

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

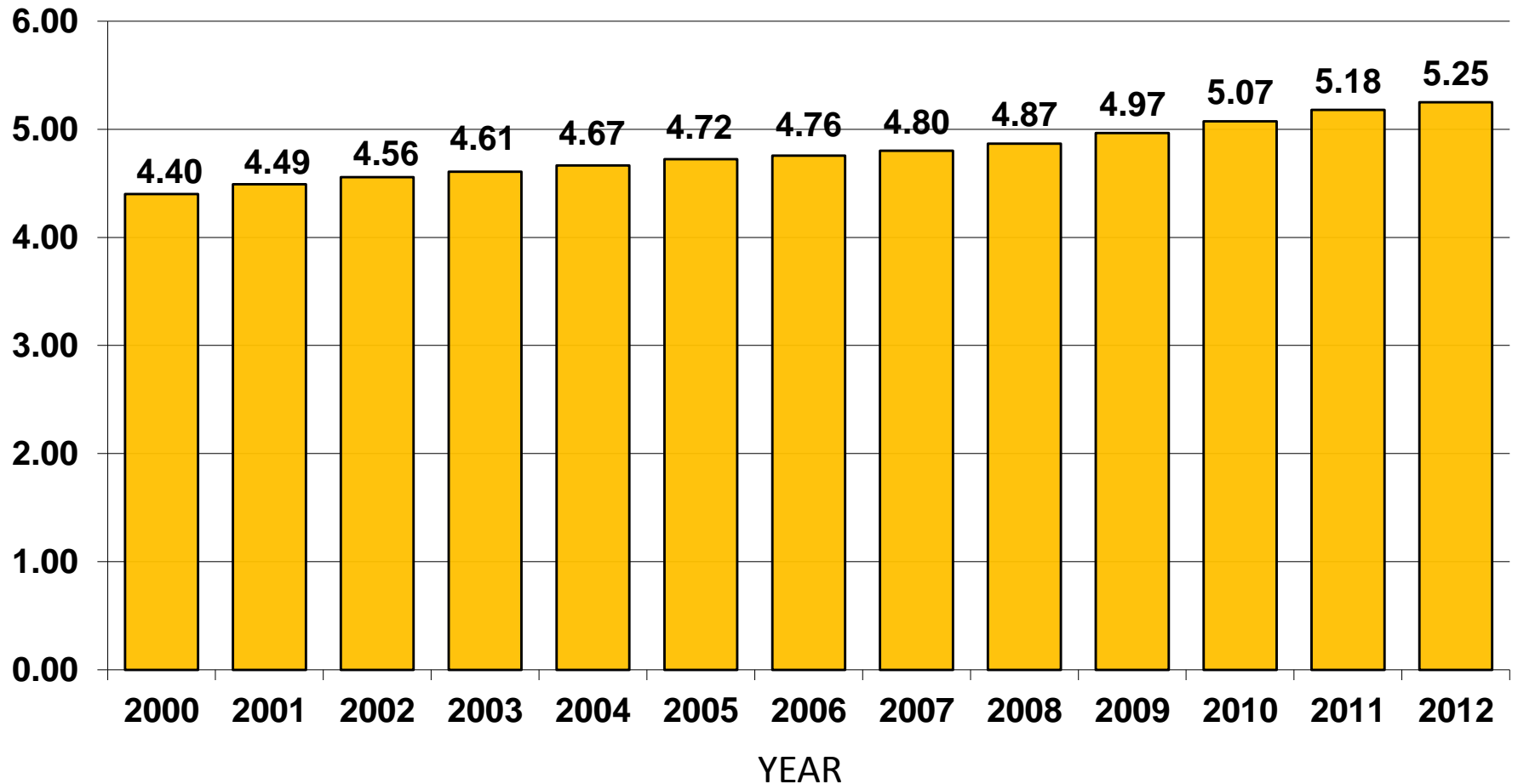
C. Patrick Zilliacus

TPB Travel Forecasting Subcommittee

Friday, May 23, 2014

# Regional Trend: Population

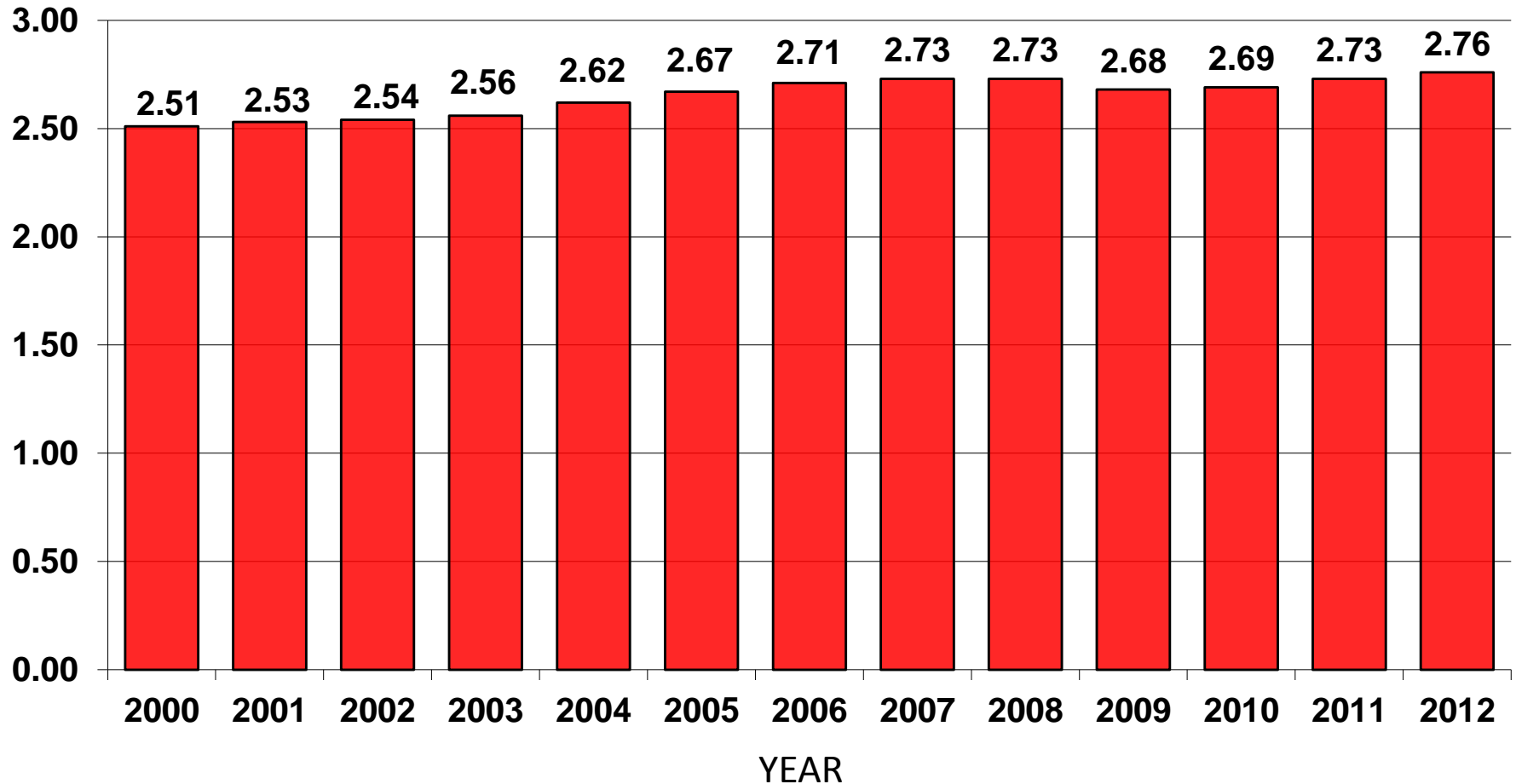
(Total Population in Millions)



