## Quarterly <br> Congestion Analysis Report for the Baltimore Region

## Top 10 Bottleneck Locations

$4^{\text {th }}$ Quarter 2015

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## About the Region

Located in the heart of the Mid-Atlantic on the east coast, the Baltimore region includes:


The Baltimore region is the nation's 19th largest market, with over 2.5 million people. The market also ranks among the top 20 in the country in the number of households, total effective buying income and retail sales.

## Baltimore Metropolitan Region



Prepared by
Prepared by
Transportation Planning Division
Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983 State Plane (ft) Data Source: BMC, © NAVTEQ 2013, TIGER/Line®, MTA Printed - July 2013


## How are bottleneck conditions tracked?

## If the reported speed falls <br> below $60 \%$ of the <br> reference, the road segment is flagged as a potential bottleneck

Bottleneck conditions are determined by comparing the current reported speed to the reference speed for each segment of road. Reference speed values are provided by INRIX for each segment, and represent the 85th percentile observed speed for all time periods, with a maximum value of 65 mph . If the reported speed falls below $60 \%$ of the reference, the road segment is flagged as a potential bottleneck. If the reported speed stays below $60 \%$ for five minutes, the segment is confirmed as a bottleneck location. Adjacent road segments meeting this condition are joined together to form the bottleneck queue. When reported speeds on every segment associated with a bottleneck queue have returned to values greater than $60 \%$ of their reference values and remained that way for 10 minutes, the bottleneck is considered cleared. Bottlenecks whose total queue length, determined by adding the length of each road segment associated with the bottleneck is less than 0.3 miles are ignored. Queues may originate outside the Baltimore region but are reported on if any portion extends into the region.


## Bottleneck Ranking Incident Icons

When showing event/incident icons on some of the graphs in the Bottleneck Ranking tool a minimalist approach has been taken. In order to reduce clutter and confusion on the graphs, icons have been simplified down to single shape and color. Each represents the following:

Red - Severe events and incidents

- Emergency Roadwork
- Injury
- Medical Emergency


Orange - Roadwork
$\diamond$
Yellow - All other events and incidents

More detailed icons may be used at times when a major incident was the cause of a bottleneck.

## Incident/Event Icons



Top 10 Bottlenecks in the Baltimore Region 4th Quarter 2015

Overview Map


Top 10 Bottlenecks in the Baltimore Region 4th Quarter 2015

## By Impact Factor

Number of Occurrences x Average Duration in Minutes x Average Length This table indicates the top 10 congested corridors in the region.

|  | Location | Average Duration | Average max length (miles) | Occurrences | Number of Incidents/ Events | Impact Factor |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | I-95 N @ MD-100/EXIT 43 | 2 h 24 m | 8.22 | 116 | 161 | 137,375 |
| 2 | I-95 S @ MD-24/EXIT 77 | 2 h 20 m | 9.25 | 91 | 219 | 117,860 |
| 3 | MD-295 S @ MD-193 | 3 h 12 m | 11.59 | 52 | 103 | 115,736 |
| 4 | I-695 CCW @ EDMONDSON AVE/EXIT 14 | 2 h 16 m | 7.27 | 116 | 219 | 114,616 |
| 5 | I-695 CW @ I-795/EXIT 19 | 2 h 36 m | 9.2 | 77 | 390 | 110,563 |
| 6 | MD-295 S @ RIVERDALE RD | 4 h 42 m | 14.22 | 27 | 151 | 108,271 |
| 7 | I-695 CW @ MD-41/PERRING PKWY/EXIT 30 | 1 h 53 m | 5.48 | 169 | 163 | 104,728 |
| 8 | MD-295 S @ I-495/I-95 | 4 h 6 m | 12.18 | 32 | 135 | 95,880 |
| 9 | MD-295 N @ MD-175 | 2 h 20 m | 7.6 | 83 | 112 | 88,269 |
| 10 | I-695 CCW @ MD-144/FREDERICK RD/EXIT 13 | 3 h 3 m | 9.09 | 50 | 290 | 83,216 |

$$
\text { CW = Clockwise } \quad \text { CCW = Counterclockwise }
$$



Top 10 Bottlenecks in the Baltimore Region

By Impact Factor
(Number of Occurrences
$x$ Average Duration in Minutes
$x$ Average Length)
4th Quarter 2015

