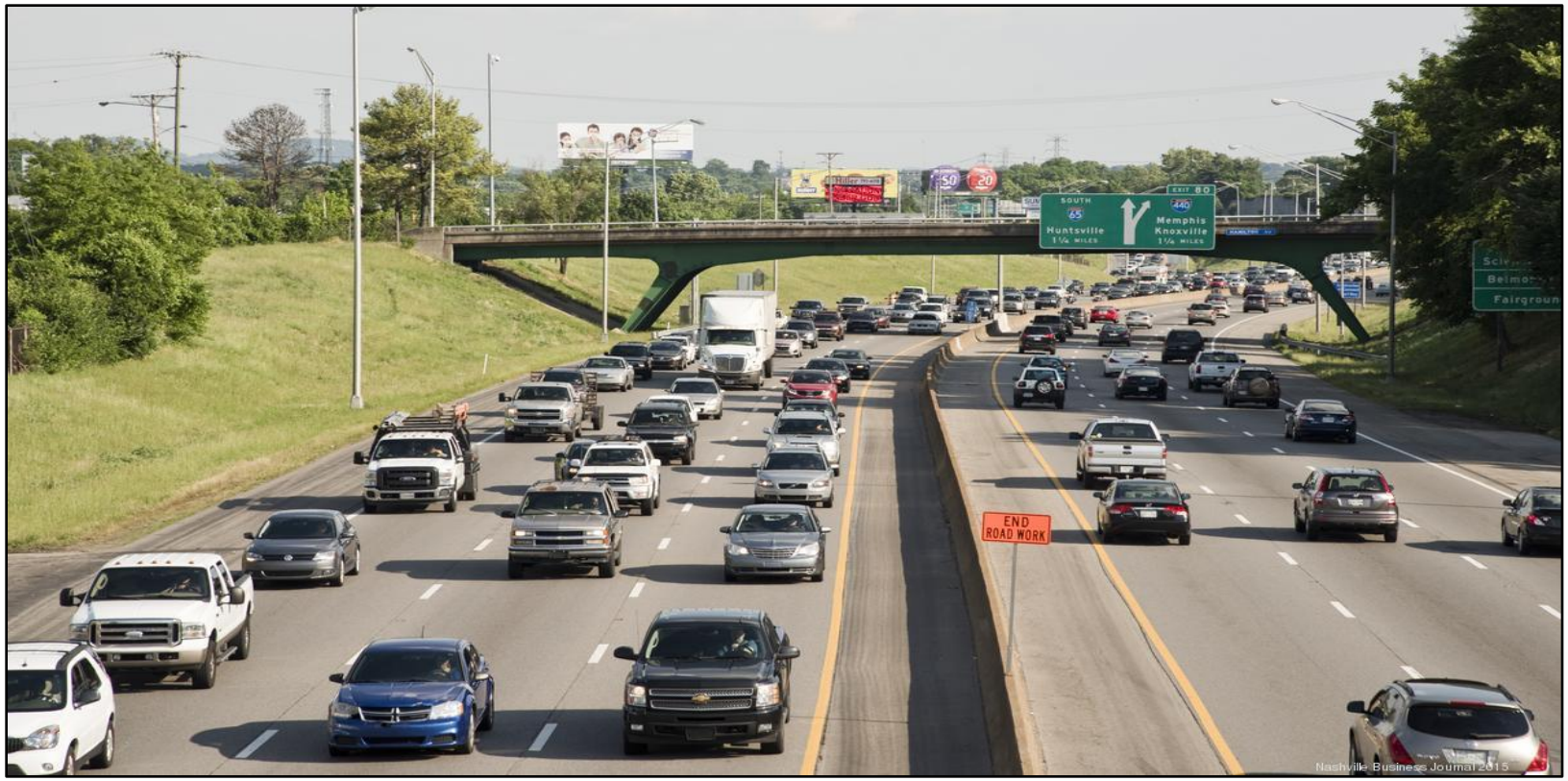
TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