# Regional Trend: Employment

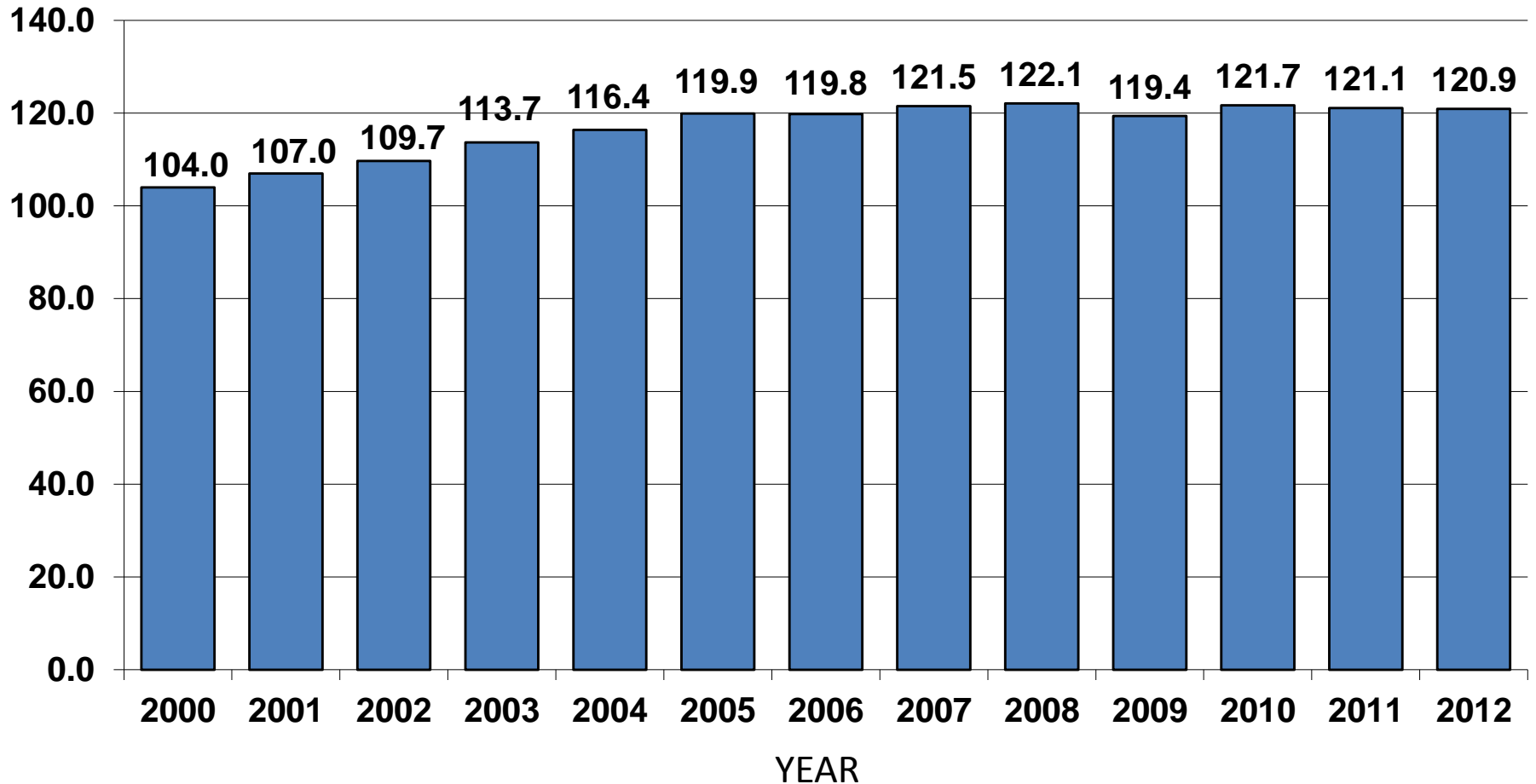
(Wage & Salary Employment in Millions)

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



# Regional Trend: Daily VMT

(VMT in Millions)