Average max length (miles)
Average duration (hours)

Top 10 Bottlenecks in the Baltimore Region 4th Quarter 2015

By Average Duration - This table indicates the longest lasting bottlenecks

|  | Location | Average <br> Duration | Average <br> max length <br> (miles) | Occurrences | Number of <br> Incidents/ <br> Events | Impact <br> Factor |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 1 | MD-295 S @ RIVERDALE RD | 4 h 42 m | 14.22 | 27 | 151 | 108,271 |
| 2 | MD-295 S @ MD-450 | 4 h 37 m | 16.58 | 10 | 189 | 45,921 |
| 3 | US-50 E @ MD-331/DOVER RD | 4 h 8 m | 11.57 | 3 | 9 | 8,611 |
| 4 | MD-295 S @ I-495/I-95 | 4 h 6 m | 12.18 | 32 | 135 | 95,880 |
| 5 | MD-32 W @ TEN OAKS RD | 3 h 35 m | 5.75 | 6 | 4 | 7,415 |
| 6 | MD-295 S @ MD-193 | 3 h 12 m | 11.59 | 52 | 103 | 115,736 |
| 7 | I-895 S @ MD-2/POTEE ST/EXIT 7 | 3 h 7 m | 2.91 | 22 | 215 | 11,964 |
| 8 | I-97 S @ MD-176/MD-162/EXIT 15 | 3 h 5 m | 1.62 | 11 | 75 | 3,303 |
| 9 | MD-295 N @ US-40/MULBERRY ST/FRANKLIN ST | 3 h 4 m | 2.41 | 39 | 3 | 17,314 |
| 10 | I-695 CCW @ MD-144/FREDERICK RD/EXIT 13 | 3 h 3 m | 9.09 | 50 | 290 | 83,216 |

By Average Length - This table indicates the longest bottlenecks by distance.

|  | Location | Average <br> Duration | Average <br> max <br> length <br> (miles) | Occurrences | Number of <br> Incidents/ <br> Events | Impact <br> Factor |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 1 | MD-295 S @ MD-450 | 4 h 37 m | 16.58 | 10 | 189 | 45,921 |
| 2 | MD-295 S @ EASTERN AVE | 2 h 31 m | 15.14 | 2 | 175 | 4,571 |
| 3 | MD-295 S @ RIVERDALE RD | 4 h 42 m | 14.22 | 27 | 151 | 108,271 |
| 4 | MD-295 S @ I-495/I-95 | 4 h 6 m | 12.18 | 32 | 135 | 95,880 |
| 5 | US-50 E @ CHAPEL RD | 1 h 27 m | 11.6 | 1 | 10 | 1,009 |
| 6 | MD-295 S @ MD-193 | 3 h 12 m | 11.59 | 52 | 103 | 115,736 |
| 7 | US-50 E @ MD-331/DOVER RD | 4 h 8 m | 11.57 | 3 | 9 | 8,611 |
| 8 | MD-32 W @ I-70/US-40 | 2 h 48 m | 10.21 | 2 | 11 | 3,432 |
| 9 | I-95 S @ MD-24/EXIT 77 | 2 h 20 m | 9.25 | 91 | 219 | 117,860 |
| 10 | I-695 CW @ I-795/EXIT 19 | 2 h 36 m | 9.2 | 77 | 390 | 110,563 |

Top 10 Bottlenecks in the Baltimore Region 4th Quarter 2015

By Number of Occurrences - This table indicates the most frequently occurring bottlenecks.

