

# ***Evacuation Planning, Improvements, and Studies***

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Louisiana Transportation Research Center and  
Louisiana State University***



***Presentation to FEHRL***

***March 30, 2012***

# *Hazards in the region*





# *Tsunamis*



# *Wildfires*





# ***Tornados***



# ***Hurricane paths 2005-2009***





# *Evacuating from a hurricane*



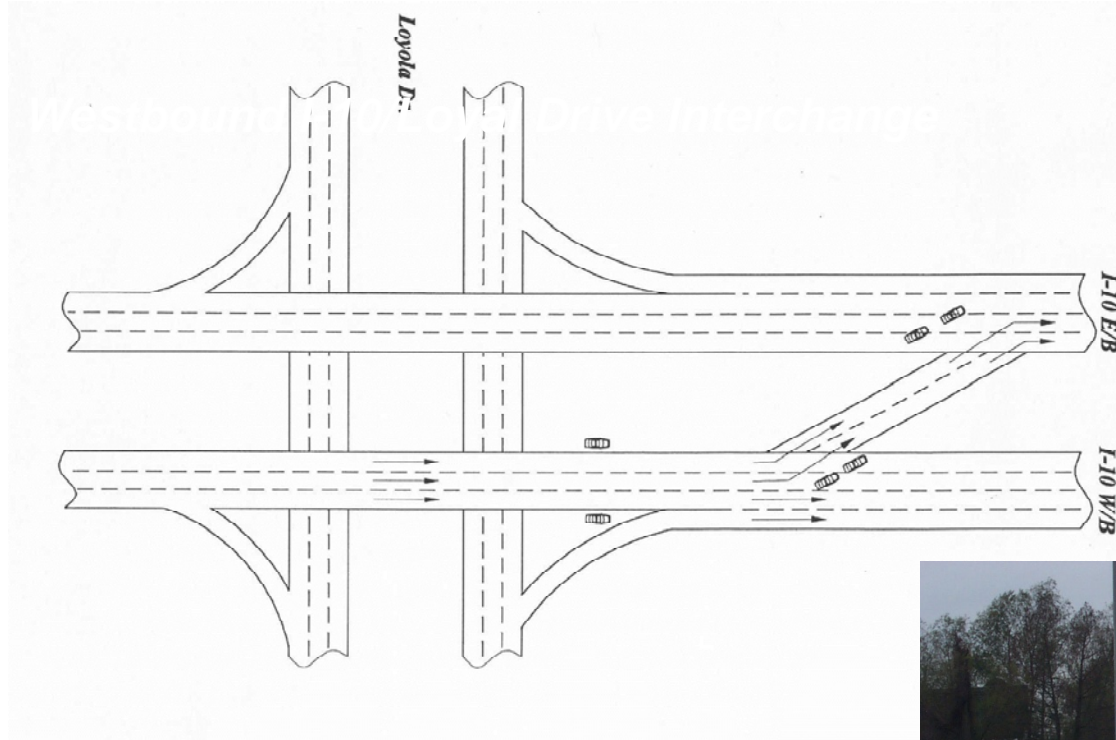
Photo Source: Yi-Chang Chiu, University of Arizona



# ***Recent History in Louisiana***

- ***Prior to Hurricane Georges in 2000, there was no regional traffic management plan in LA***
- ***No “designated” evacuation routes outside urban areas***
- ***1<sup>st</sup> plan was developed in 2000 and included contraflow in New Orleans***
- ***Used for the first time in 2004 for Hurricane Ivan - with questionable results***
- ***“Revised plan” was developed in 2004-2005 and implemented for the first time for Hurricane Katrina***
- ***Evacuation was quite effective for those with the desire and means to evacuate***
- ***Plans for the evacuation of low-mobility populations were obviously “lacking”***

# ***New Orleans Contraflow Initiation Point***

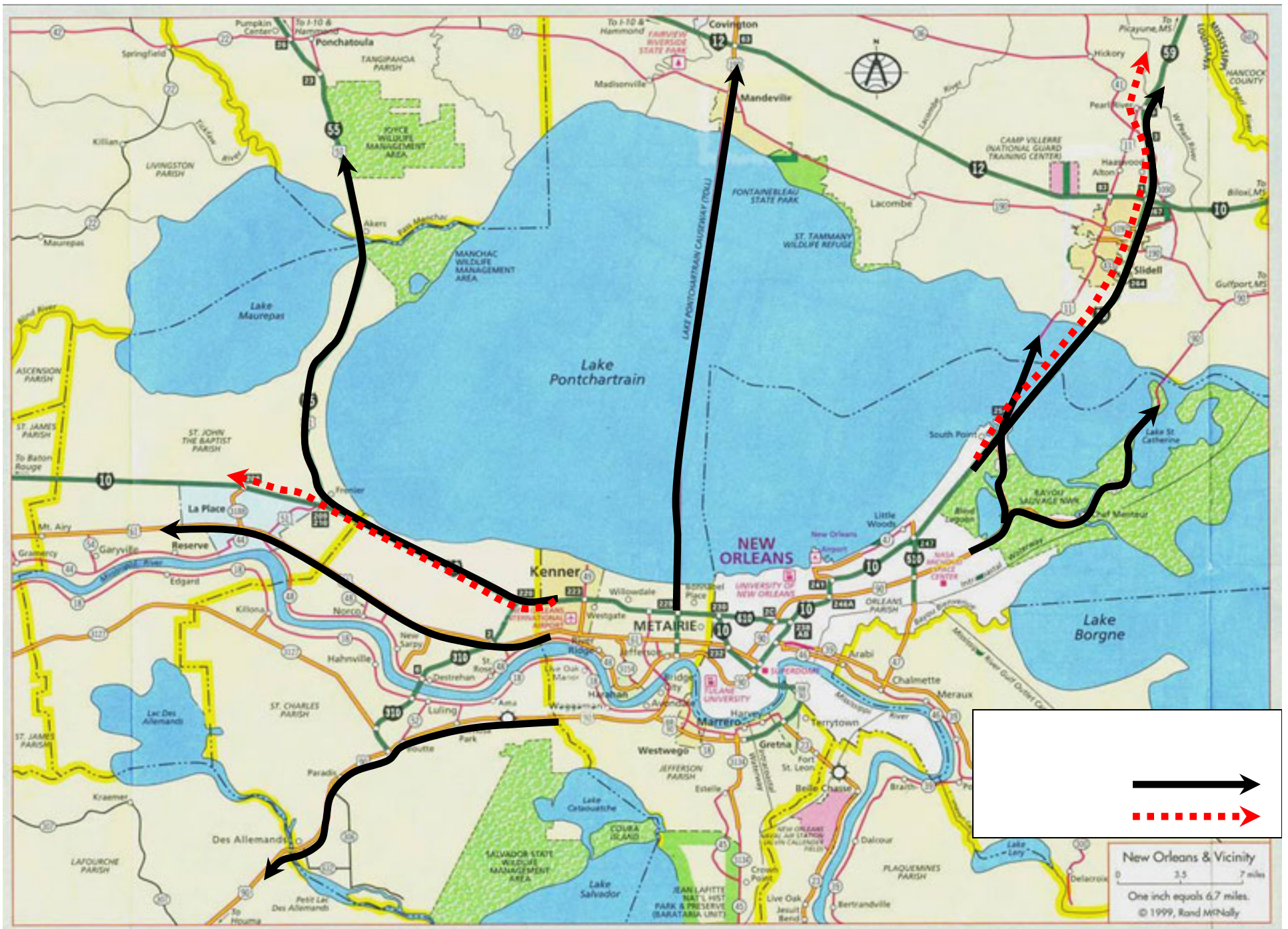


## ***Hurricane Ivan Evacuation - Interstate 10 (west of New Orleans)***



**Photo Source: A. Caterella-Michel  
Urban Systems, Inc.**

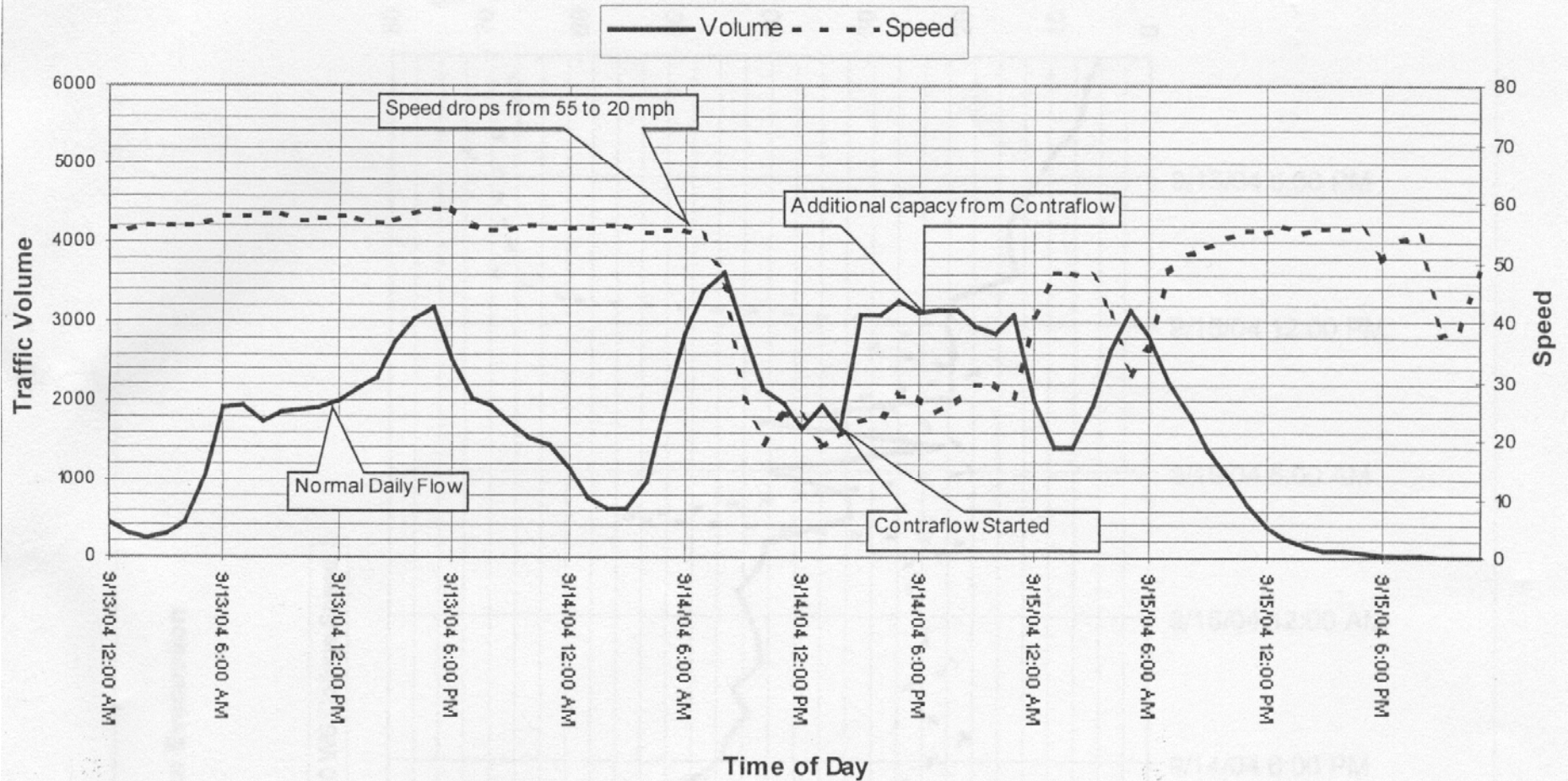




# ***Problems Identified in Ivan***

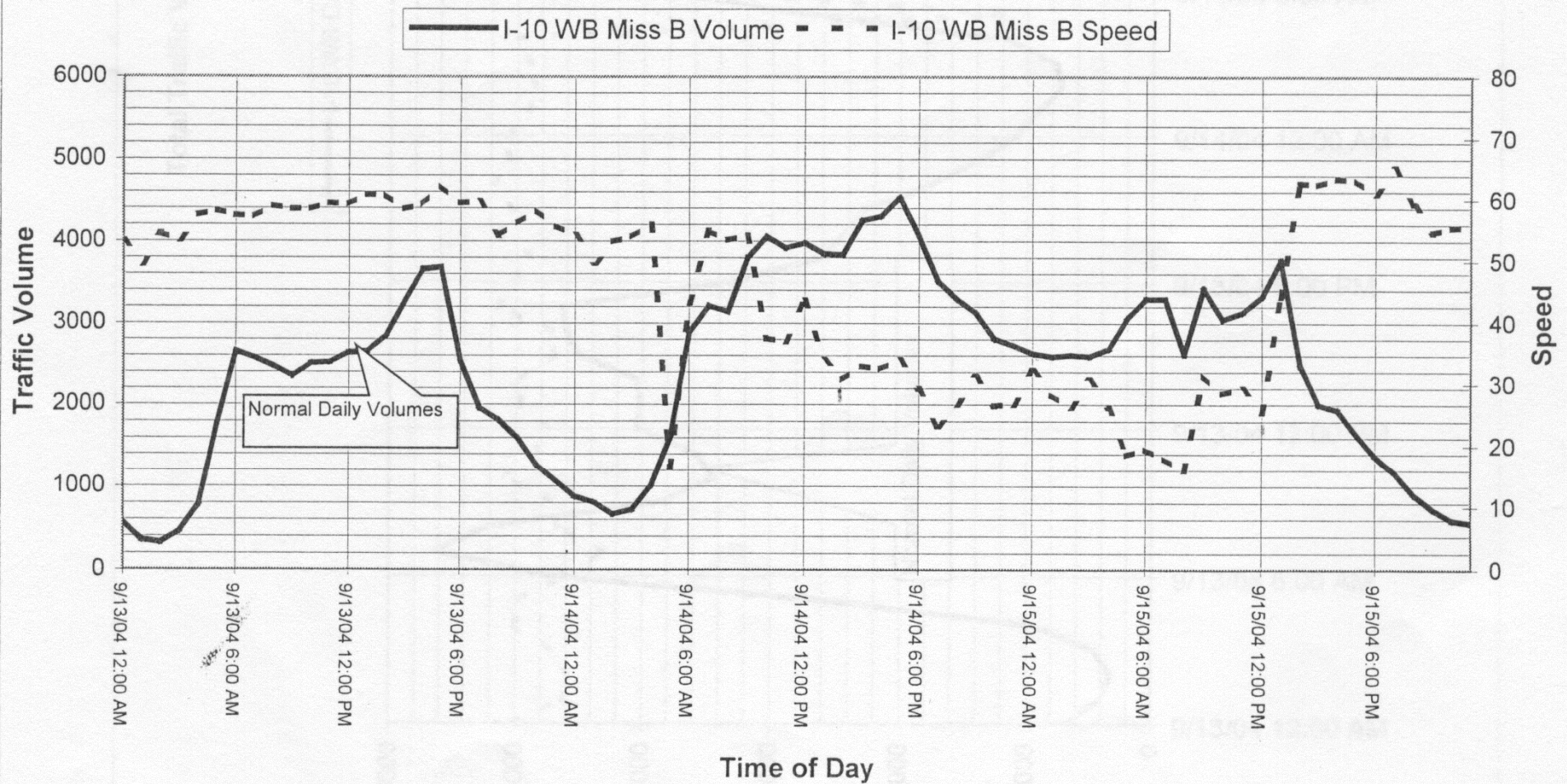
- ***An over-reliance on the westward movement of traffic***
- ***Confluence congestion created by the confluence of major evacuation routes in Baton Rouge, Hammond, Lafayette, Covington, and Slidell***
- ***Inefficient loading of contraflow in New Orleans***
- ***Inability to access up-to-date traffic information and provide timely and accurate traveler information to evacuees***

Total Traffic Volumes for Evacuation  
WB I-10 at Loyola Dr  
09/13/04 - 09/15/04





**Total Traffic Volumes and Speeds for Evacuation  
WB I-10 at Mississippi River Bridge  
09/13/04 - 09/15/04**

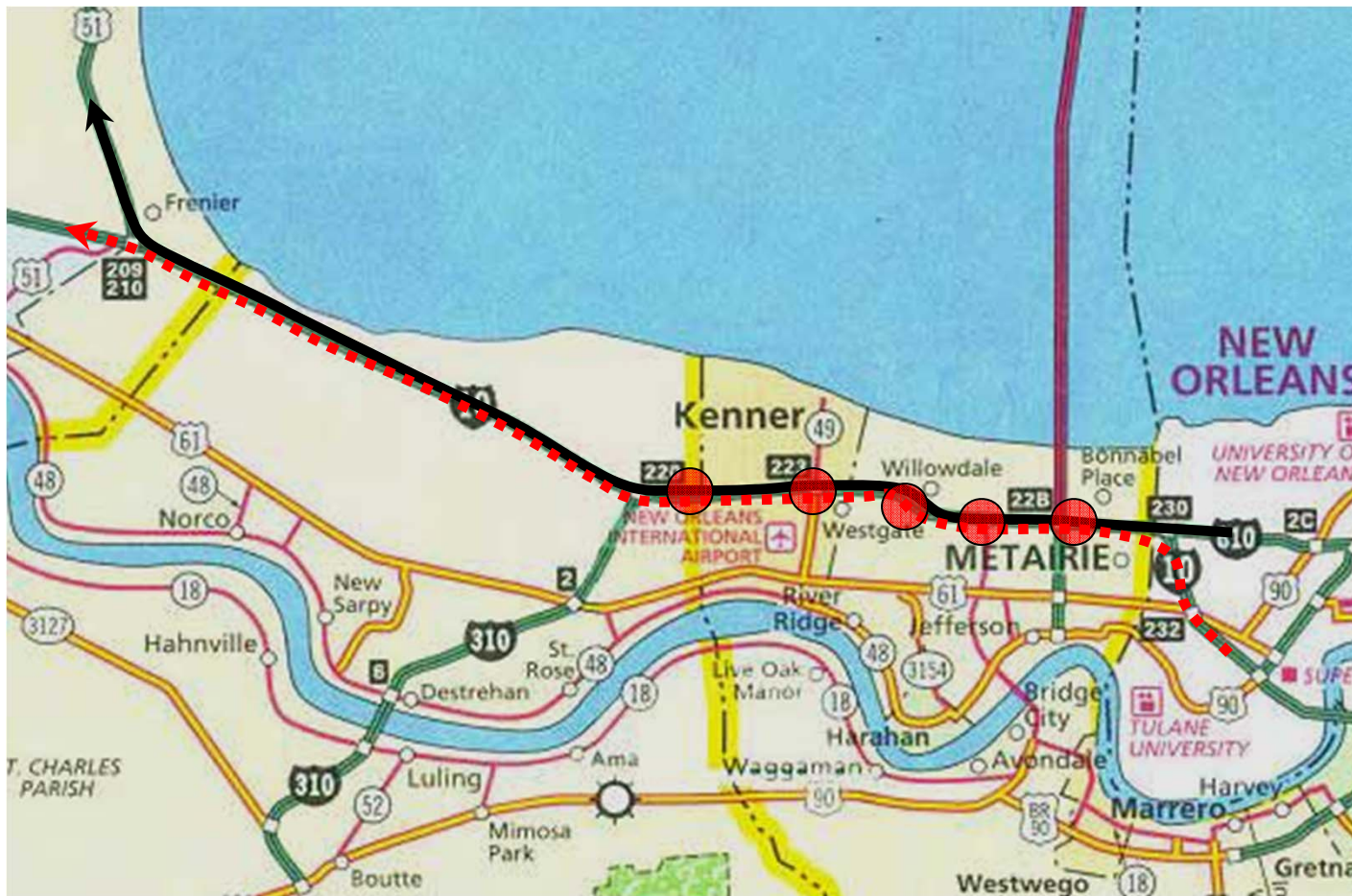


**Figure Source: LaDOTD**

# ***Proposed Solutions***

- ***Maximize the available routes out of the New Orleans area***
- ***Improve the loading of contraflow segments in New Orleans***
- ***Minimize or eliminate the congestion in Baton Rouge***
- ***Access up-to-date traffic information and provide timely and accurate traveler information to evacuees***

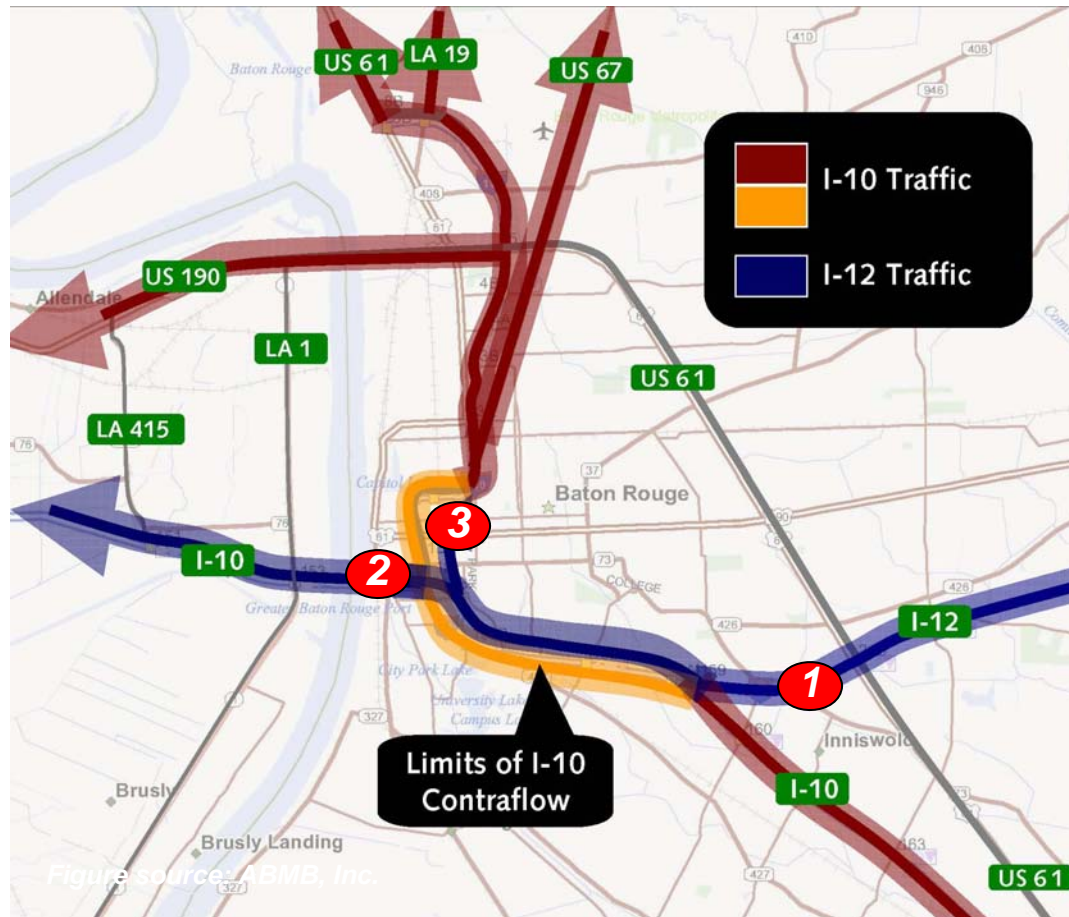
# ***New Orleans Alternatives***



<u><b>Scenario</b></u>	<u><b>12h volume at max. flow</b></u>	<u><b>Evacuees moved</b></u>	<u><b>Increase over no-c/f</b></u>
<i>Ivan w/o contraflow</i>	49,464 veh	123,660 people	-----
<i>Ivan w/contraflow</i>	67,224 veh	168,060 people	35.9%
<i>I-10/I-610 Loading Plan</i>	97,572 veh	243,930 people	97.3%



