

# *Seductive Congestion*

The Art of the Successful 21st Century City

[transportblog.co.nz](http://transportblog.co.nz)

*Patrick Reynolds 2016*

## PROVOCATIONS:

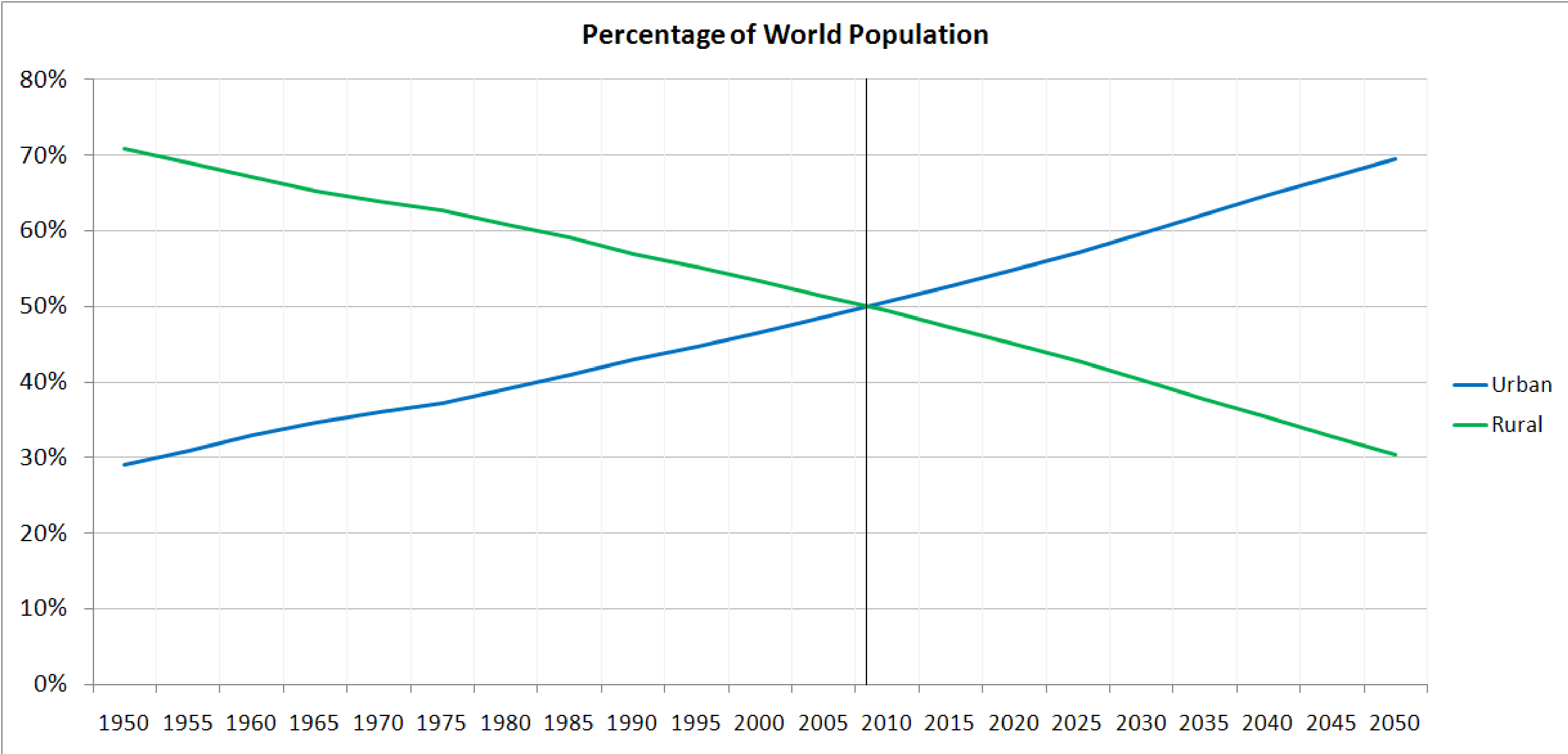
Anomalous Auckland: Are we on the right path?

Do we really understand the nature of the successful city?

Are we building the right city for the conditions of this century?

Are the opportunities and challenges offered by our one city of scale properly understood?

Are we nibble enough in our institutions to react to discontinuities from last century?



Data Source: United Nations, <http://esa.un.org/unup/p2k0data.asp>

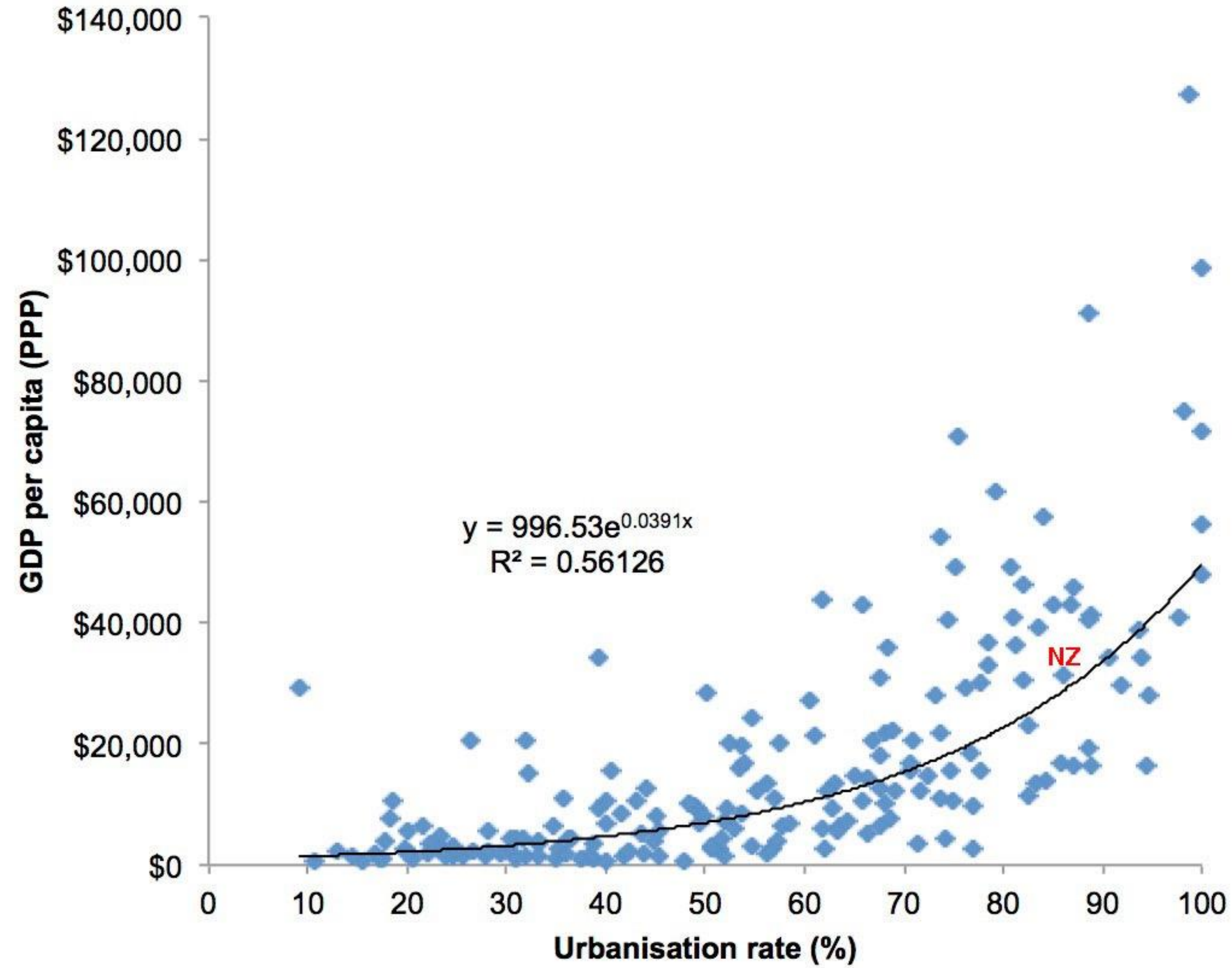
*'There is a near-perfect correlation between urbanisation and prosperity across nations.'*

-Ed Glaeser

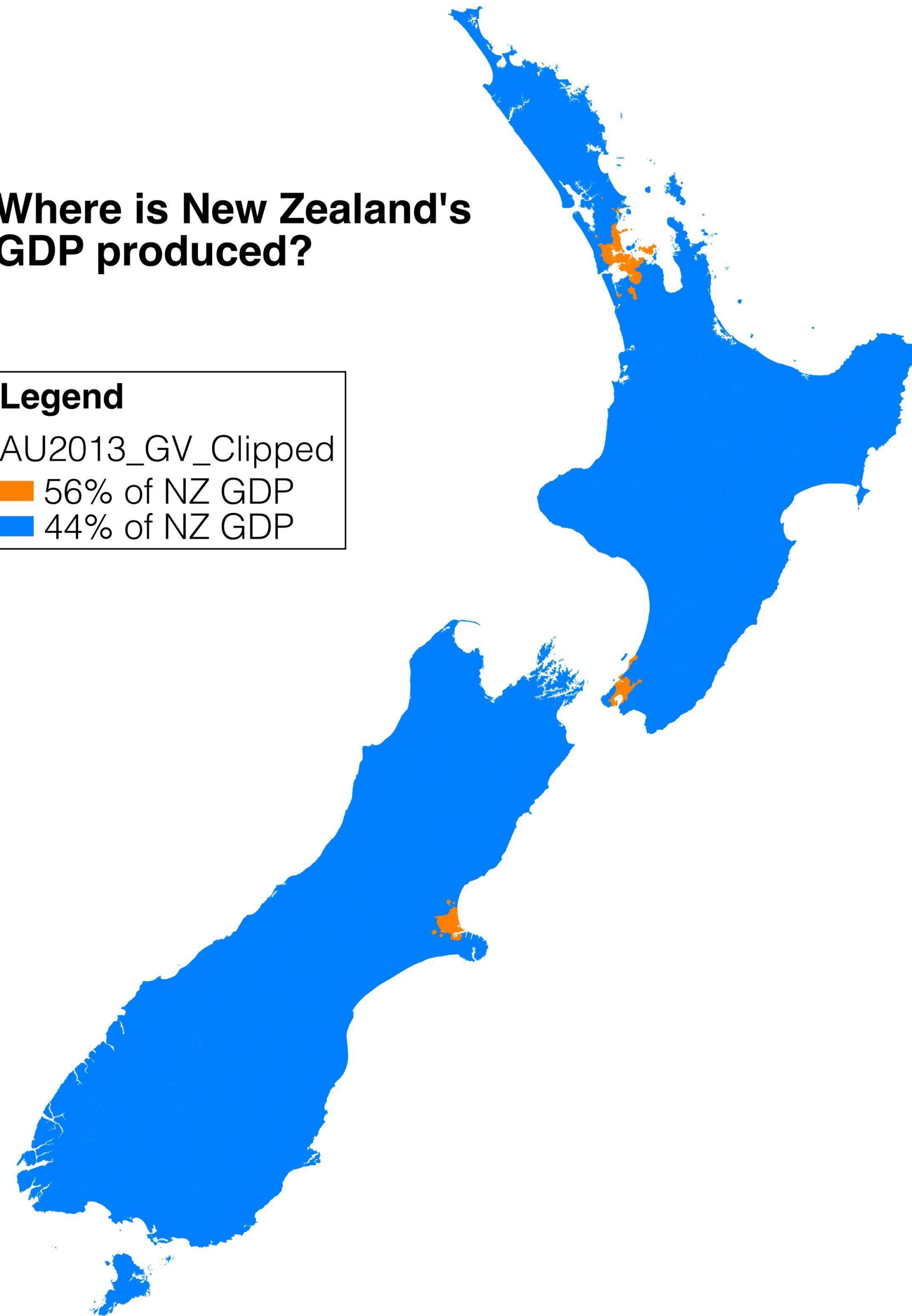


# GDP per capita and urbanisation rates, 2010

Source: World Bank data



## Where is New Zealand's GDP produced?





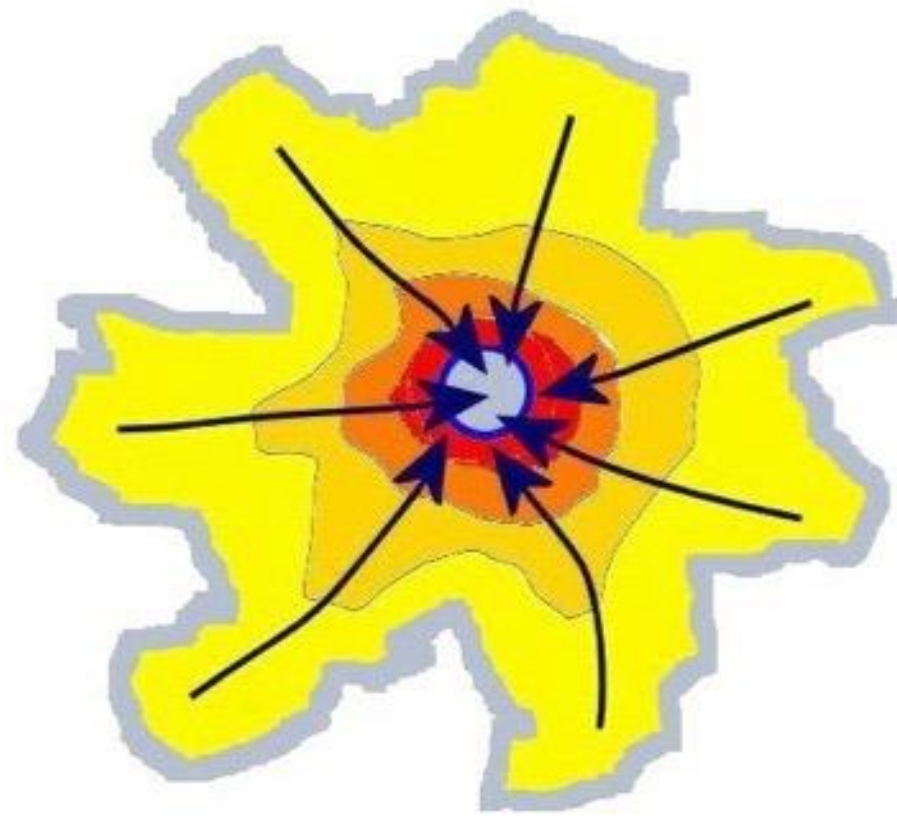




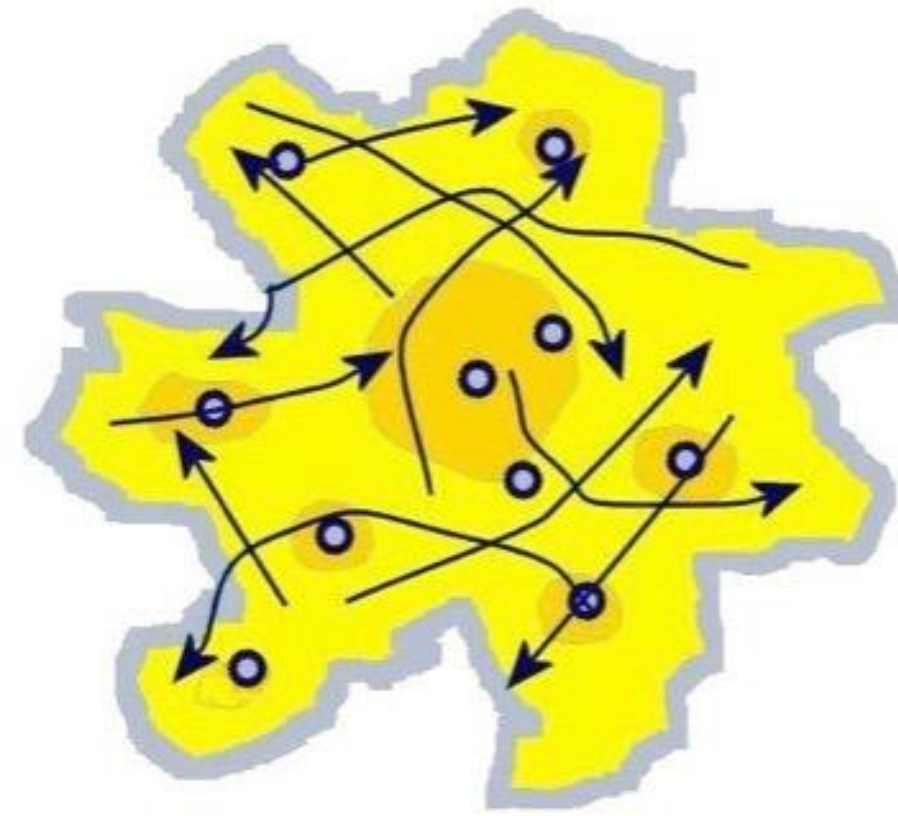




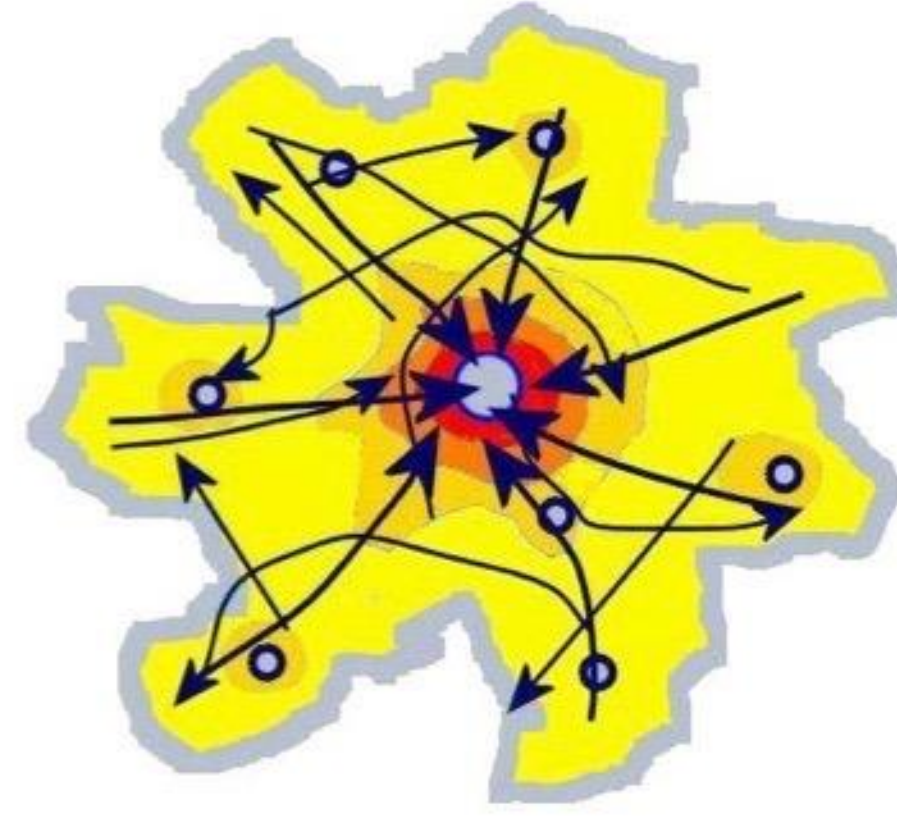
# The spatial distribution of jobs and population generate patterns of commuting trips



