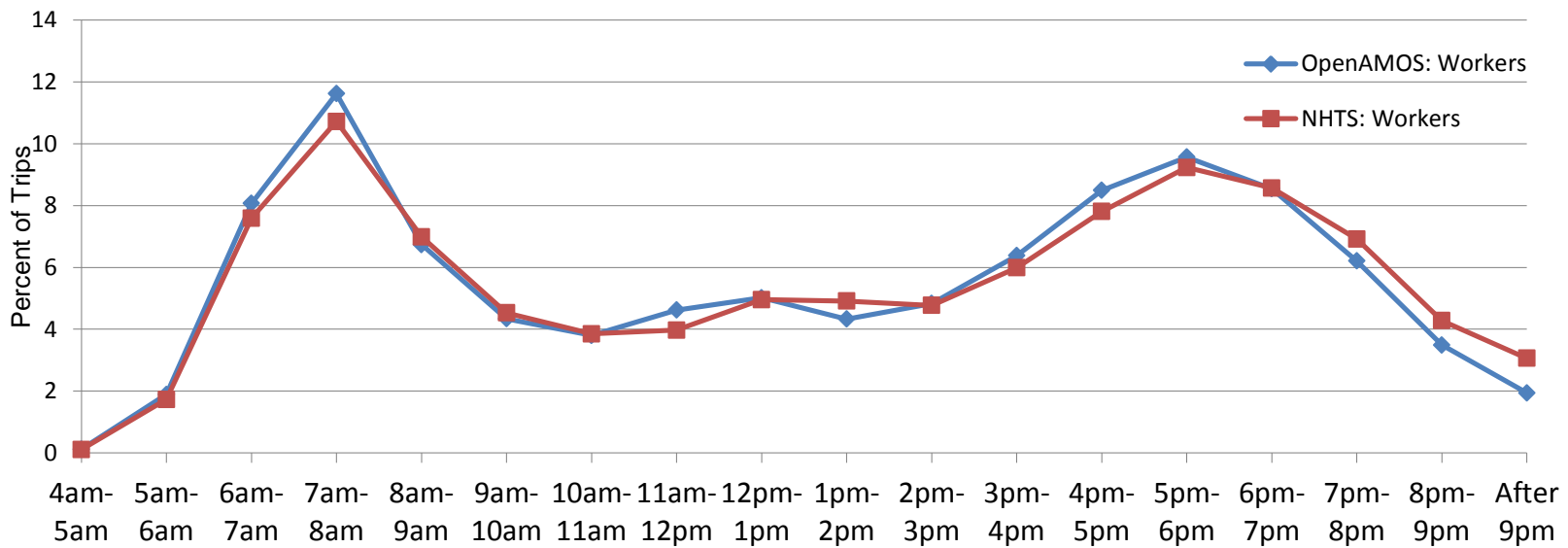


Figure 3: Time of Day Distribution of Trip Start Time for Workers

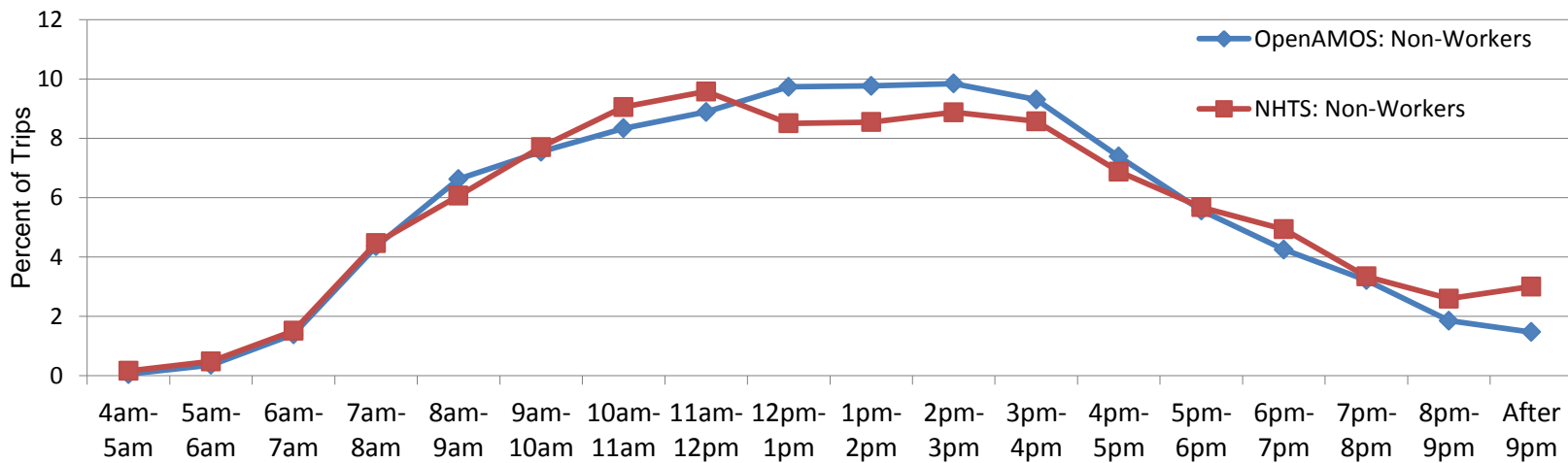


Figure 4: Time of Day