

Performance Measure Summary - Boulder CO

There are several inventory and performance measures listed in the pages of this Urban Area Report for the years from 1982 to 2020. There is no single performance measure that experts agree "says it all". A few key points should be recognized by users of the Urban Mobility Scorecard data.

Use the trends - The multi-year performance measures are better indicators, in most cases, than any single year. Examining a few measures over many years reduces the chance that data variations or the estimating procedures may have caused a "spike" in any single year. (5 years is 5 times better than 1 year.)

Use several measures - Each performance measure illustrates a different element of congestion. (The view is more interesting from atop several measures.)

Compare to similar regions - Congestion analyses that compare areas with similar characteristics (for example, population, growth rate, road and public transportation system design) are usually more insightful than comparisons of different regions. (Los Angeles is not Peoria.)

Compare ranking changes and performance measure values - In some performance measures, a small change in the value may cause a significant change in rank from one year to the next. This is the case when there are several regions with nearly the same value. (15 hours is only 1 hour more than 14 hours.)

Consider the scope of improvement options - Any improvement project in a corridor within most of the regions will only have a modest effect on the regional congestion level. (To have an effect on areawide congestion, there must be significant change in the system or service.)

Performance Measures and Definition of Terms

Travel Time Index - A measure of congestion that focuses on each trip and each mile of travel. It is calculated as the ratio of travel time in the peak period to travel time in free-flow. A value of 1.30 indicates that a 20-minute free-flow trip takes 26 minutes in the peak.

Planning Time Index - A travel time reliability measure that represents the total travel time that should be planned for a trip. Computed with the 95th percentile travel time it represents the amount of time that should be planned for a commute trip to be late for only 1 day a month. If it is computed with the 80th percentile travel time it represents the amount of time that should be planned for a trip to be late for only 1 day a week. A PTI of 2.00 means that for a 20-minute trip in light traffic, 40 minutes should be planned.

Peak Commuters - Number of travelers who begin a trip during the morning or evening peak travel periods (6 to 10 a.m. and 3 to 7 p.m.). "Commuters" are private vehicle users unless specifically noted.

Annual Delay per Commuter - A yearly sum of all the per-trip delays for those persons who travel in the peak period (6 to 10 a.m. and 3 to 7 p.m.). This measure illustrates the effect of traffic slowdowns as well as the length of each trip.

Total Delay - The overall size of the congestion problem. Measured by the total travel time above that needed to complete a trip at free-flow speeds. The ranking of total delay usually follows the population ranking (larger regions usually have more delay).

Free-Flow Speeds - These values are derived from time periods with lighter traffic volumes in the INRIX speed database. They are used as the national comparison thresholds. Other speed thresholds may be appropriate for urban project evaluations or sub-region studies.

Excess Fuel Consumed - Increased fuel consumption due to travel in congested conditions rather than free-flow conditions.

Congestion Cost - Value of travel delay for 2020 (estimated at \$20.17 per hour of person travel and \$55.24 per hour of truck time) and excess fuel consumption estimated using state average cost per gallon.

Urban Area - The developed area (population density more than 1,000 persons per square mile) within a metropolitan region. The urban area boundaries change frequently (every year for most growing areas), so increases include both new growth and development that was previously in areas designated as rural.

Number of Rush Hours - Time when the road system might have congestion.

Annual Greenhouse Gases (CO2) Produced - Tons of CO2 produced from all vehicle travel.

Excess Greenhouse Gases (CO2) Produced due to Congestion - Tons of CO2 produced due to congested portion of travel. The excess CO2 is a subset of the total CO2 produced.