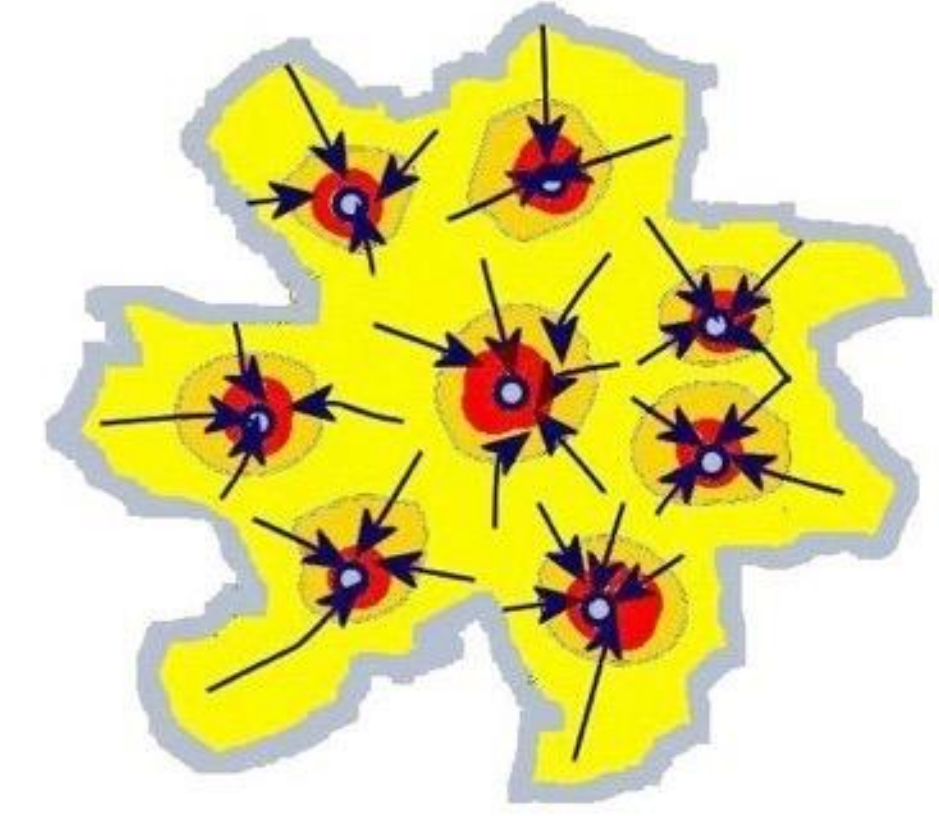
A. The classical monocentric model



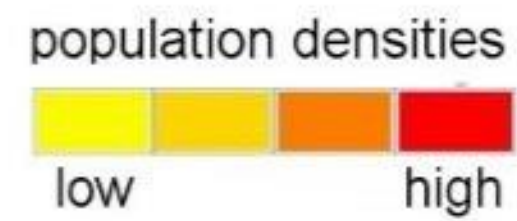
B. The polycentric or dispersed model



C. The composite Model

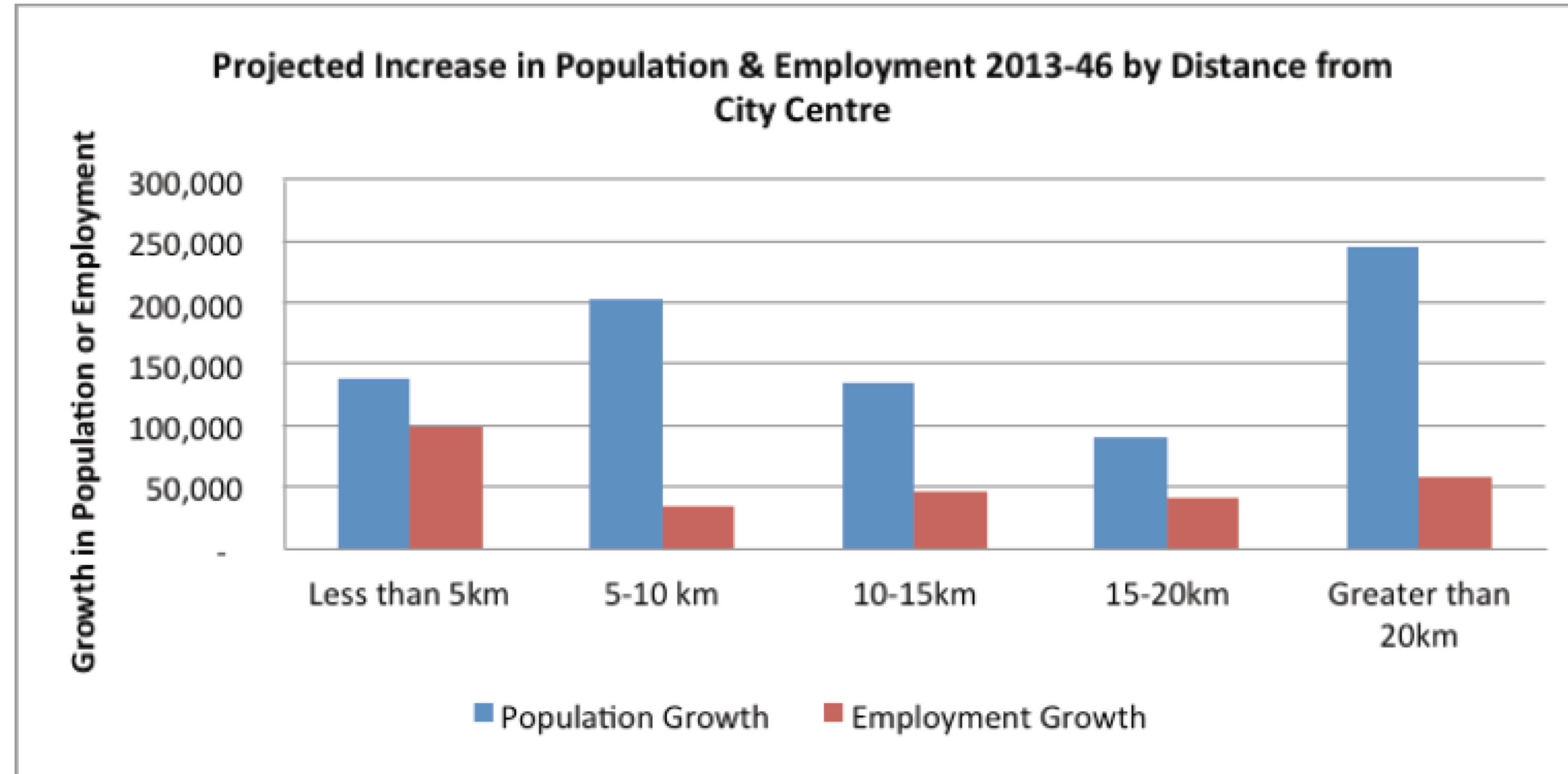


D. The "Urban village" model  
(doesn't exist in real world)





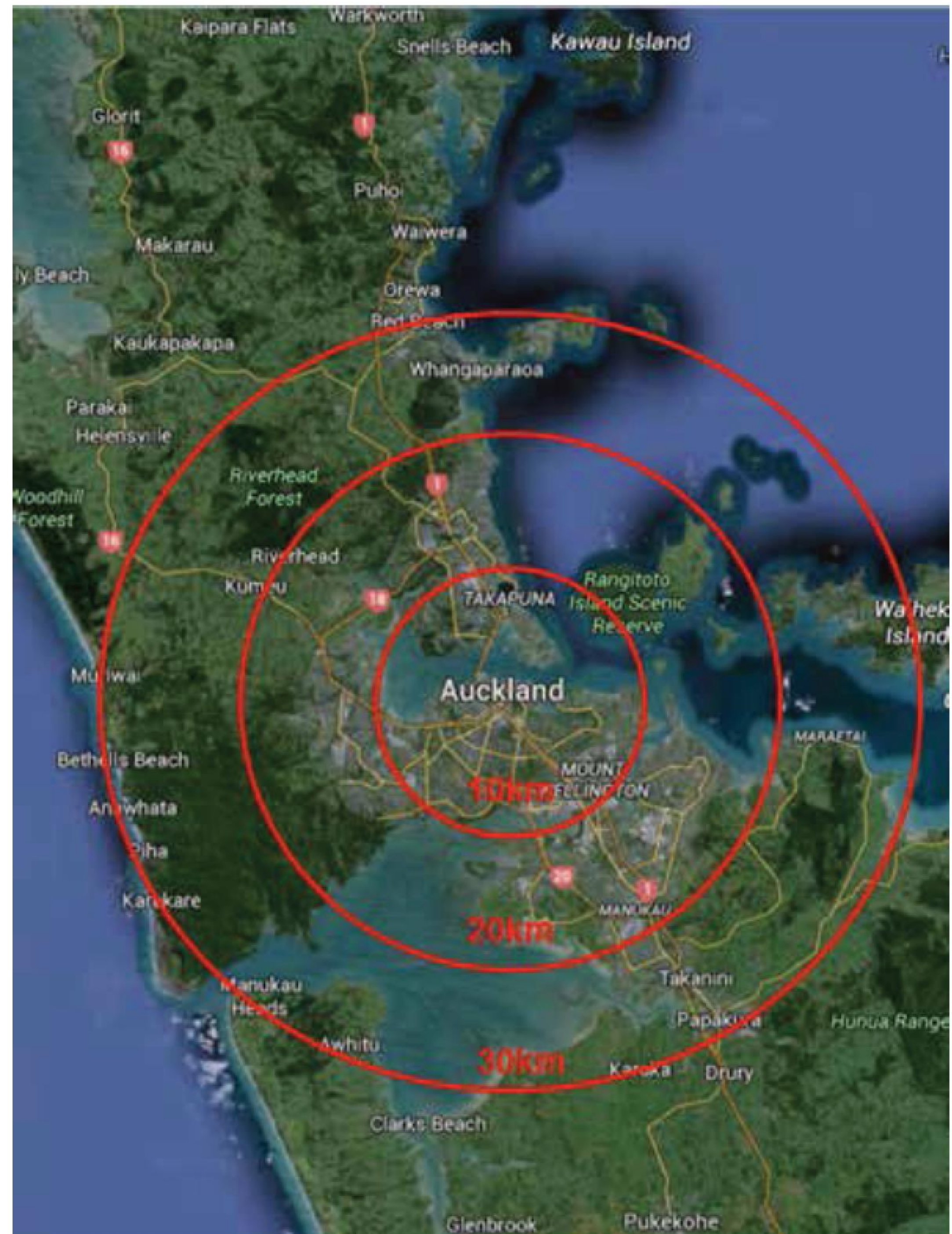
The trends are further illustrated in the graph below by comparing the level of population and employment growth over the next 30 years occurring in 5 km bands from the city centre.



*Source: Auckland Council land-use projections*

These projected household and employment growth trends will place significant pressure on the transport network through longer trip lengths, especially to major centres. The low level of growth in local employment is also likely to make improvements in employment access by car more challenging, as trips lengthen and become relatively more focused towards major centres with constrained access. Furthermore, the high value of land in major centres presents a key challenge of providing significant people-moving capacity without using extensive amounts of space.







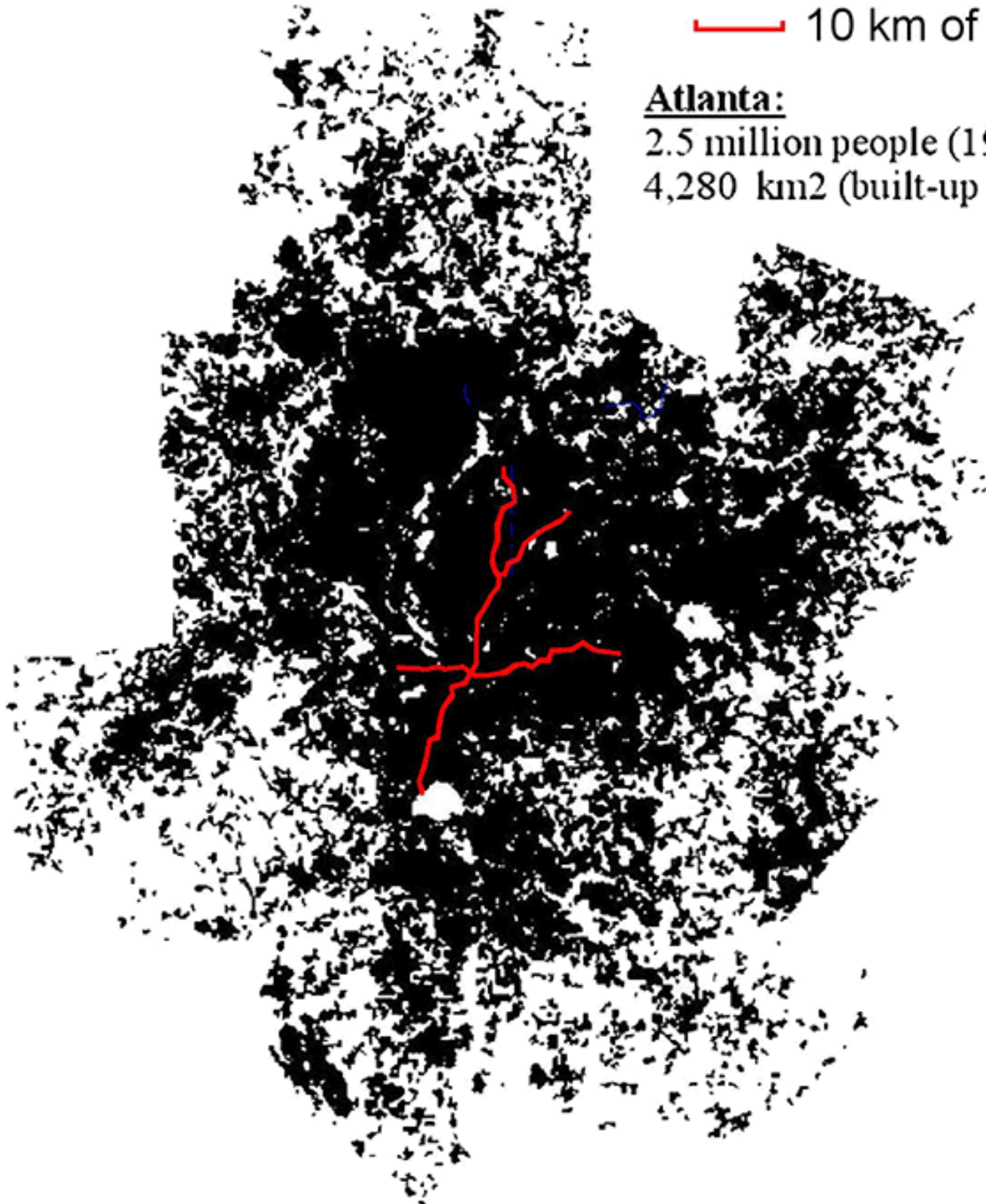




# The Built-up Area of Atlanta and Barcelona Represented at the Same Scale

— 10 km of metro line

**Atlanta:**  
 2.5 million people (1990)  
 4,280 km<sup>2</sup> (built-up area)

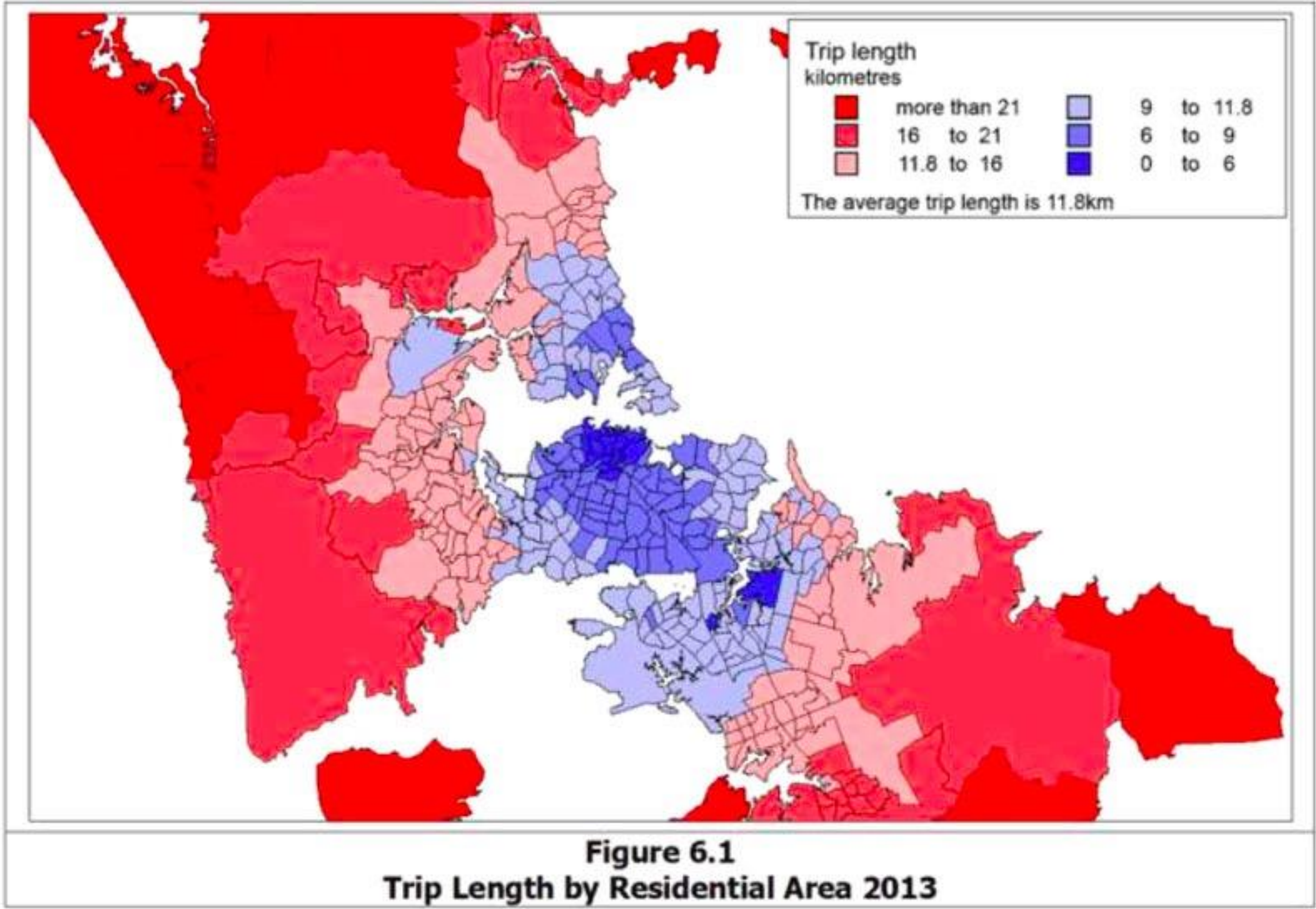


Transit in Atlanta VS Barcelona	Barcelona	Atlanta
Length of metro lines (km)	99	74
% of population within 600 m from a metro station	60%	4%
% of trips using metro	30%	4.50%
Length of metro line that would be required to serve 60% of atlanta ppopulation (km) :		3400
Number of station required		2800