# Baton Rouge Alternatives



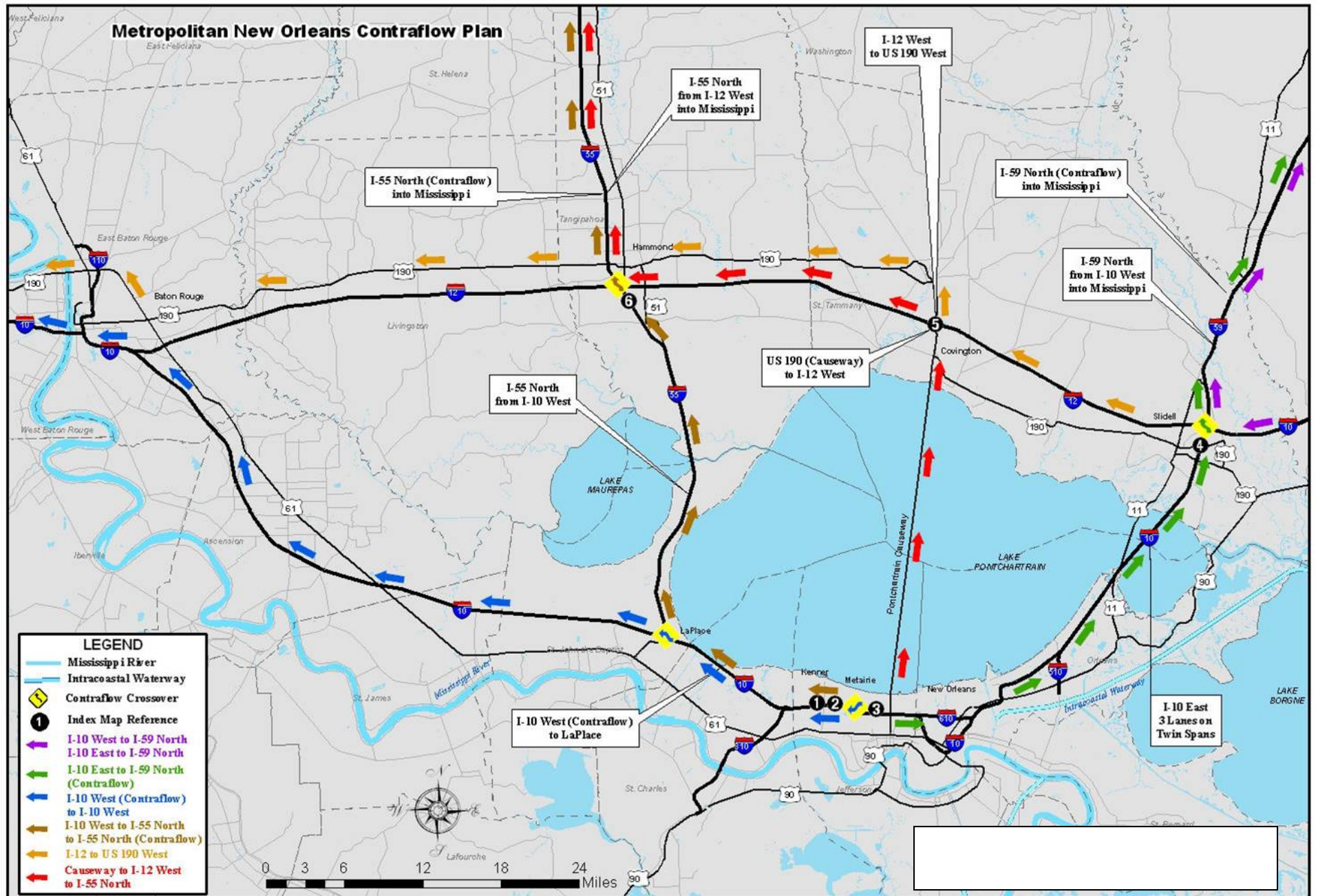
<u>Location</u>	<u>Ivan</u>	<u>Speed</u>	<u>Flow Rate</u>	<u>w/Contraflow</u>	<u>Speed</u>	<u>Flow Rate</u>
1 I-12 (bef. interchange)		16 mph	2,834 vph		56 mph	5,422 vph
2 I-10 (MS River Bridge)		28 mph	4,029 vph		22 mph	4,399 vph
3 I-110 (aft. interchange)		48 mph	2,067 vph		55 mph	3,701 vph



# ***The Plan and Its Effects***

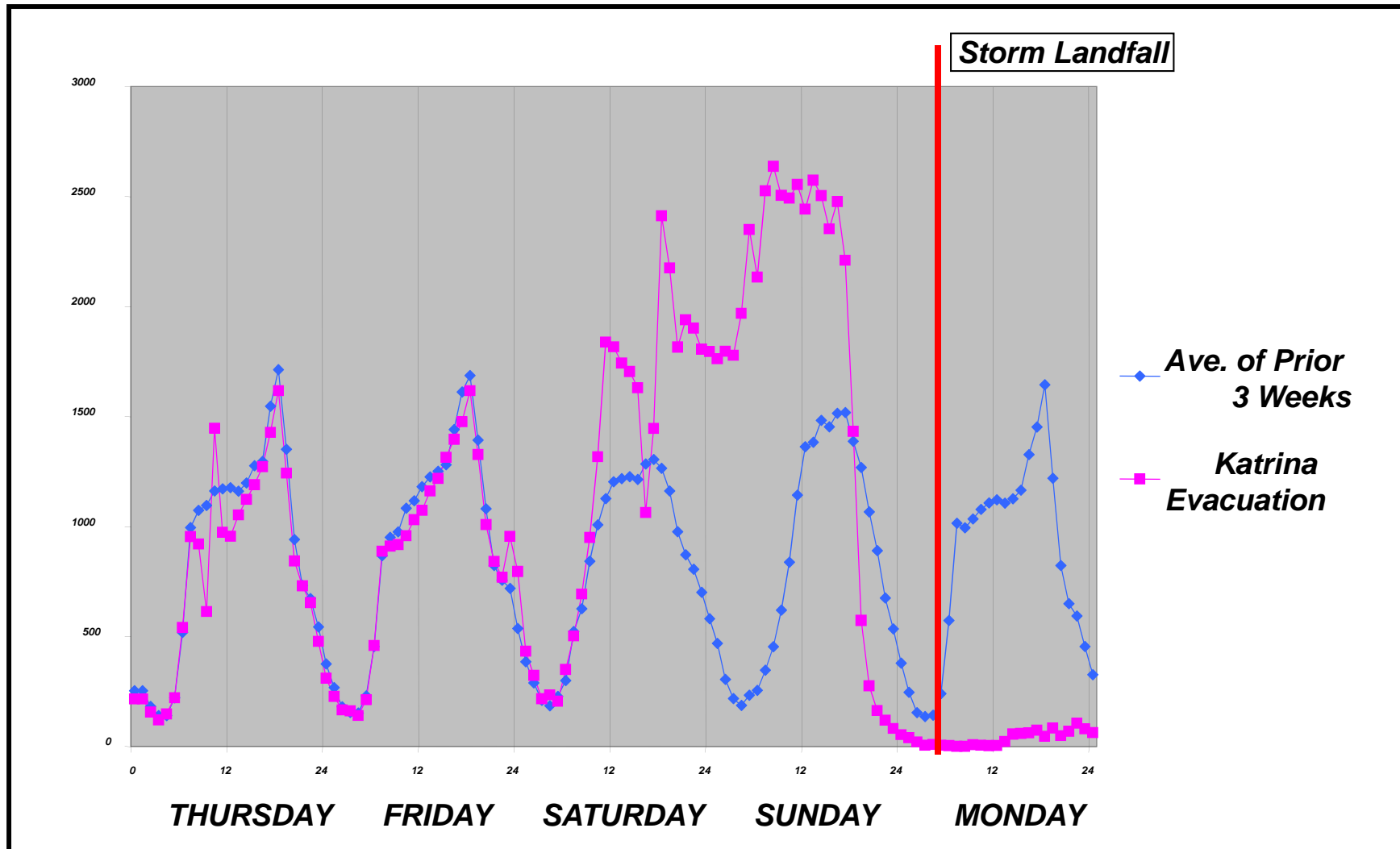


# Metropolitan New Orleans Contraflow Plan

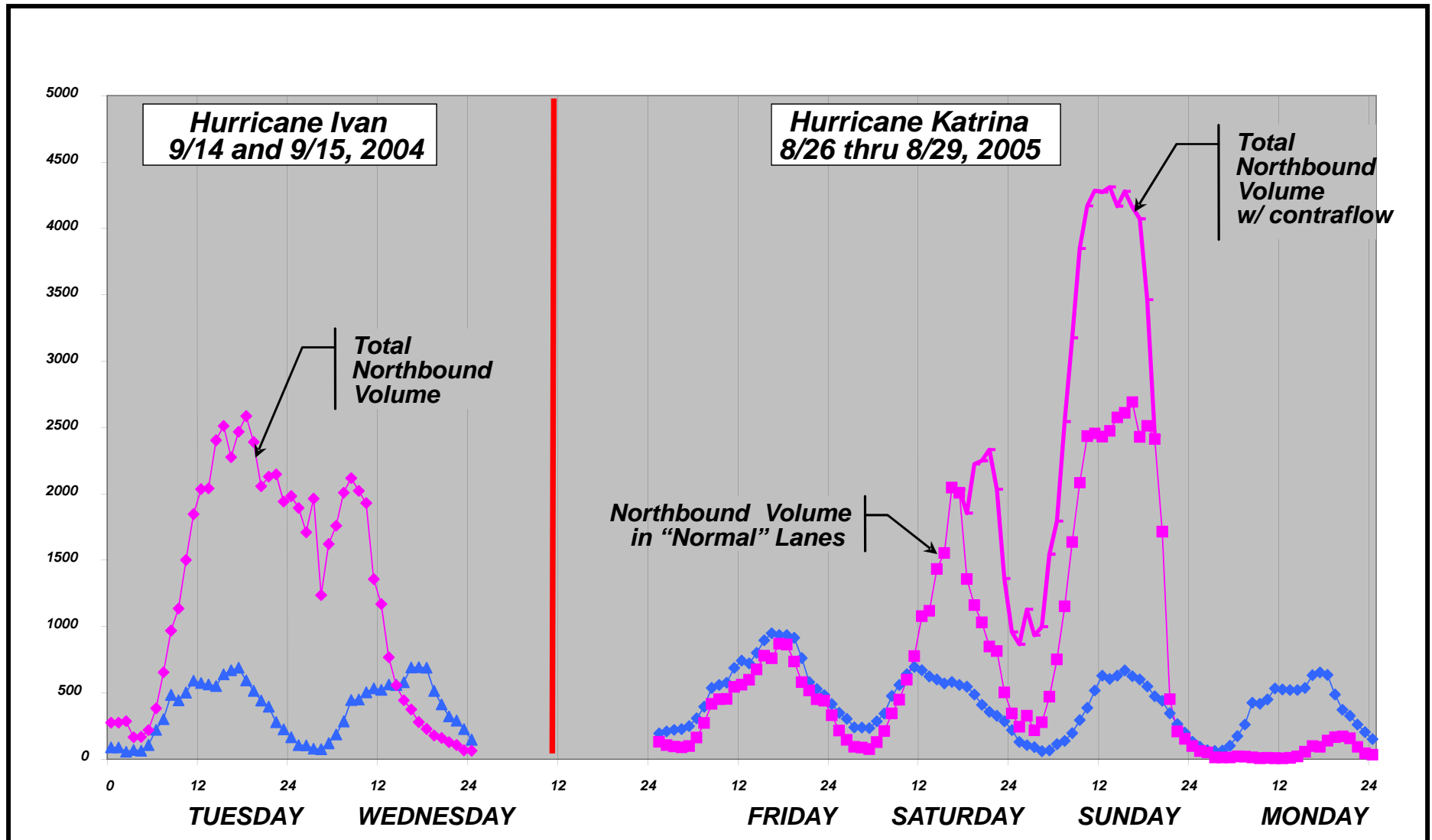




# ***Duration of Evacuation Volume***

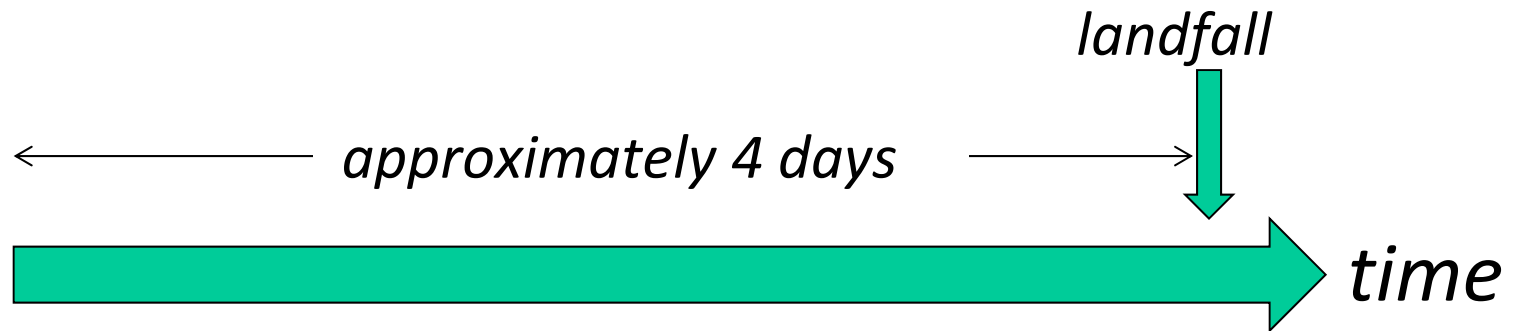


# Effect of Contraflow on Traffic Volume



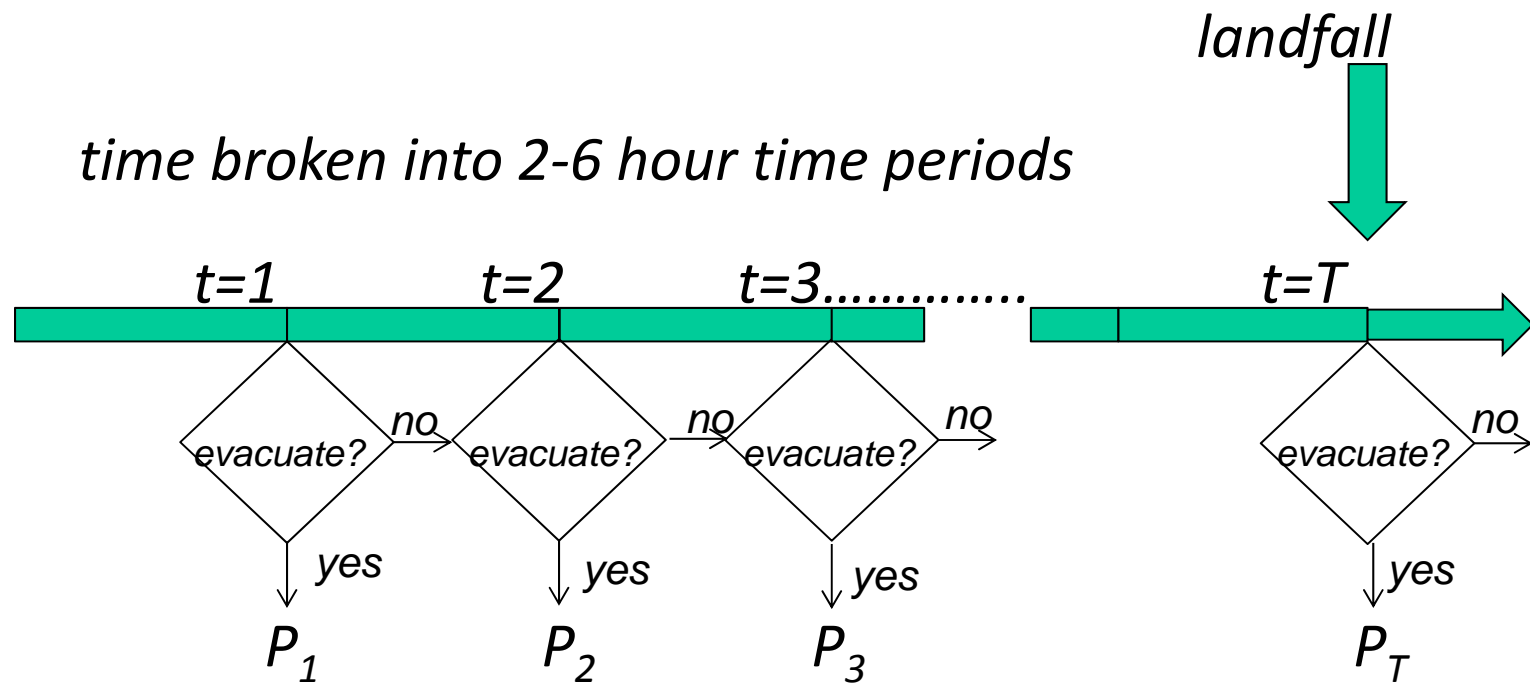
# ***Hurricane evacuation modeling***

*Risk, actions, and evacuation behavior very time sensitive, so dynamic modeling necessary*





