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# Analyzing Long-Distance Truck Travel for Statewide Freight Planning in Ohio

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# **ANALYZING LONG-DISTANCE TRUCK TRAVEL FOR STATEWIDE FREIGHT PLANNING IN OHIO**

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**TRB Planning  
Applications  
Conference  
Columbus, OH**

**May 7, 2013**

**PARSONS  
BRINCKERHOFF**

 **OHIO DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION**

**morpc**  
Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission

# FREIGHT MODELING

- 2 percent of all trips, but 1/3 of all VMT
- Most freight flows travel long-distance
- Ohio deals with a lot of through trips (I-80/I-90)
- Employment is only a poor substitute for truck trip generation
- Goods shipments explain most truck traffic, but some trucks travel empty
- Mode share is based on long-term contracts
- Highly limited data availability

# OUTLINE

## Part 1: Methods and Data

- Statewide model
- Freight Analysis Framework 3 (FAF3)
- Empty truck modeling
- Combining statewide model and FAF3

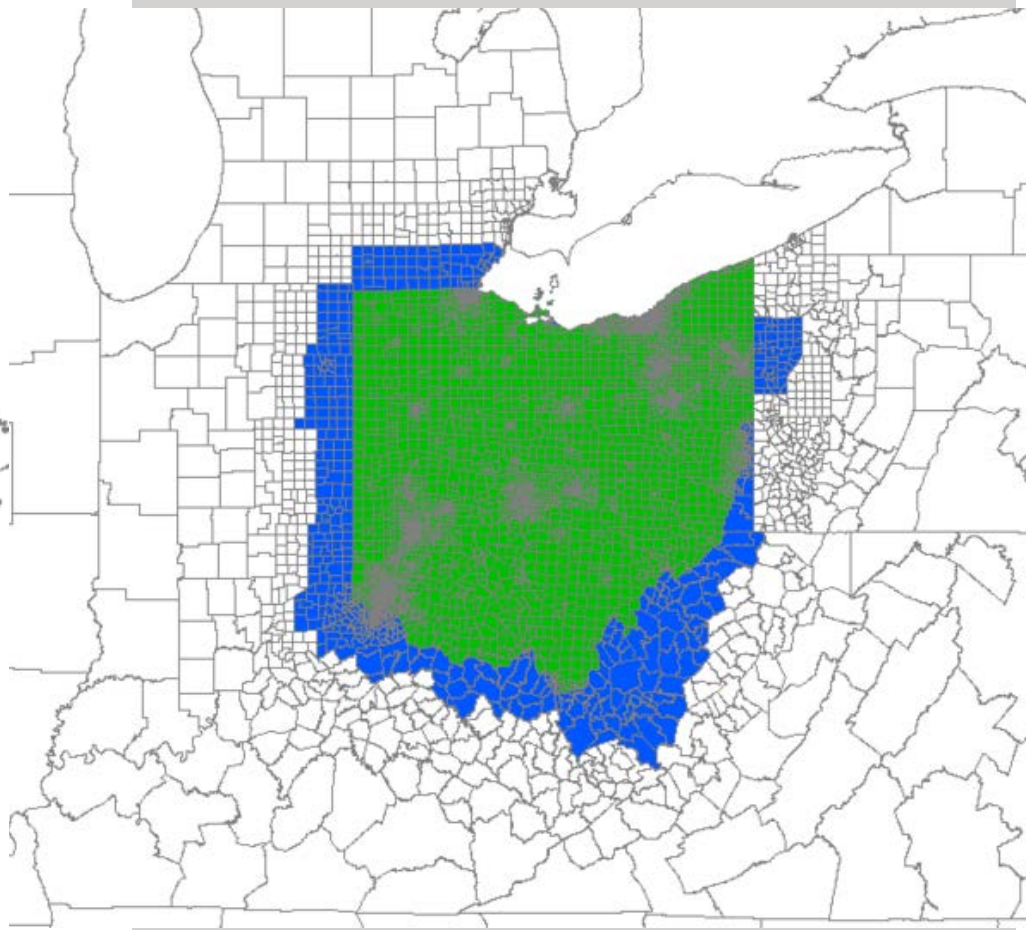
## Part 2: Planning Questions

- How do we define a truck network?
- Which bottlenecks most affect freight movements in Ohio?
- What if we build new intermodal terminals?
- What if we increase truck weight limits?

# METHODS

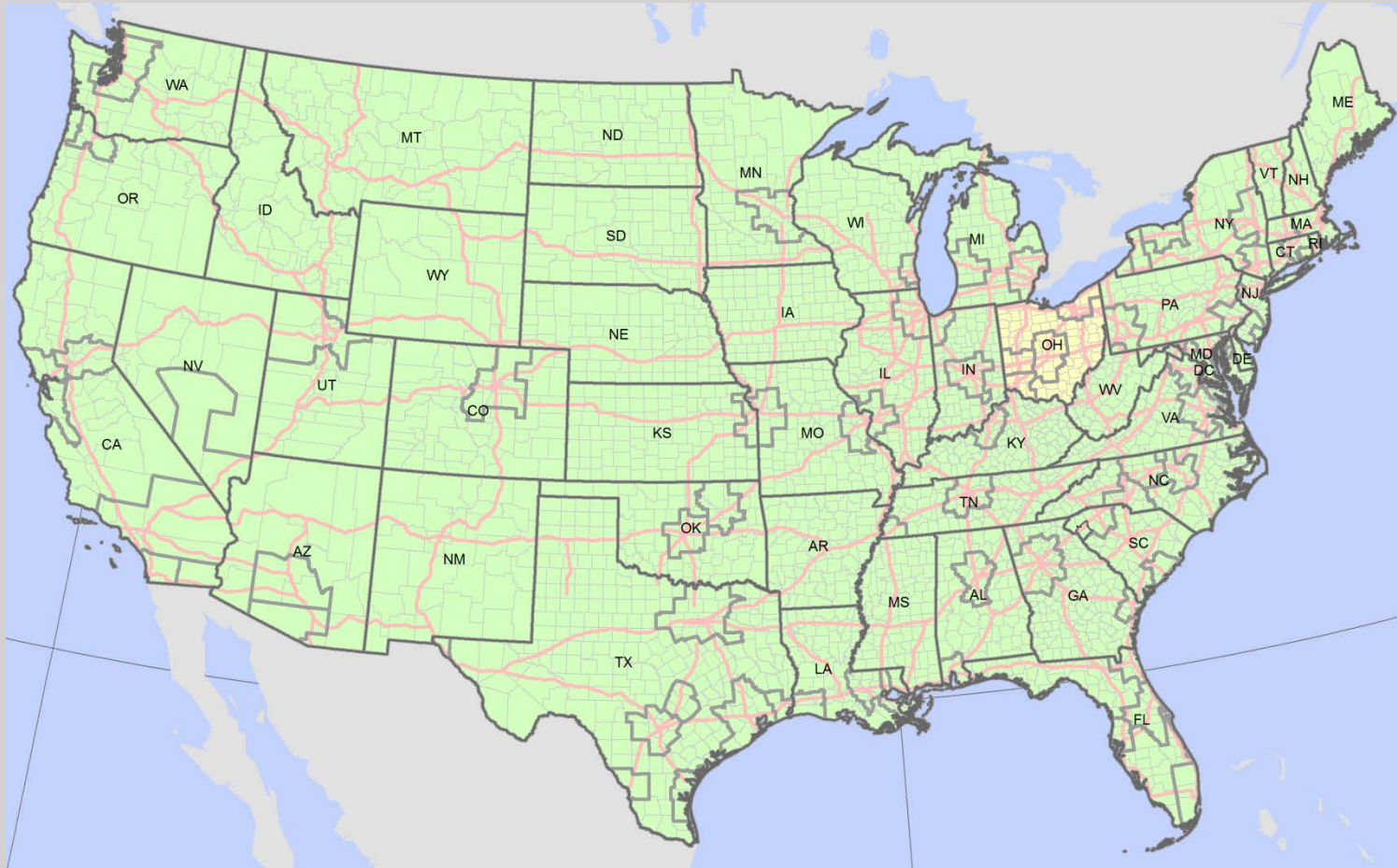
Let's  
model  
freight!

