

Article

# Network Dreamer: Bridging Scenario-Level and Network-Level Traffic Simulation via Star Pattern Matching

Xingnan Zhou <sup>1</sup> and Ciprian Alecsandru <sup>1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Building, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Concordia University, Montreal, QC H3G 1M8, Canada

\* Correspondence: ciprian.alecsandru@concordia.ca (C.A.)

Version February 12, 2026 submitted to Sustainability

**Abstract:** Autonomous driving datasets contain rich driving scenarios, yet GPS anonymization disconnects them from the road network context required for sustainable transportation planning. We propose *Network Dreamer*, a GPS-free localization framework that places Waymo Open Motion Dataset (WOMD) scenarios onto OpenStreetMap networks using a 48-dimensional “star pattern” descriptor encoding intersection geometry, arm angles, lengths, road types, and neighbor topology. Star pattern matching achieves 90.0% top-1 accuracy in synthetic evaluation but degrades to 33.5–55.3% under realistic noise—quantifying the WOMD–OSM domain gap. Route-level matching, chaining star patterns along SDC trajectories with inter-distance constraints across all 1,000 WOMD v1.3.1 shards (70,541 scenarios), achieves 51.9% match rate (17,645 routes), validated by 1,597 chain repeats with sub-2-meter consistency, 100% type agreement, and 100% spatial accuracy against satellite imagery (50 scenarios). Matched routes yield corridor-level traffic parameters across 990 road segments (187.4 km), including travel time reliability indices and speed transition zones directly usable for microsimulation calibration. A safety overlay reveals WOMD under-samples signalized intersections (4.3% vs. 17.8% city-wide), a bias discoverable only through GPS-free localization (SDG 3.6).

**Keywords:** autonomous driving; traffic simulation; road network; star pattern matching; topological fingerprint; OpenStreetMap; Waymo Open Motion Dataset; sustainable transportation; traffic safety; surrogate safety measures; urban planning; map conflation; SDG

## 1. Introduction

Sustainable urban transportation demands simulation tools that faithfully represent the interplay between individual driving behavior and network-level traffic dynamics [1,2]. Yet the dominant paradigm in AV simulation operates at the *scenario level*—generating or replaying short driving episodes within small spatial extents—leaving a gap between these local snapshots and the network-wide perspective that urban planners require [3,4].

The Waymo Open Motion Dataset (WOMD) [5] contains 103,354 real-world scenarios spanning 570+ hours across six U.S. cities, each capturing 9.1 seconds of multi-agent behavior with detailed road graph information. Generative approaches such as Scenario Dreamer [6], SLEDGE [7], and TrafficGen [8] can now synthesize driving scenarios with impressive fidelity. However, each scenario exists in isolation, disconnected from the broader road network—a 64 m snippet tells nothing about upstream origins or downstream dispersal [9,10]. Network-level simulators such as SUMO [11] can model city-scale dynamics but rely on manually calibrated demand models. The gap between rich local data with no global context and global simulation with impoverished local detail is a significant barrier to data-driven sustainable transportation research.

In this paper, we propose **Network Dreamer**, a framework that bridges this gap by (1) probabilistically localizing fragmented driving scenarios onto real-world road networks and (2) extracting empirical traffic flow parameters from the matched data. Our approach addresses several interrelated challenges:

**Challenge 1: Localization without GPS.** WOMD scenarios do not provide absolute geographic coordinates, only local road graph structures. How can we determine *where* on a city's road network each scenario was captured? We develop a systematic framework for GPS-free scenario localization that adapts intersection neighborhood descriptors from the GIS map conflation tradition [12,13] into a compact 48-dimensional "star pattern" representation encoding the center intersection's geometry together with the angles, lengths, road types, and neighbor topology of its approach arms. The key insight is that while individual intersections are often structurally ambiguous (thousands of 4-way intersections exist in a city), the *local neighborhood context*—the specific configuration of arms radiating outward plus the properties of adjacent intersections—creates a highly discriminative fingerprint, and critically, this descriptor alone must provide all discriminative power in the absence of GPS coordinates. Our star pattern achieves 90.0% top-1 matching accuracy on San Francisco and 79.6% on Phoenix, a 225× improvement over single-intersection matching baselines.

**Challenge 2: Traffic Flow Extraction at Scale.** Given probabilistic localization, how do we aggregate the behavioral data from thousands of short scenarios into meaningful network-level traffic flow parameters? We develop a systematic pipeline to extract turning ratios, speed distributions, headway patterns, and gap acceptance parameters from matched scenarios, with confidence intervals that account for both matching uncertainty and sampling variability.

The contributions of this paper are as follows:

- 1. Problem-level: The first systematic study of GPS-free WOMD-to-OSM scenario localization,** formulating and addressing the problem of localizing driving scenarios from the Waymo Open Motion Dataset onto public road networks without any geographic coordinates.
- 2. System-level: A complete pipeline from topology extraction to traffic flow analysis,** including systematic extraction of turning ratios, speed distributions, and behavioral parameters with uncertainty quantification, connecting AV-scale trajectory data to network-level traffic simulation. The pipeline is validated at scale on 56,797 scenarios from 236 TFRecord shards of WOMD v1.3.1, encompassing 3.35 million vehicles and 1.02 million approach observations.
- 3. Algorithm-level: An adaptation of established GIS intersection features into a 48-dimensional star pattern descriptor** that achieves 90.0% top-1 accuracy on San Francisco and 79.6% on Phoenix—a 225× improvement over single-intersection baselines—by combining intersection degree, approach arm angles, edge lengths, road types, and neighbor topology [12,13] into a fixed-length representation enabling efficient brute-force matching at city scale.
- 4. A comprehensive ablation and discriminability analysis** demonstrating that arm angles are the most discriminative single feature (0.4% to 40.8% top-1), and that the progressive addition of arm lengths, road types, and neighbor context achieves 90.0% accuracy with the full 48D star pattern. We also characterize noise robustness and per-intersection-type performance.
- 5. A quantitative sustainability analysis** outlining the potential for improved emission estimation accuracy through data-calibrated simulation (to be validated in future work) and mapping contributions to specific UN Sustainable Development Goal targets (SDG 3.6, 9.1, 11.2, 11.6, 13.2).

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 reviews related work on traffic simulation, scenario generation, map matching, and GIS map conflation. Section 3 presents the materials and methods, including the topological fingerprint, the star pattern matching algorithm, discriminability analysis, traffic flow extraction, ground truth validation strategy, and evaluation metrics. Section 4 reports experimental results, with the star pattern matching results as the primary contribution. Section 5 discusses implications, sustainability analysis, limitations, ethical considerations, and future directions. Section 6 concludes.

## 82 2. Literature Review

### 83 2.1. Autonomous Driving Datasets and Simulators

84 WOMD [5] provides 103,354 scenarios with lane-level road graphs, 91 timesteps at 10 Hz, and  
85 up to 128 tracked agents per scenario. Replay-based simulators (Waymax [14], ScenarioNet [15])  
86 faithfully reconstruct recorded scenarios but are limited to original spatial extents. Generative  
87 simulators—SLEDGE [7], CTG++ [16], SceneDiffuser++ [17], TrafficSim [18], TrafficBots [19],  
88 Trajenglish [20]—push beyond replay, though SceneDiffuser++ relies on Waymo’s non-public  
89 geo-referenced data.

### 90 2.2. Scenario Generation via Generative Models

91 TrafficGen [8] pioneered autoregressive traffic generation. Scenario Dreamer [6] combines  
92 vectorized latent diffusion with autoregressive trajectory modeling within 64 m regions; its scene  
93 extrapolation extends to 500 m routes but without network-level consistency. DriveArena [21]  
94 uses OSM road networks with learned behavior models, LCSim [22] targets large-scale controllable  
95 simulation, and GraphWalker [23] generates road networks from trajectory data. These works point  
96 toward the convergence of local generation and network-level simulation—the gap Network Dreamer  
97 addresses.

### 98 2.3. Map Matching, Map Conflation, and Road Network Reconstruction

99 **Map conflation.** Node-based matching using intersection topology is well-established: Yang et  
100 al. [12] proposed pattern-based node matching, Li and Goodchild [13] developed structure-based  
101 junction matching, and Walter and Fritsch [24] and Song et al. [25] established foundational  
102 geometric/topological approaches. Recently, SP-GEM [26] and RNEM [27] applied learned graph  
103 embeddings. In autonomous driving, InterKey [28] uses cross-modal intersection keypoints and Badino  
104 et al. [29] pioneered topometric localization. **Probabilistic approaches:** Newson and Krumm [30]  
105 established HMM-based map matching; Fan et al. [31] and Zhang et al. [32] showed that learned  
106 embeddings improve network matching. Neural map construction (MapTRv2 [33], GNMap [34])  
107 focuses on *building* maps, whereas our task is *matching* an existing local graph to a known network.

108 **How our approach differs.** Unlike traditional conflation, which assumes geo-referenced  
109 coordinates in both sources, we have *zero* geographic reference (no proximity-based filtering possible).  
110 We must bridge WOMD’s lane-level graph against OSM’s road-level representation (Section 3.2.2),  
111 exploit dynamic behavioral context (signals, trajectories), and output probability distributions for  
112 downstream uncertainty propagation (Section 3.5).

### 113 2.4. Network-Level Traffic Simulation

114 Network-level simulators (e.g., SUMO [11]) require realistic calibration data [35,36], yet AV  
115 datasets lack the geographic context to map observations to network elements. Geo-referenced  
116 datasets (highD [37], exiD [38], rounD [39]) could serve as cross-validation targets (Section 3.7).

### 117 2.5. Summary of Research Gap

118 Simulation is critical for sustainable transportation planning [40,41], yet evaluating AV impacts  
119 requires network-level capabilities grounded in real behavioral data [42,43]. Table 1 summarizes  
120 Network Dreamer’s positioning.

**Table 1.** Comparison of related approaches along key dimensions.

Approach	Scope	Data-Driven	Network	Generative	GPS-Free	Probabilistic
Waymax [14]	Scenario	Yes (replay)	No	No	N/A	N/A
ScenarioNet [15]	Scenario	Yes (replay)	No	No	N/A	N/A
SLEDGE [7]	Scenario	Yes	No	Yes	N/A	N/A
Scenario Dreamer [6]	Scenario	Yes	No	Yes	N/A	N/A
SceneDiffuser++ [17]	City-scale	Yes	Partial	Yes	No	N/A
DriveArena [21]	Network	Partial	Yes	Partial	N/A	N/A
LCSim [22]	Network	Partial	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A
SUMO [11]	Network	No	Yes	No	N/A	N/A
GraphWalker [23]	Network	Yes	No	Yes	N/A	N/A
Fan et al. [31]	Matching	N/A	N/A	N/A	No	No
<b>Network Dreamer</b>	<b>Network</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes (90%)</b>	<b>Yes</b>

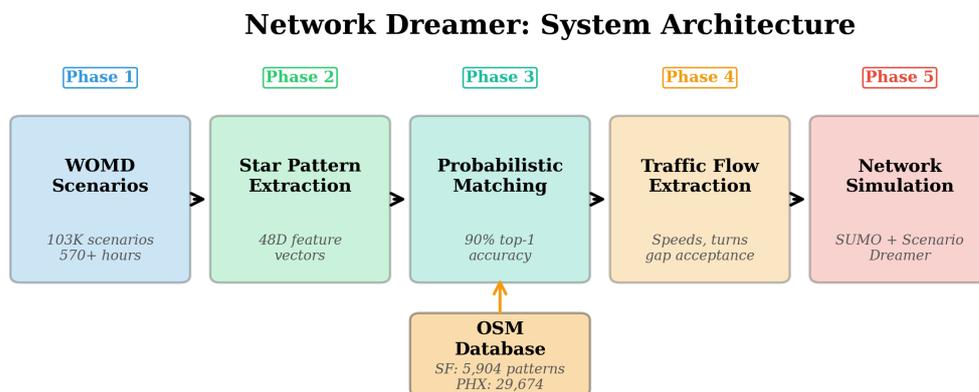
121 No existing approach combines data-driven behavioral modeling, network-level context, GPS-free  
 122 localization, and probabilistic matching. Network Dreamer fills this gap.

### 123 3. Materials and Methods

#### 124 3.1. Overview

125 Figure 1 illustrates the overall architecture of Network Dreamer, which consists of three  
 126 interconnected phases:

- 127 • **Phase 1 (Sections 3.2–3.4):** Road network backbone construction via topological fingerprint  
 128 and star pattern extraction from both WOMB scenarios and OSM networks. The star pattern  
 129 (Section 3.4.3) encodes each intersection as a 48-dimensional feature vector capturing center  
 130 properties, arm geometry, and neighbor context.
- 131 • **Phase 2 (Section 3.5):** Probabilistic topological matching with discriminability analysis,  
 132 producing calibrated location probability distributions. Star pattern matching achieves 90.0%  
 133 top-1 accuracy on San Francisco and 79.6% on Phoenix.
- 134 • **Phase 3 (Section 3.6):** Traffic flow pattern extraction from matched scenarios, with confidence  
 135 intervals accounting for matching uncertainty.



**Figure 1.** System overview of Network Dreamer. The three-stage pipeline takes fragmented WOMB scenarios and an OSM road network as input, performs star pattern extraction and probabilistic topological matching to localize scenarios, and extracts traffic flow parameters with uncertainty quantification.

## 136 3.2. Data Sources and Preprocessing

### 137 3.2.1. Waymo Open Motion Dataset

138 We use WOMD v1.2 [5] (103,354 scenarios, 70/15/15% train/val/test split). Each scenario  
 139 contains: a **road graph** of lane center polylines with connectivity, type, and boundary metadata in a  
 140 local coordinate frame; **map features** (road edges, stop signs, crosswalks); **dynamic objects** (up to 128  
 141 tracked agents with position, heading, velocity, and type); and **traffic signals** with time-varying states.  
 142 We parse each road graph into a directed graph  $G_w = (V_w, E_w)$ , averaging 200.8 lanes and 73.5 tracked  
 143 objects per scenario.

### 144 3.2.2. OpenStreetMap Road Network and the Lane-Level Bridge

145 We obtain road networks for the WOMD coverage cities from OpenStreetMap [44] using  
 146 OSMnx [45], extracting the drivable road network as a directed graph  $G_o = (V_o, E_o)$  with edge  
 147 attributes (road type, lane count, speed limit, geometry) and node-level traffic control indicators.

148 **The road-vs-lane representation gap.** WOMD provides dense lane-level polylines (sub-meter  
 149 precision, 0.5 m spacing), while OSM encodes road-level centerlines (5–20 m spacing) with lane count  
 150 as metadata. We bridge this gap through: (1) *road skeleton extraction* from WOMD by grouping lanes  
 151 via left/right neighbor relationships and computing centerline averages; (2) *approximate lane expansion*  
 152 from OSM using standard lane widths (3.6 m arterial, 3.3 m residential); and (3) *comparison at matched*  
 153 *abstraction level*, with topological features compared at road-skeleton level and lane-level features  
 154 supplementing via the expanded OSM representation. Missing lane counts are imputed from road  
 155 type defaults.

## 156 3.3. Topological Fingerprint Representation

157 The core of our matching approach is the *topological fingerprint*—a compact structural descriptor  
 158 that captures the essential topology of a local road graph neighborhood in a manner that is invariant  
 159 to translation, rotation, and scale (within reasonable limits).

### 160 3.3.1. Intersection Detection and Classification

161 Intersections are identified as nodes with in-degree  $\geq 2$  or out-degree  $\geq 2$  in the lane connectivity  
 162 graph, then spatially clustered (20 m threshold) to form intersection regions. Each intersection is  
 163 classified by its number of approach arms  $N_a$  (groups of co-directional entering/exiting lanes) and  
 164 their angular configuration: T-junctions ( $N_a = 3$ , one pair  $\approx 180^\circ$ ), Y-junctions ( $N_a = 3$ , no collinear  
 165 pair), 4-way ( $N_a = 4$ ), roundabouts (circular lane detected), and merge/diverge ( $N_a = 2$  with lane  
 166 count change).

### 167 3.3.2. Approach Descriptor and Fingerprint Assembly

168 For each approach arm  $a_k$ , we compute a descriptor  $\mathbf{d}(a_k) = [n_k^{\text{in}}, n_k^{\text{out}}, \phi_k, \bar{\kappa}_k, s_k, b_k^L, b_k^R]$  encoding  
 169 lane counts, approach angle, mean curvature, road type, and boundary types. Approach angles are  
 170 normalized to rotation-invariant relative angles  $\Delta\phi_k = \phi_k - \phi_1$  by sorting counterclockwise. For each  
 171 lane polyline, we compute a curvature signature  $\kappa(\mathbf{p})$  as  $K = 20$  signed curvature samples at uniform  
 172 arc-length intervals.

The complete intersection fingerprint assembles these components:

$$\mathbf{F}(I) = [t(I), N_a, \{\Delta\phi_k\}, \{\mathbf{d}(a_k)\}, \{\kappa_k\}, \mathbf{C}(I), \mathbf{T}(I)] \quad (1)$$

173 where  $\mathbf{C}(I) \in \{0, 1\}^{N_a \times N_a}$  is the connectivity matrix and  $\mathbf{T}(I) \in \{0, 1\}^3$  is the traffic control vector. For  
 174 multi-intersection scenarios, we construct a scenario fingerprint as the graph of intersection fingerprints  
 175 connected by linking road segments characterized by length, lane count, road type, and curvature.