# ***Evacuation - a set of discrete choices***

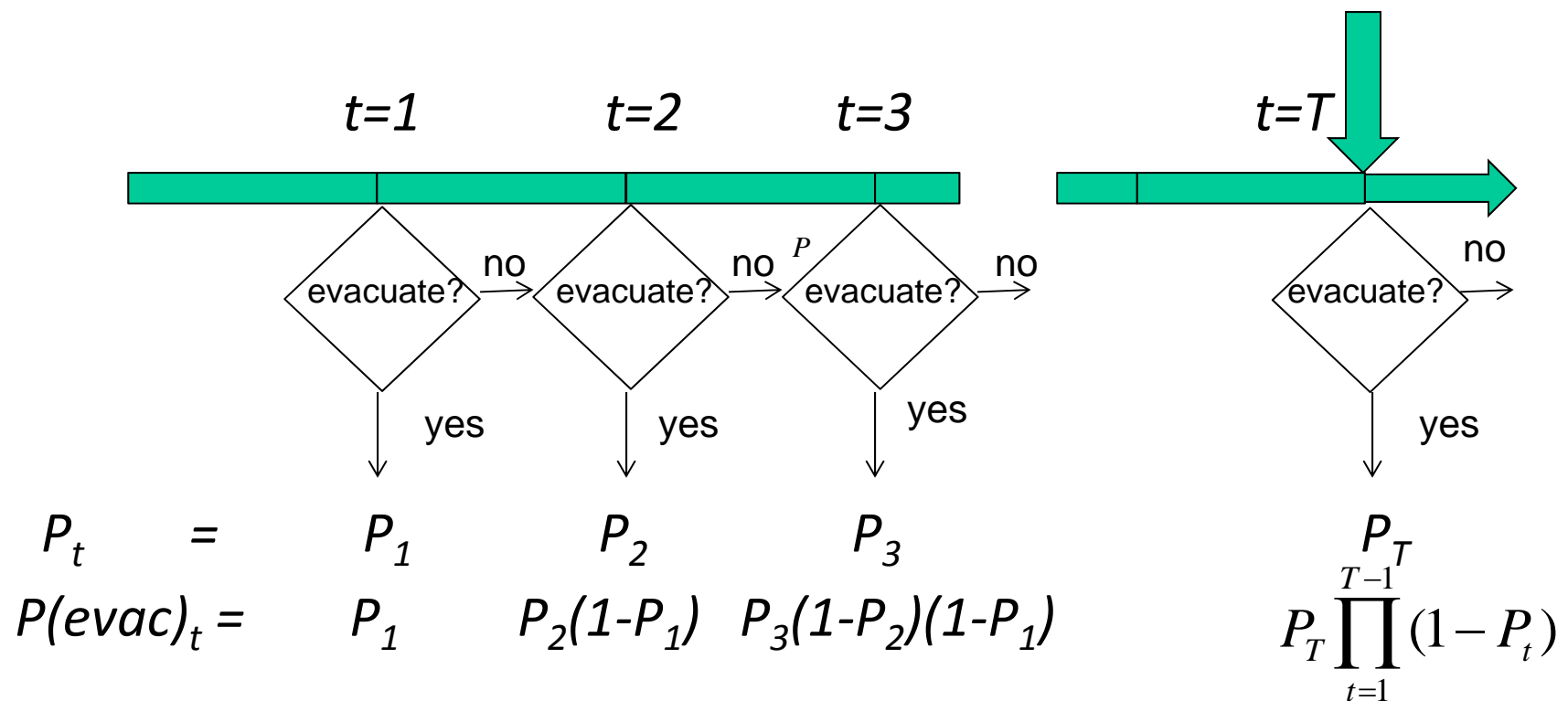


$P_t$  = *momentary probability of evacuating in time period  $t$*

# ***Momentary evacuation decision $P_t$***

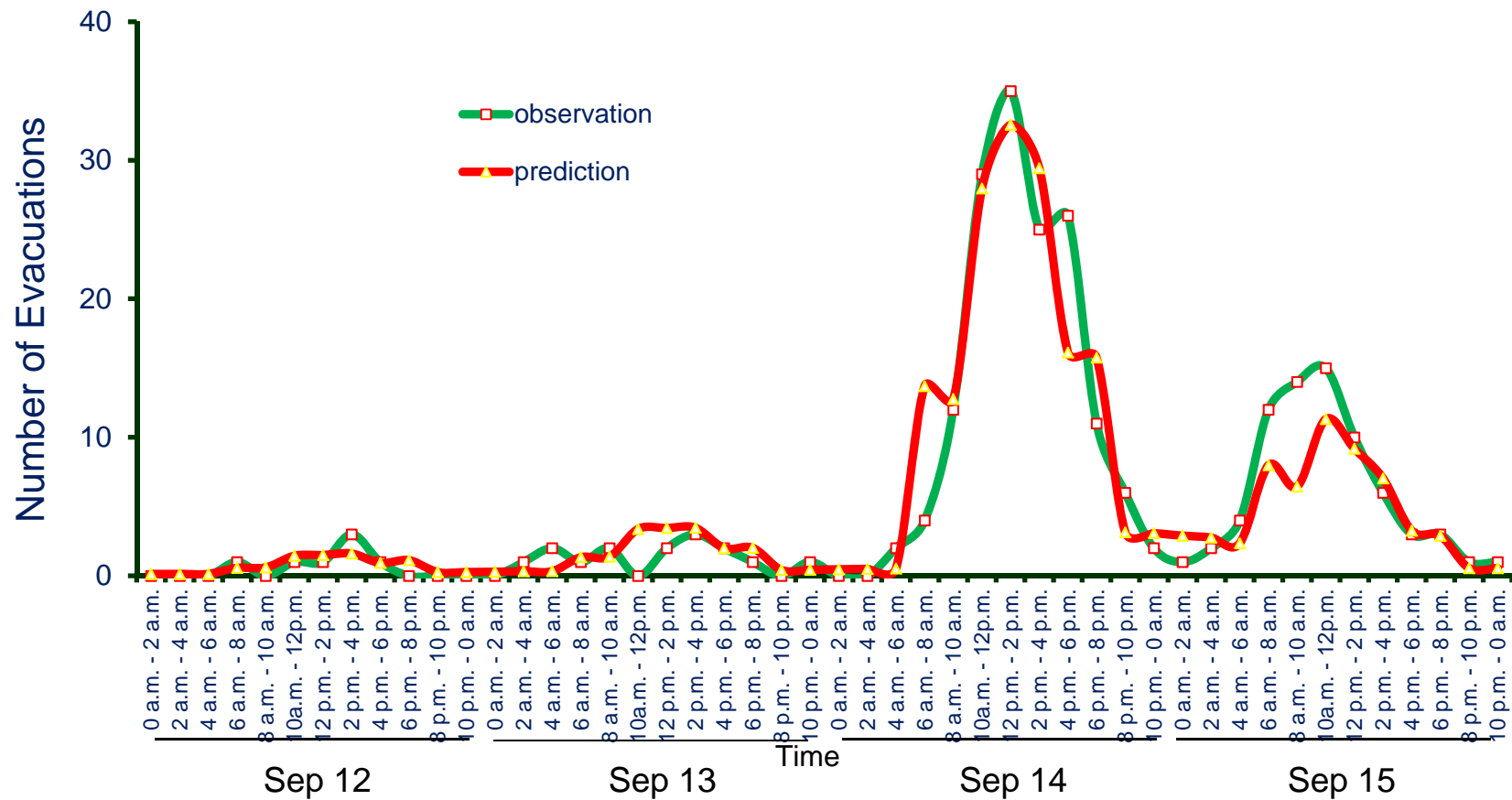
- ***$P_t = f(\text{current conditions})$***
- ***Current conditions include:***
  - ***Storm intensity***
  - ***Storm location***
  - ***Storm speed***
  - ***Type of dwelling***
  - ***Risk of flooding***
  - ***Administrative decisions (e.g. type and timing of evacuate orders, initiation and termination of contraflow)***