TDOT's Traffic Count Program—An Update for MPOs

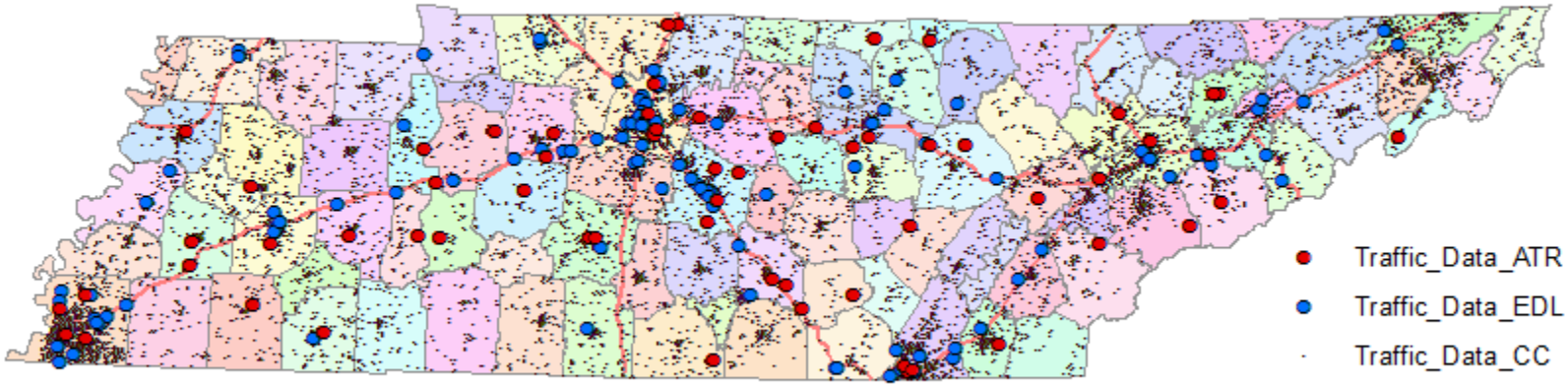
Long Range Planning |Office of Community Transportation

TN TDOT Department of Transportation

Traffic Data



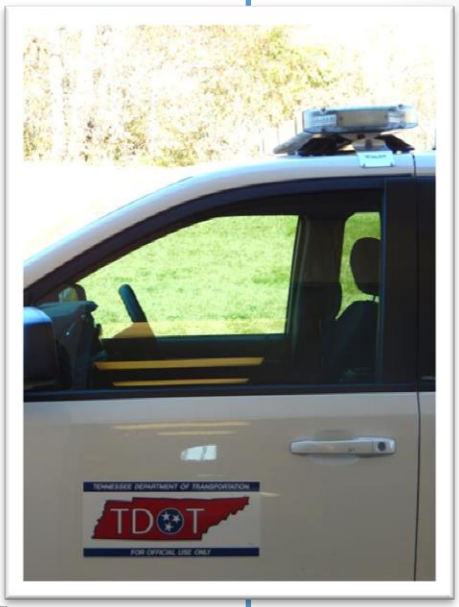
Statewide traffic monitoring sites



TDOT's Traffic Count Program

Traffic data collected broadly includes:

- **Volume counts (also called Coverage Counts)**
- **Vehicle Classification Counts**
- **Speed data.**



Coverage Count program

- 24 hour counts with 15 minute increments
  - Vs 48 hour counts recommended by Traffic Monitoring Guide (California conducts 7 day counts)
  - More counts, more staff efficiency

- There are in excess of 12,000 active count locations across the state
- In addition, there are approximately 2,000 ramp count locations
- Tubes, ATRs, Embedded Loops