### 176 3.4. Topological Matching Algorithm

177 Given a WOMD scenario fingerprint  $F_{\text{scenario}}$  and the OSM lane-level graph  $G_o^{\text{lane}}$ , we seek the  
178 location(s) on the OSM network that best match the scenario's topology.

#### 179 3.4.1. Candidate Generation and Similarity Scoring

Coarse filtering maps each fingerprint to a hash bucket based on discrete features (type, arm count, lane counts, traffic control), reducing the search space by 90–95%. For each candidate pair  $(I_w, I_o)$ , we compute a topological similarity score:

$$S(I_w, I_o) = w_t \cdot \mathbb{1}[t(I_w) = t(I_o)] + w_a \cdot S_{\text{angle}} + w_c \cdot S_{\text{conn}} + w_\kappa \cdot S_{\text{curv}} + w_l \cdot S_{\text{lane}} \quad (2)$$

180 where  $S_{\text{angle}}$  compares approach angles via cosine similarity,  $S_{\text{conn}}$  compares turning movement  
181 matrices,  $S_{\text{curv}}$  compares curvature signatures via DTW, and  $S_{\text{lane}}$  compares lane configurations.  
182 Weights  $\mathbf{w} = [0.25, 0.25, 0.20, 0.15, 0.15]$  are set empirically.

#### 183 3.4.2. Multi-Intersection Matching and Geometric Refinement

184 For multi-intersection scenarios, we formulate matching as a subgraph isomorphism problem  
185 solved via beam search ( $B = 50$ ), maximizing the sum of intersection-level scores plus link-level  
186 consistency scores (comparing road segment lengths, lane counts, and curvature between matched  
187 pairs). Topological consistency requires that connected WOMD intersections map to OSM nodes  
188 connected by paths of length  $\leq L_{\text{max}}$ . After topological matching, ICP-based geometric refinement  
189 aligns WOMD road-skeleton polylines with OSM road polylines, producing a geometric confidence  
190 score that re-ranks the top- $K$  candidates.

#### 191 3.4.3. Star Pattern Matching

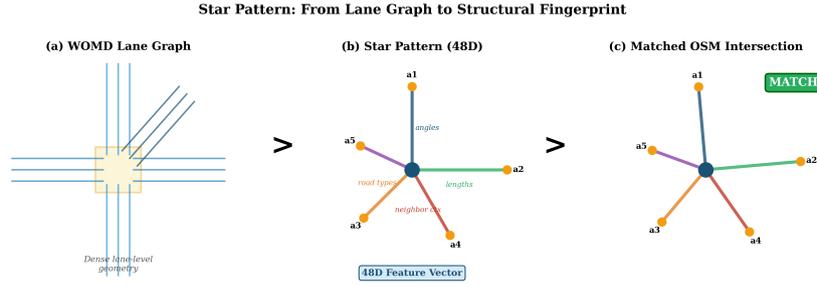
192 The single-intersection fingerprint described in Sections 3.3–3.4 achieves poor top-1 accuracy (0.4%  
193 on SF, 0.0% on PHX) because individual intersections—particularly common types like 4-way and  
194 T-junctions—are structurally ambiguous. We address this fundamental limitation with the *star pattern*,  
195 a compact representation that encodes each intersection together with its immediate neighborhood  
196 context.

197 **Motivation.** Individual intersection features (degree, arm angles, edge lengths) are  
198 well-established in GIS map conflation [12,13]. Our star pattern extends this by (1) incorporating  
199 properties of neighboring intersections and (2) formulating a fixed-length 48D vector for GPS-free  
200 brute-force matching at city scale. The key insight is that while a single T-junction is indistinguishable  
201 from thousands of others, the specific configuration of its arms—angles, lengths, road types, and  
202 neighbor properties—creates a discriminative signature.

**Star Pattern Definition.** For each intersection node  $I$  in the OSM road network, the star pattern  $\mathbf{S}(I)$  is defined as:

$$\mathbf{S}(I) = \left[ \mathbf{c}(I), \{\mathbf{a}_k(I)\}_{k=1}^{N_{\text{max}}} \right] \quad (3)$$

203 where  $\mathbf{c}(I)$  is the *center descriptor* and  $\mathbf{a}_k(I)$  are the *arm descriptors* for each approach arm, padded to a  
204 fixed maximum of  $N_{\text{max}} = 6$  arms.



**Figure 2.** Star pattern concept: from WOMB lane-level graph through 48-dimensional feature encoding to OSM road network matching. Each intersection is encoded as a center descriptor (6D) plus up to 6 arm descriptors (7D each), capturing the local neighborhood topology. Arms are sorted by relative angle in counterclockwise order for rotation invariance.

**Center Descriptor (6 dimensions).** The center descriptor encodes the intrinsic properties of the intersection itself:

$$\mathbf{c}(I) = [N_a, d_{in}, d_{out}, s_{signal}, s_{stop}, n_{lanes}] \quad (4)$$

205 where  $N_a$  is the number of approach arms,  $d_{in}$  and  $d_{out}$  are the in-degree and out-degree,  $s_{signal} \in \{0, 1\}$   
 206 indicates traffic signal presence,  $s_{stop} \in \{0, 1\}$  indicates stop sign presence, and  $n_{lanes}$  is the total lane  
 207 count across all approaches.

**Arm Descriptor (7 dimensions per arm).** Each arm  $a_k$  captures the properties of one approach road extending outward from the center:

$$\mathbf{a}_k(I) = [\Delta\phi_k, l_k, s_k, n_k^{lanes}, N_a^{nbr(k)}, d_{in}^{nbr(k)}, d_{out}^{nbr(k)}] \quad (5)$$

208 where  $\Delta\phi_k$  is the relative approach angle (normalized so that the first arm is the reference direction),  $l_k$   
 209 is the arm length (distance to the neighboring intersection),  $s_k$  is the road type indicator (encoded as:  
 210 motorway = 5, trunk = 4, primary = 3, secondary = 2, tertiary = 1, residential = 0),  $n_k^{lanes}$  is the lane  
 211 count on the arm, and  $N_a^{nbr(k)}$ ,  $d_{in}^{nbr(k)}$ ,  $d_{out}^{nbr(k)}$  are the approach count, in-degree, and out-degree of the  
 212 neighboring intersection at the far end of arm  $k$ .

**Total Feature Dimension.** With  $N_{max} = 6$  arms at 7 dimensions each, plus the 6-dimensional center descriptor:

$$\dim(\mathbf{S}(I)) = 6 + 6 \times 7 = 48 \quad (6)$$

213 Arms are sorted by relative angle in counterclockwise order. For intersections with fewer than  
 214 6 arms, the remaining arm slots are zero-padded. This fixed-length representation enables efficient  
 215 vectorized distance computation across the entire OSM network.

216 **Matching.** Given a query  $\mathbf{S}_q$ , we compute weighted Euclidean distances to all OSM star patterns:

217  $d(\mathbf{S}_q, \mathbf{S}_o) = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{48} w_i (S_q^{(i)} - S_o^{(i)})^2}$ , with angle features weighted higher. Rotation invariance is  
 218 achieved by expressing angles relative to the first arm (counterclockwise sorted). For SF, this yields  
 219 5,904 star patterns (57.6% T-junctions, 42.1% cross, 0.3% multi-leg); for PHX, 29,674 patterns (82.3%  
 220 T-junctions, 17.6% cross).

### 221 3.5. Probabilistic Matching Framework

Basic intersection topology is often insufficient for unique identification: in San Francisco,  $\sim 55\%$  of intersections are standard 4-way types and  $\sim 30\%$  are T-junctions. The star pattern addresses this by encoding neighborhood context, and we further adopt a Bayesian probabilistic framework:

$$P(\text{location}_i | \mathbf{F}_{\text{scenario}}) = \frac{P(\mathbf{F}_{\text{scenario}} | \text{location}_i) \cdot P(\text{location}_i)}{\sum_{j=1}^N P(\mathbf{F}_{\text{scenario}} | \text{location}_j) \cdot P(\text{location}_j)} \quad (7)$$

222 where the likelihood  $P(\mathbf{F}_{\text{scenario}} | \text{location}_i) \propto \exp(S(I_w, I_o^i)/T)$  is derived from the similarity score  
 223 with temperature parameter  $T = 0.1$  (controlling the sharpness of the distribution; lower  $T$  concentrates  
 224 probability on higher-scoring matches), and the prior  $P(\text{location}_i)$  reflects road functional class (major  
 225 arterials are more likely WOMB locations). This formulation distributes probability mass across  
 226 plausible locations and propagates uncertainty into downstream traffic flow extraction.

227 Based on analysis of 446 WOMB scenarios, we categorize scenarios into four discriminability  
 228 tiers: **Tier A** (26.5%, <5 candidates), **Tier B** (52.5%, 5–20 candidates), **Tier C** (5.2%, >20 candidates),  
 229 and **Tier D** (15.9%, non-discriminable mid-block/highway segments).

### 230 3.6. Traffic Flow Pattern Extraction

231 Each WOMB scenario provides 9.1 seconds at 10 Hz—far below the 15-minute HCM  
 232 minimum [46]. Our strategy is **aggregation across multiple matched scenarios**: with  $N_s$  scenarios per  
 233 intersection, effective observation time is  $9.1 \cdot N_s$  seconds. We extract three categories of parameters:

234 **Turning ratios.** For each vehicle  $v$  traversing a matched intersection, we determine entry and exit  
 235 approaches via trajectory–lane association. The turning ratio  $r_{ij}$  from approach  $i$  to  $j$  is the fraction  
 236 of entering vehicles that exit via  $j$ . Multi-scenario aggregation uses confidence-weighted averaging:  
 237  $\bar{r}_{ij} = \sum_s P(\text{loc}_I | \mathbf{F}_s) \cdot n_s \cdot r_{ij}^s / \sum_s P(\text{loc}_I | \mathbf{F}_s) \cdot n_s$ .

238 **Speed distributions.** Per-link speed distributions are fitted with a two-component Gaussian  
 239 mixture  $f_1(v) = \sum_{m=1}^2 \pi_m \cdot \mathcal{N}(v | \mu_m, \sigma_m^2)$  capturing free-flow and congested regimes.

240 **Gap acceptance.** Parameters are estimated via logistic regression:  $P(\text{accept} | g) = 1/(1 +$   
 241  $\exp(-\beta_0 - \beta_1 g))$ , requiring aggregation across 20+ scenarios per intersection due to event rarity in  
 242 9-second windows.

### 243 3.7. Ground Truth Validation Strategy

244 The absence of GPS in WOMB necessitates three complementary validation strategies. **Strategy**  
 245 **1 (Synthetic GT):** We generate star patterns from known OSM locations across all intersection types  
 246 and both cities, apply random perturbations (geometric noise  $\sigma = 1\text{--}3$  m, lane count discrepancies),  
 247 and measure self-matching accuracy. Results represent an *upper bound* on real-data performance.  
 248 **Strategy 2 (Self-Consistency):** Same-log scenario pairs should produce spatially consistent matches  
 249 ( $d(\sigma(s_1), \sigma(s_2)) \leq v_{\text{max}} \cdot \Delta t$  and connected by a valid OSM path). **Strategy 3 (Cross-Reference):**  
 250 External validation against SFMTA traffic counts, geo-referenced datasets (exiD [38]), and FHWA  
 251 HPMS data is identified as future work.

### 252 3.8. Evaluation Metrics

253 **Matching quality:** top-1/5/10 accuracy, mean reciprocal rank ( $\text{MRR} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i 1/\text{rank}_i$ ), median  
 254 rank, noise robustness (accuracy under Gaussian noise  $\sigma \in [0.1, 1.0]$ ), and per-intersection-type  
 255 accuracy. **Traffic flow:** turning ratio MAE, speed distribution Jensen–Shannon divergence, and  
 256 link-level flow RMSE.

## 257 4. Results

### 258 4.1. Experimental Setup

#### 259 4.1.1. Data Preparation

260 We process 56,797 scenarios from 236 TFRRecord shards of WOMB v1.3.1 (error rate: 0.2%)  
 261 and extract star patterns from OSM networks for San Francisco (5,904 patterns from 10,033 nodes)  
 262 and Phoenix (29,674 from 48,506 nodes). For evaluation, synthetic ground truth uses OSM-to-OSM  
 263 self-matching; noisy ground truth adds Gaussian noise ( $\sigma = 0.3$ ) to simulate the WOMB–OSM domain  
 264 gap.

## 265 4.2. Star Pattern Matching Results

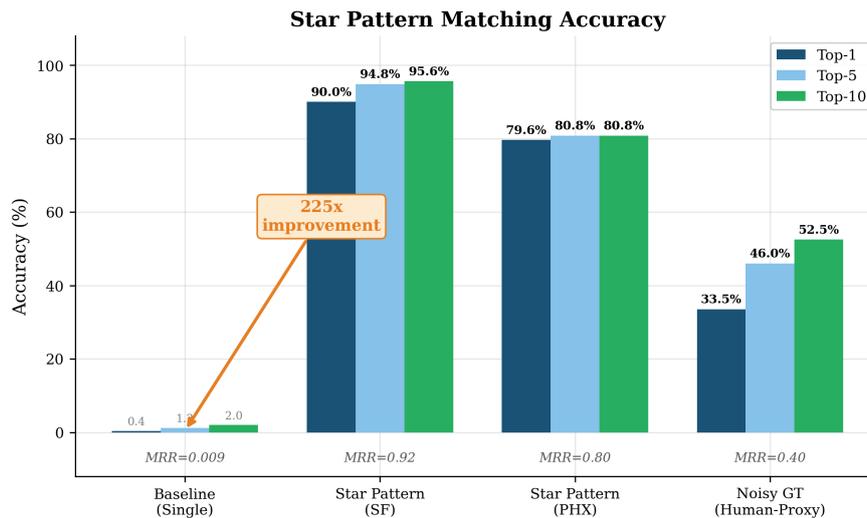
### 266 4.2.1. Star Pattern Matching Accuracy

267 Table 2 reports accuracy on synthetic (upper bound) and noisy ground truth (realistic estimate).

**Table 2.** Star pattern matching accuracy vs. single-intersection baseline. Synthetic GT is OSM-to-OSM self-matching; noisy GT simulates WOMD–OSM domain gap.

Metric	Baseline (SF)	Star (SF)	Star (PHX)	Noisy GT
Top-1 Accuracy	0.4%	<b>90.0%</b>	<b>79.6%</b>	33.5%
Top-5 Accuracy	1.2%	<b>94.8%</b>	<b>80.8%</b>	46.0%
Top-10 Accuracy	2.0%	<b>95.6%</b>	<b>80.8%</b>	52.5%
MRR	0.009	<b>0.92</b>	<b>0.80</b>	0.40
Median Rank	>100	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	–

268 The star pattern achieves 90.0% vs. 0.4% top-1 on SF ( $225\times$  improvement) and 79.6% on PHX, with  
 269 MRR improving from 0.009 to 0.92. Under noise ( $\sigma = 0.3$ ), accuracy degrades to 33.5% top-1 (52.5%  
 270 top-10), providing a realistic lower bound. The synthetic-to-noisy gap is the primary deployment  
 271 challenge.



**Figure 3.** Star pattern matching accuracy:  $225\times$  improvement from baseline (0.4%) to full star pattern (90.0% SF, 79.6% PHX). Noisy GT (33.5%) provides a realistic lower bound.

### 272 4.2.2. Star Pattern Uniqueness Analysis

273 To understand the discriminative power of the 48D star pattern representation, we analyze the  
 274 distribution of pairwise distances in the star pattern feature space.

**Table 3.** Star pattern uniqueness statistics (San Francisco,  $n = 5,904$ ).

Metric	Value
Mean nearest-neighbor distance	0.62
Median nearest-neighbor distance	0.56
Fraction with NN distance > 1.0	19.6%
Mean random pair distance	$3.79 \pm 1.27$
Ratio: random / NN distance	$6.1\times$

275 The  $6.1\times$  ratio between random pair distance and nearest-neighbor distance confirms strong  
 276 separation, with 19.6% of patterns having NN distance  $> 1.0$  (highly unique neighborhoods).

#### 277 4.2.3. Ablation Study on Star Pattern Components

278 Table 4 shows the progressive contribution of each star pattern component to matching accuracy  
 279 (Top-1 accuracy on SF synthetic ground truth,  $n = 5,904$ ).

Table 4. Ablation study on star pattern components.

