

Transportation Impacts of the October 1 - 16, 2013 Federal Government Shutdown

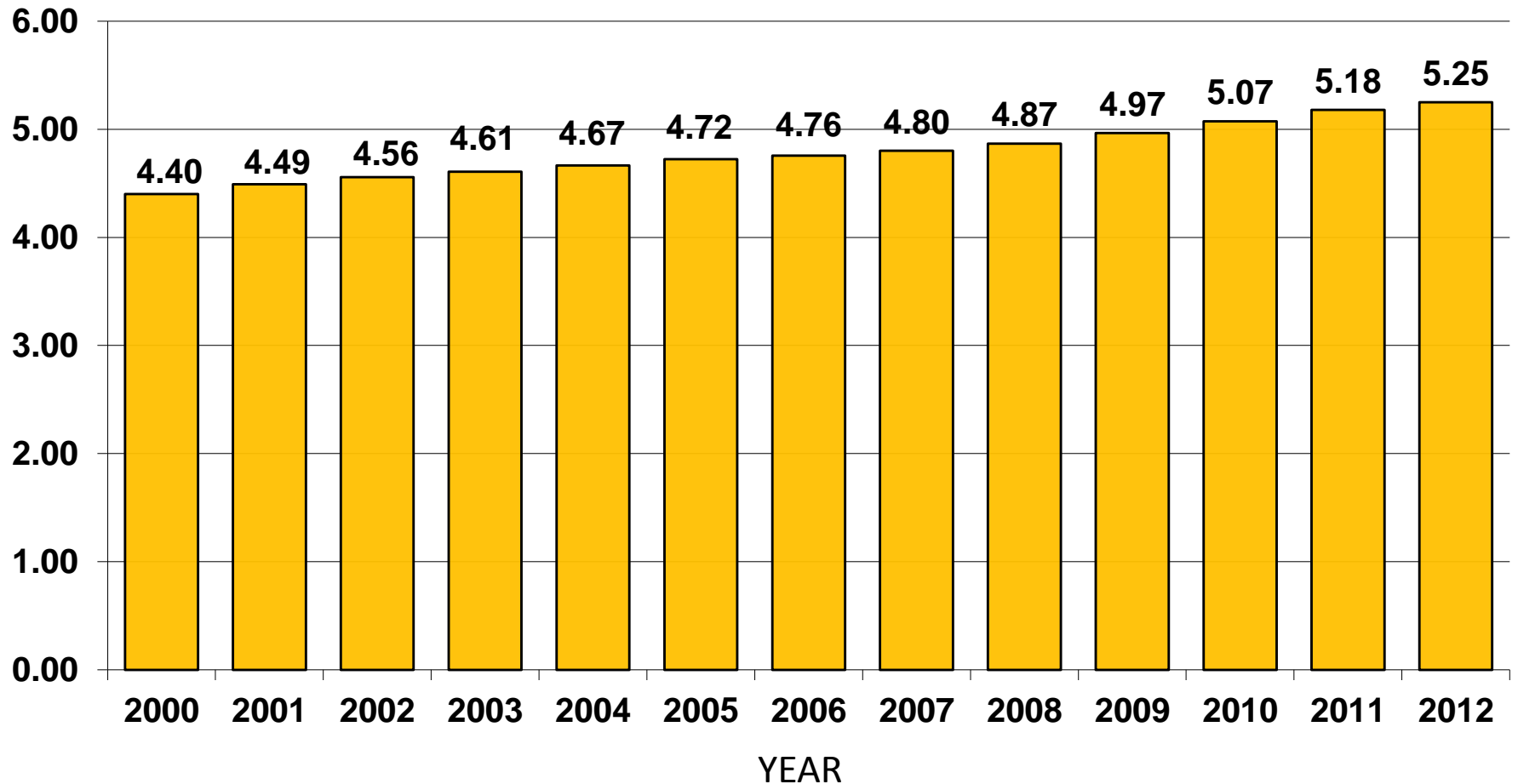
C. Patrick Zilliacus

Cooperative Forecasting Subcommittee

June 10, 2014

Regional Trend: Population

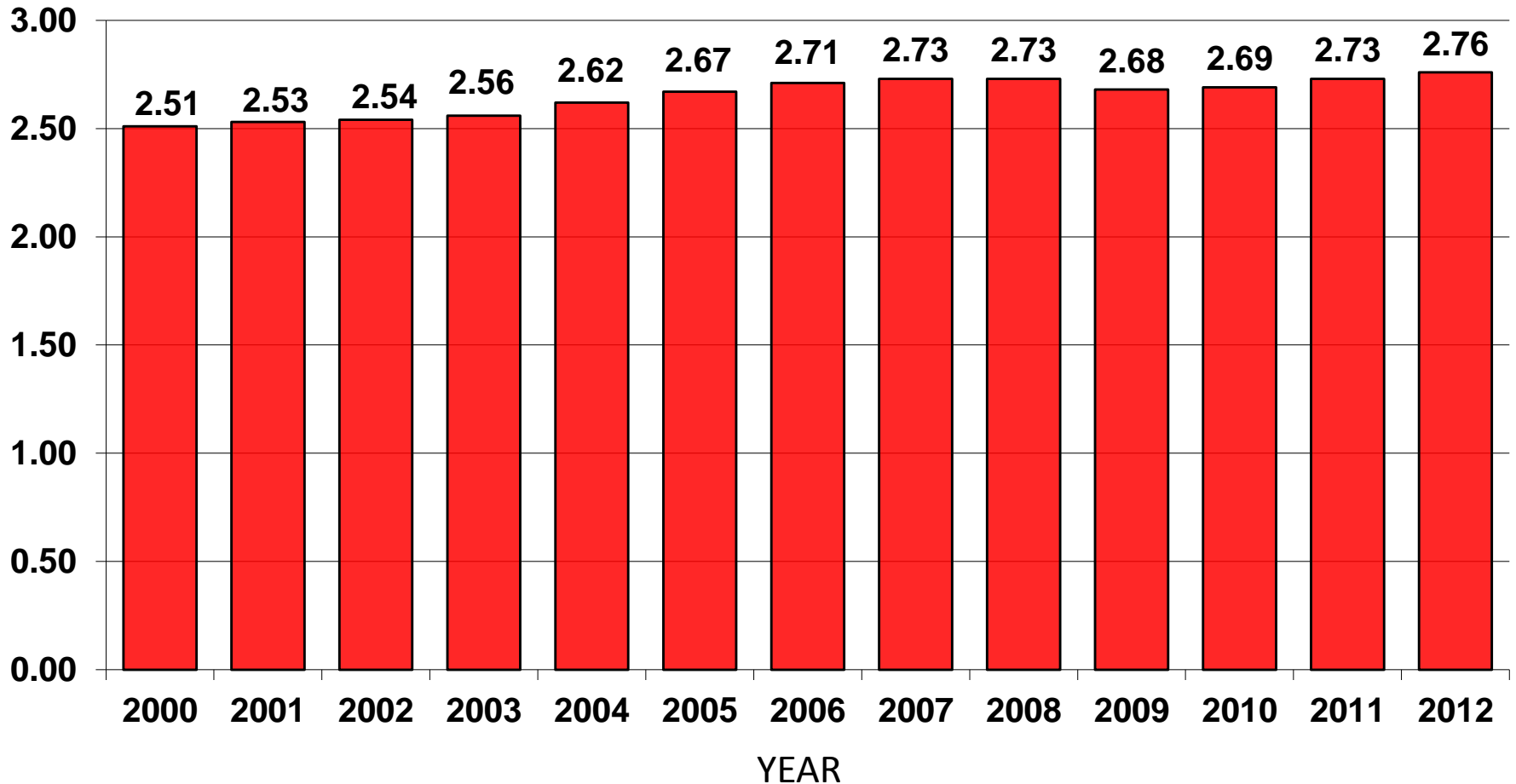
(Total Population in Millions)