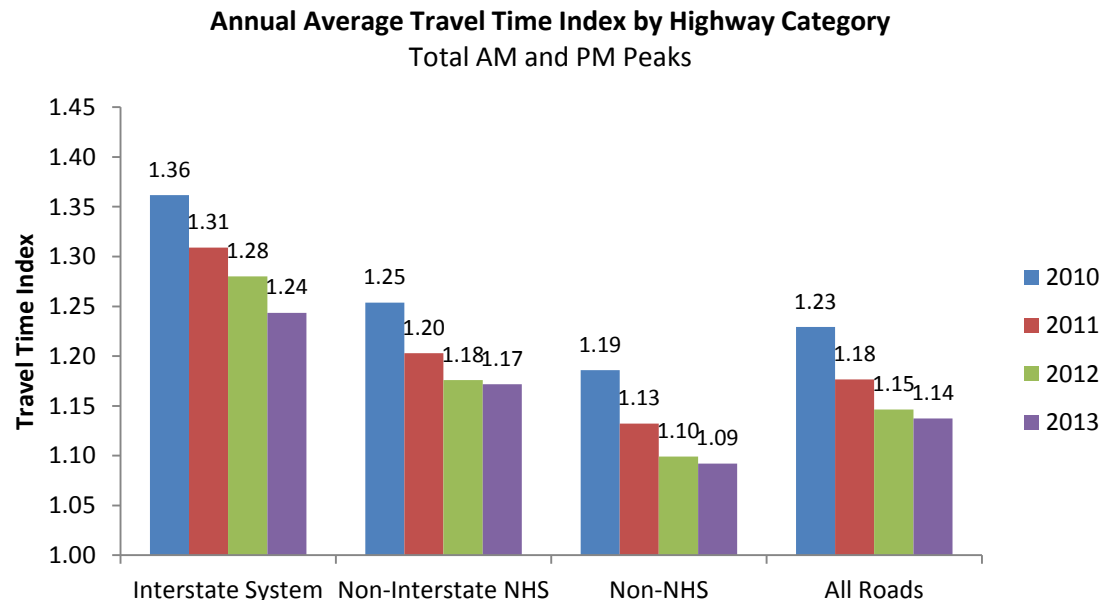


# Regional Trend: Peak Period Congestion

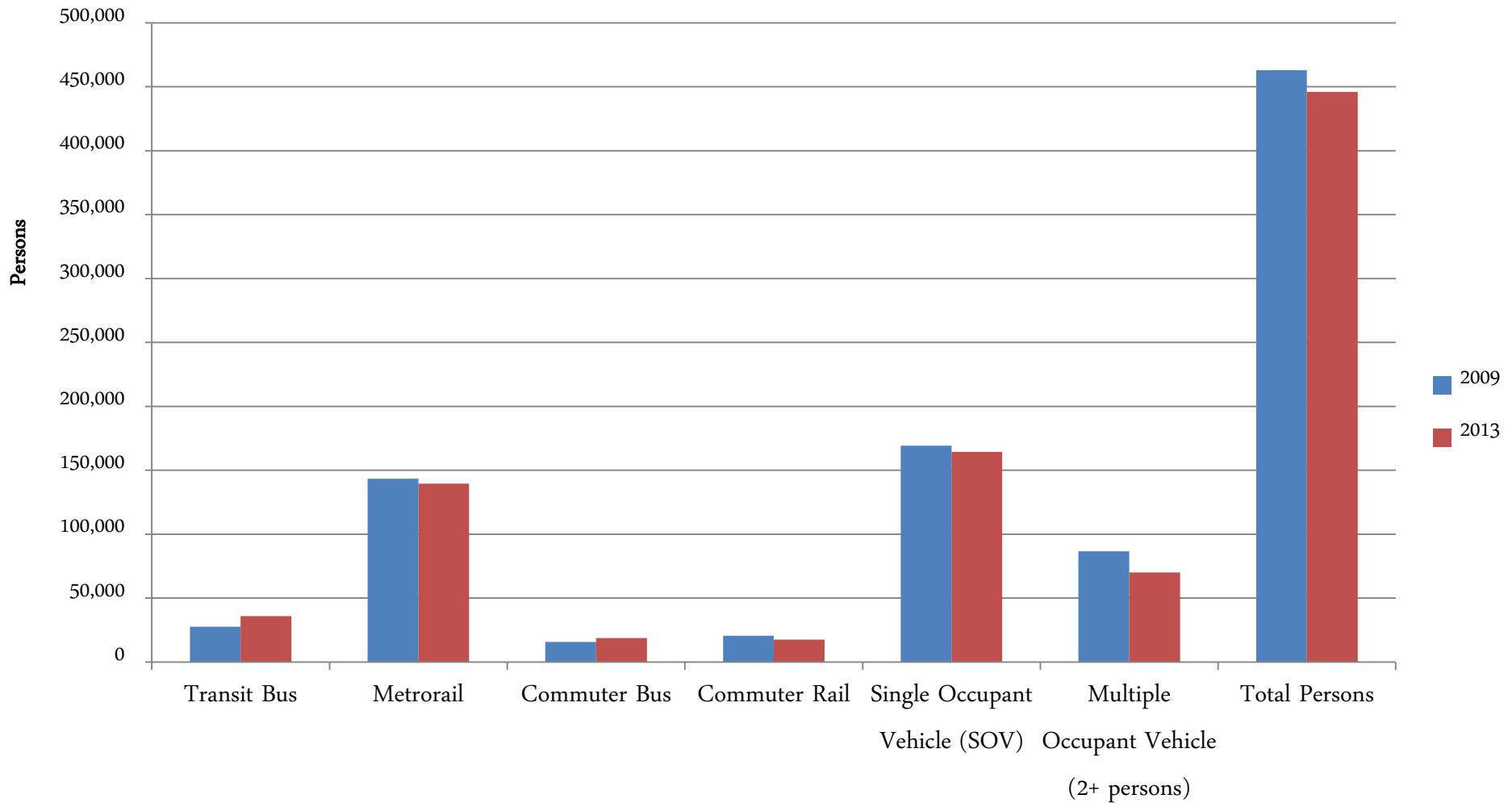
- The Washington region experienced decreasing congestion during peak periods from 2010-2013; but the pace of decrease had slowed down significantly in 2013:
  - The decrease in *Travel Time Index* from previous year was 4.3%, 2.6% and 0.8% in 2011, 2012 and 2013, respectively; the annual average decrease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