# STATEWIDE MODEL

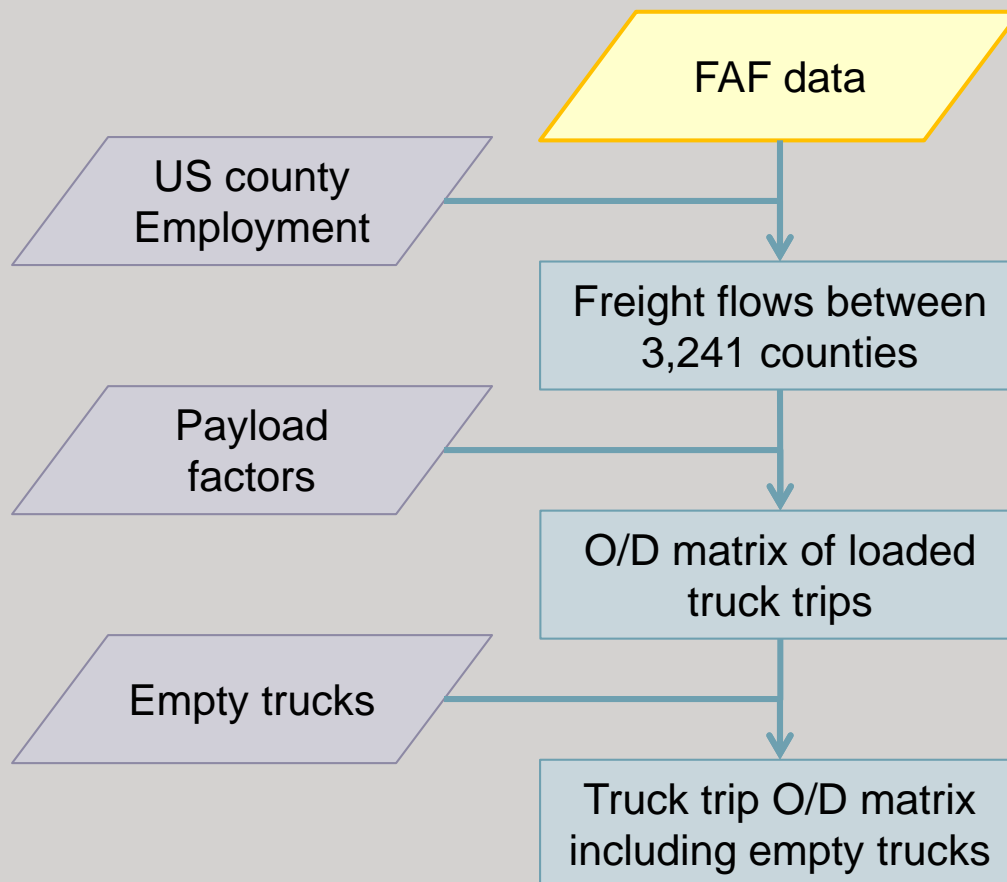


Maps show TAZs:  
Green=Ohio; Blue=Halo

# FREIGHT ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK 3 (FAF3)

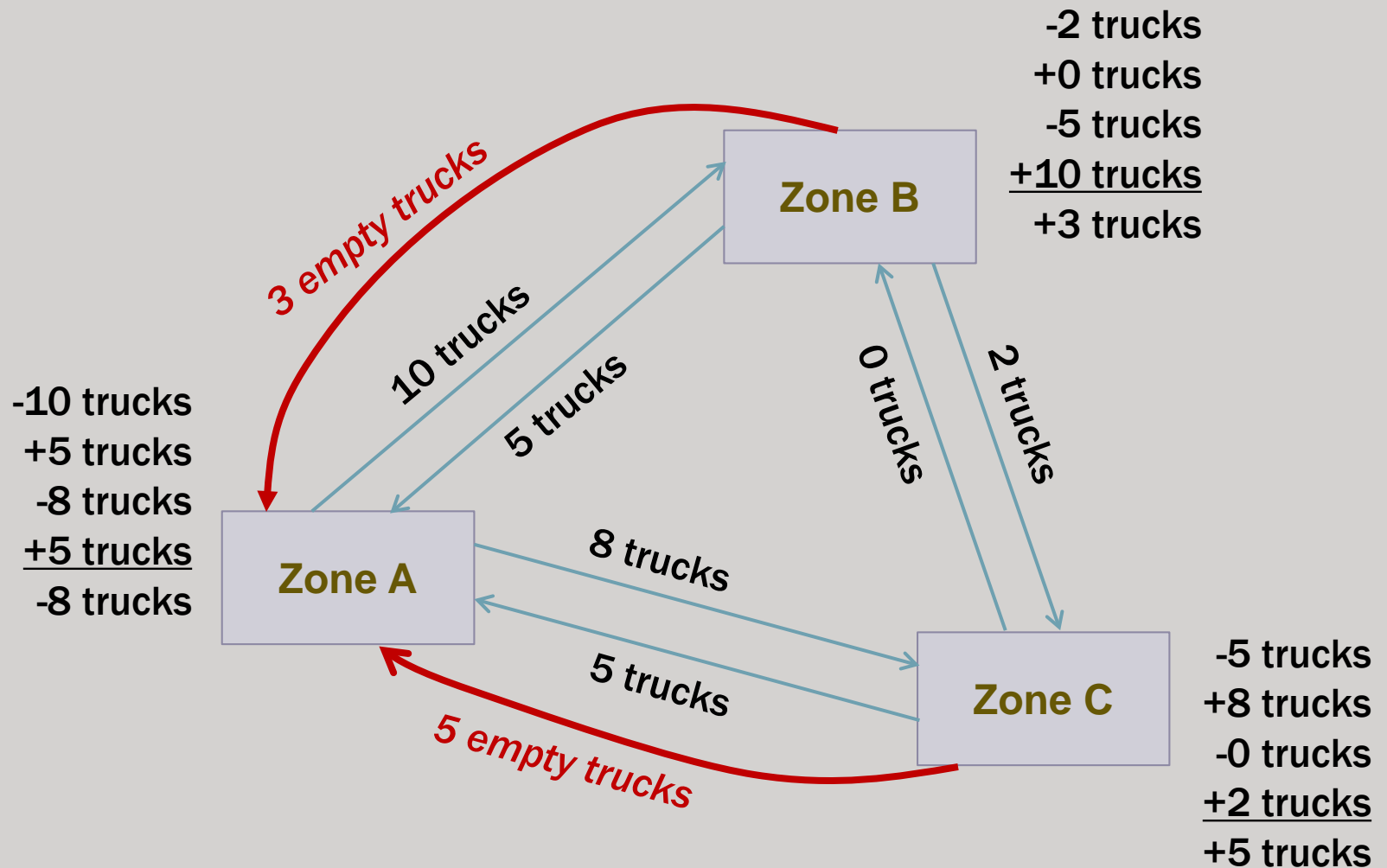


# FREIGHT FLOW DISAGGREGATION

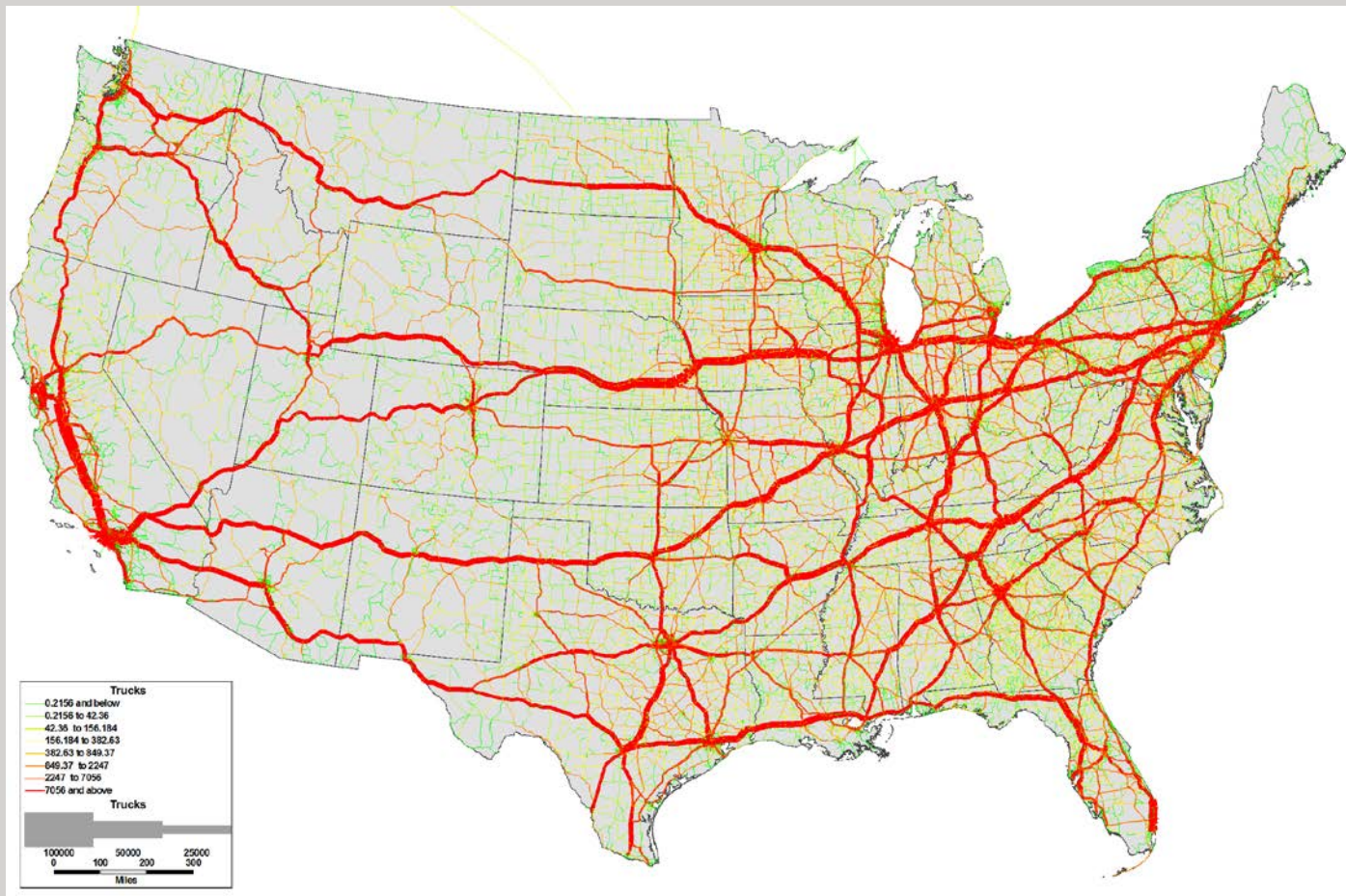




# EMPTY TRUCK TRIPS

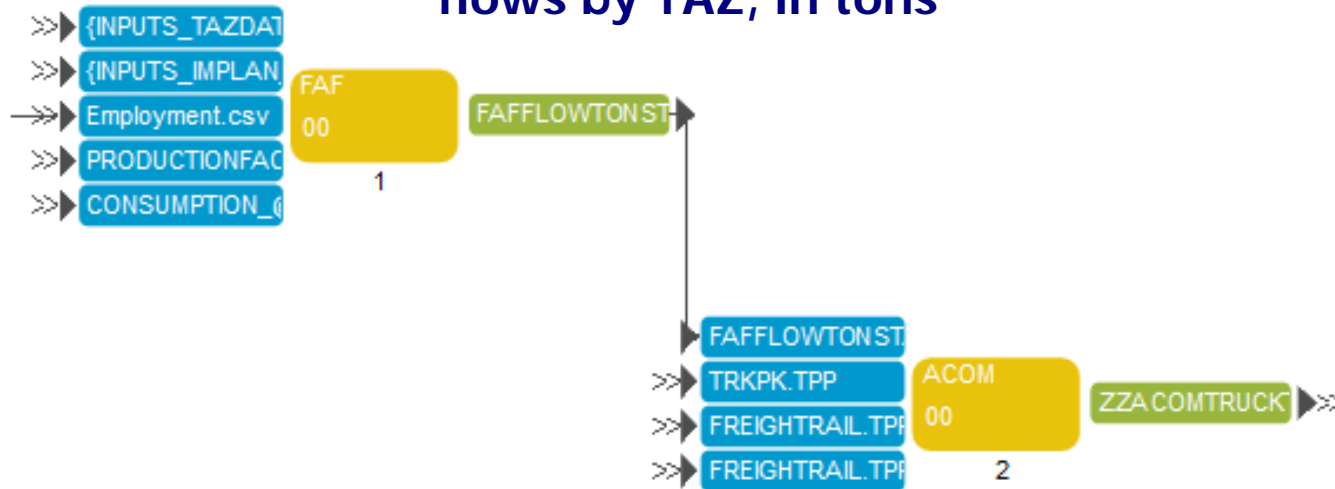