Regional Trend: Employment

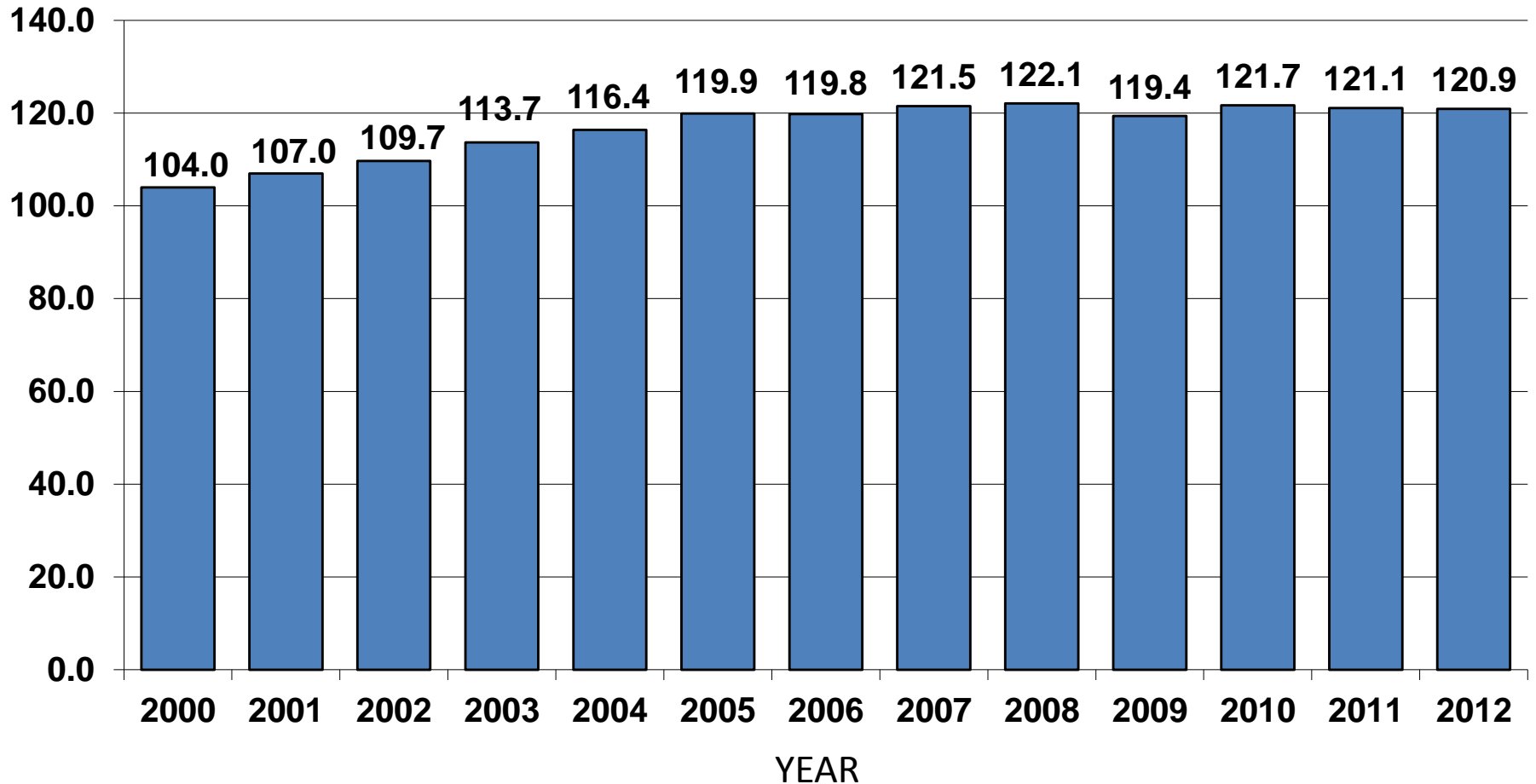
(Wage & Salary Employment in Millions)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages,