Distribution of Trip Start Time for Non-workers

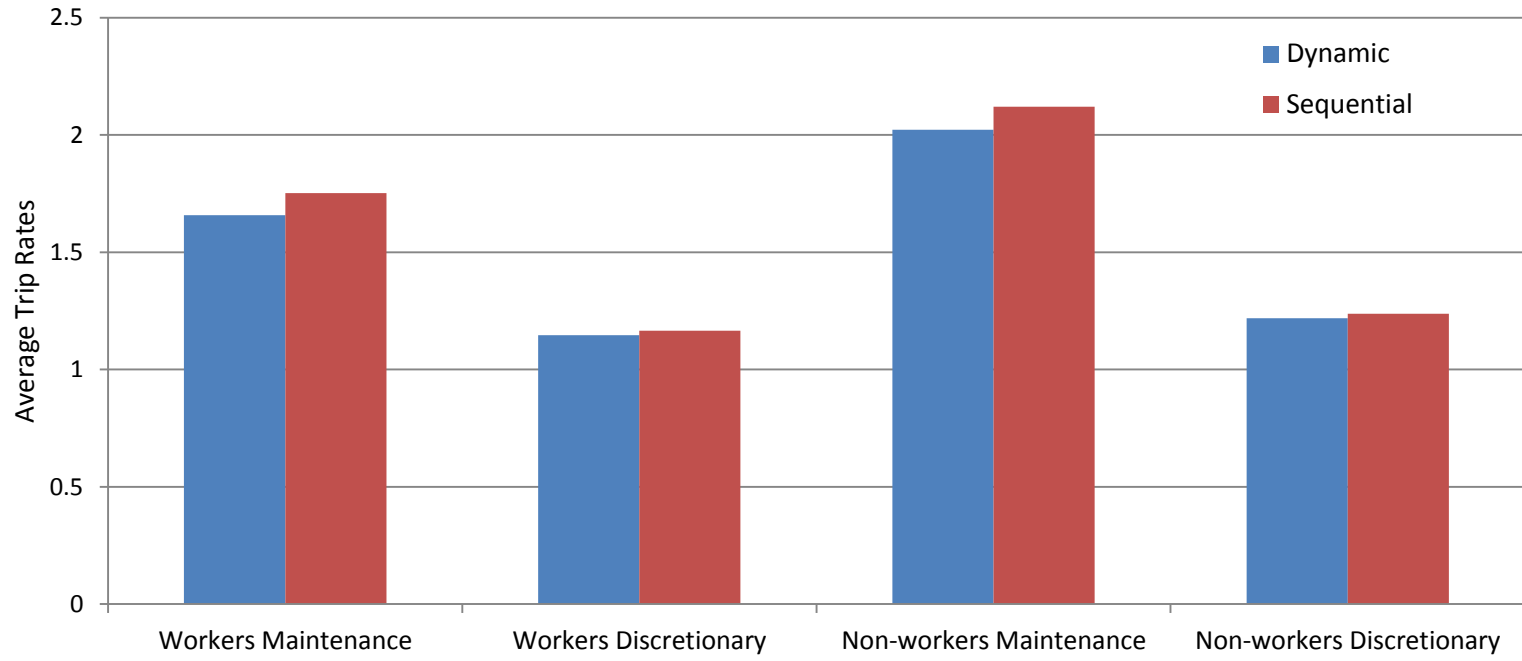


Figure 5. Difference in Average Trip Rates Between Sequential and Dynamic Integrated Model Runs