|  | Location | Average <br> Duration | Average <br> max length <br> (miles) | Occurrences | Number of <br> Incidents/ <br> Events | Impact <br> Factor |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 1 | I-83 S @ FAYETTE ST/EXIT 1 | 42 m | 0.15 | 1342 | 0 | 8,531 |
| 2 | I-895 N @ CHILDS ST/EXIT 9 | 45 m | 0.19 | 1266 | 71 | 10,820 |
| 3 | I-95 S @ FORT MCHENRY TUNNEL TOLL PLAZA | 42 m | 0.53 | 1116 | 20 | 24,982 |
| 4 | I-95 N @ KEITH AVE/EXIT 56 | 37 m | 0.62 | 1011 | 48 | 23,088 |
| 5 | US-50 W @ MD-404/QUEEN ANNE HWY | 27 m | 0.07 | 984 | 10 | 1,903 |
| 6 | I-895 S @ HARBOR TUNNEL TOLL PLAZA | 45 m | 0.1 | 848 | 38 | 3,682 |
| 7 | I-95 N @ FORT MCHENRY TUNNEL TOLL PLAZA | 32 m | 0.29 | 831 | 204 | 7,828 |
| 8 | MD-100 E @ MD-607/MAGOTHY BRIDGE RD | 30 m | 0.22 | 731 | 0 | 4,780 |
| 9 | MD-295 N @ BAYARD ST | 54 m | 0.31 | 708 | 2 | 11,737 |
| 10 | MD-100 W @ MD-607/MAGOTHY BRIDGE RD | 39 m | 0.38 | 628 | 0 | 9,338 |



## Top Ten Bottlenecks

 in the Baltimore Regionby Number of Occurrences

4th Quarter 2015

Duration (Minutes)
Average Max Length (Miles)
\#1 Ranked Bottleneck in the Baltimore Region - 4th Quarter 2015


Notes: Congestion in the afternoon rush hour. Contributing factors include traffic entering at MD-175, weaving to exit at MD-100, and the halfmile uphill grade midway between MD-175 and MD-100.
\#1 Ranked Bottleneck in the Baltimore Region - 4th Quarter 2015

\#2 Ranked Bottleneck in the Baltimore Region - 4th Quarter 2015


Notes: Right shoulder closures southbound on I-95 past Exit 77 B-A M.M. 76.5 to 75.5 contributed to this bottleneck
\#2 Ranked Bottleneck in the Baltimore Region - 4th Quarter 2015

\#3 Ranked Bottleneck in the Baltimore Region - 4th Quarter 2015

| Average <br> Duration | Average max <br> length (miles) | Occurrences | All Events/ <br> Incidents | *Impact <br> Factor |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 3 h 12 m | 11.59 | 52 | 103 | 115,736 |



| Occurrences (1) |  |  |  | © Line $\bigcirc$ spiral $\bigcirc$ Table | $\square$ |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 12 AM | 3 AM | 6 AM | 9 AM | 12 PM | 3 PM | 6 PM | 9 PM | 12 AM |



Maximum queue length in miles $\square$ Grayscale $\square$ compact View


Notes: MD-295 merge with the Capital Beltway I-495. Congestion seen in the afternoon peak period sometimes extends into the southern portion of the Baltimore region near the Fort Meade area.
\#3 Ranked Bottleneck in the Baltimore Region - 4th Quarter 2015


## \#4 Ranked Bottleneck in the Baltimore Region - 4th Quarter 2015



Notes: Longstanding bottleneck on the outer loop of the beltway primarily during the morning rush. High traffic volume area. Delays extend back as far as MD-26/Liberty Rd. Also contributing to congestion in the area is a beltway widening project which began in February. "The plan is for crews to add a fourth lane to the outer loop and widen the median in anticipation of a possible fifth lane. The bridges over Ingleside and Edmondson avenues will be replaced to increase the clearance height." (Source: The Baltimore Sun 2/23/15)
\#4 Ranked Bottleneck in the Baltimore Region - 4th Quarter 2015

| Location | Average max <br> length (miles) | All Events/ <br> Incidents |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Occurrences |  |  |

\#5 Ranked Bottleneck in the Baltimore Region - 4th Quarter 2015


Notes: Longstanding westside beltway inner loop congestion in the afternoon.
\#5 Ranked Bottleneck in the Baltimore Region - 4th Quarter 2015

\#6 Ranked Bottleneck in the Baltimore Region - 4th Quarter 2015


Notes: Southbound congestion extending from Riverdale Rd just barely extending into the southern portion of the Baltimore region near Fort Meade occurring during both the morning and afternoon peak periods.
\#6 Ranked Bottleneck in the Baltimore Region - 4th Quarter 2015