## Note:

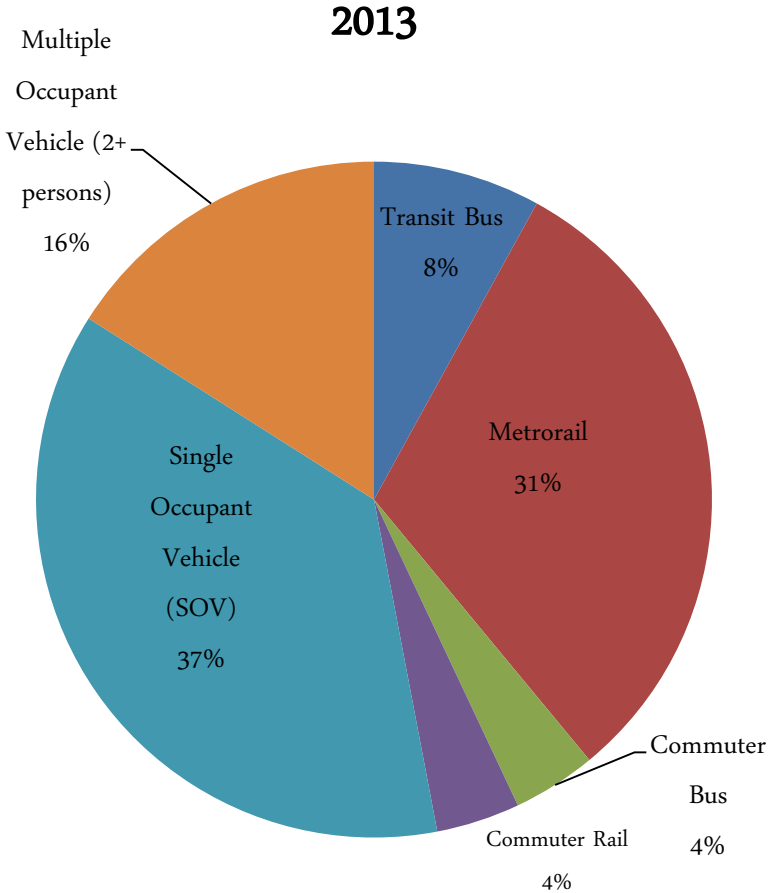
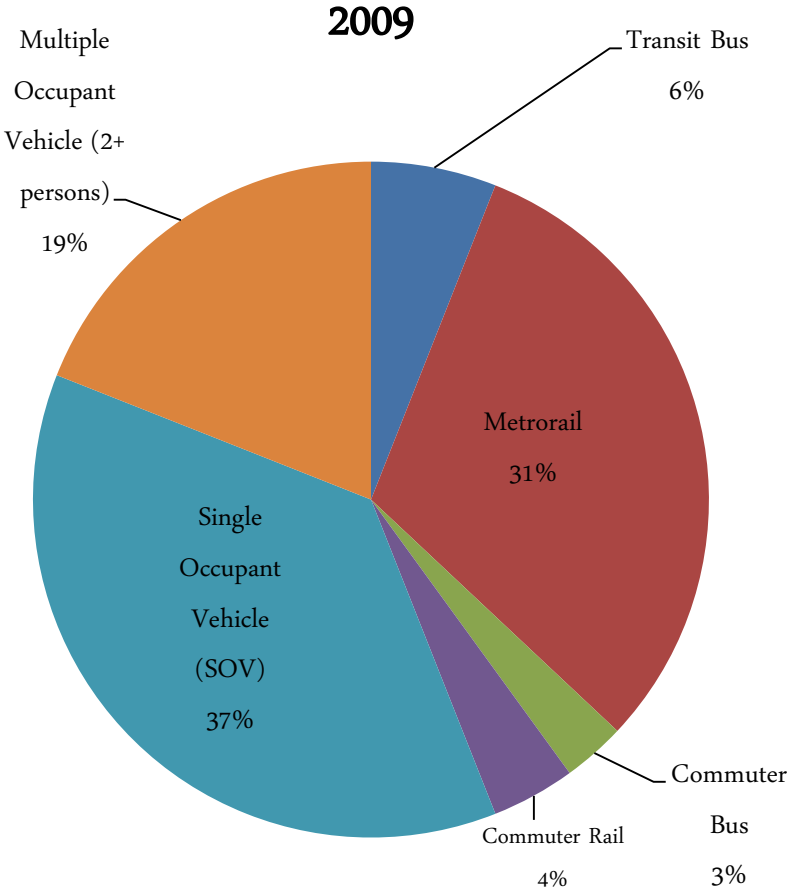
- Travel Time Index (TTI) is an indicator of the intensity of congestion, calculated as the ratio of actual travel time to free-flow travel time.
- AM Peak: 6:00-10:00 am
- PM Peak: 3:00-7:00 pm