**Barcelona:**  
 2.8 million people (1990)  
 162 km<sup>2</sup> (built-up area)

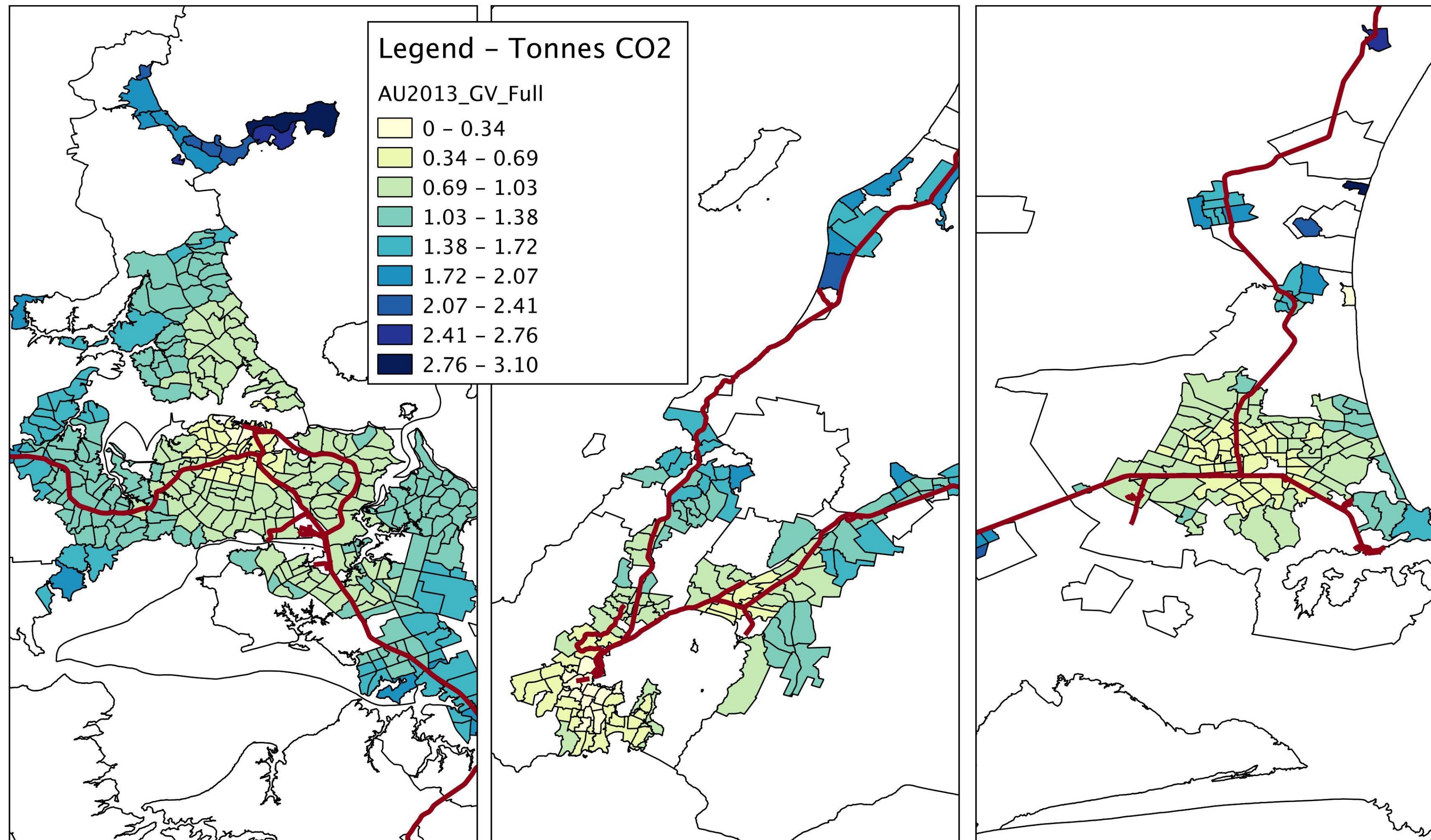








# Annual CO2 emissions per commuter in New Zealand cities



**Auckland**

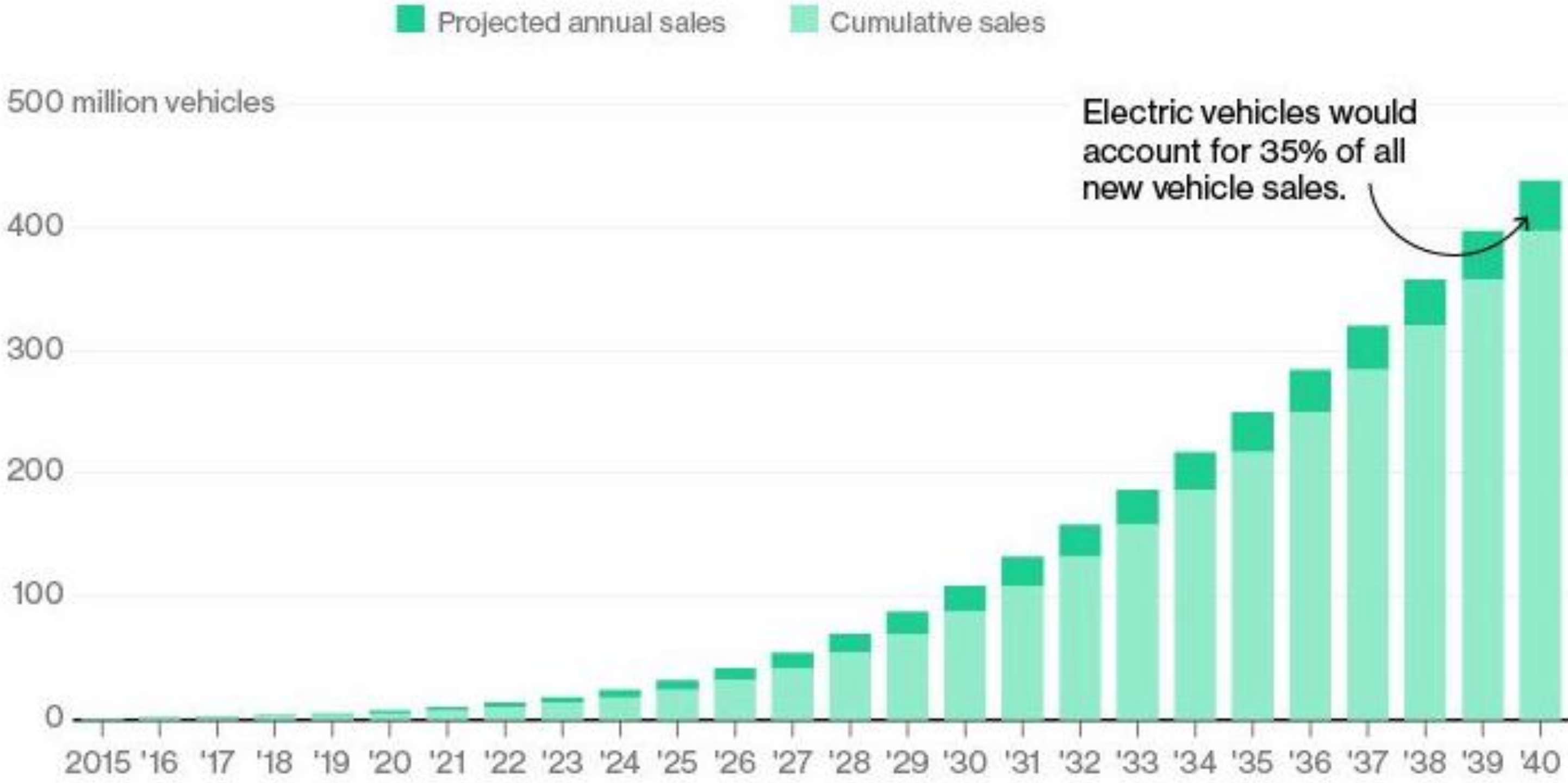
**Wellington**

**Christchurch**



# The Rise of Electric Cars

By 2022 electric vehicles will cost the same as their internal-combustion counterparts. That's the point of liftoff for sales.



Sources: Data compiled by Bloomberg New Energy Finance, Marklines





**AlexSteffen** @AlexSteffen · 2h

If one thinks sustainability is something we can "add on" to our current way of doing things, one doesn't understand the concept very well.



6



12



**AlexSteffen** @AlexSteffen · 2h

We are soon to see massive, systemic shifts in long-established ways of living. Thinking this is a choice misunderstands planetary reality.



5



6



Patrick Reynolds Retweeted



**AlexSteffen** @AlexSteffen · 2h

The sooner we stop treating sustainability as virtue, the better.  
Sustainability is realism. Planetary forces trump personal preferences.



**Non-motorist**

@ByTheMotorway

1 Oops, we built sprawl. We're very sorry, we need a bigger road.

2 Yay, we built a big huge road, sprawl party!

3 →1

20/04/15 8:37 am

16 RETWEETS 12 FAVOURITES





# weet

## **On traffic congestion**

With only a third of the new housing completed at Long Bay and Orewa, what consideration has been given to the influx of cars travelling to Auckland at peak hour? In just under a year the increase in traffic is huge. Queues now stretch back 5km or 6km, adding 15 to 20 minutes to the commute.

*Chris Bayes, Torbay.*



This problem is called congestion. When it happens, a city's options are to:

(A) Stop growing — because congestion has become terrible and growth will make it worse.

(B) Widen streets. This requires huge amounts of land, and land in cities is very expensive. What's more, if you tear down enough buildings to widen streets, you are effectively destroying your city in order to save it.

(C) Focus on helping people get around using less space than cars require — through walking, cycling and mass transit.

Given the options, it's not surprising that urban leaders — regardless of political ideology — eventually decide that C is the only real answer.



## What does it take to move 1000 people?

1 train (eight carriages)



15 buses



Anywhere from 250 to 1000 cars



This would then require 1.37 hectares of parking space in the Sydney Central Business District.



Cities  
Cities in motion

# End of the car age: how cities are outgrowing the automobile

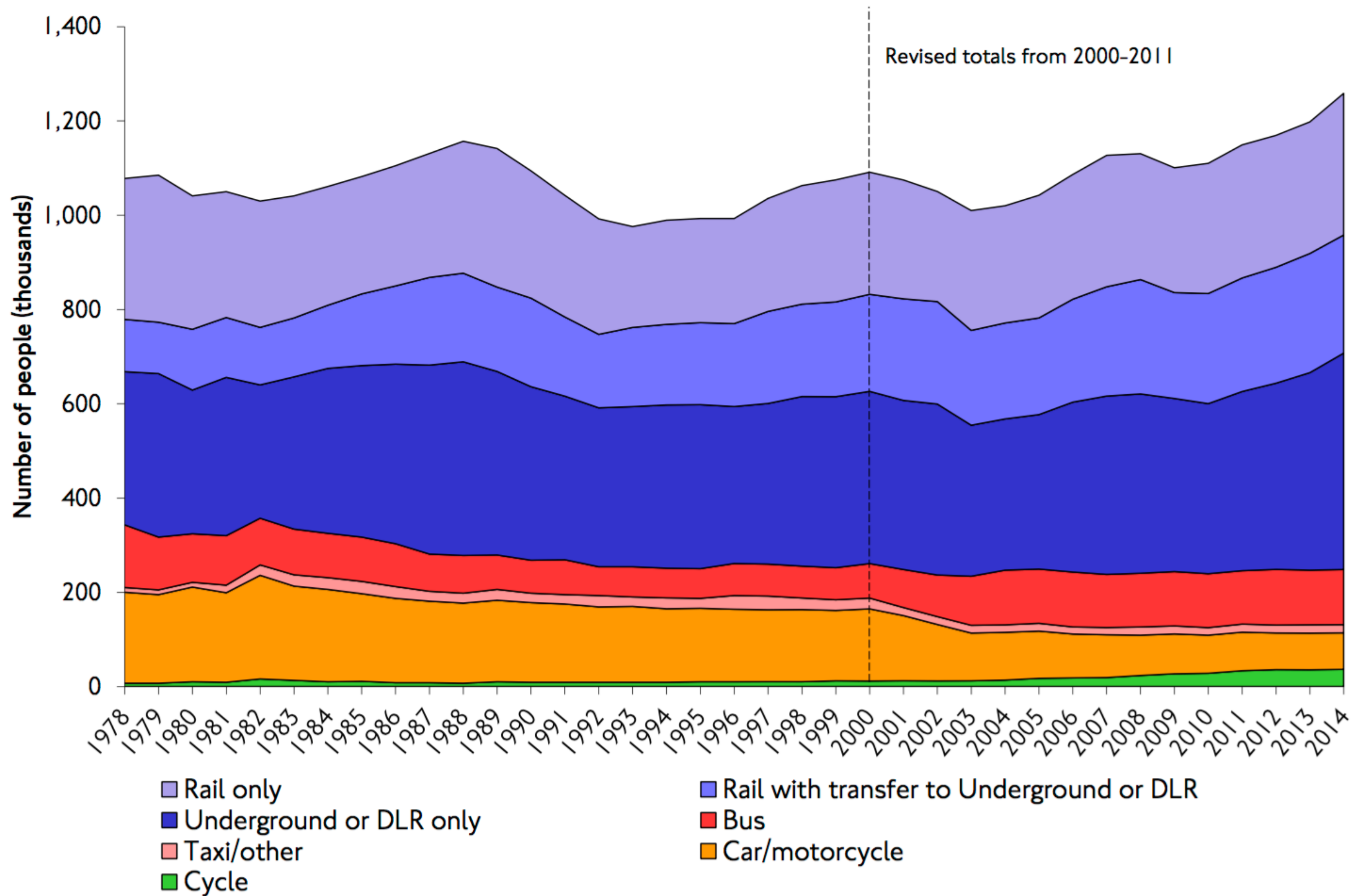
Cities around the world are coming to the same conclusion: they'd be better off with far fewer cars. So what's behind this seismic shift in our urban lifestyles? Stephen Moss goes on an epic (car-free) journey to find out



London's Oxford Street in 1965, when city planning was dominated by a desire to accommodate the car. Photograph: Powell/Getty Images

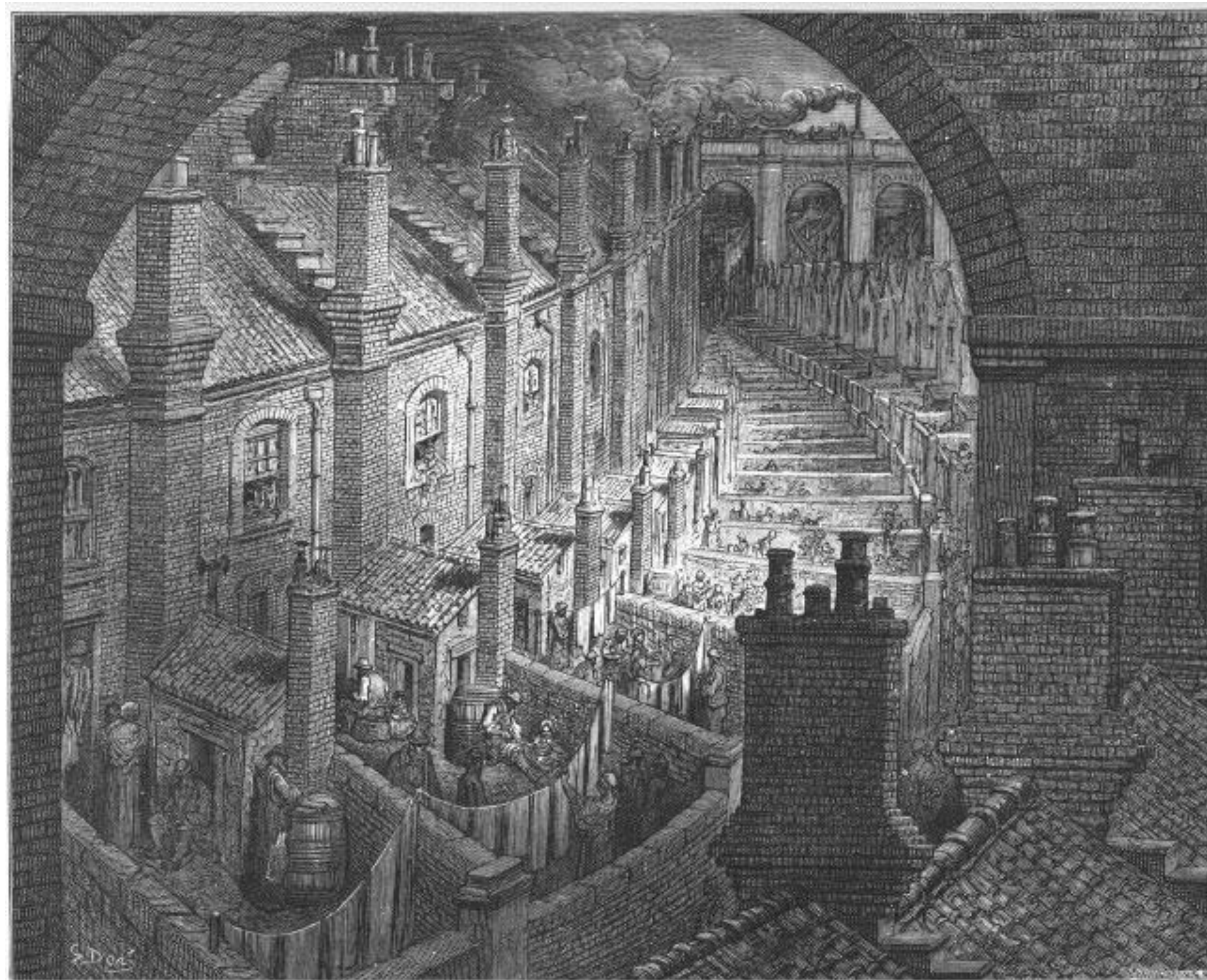


Figure 2.5 People entering central London in the weekday morning peak, 1978 to 2014.