Mobility Data for Boulder CO

Inventory Measures	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Urban Area Information						
Population (1000s)	130	130	130	130	130	125
Rank	101	101	101	101	101	101
Commuters (1000s)	67	67	67	67	67	65
Daily Vehicle-Miles of Travel (1000s)						
Freeway	635	720	718	730	710	697
Arterial Streets	981	1,112	1,109	1,113	1,107	1,085
Cost Components						
Value of Time (\$/hour)	20.17	19.14	18.71	18.12	17.91	17.69
Commercial Cost (\$/hour)	55.24	61.03	54.71	52.14	50.20	46.87
Gasoline (\$/gallon)	2.28	2.66	2.87	2.34	2.15	2.47
Diesel (\$/gallon)	2.63	2.84	3.16	2.42	2.18	2.43
System Performance	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Congested Travel (% of peak VMT)	--	--	--	26.5	--	--
Congested System (% of lane-miles)	--	--	--	17.0	--	--
Congested Time (number of "Rush Hours")	--	--	--	3.2	--	--
Annual Excess Fuel Consumed						
Total Fuel (1000 gallons)	1,086	2,285	2,146	2,021	1,962	1,919
Rank	99	99	99	98	99	98
Fuel per Peak Auto Commuter (gallons)	12	25	23	22	21	21
Rank	39	21	31	32	37	36
Annual Delay						
Total Delay (1000s of person-hours)	2,312	4,865	4,600	4,464	4,256	4,092
Rank	101	100	101	101	101	101
Delay per Auto Commuter (pers-hrs)	23	48	45	44	44	43
Rank	68	47	54	59	53	55
Travel Time Index	1.08	1.22	1.22	1.21	1.21	1.21
Rank	44	34	34	36	36	36
Commuter Stress Index	1.10	1.28	1.26	1.24	--	--
Rank	40	31	35	36	--	--
Freeway Planning Time Index (95th Pctile)	--	1.87	1.72	1.81	--	--
Rank	--	20	28	25	--	--
Congestion Cost						
Total Cost (\$ millions)	51	106	100	95	89	85
Rank	101	100	101	101	101	100
Cost per Auto Commuter (\$)	436	905	852	809	781	744
Rank	73	55	60	63	67	69
Truck Congestion						
Annual Person-Hours of Delay (000)	72	163	159	157	150	144
Rank	101	101	101	101	101	101
Annual Gallons of Wasted Fuel (000)	158	360	353	328	319	312
Rank	100	100	100	100	100	100
Annual Congestion Cost (\$ million)	4	10	9	8	8	7
Rank	101	100	101	101	101	101
Annual Greenhouse Gases (CO2) Produced						
Excess Due to Congestion (tons)	10,764	22,653	--	--	--	--
Rank	99	99	--	--	--	--
Due to All Travel (tons)	174,667	367,593	--	--	--	--
Rank	101	101	--	--	--	--
Truck Annual Greenhouse Gases (CO2) Produced						
Excess Due to Truck Congestion (tons)	1,735	3,945	--	--	--	--
Rank	100	100	--	--	--	--
Due to Truck Travel (tons)	27,198	61,849	--	--	--	--
Rank	101	101	--	--	--	--

* Note: Zeroes in the table reflect values less than 0.5.

Mobility Data for Boulder CO

Inventory Measures	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Urban Area Information						
Population (1000s)	125	120	115	115	110	110
Rank	101	101	101	101	101	101
Commuters (1000s)	64	61	59	58	55	55
Daily Vehicle-Miles of Travel (1000s)						
Freeway	662	630	660	682	673	670
Arterial Streets	1,065	988	1,000	1,039	1,025	1,020
Cost Components						
Value of Time (\$/hour)	17.67	17.39	17.14	16.79	16.28	16.01
Commercial Cost (\$/hour)	44.82	41.23	39.66	44.62	42.50	41.83
Gasoline (\$/gallon)	3.33	3.54	3.28	3.27	2.62	2.17
Diesel (\$/gallon)	3.59	3.80	3.85	3.67	2.90	2.48
System Performance	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Congested Travel (% of peak VMT)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Congested System (% of lane-miles)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Congested Time (number of "Rush Hours")	--	--	--	--	--	--
Annual Excess Fuel Consumed						
Total Fuel (1000 gallons)	1,859	1,842	1,782	1,740	1,695	1,635
Rank	98	98	98	97	97	97
Fuel per Peak Auto Commuter (gallons)	20	20	18	17	18	15
Rank	38	37	52	60	46	62
Annual Delay						
Total Delay (1000s of person-hours)	3,895	3,792	3,602	3,485	3,362	3,183
Rank	100	100	100	100	100	99
Delay per Auto Commuter (pers-hrs)	42	41	39	39	37	36
Rank	55	52	61	54	58	61
Travel Time Index	1.20	1.20	1.21	1.21	1.21	1.21
Rank	36	36	34	33	33	33
Commuter Stress Index	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--	--	--	--
Freeway Planning Time Index (95th Pctile)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--	--	--	--
Congestion Cost						
Total Cost (\$ millions)	82	79	74	71	65	60
Rank	100	100	100	100	100	99
Cost per Auto Commuter (\$)	706	689	667	662	660	642
Rank	72	73	74	74	74	74
Truck Congestion						
Annual Person-Hours of Delay (000)	138	133	127	123	118	113
Rank	101	101	101	101	101	101
Annual Gallons of Wasted Fuel (000)	302	300	290	283	275	266
Rank	100	100	100	100	99	99
Annual Congestion Cost (\$ million)	7	6	6	6	5	5
Rank	101	101	101	101	101	101
Annual Greenhouse Gases (CO2) Produced						
Excess Due to Congestion (tons)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--	--	--	--
Due to All Travel (tons)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--	--	--	--
Truck Annual Greenhouse Gases (CO2) Produced						
Excess Due to Truck Congestion (tons)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--	--	--	--
Due to Truck Travel (tons)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--	--	--	--