# 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



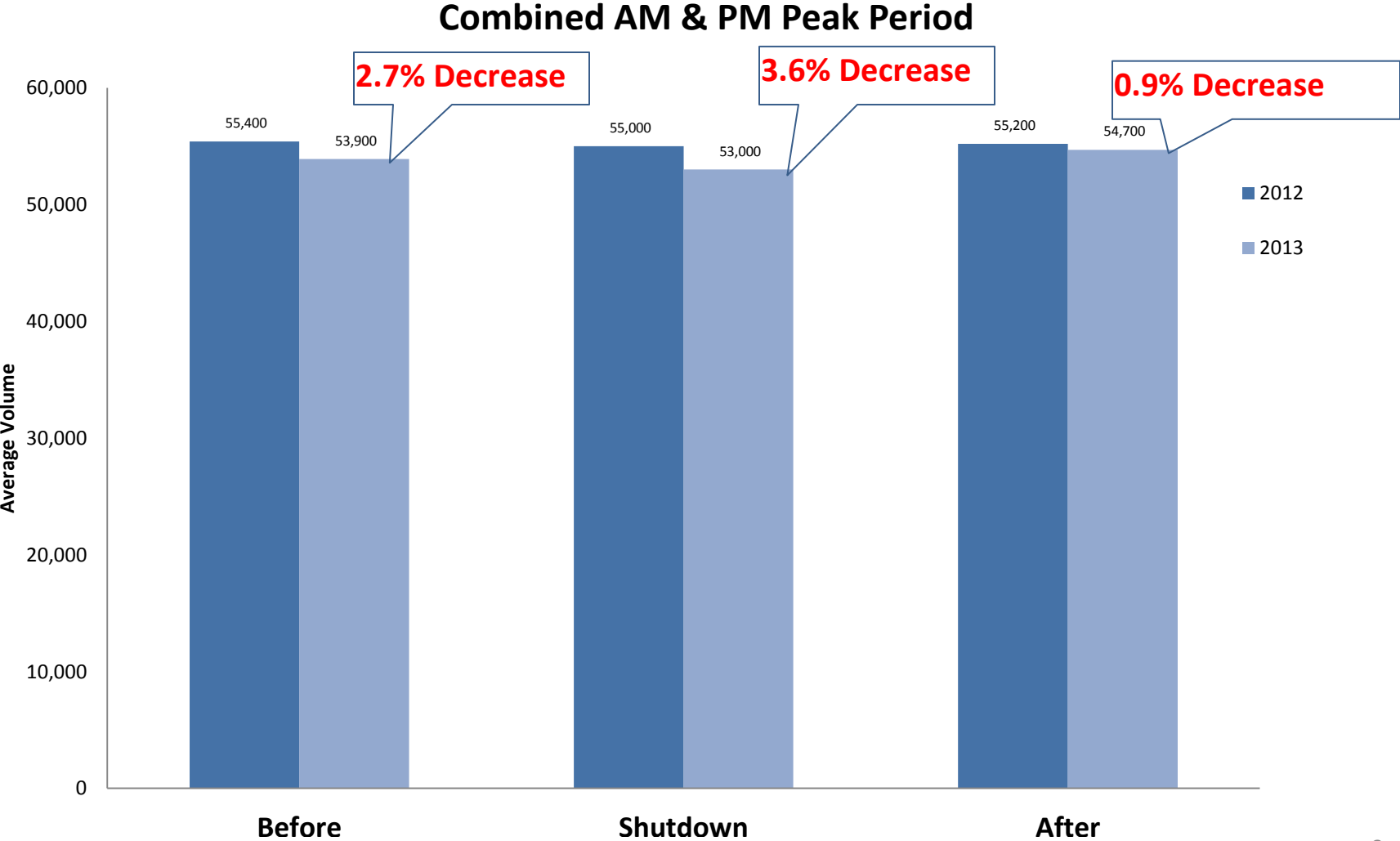
*May not total precisely due to rounding*

# Transportation Impacts of 2013 Federal Government Shutdown

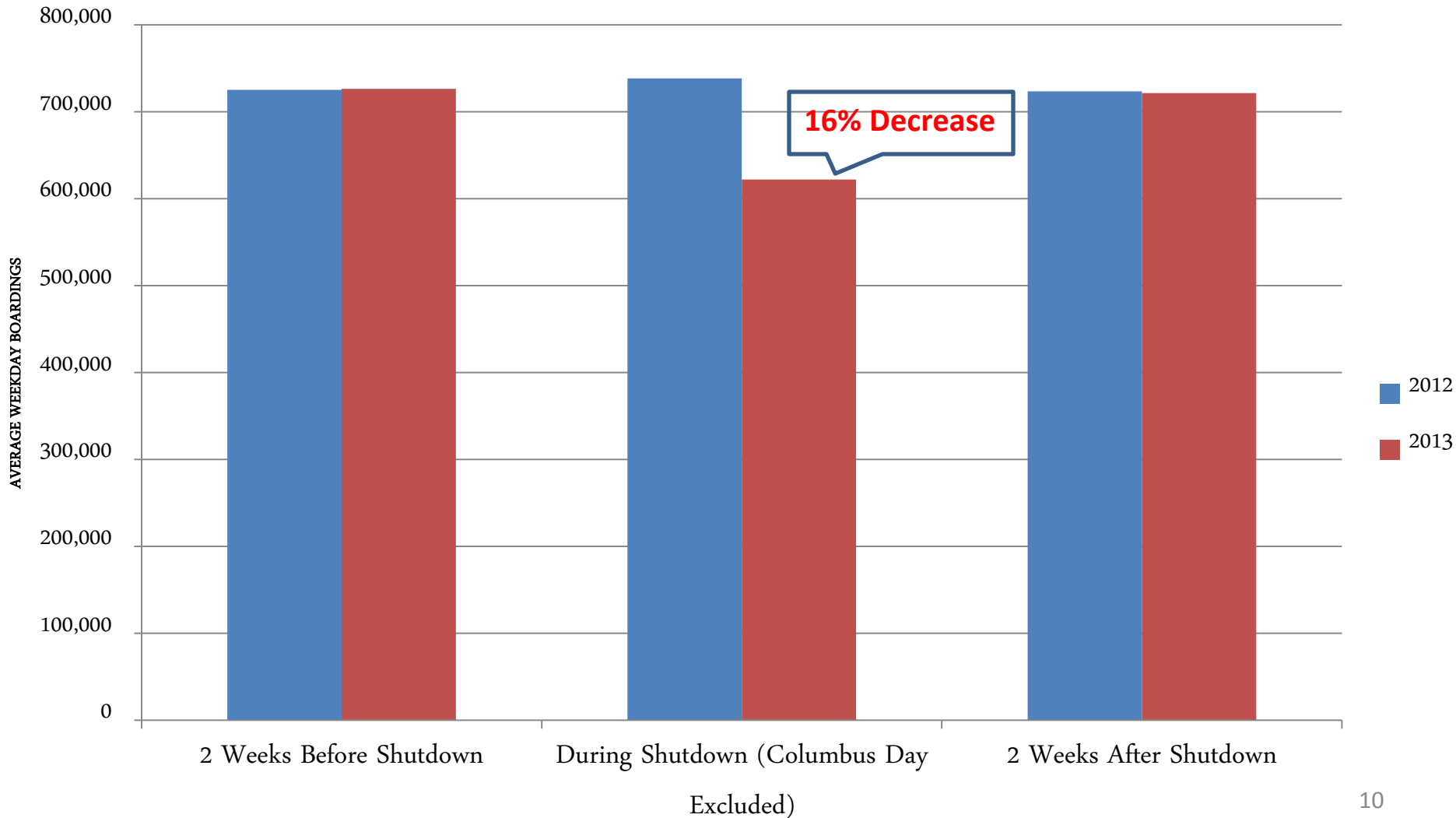
- Much of the federal government shutdown from Tuesday, October 1 through Wednesday, October 16, 2013
- Impact of shutdown by looking at before, during and after conditions
- This is a preliminary look from several information sources