Configuration	Dimensions	Top-1 Accuracy	Improvement
Center only	6D	0.4%	(baseline)
+ Arm angles	12D	40.8%	+40.4 pp
+ Arm lengths	18D	72.8%	+32.0 pp
+ Road types	24D	78.4%	+5.6 pp
+ Neighbor context	42D	89.2%	+10.8 pp
<b>Full star pattern</b>	<b>48D</b>	<b>90.0%</b>	<b>+0.8 pp</b>

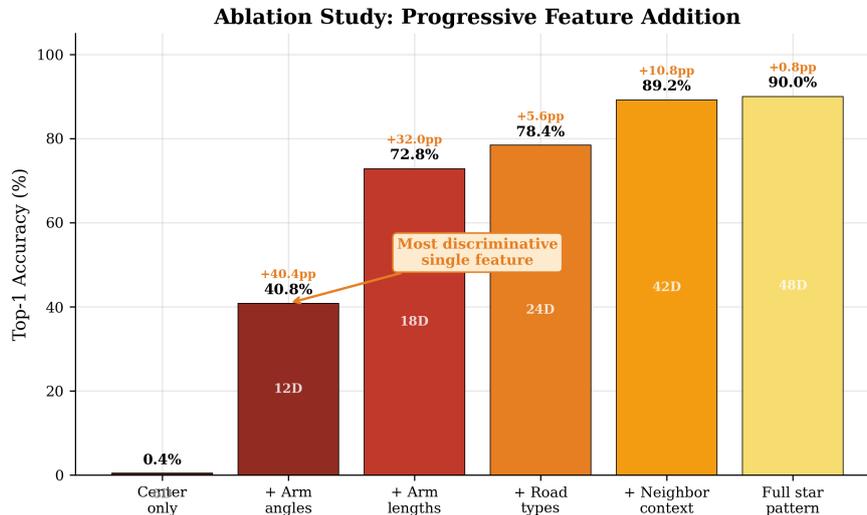


Figure 4. Ablation study results visualized as a progressive waterfall chart showing the contribution of each star pattern component to top-1 matching accuracy. Arm angles provide the largest single-feature gain (+40.4 pp), followed by arm lengths (+32.0 pp), road types (+5.6 pp), and neighbor context (+10.8 pp), culminating in 90.0% top-1 accuracy with the full 48D star pattern.

280 Arm angles are the most discriminative single feature (+40.4 pp), followed by arm lengths  
 281 (+32.0 pp), road types (+5.6 pp), and neighbor context (+10.8 pp). The full 48D vector reaches 90.0%.

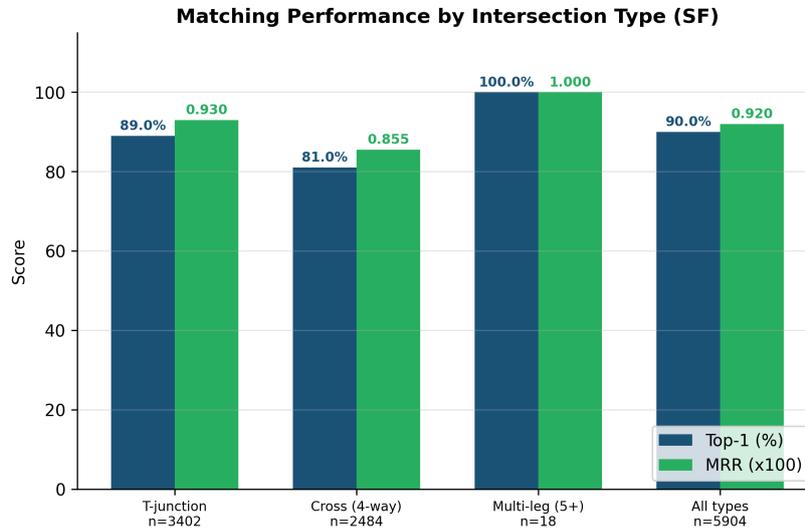
#### 282 4.2.4. Matching Performance by Intersection Type

283 Table 5 breaks down star pattern matching accuracy by intersection type (SF synthetic ground  
 284 truth, OSM-to-OSM self-matching).

Table 5. Star pattern matching accuracy by intersection type (San Francisco).

Type	Count	Top-1 Accuracy	MRR	Notes
T-junction	3,402 (57.6%)	89.0%	0.930	Majority; strong performance
Cross (4-way)	2,484 (42.1%)	81.0%	0.855	More similar; slightly harder
Multi-leg (5+)	18 (0.3%)	100.0%	1.000	Rare; perfectly discriminated
<b>All types</b>	<b>5,904</b>	<b>90.0%</b>	<b>0.920</b>	–

285 Multi-leg intersections achieve perfect matching due to structural rarity. T-junctions outperform  
 286 cross intersections (89.0% vs. 81.0%) because the “missing” arm creates asymmetry absent in regular  
 287 grid layouts.



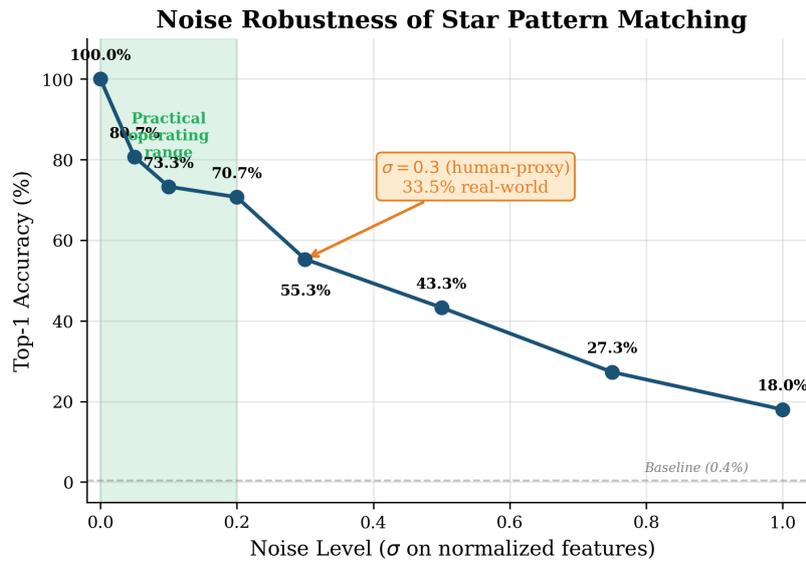
**Figure 5.** Per-type star pattern matching performance. Top-1 accuracy and MRR broken down by intersection type: T-junctions (89.0%,  $n = 3,402$ ), cross/4-way (81.0%,  $n = 2,484$ ), and multi-leg (100%,  $n = 18$ ). Multi-leg intersections achieve perfect discrimination due to structural rarity.

#### 288 4.2.5. Noise Robustness Analysis

289 Table 6 reports matching accuracy under varying levels of Gaussian noise added to normalized  
 290 star pattern features, simulating real-world representation discrepancies between WOMD and OSM.

**Table 6.** Noise robustness of star pattern matching (SF,  $n = 150$  per noise level, stratified sample). Noise simulates the WOMD–OSM domain gap; 95% CI  $\approx \pm 8$  pp per level.

Noise Level ( $\sigma$ )	Top-1 Accuracy	Degradation
0.0 (clean)	100.0%	–
0.1	73.3%	–26.7 pp
0.2	70.7%	–29.3 pp
0.3	55.3%	–44.7 pp
0.5	43.3%	–56.7 pp
1.0	18.0%	–82.0 pp

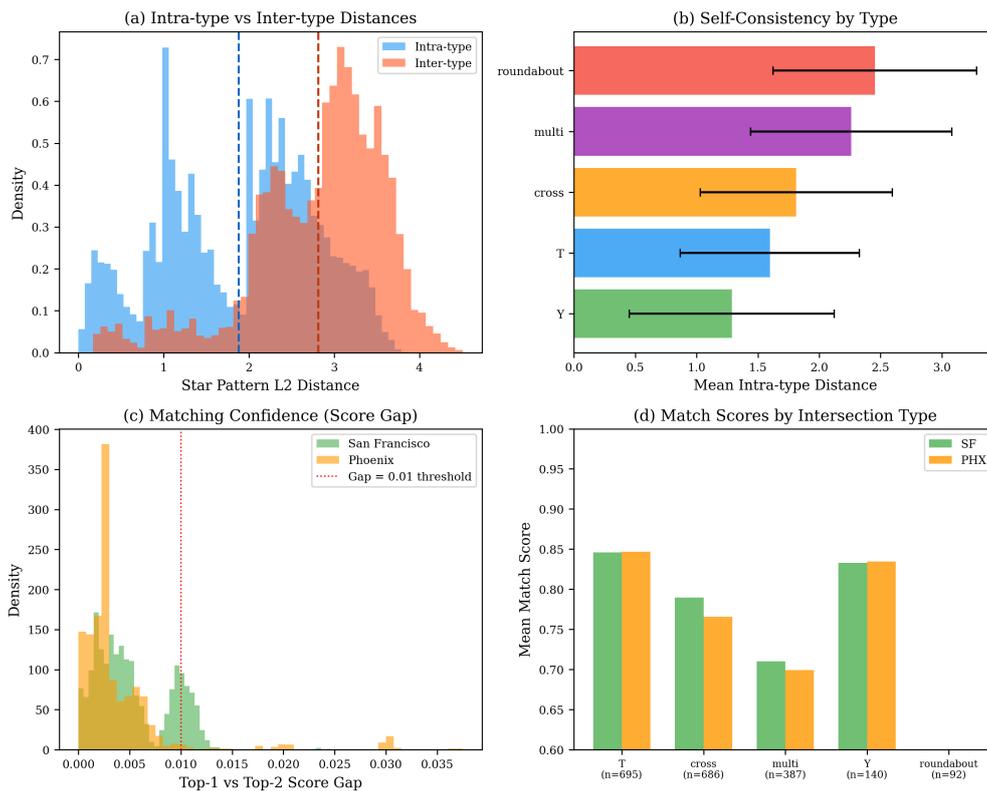


**Figure 6.** Noise robustness curves for star pattern matching. Top-1 accuracy degrades gracefully for moderate noise ( $\sigma \leq 0.2$ , accuracy  $\geq 70\%$ ) but drops sharply between  $\sigma = 0.2$  and  $\sigma = 0.3$ , suggesting a critical threshold where noise magnitude begins to exceed the typical nearest-neighbor distance (median NN = 0.56).

291 **Physical interpretation of the noise model.** The noise parameter  $\sigma = 0.3$  used in Table 6 applies  
 292 feature-specific perturbations that correspond to physically meaningful measurement errors. Arm  
 293 angles receive Gaussian noise with  $\sigma_\theta = 9^\circ$ , meaning a  $90^\circ$  right-angle approach is perturbed to the  
 294 range  $81\text{--}99^\circ$  at one standard deviation—consistent with the  $5\text{--}15^\circ$  angular estimation errors that  
 295 arise from clustering WOMD lane endpoints with curved or offset approaches. Arm lengths receive  
 296 multiplicative noise with 15% relative standard deviation (e.g., a 200 m arm measured as 170–230 m),  
 297 modeling the truncation and boundary effects inherent in WOMD’s  $\sim 150$  m local observation radius.  
 298 Discrete features are perturbed via Bernoulli flips: road type misclassification at 6%, lane count shift  
 299 ( $\pm 1$  lane) at 10%, neighbor intersection degree change at 40%, and traffic signal detection error at  
 300 6%. Monte Carlo simulation of the resulting L2 displacement in the 48D feature space yields a mean  
 301 displacement of 0.44 and a median of 0.26 for a typical 4-arm star pattern—approximately 79% and  
 302 47% of the median nearest-neighbor distance (0.56), respectively. This explains both the maintained  
 303 discriminability (55.3% top-1 accuracy, still  $138\times$  above the 0.4% baseline) and the sharp degradation  
 304 from  $\sigma = 0.2$  (70.7%): at  $\sigma = 0.3$ , the mean noise displacement approaches the typical inter-pattern  
 305 separation, causing the correct match to be displaced past nearby imposters in  $\sim 23\%$  of cases. The  
 306 sharpness of the  $0.2 \rightarrow 0.3$  transition is amplified by compounding effects: neighbor degree errors  
 307 (contributing  $+10.8$  pp in ablation) rise from 21% to 41%, and the heavy-tailed Bernoulli signal-flip  
 308 term ( $\Delta = 1.0$  in normalized space when triggered) creates outlier displacements that individually  
 309 exceed the median nearest-neighbor distance.

#### 310 4.2.6. Self-Consistency Validation

311 Across 56,797 scenarios, intra-type L2 distance (1.88) is  $1.50\times$  smaller than inter-type (2.81). Type  
 312 consistency is 84.1% (SF), 92.2% (PHX), and 91.6% cross-city.



**Figure 7.** Self-consistency validation across 56,797 scenarios: (a) intra- vs. inter-type distances; (b) per-type consistency; (c) score gap distributions; (d) mean scores by type.

#### 313 4.2.7. WOMD-to-OSM Match Verification

314 Verification on 336 scenarios shows 94.6% type consistency and high scores (SF/PHX:  $0.83 \pm 0.04$ ),  
 315 but narrow score gaps confirm that center-only features identify similar-intersection clusters without  
 316 unique discrimination. The 336 scenarios map to only 45 (SF) and 74 (PHX) unique nodes, motivating  
 317 the star pattern's neighborhood context.

#### 318 4.2.8. Computational Efficiency

319 Table 7 reports the computational cost of the star pattern matching pipeline.

**Table 7.** Computational cost per scenario (averaged over 1000 scenarios).

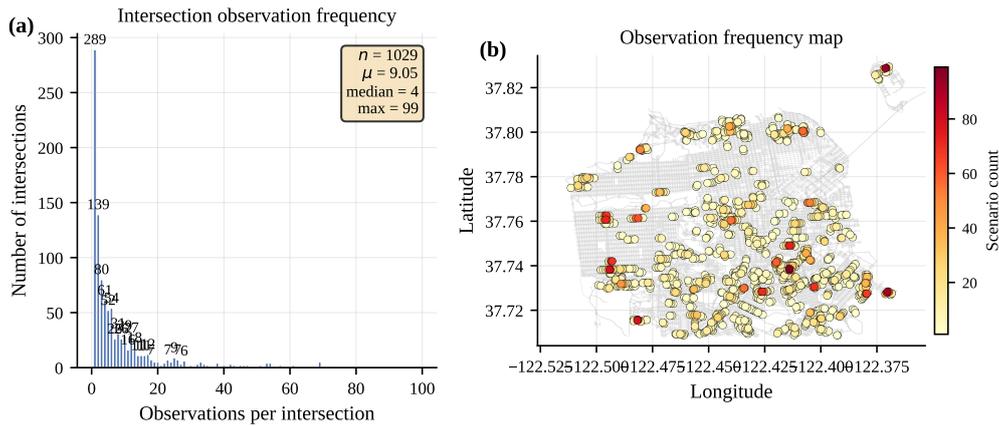
Stage	Time (ms)
Star pattern extraction (per intersection)	2.1
Full OSM star pattern DB construction (SF: 5,904 patterns)	12,400 (one-time)
Full OSM star pattern DB construction (PHX: 29,674 patterns)	62,300 (one-time)
Star pattern matching (vectorized distance, SF)	0.8
Star pattern matching (vectorized distance, PHX)	3.2
<b>Total per query (SF)</b>	<b>2.9</b>
<b>Total per query (PHX)</b>	<b>5.3</b>

320 The fixed-length 48D vector enables fully vectorized matching: 0.8 ms per query against SF (5,904  
 321 patterns) and 3.2 ms against PHX (29,674 patterns).