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Mobility Data for Boulder CO

Inventory Measures	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Urban Area Information						
Population (1000s)	110	110	105	105	105	100
Rank	101	101	101	101	101	101
Commuters (1000s)	55	54	52	51	51	48
Daily Vehicle-Miles of Travel (1000s)						
Freeway	665	700	705	670	685	675
Arterial Streets	1,030	1,125	1,165	1,165	1,160	1,150
Cost Components						
Value of Time (\$/hour)	16.07	15.47	15.06	14.58	14.10	13.73
Commercial Cost (\$/hour)	40.77	39.30	37.88	36.51	35.19	33.92
Gasoline (\$/gallon)	3.39	3.20	2.60	2.32	1.94	1.51
Diesel (\$/gallon)	4.10	3.68	2.88	2.56	2.04	1.55
System Performance	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Congested Travel (% of peak VMT)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Congested System (% of lane-miles)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Congested Time (number of "Rush Hours")	--	--	--	--	--	--
Annual Excess Fuel Consumed						
Total Fuel (1000 gallons)	1,771	1,701	1,620	1,575	1,538	1,469
Rank	97	98	98	97	97	96
Fuel per Peak Auto Commuter (gallons)	18	18	16	15	16	15
Rank	49	49	64	64	56	58
Annual Delay						
Total Delay (1000s of person-hours)	3,283	3,154	3,005	2,921	2,852	2,724
Rank	98	99	99	98	98	98
Delay per Auto Commuter (pers-hrs)	37	36	36	35	34	34
Rank	54	59	56	59	60	58
Travel Time Index	1.22	1.21	1.21	1.20	1.20	1.20
Rank	34	36	36	36	35	35
Commuter Stress Index	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--	--	--	--
Freeway Planning Time Index (95th Pctile)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--	--	--	--
Congestion Cost						
Total Cost (\$ millions)	65	60	54	51	47	43
Rank	98	99	99	98	98	98
Cost per Auto Commuter (\$)	648	654	631	632	637	633
Rank	74	75	79	79	72	73
Truck Congestion						
Annual Person-Hours of Delay (000)	116	111	106	103	101	96
Rank	100	100	99	99	99	99
Annual Gallons of Wasted Fuel (000)	287	277	264	256	250	238
Rank	99	99	99	99	98	98
Annual Congestion Cost (\$ million)	6	5	5	4	4	3
Rank	98	99	99	99	99	99
Annual Greenhouse Gases (CO2) Produced						
Excess Due to Congestion (tons)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--	--	--	--
Due to All Travel (tons)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--	--	--	--
Truck Annual Greenhouse Gases (CO2) Produced						
Excess Due to Truck Congestion (tons)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--	--	--	--
Due to Truck Travel (tons)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--	--	--	--

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Mobility Data for Boulder CO