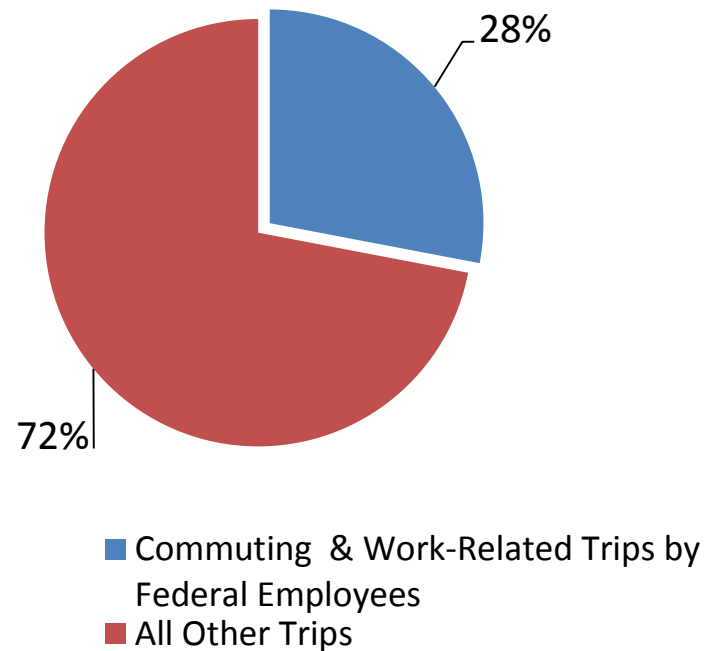
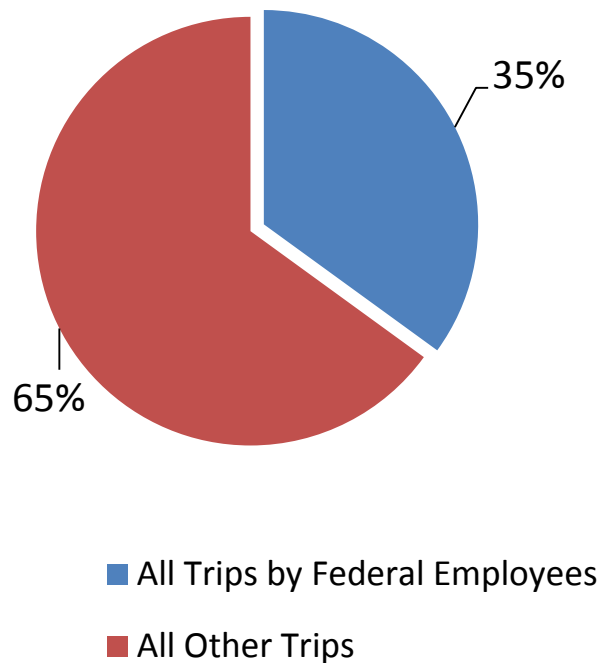
# Average Traffic Volumes on DC Interstate Highway Segments (I-395 and I-295)