# NATIONWIDE ASSIGNMENT OF TRUCKS



# COMBINING STATEWIDE MODEL & FAF3

## 1. FAF – Determine commodity flows by TAZ, in tons



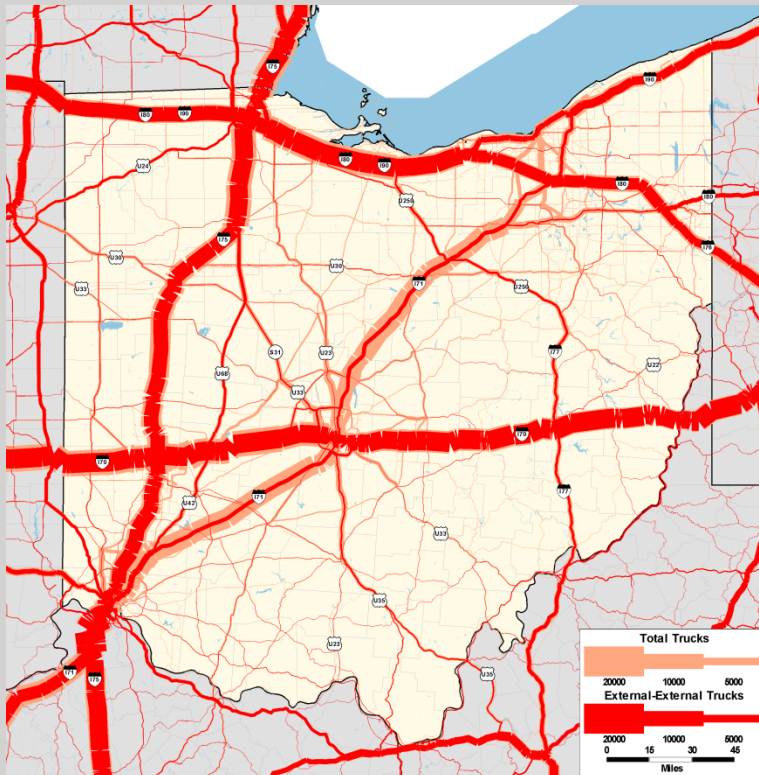
## 2. ACOM – convert to truck trips

# HOW DO WE DEFINE A TRUCK NETWORK?

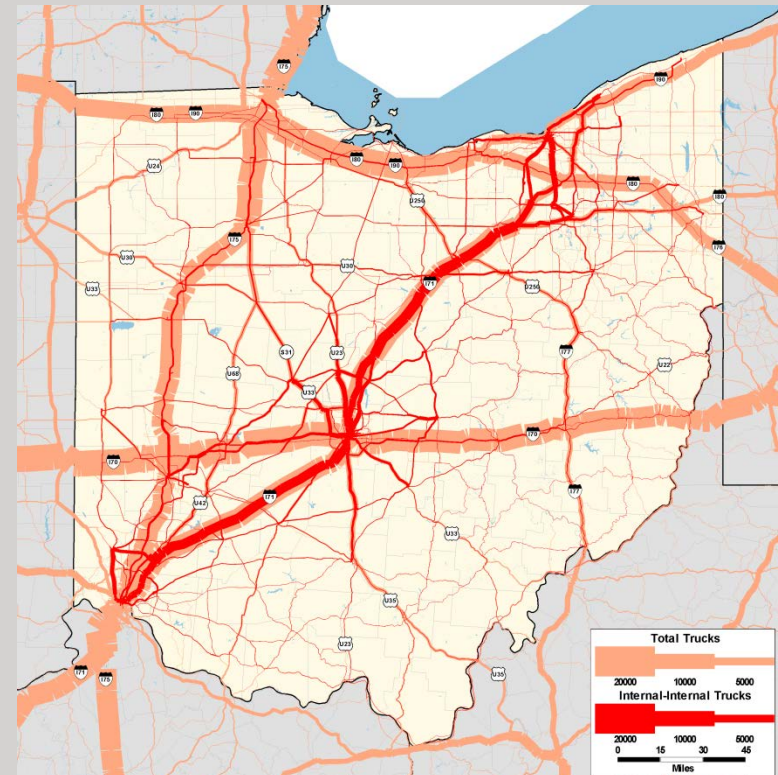
Which  
trucks  
matter?