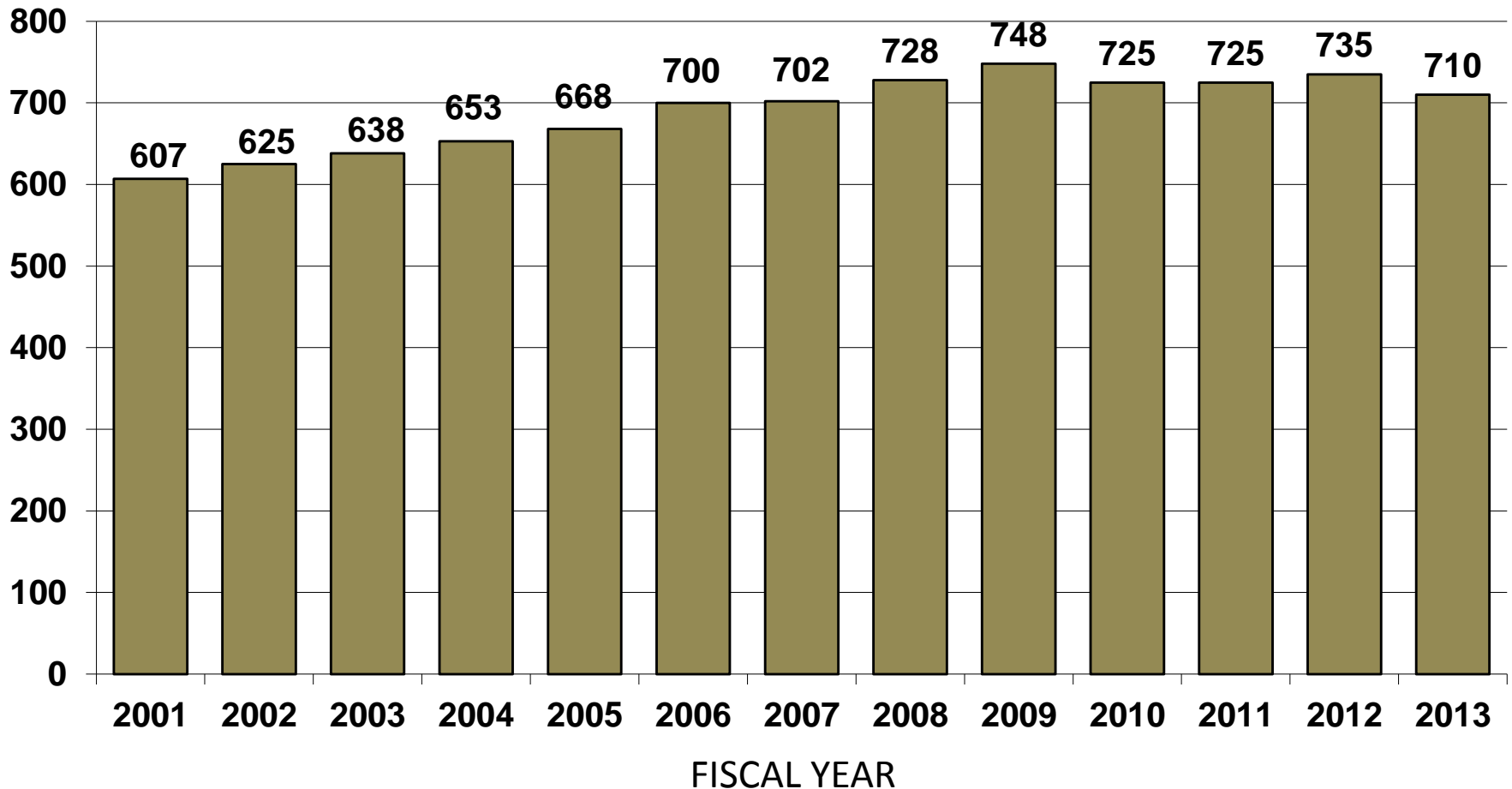
Regional Trend: Daily VMT

(VMT in Millions)