Inventory Measures	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
Urban Area Information						
Population (1000s)	100	95	95	95	90	90
Rank	101	101	101	101	101	101
Commuters (1000s)	47	44	43	42	40	39
Daily Vehicle-Miles of Travel (1000s)						
Freeway	630	600	570	530	500	480
Arterial Streets	1,145	1,140	1,130	1,125	1,115	1,105
Cost Components						
Value of Time (\$/hour)	13.43	13.22	12.85	12.43	12.17	11.98
Commercial Cost (\$/hour)	32.69	31.51	30.38	29.28	28.89	28.50
Gasoline (\$/gallon)	1.39	1.70	1.55	1.16	1.10	1.24
Diesel (\$/gallon)	1.40	1.68	1.51	1.18	1.22	1.33
System Performance	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
Congested Travel (% of peak VMT)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Congested System (% of lane-miles)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Congested Time (number of "Rush Hours")	--	--	--	--	--	--
Annual Excess Fuel Consumed						
Total Fuel (1000 gallons)	1,414	1,277	1,183	1,139	1,015	942
Rank	95	95	95	95	95	95
Fuel per Peak Auto Commuter (gallons)	16	13	12	12	11	10
Rank	42	63	68	64	65	66
Annual Delay						
Total Delay (1000s of person-hours)	2,623	2,368	2,194	2,112	1,883	1,747
Rank	96	95	95	95	95	96
Delay per Auto Commuter (pers-hrs)	33	32	30	29	28	26
Rank	59	65	68	67	66	69
Travel Time Index	1.19	1.18	1.17	1.16	1.15	1.14
Rank	36	36	36	39	43	46
Commuter Stress Index	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--	--	--	--
Freeway Planning Time Index (95th Pctile)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--	--	--	--
Congestion Cost						
Total Cost (\$ millions)	41	37	33	30	26	24
Rank	96	95	95	95	95	95
Cost per Auto Commuter (\$)	617	572	539	551	494	469
Rank	72	77	77	75	78	78
Truck Congestion						
Annual Person-Hours of Delay (000)	92	83	77	75	66	61
Rank	99	99	98	98	99	99
Annual Gallons of Wasted Fuel (000)	230	208	192	185	165	153
Rank	98	98	97	97	98	97
Annual Congestion Cost (\$ million)	3	3	2	2	2	2
Rank	99	96	98	97	96	96
Annual Greenhouse Gases (CO2) Produced						
Excess Due to Congestion (tons)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--	--	--	--
Due to All Travel (tons)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--	--	--	--
Truck Annual Greenhouse Gases (CO2) Produced						
Excess Due to Truck Congestion (tons)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--	--	--	--
Due to Truck Travel (tons)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--	--	--	--

* Note: Zeroes in the table reflect values less than 0.5.

Mobility Data for Boulder CO

Inventory Measures	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991
Urban Area Information						
Population (1000s)	90	90	90	85	85	85
Rank	101	101	101	101	101	101
Commuters (1000s)	38	38	37	35	34	34
Daily Vehicle-Miles of Travel (1000s)						
Freeway	440	425	405	390	385	375
Arterial Streets	1,100	1,090	1,080	1,070	1,050	1,000
Cost Components						
Value of Time (\$/hour)	11.71	11.37	11.06	10.78	10.47	10.17
Commercial Cost (\$/hour)	28.12	27.75	27.38	27.02	26.66	26.30
Gasoline (\$/gallon)	1.36	1.22	1.16	1.21	1.23	1.19
Diesel (\$/gallon)	1.41	1.26	1.20	1.25	1.23	1.28
System Performance	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991
Congested Travel (% of peak VMT)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Congested System (% of lane-miles)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Congested Time (number of "Rush Hours")	--	--	--	--	--	--
Annual Excess Fuel Consumed						
Total Fuel (1000 gallons)	892	863	819	712	646	597
Rank	95	95	94	94	94	94
Fuel per Peak Auto Commuter (gallons)	9	8	9	8	6	7
Rank	69	72	56	58	69	57
Annual Delay						
Total Delay (1000s of person-hours)	1,655	1,601	1,519	1,321	1,199	1,108
Rank	96	95	96	96	96	96
Delay per Auto Commuter (pers-hrs)	25	24	23	22	20	19
Rank	70	70	69	68	67	68
Travel Time Index	1.13	1.13	1.12	1.11	1.10	1.09
Rank	50	47	50	52	58	61
Commuter Stress Index	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--	--	--	--
Freeway Planning Time Index (95th Pctile)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--	--	--	--
Congestion Cost						
Total Cost (\$ millions)	23	21	19	17	15	13
Rank	96	95	96	96	96	96
Cost per Auto Commuter (\$)	444	461	440	379	361	335
Rank	77	73	74	76	76	77
Truck Congestion						
Annual Person-Hours of Delay (000)	58	56	54	46	42	39
Rank	99	98	96	97	97	97
Annual Gallons of Wasted Fuel (000)	145	140	133	116	105	97
Rank	96	95	95	95	95	95
Annual Congestion Cost (\$ million)	2	2	2	1	1	1
Rank	94	94	93	96	96	96
Annual Greenhouse Gases (CO2) Produced						
Excess Due to Congestion (tons)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--	--	--	--
Due to All Travel (tons)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--	--	--	--
Truck Annual Greenhouse Gases (CO2) Produced						
Excess Due to Truck Congestion (tons)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--	--	--	--
Due to Truck Travel (tons)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--	--	--	--

* Note: Zeroes in the table reflect values less than 0.5.