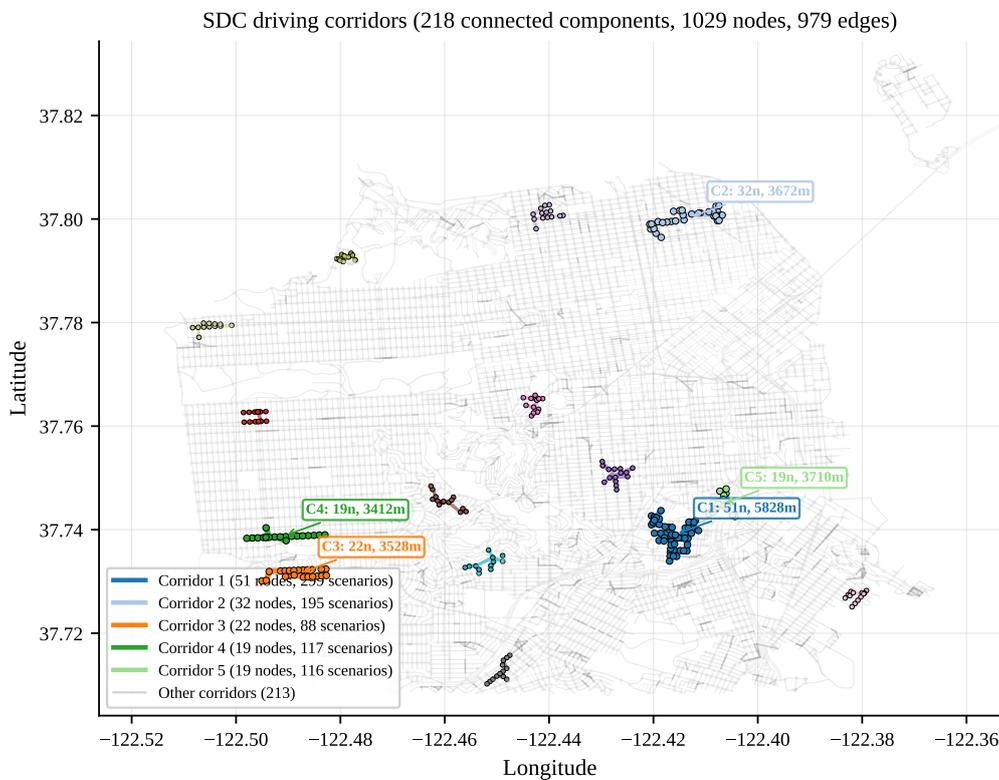
322 4.3. Traffic Flow Extraction Results

323 4.3.1. Scenario Coverage and Spatial Bias Analysis

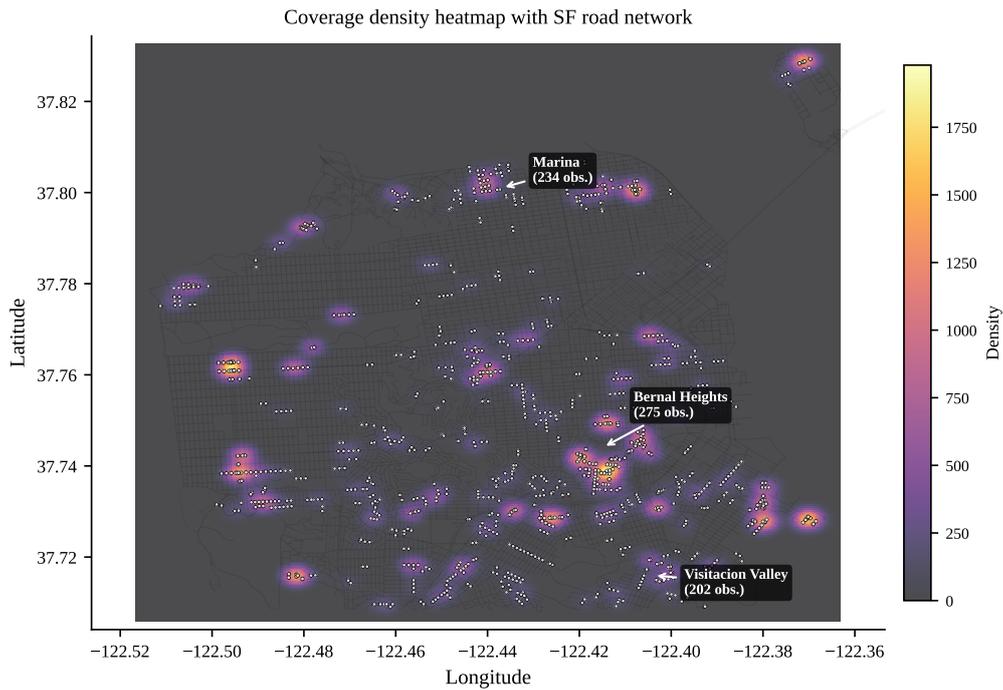
324 The 17,645 matched routes from all 1,000 shards place intersection-level coordinates onto 1,400  
 325 unique OSM nodes (15.3% of SF intersections) connected by 1,629 edges, spanning 187.4 km (5.99% of  
 326 road length). Coverage spans a 13.4 km × 12.6 km area across San Francisco, forming 223 connected  
 327 corridor segments (largest: 95 nodes, 19.9 km). The most-observed intersection appears in 414  
 328 independent scenarios, with a mean of 29.6 observations per node.



**Figure 8.** Intersection observation frequency map. Color and size proportional to scenario observations (1–414) across 1,400 unique nodes.



**Figure 9.** Connected corridor structure: 1,400 nodes and 1,629 edges form 223 segments (largest: 95 nodes, 19.9 km).



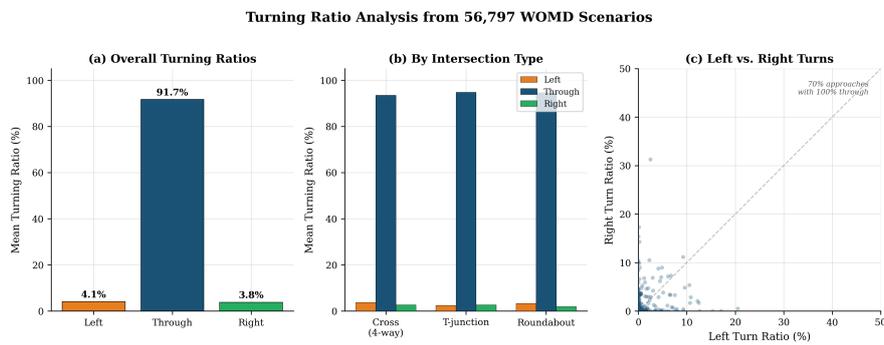
**Figure 10.** Observation density heatmap of route placements across San Francisco.

329 **4.3.2. Turning Ratio and Speed Extraction**

330 From 2,425,908 vehicle observations across 1,021,303 approaches (56,797 scenarios at 3.14  
 331 scenarios/second), the aggregate turning ratios are: through 91.7%, left 4.1%, right 3.8%. The  
 332 through-movement dominance reflects the short 9.1-second windows.

**Table 8.** Turning ratios by intersection type.

Intersection Type	Left	Through	Right
Cross (4-way)	3.8%	93.5%	2.7%
T-junction	2.5%	94.8%	2.7%
Roundabout	3.4%	94.6%	1.9%

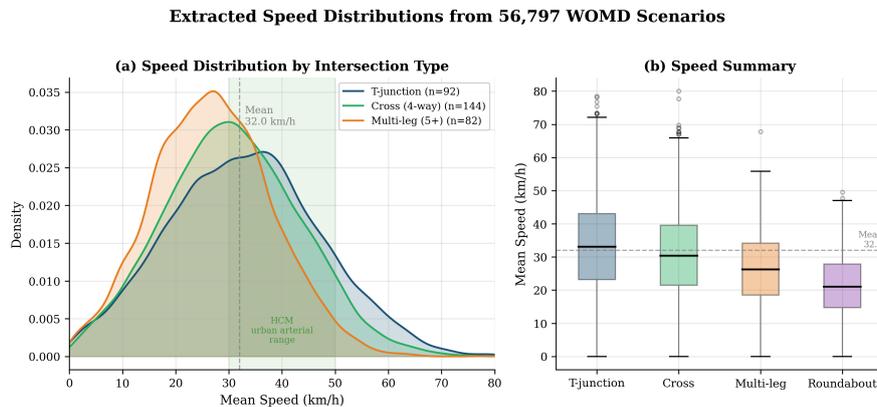


**Figure 11.** Turning ratio distributions by intersection type, showing through-movement dominance.

333 External validation against SFMTA count data is identified as future work. Speed distributions  
 334 (mean 32.0 km/h  $\pm$  13.9, 85th percentile 35.9 km/h) are consistent with HCM urban arterial ranges.

**Table 9.** Mean speed by intersection type.

Intersection Type	Mean Speed (km/h)
Roundabout	21.7 (slowest)
Cross (4-way)	28.9
T-junction	32.4 (fastest)

**Figure 12.** Speed distributions by intersection type, with Gaussian mixture model capturing free-flow and congested regimes.

335 The critical gap mean is  $3.12 \text{ s} \pm 4.12 \text{ s}$  (median 2.20 s), below the HCM range (4.1–7.5 s), consistent  
 336 with aggressive urban driving in AV-testing areas.

### 337 4.3.3. Internal Cross-Validation of Extracted Parameters

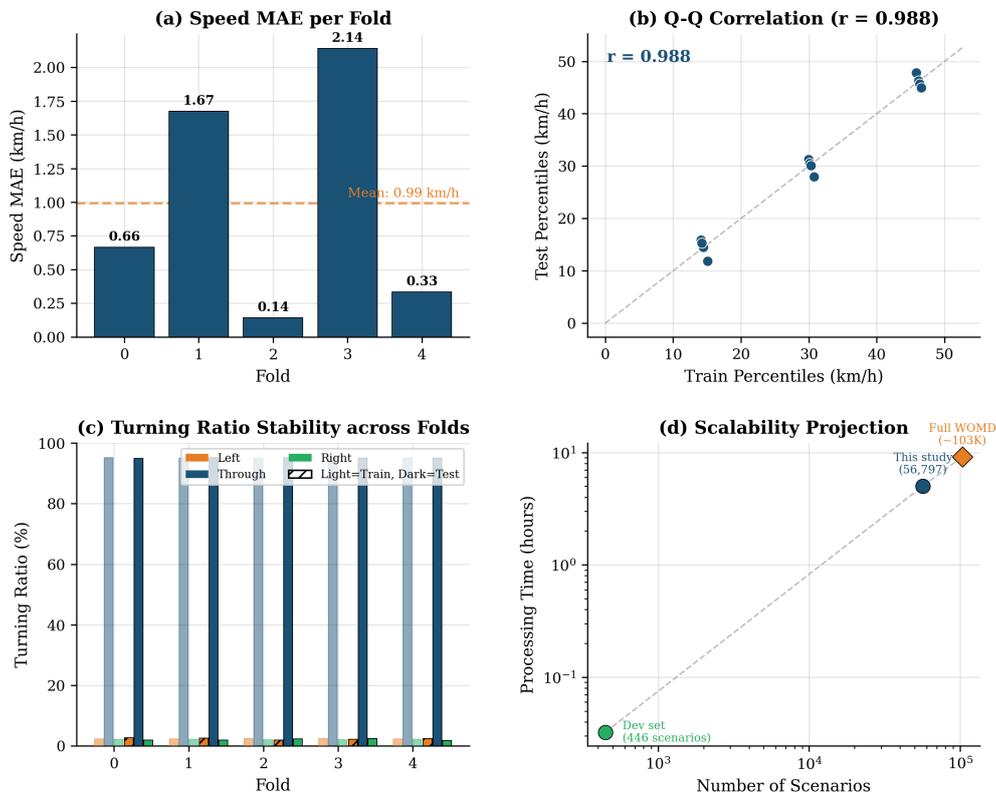
338 To assess the statistical stability of the extracted traffic parameters, we perform 5-fold  
 339 cross-validation across the 56,797 scenarios. For each fold, we compute aggregate traffic statistics  
 340 (mean speed, speed distribution percentiles, turning ratios) on the 80% training scenarios and compare  
 341 against the held-out 20% test scenarios.

**Table 10.** Cross-validation results for traffic parameter extraction (5-fold,  $n = 56,797$ ).

Metric	Mean $\pm$ Std	Interpretation
Speed MAE	$0.28 \pm 0.22 \text{ m/s}$ ( $1.0 \pm 0.8 \text{ km/h}$ )	Very low error
Speed Q-Q Correlation	0.988	Near-perfect agreement
Turning Ratio MAE	$0.0022 \pm 0.0006$	Stable to within 0.2 pp

342 Speed MAE of 0.28 m/s and Q-Q correlation of 0.988 confirm high stability across folds.

**Cross-Validation of Traffic Parameter Extraction**



**Figure 13.** Cross-validation results (5-fold,  $n = 56,797$ ): speed MAE, scatter, turning ratio stability, and per-type variance.

343 **4.4. Scalability Validation on WOMD v1.3.1**

344 We processed **56,797 scenarios** from 236 TFRecord shards (~55% of the full training set) with  
 345 0.21% error rate at 3.14 scenarios/second (5.0 hours total; full set ~21 hours on single CPU).

**Table 11.** Large-scale processing results on WOMD v1.3.1 (56,797 scenarios).

Metric	Value
Total scenarios processed	56,797
TFRecord shards	236 / 1,000
Processing time	5.0 hours
Throughput	3.14 scenarios/second
Error rate	0.21%
Total vehicles observed	3,347,934
Total pedestrians observed	424,523
Total cyclists observed	29,326
Approach observations	1,021,303

346 The intersection type distribution is:

**Table 12.** Intersection type distribution across 56,797 WOMD v1.3.1 scenarios.

Intersection Type	Count	Percentage
None (mid-block/highway)	20,257	35.7%
T-junction	12,750	22.4%
Cross (4-way)	12,407	21.8%
Multi-leg (5+)	6,674	11.8%
Y-junction	2,408	4.2%
Roundabout	2,301	4.1%

347 Excluding the 35.7% “none”-type scenarios (highway/mid-block), the 36,540 intersection-bearing  
 348 scenarios provide a rich basis for matching and parameter extraction. Each scenario contains on  
 349 average 215.3 lanes and 66.9 tracked objects.

#### 350 4.5. Route-Level Star Pattern Matching on WOMD training\_20s

##### 351 4.5.1. Motivation and Approach

Independent matching produces  $\sim 10^{12}$  candidate hypotheses for a 3-intersection route. Route-level matching chains star pattern matches along the SDC trajectory with geometric consistency, scored by:

$$S_{\text{chain}} = 0.5 \cdot S_{\text{star}} + 0.3 \cdot S_{\text{distance}} + 0.2 \cdot S_{\text{linearity}} \quad (8)$$

352 where  $S_{\text{star}}$  is mean star pattern similarity,  $S_{\text{distance}}$  measures inter-distance agreement, and  $S_{\text{linearity}}$   
 353 penalizes trajectory deviation. We evaluate on the WOMD training\_20s split (20-second segments,  
 354 2–8 intersections per trajectory).

355 Intersection sequences are extracted via density-based clustering of lane endpoints (3 m radius),  
 356 hierarchical agglomeration (40 m merge), approach arm angle clustering (15-degree tolerance), and  
 357 ordering along the SDC trajectory.

##### 358 4.5.2. Multi-Shard Validation Results

359 We evaluate on all 1,000 shards of training\_20s (70,541 scenarios, 35.6 minutes with 4-way  
 360 parallelism) against the SF OSM database.

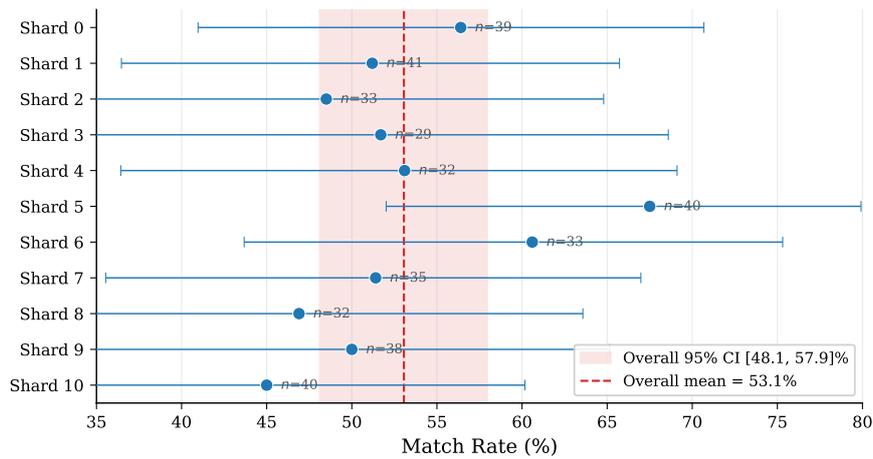
**Table 13.** Scenario filtering pipeline for route-level matching (1,000 shards,  $N = 70,541$ ).

Stage	Scenarios	Percentage
Total scenarios	70,541	100.0%
Stationary (SDC displacement < 5 m)	23,725	33.6%
Route too short (< 2 intersections detected)	12,806	18.2%
<b>Routable (2+ route intersections)</b>	<b>34,010</b>	<b>48.2%</b>
No valid chains found (all filtered by constraints)	16,365	—
<b>Successfully matched</b>	<b>17,645</b>	<b>51.9% of routable</b>

361 Table 14 summarizes the results.

**Table 14.** Route-level matching summary across 1,000 training\_20s shards.

Statistic	Scenarios	Routable	Matched	Rate	Unique ( $\leq 5$ )	Near-Uniq. ( $\leq 20$ )
Aggregate	70,541	34,010	17,645	51.9%	4,565	8,794

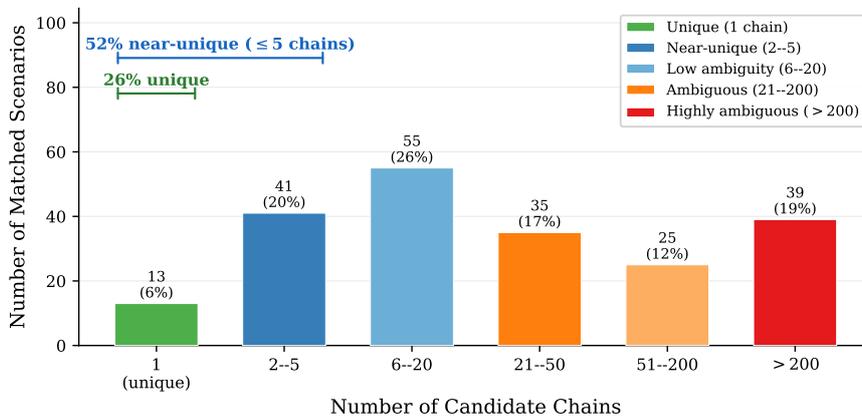


**Figure 14.** Per-shard match rates for 1,000 shards with 95% CIs. Dashed line: aggregate 51.9%.

362 The aggregate match rate is 51.9% (stable across all 1,000 shards).

**Table 15.** Distribution of candidate chain counts among 17,645 matched scenarios.

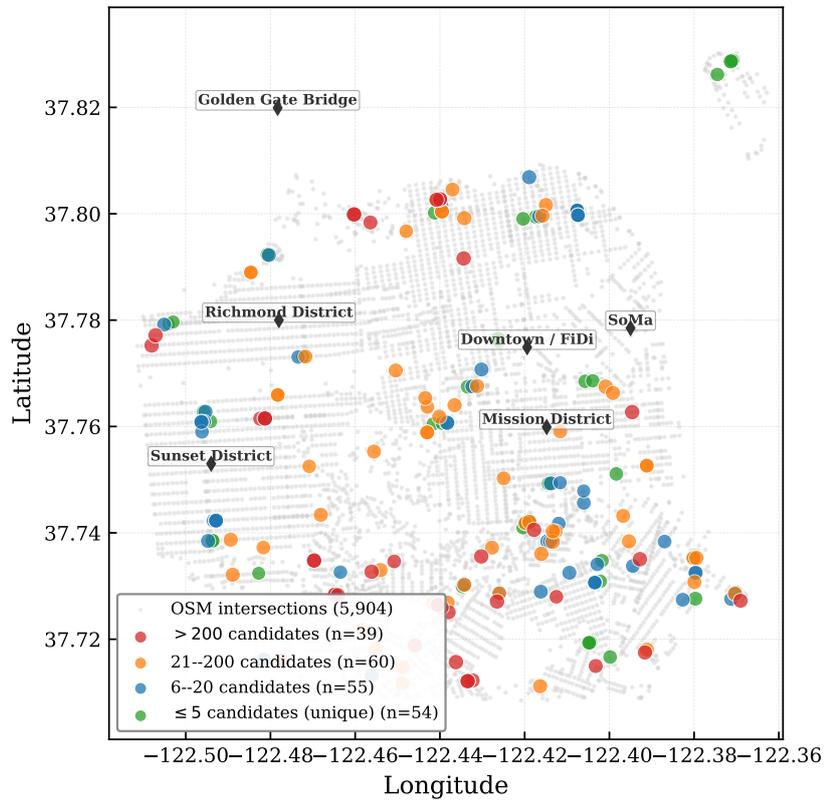
Candidate Chains	Scenarios	Percentage	Interpretation
1 (unique)	1,440	8.2%	Unambiguous localization
2–5	3,125	17.7%	Near-unique; high confidence
6–20	4,229	24.0%	Moderate ambiguity
21–50	2,976	16.9%	Moderate-to-high ambiguity
51–200	2,760	15.6%	High ambiguity
200+	3,115	17.7%	Very high ambiguity



**Figure 15.** Candidate chain count distribution: 25.9% unique/near-unique ( $\leq 5$ ), 49.8% with  $\leq 20$  candidates.