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

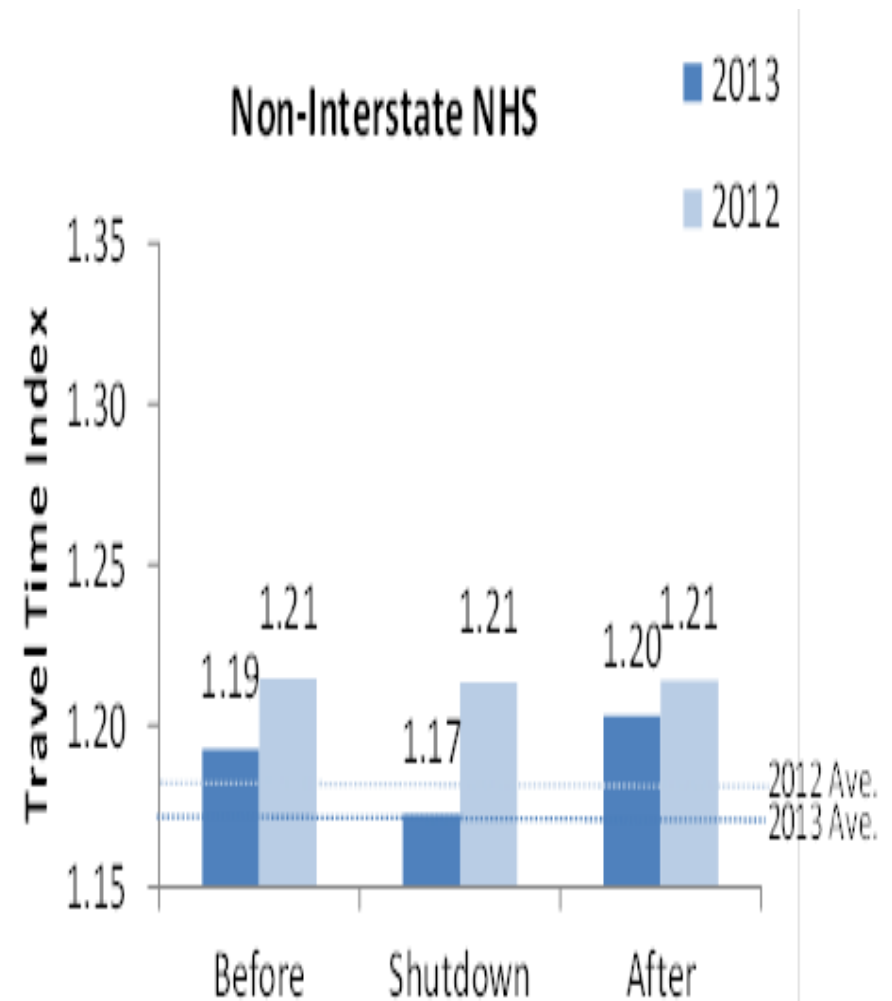
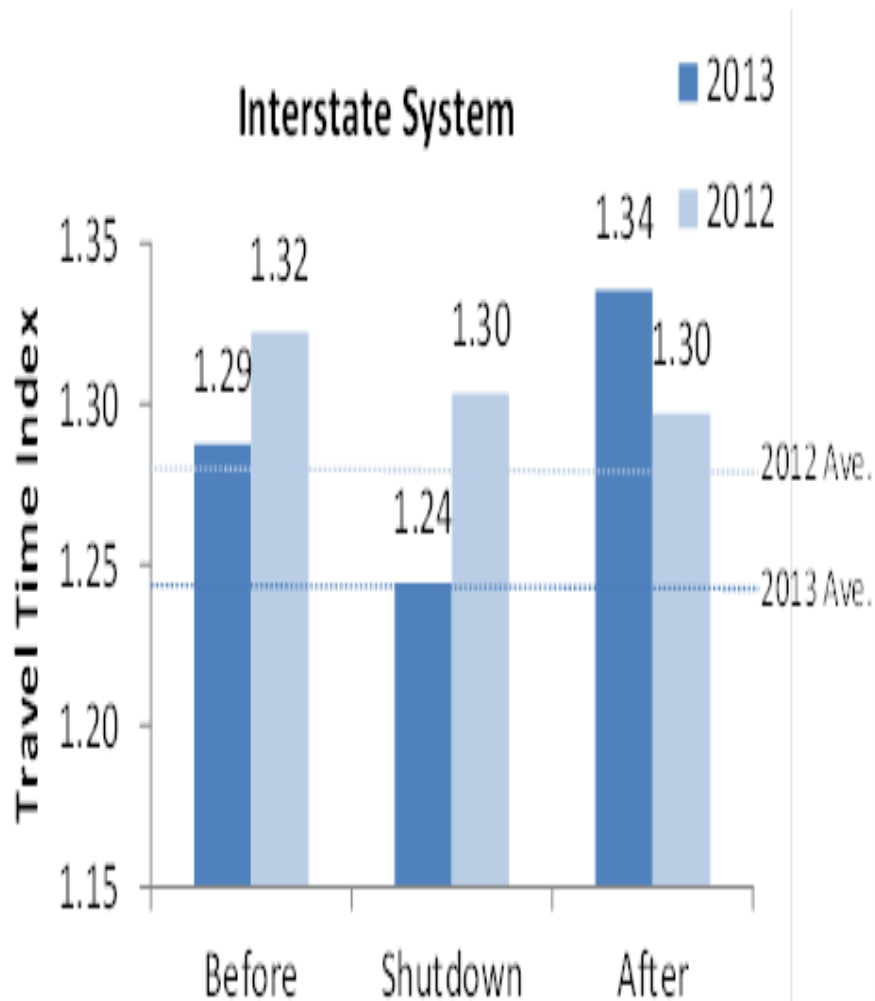


