## RON'S RUMINATIONS ON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

#### Comments on the past, present and future

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TPB Travel Forecasting Subcommittee September 21, 2018



#### **Overview**

- My early days in transportation
- The Long-Range Plan, December 1982
- Washington region's land activity trends
- VMT trends
- Ruminations on travel forecasting challenges ahead

## The views and opinions expressed herein are solely that of the presenter



#### **Graduate school memories**

"Transportation planning is the fastest growing highest paying area of civil engineering. You have to get into it!"

... Robert Paaswell, Professor, SUNY Buffalo (ca. 1978)

Professors/grad students came from all over the world:

- Finland
- Poland
- Iran
- Egypt
- Nigeria

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#### **Grad school memories: Polish notes**

"Don't read the words; just look at the equations"

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+.13) +.14) +.15)	p-work educ N-other	metody analizy kategorii (wielkość ruchu jest iloczynem wskaźnika ruchliwości
+.16)		Przykładowo generacja ZD rejonu j dla podróży do pracy (DP) może być opisana wzorem: BASEO ME Abten Werk TRIP GEN. Jon
17)	NZ = Nou It-Board.	$ \begin{array}{l} O_{j} & = \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^{N_{i}} N_{i} + \sum_{ij}}_{i = 1} & \neq e \checkmark E  (4.20) \\ \\ gdzie: \\ N_{i}^{ZD, DP} & - wskaźnik ruchliwości osoby kategorii i dla podróży do pracy, \\ \\ L_{ij} & - liczba osób kategorii i w rejonie j, \\ n & - liczba kategorii osób. \end{array} $
.18)		Podobne wzory można napisać dla: — innych motywacji podróży,
.19)		<ul> <li>— dla podróży pieszych i niepieszych,</li> <li>— dla różnych przedziałów w ciągu doby,</li> <li>zmieniając jedunie, uwapogracz zmienia k do jedunie, wyspogracz zmienia k do jedunie,</li> </ul>
		zmieniając jedynie, wyznaczone w czasie badania, wskaźniki ruchliwości $N_i$ dla poszczególnych osób kategorii <i>i</i> . 2. Do obliczenia generacji rejonowych dla podróżynie związanych z domem $G_j^{NZ}$ proponuje się zastosować metodę regresji liniowej na poziomie agregacji: <i>rejon komunikacyjny</i> . Na przykład generacja podróży nie zdomem, które powstały w rejonie <i>j</i> po podróży do pracy — $G_j^{NZ, GP}$ może być opisana następująco:



#### **Grad school memories:**

#### **Doctoral theses used instead of text books:**

STRUCTURE OF PASSENGER TRAVEL DEMAND MODELS

by

MOSHE EMANUAL BEN-AKIVA B.Sc., Technion - Israel Institute of Technology (1968)

S.M., Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1971)

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

at the

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

June, 1973



National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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## My introduction to COG/TPB:

The 1982 Plan Re-Evaluation

The document provides insights to the region's past planning issues and insights

#### LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN **RE-EVALUATION** Montgomery County •Gaithersburg Rockville Loudoun County Greenbe College Park District of Columbia Falls Church Fairfax City Fairfax County Prince George's County Prince William County SUMMARY OF FINDINGS **DECEMBER 1982** NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



### 1982 LRP Evaluation - Background

- Round 2.0 Cooperative Forecasts
  - Low, medium and high LU scenarios produced
- Horizon Year: 2000
- A "Partial" and "Full" Plan analyzed
- Evaluation measures
  - Level-of-Service analysis
  - User satisfaction index (based on speed and distance)
  - Mobile emissions (HC)



### 1982 LRP featured elements

- Completion of the planned 101-mile Metrorail system
- Southeast freeway extension to Barney Circle
- ICC from I370 to US 301 (Study)
- Springfield Bypass (Study)
- Many bus priority lanes & HOV lane plans
- Highway expansions in selected corridors



## COG/TPB travel modeling in 1982

- Calibrated to 1968 HTS
- Combination PLANPAC, UTPS & custom Fortran programs
- 1,478 TAZs/200 TADs
- 8 major jurisdictions modeled
- Combination TAD/TAZ level application
- Trip generation involved HBW person trip rates, and Nonwork auto driver rates used
- Mode choice applied for HBW purpose *only*
- Home-grown traffic assignment "Cap-Res" process used; 4 iterations; 1 daily trip table loaded