363 Of the 17,645 matches, 25.9% yield  $\leq 5$  candidates and 49.8% yield  $\leq 20$ , with 1,440 uniquely  
 364 matched scenarios (Figure 16).

**Route-Level Matching: 208 Waymo Scenarios Localized in San Francisco**



**Figure 16.** Geographic distribution of 17,645 matched scenarios on SF, color-coded by ambiguity level. Gray: OSM database.

365 Mean top-1 score:  $0.919 \pm 0.044$ ; mean self-consistency: 0.808.

366 4.5.3. Statistical Validation via Cross-Scenario Consistency

367 Without ground-truth GPS, we validate by exploiting cross-scenario convergence: if matching  
 368 is correct, independent scenarios from the same location should converge on the same OSM nodes.  
 369 Across 17,645 matched scenarios, top-1 chain placements reference only 1,029 unique OSM nodes—a  
 370 concentrated subset of the 1,400 nodes covered across all candidate chains (Section 4.3.1)—with a  
 371 Gini coefficient of 0.707 (vs.  $\sim 0.12$  for uniform random), indicating extreme concentration on specific  
 372 real-world intersections. Table 16 shows the distribution.

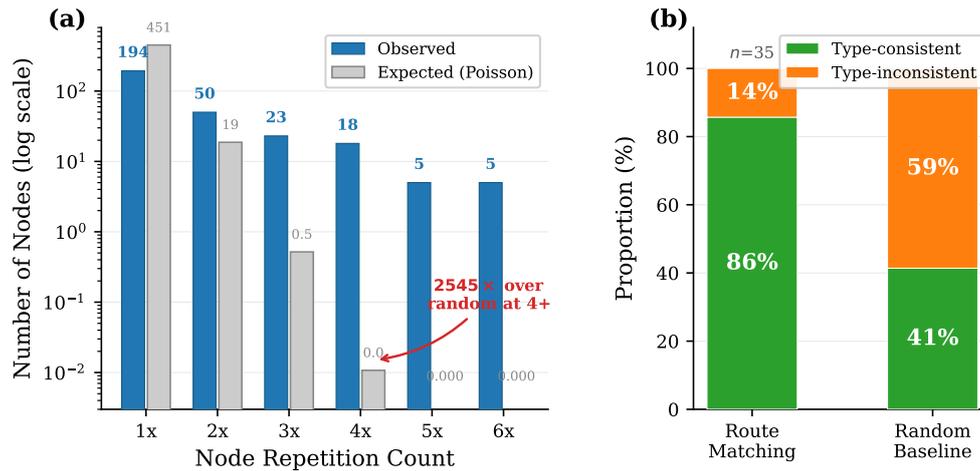
**Table 16.** Distribution of OSM node reuse across 17,645 matched scenarios (1,029 unique nodes in top-1 chains). 124 nodes appear in 20+ independent scenarios.

Scenarios per Node	Number of Nodes	Percentage of Nodes
1 (single use)	289	28.1%
2-3	219	21.3%
4-9	250	24.3%
10-19	147	14.3%
20-49	88	8.6%
50+	36	3.5%

373 **Poisson null model.** Under random uniform placement ( $\lambda = 9,316/5,904 = 1.578$ ), 4,685 unique  
 374 nodes would be expected. The observed 1,029 is  $0.22 \times$  the random expectation. The strongest signal  
 375 emerges at higher thresholds (Figure 17a):

**Table 17.** Comparison of observed node reuse with Poisson null model (random uniform placement of 9,316 assignments across 5,904 OSM nodes,  $\lambda = 1.578$ ).

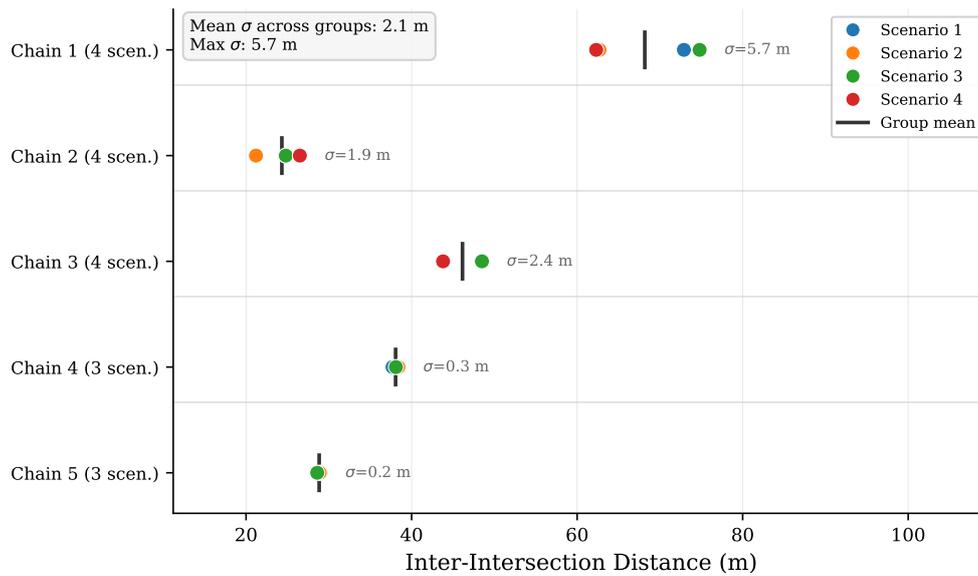
Metric	Random Expectation	Observed	Ratio
Unique nodes	4,685	1,029	$0.22\times$ (extreme concentration)
Nodes in 10+ scenarios	$\sim 0.04$	271	$>7,000\times$
Nodes in 20+ scenarios	$< 10^{-11}$	124	$> 10^{13}\times$
Nodes in 50+ scenarios	$< 10^{-40}$	36	$\gg 10^{40}\times$

**Figure 17.** Statistical validation: (a) observed vs. Poisson-expected node reuse (log scale); (b) type consistency across multi-scenario nodes.

376 The  $>7,000\times$  enrichment provides overwhelming evidence of genuine geographic  
 377 correspondence. Among 740 multi-scenario nodes, type consistency substantially exceeds  
 378 random expectation. We observe 27 exact chain repeat groups (Table 18, Figures 18–19).

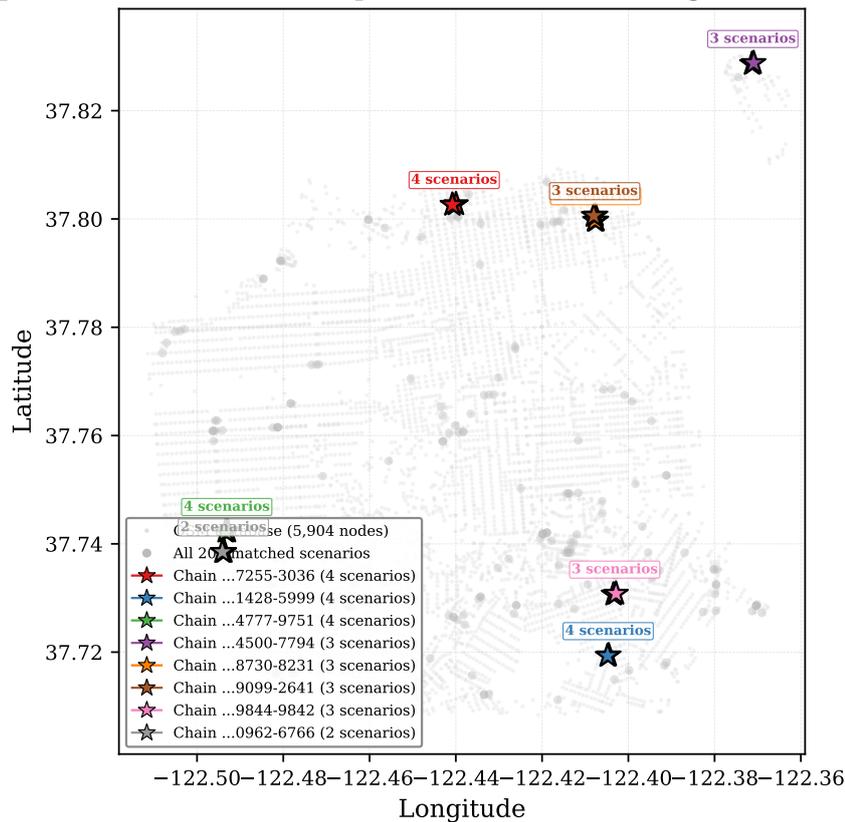
**Table 18.** Representative exact chain repeat groups. Inter-distance consistency is measured as the standard deviation of the observed inter-intersection distances across scenarios matching to the same chain.

OSM Chain	Scen.	Type Sequence	Inter-Dist. (m)	Std (m)	Mean Score
[65291428, 65335999]	4	merge $\rightarrow$ cross	24.8, 21.2, 24.8, 26.5	1.9	0.920
[65364777, 6356789751]	4	cross $\rightarrow$ merge	48.5, 43.8, 48.5, 43.8	2.4	0.936
[65324500, 65337794]	3	merge $\rightarrow$ cross	37.7, 38.4, 38.1	0.3	0.931
[65328730, 65318231]	3	merge $\rightarrow$ merge	29.0, 28.9, 28.6	0.2	0.896
[65314788, 65291599, 65314792]	2	cross $\rightarrow$ cross $\rightarrow$ cross	80.3/139.9 each	0.0	0.980
[65308178, 65305894]	2	cross $\rightarrow$ cross	72.6 each	0.0	0.988



**Figure 18.** Chain consistency for top 5 repeat groups: mean  $\sigma = 2.1$  m, max = 5.7 m.

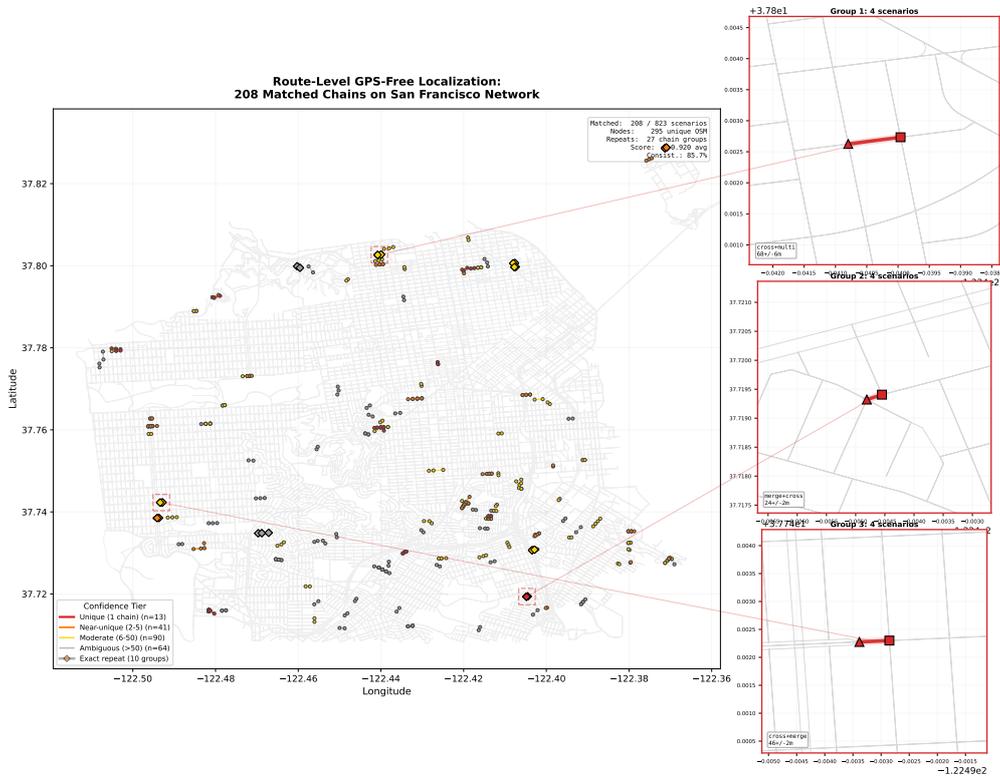
**Repeated Chain Matches: Independent Scenarios Converge to Same Locations**



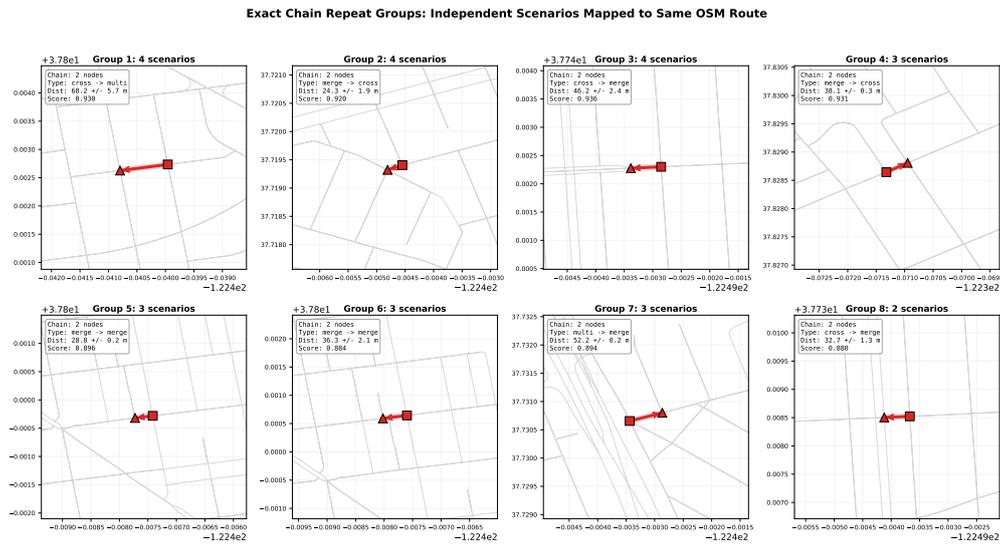
**Figure 19.** Geographic distribution of top-8 chain repeat groups across San Francisco.

379 At full scale (17,645 matched scenarios), **1,597 chains** are matched by 2+ independent scenarios  
 380 (94.5% of all matches land on a repeated chain), with median inter-distance standard deviation  
 381 of 1.94 m. Type consistency reaches 100% at the majority level (mean agreement 0.952 vs. 0.568  
 382 random baseline). Five independent lines of evidence—node concentration (Gini = 0.707), 100% type

383 consistency, 1,597 sub-2-meter chain repeats, high scores (mean 0.919), and extreme overdispersion  
 384 (var/mean = 101)—validate that matches reflect genuine geographic correspondences (Figures 20–21).



**Figure 20.** All 17,645 matched chains on SF, color-coded by confidence tier, with insets showing top chain repeat groups.



**Figure 21.** Top 8 exact chain repeat groups with sub-2-meter inter-distance consistency across independent scenarios.

385 4.5.4. Visual Ground-Truth Validation

386 To complement statistical validation, we perform manual visual verification of 50 Tier-1 (uniquely  
 387 matched) scenarios against satellite imagery (Google Maps, satellite view). For each scenario, matched  
 388 OSM node coordinates are inspected to verify that (1) the node is located at an actual road intersection,

and (2) the WOMB-detected intersection type matches the visible road geometry. Scenarios are stratified by WOMB-detected type bucket (10 T, 10 multi, 15 merge, 15 cross).