# Entire evacuation decision

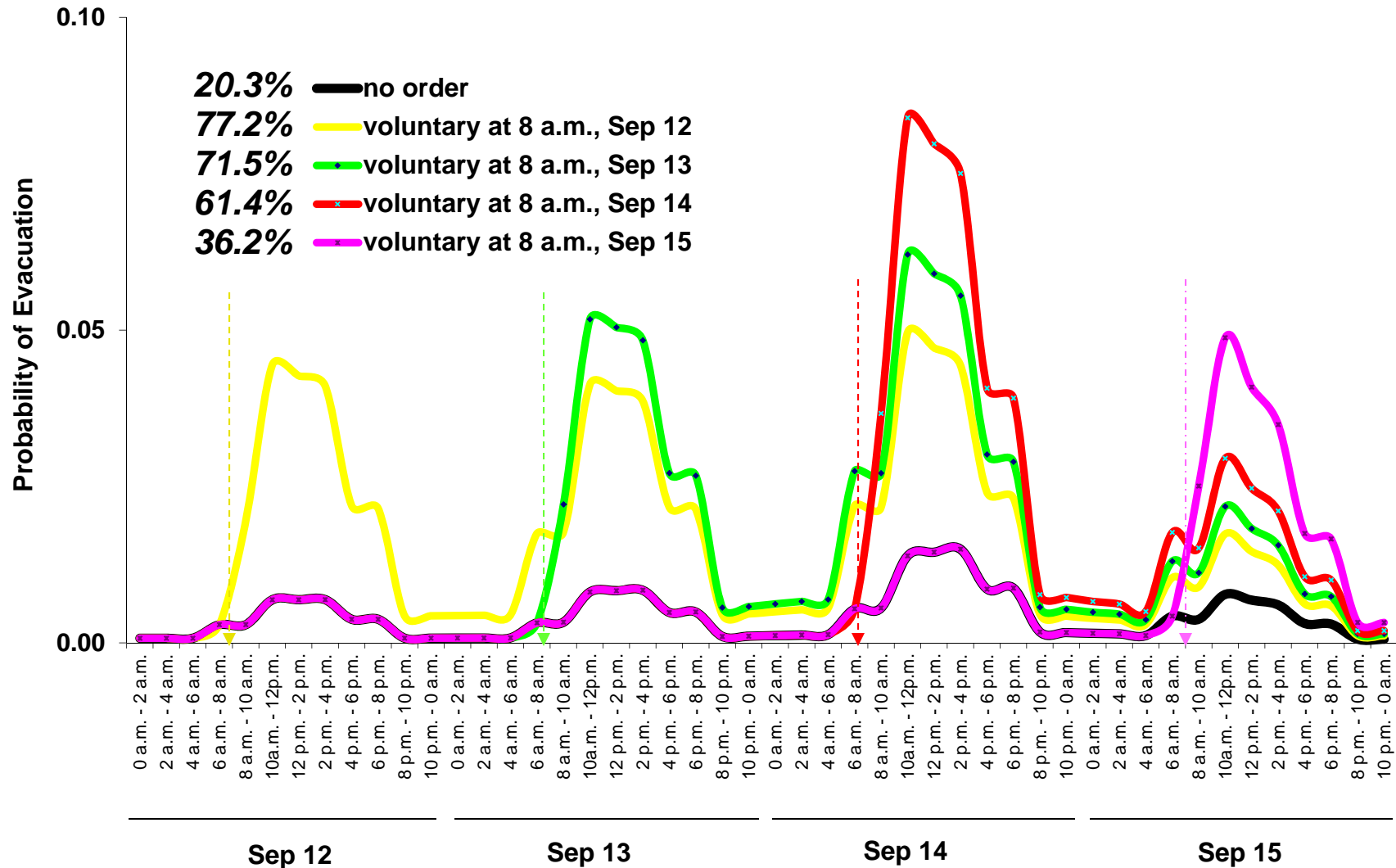




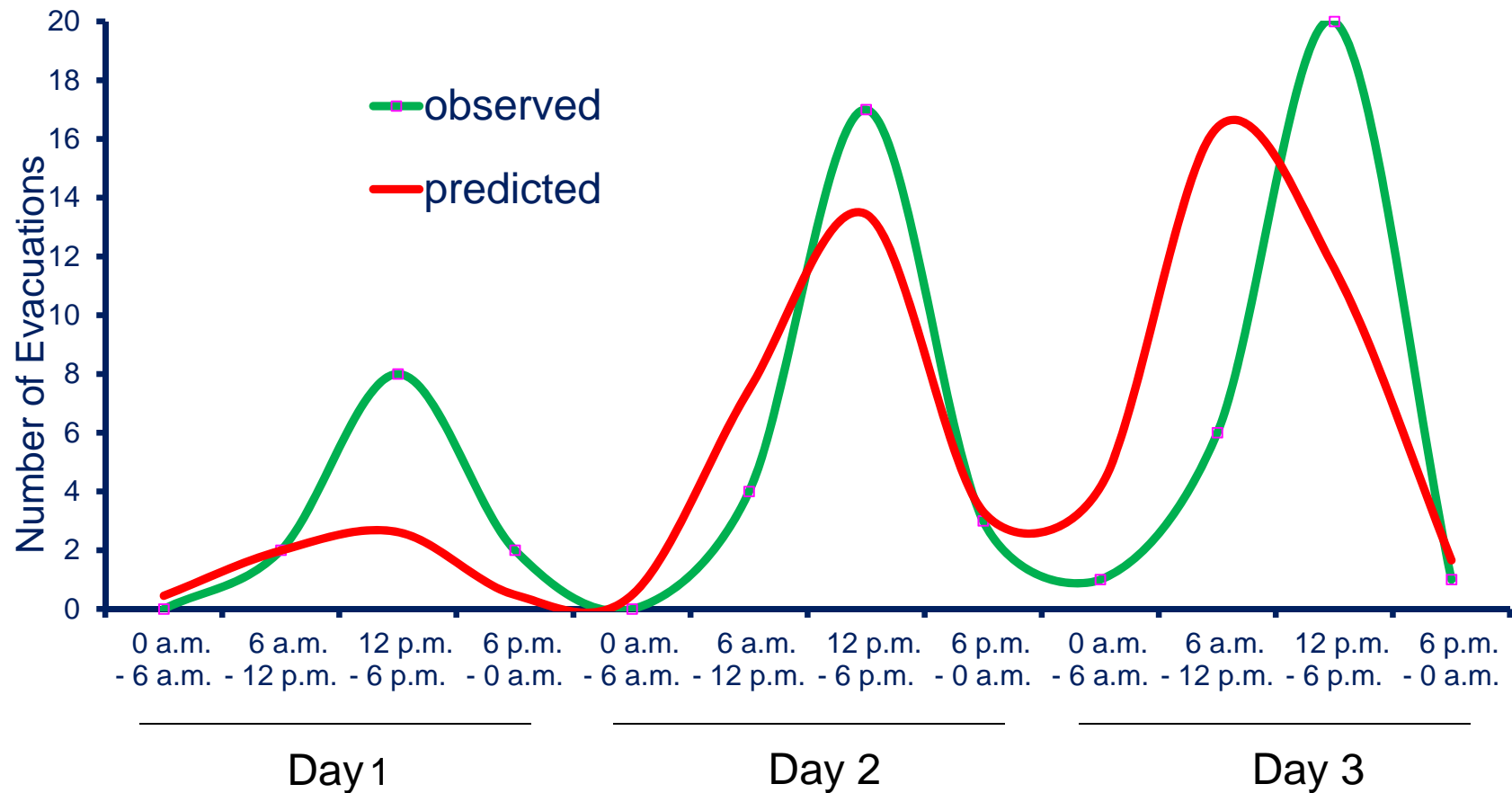
# *Model estimated on S.C. data*



# ***Voluntary Evacuation Orders at Same Time on Different Days***

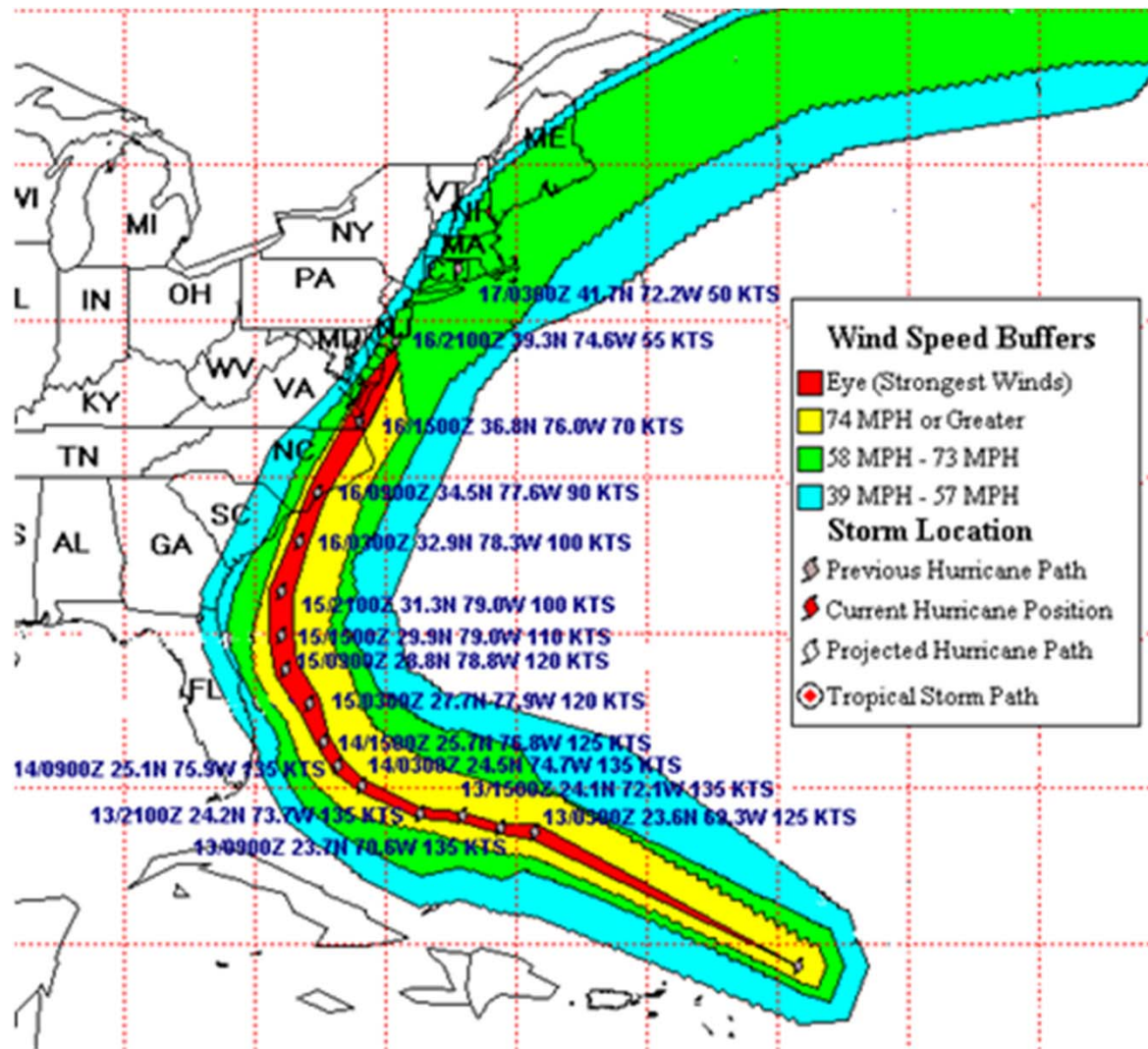


# ***S.C. model applied in Louisiana***

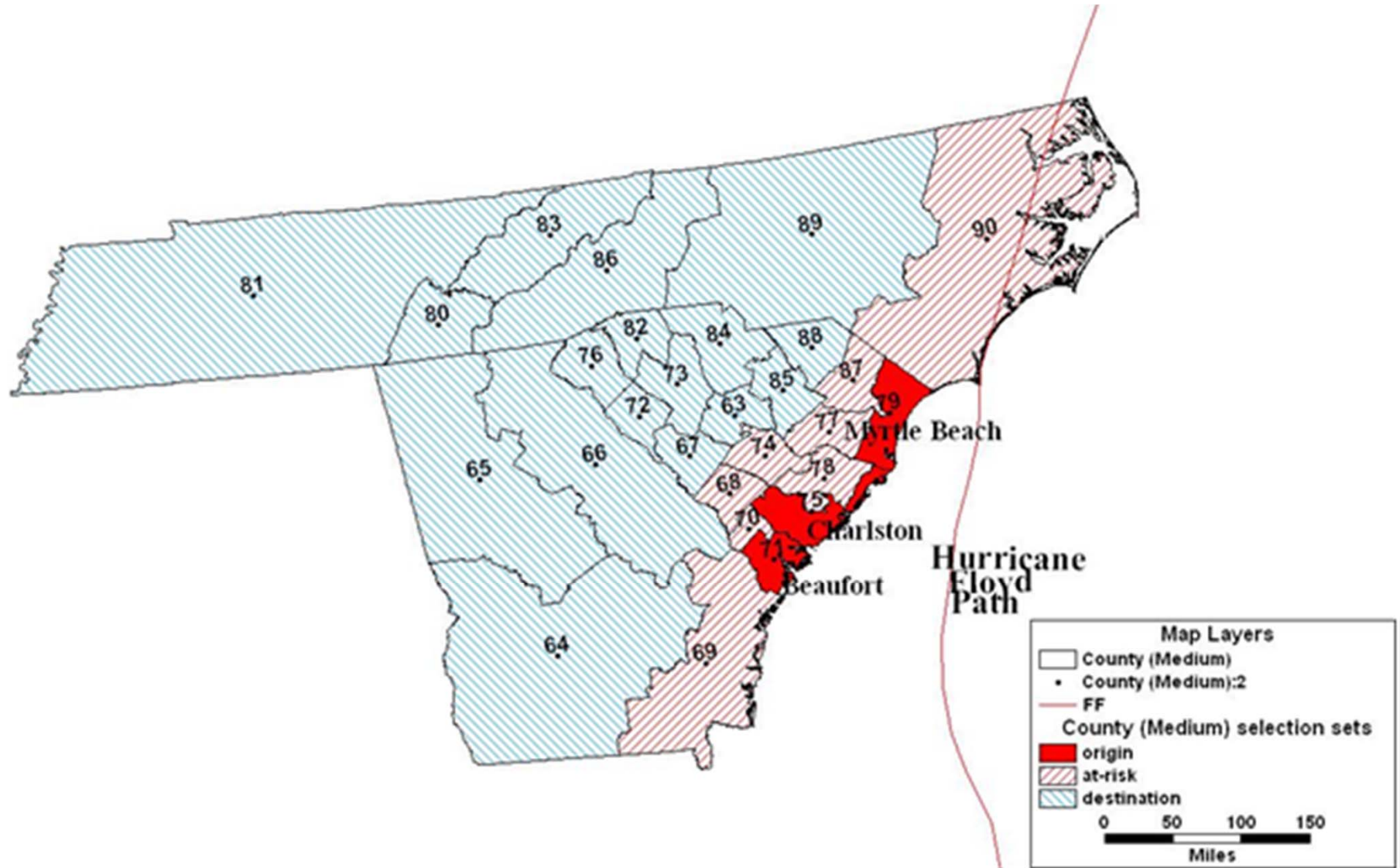




# *Wind speed diagram of hurricane Floyd*



# *Evacuation destinations*

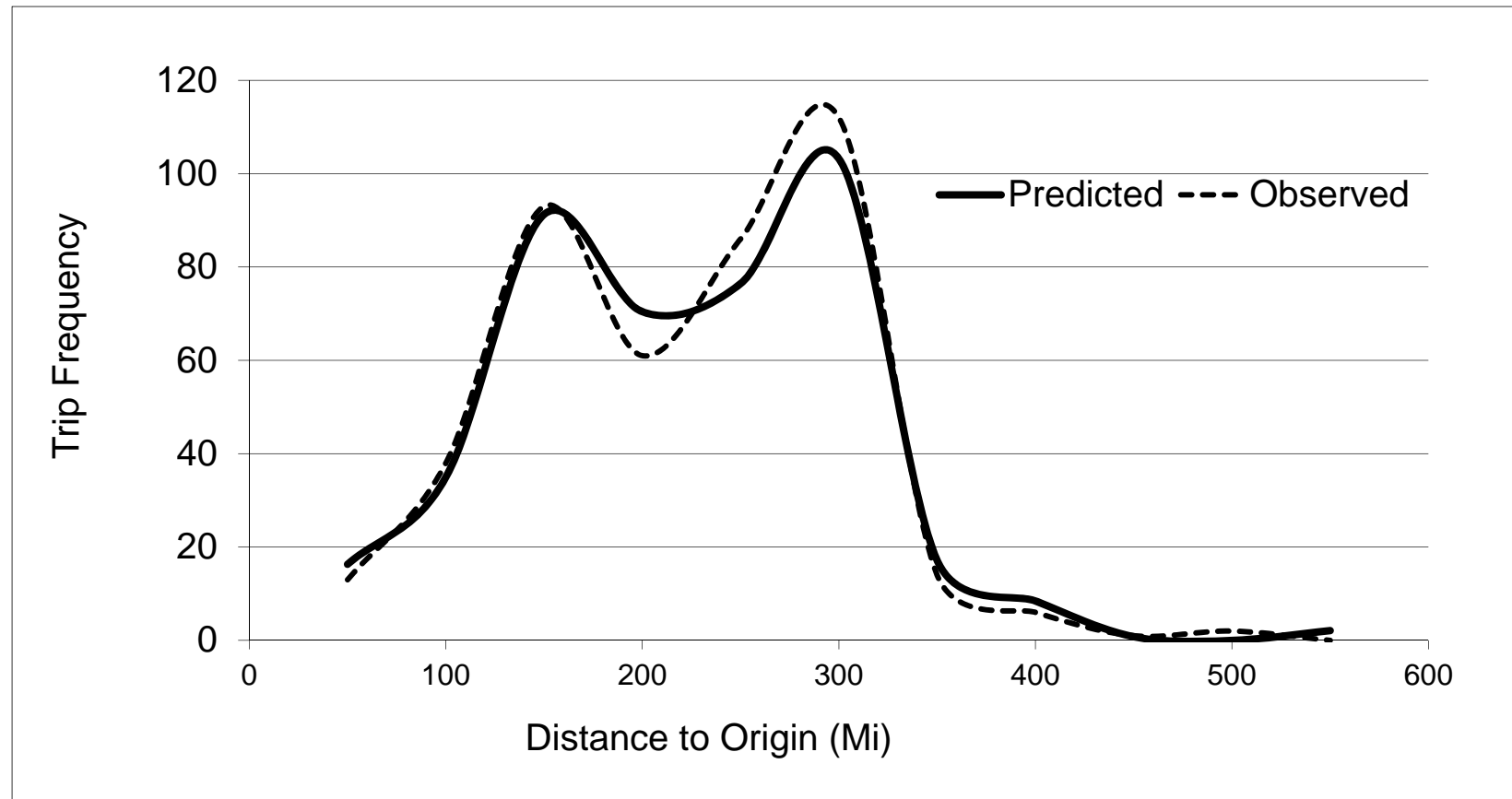


# ***Variables in destination choice model***

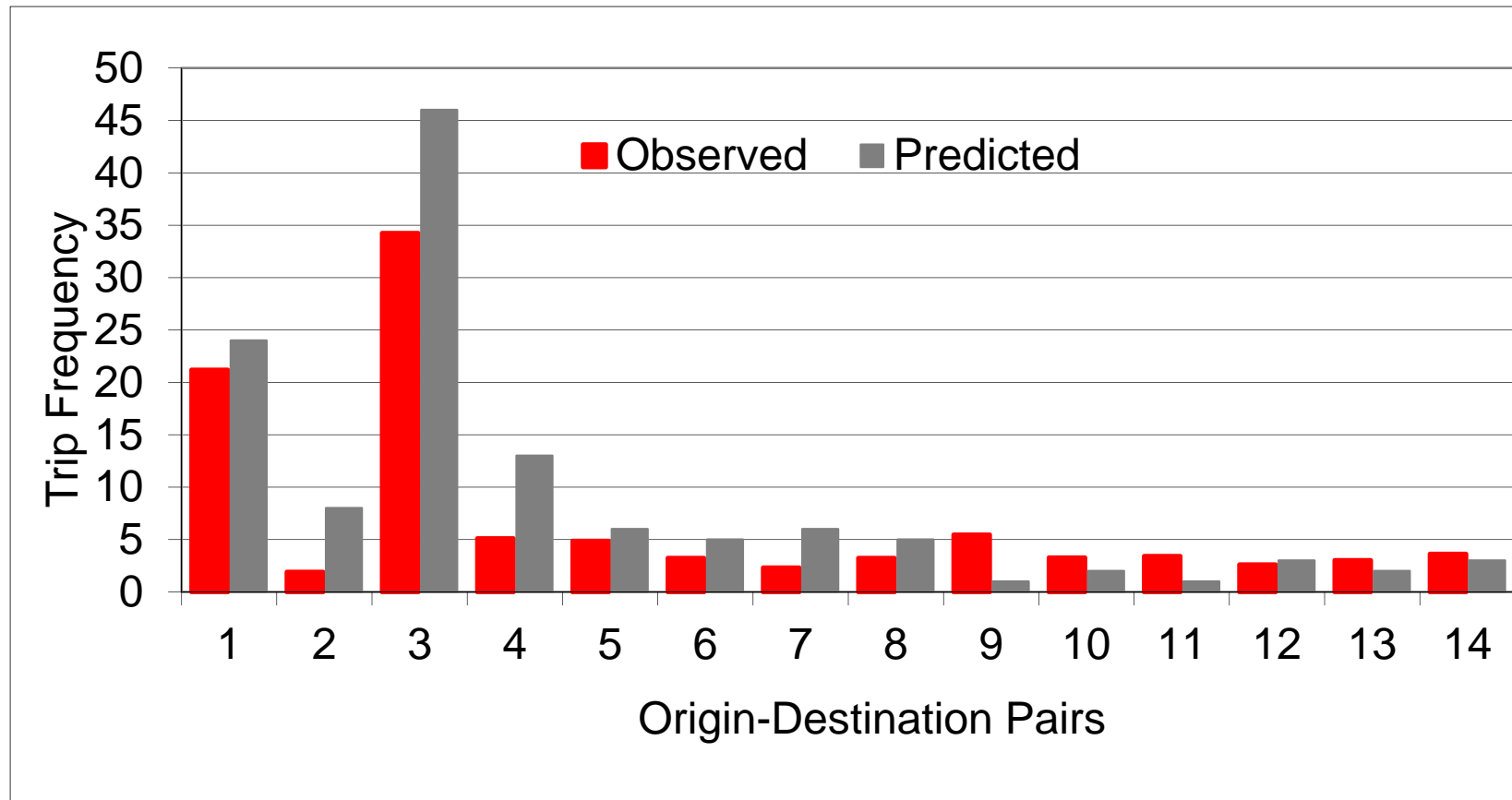
- ***Dynamic values of:***
  - ***Travel time from origin to destination in previous time interval***
  - ***Remaining accommodation available in each destination zone in previous time interval***
  - ***Predicted path of storm at time  $t$***
  - ***Ethnic similarity between origin and destination zones***
  - ***MSA in destination zone?***



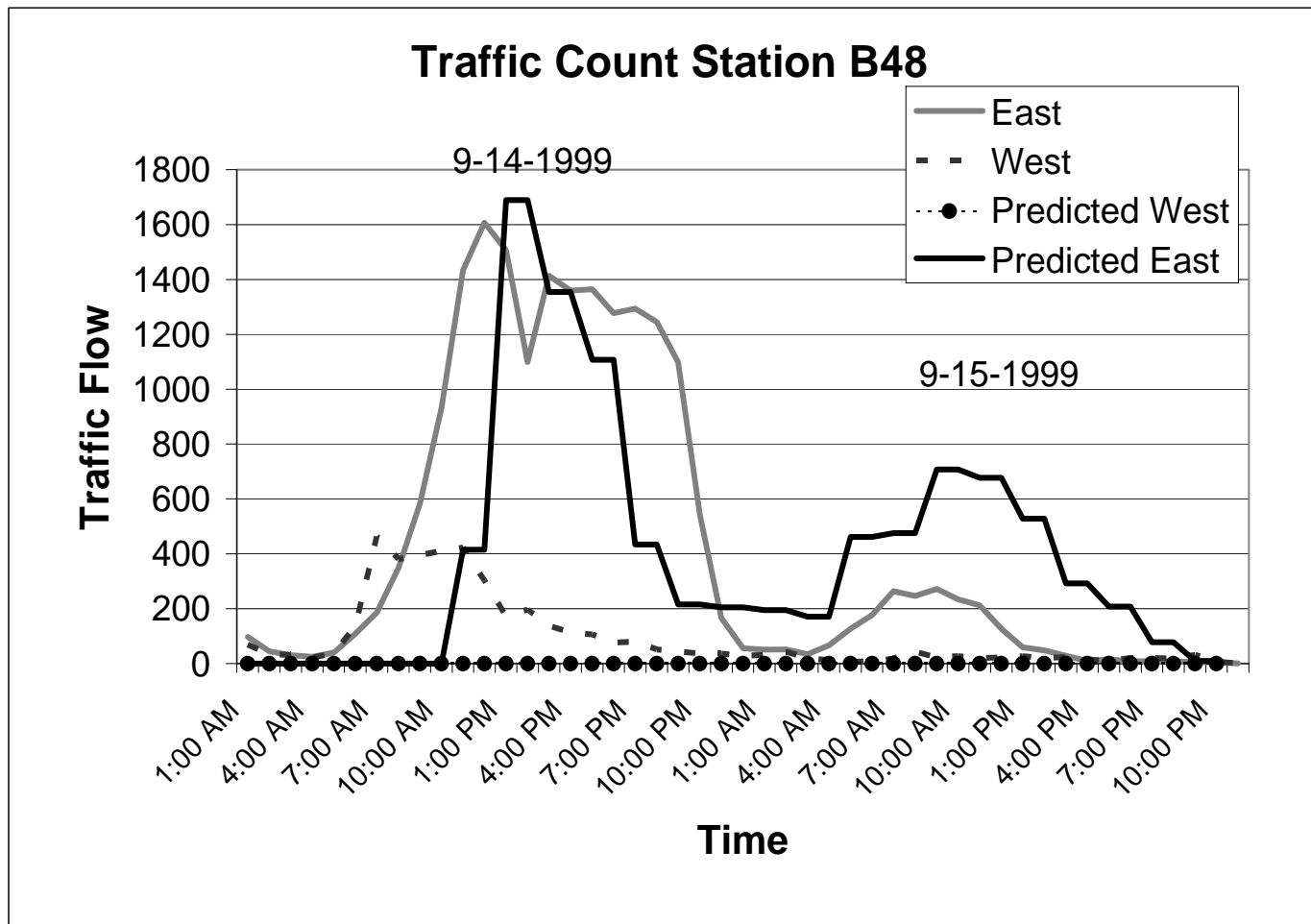
# ***Trip length frequency distribution***



# *Observed and predicted O-D*



## Observed and predicted traffic





# ***Modeling Route Choice***

- ***Factors:***
  - ***Shortest path***
  - ***Familiarity with route***
  - ***Services available (gas stations, rest areas)***
  - ***Safety of route (predicted path of storm at time of route choice)***
  - ***Facility class (freeway, arterial)***

# ***Applications***

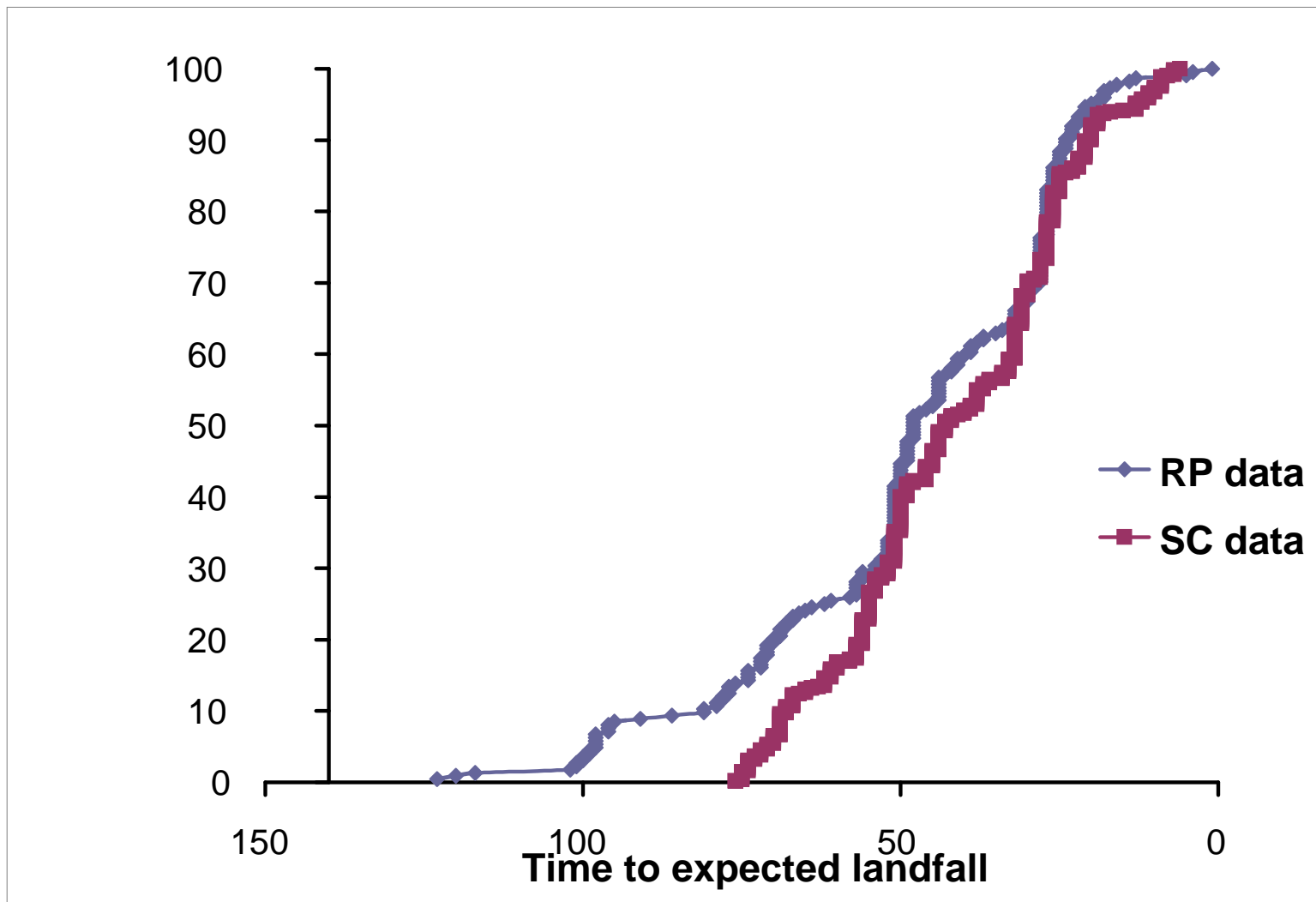
- ***New Orleans***
  - ***Testing the benefit of adaptive evacuation plans***
- ***Southern Louisiana (planned)***
  - ***Estimating traffic volumes for different storm scenarios and administrative decisions (e.g. contraflow, staged evacuation, selective evacuation, modified evacuation plans, road closing criteria)***

# ***New data collection approach***

- ***Hypothetical storms and administrative actions presented audio-visually in a DVD***
- ***Each storm presented in 4 time-based scenarios***
- ***Respondents state whether they would evacuate or not in each scenario***
- ***Each respondent subjected to 3 storms***



# *Evacuation departure times*





## ***Vehicles used***

<b><i>No. of vehs.</i></b>	<b><i>Reported (%)</i></b>	<b><i>Stated (%)</i></b>
<b><i>1</i></b>	<b><i>58</i></b>	<b><i>67</i></b>
<b><i>2</i></b>	<b><i>33</i></b>	<b><i>29</i></b>
<b><i>3</i></b>	<b><i>5</i></b>	<b><i>3</i></b>
<b><i>≥ 4</i></b>	<b><i>4</i></b>	<b><i>1</i></b>

## *Type of refuge*

<i>Type</i>	<i>Reported (%)</i>	<i>Stated (%)</i>
<i>Friend/relative</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>49</i>
<i>Hotel/motel</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>43</i>
<i>Public shelter</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Workplace</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Other</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>6</i>

# ***Planned future use of model system***

- ***Run on variety of storms***
  - ***Storm intensity, path, speed, surge***
- ***Apply alternative administrative strategies***
  - ***Vary the type and timing of evacuation orders, vary initiation and termination times of contraflow, test staged and selective evacuation plans, modify evacuation plans, and institute network changes***
- ***Identify best administrative strategy for each storm and store solutions for later retrieval***

# ***Evacuation and Climate Change***

- ***Climate change may generate more severe storms***
- ***Modeling permits vicarious exploration of alternatives aimed at establishing effective, efficient, and safe evacuation plans***
- ***Your “Forever Open Road” is a road designed for resilience; we address the best operation of that road in crisis situations***
- ***Thank you for your attention!***





## National Study of Evacuation Plans

John L. Renne,  
Thomas W.  
Todd Litman

Funded by



Produced by the Uni



SPECIAL REPORT 294

The Role of Transit in Emergency Evacuation

SPECIAL REPORT

## The Role of Transit in Emergency Evacuation



# NCHRP

## SYNTHESIS 392

### Transportation's Role in Emergency Evacuation and Reentry



*A Synthesis of Highway Practice*

TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD  
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PROGRAM

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# ***Summary and Conclusion***

- ***Evacuation plans in place to handle traffic and transportation needs***
- ***Opportunity to provide better and smarter solutions based on analysis and planning***
- ***Modeling has great potential to improve evacuation plans***



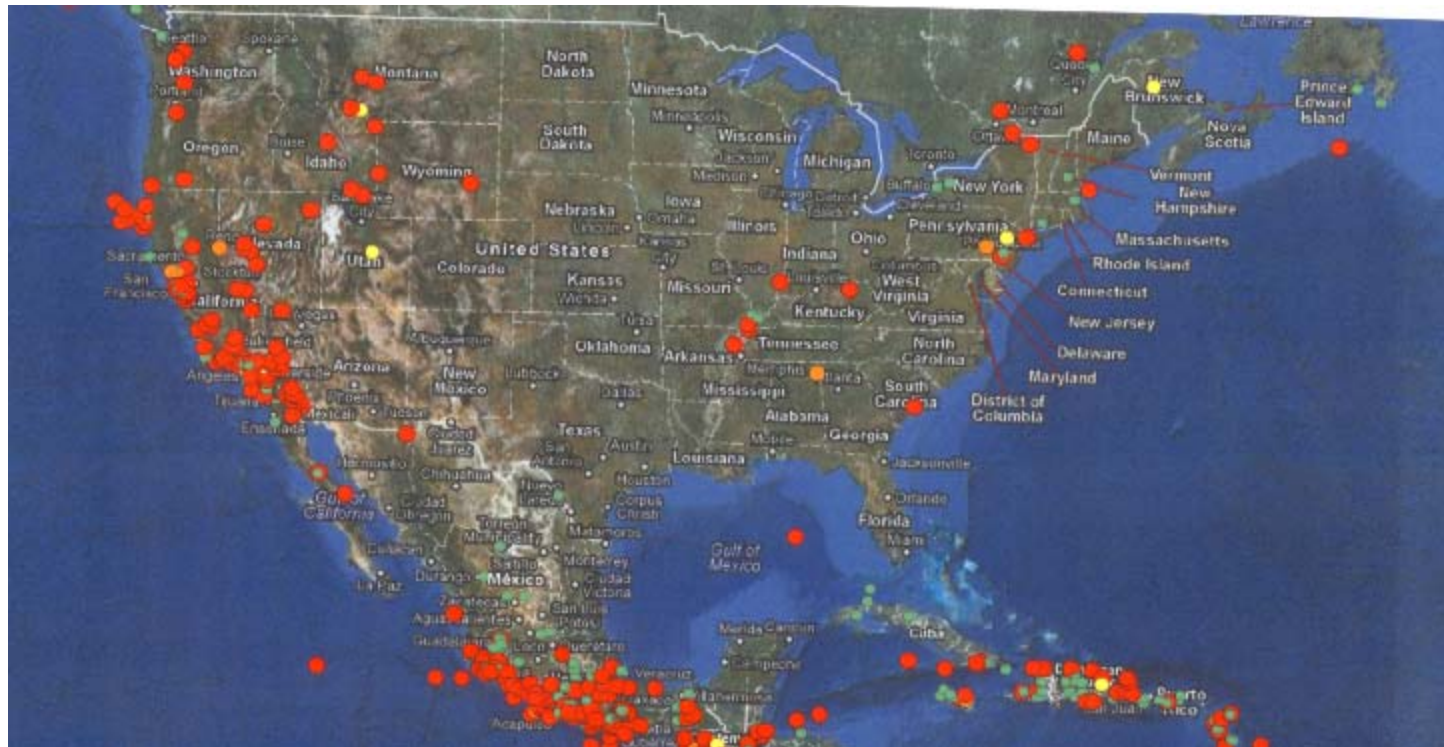
*Photo Source: Lt. John Denholm  
Harris Co. (TX) Sheriff's Office*