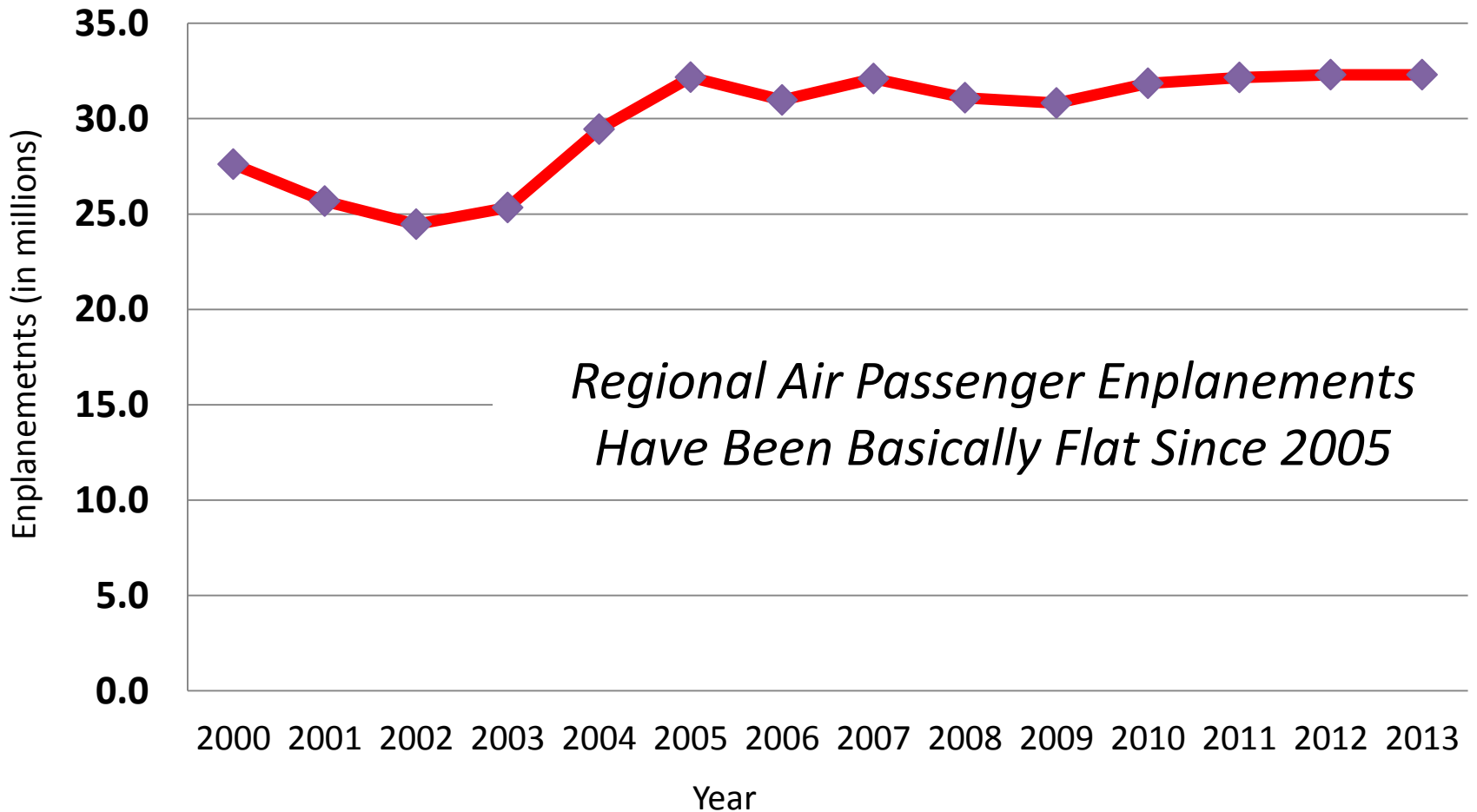


Regional Trend: Metrorail Ridership

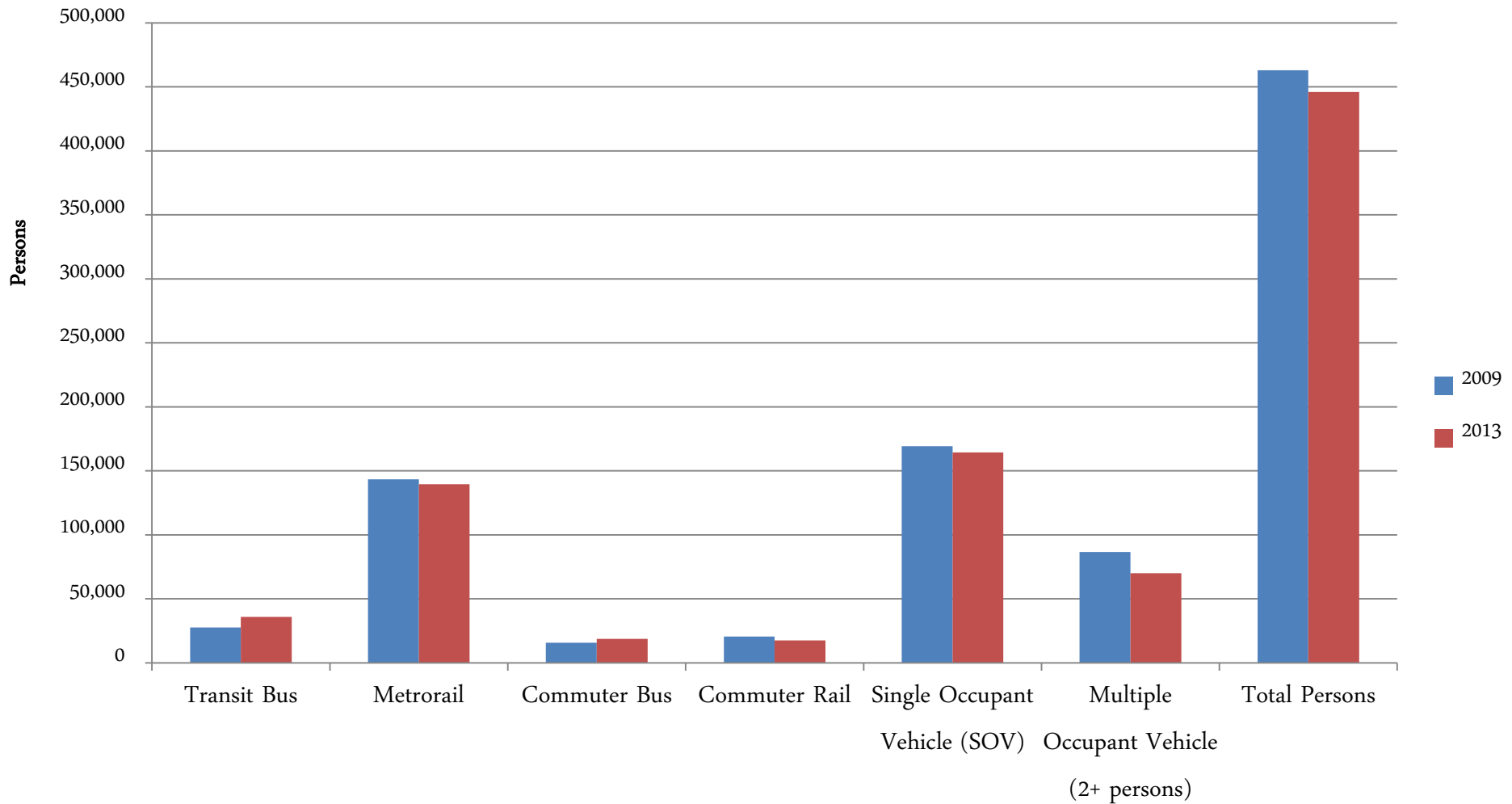
(Weekday Ridership in Thousands)



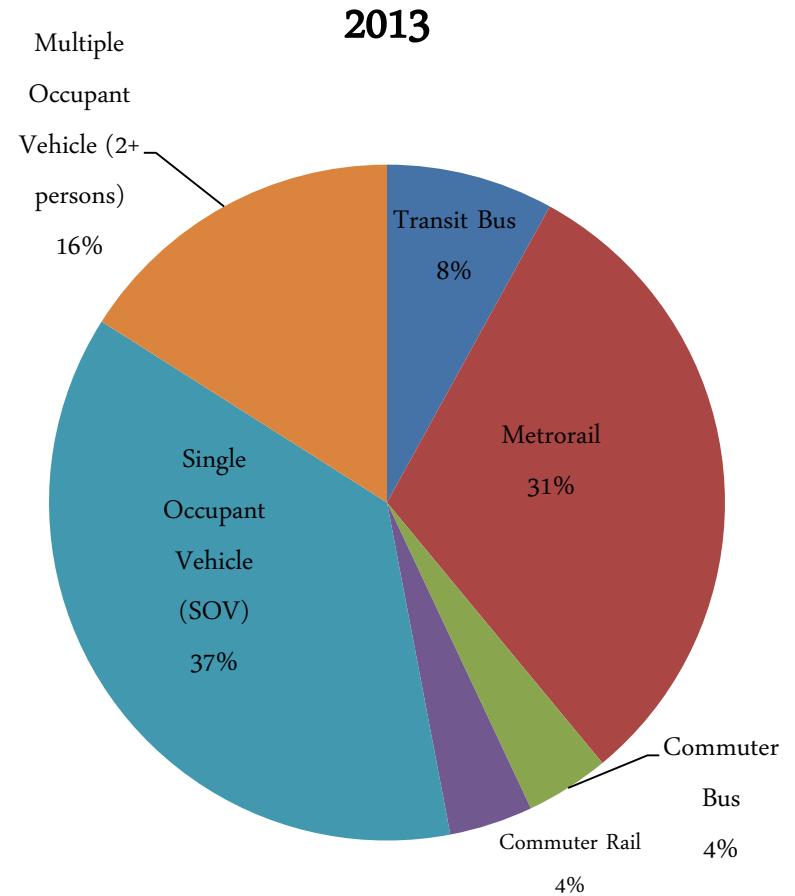
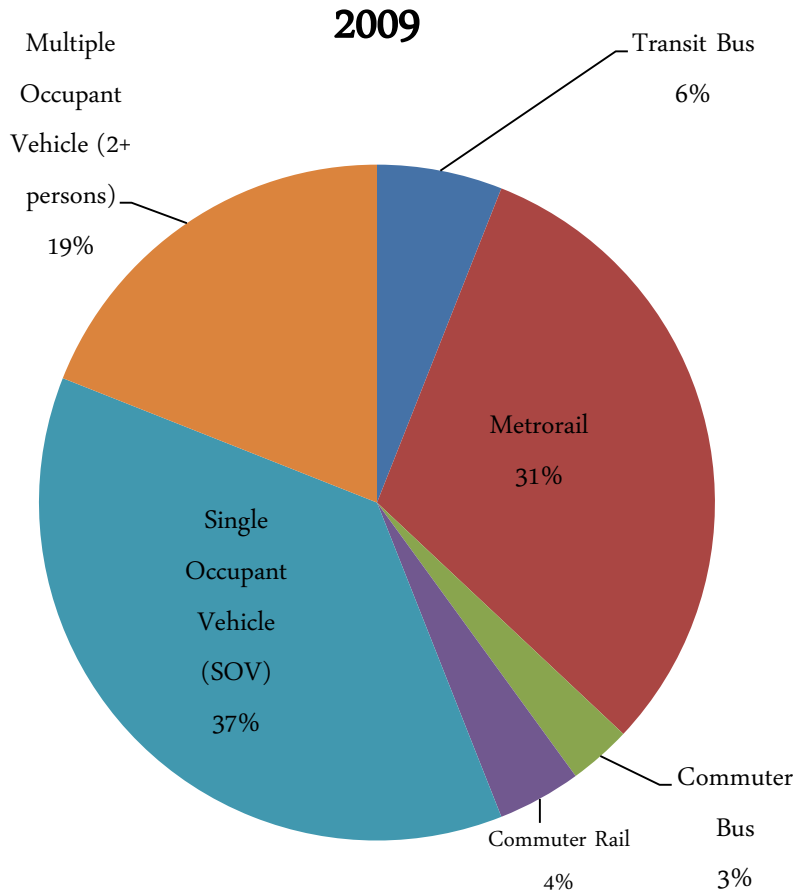
Regional Air Passenger Enplanements Trend (2000 – 2013)



Region Trend: Central Employment Area Core Cordon Count 2009 and 2013 (Inbound 6:30 to 9:30 A.M.)