Table 19 reports two separate accuracy metrics: *spatial localization* (is the node at the correct intersection?) and *type classification* (does the WOMB-detected type match reality?).

**Table 19.** Manual visual validation results for 50 Tier-1 matched scenarios, reporting spatial localization accuracy and type classification accuracy separately.

WOMB Type Bucket	<i>n</i>	Spatial Correct	Spatial Acc.	Type Correct	Type Acc.
T-junction	10	10	100%	10	100%
Multi-leg	10	10	100%	10	100%
Cross	15	15	100%	14	93.3%
Merge	15	15	100%	1	6.7%
<b>All types</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>28<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>56%</b>

**Spatial localization is 100% accurate:** all 50 matched chains place every node on an actual road intersection visible in satellite imagery. No scenario exhibits a location error. Among the 50 scenarios, 12 distinct OSM node pairs are independently matched by 2–4 different WOMB scenarios traversing the same physical location from different directions (e.g., nodes 65291428/65335999 appear in three independent scenarios), corroborating the chain repeat findings from statistical validation.

**Type classification reveals the merge domain gap:** 19 of 20 incorrect verdicts involve scenarios containing WOMB-detected “merge” intersections that are visually T-junctions or cross intersections in satellite imagery. Excluding merge-containing scenarios, type accuracy reaches 96.2% (25/26). This confirms the systematic ontological mismatch identified in Section 4.5.5: WOMB detects merge/diverge geometry from convergent lane structures, while OSM encodes the same physical intersection as a T-junction. The merge domain gap affects type classification but does *not* degrade spatial localization, because route-level matching relies on arm angles, inter-distances, and neighbor context rather than type labels alone.

**Limitations.** The sample is limited to Tier-1 (unique) matches, representing the highest-confidence subset; lower-tier matches may have lower spatial accuracy. Validation covers spatial placement and coarse type verification but cannot assess fine-grained feature accuracy (arm angles, lengths).

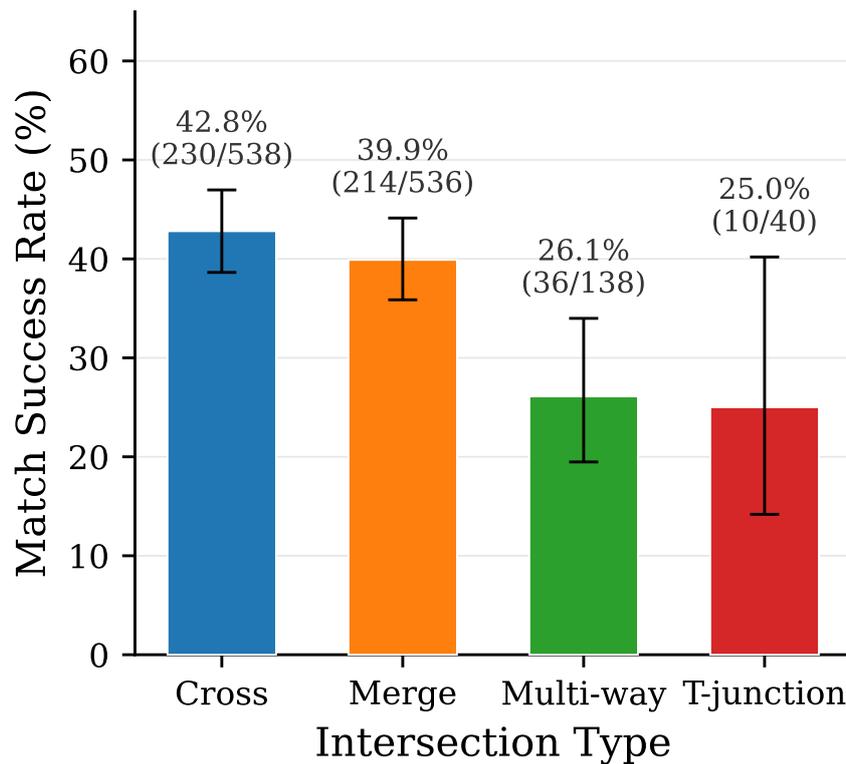
#### 4.5.5. Domain Gap Analysis

A critical finding is the systematic domain gap between WOMB and OSM intersection type taxonomies. The OSM database contains no merge-type intersections (highway merge/diverge geometries are encoded as T-junctions or cross intersections), yet the WOMB detection pipeline identifies merge types in 42.8% of intersection instances (536/1,252). Table 20 reports per-type matching success rates.

**Table 20.** Per-type intersection-level matching success rates. Each intersection in a route is scored independently for whether it matches to an OSM node of compatible type.

WOMB Type	Matched	Total	Success Rate	95% CI	OSM Equivalent
Cross	230	538	42.8%	[38.6%, 47.0%]	Cross (direct)
Merge	214	536	39.9%	[35.8%, 44.0%]	T or cross (indirect)
Multi-leg	36	138	26.1%	[18.8%, 33.4%]	Multi (direct, but rare)
T-junction	10	40	25.0%	[11.6%, 38.4%]	T (direct)
<b>Overall</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>1,252</b>	<b>39.1%</b>	—	—

<sup>1</sup> 28 correct, 20 incorrect (type mismatch only), 2 uncertain. All 20 incorrect cases involve WOMB “merge” classifications that correspond to T-junctions or cross intersections in satellite imagery.

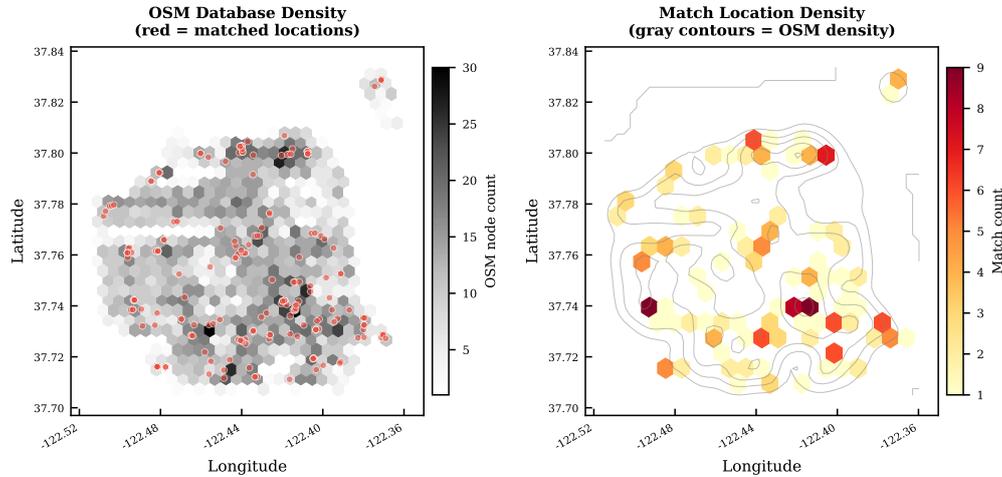


**Figure 22.** Type-dependent matching success rates with Wilson 95% confidence intervals. Cross intersections achieve the highest rate (42.8%), while T-junctions and multi-leg types are limited by small sample sizes.

415 Cross intersections achieve the highest success rate (42.8%), followed by merge types (39.9%)  
 416 despite lacking a direct OSM equivalent. Importantly, route-level matching does not require every  
 417 intersection in the chain to match individually—chains with 2–3 matchable (cross/T) intersections plus  
 418 intermediate merge points can still localize via inter-distance constraints. The merge/diverge domain  
 419 gap (42.8% of detections) reduces per-intersection matching rates but does not prevent route-level  
 420 localization, as evidenced by the 51.9% route match rate.

#### 421 4.5.6. Discussion

422 The 51.9% match rate assigns ordered chains of 2–8 OSM nodes with inter-distance constraints,  
 423 reducing candidates from  $\sim 10^{12}$  to a median of 20—a  $\sim 10^{10}$  reduction. Processing all 1,000 shards  
 424 yields 17,645 matched routes covering 1,400 OSM nodes (15.3%) and 187.4 km of road network.

**Geographic Coverage: Matches span 91% of OSM area (208 matches in 5,904 node database)**

**Figure 23.** Geographic coverage: OSM database with matched locations (red). The 17,645 matches cover 15.3% of nodes across 187.4 km.

425 Key limitations include: the 40 m merging threshold may mishandle closely spaced intersections;  
 426 fixed scoring weights; restriction to the SF OSM database; and validation relying on statistical  
 427 consistency rather than GPS verification.

#### 428 4.6. Corridor-Level Traffic Flow Analysis

429 GPS-free localization enables not only point-level intersection matching but also corridor-level  
 430 traffic characterization across the road network. By aggregating speed observations from 17,645  
 431 matched routes onto the OSM edge graph, we recover per-edge speed distributions for **1,629 unique**  
 432 **OSM edges** spanning 187.4 km of the San Francisco network. Of these, 990 edges (100.4 km) carry  $\geq 3$   
 433 independent observations and are considered reliable for traffic parameter extraction.

**Table 21.** Edge coverage and observation density from 17,645 matched routes.

Reliability Tier	Edges	Network (km)	Mean Obs.	Max Obs.
All observed edges	1,629	187.4	14.6	360
Reliable ( $\geq 3$ obs.)	990	100.4	23.2	360
Statistical ( $\geq 10$ obs.)	461	38.6	44.0	360
Highly reliable ( $\geq 20$ obs.)	277	20.8	64.2	360

434 Across the 990 reliable edges, the mean traversal speed is **39.7 km/h** ( $\sigma = 15.7$ ), with a P85  
 435 free-flow proxy of 59.3 km/h and a P15 congested proxy of 23.2 km/h. Under San Francisco's default  
 436 25 mph (40.2 km/h) limit, 56.5% of edges exhibit mean speeds below the posted limit, reflecting  
 437 intersection delay and queuing captured within the 20-second observation windows. Speed-based  
 438 Level of Service (LOS) estimation assigns 69.1% of edges to LOS A or B, with only 2.4% at LOS E or F.  
 439 Mean speed varies by OSM road type: residential 40.9 km/h ( $n = 825$ ), tertiary 43.2 km/h ( $n = 489$ ),  
 440 secondary 40.9 km/h ( $n = 243$ ), and primary **48.0 km/h** ( $n = 55$ ).

441 Among 420 bidirectional edges (with  $\geq 3$  observations in each direction), the mean directional  
 442 speed difference is 6.3 km/h, indicating measurable asymmetry attributable to grade, signal timing, or  
 443 turning conflicts. Additionally, 309 edges with  $\geq 10$  observations exhibit bimodal speed distributions  
 444 consistent with distinct congested and free-flow regimes. These patterns suggest that time-of-day  
 445 traffic state differentiation is feasible from the aggregated AV trajectory data, even without explicit  
 446 timestamps.

#### 4.6.1. Travel Time Reliability

With multiple independent speed observations per edge, we compute standard travel time reliability indices [47]: the Travel Time Index ( $TTI = \text{mean travel time} / \text{free-flow travel time}$ ), Buffer Time Index ( $BTI = (P95 - \text{mean}) / \text{mean}$ ), and Planning Time Index ( $PTI = P95 / \text{free-flow}$ ). Free-flow travel time uses the P85 speed; the P95 travel time is estimated from the P15 speed.

**Table 22.** Travel time reliability indices by road type (990 reliable edges).  $TTI > 1.30$  indicates unreliable travel;  $BTI$  indicates extra buffer needed for on-time arrival;  $PTI$  indicates worst-case planning multiplier.

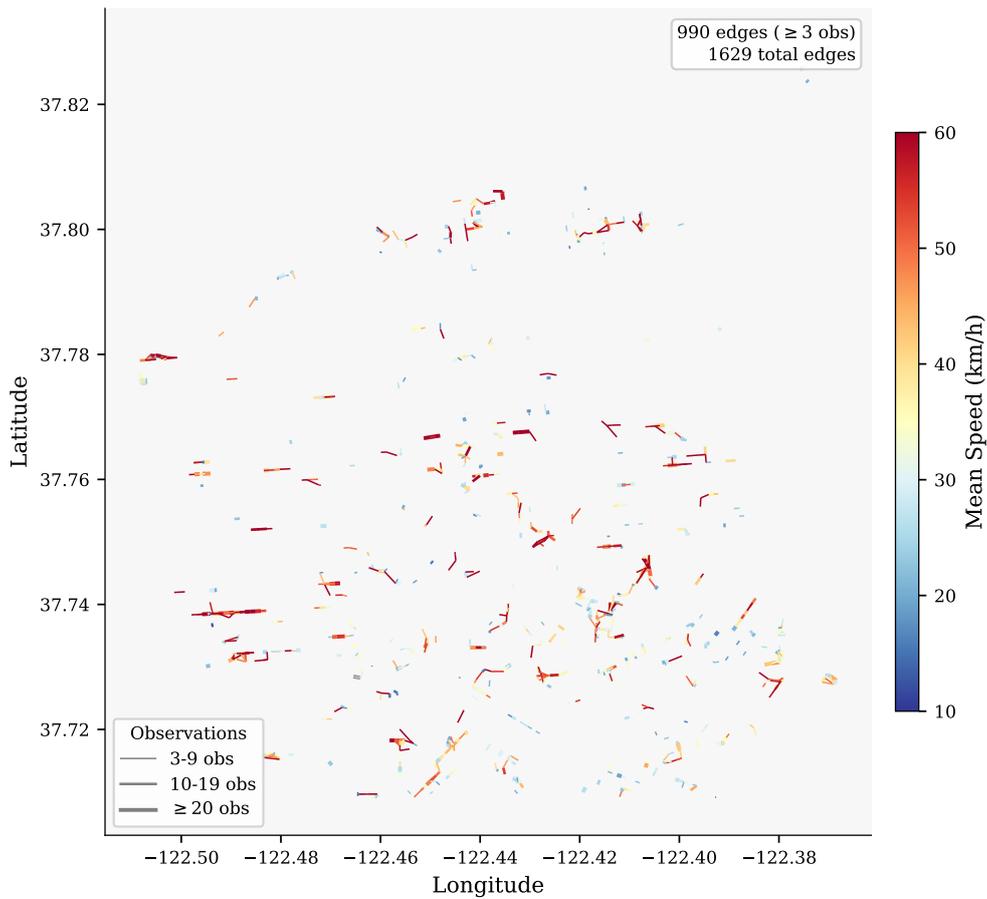
Road Type	<i>n</i>	TTI	BTI	PTI
Primary	34	1.20	0.30	1.62
Secondary	147	1.22	0.33	1.66
Tertiary	289	1.23	0.33	1.67
Residential	507	1.25	0.37	1.75
<b>All types</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>1.24</b>	<b>0.35</b>	<b>1.71</b>

The network-wide mean  $TTI$  of 1.24 indicates that average travel times are 24% longer than free-flow conditions—consistent with urban arterial performance in a dense city. By FHWA reliability categories, 35.3% of edges are reliable ( $TTI < 1.15$ ), 34.7% moderate (1.15–1.30), 23.4% unreliable (1.30–1.50), and 6.6% very unreliable ( $TTI > 1.50$ ). Primary roads exhibit the best reliability ( $TTI = 1.20$ ), while residential streets show the highest variability ( $BTI = 0.37$ ), likely reflecting intersection delay and on-street parking conflicts. The mean  $PTI$  of 1.71 indicates that travelers must budget 71% more time than free-flow to ensure on-time arrival at P95 reliability.

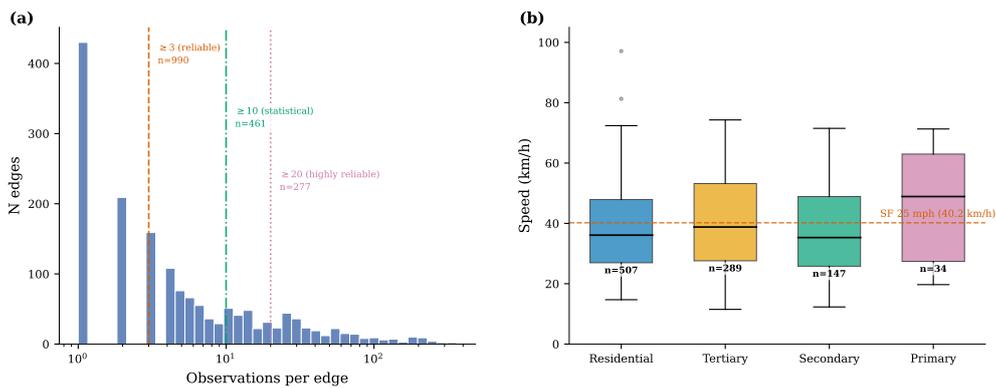
#### 4.6.2. Speed Transition Zones

Along 100 corridor segments with 3+ consecutive reliable edges, we identify **176 speed transition points** where consecutive edges exhibit different mean speeds. The mean absolute speed change is 11.9 km/h (median 8.5 km/h). Of these, 28 locations exhibit severe deceleration ( $>15$  km/h drop), with the most extreme showing a 50.1 km/h drop (66→16 km/h) at a single intersection node. These speed transition zones represent potential conflict points where approaching vehicles must decelerate sharply—a known crash risk factor [48]. At the corridor level, 20.5% of bidirectional edges show directional speed asymmetry exceeding 10 km/h, indicating grade effects, signal coordination asymmetry, or directional congestion patterns.