Source: TfL Planning, Strategic Analysis.

# Cognitive Dissonance in AKL urban form debate



OVER LONDON - BY RAIL.









site  
New Bus  
Better



Why we love NZ

How we can show it

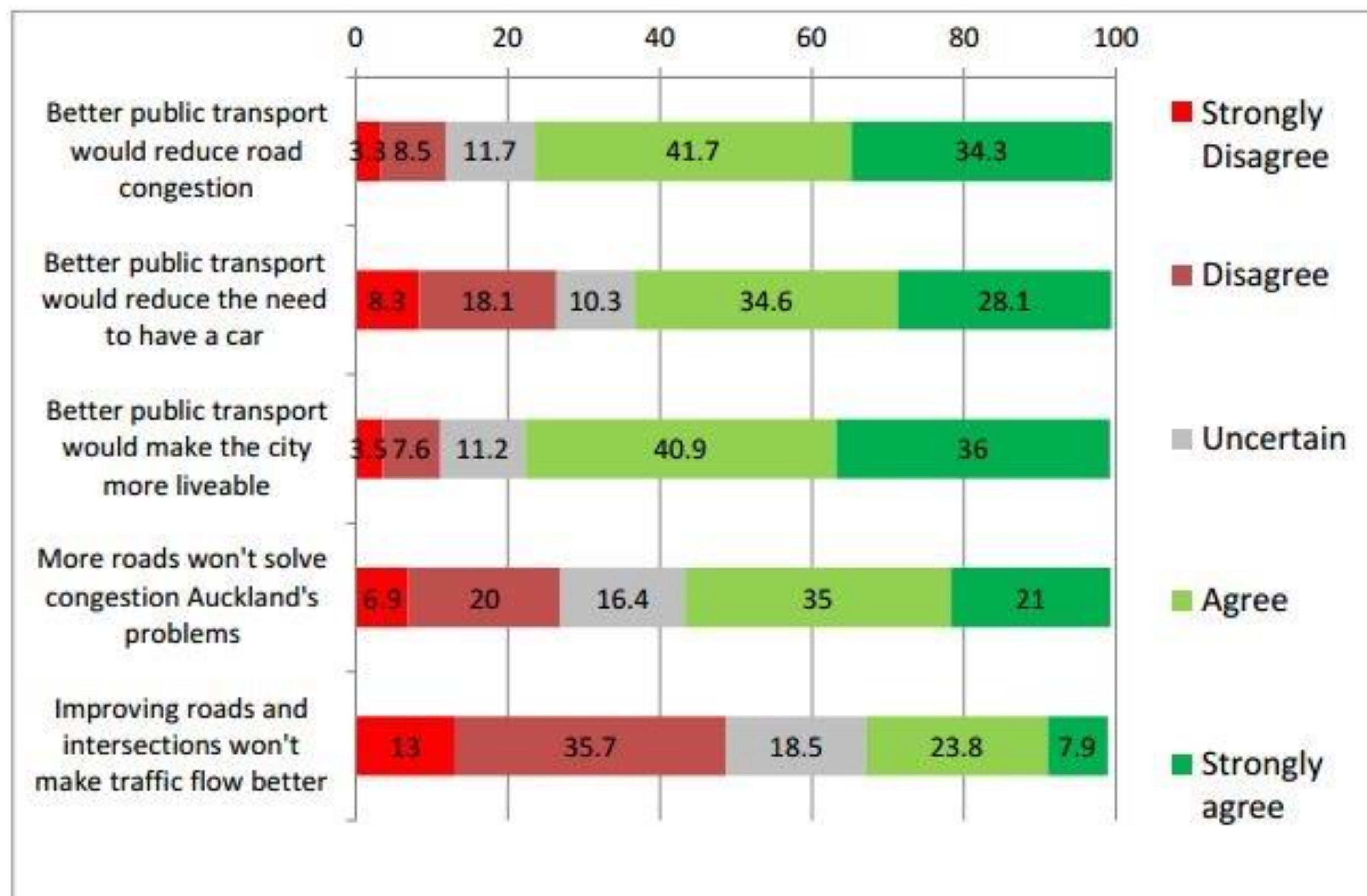


Canvas .co.nz





Questions 5a (i ... v) asked members to rate their reaction to commonly made claims about transport in Auckland. The questions were



‘Auckland adds an extreme case study to recent international scholarship that has examined the extent to which institutionalised processes and mind-sets can distort the articulation of public preferences in strategic transport plans.’

-Paul Mees and Jago Dobson 2007 *“Backtracking Auckland?”: Technical and communicative reason in Metropolitan transport planning*





Harbour Bridge 1958







# ADDITIONAL WAITEMATĀ HARBOUR CROSSING

**2MILLION**  
AUCKLANDERS

—  
Auckland's population is expected to grow to two million people by 2030.

**30%**

—  
Without an additional crossing, daily trips across the harbour will grow by approximately 30% over the next 30 years.

**65%**


—  
With an additional crossing in place, that growth in daily trips is forecast at around 65%.



# Here's How Many Bridges NYC Would Need If Everyone Drove

KELSEY CAMPBELL-DOLLAGHAN 27 DECEMBER 2014 8:00 PM

Share 

Discuss 

Bookmark 



Manhattan has plenty of bridges — they're its most recognisable landmarks, really — but exactly how many more would it need if every last person drove a car? [Matt Taylor](#), a transit engineer, has seen this bizarro-Manhattan, and [it's not pretty](#).

Taylor took it upon himself to calculate exactly how many more bridges we'd need if everyone had a car. "2,060,000 people need to enter and exit Manhattan around the same times each day," he writes in [a blog post](#), making allowances for the tourists, students, and even hospital patients that come in and out of the city every day. Right now, he continues, just 16 per cent of those people enter the island via car.



# AWHC: Where Does all the New Traffic Go?

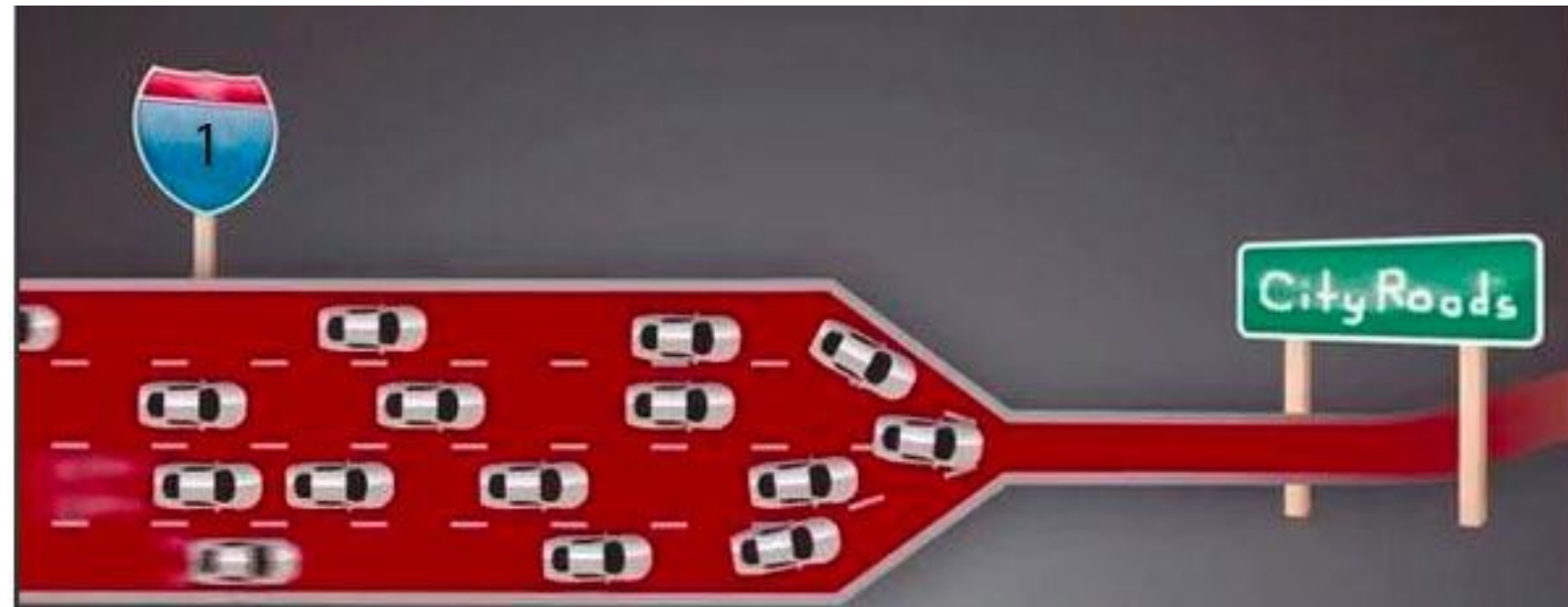
20,300 additional cars modelled for Fanshawe + Cook St with the AWHC option (assume that is all day on a weekday?). Even at the best sorts of turnover that would require around 10,000+ new carpark places. The downtown carpark has 1890 spaces. So where exactly do we put six new downtown carpark buildings? And what six streets get sacrificed to feed them?

20,300 cars carry perhaps 25,000 people. The CRL at capacity will carry that entire amount in 40 minutes. As could a North Shore rail line of similar specification. If the net outcome of this project is to take 20,000 commuters to midtown, why not do it with rapid transit at a third the cost with none of the traffic congestion?

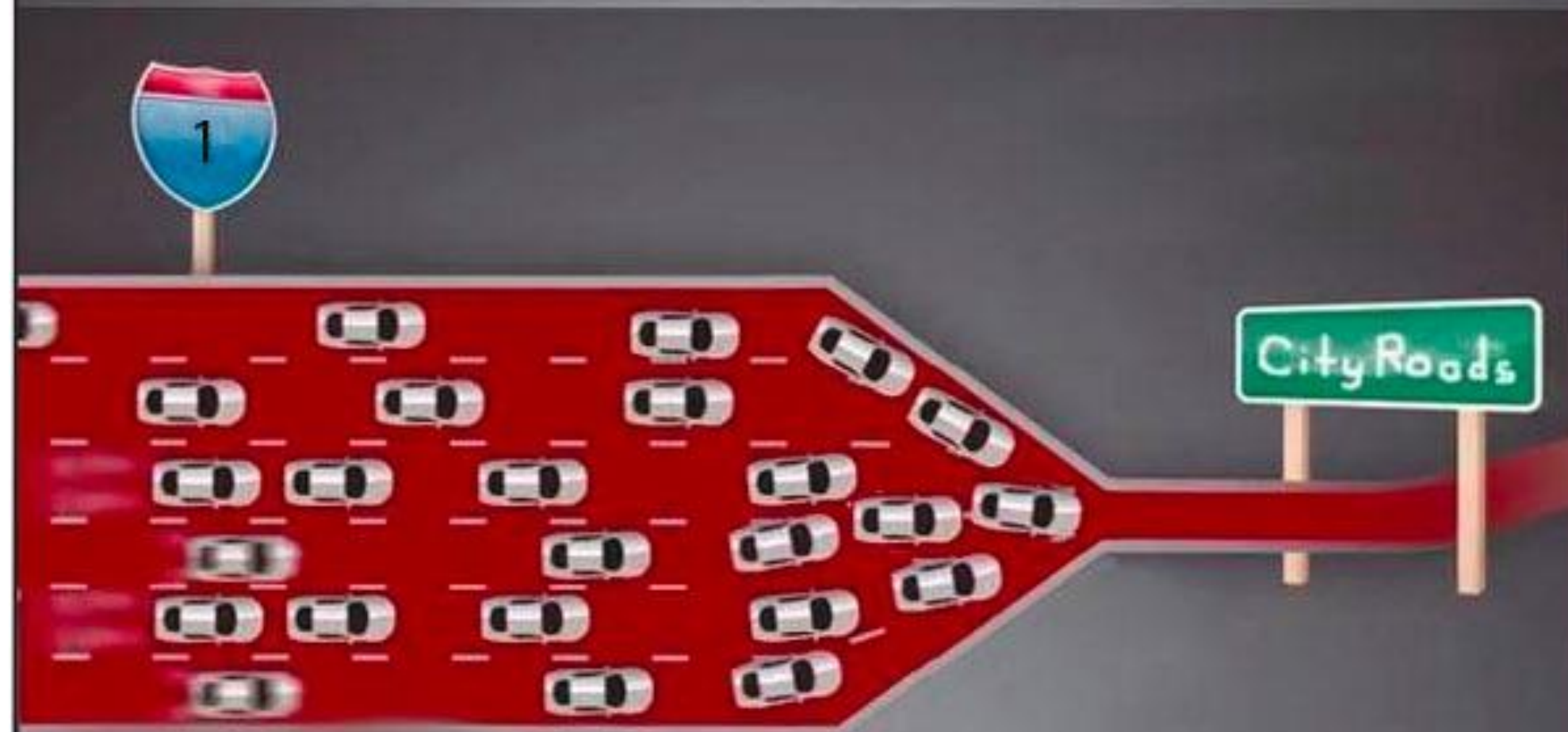
*"The significant increase in traffic movements conflict with many of the aspirations outlined in current Council policies, strategies, frameworks and master plans."*

—P 65 *Additional Waitemata Harbour Crossing Network Plan*, NZTA, 2010.

Obviously these higher traffic volumes are not good for every pedestrian, resident, and general city user in these areas but there is one other group that this situation in particular is going to make miserable, **and that's the motorist**. There is a word for all this additional driving everywhere on city streets: congestion. Yup this increase in capacity across the harbour may speed that part of the journey but it's going to make arriving anywhere in the city in your car much more hellish than it is now. And don't even think about finding or affording somewhere to park.