Central Employment Area Cordon Count: Modal Shares



May not total precisely due to rounding

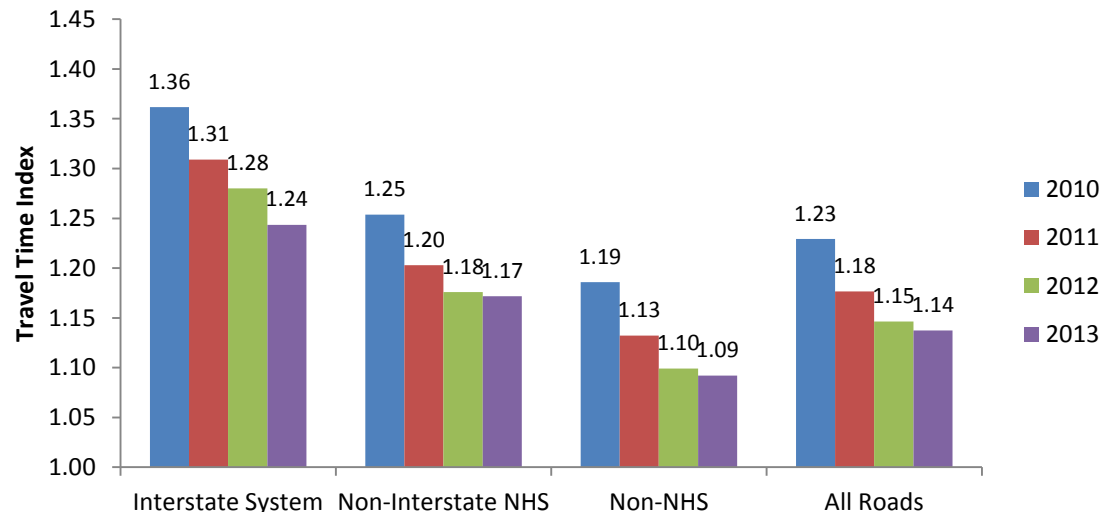
Regional Trend: Peak Period Congestion

- The Washington region experienced decreasing congestion during peak periods from 2010-2013; but the pace of decrease had slowed down significantly in 2013:
 - The decrease in *Travel Time Index* from previous year was 4.3%, 2.6% and 0.8% in 2011, 2012 and 2013, respectively; the annual average decrease was 2.6%.

Note:

- Travel Time Index (TTI) is an indicator of the intensity of congestion, calculated as the ratio of actual travel time to free-flow travel time.
- AM Peak: 6:00-10:00 am
- PM Peak: 3:00-7:00 pm

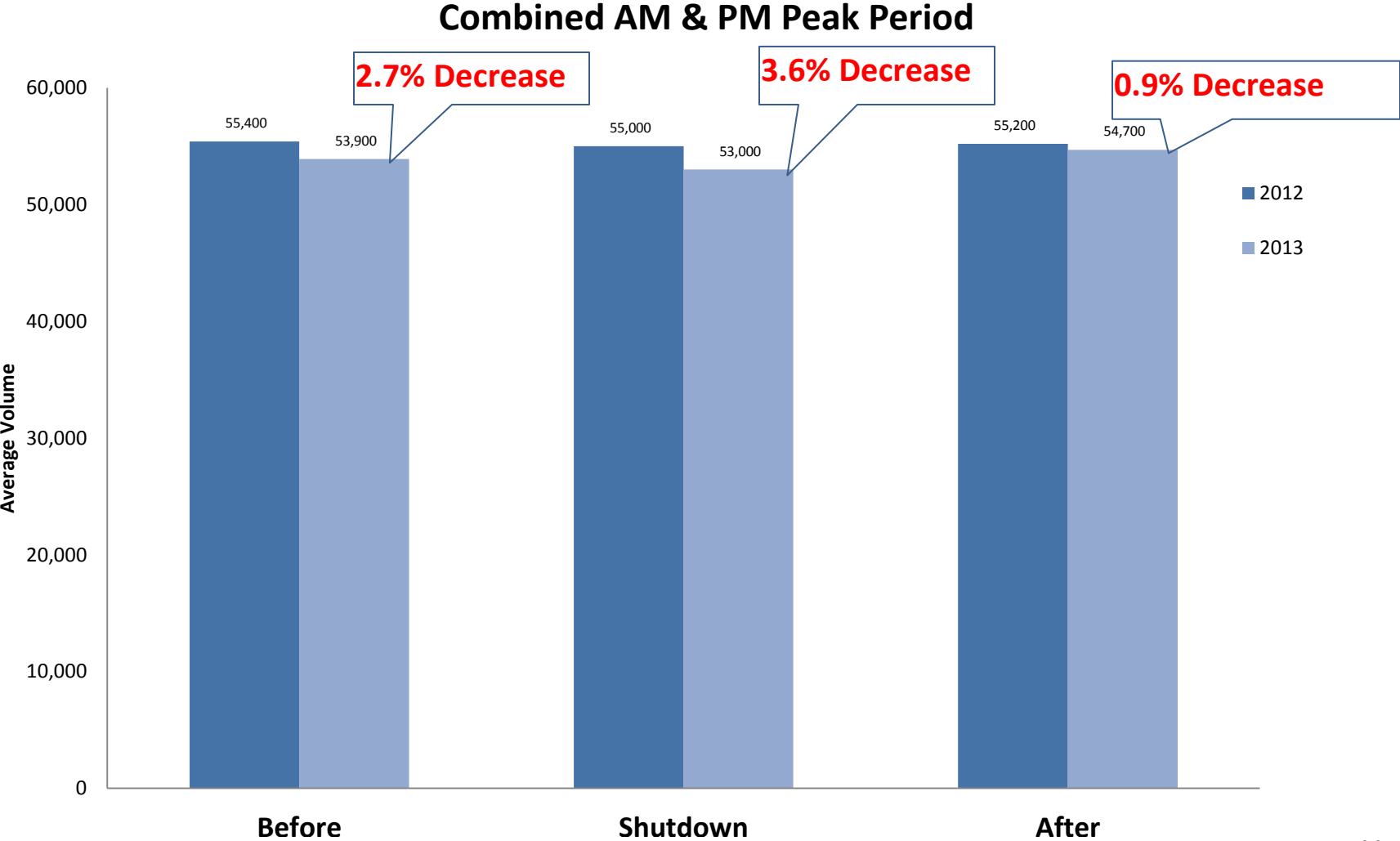
Annual Average Travel Time Index by Highway Category
Total AM and PM Peaks