# TRUCKS BY FLOW DIRECTION

## External-to-External



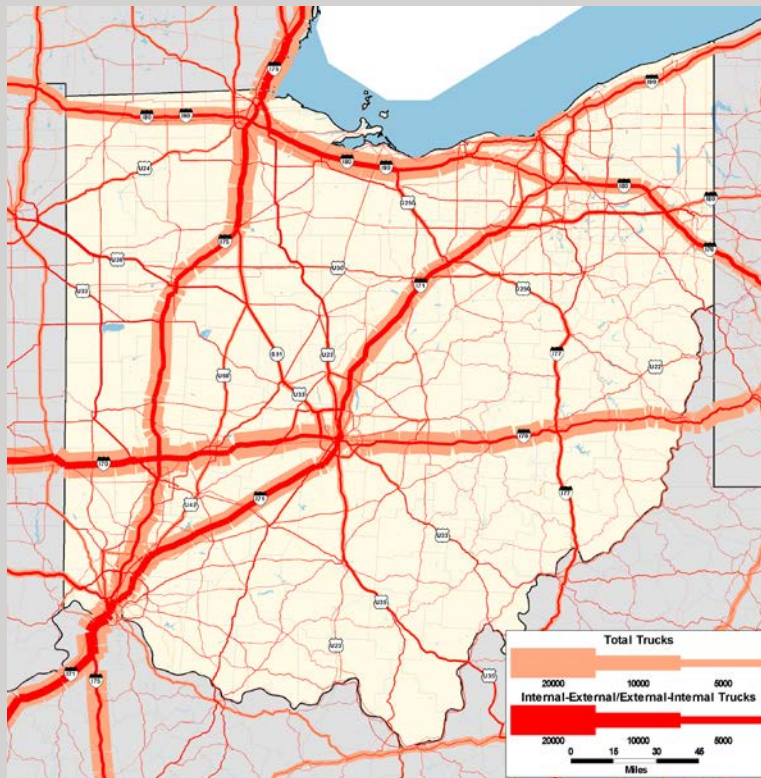
## Internal to Internal



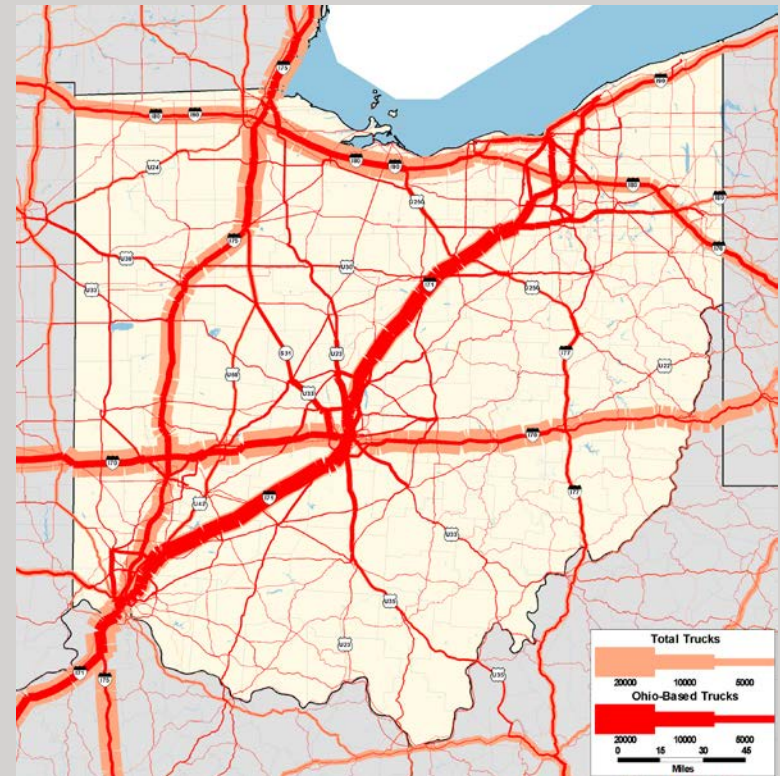


# TRUCKS BY FLOW DIRECTION

Internal-to-External  
External-to-Internal



Internal-to-Internal  
Internal-to-External  
External-to-Internal



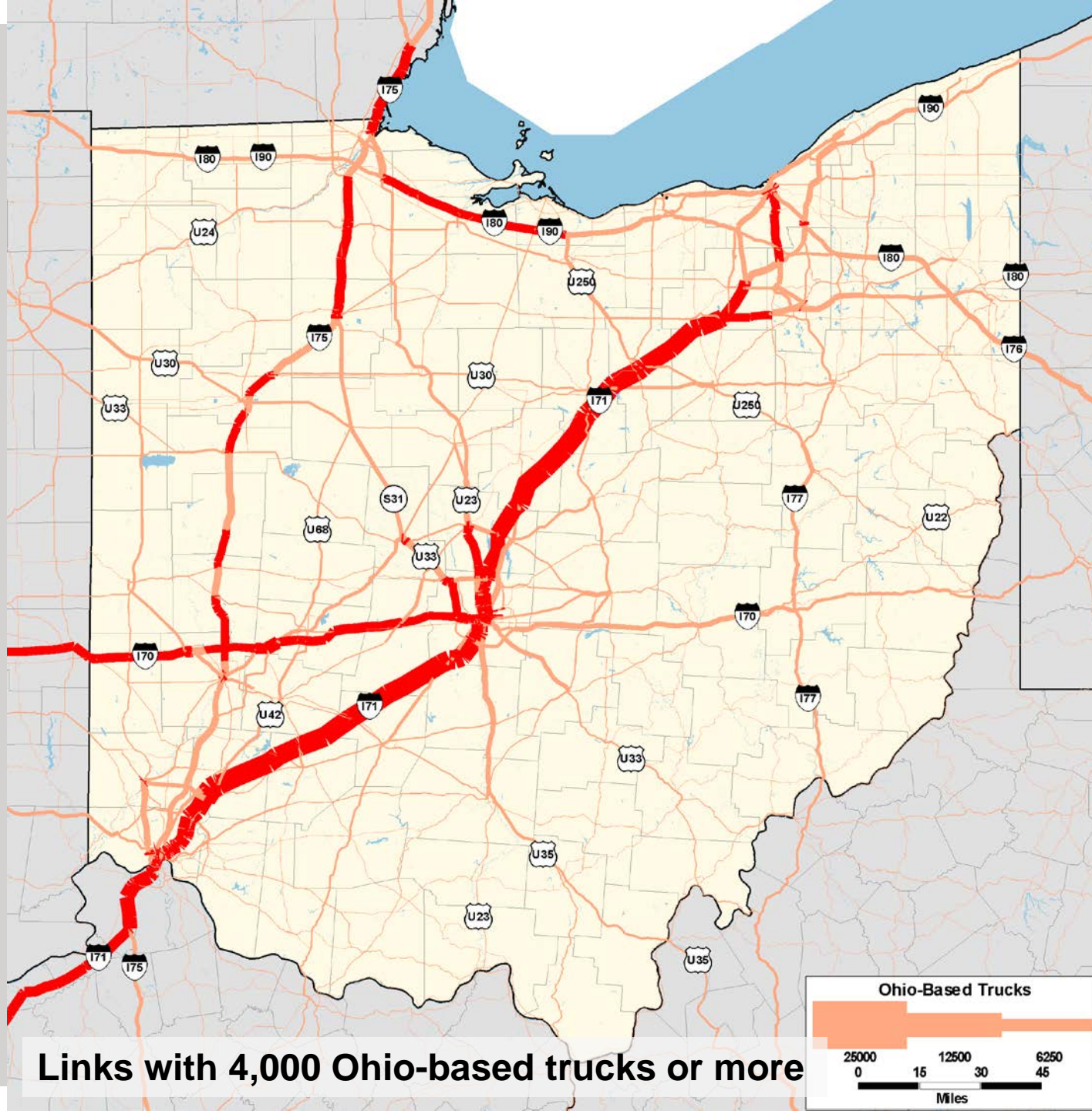