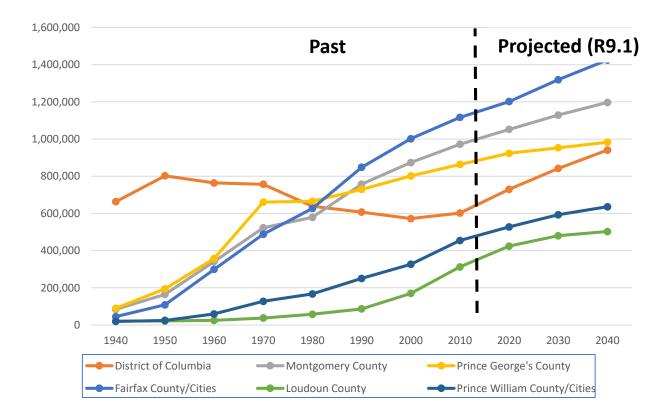


### 1982 LRP Evaluation: key findings

- "The region will experience increased congestion...even if the "Full" Plan is implemented"
- Year 2000 commuter trips will increase by 1 million trips, up from 2.3 million today. Nearly half of the new trips will begin and end in the inner suburbs
- The completion of the 101-mile Metrorail system will increase the transit share to the core, but the system will not meet the needs of intra-suburban commuters
- "...Having homes and employment opportunities in close proximity can greatly alleviate... congested travel conditions..."

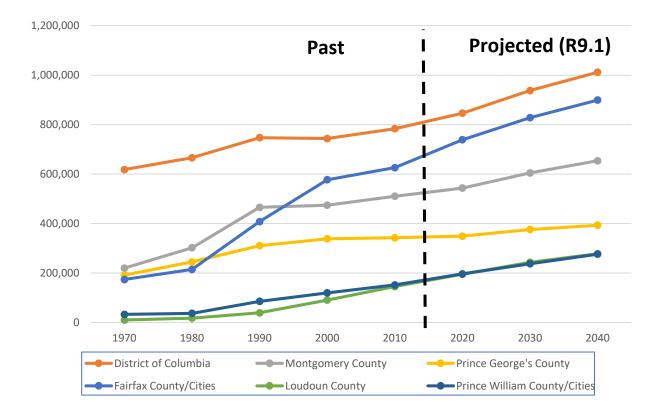


# Past, Projected Population for Selected Jurisdictions (1940-2045)



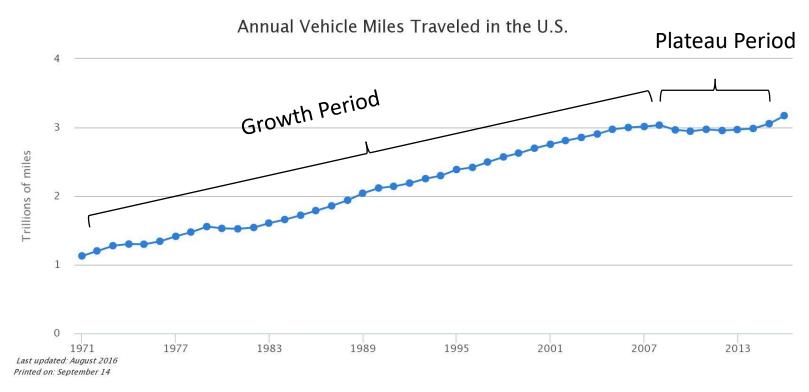


# Past, Projected Employment Growth for Selected Jurisdictions (1970-2045)





### Annual US VMT Trend



Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy https://www.afdc.energy.gov/data/



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# How transportation planning has evolved

- Vehicle throughput mindset has given way to person throughput
- Urban arterials have evolved into sustainable "complete streets"
- The link between transportation systems and public health has been recognized
- The link between transportation planning and land development has been formalized (Activity Centers)
- The advent of priced highway facilities has raised the consciousness of travelers about the "true" value of transportation service



# What are the success stories of the past 30 years?

- The region has grown and will continue to grow
- The growth and transformation of the District of Columbia
- The recognition of bicycles as a legitimate mode
- Air quality improvement due to alternative fuel and improved vehicle engine technologies
- Web assistance: Navigation systems
- Web assistance: Telecommuting, web conferencing
- Web assistance: Internet-based modes (TNCs, Capital Bikeshare)



## Planning: "The receding fog"

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