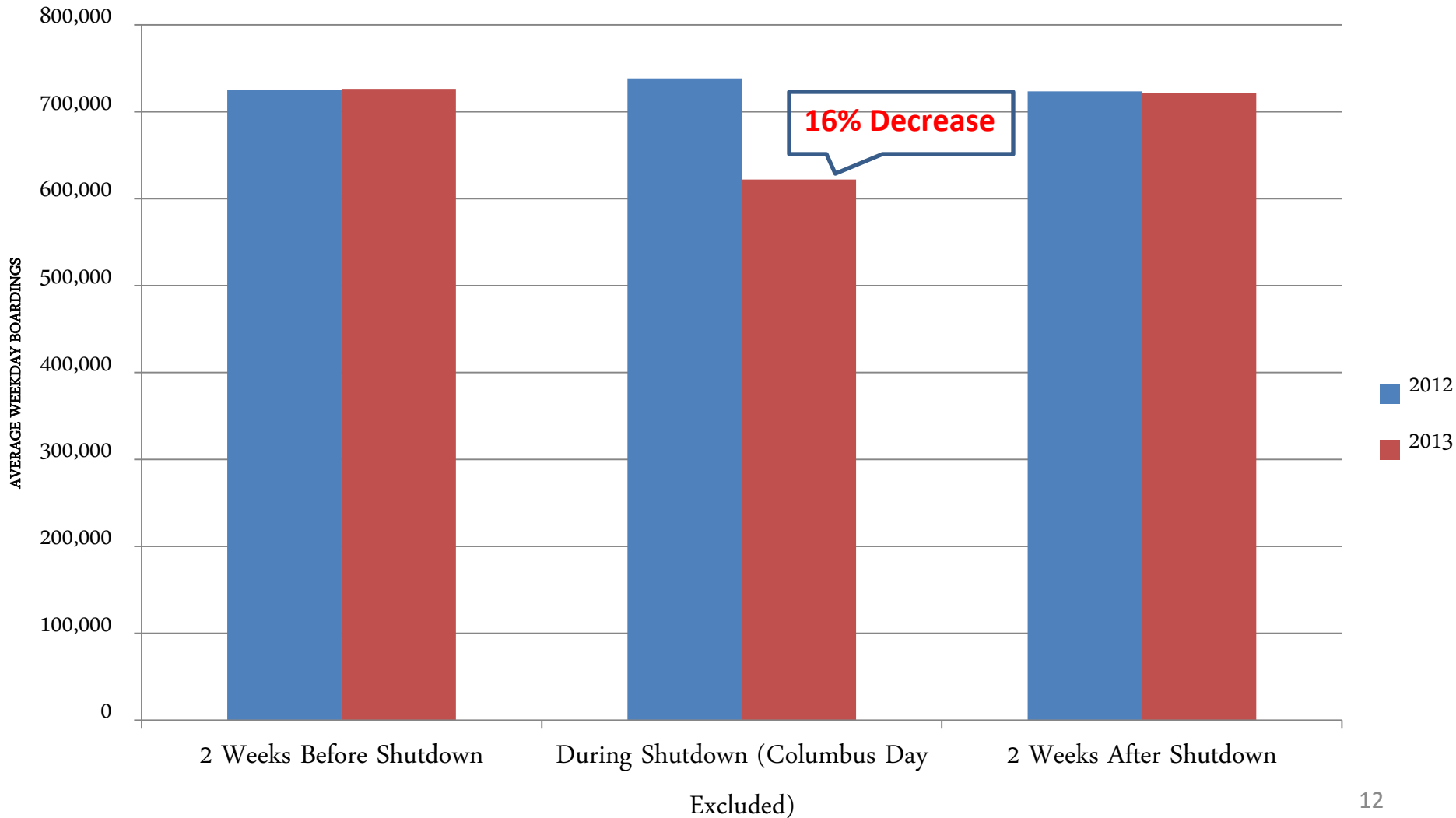
Transportation Impacts of 2013 Federal Government Shutdown

- Much of the federal government shutdown from Tuesday, October 1 through Wednesday, October 16, 2013
- Impact of shutdown by looking at before, during and after conditions
- This is a preliminary look from several information sources

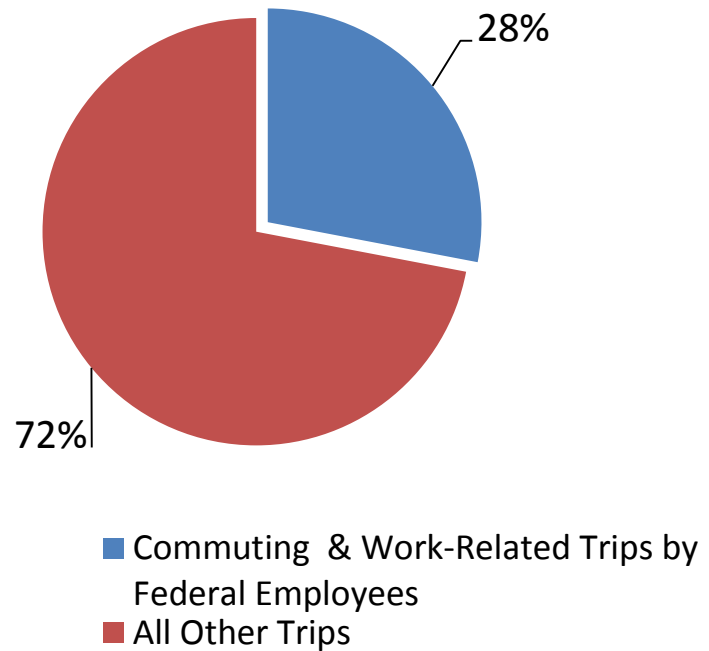
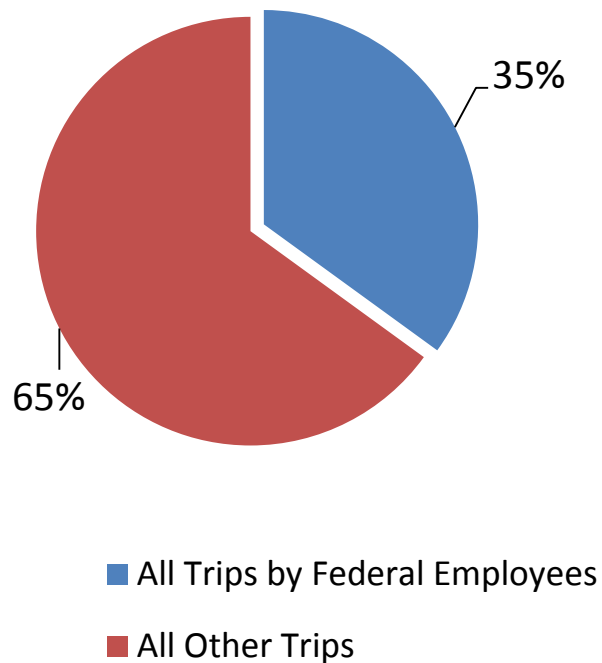
Average Traffic Volumes on DC Interstate Highway Segments (I-395 and I-295)