# HOW DO WE DEFINE A TRUCK NETWORK?

How many  
trucks are  
there?

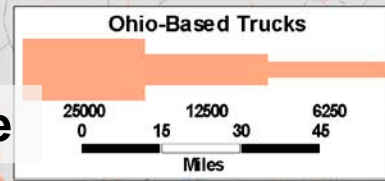






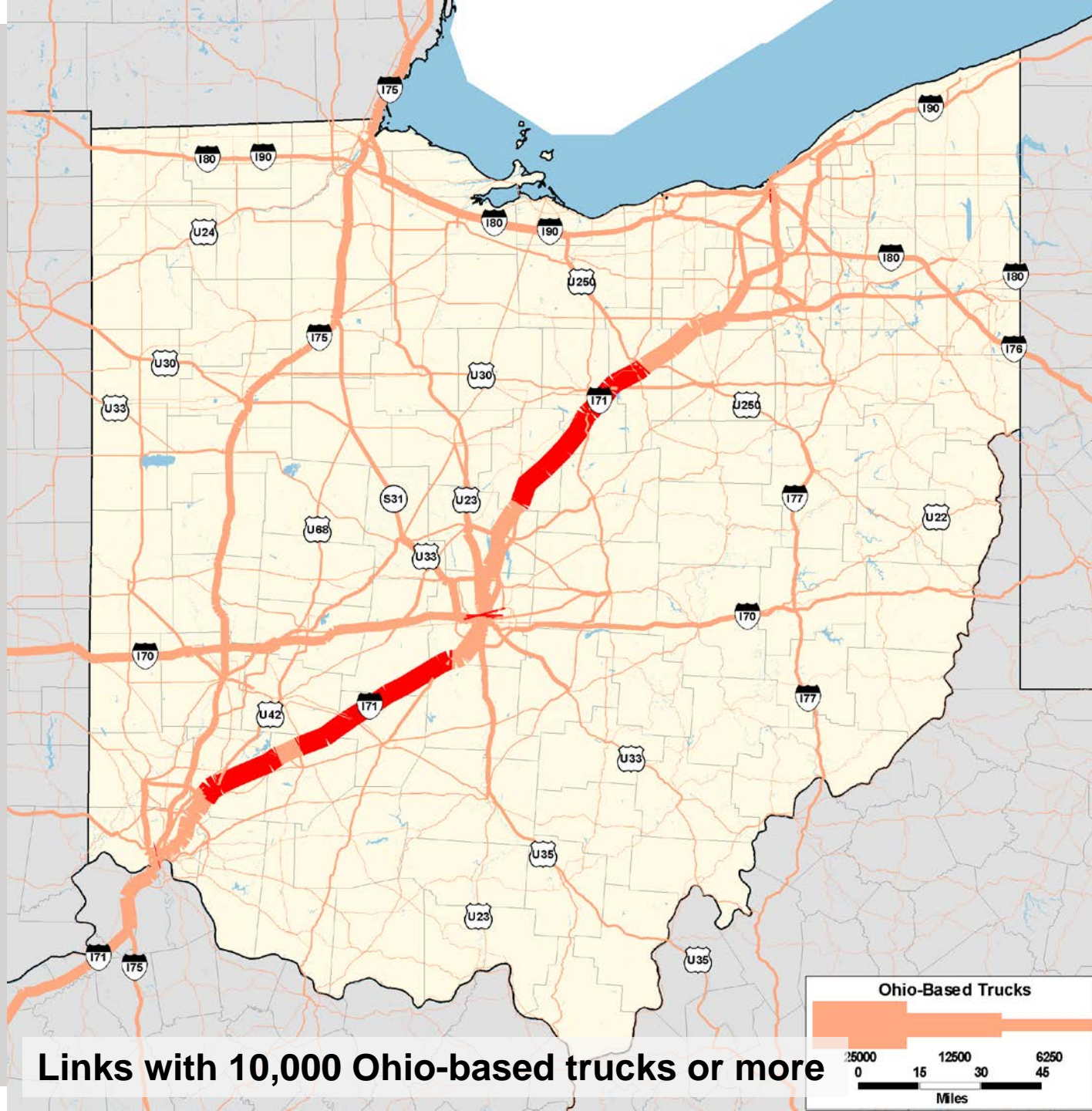


**Links with 4,000 Ohio-based trucks or more**









**Links with 10,000 Ohio-based trucks or more**

# WHICH BOTTLENECKS MATTER?

Where are the  
bottlenecks  
and what  
commodities  
move through  
them?