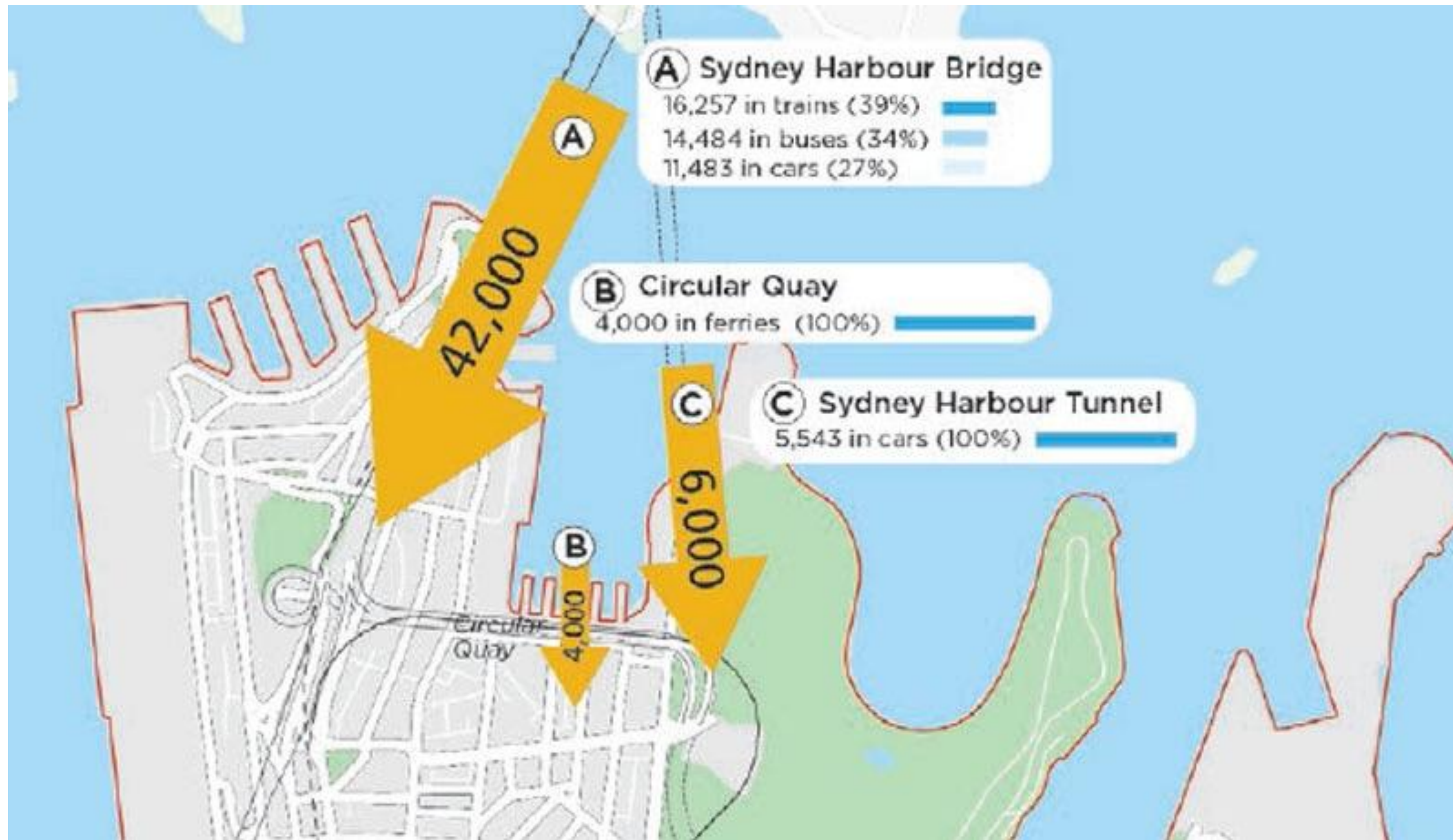


**If this is your problem...**



**This is not your solution.**











'Seductive Congestion: that's what the best cities are about'

-John King



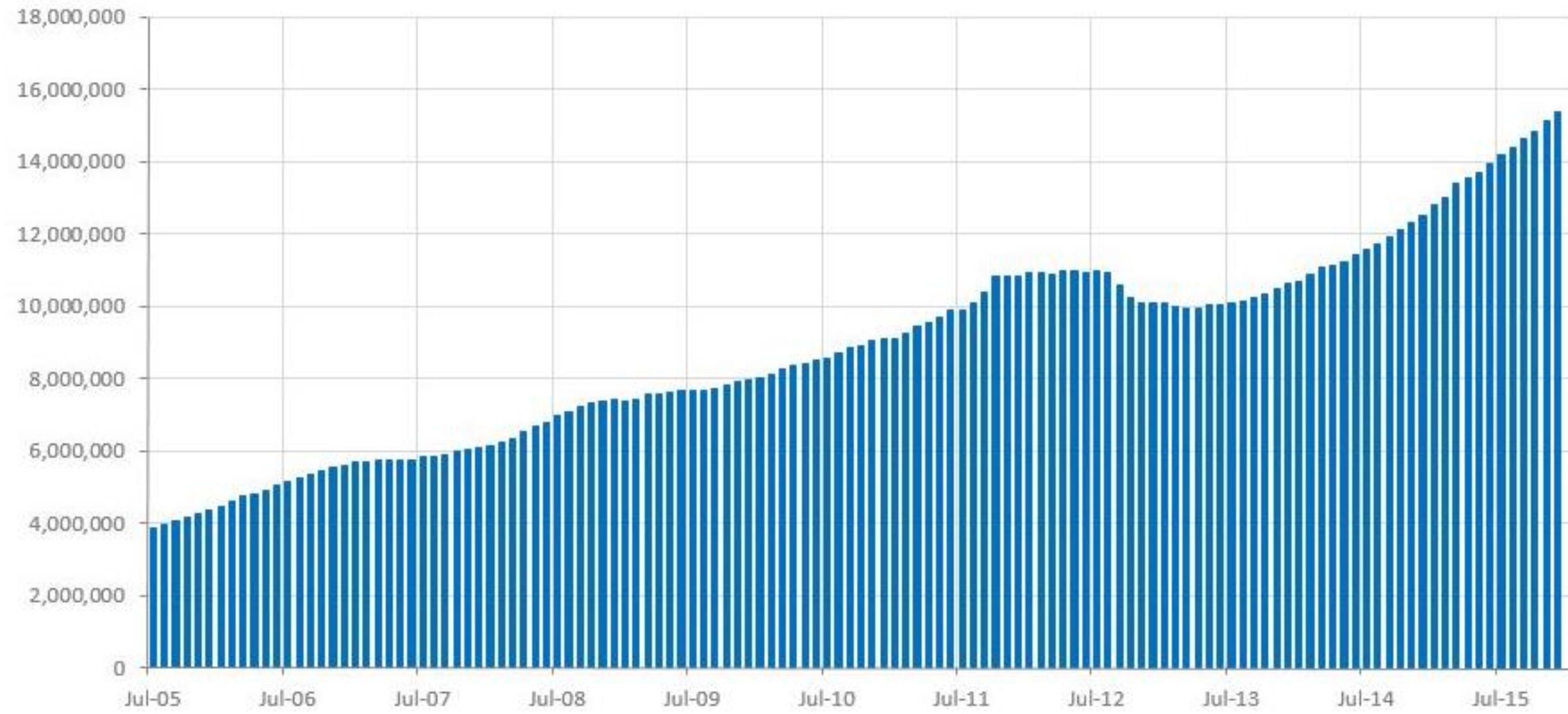




### Auckland Annual Rail Patronage

Source: Auckland Transport

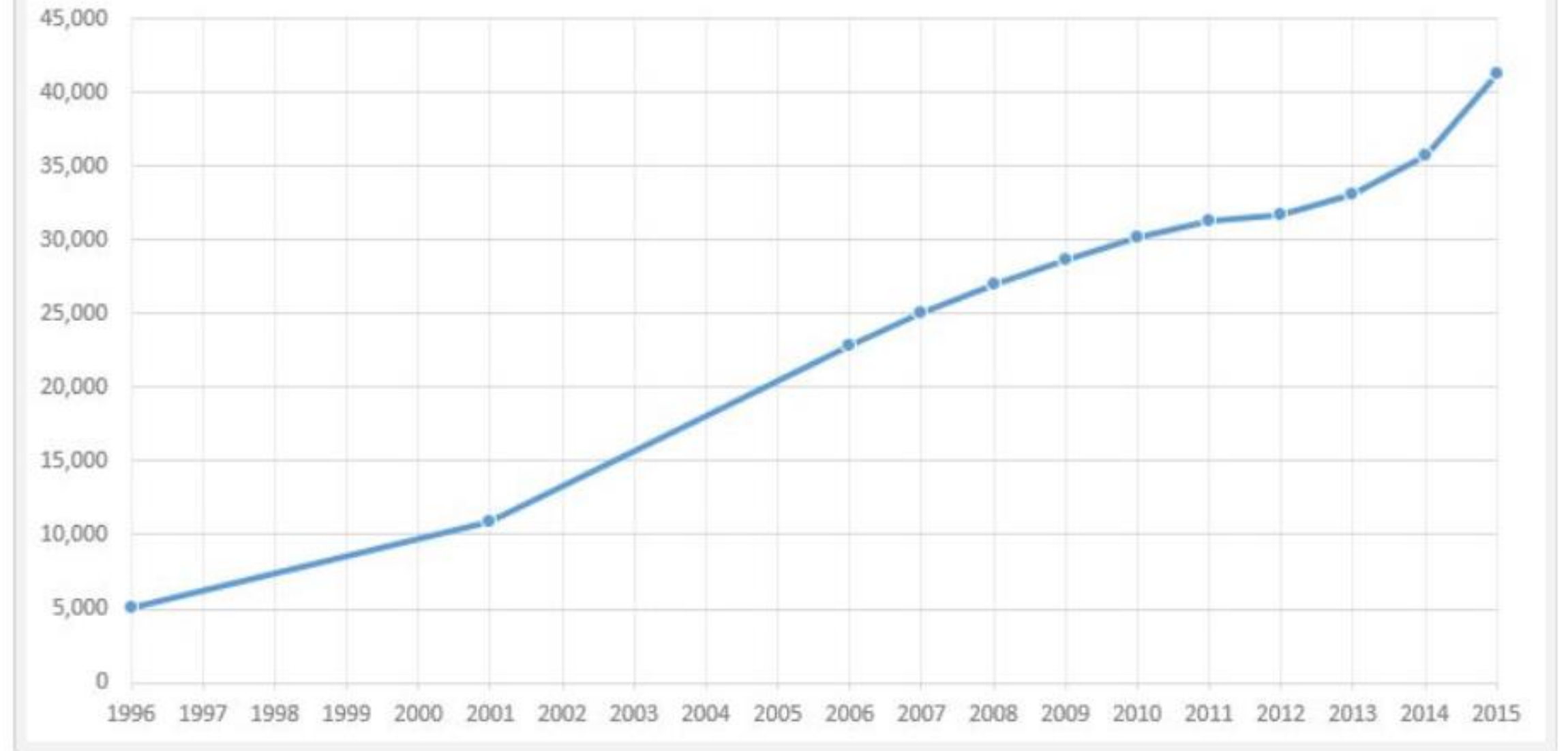
transportblog.co.nz



### Auckland City Centre Population

Source: Stats NZ

transportblog.co.nz



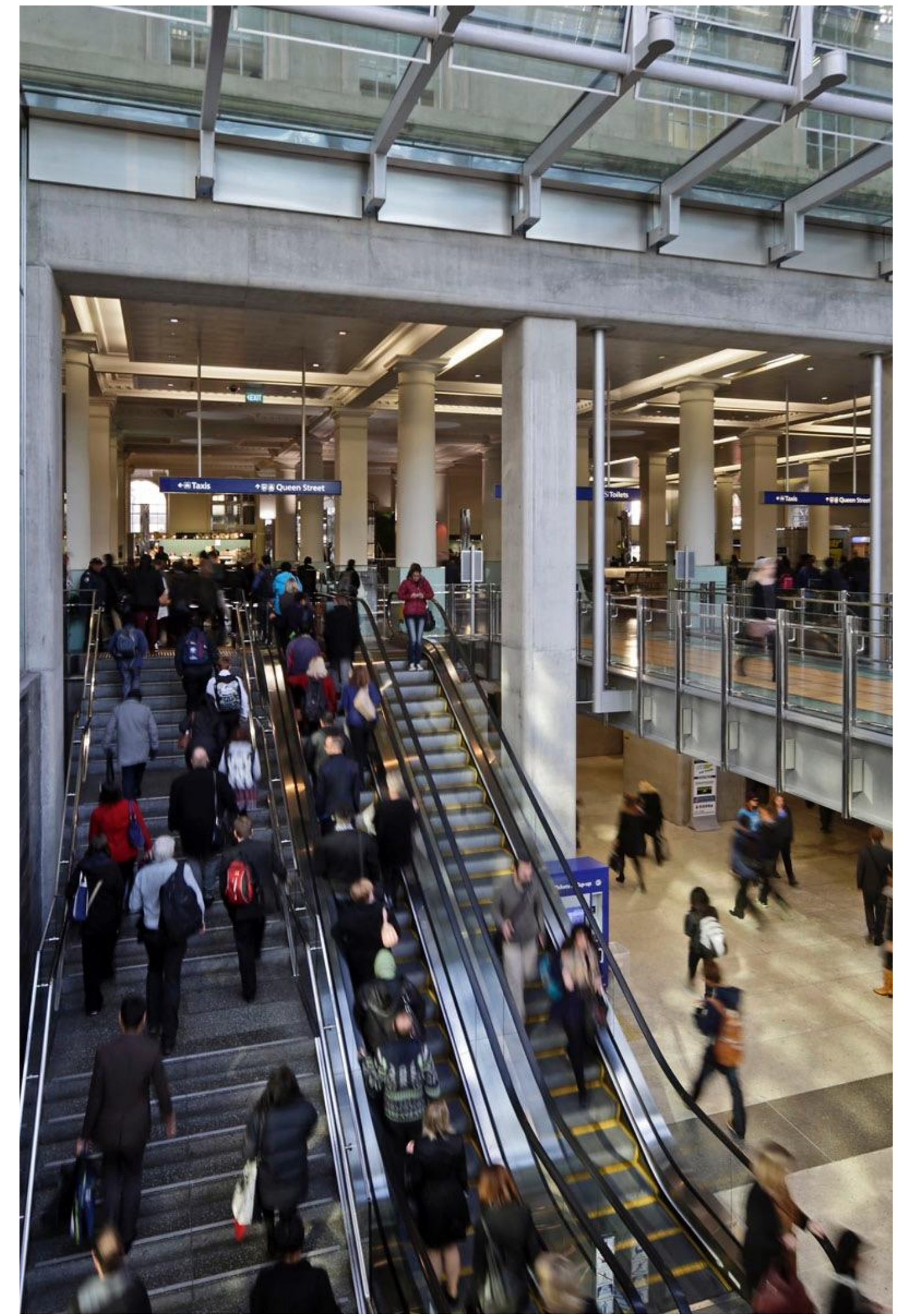






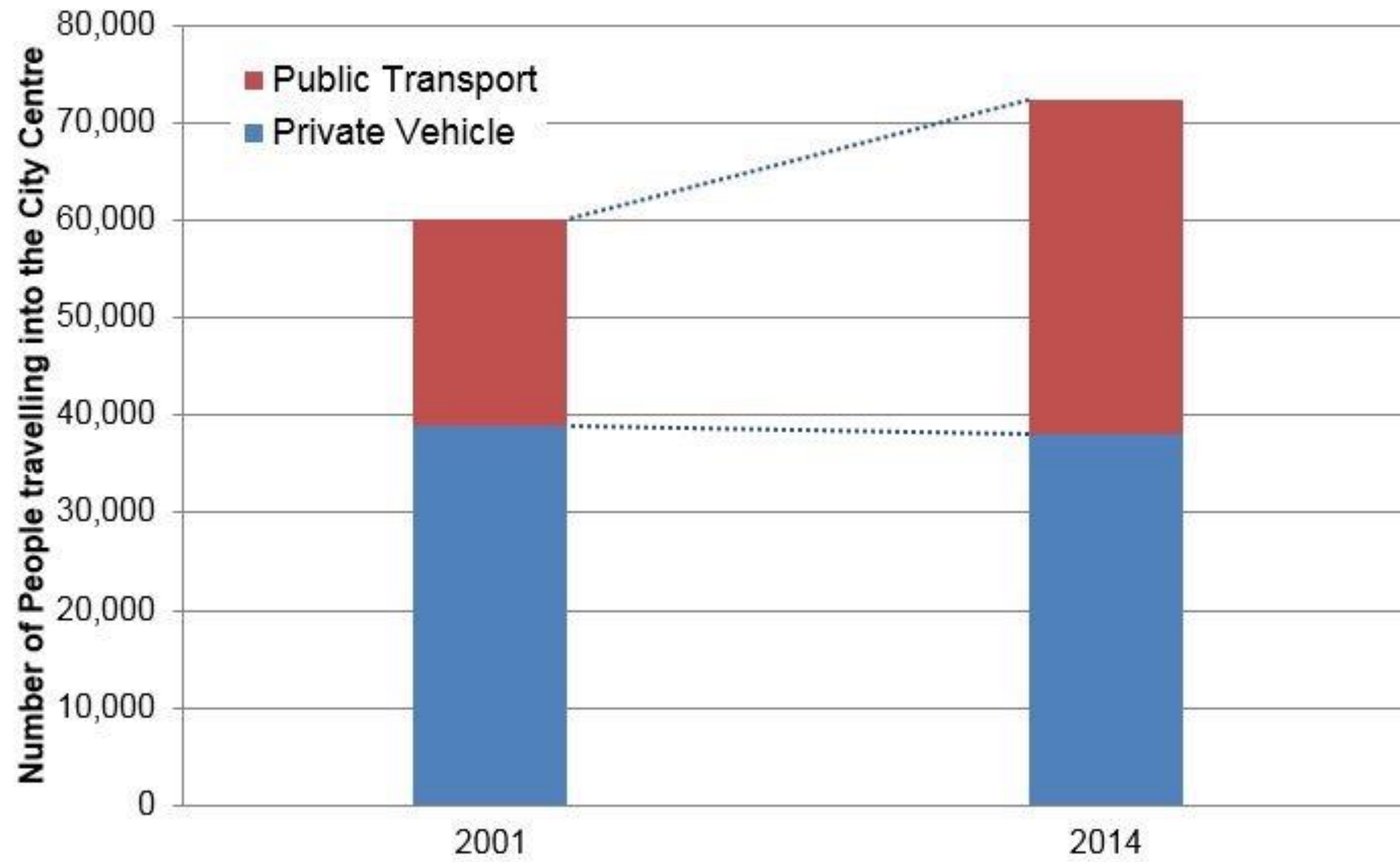








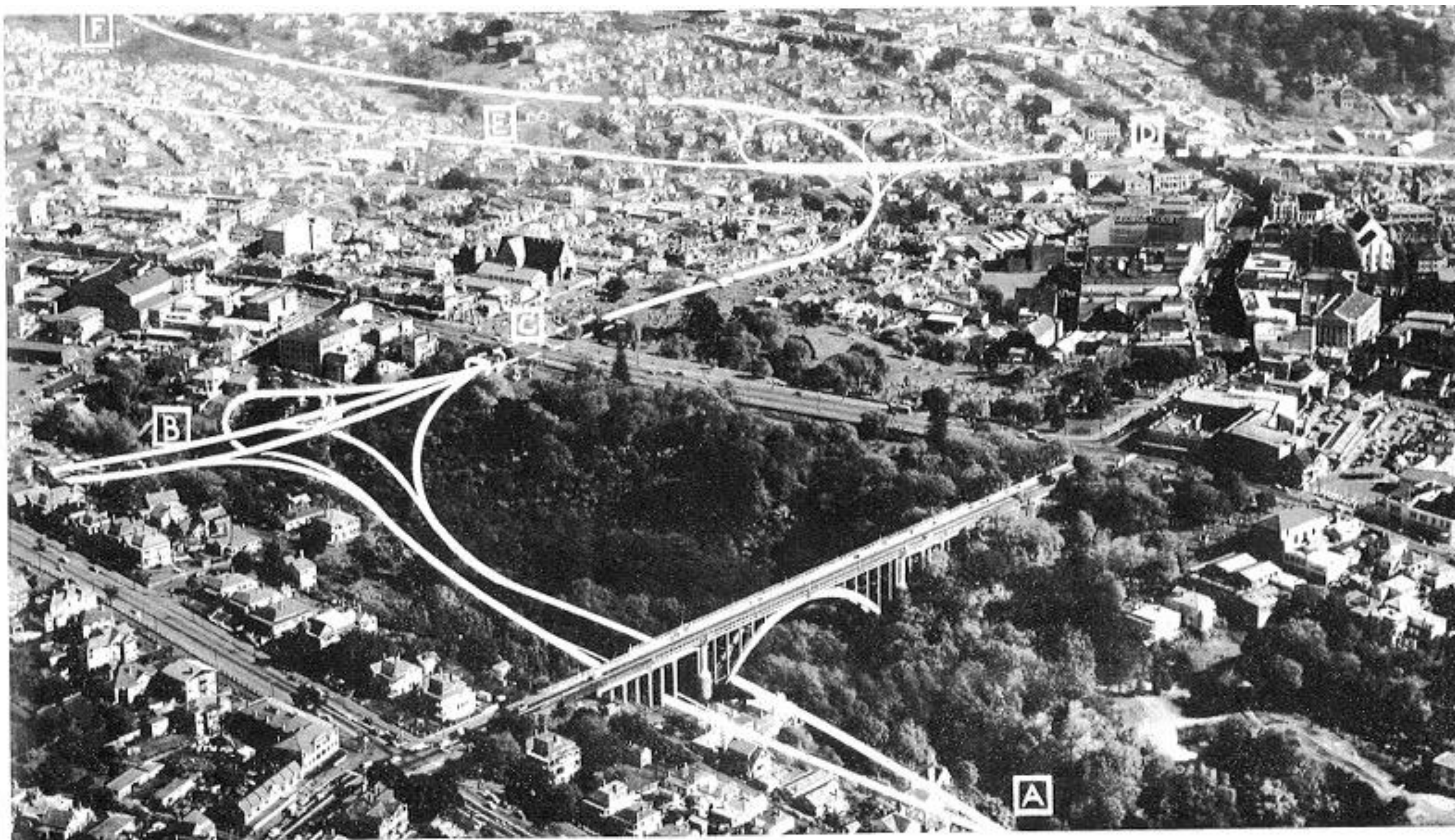
**People Entering The City Centre by Car and PT: 2001-2014**  
(Morning Peak Period, 7am-9am)