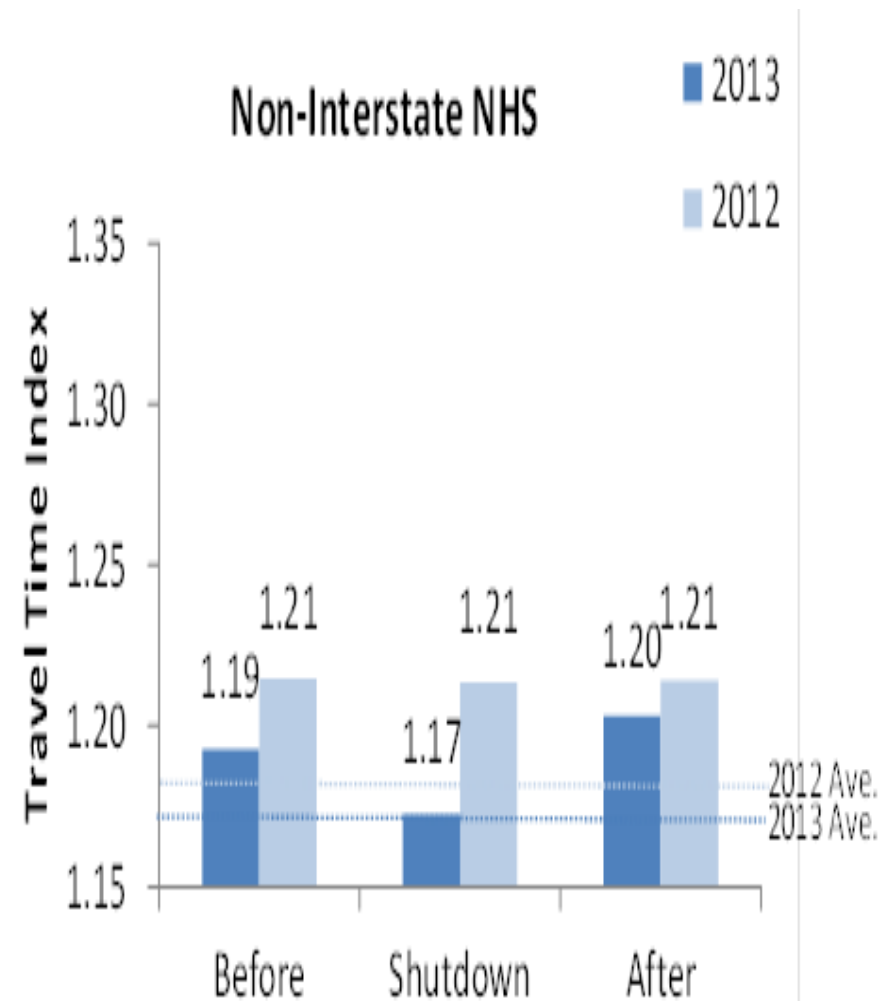
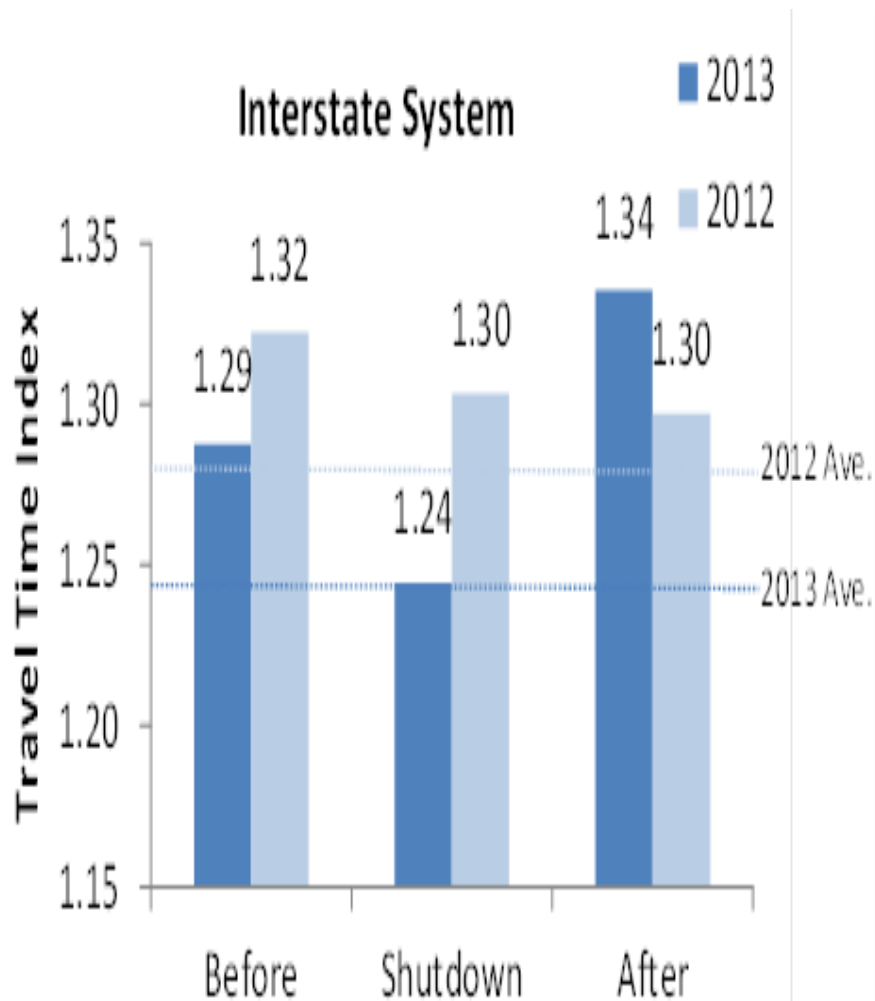
Metrorail System Boardings: Before, During, and After 2013 Federal Government Shutdown Compared to 2012 Boardings



Percent of Daily Metrorail Trips by Federal Employees (2012)