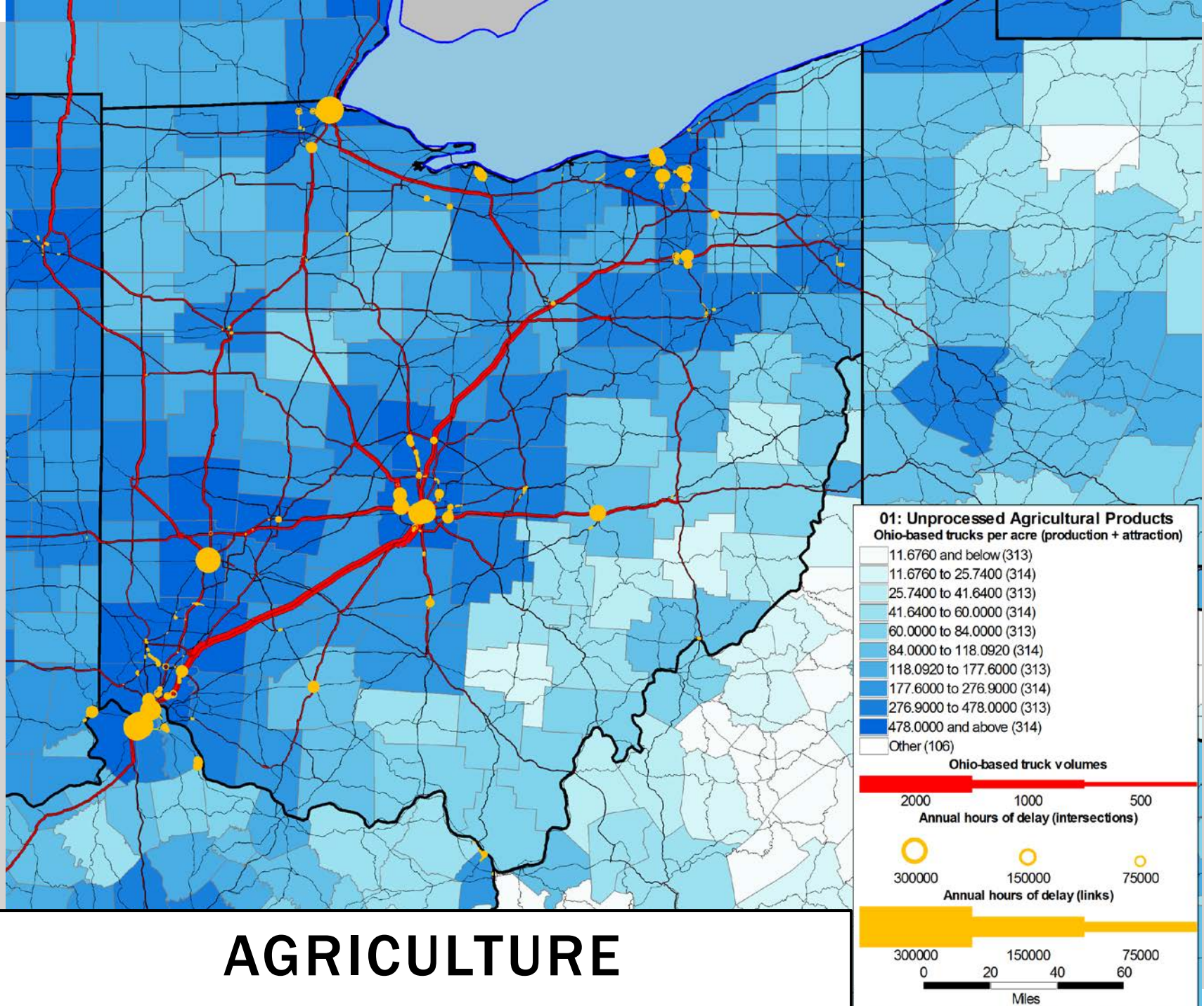


# FOLLOWING SLIDES SHOW OHIO-BASED TRUCK FLOWS BY COMMODITY GROUP

- Only trips with at least one trip end within Ohio are included
- The background color shows number of trucks generated and attracted per acre by county, i.e. truck trips are counted twice (at their origin and destination)
- Bottlenecks are shown in yellow (identical for every slide, not commodity-specific)
- Scale on every slide changes. The relative distribution of truck flows can be compared across different commodities, but not the absolute bandwidth/color

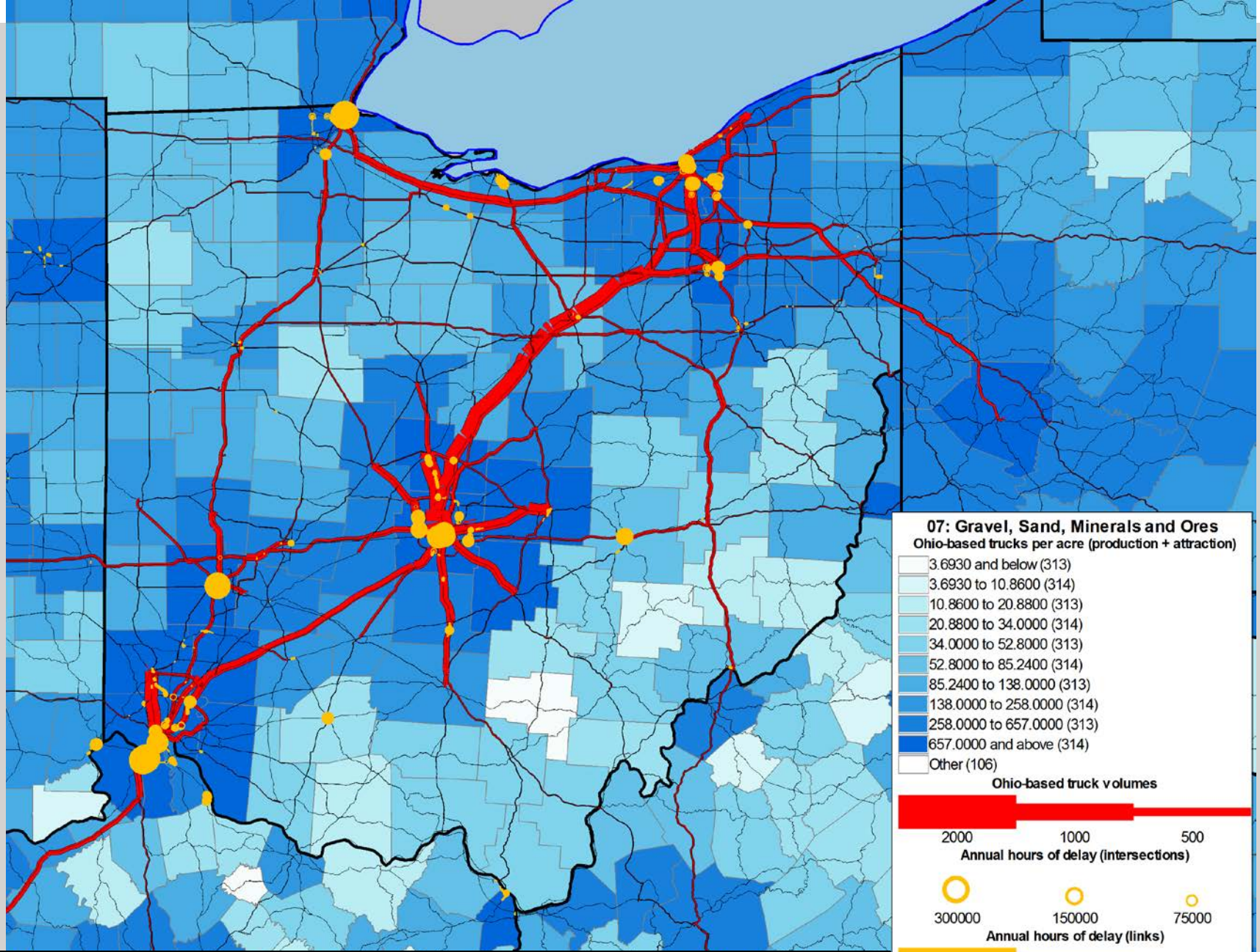
# DISTINGUISHED COMMODITY GROUPS

| Group | Commodity                         |
|-------|-----------------------------------|
| 1     | Unprocessed agricultural products |
| 2     | Live animals and live fish        |
| 3     | Food products                     |
| 4     | Petroleum                         |
| 5     | Automobiles                       |
| 6     | Coal                              |
| 7     | Gravel, Sand, Minerals and ores   |
| 8     | Waste and scrap                   |
| 9     | Base metal products               |
| 10    | Instruments and electronics       |
| 11    | Logs                              |
| 12    | Wood products                     |
| 13    | Basic chemicals                   |
| 14    | Chemical products                 |
| 15    | Machinery and building stone      |
| 16    | Nonmetallic mineral products      |
| 17    | Miscellaneous freight             |