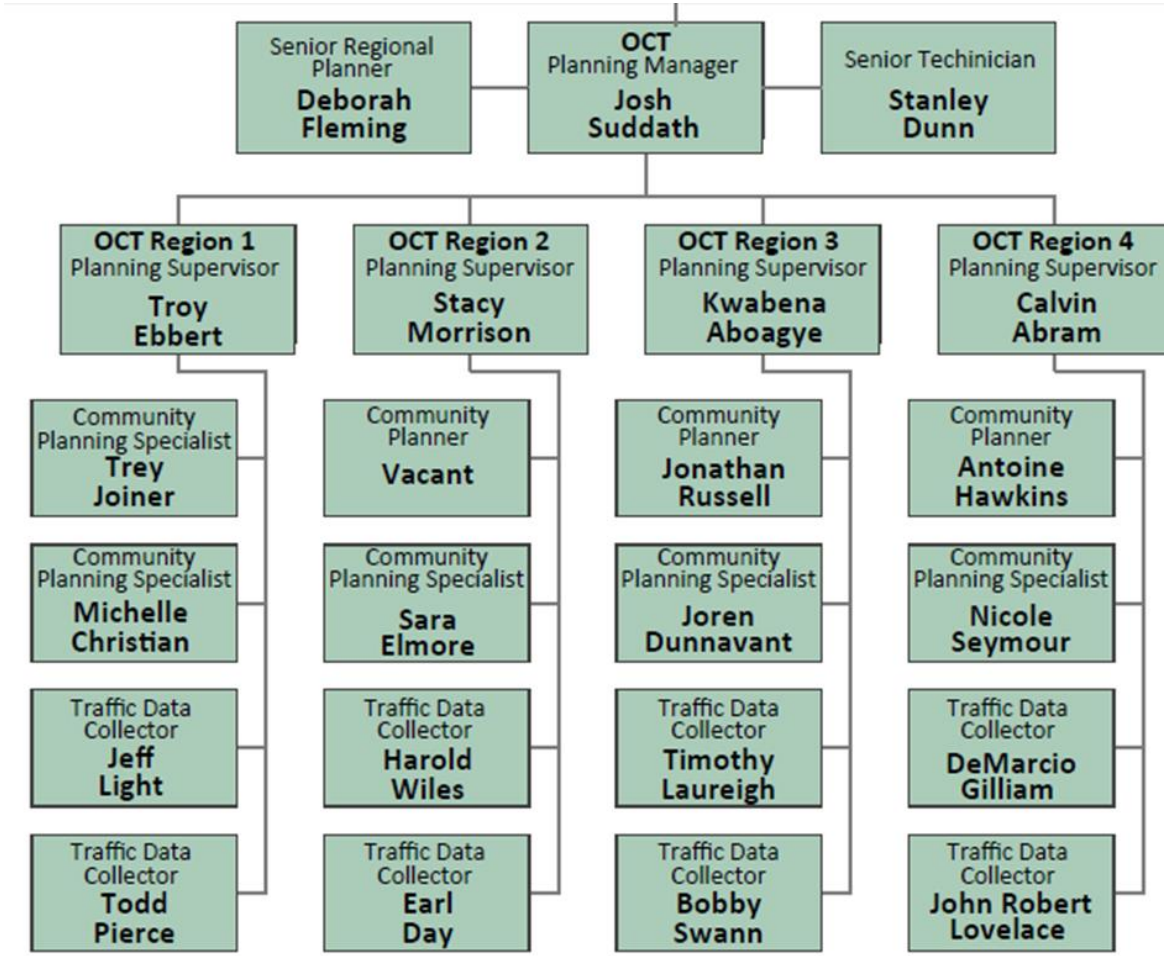
Coverage Count program (continued)

- Interstates and State Routes are counted every year
- Functional Class Roads counted every 2 years (at this time)
- This year, TDOT is collecting traffic counts for all HPMS sample sections in order to eliminate the use of estimates in Federal reporting.
- Currently there are in excess of 3,000 HPMS Sample Sections.

Classification count program

- Approximately 600 **Classification Counts** are done **each year** and there are in excess of 2000 designated locations for those counts.
- Classification Count locations are rotated on an annual basis.
- Embedded Detection Loops and tube counts are used for classification counts

Who Does the Work?



Who does the Work?