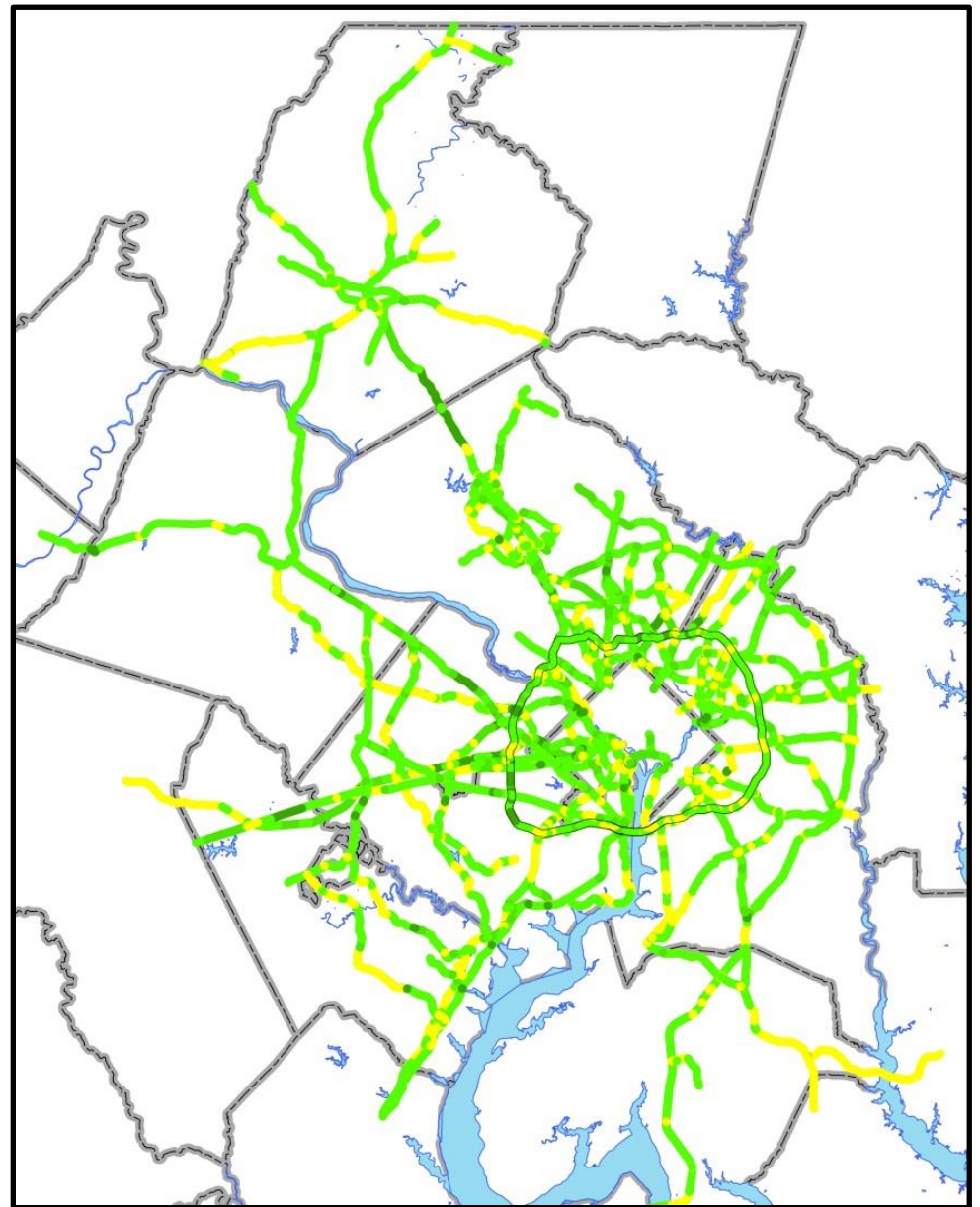


Observed Regional Travel Time Index (Inrix)



Improvement in Travel Time Index (Inrix) (6 AM to 10 AM)

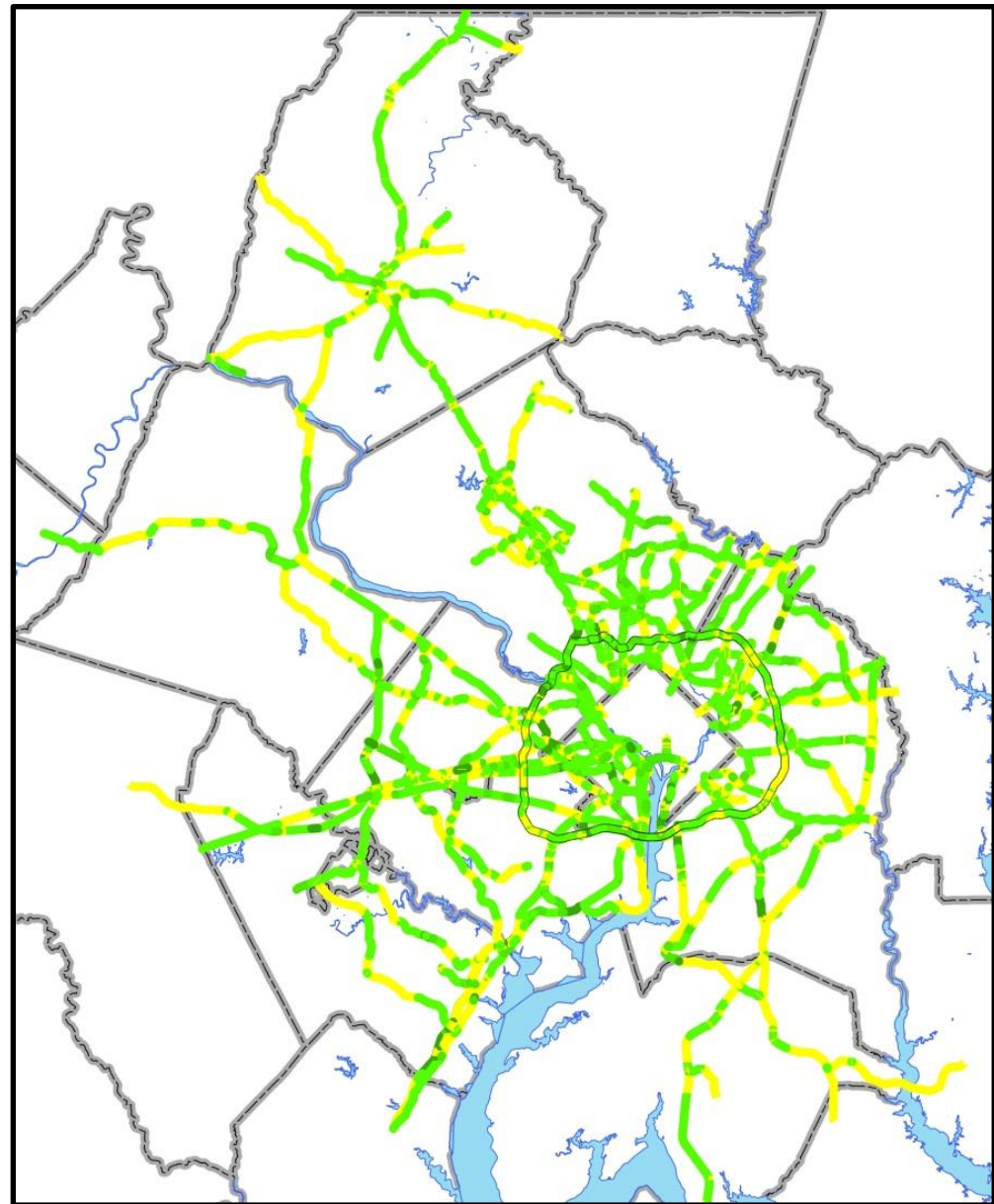
***2 Weeks Before 2013
Government Shutdown
Compared to
Shutdown Period***



*Darker shades - more improvement in Travel Time Index
Lighter shades - less improvement in Travel Time Index*

Improvement in Travel Time Index (Inrix) (3 PM to 7 PM) (3 PM to 7 PM)

***2 Weeks Before 2013
Government Shutdown
Compared to
Shutdown Period***



*Darker shades - more improvement in Travel Time Index
Lighter shades - less improvement in Travel Time Index*

Findings

- Traffic congestion did ease across much of the region on the highway network, even though traffic volumes did not drop by very much.
- However, congestion did not ease in every highway link that was measured.
- Metrorail ridership (as measured by average weekday daily boardings) did decrease during the government shutdown.

Questions or comments?

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