# earthquakes

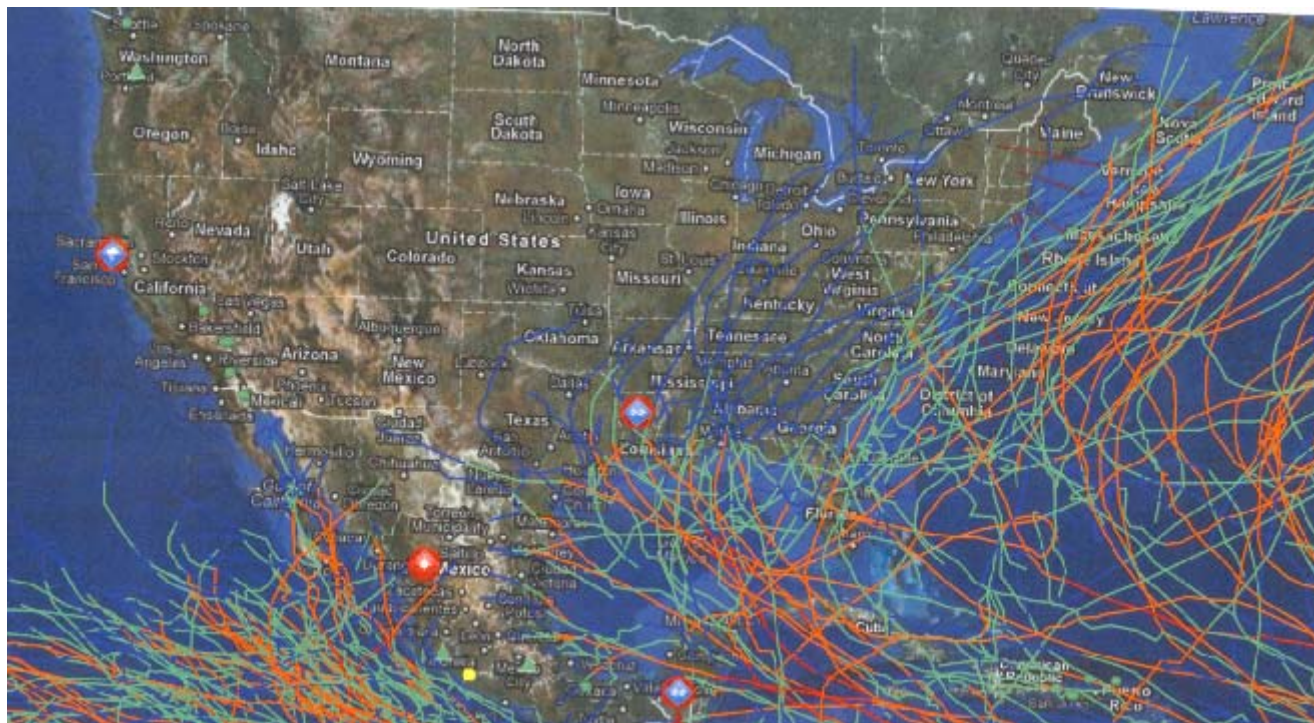


# Hurricane intensity



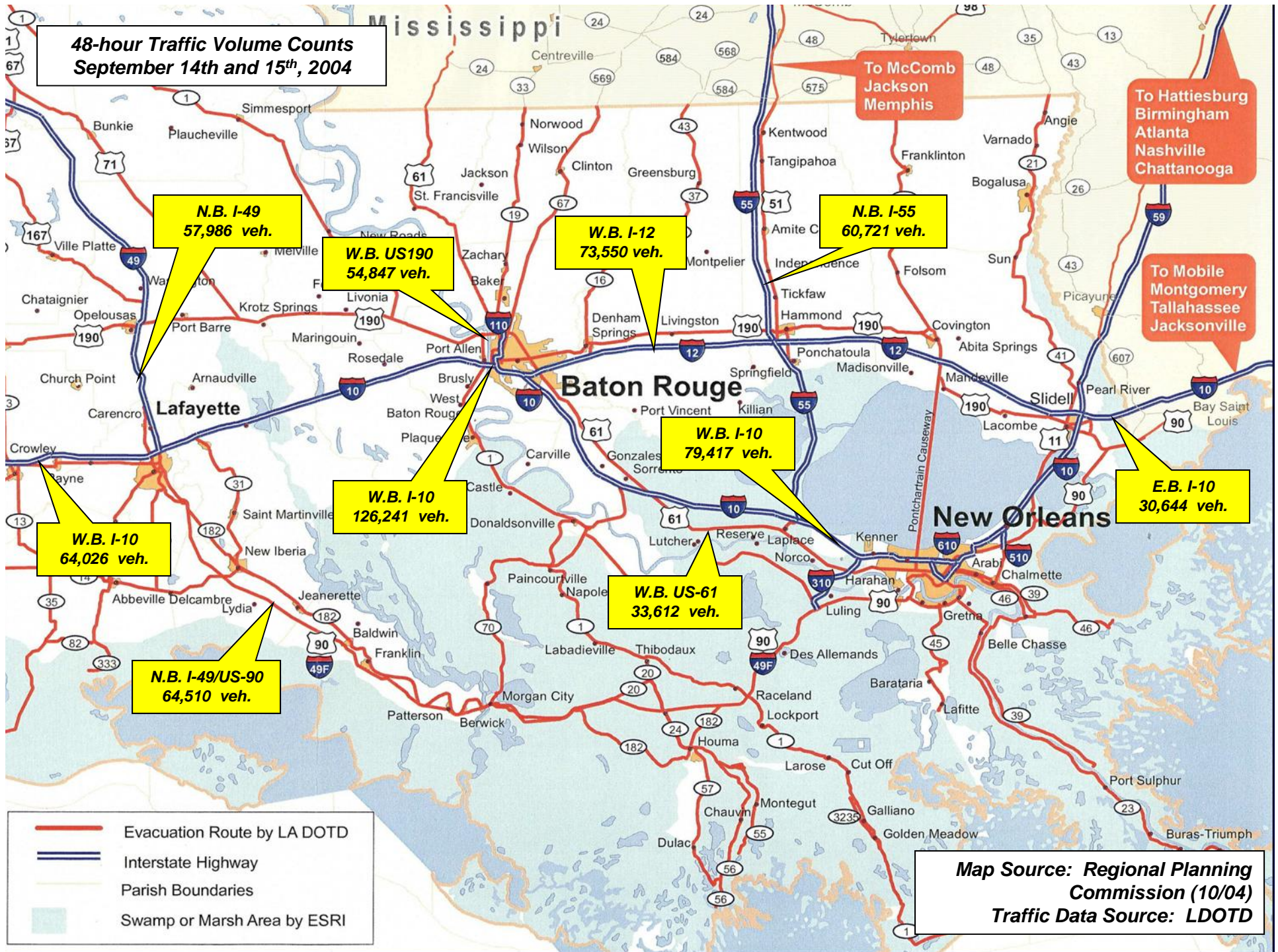


# Hurricane paths 2000-2009

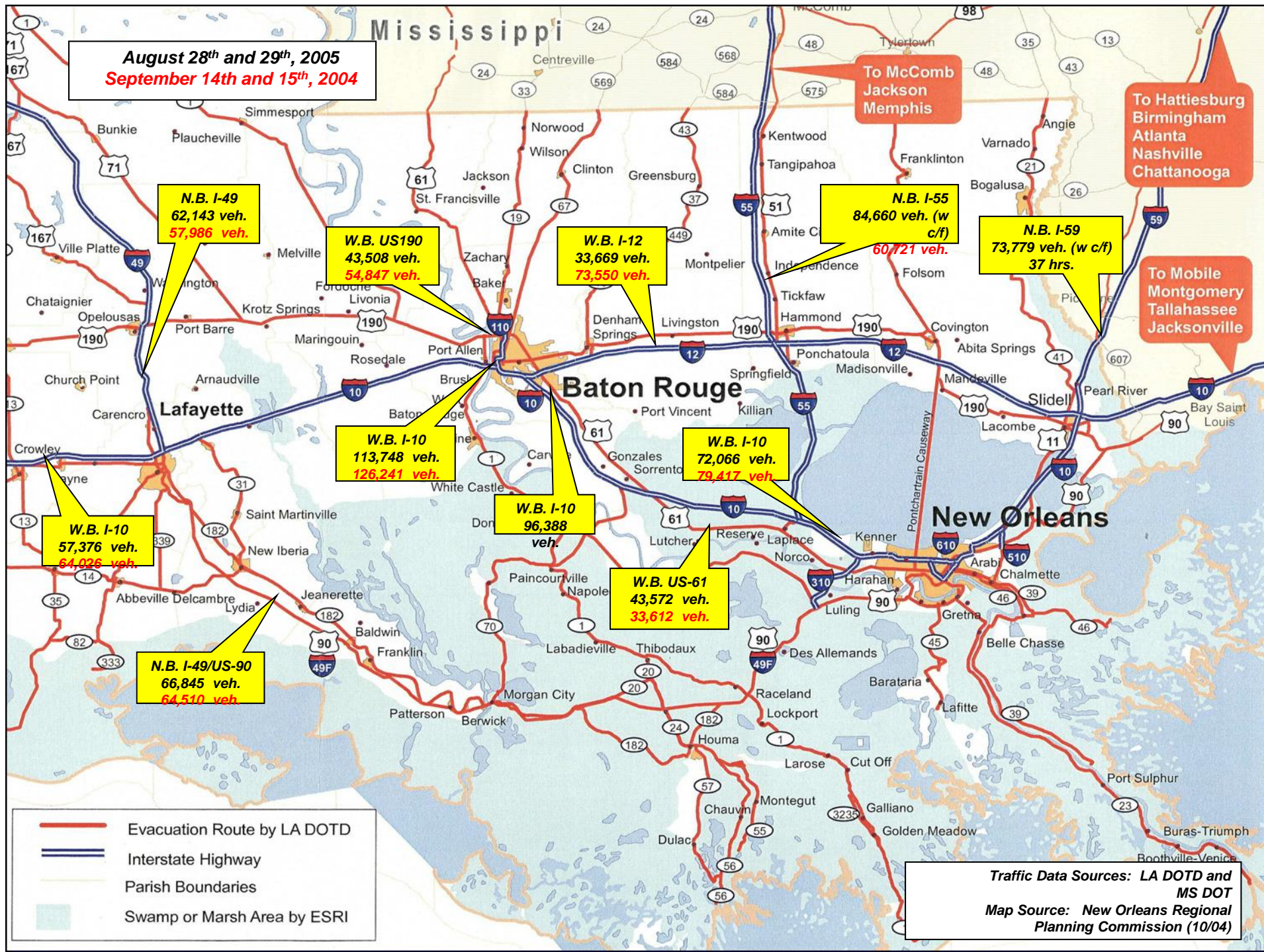




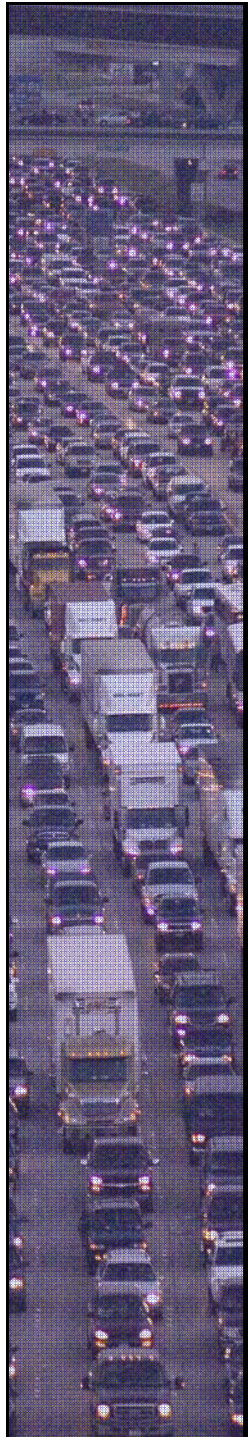
**48-hour Traffic Volume Counts  
September 14th and 15th, 2004**











# ***Evacuation Basics***

- ***TEMPORAL AND SPATIAL***
- ***Hazard Characteristics***
  - ***Scale (how “big?” -> How far to evacuate), Amount of advanced notice, Shelter-in-place options***
- ***Evacuee Characteristics***
  - ***Who are they? Where are they? How many? How mobile? Behavior (if/when will they leave?), What are their needs?***
- ***Transportation Resources***
  - ***Modes, Highway Transit, Traffic Control, Traffic Management***
- ***Communication, Communication, Communication***
  - ***To/from, Across and between all levels, jurisdictions, agencies, and evacuees, Need for situational awareness***

# ***Examples of Control Devices***



# ***Examples of Control Devices***



# ***Examples of Control Devices***





# ***Examples of Control Devices***



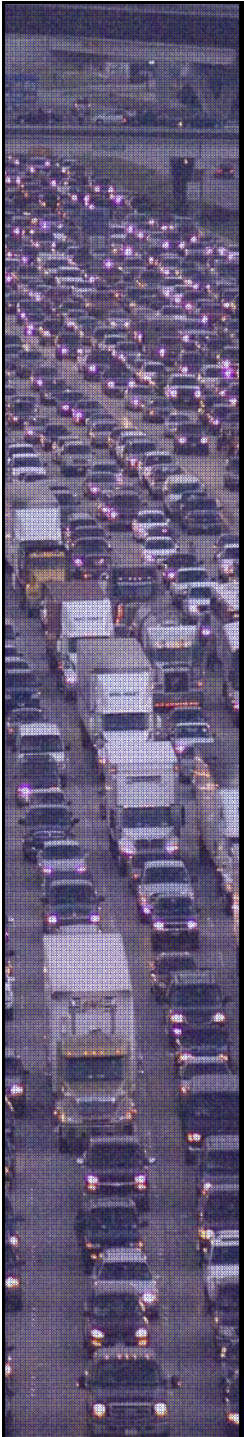
# *Examples of Control Devices*





# ***Examples of Control Devices***

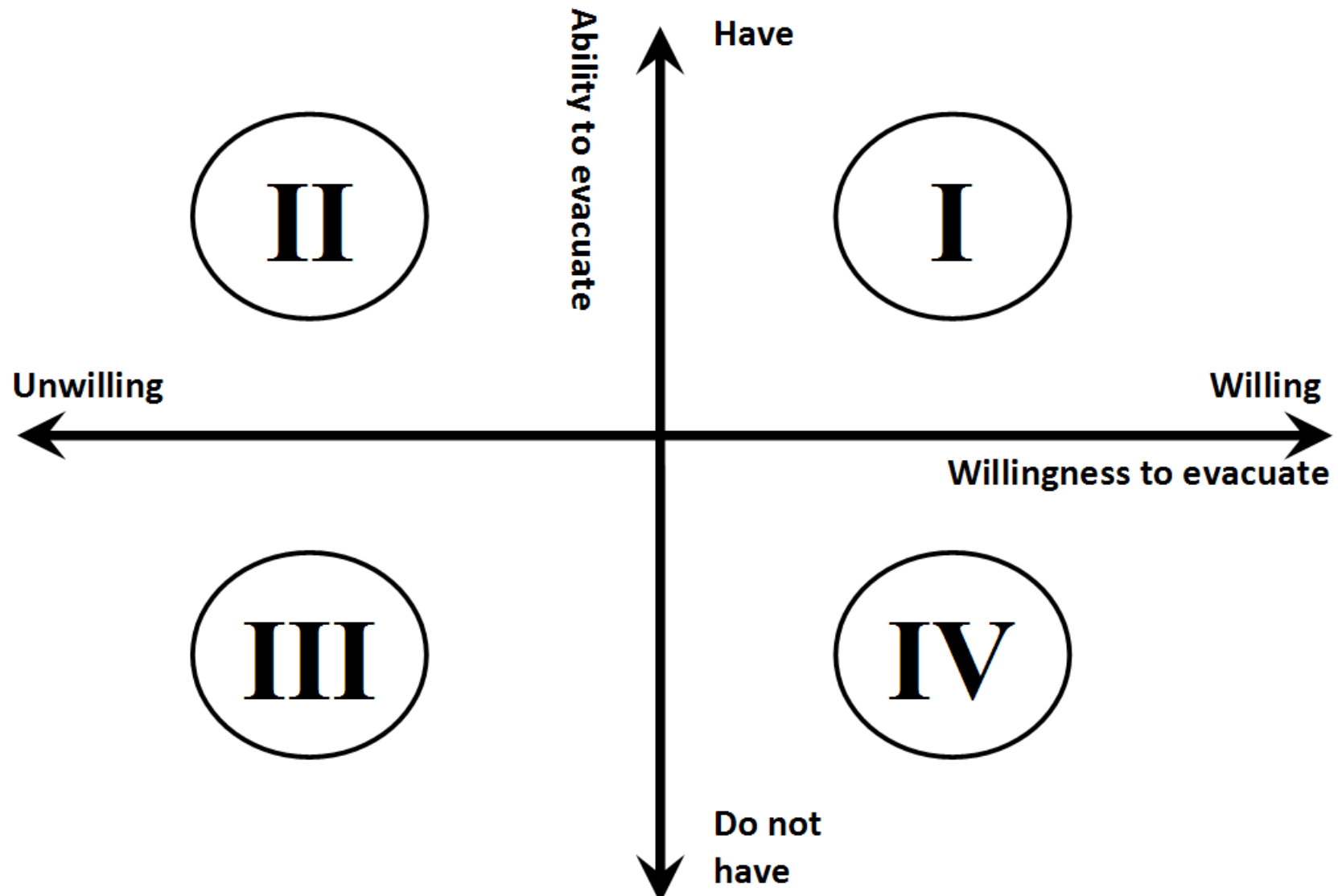




# ***“Low Mobility” Evacuees***

- ***Individuals without personal transportation, elderly, infirm, tourists, economically disadvantaged, prisoners, homeless, etc.***
- ***How many persons fit these description?***
- ***Where are they located?***
- ***Who are they and what are there needs? medicine, oxygen, dialysis, etc.***
- ***Who is responsible for them if they are unable to take of themselves?***
- ***Where do they go? How do they come back?***

# *Evacuee Categorization*

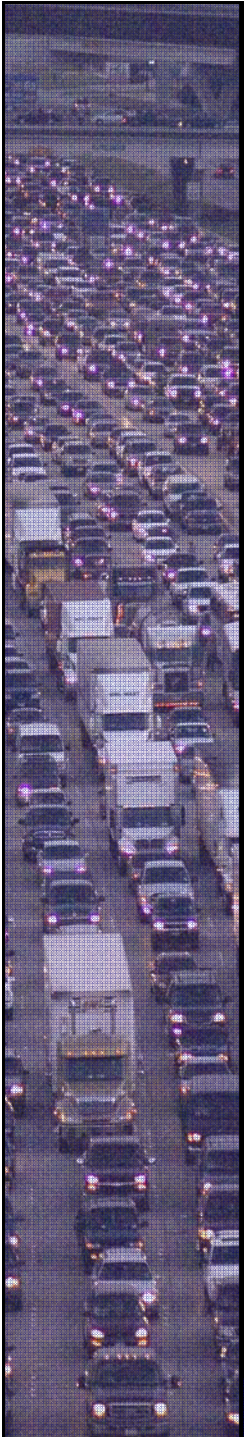






# ***Problems of Low Mobility Evacuation Planning***

- ***Existing traffic/transportation simulation systems are not created to model evacuation conditions***
  - *Scale (e.g., number of vehicles)*
  - *Scope (e.g. duration, geographic area)*
- ***Existing models do not permit the modeling and simulation of multiple modes of transportation simultaneously***
- ***Most models are not able to give analysts the MOE's they'd like or decision-makers the answers to questions they pose***
- ***Limited understanding and development of underlying behaviors of evacuation travel for different evacuee and mode types***



# ***Problems of Modeling Evacuation Transportation Plans***

- ***Existing traffic/transportation simulation systems are not created to model evacuation conditions***
  - *Scale (e.g., number of vehicles)*
  - *Scope (e.g. duration, geographic area)*
- ***Existing models do not permit the modeling and simulation of multiple modes of transportation simultaneously***
- ***Most models are not able to give analysts the MOE's they'd like or decision-makers the answers to questions they pose***



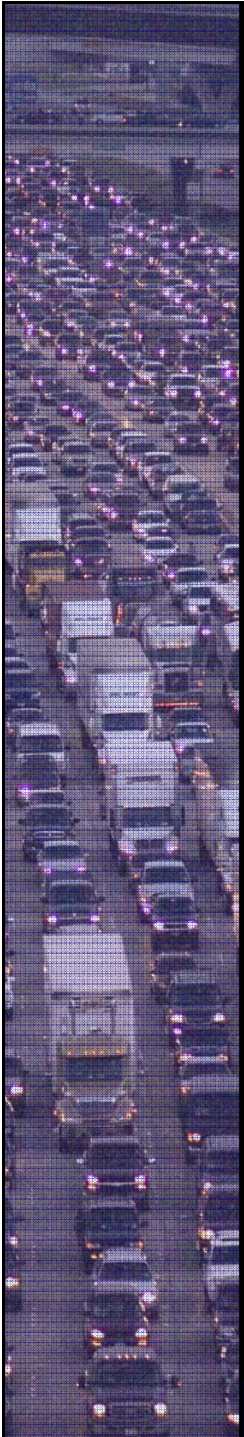
# ***Recognized Limitations***

- ***Existing traffic/transportation simulation systems are not created to model evacuation conditions***
  - *Scale (e.g., number of vehicles)*
  - *Scope (e.g. duration, geographic area)*
- ***Existing models do not permit the modeling and simulation of multiple modes of transportation simultaneously***
- ***Most models are not able to give analysts the MOE's they'd like or decision-makers the answers to questions they pose***
- ***Limited understanding and development of underlying behaviors of evacuation travel for different evacuee and mode types***



# ***Current Research***

- ***Application of the TRANSIMS system***
- ***Can be used to model very large geographical regions and large numbers of travelers***
- ***Effort and expertise required to code and run***
- ***Issues of verification, validation, and calibration***
- ***Hardware and software requirements***
- ***History, experience, and acceptance within the professional transportation community***
- ***Not developed for the purpose of evacuation***



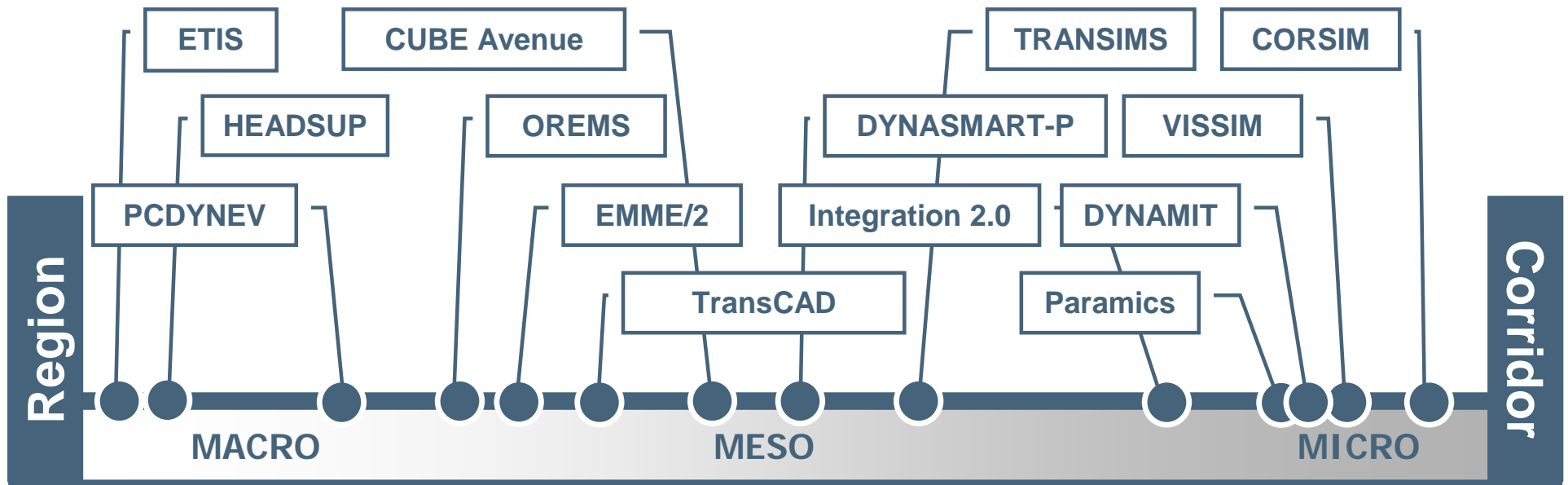


# ***Evacuation Traffic Simulation***

- ***Has proven value***
- ***Permits bottlenecks to be identified and potential solutions to be analyzed before they become problems***
- ***Gives quantitative MOE results to decision-makers***
- ***Allows effects of alternative strategies and adverse conditions to be assessed without consequence***