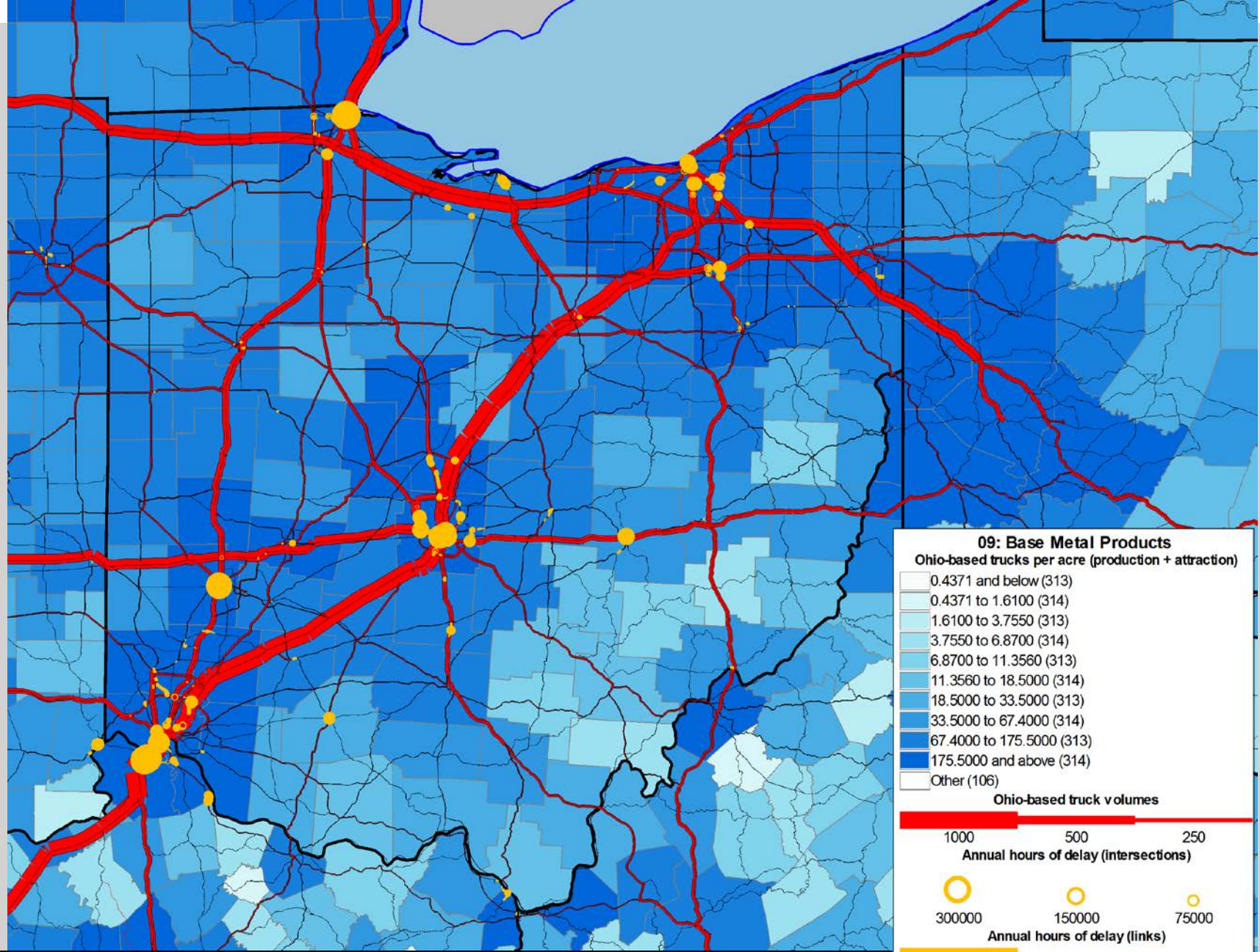
**AGRICULTURE**





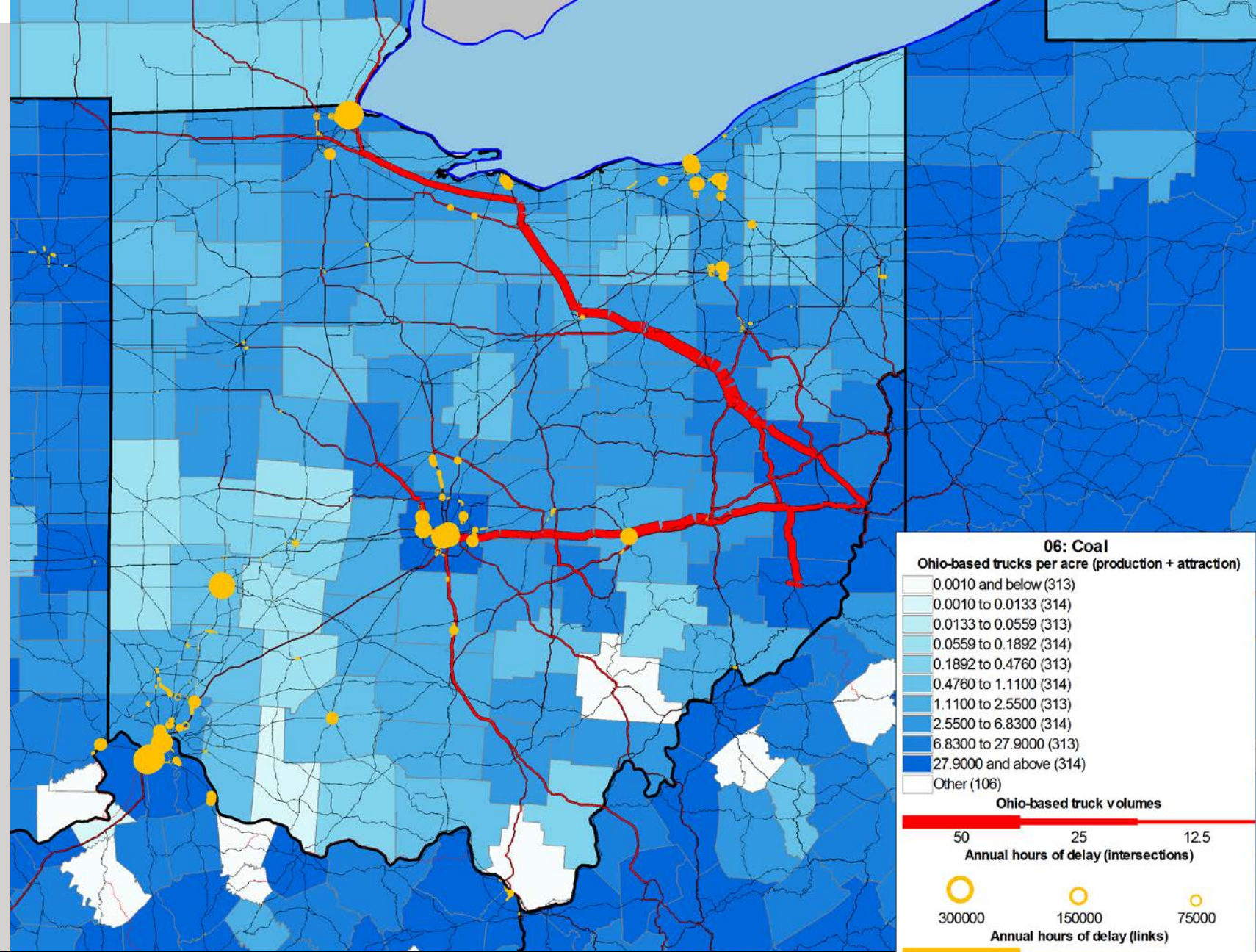
**GRAVEL, SAND, MINERALS**



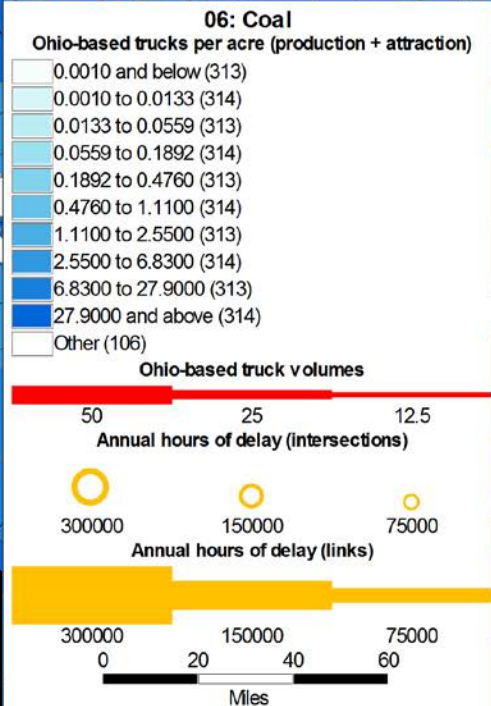


# BASE METAL PRODUCTS

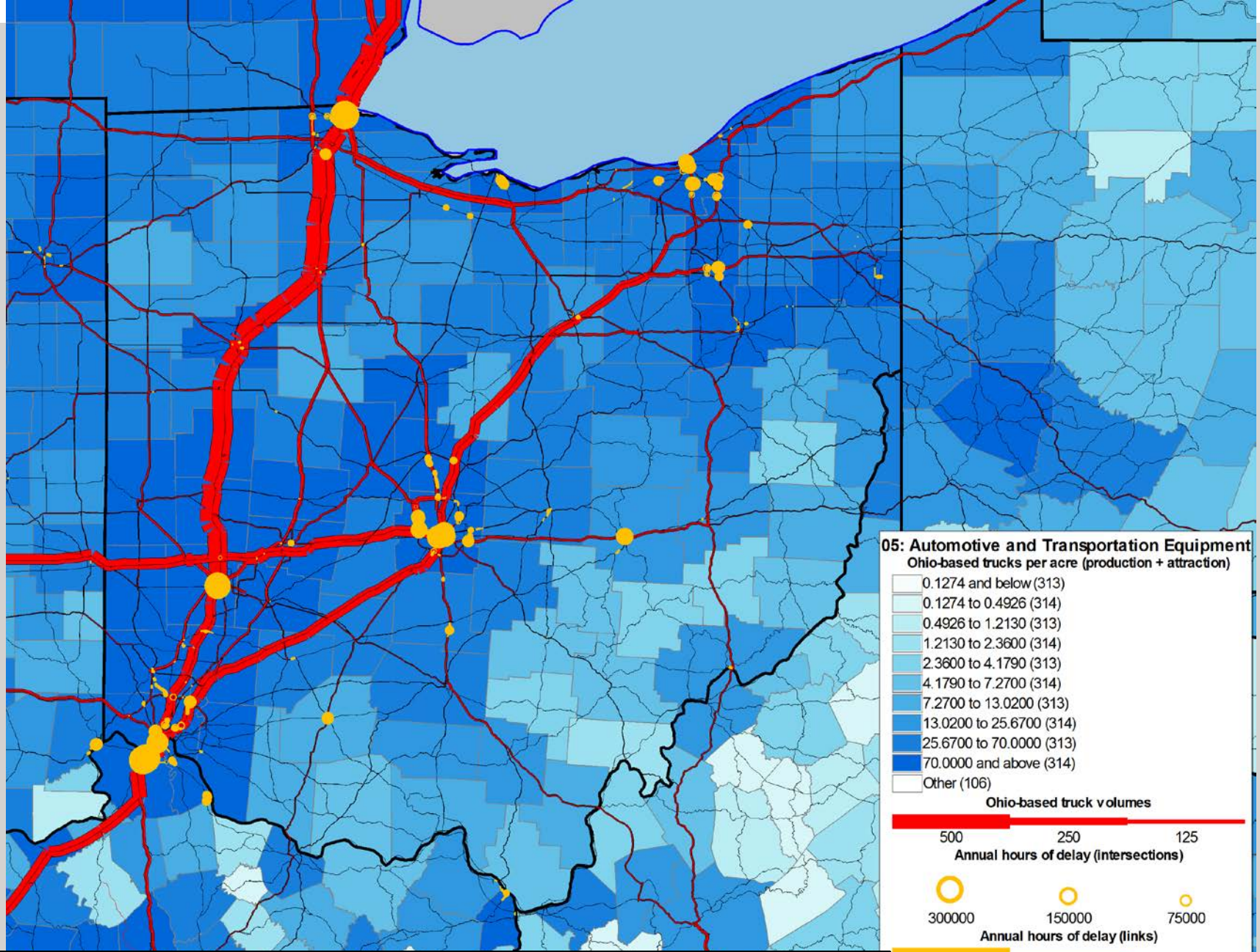




**COAL**







**AUTOMOBILES**

# WHAT IF WE BUILD NEW INTERMODAL TERMINALS?

How much  
traffic would  
divert from  
trucks to  
intermodal?

# INTERMODAL FACILITIES IN COLUMBUS AREA

|      | Tons        |          |      |       |       |
|------|-------------|----------|------|-------|-------|
| Year | MULTIMODAL  | TRUCK    | RAIL | OTHER | Total |
| 2000 | -           | -        | -    | -     | -     |
| 2005 | 38,462      | (38,462) | -    | -     | 0     |
| 2010 | 41,398      | (41,398) | -    | -     | 0     |
|      | Mode Share% |          |      |       |       |
| Year | MULTIMODAL  | TRUCK    | RAIL | OTHER | Total |
| 2000 | 0.0%        | 0.0%     | 0.0% | 0.0%  | 0.0%  |
| 2005 | 0.1%        | -0.1%    | 0.0% | 0.0%  | 0.0%  |
| 2010 | 0.1%        | -0.1%    | 0.0% | 0.0%  | 0.0%  |

# WHAT IF WE INCREASE TRUCK WEIGHT LIMITS?

How many  
fewer trucks  
would be on  
the road?

# INCREASE PAYLOAD FACTORS IN MI & OH

## Truck Vehicle Miles Traveled

| Payload factor | I-I         | I-E/E-I/E-E | Total in OH |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Original       | 63,491,368  | 33,746,501  | 97,237,869  |
| Increased      | 62,272,117  | 33,655,403  | 95,927,519  |
| Difference     | (1,219,251) | (91,099)    | (1,310,349) |
| % Difference   | -1.9%       | -0.3%       | -1.3%       |



# CONCLUSIONS

What did we  
learn?

# CONCLUSIONS

## Part 1: Methods and Data

- Freight needs to be modeled on a large (national) scale
- Data matters
- Statewide model needed for auto flows
- Questions about how much sensitivity to allow

## Part 2: Planning Questions

- Freight forecasting is not “plug-and-chug”
- Creativity needed in framing the questions and searching for insights

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- Rebekah Anderson



# Questions?

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