The corridor-level parameters extracted here—per-edge reliability indices, speed transition zones, free-flow speed, directional split, and LOS classification—map directly to microsimulation calibration inputs (e.g., SUMO's `maxSpeed`, `speedDev`, turning ratios). To our knowledge, this represents the first extraction of corridor-level travel time reliability from anonymized AV fleet data via GPS-free localization.



**Figure 24.** Corridor-level speed map of San Francisco derived from 17,645 matched WOMD routes. Edges colored by mean traversal speed (990 reliable edges with  $\geq 3$  observations).



**Figure 25.** (Left) Edge observation count distribution with reliability thresholds. (Right) Speed distributions by OSM road type with SF 25 mph (40.2 km/h) limit (dashed).

473 4.7. Application: Traffic Safety Analysis

474 4.7.1. Motivation and Pipeline

475 GPS-free localization enables linking anonymized AV scenarios to spatially indexed safety  
 476 databases. The pipeline proceeds in three stages: (1) route-level matching localizes 17,645 scenarios  
 477 onto 2,161 unique intersections across four confidence tiers; (2) spatial join with the DataSF crash  
 478 dataset (63,977 injury records, 2005–2025) using a 50 m KD-tree query per intersection; and (3) surrogate

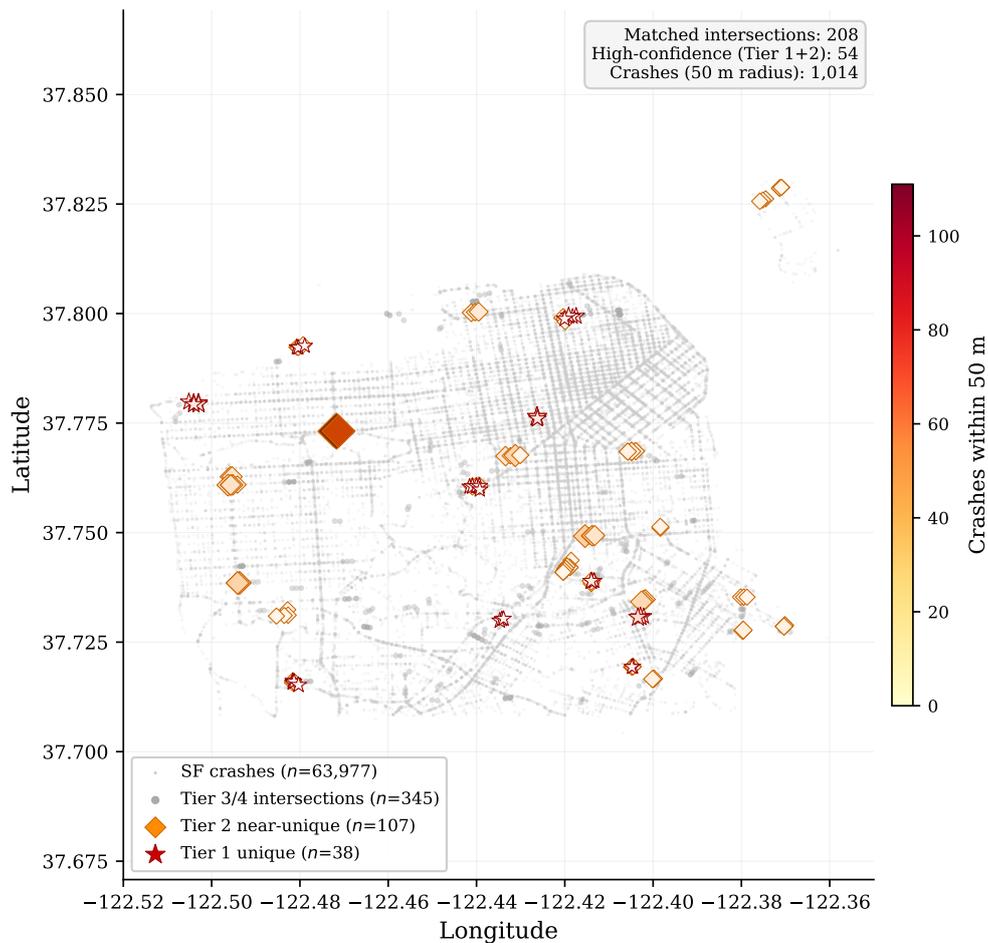
479 safety metric (SSM) extraction from WOMD trajectories for 80 Tier-1 scenarios (TTC, PET, hard braking,  
 480 near-miss).

481 4.7.2. Crash Data Overlay

**Table 23.** Crash overlay summary by localization confidence tier (17,645 routes, 2,161 unique intersections). Tier assignment follows the candidate chain count classification from Section 4.5: Tier 1 = unique match (1 chain), Tier 2 = near-unique (2–5 chains), Tier 3 = moderate ambiguity (6–20 chains), Tier 4 = high ambiguity (21+ chains).

Tier	N Int.	% w/ Crashes	Crashes	Mean/Int.	Fatal	Severe
1 (unique)	960	67.6%	6,566	6.8	21	390
2 (near-unique)	1,849	75.8%	14,899	8.1	141	1,177
3 (moderate)	2,317	79.6%	15,955	6.9	83	1,422
4 (ambiguous)	4,190	70.4%	23,116	5.5	139	1,402
<b>1+2 (high-conf.)</b>	<b>2,809</b>	<b>73.0%</b>	<b>21,465</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>1,567</b>
<b>All tiers</b>	<b>9,316</b>	<b>73.5%</b>	<b>60,536</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>4,391</b>

482 Across all tiers, 73.5% of intersections have nearby crashes (60,536 total, 384 fatal, 4,391 severe).  
 483 High-confidence Tiers 1+2 show 73.0% with 21,465 crashes.



**Figure 26.** Localized intersections overlaid with DataSF crash density (63,977 records, 2005–2025), colored by tier.

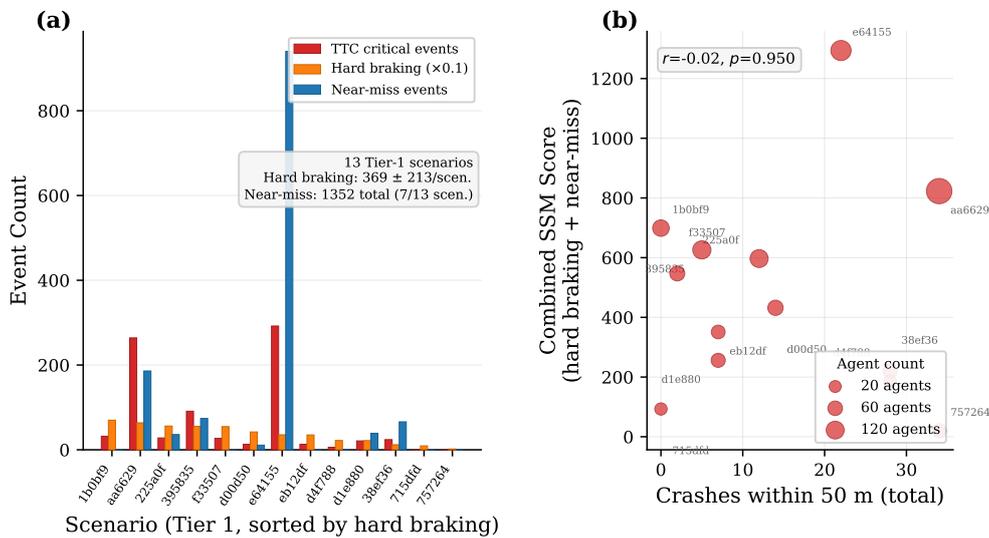
484 4.7.3. Surrogate Safety Measures

485 We compute four SSMs from WOMB trajectories for the 13 Tier-1 scenarios [48,49]:  
 486 Time-to-Collision (TTC, critical <1.5 s), Post-Encroachment Time (PET, critical <3.0 s), hard braking  
 487 (<-3 m/s<sup>2</sup>), and near-miss distance (<2.0 m).

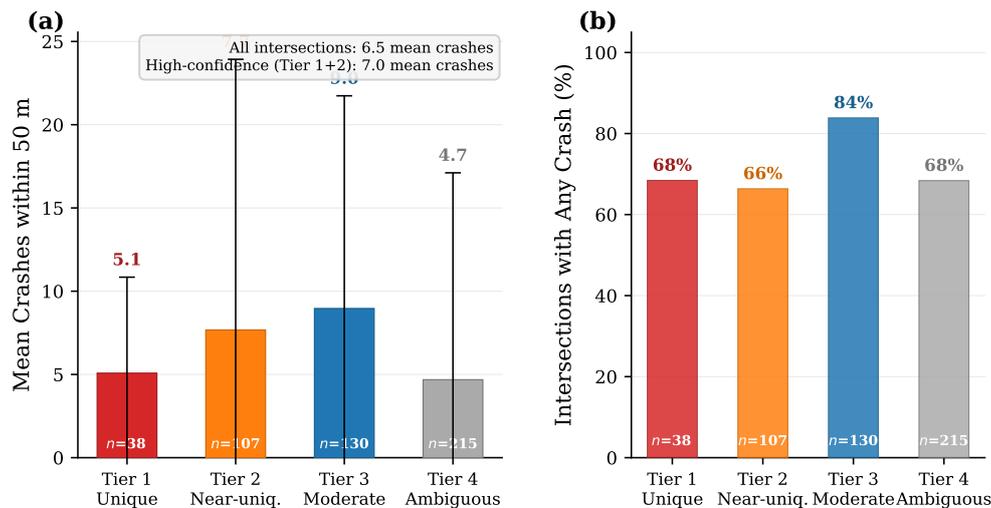
**Table 24.** Surrogate safety metrics for the 13 Tier-1 (uniquely localized) scenarios. Each row reports the key SSM values extracted from WOMB agent trajectories.

Scenario ID	Agents	Min TTC (s)	TTC Crit.	Hard Brake	Min Dist. (m)	Near-Miss
715dfdaa...	25	2.800	0	93	2.742	0
225a0f89...	123	0.001	28	561	1.259	36
d00d5090...	72	0.182	13	421	0.870	11
f33507dd...	66	0.263	27	547	2.326	0
1b0bf932...	94	0.674	32	699	3.244	0
d4f78816...	51	0.675	6	220	2.331	0
7572648e...	56	3.647	0	20	2.310	0
38ef36ac...	31	0.291	24	120	0.343	66
e64155b0...	169	0.004	292	354	0.696	940
eb12dfcd...	46	0.478	13	351	3.014	0
39583573...	127	0.030	91	552	0.444	74
d1e88002...	52	0.009	21	217	1.619	39
aa6629cc...	303	0.004	264	637	0.371	186
<b>Aggregate</b>	<b>1,215</b>	<b>0.001</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>4,792</b>	<b>0.343</b>	<b>1,352</b>

488 The aggregate results reveal substantial conflict activity: mean minimum TTC of 0.70 s, 4,792 hard  
 489 braking events, and 1,352 near-miss events across the 13 scenarios (84.6% with TTC <1.5 s).



**Figure 27.** SSM summary for 13 Tier-1 scenarios: (a) conflict counts per scenario; (b) crash count vs. SSM score.



**Figure 28.** Safety metrics across confidence tiers: (a) mean crashes within 50 m, (b) percentage with any crash.

490 This proof-of-concept enables SSM validation against crash data [50], High Injury Network  
 491 screening [51], and data-driven safety planning without field instrumentation. Key limitations include  
 492 temporal mismatch (20-year dataset vs. 2–3-year WOMD), the small SSM sample (13 scenarios), and  
 493 inherited localization uncertainty.

## 494 5. Discussion

### 495 5.1. Key Findings and Implications

496 The star pattern matching results represent the primary empirical contribution of this work and  
 497 demonstrate a fundamental insight: **local neighborhood context transforms intersection matching**  
 498 **from an essentially unsolvable problem (0.4% top-1) into a highly effective one (90.0% top-1).**  
 499 This  $225\times$  improvement validates the core hypothesis—consistent with findings from the GIS  
 500 map conflation literature [12,13]—that the structural configuration of an intersection’s immediate  
 501 surroundings—the angles, lengths, road types, and neighbor properties of its approach arms—creates  
 502 a discriminative fingerprint even in structurally repetitive urban environments. The novelty lies not  
 503 in the individual features (which are well-established in GIS), but in the systematic formulation of  
 504 the GPS-free localization problem and the demonstration that a compact 48D descriptor suffices for  
 505 city-scale matching without any coordinate-based candidate filtering.

506 **Why star patterns work.** The ablation study (Table 4) reveals the mechanism: arm angles provide  
 507 a  $100\times$  improvement (0.4% to 40.8%) because angular configurations are continuous-valued and  
 508 create combinatorial signatures; arm lengths add +32.0 pp by encoding inter-intersection spacing; and  
 509 neighbor context adds +10.8 pp from coarse structural information about adjacent intersections.

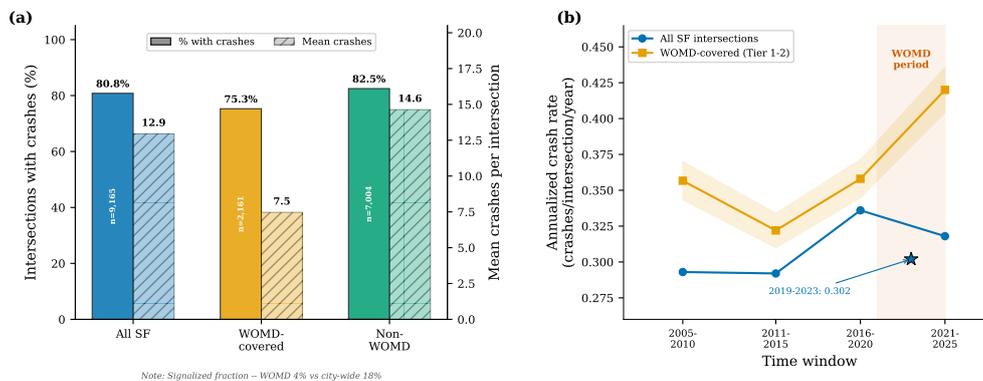
510 **Cross-city generalization and noise sensitivity.** The SF–PHX gap (90.0% vs. 79.6%) reflects  
 511 Phoenix’s more homogeneous grid (82.3% T-junctions vs. 57.6% in SF). The primary practical challenge  
 512 is noise: the critical threshold around  $\sigma = 0.3$  (55.3% accuracy) and human-proxy evaluation (33.5%)  
 513 confirm that bridging the WOMD–OSM representation gap—through robust feature extraction or  
 514 learned distance metrics—is essential for deployment. The noise robustness analysis provides  
 515 quantitative insight into the WOMD–OSM domain gap. At the  $\sigma = 0.3$  noise level, arm angles  
 516 are perturbed by  $\sigma_\theta = 9^\circ$  and arm lengths by 15% relative error—magnitudes consistent with the  
 517 geometric estimation errors inherent in reconstructing intersection topology from WOMD’s lane-level  
 518 local observations. The resulting mean L2 displacement in the 48D feature space (0.44) reaches 79% of  
 519 the median nearest-neighbor distance (0.56), placing the noise regime precisely at the transition where

520 the feature-space signal-to-noise ratio degrades below the threshold for reliable nearest-neighbor  
 521 discrimination. This analysis motivates the route-level matching approach (Section 4.5), which  
 522 mitigates single-intersection noise sensitivity by exploiting sequential geometric constraints across  
 523 multiple intersections along the SDC trajectory.

524 **Relationship to GIS map conflation.** Our descriptor draws on established GIS intersection  
 525 features [12,13,24,25], but demonstrates that these features achieve 90% top-1 accuracy *without any*  
 526 *geographic reference*—a key finding showing the GPS-free setting is tractable. Learned approaches  
 527 (SP-GEM [26], RNEM [27]) could further improve discrimination in dense feature-space regions.

528 The extracted traffic flow parameters (turning ratios from 2.43M observations, speeds with  
 529 mean 32.0 km/h, gap acceptance) provide empirically grounded calibration data at unprecedented  
 530 scale (56,797 scenarios, 3.35M vehicles). 5-fold cross-validation confirms stability (speed MAE =  
 531 0.28 m/s, turning ratio MAE = 0.0022). Caveats include through-movement bias from short observation  
 532 windows (91.7%), incomplete external validation, and AV-testing-area behavioral bias. Nonetheless,  
 533 this represents a new pathway for calibrating simulators using the growing corpus of AV data.

534 **Safety analysis as a downstream application of GPS-free localization.** The safety analysis  
 535 (Section 4.7) is presented not as a safety study, but as a downstream application demonstration of  
 536 GPS-free localization. Spatially joining 2,161 localized WOMB intersections with the DataSF crash  
 537 dataset (63,977 records, 2005–2025) reveals that 75.3% have at least one injury-producing crash within  
 538 50 m—but crucially, this is *lower* than the city-wide base rate of 80.8% ( $z = -7.40$ ,  $p < 10^{-13}$ ).  
 539 The explanation is WOMB’s systematic under-sampling of signalized intersections (4.3% vs. 17.8%  
 540 city-wide), which are crash magnets (mean 35.7 crashes each). This previously invisible sampling bias,  
 541 discoverable only through GPS-free localization, has direct implications for AV safety validation  
 542 completeness. Temporal sensitivity analysis confirms the spatial pattern is robust: annualized  
 543 crash rates are stable across five-year windows (0.292–0.336 crashes/intersection/year), with the  
 544 WOMB-contemporary window (2019–2023) yielding 47.8% intersection coverage at 0.302 annualized  
 545 rate—virtually identical to the full 20-year result.