# ***Evacuation Modeling Spectrum***



***From: “Structuring Modeling and Simulation Analyses for Evacuation Planning and Operations”***

***By: Hardy, Wunderlich, Bunchand, and Smith***



# ***Recognized Limitations***

- ***Existing traffic/transportation simulation systems are not created to model evacuation conditions***
  - *Scale (e.g., number of vehicles)*
  - *Scope (e.g. duration, geographic area)*
- ***Existing models do not permit the modeling and simulation of multiple modes of transportation simultaneously***
- ***Most models are not able to give analysts the MOE's they'd like or decision-makers the answers to questions they pose***
- ***Limited understanding and development of underlying behaviors of evacuation travel for different evacuee and mode types***



# ***Assisted Evacuations***

- ***Evacuation planning has historically been targeted at persons with personal vehicles***
- ***A substantial percentage of potential vulnerable populations do not have personal vehicles***
- ***Plans to evacuate “carless” populations in many locations have been created relatively recently or are currently in development***
- ***There have been few actual activations to gain knowledge and experience, nor tests, drills or simulations to evaluate potential weakness and needs***





# ***TRANSIMS System***

- ***Incorporates aspects of planning and operations***
- ***Model large geographical regions and large numbers of travelers***
- ***Model populations, travel activities, routing, and analyses it with a microsimulator***
- ***Open source and available***
- ***Effort and expertise required to code and run***
- ***Issues of verification, validation, and calibration***
- ***Hardware and software requirements***
- ***History, experience, and acceptance within the professional transportation community***
- ***Not developed for the purpose of evacuation***





# ***TRANSIMS Structure***

- ***Network Input***
  - *Structure and characteristics of the transportation network (control, capacity, etc.) and activity locations*
- ***Population Synthesizer***
  - *Creates a disaggregate synthetic population based on aggregate census zonal information*
- ***Activity Generator***
  - *Travel surveys or observation of past evacuations*
- ***Router***
  - *Spatial and temporal travel behavior and route assignments*
- ***Microsimulator***
  - *Tracks and compiles movements and statistics of each agent (vehciles & peds)*
- ***Visualizer***
  - *3<sup>rd</sup> party developer Balfour Technologies Inc.*

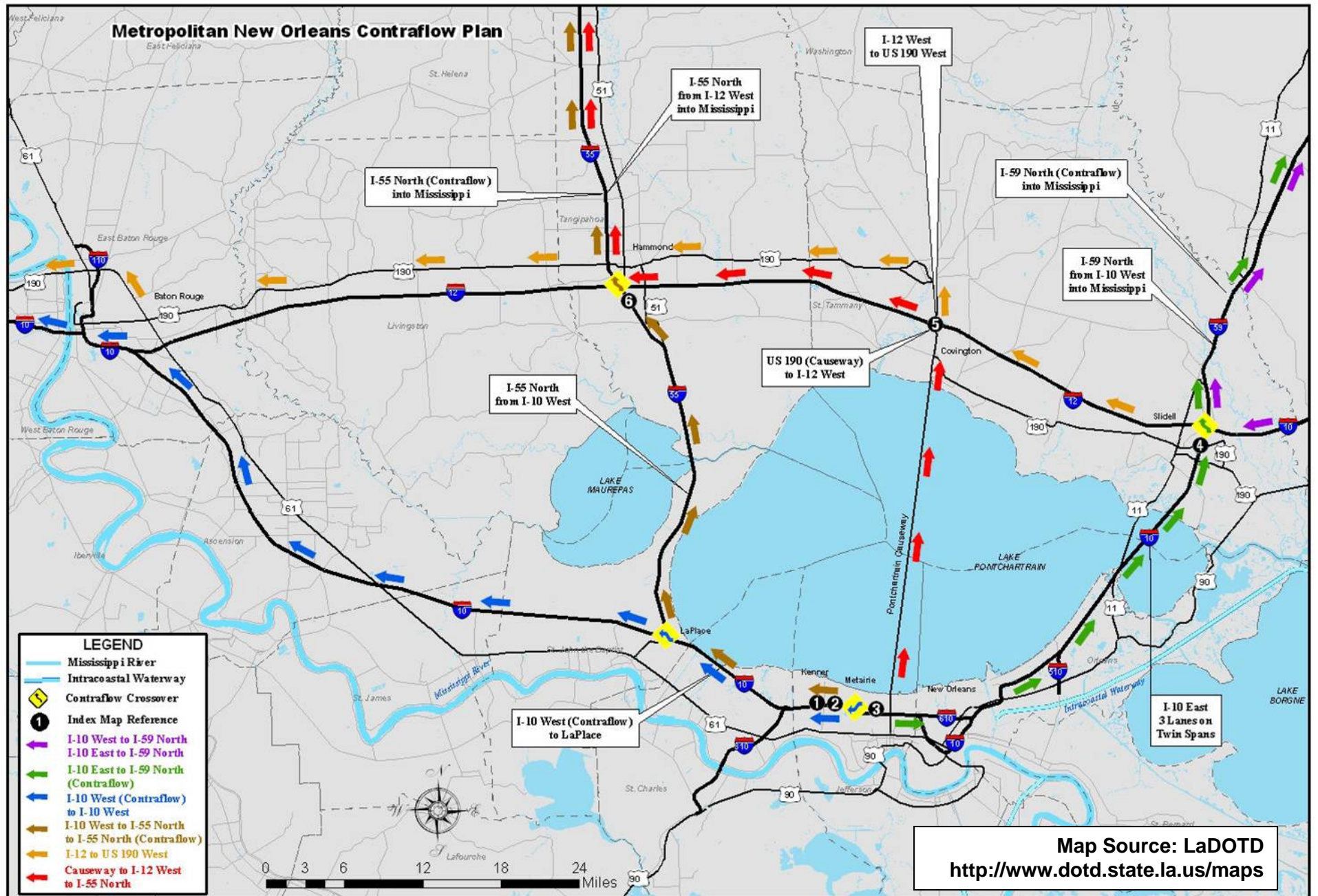


# ***LSU Study - Approach***

- ***Step 1 – Network development***
- ***Step 2 - “Base Model” validation and calibration based on 2005 Katrina evacuation***
- ***Step 3 - Code “New” New Orleans multimodal plan***
- ***Step 4 - “Base Model” validation and calibration based on 2005 Katrina evacuation***
- ***Step 5 - Code and test alternative plans and ideas***

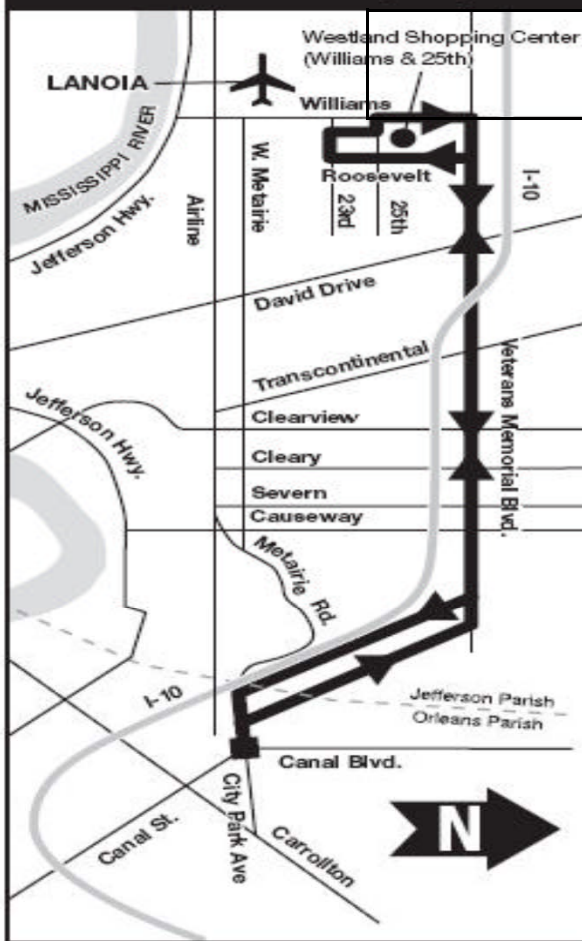


# Metropolitan New Orleans Contraflow Plan

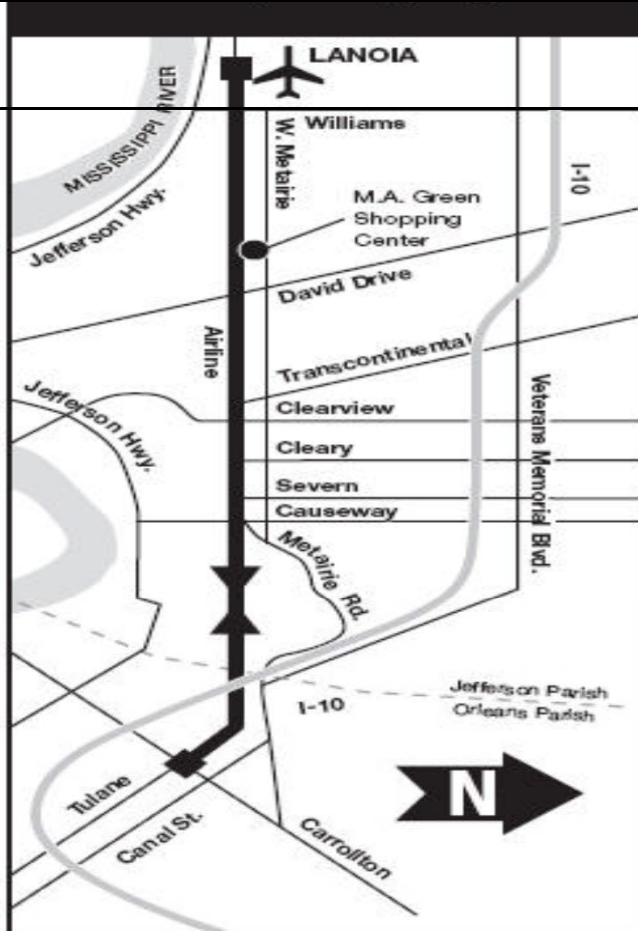


# Jefferson Parish Bus Routes

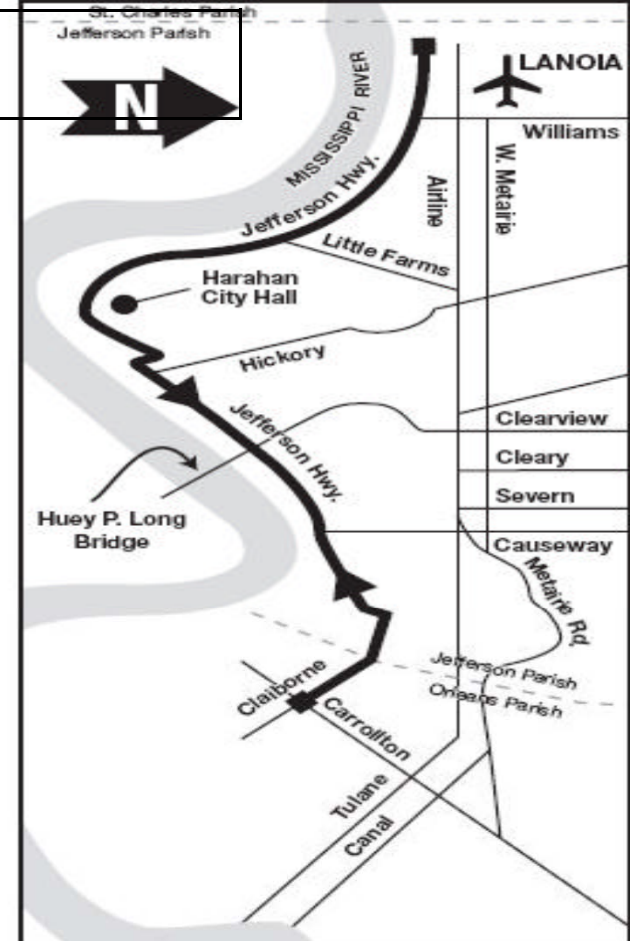
## Veterans (E1)



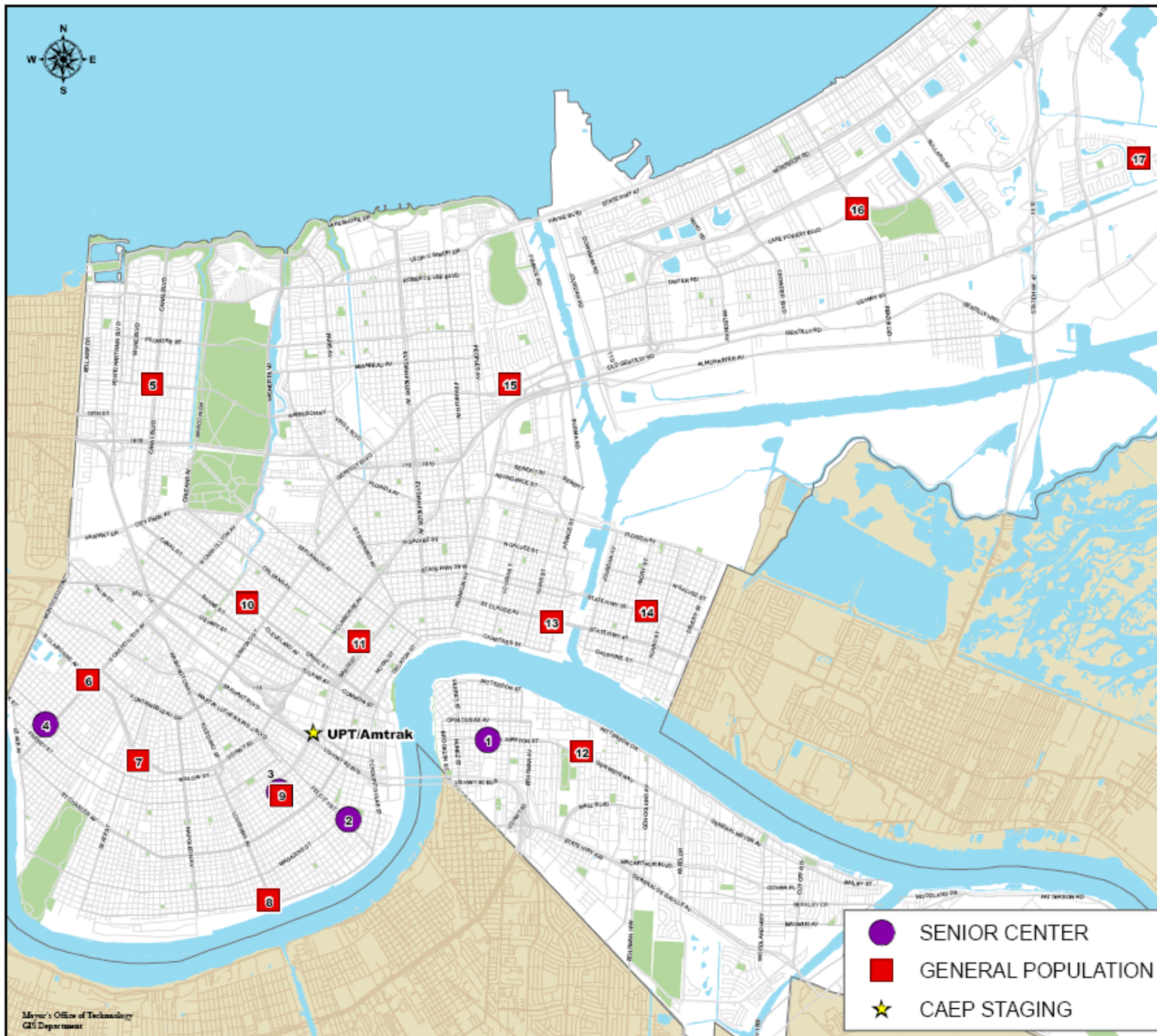
## Airport (E2)



## Kenner Local (E3)







# Evacuation Pick-Up Locations

## SENIOR CENTER LOCATIONS

1. Arthur Mondy Center  
1111 Newton Avenue, Algiers
2. Kingsley House  
1600 Constance Street,  
Lower Garden District
3. Central City Senior Center  
2020 Philip Street, Central City
4. Mater Dolorosa  
1226 S. Carrollton Ave, Carrollton

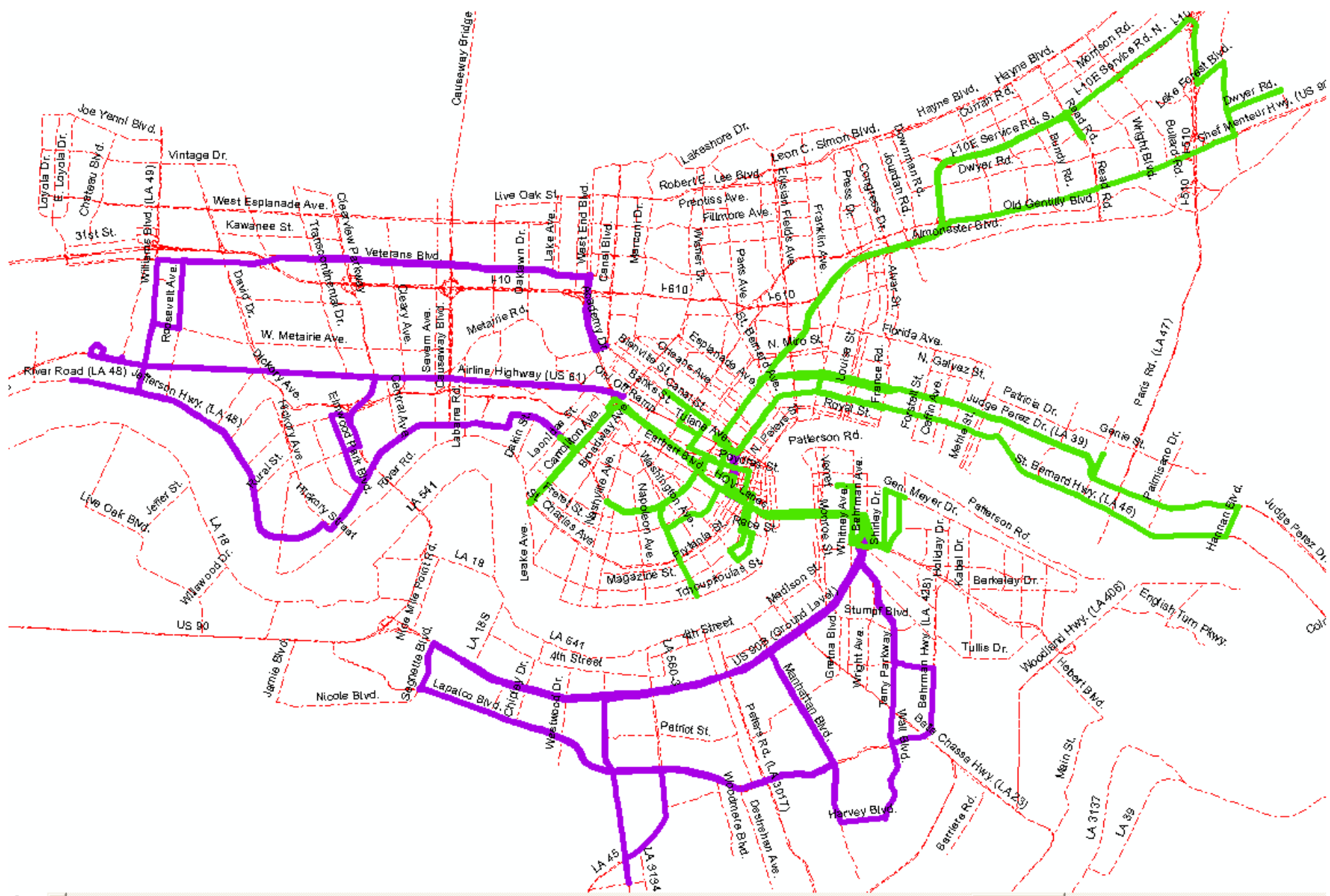
## GENERAL POPULATION

5. Smith Library Bus Stop  
6300 Canal Blvd., Lakeview
6. Palmer Park  
S. Claiborne and S. Carrollton,  
West Carrollton
7. McMain High School  
5712 S. Claiborne Ave, Broadmoor
8. Lyons Community Center  
624 Louisiana Ave, Irish Channel
9. Dryades YMCA  
1924 Philip Street, Central City
10. Warren Easton High School  
3019 Canal Street, Tremé
11. Municipal Auditorium  
801 N. Rampart, 7th Ward
12. O. Perry Walker High School  
2832 General Meyer, Algiers
13. Stallings Community Center  
4300 St. Claude, Bywater
14. Sanchez Center  
Caffin & N. Claiborne, Lower 9th Ward
15. Gentilly Mall Parking Lot  
Chef Menteur & Press Dr., Gentilly
16. Walgreen's  
Lake Forest & Read Blvd, NO East
17. Mary Queen of Vietnam  
14001 Dwyer, New Orleans East