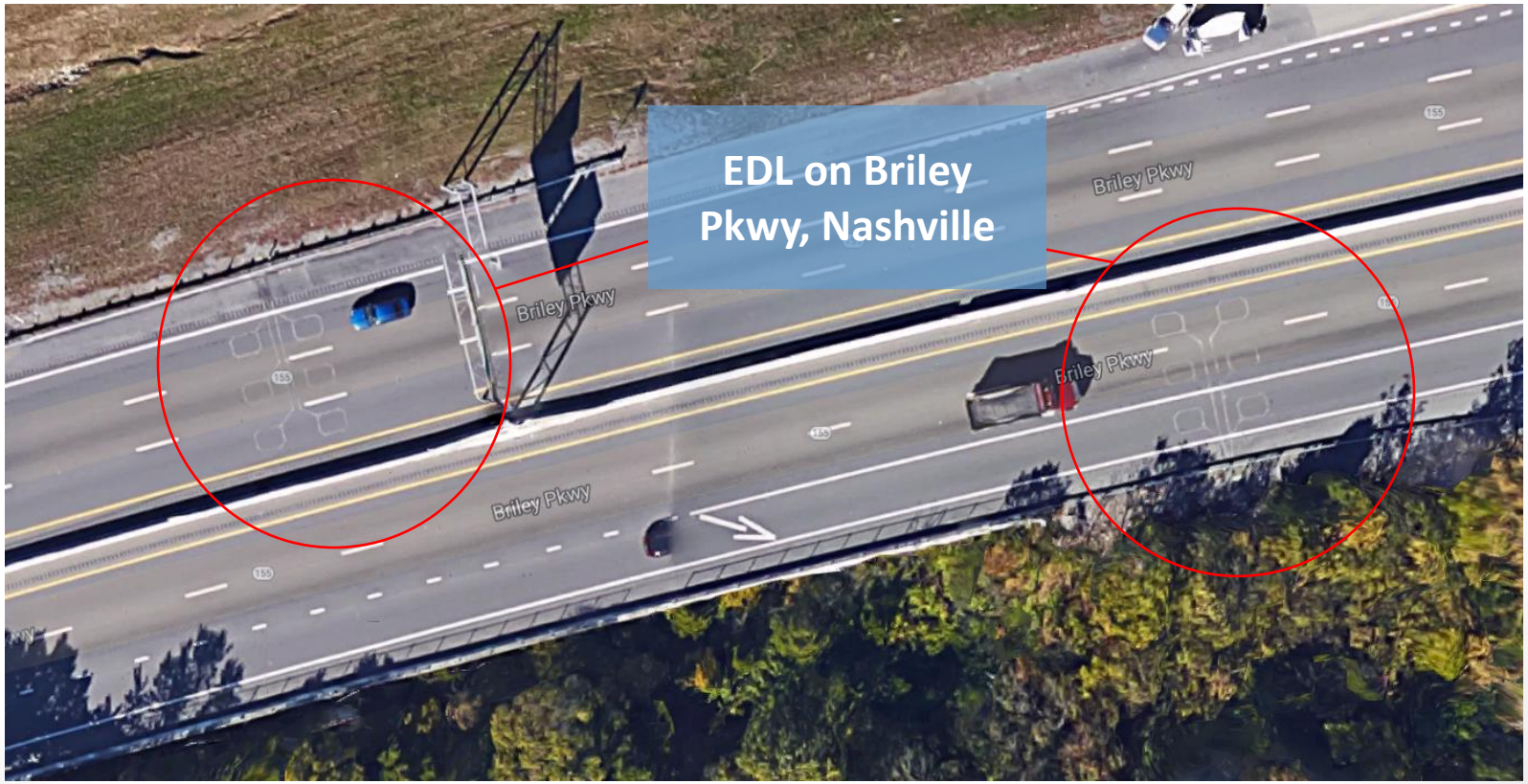
- Right now, total of 8 data collection employees
- 2 in each TDOT Region
- Prior to Recession era, there were 15 data collection employees, including Turn Count Specialists
- We are currently in process of adding 4 additional data collectors who will be on contract through our contract with the University of Tennessee's Center for Transportation Research.
- This change will enable us to start collecting data at all count locations across the state every year (over 14,000 locations total).
- Will also allow us to conduct more special counts for both internal and external customers.

Tools of the Trade: Mobile Equipment

Tools of the Trade: TDOT Count Infrastructure along roadway

Continuous Count program

- There are over 60 Automatic Traffic Recorders (ATR) Stations
- There are over 100 Embedded Detection Loop (EDL) locations



What are we collecting?

- Traffic Volume
- Vehicle Classification (plus speed)

Data Type	Definition	Use
Traffic Volume	The number and movements of	-Determining LOS
	roadway vehicles at a given location	-Forecasting future traffic volumes
		-Analyzing highway capacity
Vehicle Classification	Classifications of roadway vehicles	-Forecasts for travel by vehicle type
	at a given location	-Pavement Design
		-Highway cost allocation

What does the future hold?

- New(er) Technologies, such as radar collection?
- New safety improvements (more ATR's and embedded loops)
- New partnerships with internal partners at TDOT
  - Incorporating ATR installations into repaving projects
  - Incorporating ATR's into New Start Technical Studies

What does the future hold?

- New partnerships with municipal/MPO partners across the state
  - What count locations are you already doing?
  - Are there locations we could add to our annual list?
  - Are there locations we/you can stop doing?
  - Standardization will be key
    - Applied factors
    - Computer programs utilized

Q & A

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