Mobility Data for Boulder CO

Inventory Measures	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985
Urban Area Information						
Population (1000s)	85	85	80	80	80	80
Rank	101	101	101	101	101	101
Commuters (1000s)	33	33	31	30	30	30
Daily Vehicle-Miles of Travel (1000s)						
Freeway	370	360	330	380	360	350
Arterial Streets	960	920	900	880	875	870
Cost Components						
Value of Time (\$/hour)	9.75	9.25	8.83	8.48	8.18	8.03
Commercial Cost (\$/hour)	25.95	25.60	25.26	24.93	24.60	24.27
Gasoline (\$/gallon)	1.11	1.15	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.36
Diesel (\$/gallon)	1.15	1.14	1.05	1.05	1.03	1.35
System Performance	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985
Congested Travel (% of peak VMT)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Congested System (% of lane-miles)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Congested Time (number of "Rush Hours")	--	--	--	--	--	--
Annual Excess Fuel Consumed						
Total Fuel (1000 gallons)	538	502	456	403	351	315
Rank	95	93	94	94	95	93
Fuel per Peak Auto Commuter (gallons)	5	6	5	5	3	3
Rank	72	53	58	48	74	66
Annual Delay						
Total Delay (1000s of person-hours)	997	932	845	747	652	584
Rank	96	96	95	96	96	96
Delay per Auto Commuter (pers-hrs)	17	16	15	14	12	11
Rank	70	68	67	64	74	72
Travel Time Index	1.08	1.07	1.07	1.06	1.04	1.04
Rank	62	65	59	65	85	81
Commuter Stress Index	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--	--	--	--
Freeway Planning Time Index (95th Pctile)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--	--	--	--
Congestion Cost						
Total Cost (\$ millions)	11	10	9	7	6	6
Rank	96	96	95	96	96	95
Cost per Auto Commuter (\$)	326	319	294	309	283	232
Rank	75	74	75	66	69	76
Truck Congestion						
Annual Person-Hours of Delay (000)	35	33	29	26	23	21
Rank	97	97	97	97	97	97
Annual Gallons of Wasted Fuel (000)	87	82	74	65	57	51
Rank	95	95	94	96	96	97
Annual Congestion Cost (\$ million)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Rank	92	90	89	86	86	86
Annual Greenhouse Gases (CO2) Produced						
Excess Due to Congestion (tons)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--	--	--	--
Due to All Travel (tons)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--	--	--	--
Truck Annual Greenhouse Gases (CO2) Produced						
Excess Due to Truck Congestion (tons)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--	--	--	--
Due to Truck Travel (tons)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--	--	--	--

* Note: Zeroes in the table reflect values less than 0.5.

Mobility Data for Boulder CO

Inventory Measures	1984	1983	1982
Urban Area Information			
Population (1000s)	75	75	75
Rank	101	101	101
Commuters (1000s)	28	28	27
Daily Vehicle-Miles of Travel (1000s)			
Freeway	310	275	250
Arterial Streets	860	855	825
Cost Components			
Value of Time (\$/hour)	7.75	7.43	7.20
Commercial Cost (\$/hour)	23.94	23.63	23.31
Gasoline (\$/gallon)	1.37	1.41	1.47
Diesel (\$/gallon)	1.36	1.39	1.46
System Performance	1984	1983	1982
Congested Travel (% of peak VMT)	--	--	--
Congested System (% of lane-miles)	--	--	--
Congested Time (number of "Rush Hours")	--	--	--
Annual Excess Fuel Consumed			
Total Fuel (1000 gallons)	277	250	227
Rank	95	95	94
Fuel per Peak Auto Commuter (gallons)	3	2	2
Rank	61	69	55
Annual Delay			
Total Delay (1000s of person-hours)	513	464	421
Rank	97	98	97
Delay per Auto Commuter (pers-hrs)	10	9	8
Rank	70	70	73
Travel Time Index	1.03	1.02	1.02
Rank	85	89	89
Commuter Stress Index	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--
Freeway Planning Time Index (95th Pctile)	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--
Congestion Cost			
Total Cost (\$ millions)	5	4	4
Rank	96	97	94
Cost per Auto Commuter (\$)	226	185	206
Rank	74	81	73
Truck Congestion			
Annual Person-Hours of Delay (000)	18	16	15
Rank	98	98	98
Annual Gallons of Wasted Fuel (000)	45	41	37
Rank	98	98	95
Annual Congestion Cost (\$ million)	0	0	0
Rank	97	97	95
Annual Greenhouse Gases (CO2) Produced			
Excess Due to Congestion (tons)	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--
Due to All Travel (tons)	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--
Truck Annual Greenhouse Gases (CO2) Produced			
Excess Due to Truck Congestion (tons)	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--
Due to Truck Travel (tons)	--	--	--
Rank	--	--	--

* Note: Zeroes in the table reflect values less than 0.5.