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

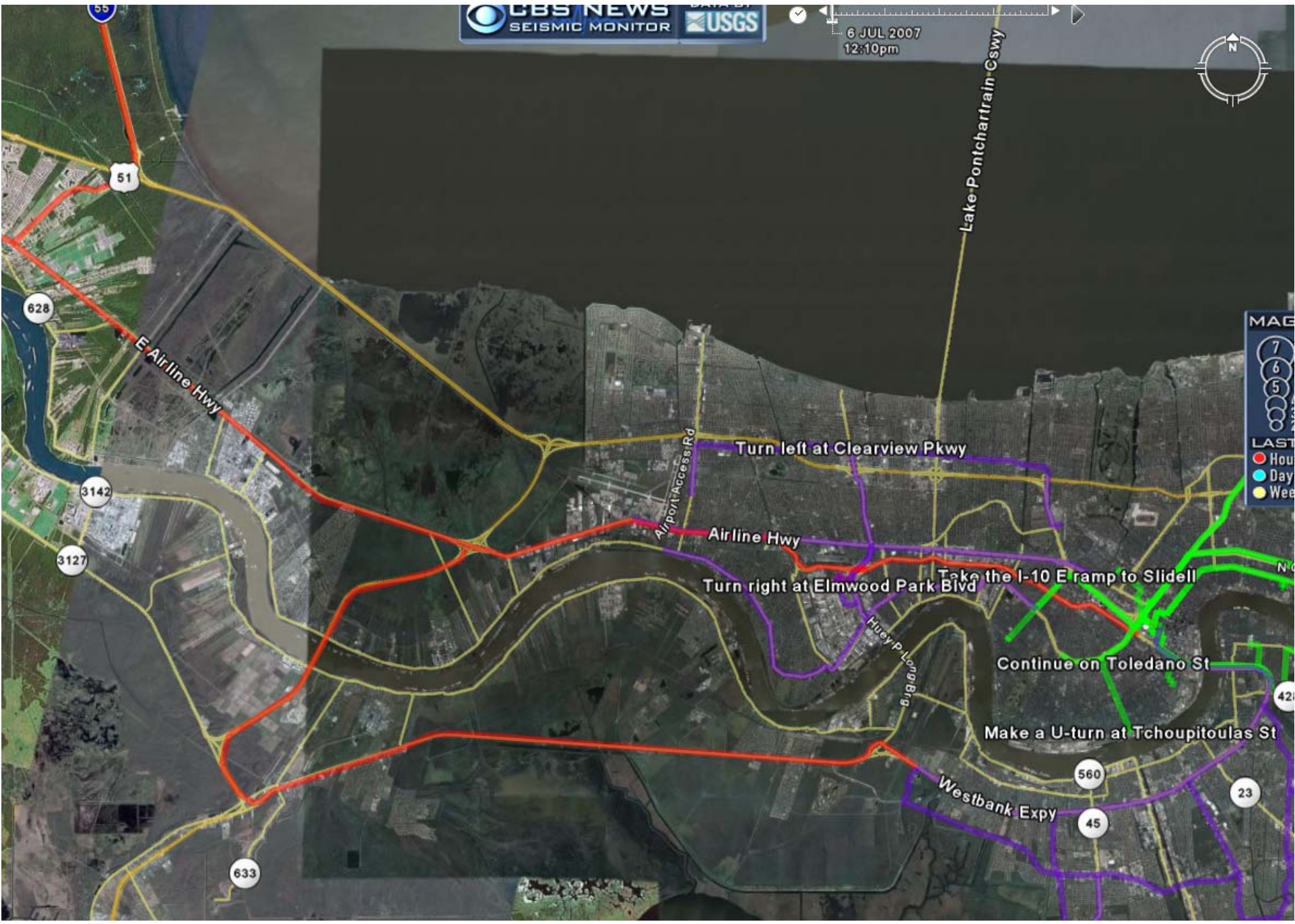
City Assisted Evacuation Plan

0 0.45 0.9 1.8 Miles





6 JUL 2007  
12:10pm



MAE

7  
6  
5  
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3  
2  
1

LAST

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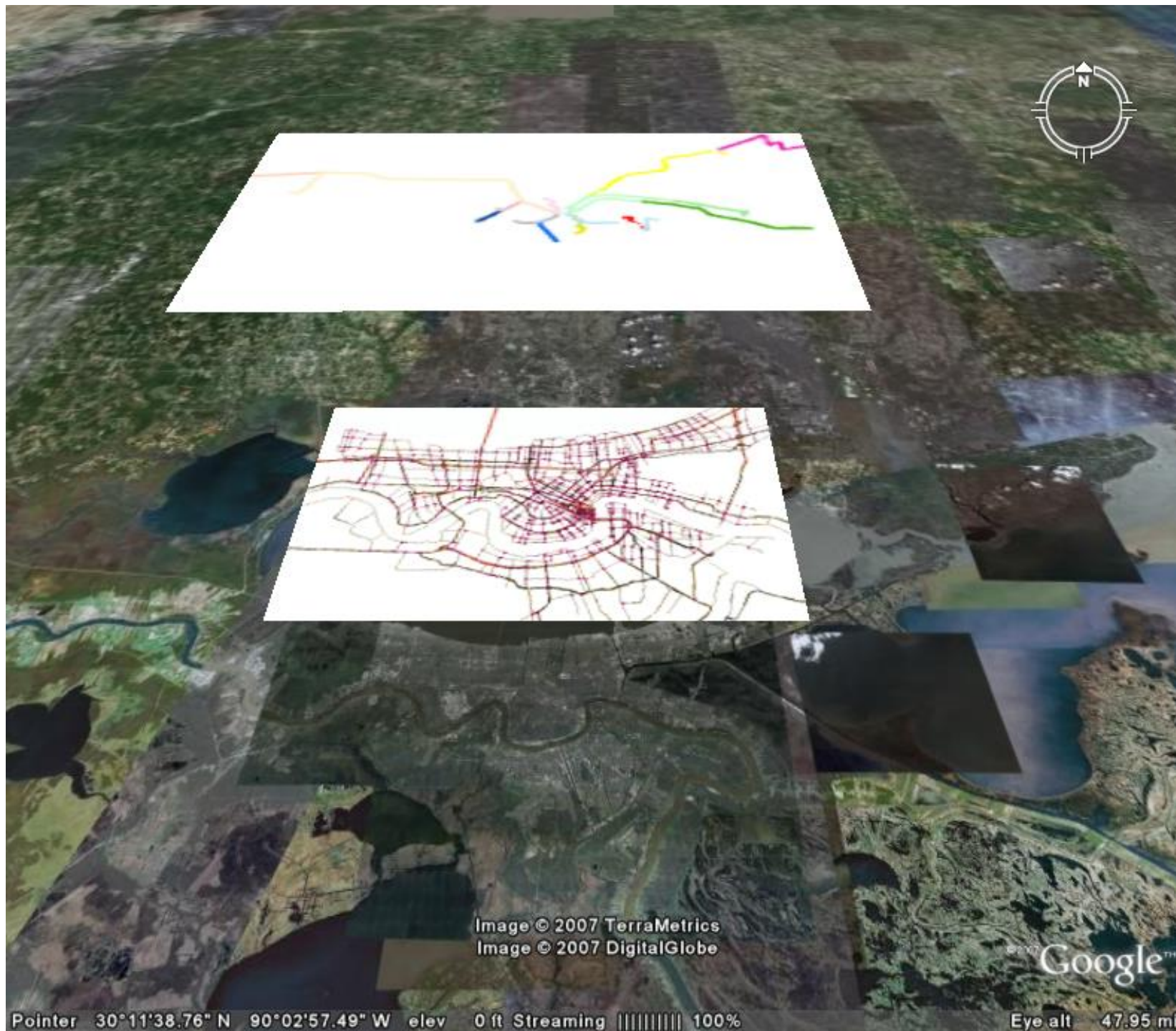


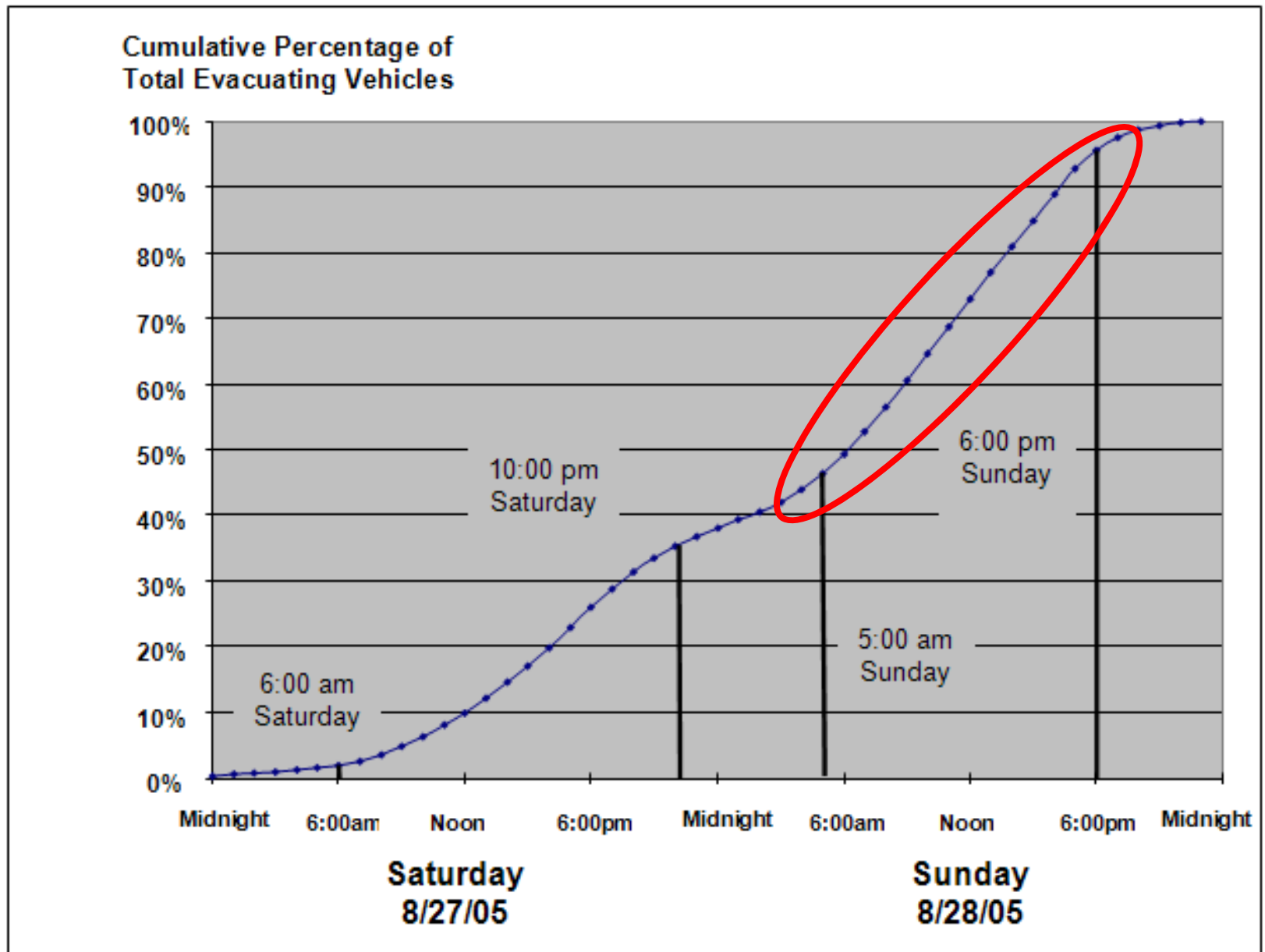
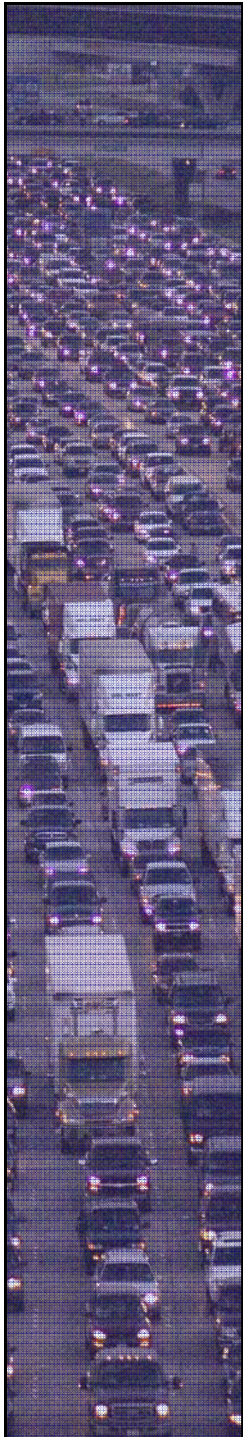
Image © 2007 TerraMetrics  
Image © 2007 DigitalGlobe

Google™

Pointer 30°11'38.76" N 90°02'57.49" W elev 0 ft Streaming ||||| 100%

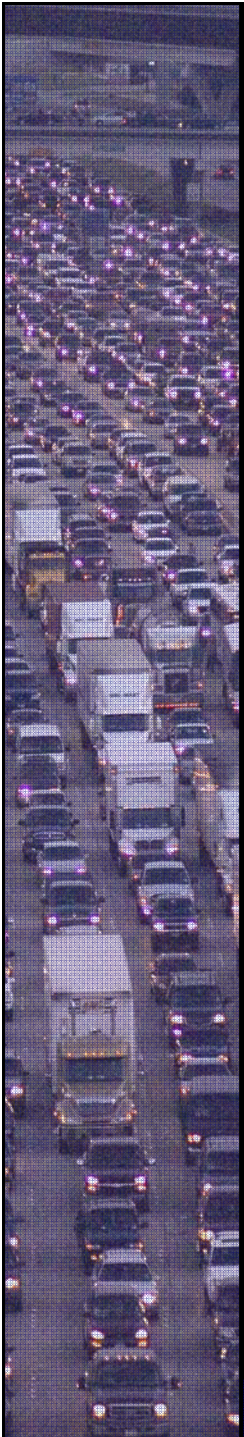
Eye alt 47.95 mi



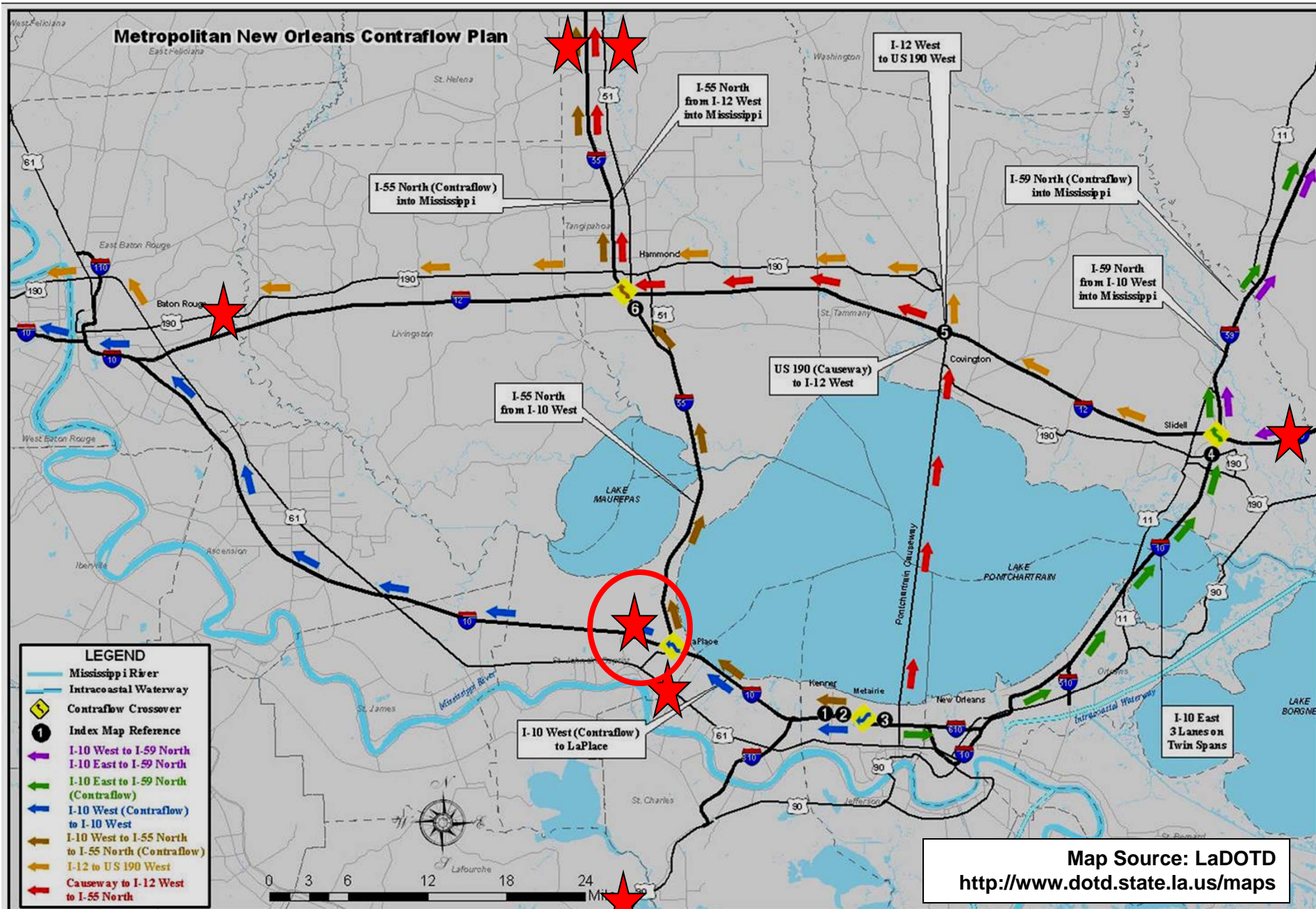


# ***Study Questions***

- ***Proof-of-Concept - Can TRANSIMS be used for evacuation analysis? Are its results reasonable?***
- ***Develop a variety and range of hazard-response scenarios***
- ***How many buses might be needed under various scenarios? What routes should they take?***
- ***Potential to estimate the number of location of evacuees***
- ***Examine the potential of alternate plans***