#### MASTER TRANSPORT FOCAL POINT.

The Grafton Gully and nearby areas will be the focal point of a network which will be among the most important in the Auckland Master Transport plan. The original Grafton Bridge was merely built to span a bush-clad gully. Among other things there will be a twin tunnel, nine chains long, with the rest "cut and cover" passes.

Main features of this view of the upper city are: A, Route to and from downtown city; B, To Newmarket and Penrose; C, Symonds Street; D, To Harbour Bridge under Karangahape Road; E, Motorway connecting south-western suburbs; F, Newton gully to northern motorway. The latter has been in use for some time.







# Major surgery for Auckland City







Newton 1959



Newton 2010



'The highway is the triumphant devaluation of space'

-Milan Kundera







“Officials will provide advice on how this process can be managed and achieved,” Mr Bridges says.

In the interim, the NZ Transport Agency will later this year start early project works on widening State Highway 20 between Neilson St and Queenstown Rd.

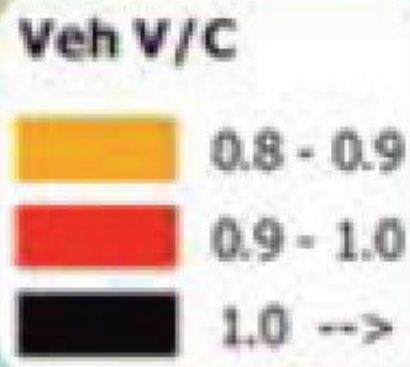
“These works are integral to the wider East-West Connection project and will support traffic growth when the Waterview Tunnels open,” Mr Bridges says.

Over the next three years, \$4.2 billion will be invested in transport in and around Auckland. This includes:

- Completing the Western Ring Route by 2019.
- Opening the \$200 million Te Atatu and Lincoln interchanges in March.
- Opening the \$1.4 billion Waterview Connection early next year.
- Ongoing construction of the \$1.3 billion Auckland Manukau Eastern Transport Initiative.
- \$268 million to upgrade parts of the Southern Motorway by late 2018.
- Starting construction of the Northern Motorway Upgrade in 2018, connecting it with the Western Ring Route.
- Completion of the Northern Busway Extension through to Albany.



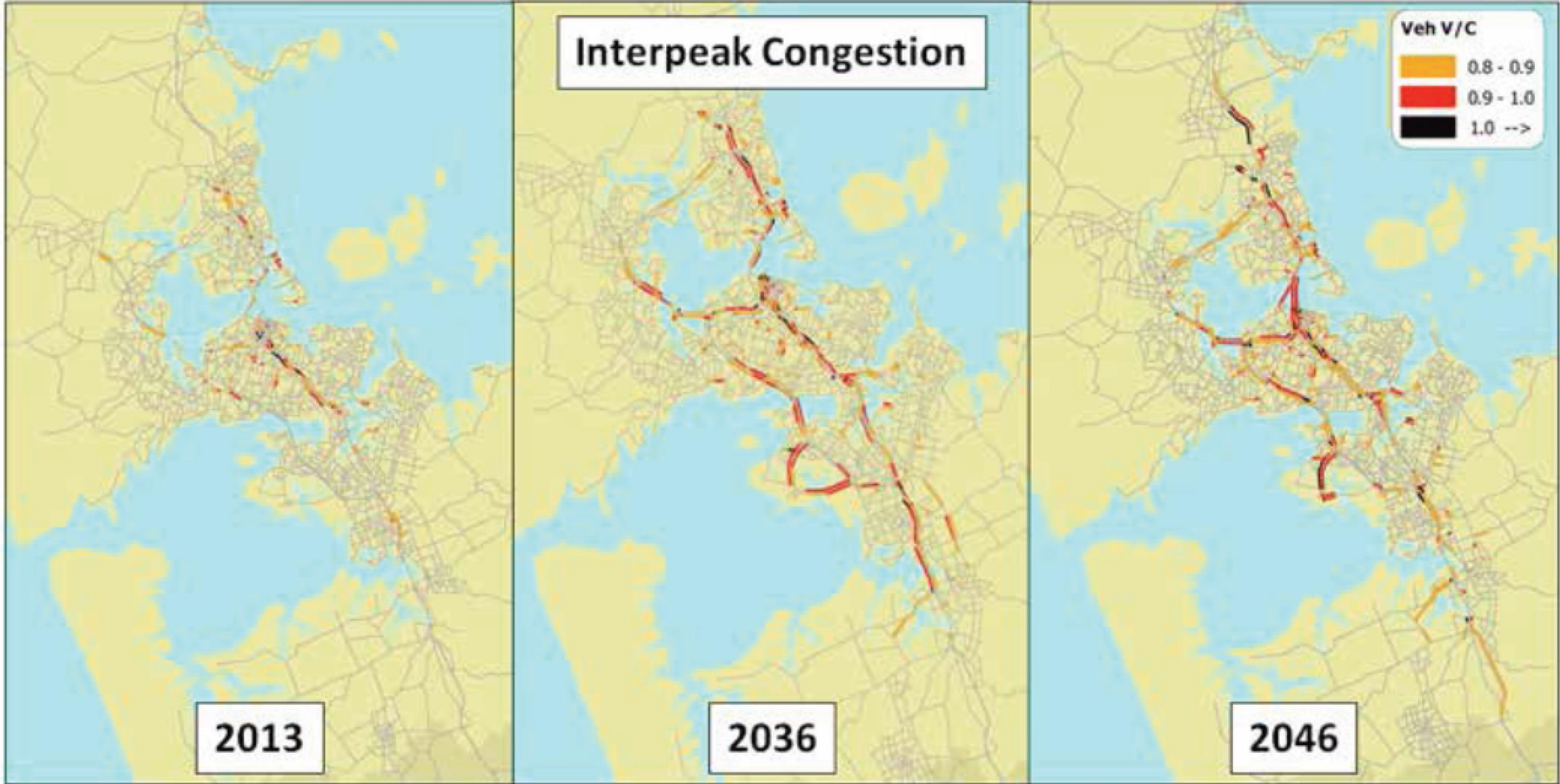
# Interpeak Congestion



2013

2036

2046





## East West initial BCR table

TABLE 9.1: ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF OPTIONS (BASE CASE)

	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Option E	Option F	FN32
Total Benefits (\$M PV) <sup>19</sup>	850	1650	1500	1200	1600	1550	25
Net Costs (\$M PV) <sup>20</sup>	200	500	700	750	850	800	20
NPV (\$M)	650–700	1150–1200	775–825	475–525–	750–800	725–775	5
BCR (P50)	4.9	3.4	2.2	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.2
BCR (P95)	3.3	2.3	1.6	1.2	1.4	1.4	0.8



The Government today announced its intention to streamline the consent process for the East-West Connection roading project in Auckland in order to bring forward its construction.

The project, **estimated to cost between \$1.25 and \$1.85 billion**, will provide a seamless link between the South-Western Motorway (SH20) and the Southern Motorway (SH1). It will also tackle congestion and provide more reliable travel times in and out of the Onehunga-Penrose industrial area, and between the eastern suburbs and the airport.

\* [beehive.govt.nz](http://beehive.govt.nz)



‘Auckland’s dependence on cars is the product of path-dependent pro-road policies extending back to the 1950s...This has not only created car-oriented norms, but also established formidable political and institutional barriers, as evidenced by inequitable funding allocation, biased technical rationality, shallow consultation processes...to justify road projects in preference to public transport.’

-Imran Muhammed *Metro Transport Planning and Governance in Auckland*  
Melbourne University Press 2014



DE LEUW, CATHER & COMPANY  
ENGINEERS  
WESTERN OFFICE  
1256 MARKET STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO 2, CALIFORNIA  
UNDERHILL 1-1302

October 25, 1965

The Chairman and Members  
Auckland Regional Authority  
Auckland, New Zealand

Gentlemen:

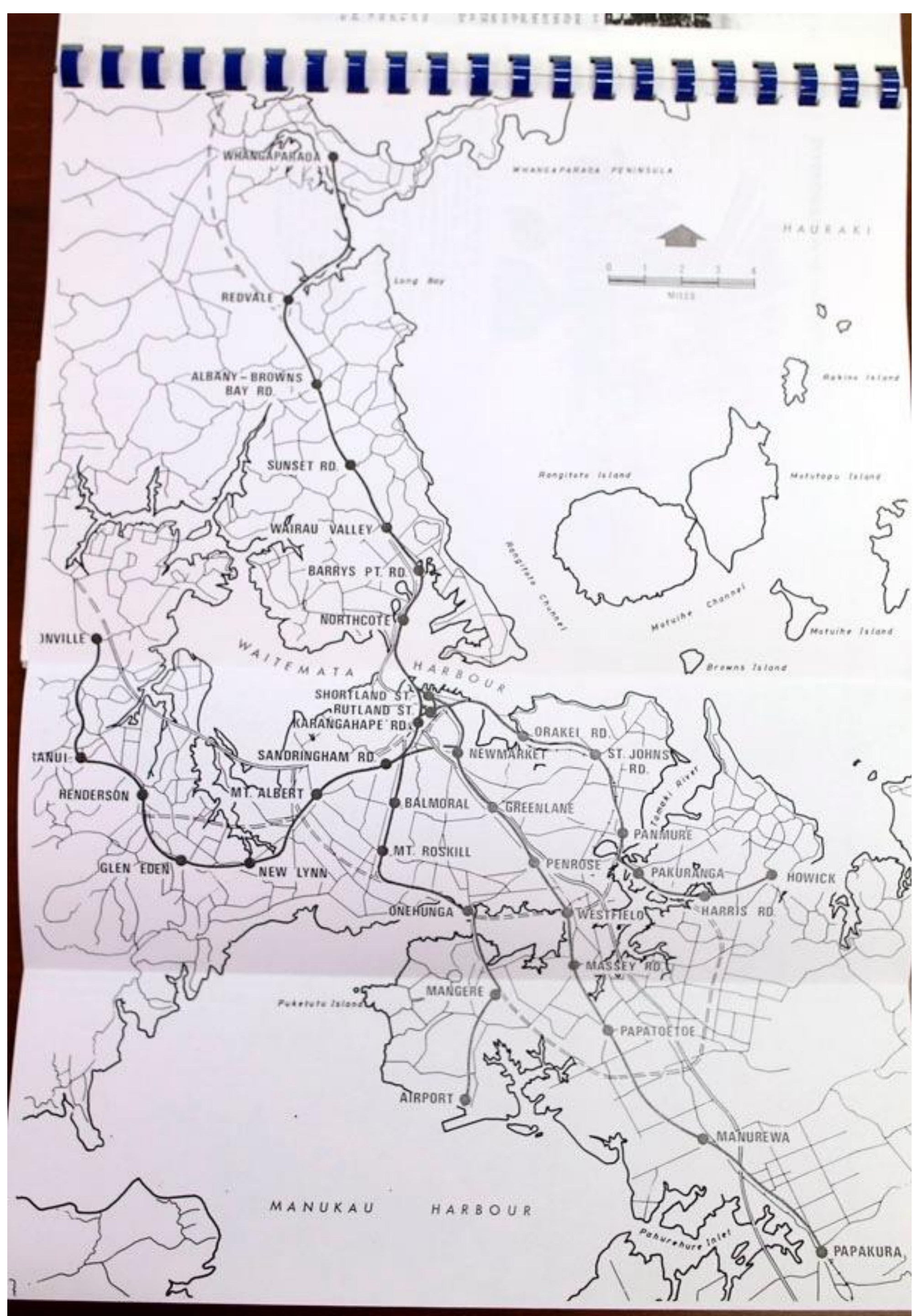
We are pleased to submit herewith a summary of the surveys, findings and recommendations completed pursuant to our assignment of May 14, 1963, to conduct a comprehensive study of highway transportation in the Auckland Metropolitan Region. This report presents a long-range plan for transportation development, including motorways, arterial thoroughfares and local streets, together with operational traffic improvements and automobile parking facilities.

Our report of July 15, 1965 on the Regional Transit Plan recommends a coordinated bus and rail rapid transit plan for public transportation service in the Auckland Metropolitan Region. The rail rapid transit facility would operate along trunk lines in the several principal corridors where railway facilities are now located, with an extension to downtown Auckland via an underground subway along Customs and Queen Streets to a terminus at the Civic Center. The bus lines tributary to the rail rapid transit corridors will provide feeder services to the outlying rail stations.

The two reports provide the basis for development of a balanced transportation system adequate to serve the entire Auckland Region to 1986 and beyond. The findings, conclusions and recommendations of this report are summarized as follows.

The transportation surveys, which provided an accurate and authoritative basis for estimating future traffic, included a comprehensive origin-destination survey, traffic volume counts, motorway and street inventories, screen line and cordon counts, travel time studies and parking studies in the central business district. Analyses of these







# AUCKLAND

THE CONGESTION FREE NETWORK

# 2030

congestionfree.co.nz



**Key to lines & symbols**

	Southern Line		Northern Bus Line
	East-West Line		Upper Harbour Bus Line
	Airport Line		Northwestern Bus Line
	Shore Line		Botany Bus Line
	Ferry Line		Howick Bus Line
	Interchange Station		Dominion Rd Light Rail
	International Airport		Devonport Bus Line