\#7 Ranked Bottleneck in the Baltimore Region - 4th Quarter 2015


Notes: Congestion was most severe between I-83 and Providence Rd. Factors contributing to this long standing and extended congested zone: merging and weaving associated with traffic at each interchange and a lane drop (to 3 lanes) at MD-45/York Rd.
\#7 Ranked Bottleneck in the Baltimore Region - 4th Quarter 2015

\#8 Ranked Bottleneck in the Baltimore Region - 4th Quarter 2015


Notes: MD-295 merge with the Capital Beltway I-495. Congestion seen in the afternoon peak period sometimes extends into the southern portion of the Baltimore region near the Fort Meade area.
\#8 Ranked Bottleneck in the Baltimore Region - 4th Quarter 2015

\#9 Ranked Bottleneck in the Baltimore Region - 4th Quarter 2015


Notes: Recurring afternoon congestion. Level of Service " $F$ " from 4:00 to 5:00pm. A primary cause appeared to be the discharge of traffic from NSA / Ft. Meade onto northbound MD 295 via the Connector Rd. Weaving and merging at the MD 32 interchange also contributed to the congestion.
\#9 Ranked Bottleneck in the Baltimore Region - 4th Quarter 2015


## \#10 Ranked Bottleneck in the Baltimore Region - 4th Quarter 2015



Notes: Delays found in both the morning and afternoon. Longstanding bottleneck on the outer loop of the beltway primarily during the morning rush. High traffic volume area. Delays extend back as far as MD-26/Liberty Rd. Also contributing to congestion in the area is a beltway widening project.
\#10 Ranked Bottleneck in the Baltimore Region - 4th Quarter 2015




## The Vehicle Probe Project

Data and graphics in this report were generated from the Vehicle Probe Project suite. The Vehicle Probe Project (VPP) is a groundbreaking initiative and collaborative effort among the I-95 Corridor Coalition, University of Maryland, INRIX, HERE and Tom Tom and has been providing comprehensive and continuous real-time travel information for more than seven years. Member agencies like the Baltimore Metropolitan Council have found numerous uses for the data beyond simply travel information.

There are now $\mathbf{7 , 0 0 0}$ centerline freeway miles, more than 20,000 freeway and arterial miles in all, including continuous coverage of the I-95 corridor from New Jersey through Florida. Coverage also exists in Rhode Island. The network includes full coverage of freeways and major arterials in North Carolina and the Tidewater area of Virginia, full or nearly full coverage of limited access roads in New Jersey, Maryland and South Carolina and the northern and eastern portions of Florida. In addition, coverage now includes ramps at 160 major highway-to- highway interchanges, with all states having interchanges included except Georgia.

## Agency Participation

As the value of the data from the Vehicle Probe Project is realized through the various applications and the continued quality via the validation efforts, the member states have increased their commitment to this project. In fact, all of the participating states have committed their own funds to continue this project and many have increased their coverage far beyond the initial core area.

## Numerous Uses for the Data

I-95 Corridor Coalition member agencies have found many uses for the vehicle probe data, including:

- Travel Information for 511 (web and phone) Systems, Dynamic Message Signs, and Kiosks
- Travel Time Calculations for Message Boards
- Performance Measures and Travel Time Reliability Support
- Traffic Pattern Observations (in-state and multi-state)
- Trip Planning (www.i95travelinfo.net)
- Performance Measures Tool - Continuing the momentum in performance analysis, the newest initiative from the Coalition is the Vehicle Probe Project Suite. The basic tools include:


## Bottleneck and Incident dashboard

Massive Raw Data Downloader
Historical Data Visualizations and Performance Measures (Congestion Scan)
UMD CATT Lab made the VPP suite available to participating agencies. For the training video, please visit http://vpp.ritis.org/suite/screencast/

## Should you have any questions, please contact:

- For general project questions, Marygrace Parker at 518-852-4083 or i95mgp@ttc.net For the Vehicle Probe Project Suite, Michael L. Pack at 301-405-0722 or packml@umd.edu

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