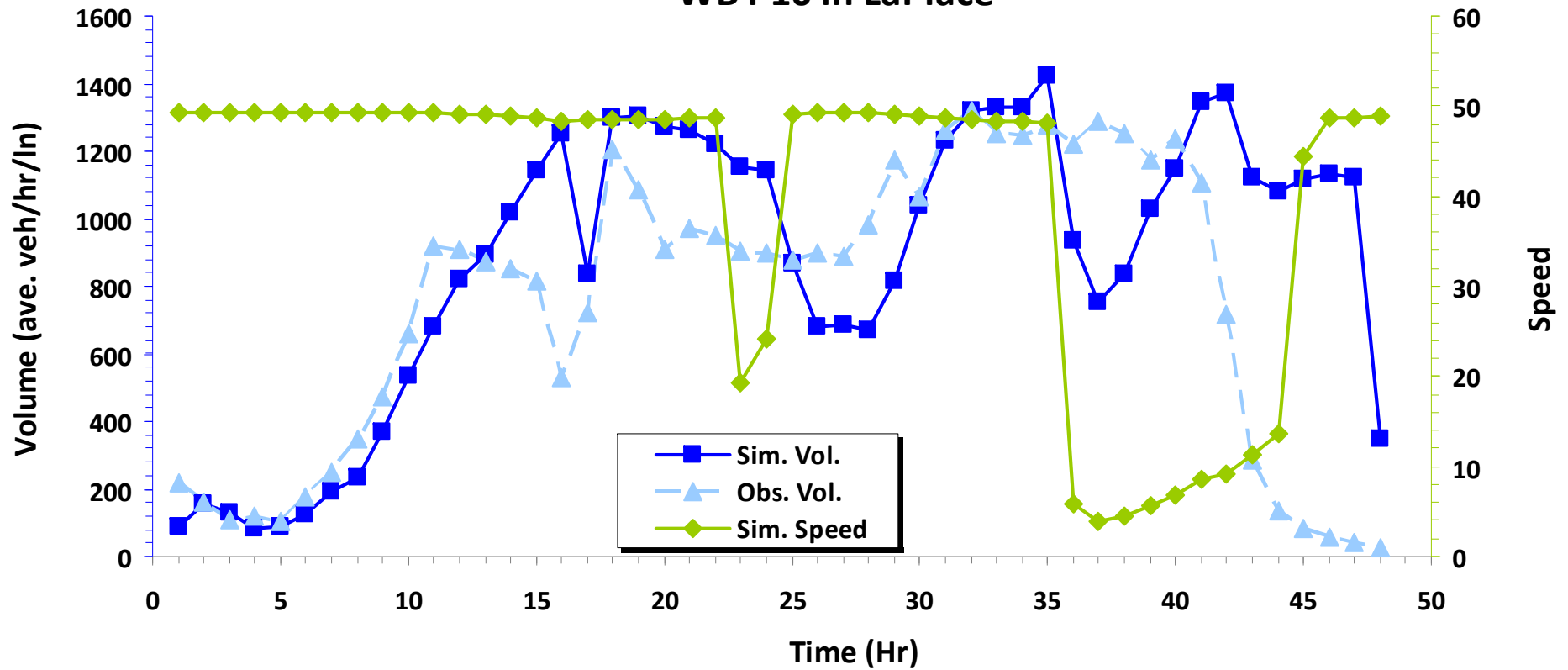




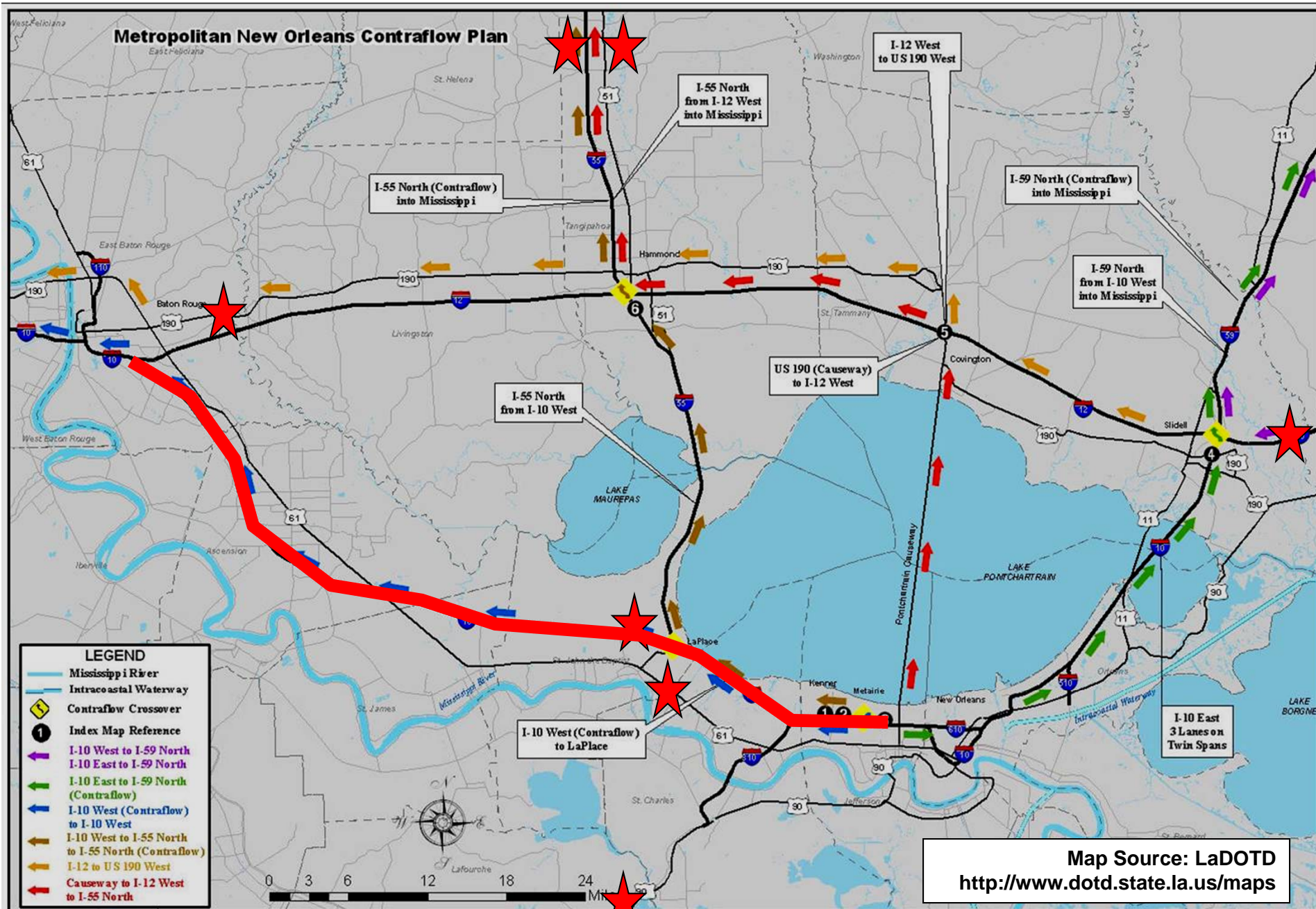


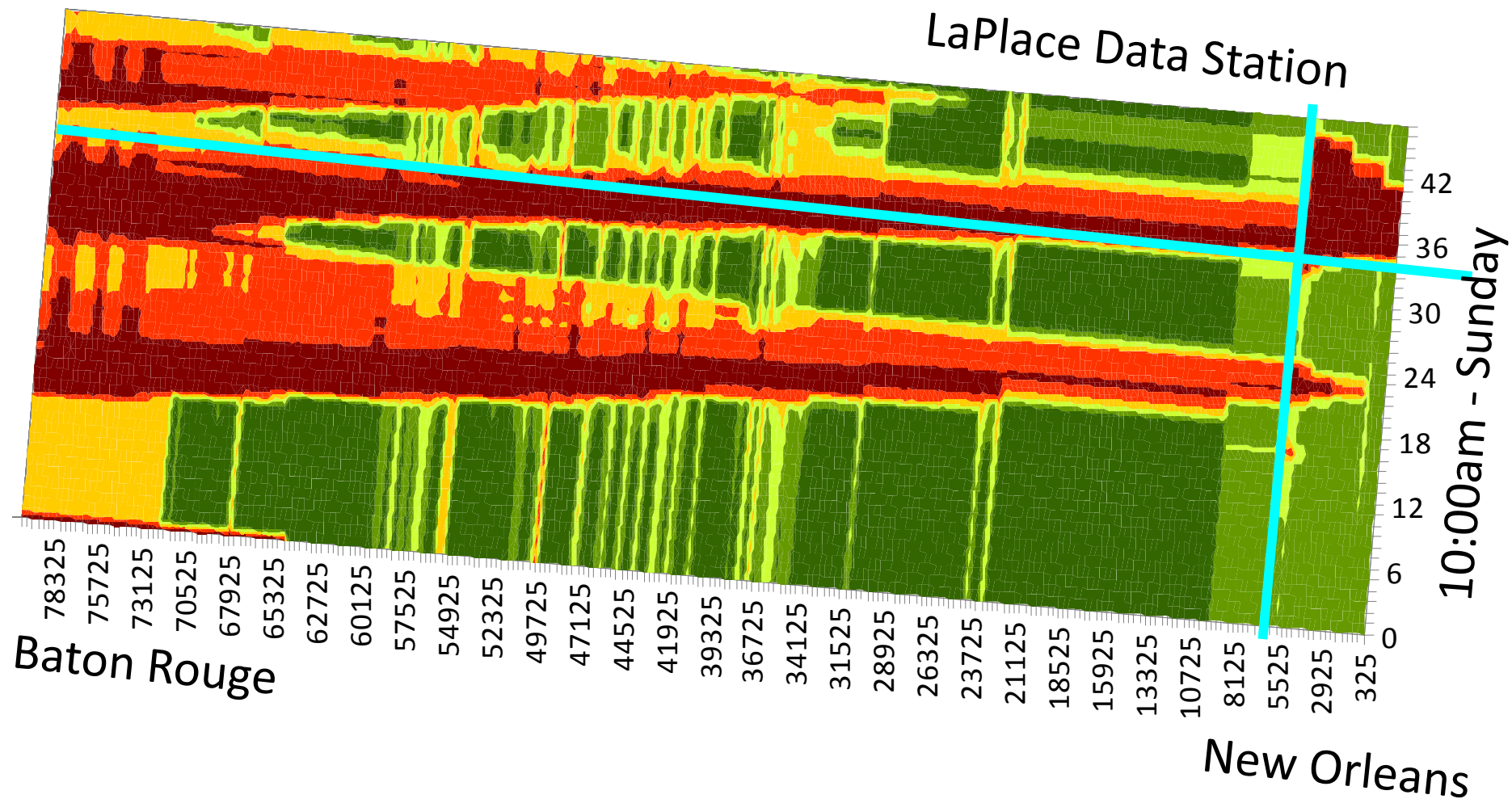


## Volume and Speed WB I-10 in LaPlace



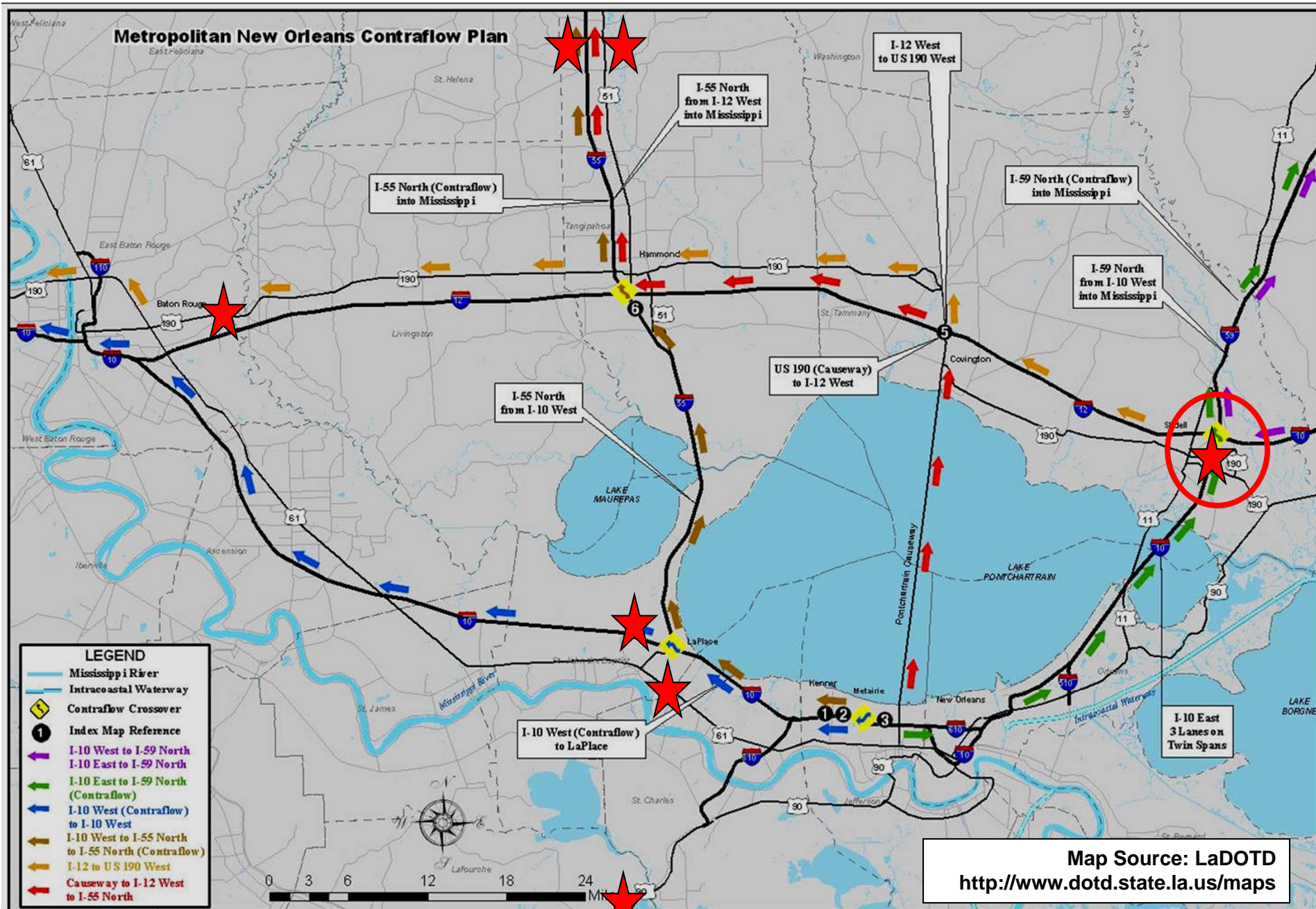
Network Link 58296 (DOTD Station 54 --2 miles W of US 51/I-55 Jct)





## ***Westbound I-10 Traffic Speed***

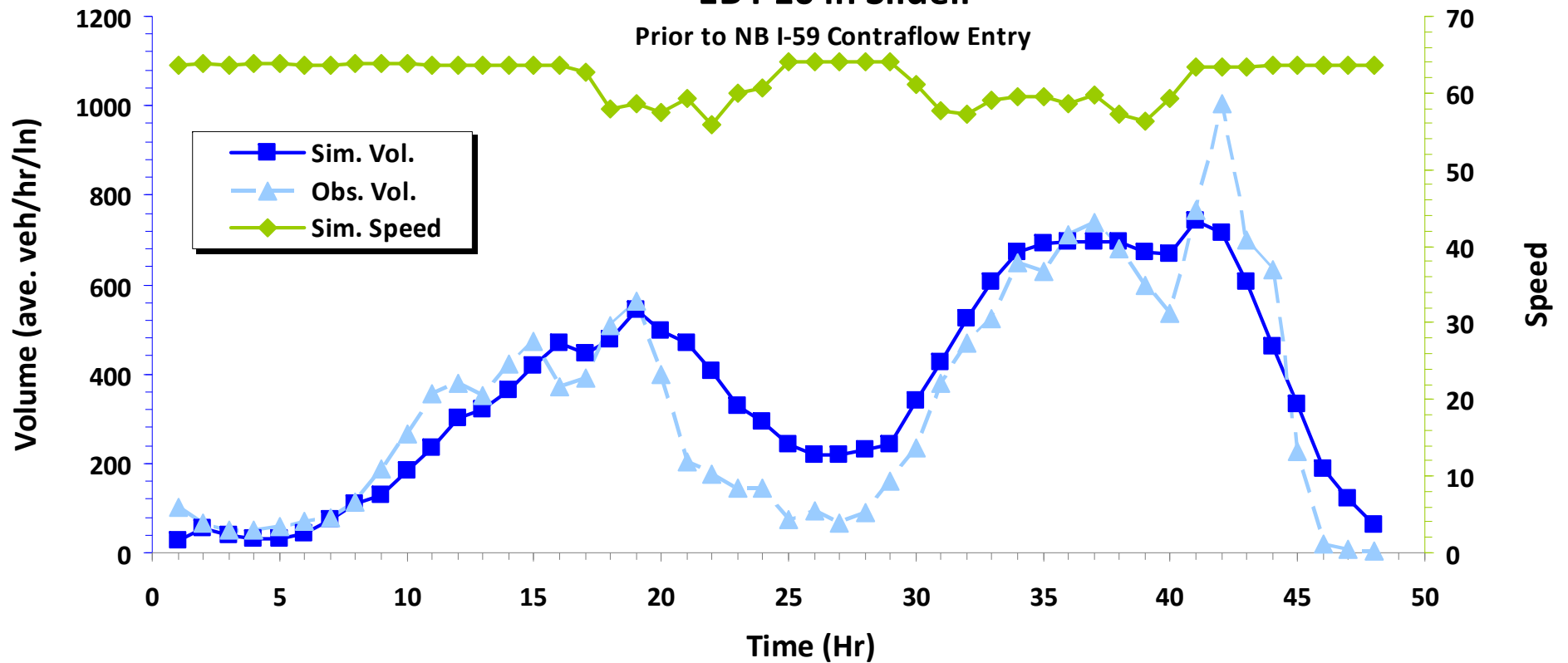




## Volume and Speed

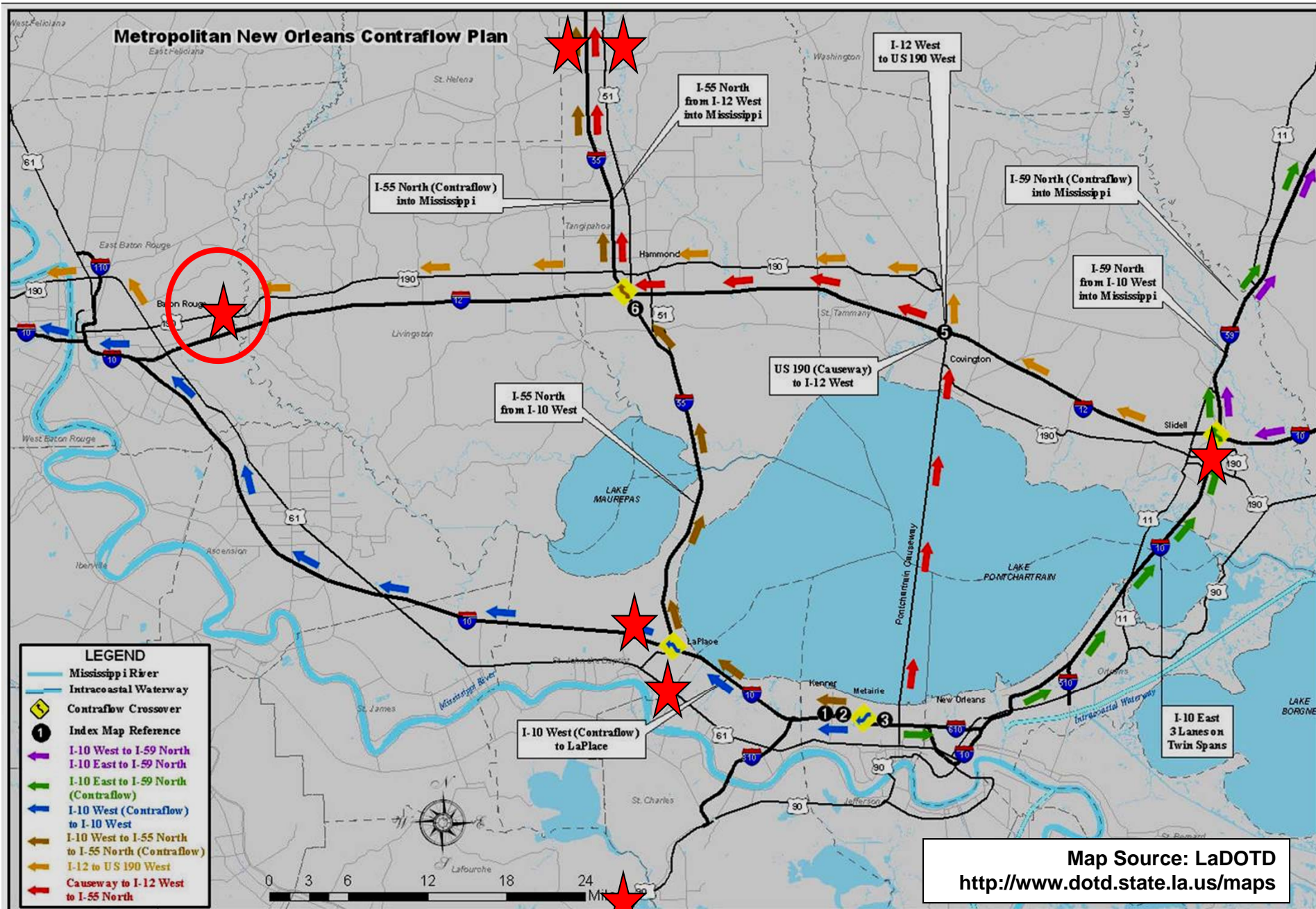
### EB I-10 in Slidell

Prior to NB I-59 Contraflow Entry



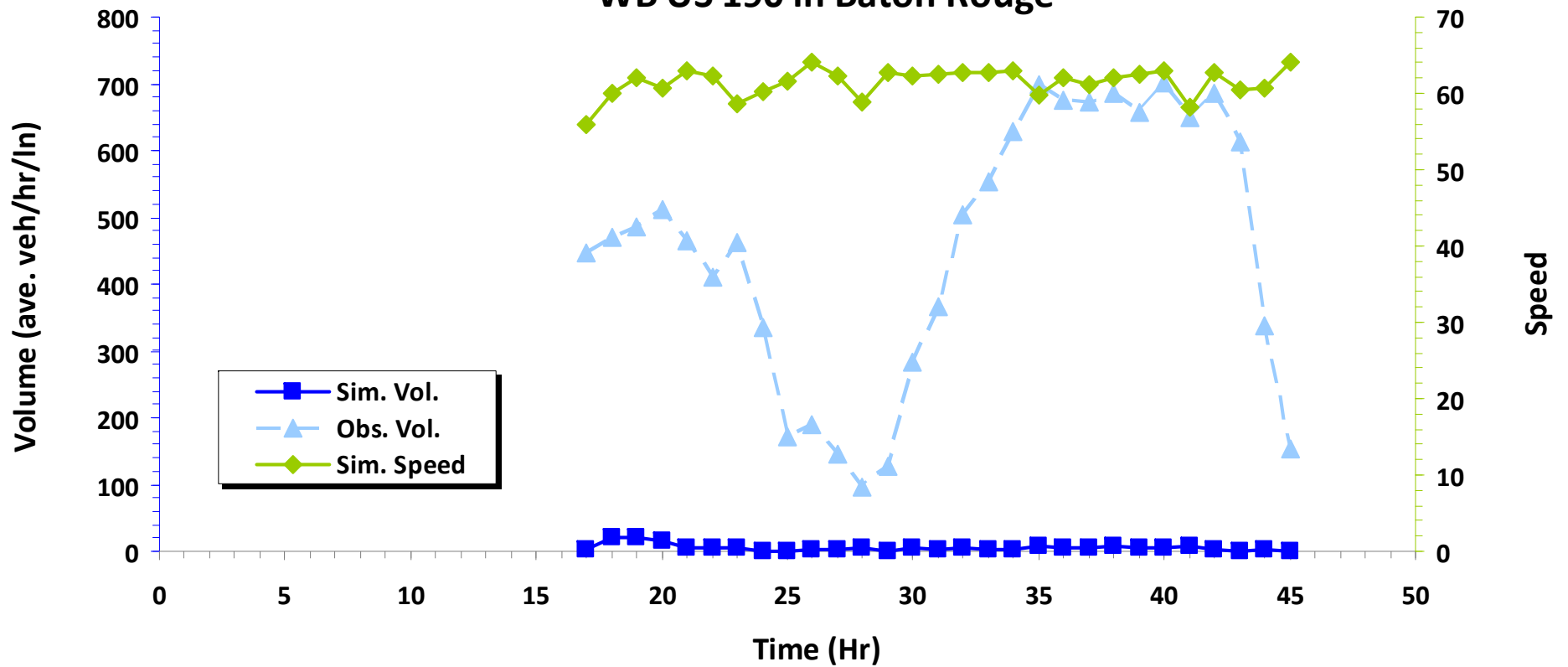
Network Link 56039 (Near DOTD Station 67 -- 1 mile S of I-12 , I-59 Jct)







## Volume and Speed WB US 190 in Baton Rouge



Network Link 57784 (DOTD Station 18 -- 1.1 miles E of O'Neal Ln Jct)

**US 190 WESTBOUND**  
**Denham Springs@Amite River Bridge**