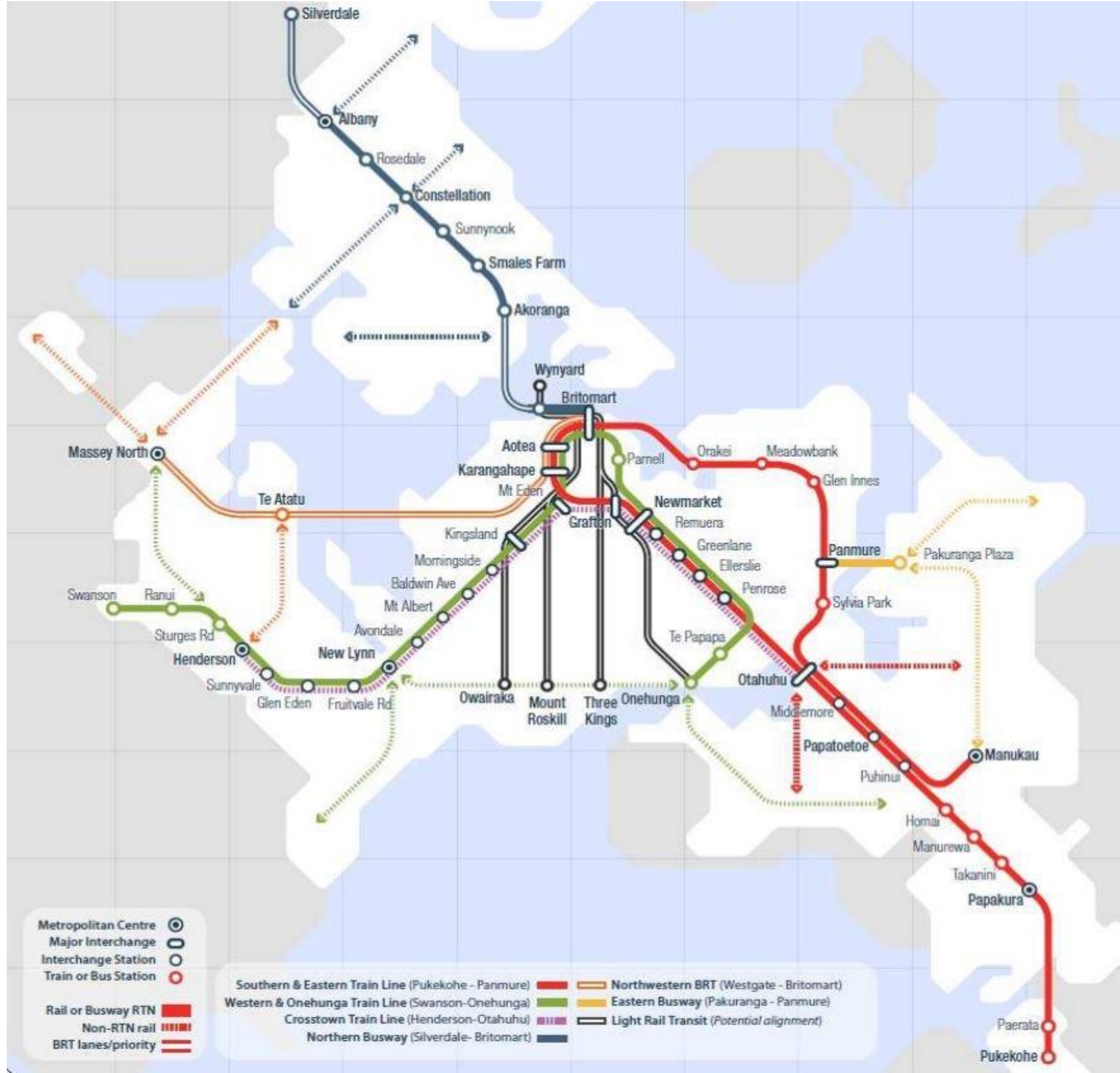
# AUCKLAND

THE CONGESTION FREE NETWORK

# 2015





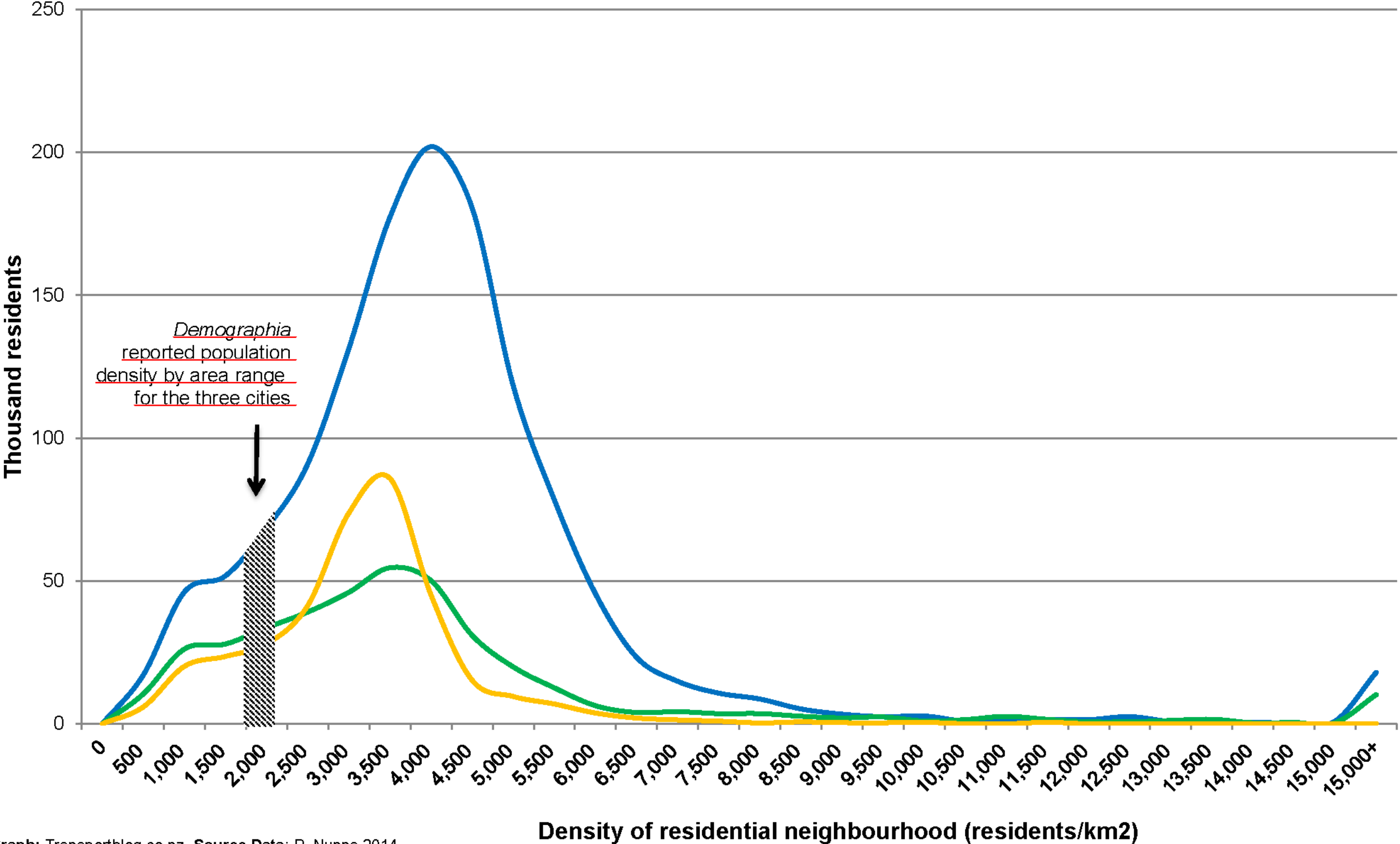


- Metropolitan Centre
- Major Interchange
- Interchange Station
- Train or Bus Station
- Rail or Busway RTN
- Non-RTN rail
- BRT lanes/priority

- Southern & Eastern Train Line (Pukekohe - Panmure)
- Western & Onehunga Train Line (Swanson - Onehunga)
- Crosstown Train Line (Henderson - Otahuhu)
- Northern Busway (Silverdale - Britomart)
- Northwestern BRT (Westgate - Britomart)
- Eastern Busway (Pakuranga - Panmure)
- Light Rail Transit (Potential alignment)



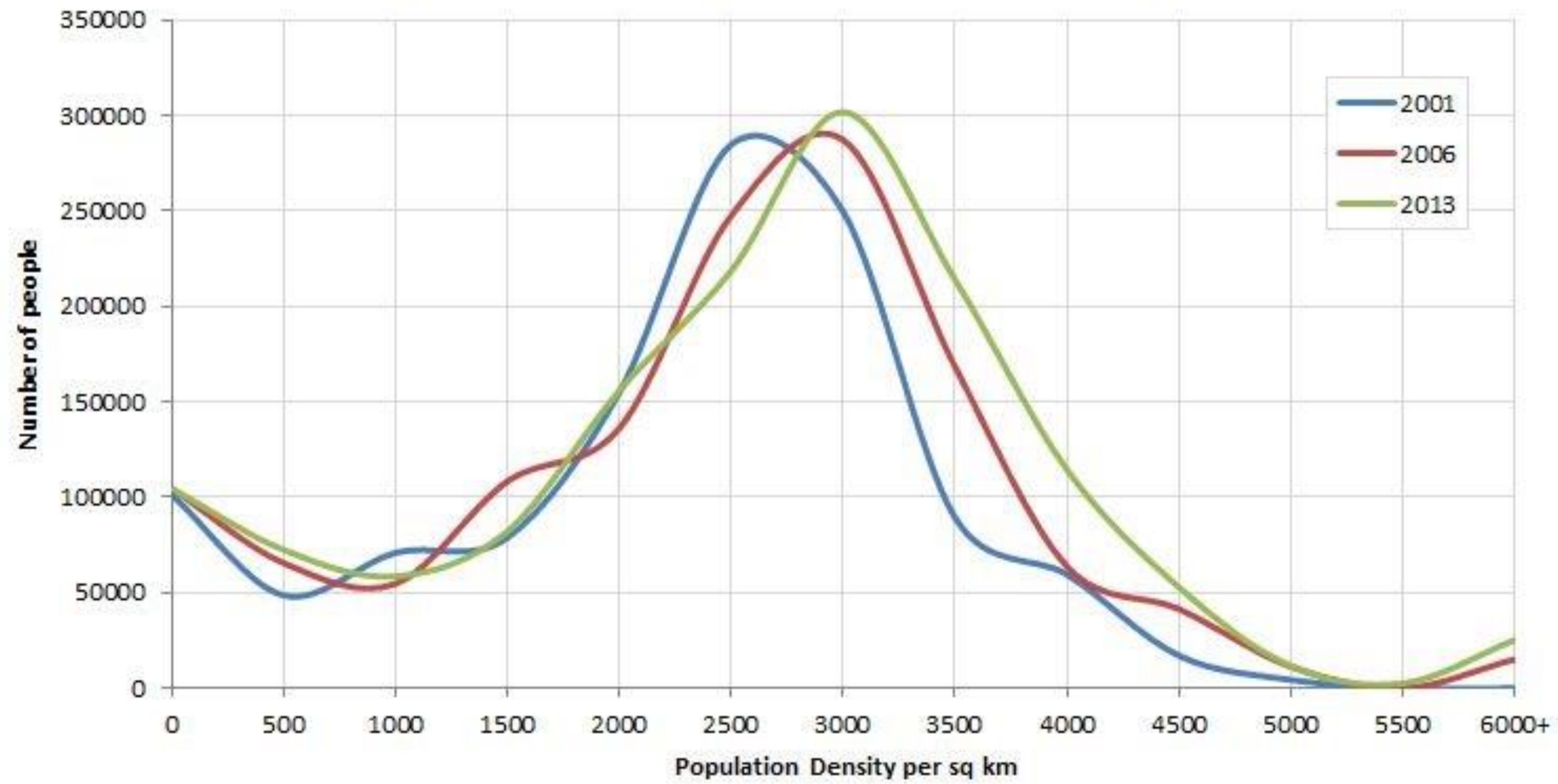
### Population by residential density of Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch 2013 Census



Graph: [Transportblog.co.nz](http://Transportblog.co.nz), [Source Data: P. Nunns 2014](#)



## Population Density (#) of Auckland Region





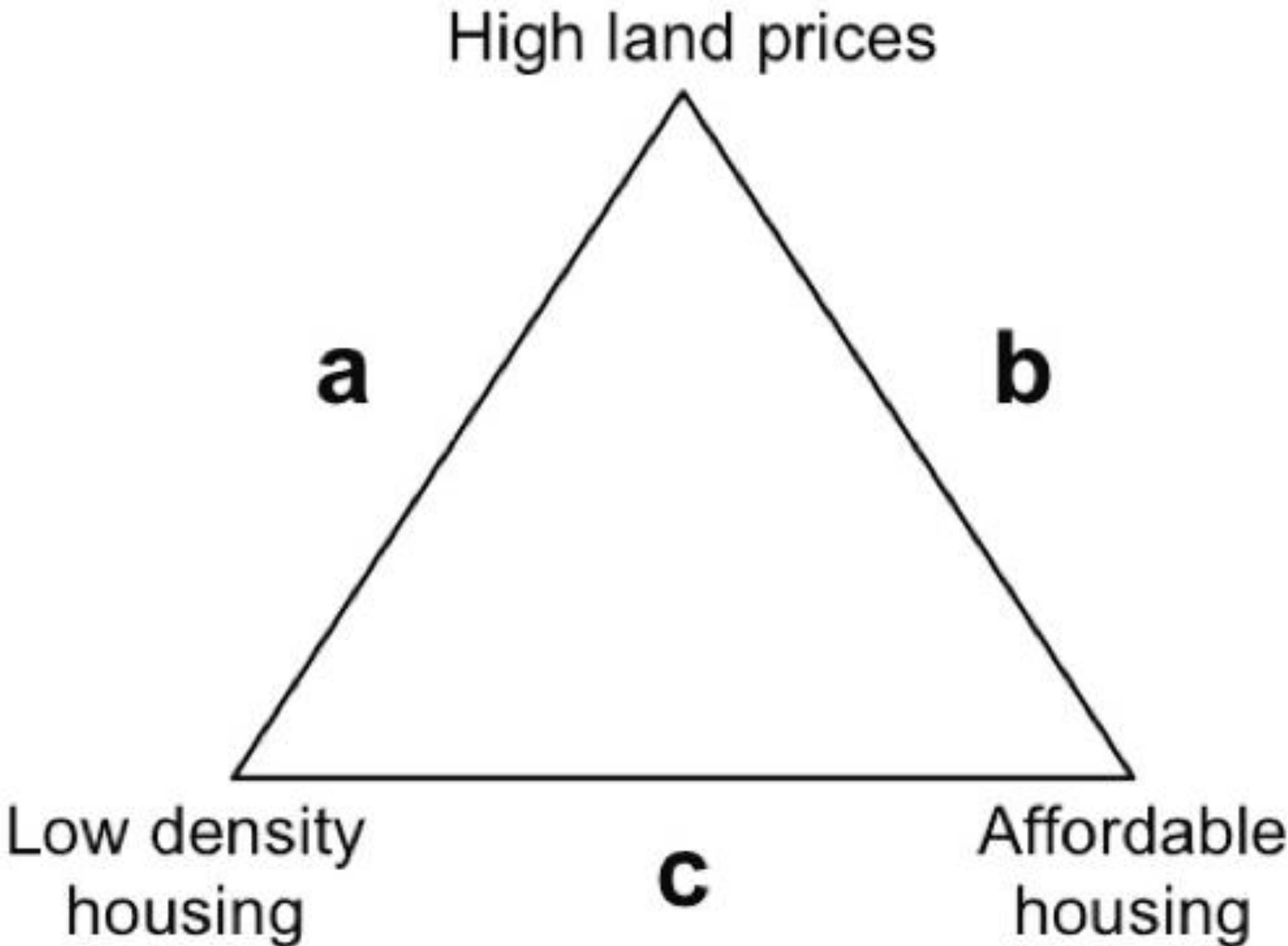
## Observation about cities ...

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- If land values appreciate faster than vehicle volumes ...
- ... then the productivity of our road network will tend to decline over time ...
- ... while the space efficiencies associated with non-car modes will tend to increase.
- *As cities grow, cars become less important.*



Figure 5: The urban policy “trilemma”: Choose two, and only two





Licensed Agent REAA 2008



### THE NORTH APARTMENTS

Great North Road, Grey Lynn

New release, stage 2 selling now!



### PARK VIEW RESIDENCES

Rendall Place

completion December  
from \$525,000



### SOMA APARTMENTS

McKelvie Street

New release  
from \$570,000



### WESTERN PARK APARTMENTS

Hopetoun Street

under construction  
from \$1,295,000



### LOT 22

Vinegar lane

Only six apartments  
from \$849,000



### 52 SALE STREET

Luxury in Freemans Bay



### ATELIER KINGSLAND

Loft Apartments from \$859,000  
Freehold Townhouses from \$995,000  
Live & Work Terraces from \$975,000



### UNION GREEN

39 Union Street New Release Terraces  
Apartments from \$499,000  
Terrace Homes from \$670,000





Queens Residences  
90m, Under Construction

St James Suites  
134m, Late 2015

NDG Tower  
209m, 2018/17

Masons Tower  
190m, 2016

Park Residences  
~120m, Under Construction

Precinct Downtown  
170m, 2016

Show

































**I know, you want to read about the restaurant. But I need to get something off my chest first. It's this: if I read another piece about Ponsonby — a restaurant review or anything else — that complains about the lack of parking, I will start throwing my food.**

This is why. The worst thing about Ponsonby is the traffic. Who doesn't agree with that? But if they provide more parks, it will get *even worse than it is now*. That's because more parks will bring more cars. I'm not making it up; this phenomenon has been measured all over the world.

Ponsonby Rd will never be a vehicle-free zone, if only because it has a motorway onramp at both ends. But it could be a lot more pleasant than it is now, as a place to shop, eat and drink, ride a bike or walk the dog. And who doesn't want that?