# Percent of Daily Metrorail Trips by Federal Employees (2012)



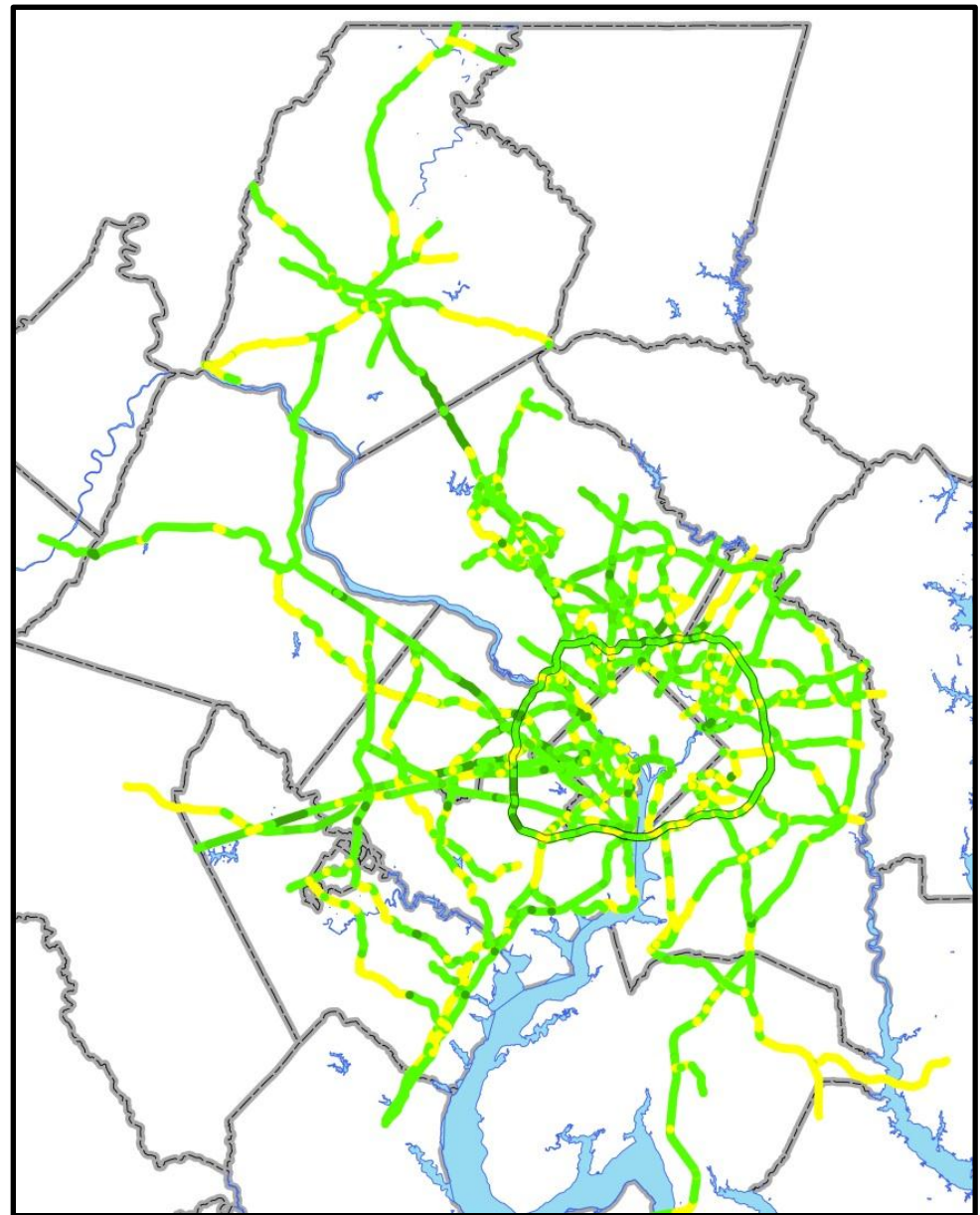
Source: 2012 Metrorail Passenger Survey

# Observed Regional Travel Time Index (Inrix)



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

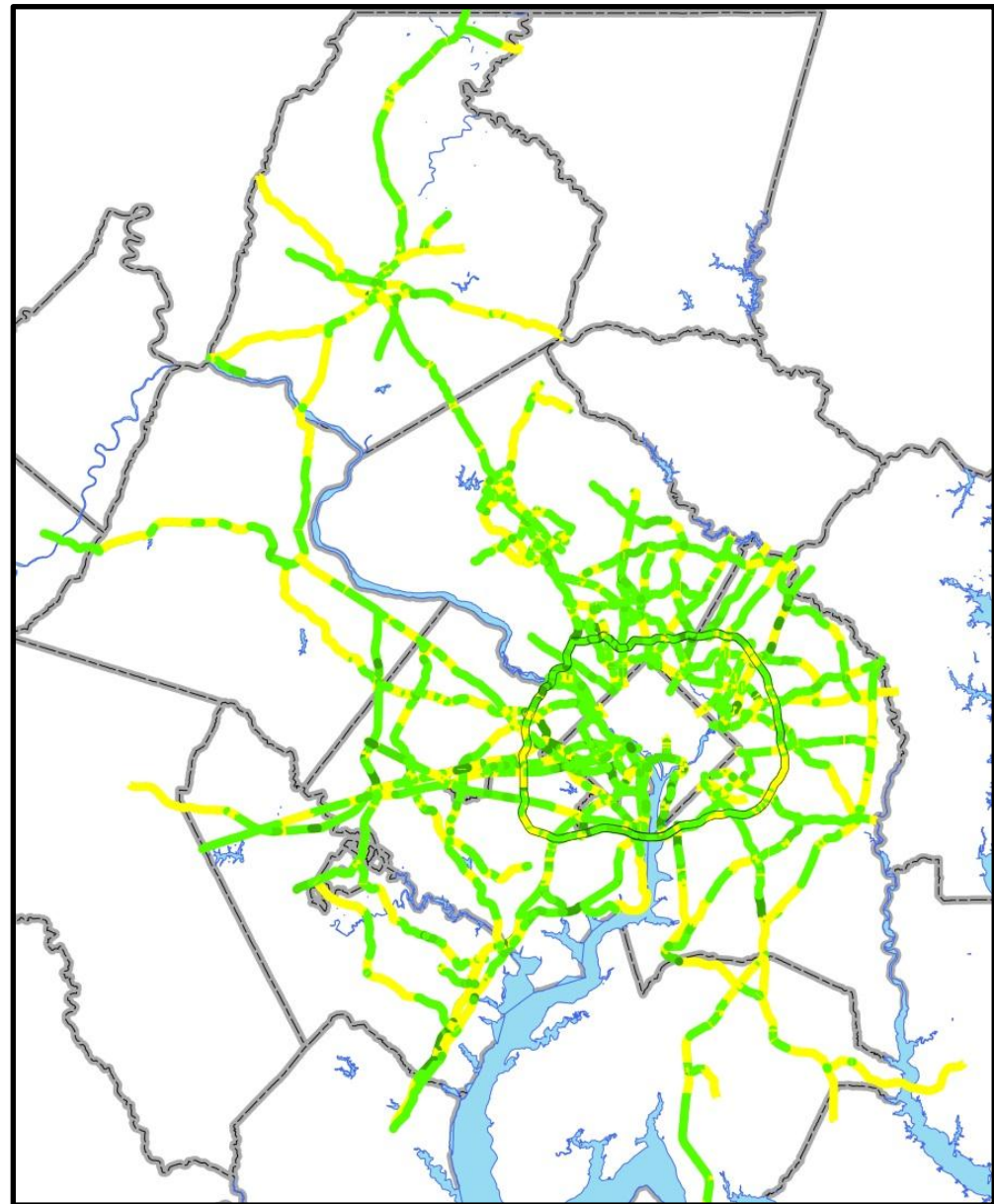
***2 Weeks Before 2013  
Government Shutdown  
Compared to  
Shutdown Period***



*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?

**ZILL@MWCORG.ORG**

**202 236 9107 (C)**

**202 962 3292 (O)**