The key to making it happen is this:

an

Ar

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SP

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4



















## Sensors

Lasers, radars and cameras detect objects in all directions

## Rounded shape

Maximizes sensor field of view

## Interior

Designed for riding, not for driving

## Computer

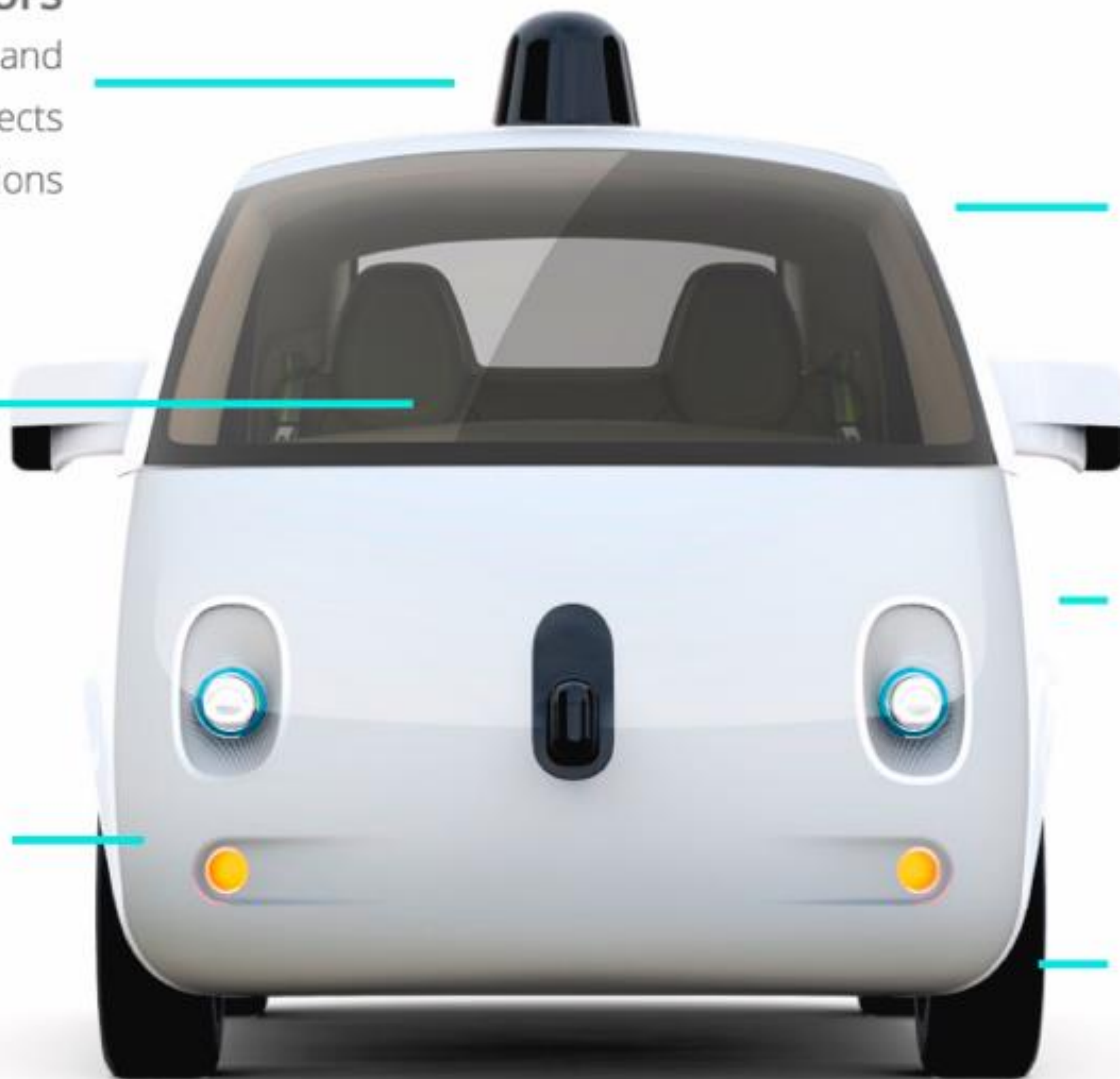
Designed specifically for self-driving

## Electric batteries

To power the vehicle

## Back-up systems

For steering, braking, computing and more



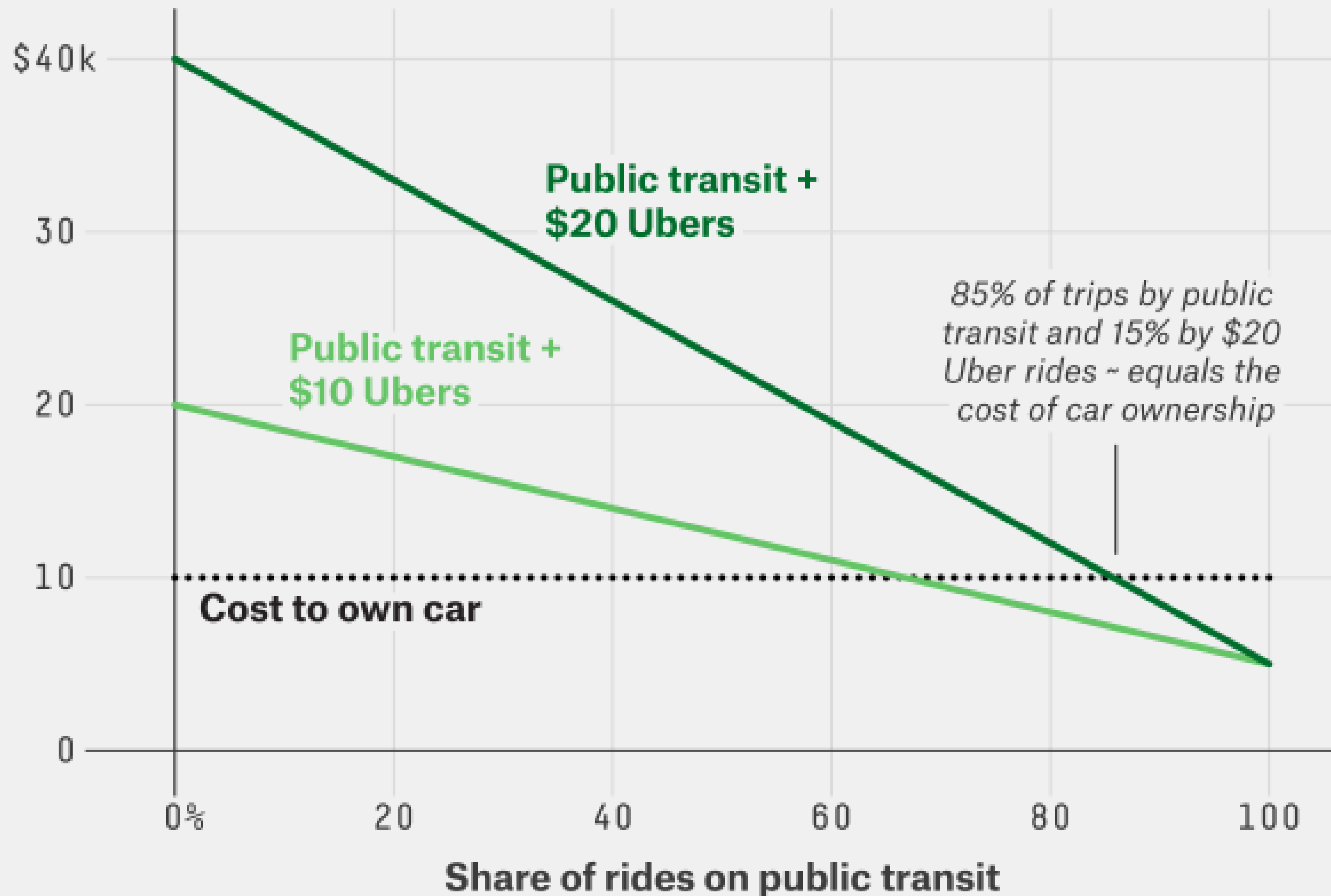






# Uber Can Be Cheaper Than Car Ownership — If You Mostly Use Public Transit

Estimated annual cost of transportation by household, given share of trips that are taken on public transit













# OUTER LONDON IS ABOUT TO ACTIVATE THE 'SECRET WEAPON' OF THE SUBURBS: THE BICYCLE

February 25, 2015

*Michael Andersen, Green Lane Project staff writer*



*Kingston's rail station would become a "major cycle hub" under London's plan to pour tens of millions of dollars into biking improvements in three of its suburbs.*



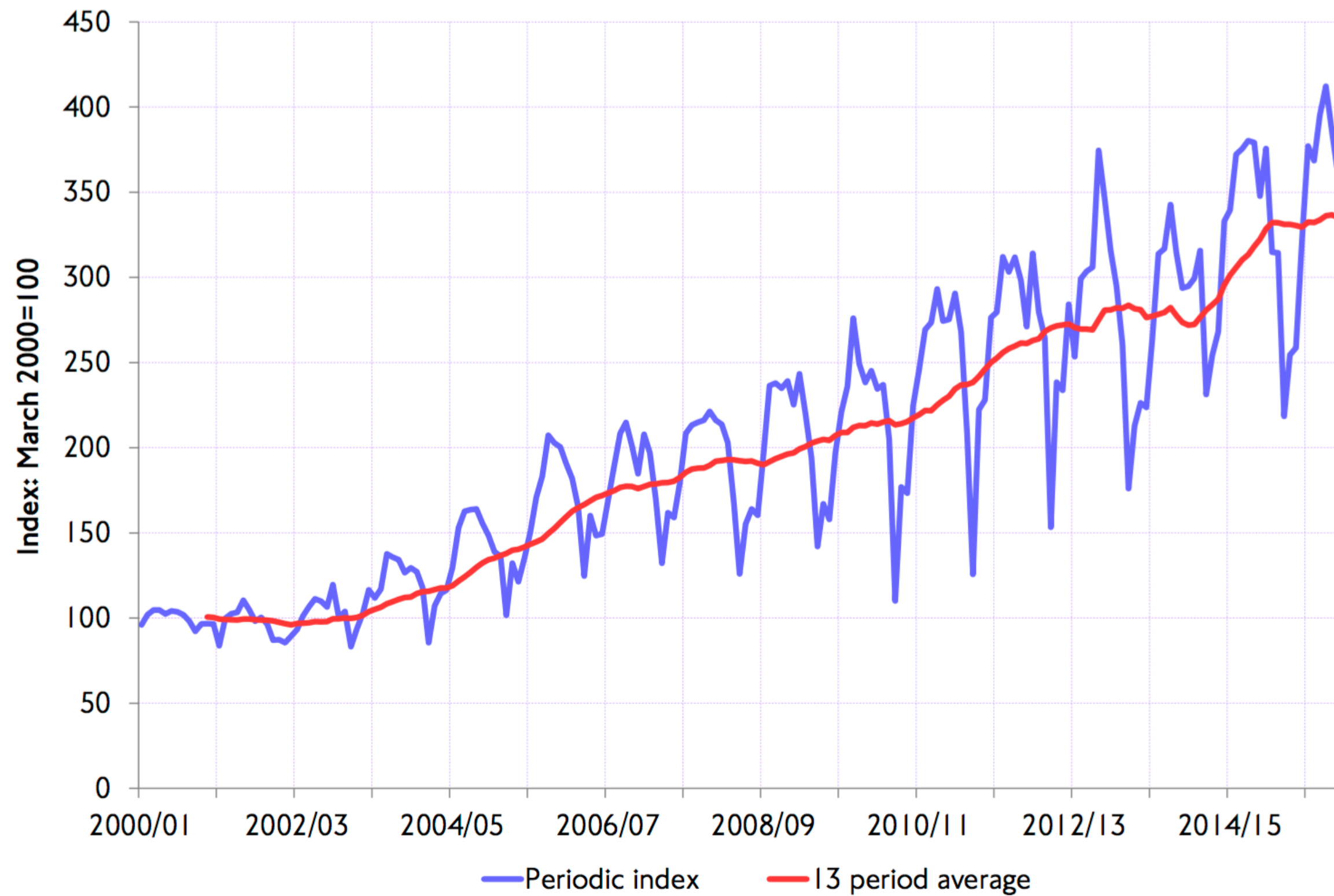




# London May Soon Have More Bikes Than Cars at Rush Hour

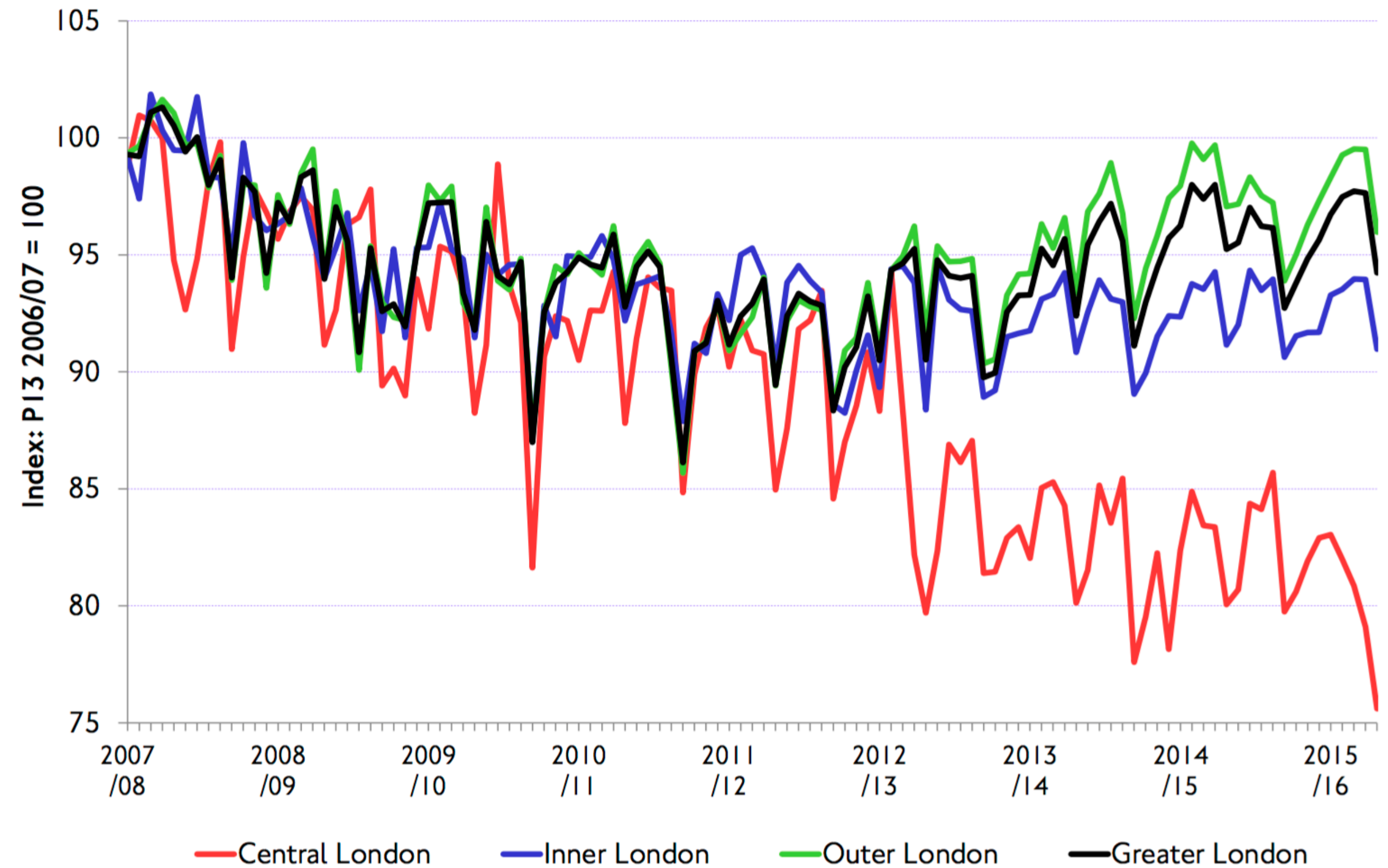
But cycling in the city still faces an uphill ride.

Figure 3.10 Trends in cycle flows on the TLRN.



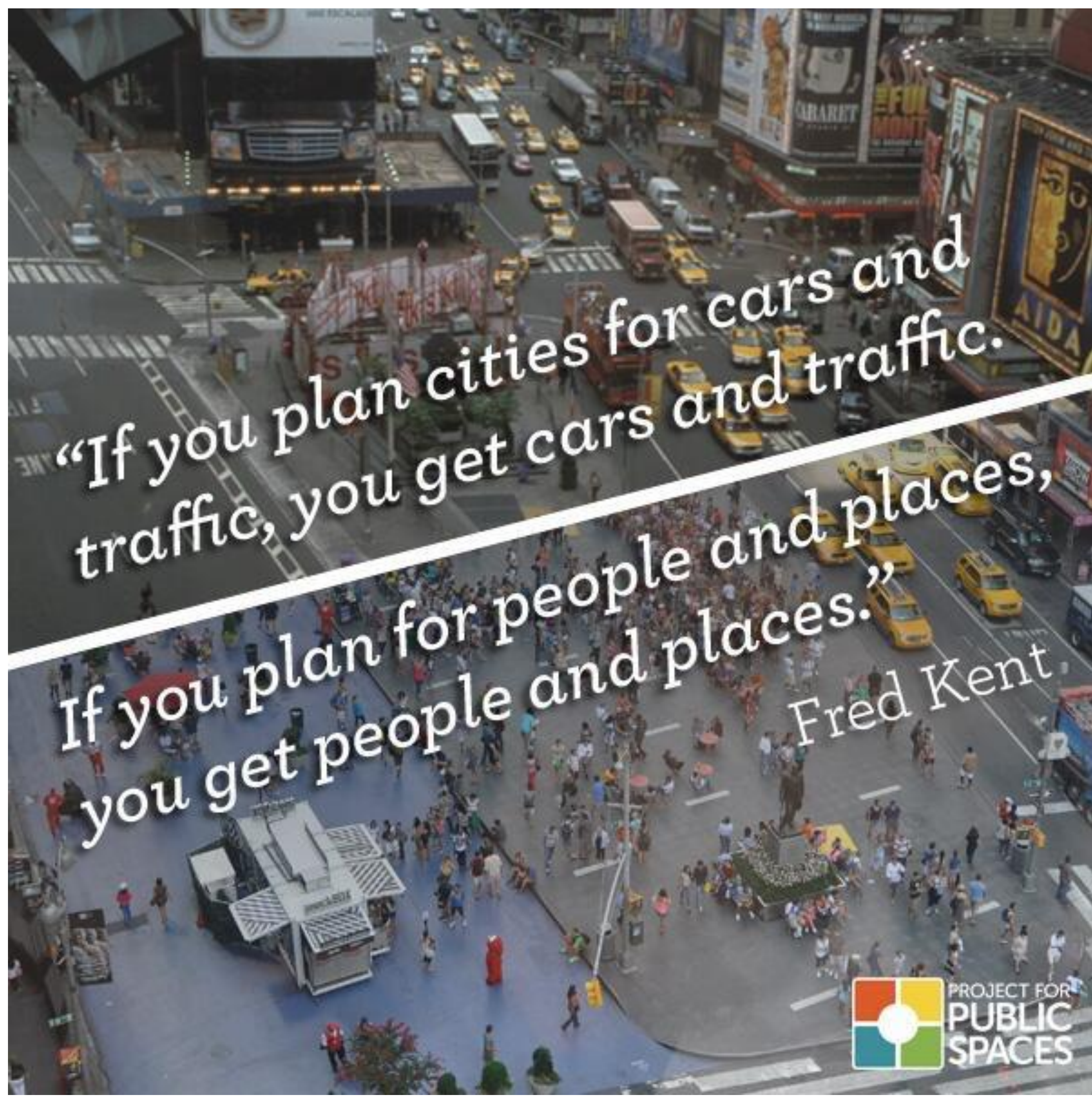
Source: TfL Surface Transport - Outcomes, Insight & Analysis.

Figure 3.8 Trends in road traffic (traffic flows), all motor vehicles in central, inner and outer London. Index: P13 2006/07=100.



Source: TfL Surface Transport - Outcomes, Insight & Analysis.





“If you plan cities for cars and traffic, you get cars and traffic.”

If you plan for people and places, you get people and places.”

Fred Kent



PROJECT FOR PUBLIC SPACES















'Seductive Congestion: that's what the best cities are about'

-John King