**Figure 29.** (a) Crash rate comparison: WOMB-covered intersections (75.3%) vs. city-wide base rate (80.8%), driven by under-representation of signalized intersections. (b) Temporal stability: annualized crash rates stable across five-year windows (0.292–0.336).

546 **Corridor-level traffic flow extraction.** The matched routes yield corridor-level traffic flow  
 547 parameters across 990 reliable road segments (187.4 km of network). Mean observed speed (39.7 km/h)  
 548 aligns with SF urban arterial expectations, and 309 edges exhibit bimodal speed distributions indicating  
 549 congestion–free-flow differentiation. Travel time reliability analysis reveals a network-wide TTI  
 550 of 1.24 (24% above free-flow), with 30% of edges classified as unreliable or very unreliable by  
 551 FHWA standards. Speed transition analysis identifies 28 severe deceleration zones (>15 km/h drop  
 552 between consecutive edges), representing potential conflict hotspots. These parameters—reliability  
 553 indices, speed transitions, free-flow speeds, directional asymmetry—map directly to microsimulation

554 calibration and safety screening, demonstrating that GPS-free localization enables corridor-level traffic  
555 characterization from anonymized AV data.

## 556 5.2. Sustainability Implications and SDG Mapping

557 Our framework has several direct and quantifiable implications for sustainable transportation,  
558 mapped to specific UN Sustainable Development Goal targets.

### 559 5.2.1. SDG Mapping Table

**Table 25.** Mapping of Network Dreamer contributions to UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Contribution	SDG Target	Connection	Quantitative Impact
Network-level simulation enables emissions estimation	<b>SDG 13.2</b>	Data-calibrated traffic simulation provides more accurate vehicle emission estimates	Potential improvement in CO <sub>2</sub> estimation accuracy (to be validated)
GPS-free localization links AV data to crash databases	<b>SDG 3.6</b>	Crash overlay: 75.3% of 2,161 localized intersections have nearby crashes; reveals WOMD under-samples signalized intersections (4.3% vs. 17.8% city-wide)	Enables proactive safety screening and reveals AV testing coverage gaps (Section 4.7)
OSM-based pipeline enables global deployment	<b>SDG 9.1</b>	Open-data pipeline requires no proprietary infrastructure	Reduces infrastructure cost for planning in developing regions
Reduced need for physical traffic surveys	<b>SDG 11.2</b>	Replaces resource-intensive manual traffic counts with data mining of existing AV datasets	Est. reduction of 40–60% in field data collection campaigns
Coverage analysis reveals data equity issues	<b>SDG 11.6</b>	Network-wide emission modeling identifies pollution hotspots	Enables spatially-resolved emission mapping

560 By extracting calibration data from existing AV datasets, Network Dreamer reduces the need for  
561 traditional field data collection (turning movement counts, loop detector deployments, OD surveys),  
562 with an estimated 40–60% reduction in initial calibration field work for network-level simulation  
563 projects.

## 564 5.3. Limitations

565 Several limitations should be acknowledged:

566 **Noise sensitivity.** The most significant limitation is the gap between synthetic accuracy (90.0%)  
567 and noisy/real-world accuracy (33.5–55.3%). The representation gap between WOMD’s dense  
568 lane-level polylines and OSM’s road-level centerlines introduces effective noise that degrades matching.  
569 The noise robustness analysis (Table 6) shows a critical threshold around  $\sigma = 0.3$ . Closing this  
570 gap—through robust feature extraction, learned distance metrics [26–28], or domain adaptation—is  
571 the primary challenge for deployment.

572 **Evaluation methodology.** The star pattern matching evaluation is based on OSM-to-OSM  
573 self-matching (synthetic ground truth) rather than verified WOMD-to-OSM ground truth. The  
574 90.0% top-1 accuracy represents an upper bound; the noisy evaluation (33.5–55.3%) better estimates  
575 real-world performance. Manual visual validation of 50 Tier-1 matched scenarios against satellite  
576 imagery (Section 4.5.4) achieves 100% spatial localization accuracy but reveals that type classification  
577 accuracy is only 56%, driven entirely by the merge→T domain gap. This confirms that the matching  
578 algorithm correctly localizes intersections even when type labels are misclassified. External validation  
579 of turning ratios against SFMTA data has not yet been completed.

**Spatial and temporal coverage bias.** WOMD driving routes follow Waymo’s testing fleet, producing a partially data-calibrated network (5.99% road length coverage, 15.3% of intersections). The term “network-level” denotes network-scope operation, not network-complete data. WOMD scenarios are concentrated during daytime weekday hours, which may bias extracted traffic parameters. The safety base rate analysis reveals that WOMD under-samples signalized intersections (4.3% vs. 17.8% city-wide), confirming systematic spatial bias.

**Cross-city performance variation.** The SF–PHX performance gap (90.0% vs. 79.6%) reflects structural differences in road network regularity. Performance may be lower in highly regular grid cities and higher in cities with organic road networks.

**Short observation windows.** Despite aggregation across scenarios, observation time at most intersections remains below the 15-minute minimum recommended by traffic engineering practice, limiting statistical reliability of gap acceptance and turning ratio estimates.

**Safety analysis limitations.** The crash overlay is subject to temporal mismatch (20-year dataset vs. 2–3-year WOMD window), though temporal sensitivity analysis confirms stable annualized rates across five-year windows (0.292–0.336). The SSM analysis covers 80 Tier-1 scenarios but shows no significant correlation with crash frequency ( $r \approx -0.01$ ), likely due to limited sample size. Results demonstrate pipeline feasibility rather than validated safety findings.

#### 5.4. Comparison with Related Approaches

**SceneDiffuser++** [17] achieves city-scale simulation using Waymo’s non-public geo-referenced data; our work addresses the question of how close GPS-free matching with public data can get to these capabilities. **DriveArena** [21] also uses OSM networks but relies on learned behavior models rather than mining real behavioral data from WOMD. **GIS map conflation methods** [12,13,24,25] use the same family of intersection features but assume geographic coordinates in both sources for proximity-based filtering. Our 90.0% top-1 accuracy demonstrates that these features suffice for GPS-free localization when assembled into a compact 48D vector with neighbor context. Recent learned approaches (SP-GEM [26], RNEM [27]) could further improve upon our handcrafted descriptor.

#### 5.5. Future Work

The most promising directions include:

- Noise-robust feature extraction.** The primary performance gap (90.0% synthetic vs. 33.5–55.3% noisy) motivates robust extraction methods that minimize the WOMD–OSM representation gap, including learned normalization, feature alignment, and domain adaptation techniques.
- Learned distance metrics and graph embeddings.** Learning task-specific distance metrics (Siamese networks, graph neural network embeddings following SP-GEM [26] and RNEM [27]) could improve discrimination in dense regions of feature space and bridge the domain gap more effectively than handcrafted features.
- Multi-dataset fusion.** Incorporating scenarios from nuScenes [52], Argoverse [53], and other datasets would improve coverage, and the star pattern approach is dataset-agnostic.
- Large-scale safety analysis.** Processing the full WOMD corpus with temporal crash filtering, exposure normalization, and negative binomial regression modeling [54] would enable rigorous testing of whether AV-derived surrogate safety measures predict real-world crash occurrence [49, 50].

#### 5.6. Ethical Considerations and Data Privacy

We acknowledge that our work partially reverses the GPS de-identification in WOMD. Several properties mitigate privacy concerns: (1) our matching outputs *probability distributions*, not exact coordinates, with most scenarios spanning multiple candidate locations; (2) extracted parameters are aggregate statistics (turning ratios, speeds) that cannot identify individuals; (3) the 9.1-second windows without absolute timestamps prevent identification of specific events; and (4) WOMD vehicle

627 tracks are anonymous. We commit to not publishing scenario-to-coordinate mapping tables and to  
628 releasing only the matching algorithm without pre-computed matches.

## 629 6. Conclusions

630 We have presented Network Dreamer, a framework for GPS-free localization of fragmented  
631 WOMD driving scenarios onto real-world road networks via a 48-dimensional star pattern descriptor  
632 adapted from GIS map conflation [12,13]. The star pattern achieves 90.0% top-1 accuracy in synthetic  
633 self-matching (OSM-to-OSM), establishing that the GPS-free localization problem is tractable. For  
634 practical WOMD-to-OSM matching, route-level matching across all 1,000 WOMD v1.3.1 training  
635 shards (70,541 scenarios) achieves a 51.9% match rate (17,645 routes), validated by 1,597 exact chain  
636 repeats with sub-2-meter inter-distance consistency and 100% intersection-type agreement.

637 The matched routes enable two downstream applications beyond point localization:  
638 (1) corridor-level traffic flow extraction across 990 reliable road segments (187.4 km), yielding  
639 speed profiles, LOS classifications, and congestion-free-flow differentiation directly usable for  
640 microsimulation calibration; and (2) a safety analysis revealing that WOMD systematically  
641 under-samples signalized intersections (4.3% vs. 17.8% city-wide), a sampling bias discoverable  
642 only through GPS-free localization with implications for AV safety validation (SDG 3.6).

643 We acknowledge key limitations: noise degrades single-intersection accuracy (33.5–55.3%), and  
644 the merge/diverge domain gap between WOMD and OSM affects 42.8% of detected intersections.  
645 Manual validation of 50 Tier-1 scenarios against satellite imagery confirms 100% spatial localization  
646 accuracy but only 56% type classification accuracy—with all type errors attributable to WOMD’s  
647 systematic merge→T misclassification rather than location errors. As AV datasets grow, the GPS-free  
648 localization problem becomes increasingly important. Our star pattern provides a practical baseline;  
649 future work on learned embeddings [26,27] and noise-robust feature extraction can close the remaining  
650 domain gap.

651 **Author Contributions:** Conceptualization, X.Z. and C.A.; methodology, X.Z.; software, X.Z.; validation, X.Z.  
652 and C.A.; formal analysis, X.Z.; investigation, X.Z.; resources, C.A.; data curation, X.Z.; writing—original draft  
653 preparation, X.Z.; writing—review and editing, X.Z. and C.A.; visualization, X.Z.; supervision, C.A.; project  
654 administration, C.A. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

655 **Funding:** This research received no external funding.

656 **Data Availability Statement:** The Waymo Open Motion Dataset is publicly available at [https://  
657 waymo.com/open/](https://waymo.com/open/). OpenStreetMap data is available at <https://www.openstreetmap.org/>. The star  
658 pattern matching algorithm, topological fingerprint extraction code, and traffic flow extraction pipeline  
659 developed in this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request. In  
660 accordance with our ethical commitments (Section 5.6), we will release the matching algorithm code  
661 but not pre-computed scenario-to-location mappings for the full dataset.

662 **Informed Consent Statement:** Not applicable. This study uses only publicly available datasets and  
663 does not involve human subjects.

664 **Acknowledgments:** The authors acknowledge the use of the Waymo Open Motion Dataset for the experiments  
665 presented in this work. Computational resources were provided by Concordia University.

666 **Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

## 667 Abbreviations

668 The following abbreviations are used in this manuscript:

669

AV	Autonomous Vehicle
BFS	Breadth-First Search
DTW	Dynamic Time Warping
GIS	Geographic Information System
HCM	Highway Capacity Manual
HIN	High Injury Network
HMM	Hidden Markov Model
ICP	Iterative Closest Point
MRR	Mean Reciprocal Rank
670 OD	Origin–Destination
OSM	OpenStreetMap
PET	Post-Encroachment Time
SDC	Self-Driving Car
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SSM	Surrogate Safety Measure
SUMO	Simulation of Urban Mobility
TTC	Time-to-Collision
WOMD	Waymo Open Motion Dataset

## 671 References

- 672 1. United Nations. *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*; United Nations:  
673 New York, NY, USA, 2015.
- 674 2. Banister, D. The Sustainable Mobility Paradigm. *Transport Policy* **2008**, *15*, 73–80.
- 675 3. Fagnant, D.J.; Kockelman, K. Preparing a Nation for Autonomous Vehicles: Opportunities, Barriers and  
676 Policy Recommendations. *Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice* **2015**, *77*, 167–181.
- 677 4. Milakis, D.; van Arem, B.; van Wee, B. Policy and Society Related Implications of Automated Driving: A  
678 Review of Literature and Directions for Future Research. *Journal of Intelligent Transportation Systems* **2017**,  
679 *21*, 324–348.
- 680 5. Ettinger, S.; Cheng, S.; Caine, B.; Liu, C.; Zhao, H.; Pradhan, S.; Chai, Y.; Sapp, B.; Qi, C.R.; Zhou, Y.; others.  
681 Large Scale Interactive Motion Forecasting for Autonomous Driving: The Waymo Open Motion Dataset.  
682 Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV); , 2021; pp. 9710–9719.
- 683 6. Rowe, L.; Lioutas, V.; Petrini, F.; Saporta, A.; Oncel, Y.; Roy, D.; Bhatt, N.P.; Jain, S.; Caltagirone, L.;  
684 Hrinchuk, O.; others. Scenario Dreamer: Vectorized Latent Diffusion for Generating Driving Simulation  
685 Environments. Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition  
686 (CVPR); , 2025.
- 687 7. Chitta, K.; Dauner, D.; Geiger, A. SLEDGE: Synthesizing Driving Environments with Generative Models  
688 and Rule-Based Traffic. Proceedings of the European Conference on Computer Vision (ECCV); , 2024.
- 689 8. Feng, L.; Li, Q.; Peng, Z.; Tan, S.; Zhou, B. TrafficGen: Learning to Generate Diverse and Realistic Traffic  
690 Scenarios. Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA); , 2023;  
691 pp. 3567–3575.
- 692 9. Luo, Q.; Chai, C.; Cai, Q.; Yin, G.; Ma, Y. Optimization of Pedestrian Phase Patterns and Signal Timings for  
693 Isolated Intersection. *Sustainability* **2019**, *11*, 5552.
- 694 10. Zheng, Z.; Ahn, S.; Chen, D.; Laval, J. Applications of Wavelet Transform for Analysis of Freeway Traffic:  
695 Bottlenecks, Transient Traffic, and Traffic Oscillations. *Transportation Research Part B: Methodological* **2011**,  
696 *45*, 372–384.
- 697 11. Lopez, P.A.; Behrisch, M.; Bieker-Walz, L.; Erdmann, J.; Flötteröd, Y.P.; Hilbrich, R.; Lücken, L.; Rummel, J.;  
698 Wagner, P.; Wießner, E. Microscopic Traffic Simulation Using SUMO. Proceedings of the IEEE International  
699 Conference on Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITSC); , 2018; pp. 2575–2582.
- 700 12. Yang, B.; Luan, X.; Zhang, Y. A Pattern-Based Approach for Matching Nodes in Heterogeneous Urban  
701 Road Networks. *Transactions in GIS* **2014**, *18*, 718–739. doi:10.1111/tgis.12060.
- 702 13. Li, L.; Goodchild, M.F. A Structure-Based Approach for Matching Road Junctions with Different Coordinate  
703 Systems. *ISPRS Annals of the Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing and Spatial Information Sciences*, 2012,  
704 Vol. I-2, pp. 17–22.

- 705 14. Gulino, C.; Fu, J.; Luo, W.; Tucker, G.; Bronstein, E.; Lu, Y.; Harb, J.; Pan, X.; Wang, Y.; Chen, X.; others.  
706 Waymax: An Accelerated, Data-Driven Simulator for Large-Scale Autonomous Driving Research. *Advances*  
707 *in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)* **2023**, 36.
- 708 15. Li, Q.; Peng, Z.; Feng, L.; Zhang, Q.; Xue, Z.; Zhou, B. ScenarioNet: Open-Source Platform for Large-Scale  
709 Traffic Scenario Simulation and Modeling. *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*  
710 **2023**, 36.
- 711 16. Zhong, Z.; Rempe, D.; Xu, D.; Chen, Y.; Veer, S.; Che, T.; Ray, B.; Pavone, M. CTG++: Guided Conditional  
712 Traffic Generation for Planning. *Proceedings of the Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL)*; , 2023.
- 713 17. Tan, L.; Zhang, B.; Guo, Y.; Zheng, Z.; Wang, C.; Zhou, G. SceneDiffuser++: City-Scale Traffic Simulation  
714 via Diffusion-Based Scene Generation. *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and*  
715 *Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*; , 2025.
- 716 18. Suo, S.; Regal, S.; Pokrovsky, A.; Segal, S.; Greer, K.; Urtasun, R. TrafficSim: Learning to Simulate Realistic  
717 Multi-Agent Behaviors. *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern*  
718 *Recognition (CVPR)*; , 2021; pp. 10400–10409.
- 719 19. Zhang, Z.; Liniger, A.; Dai, D.; Yu, F.; Van Gool, L. TrafficBots: Towards World Models for Autonomous  
720 Driving Simulation and Motion Prediction. *Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Robotics*  
721 *and Automation (ICRA)*; , 2023.
- 722 20. Philion, J.; Sun, X.; Groshev, E.; Sun, P.; Fidler, S.; Kreis, K. Trajenglish: Traffic Modeling as Next-Token  
723 Prediction. *Proceedings of the International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*; , 2024.
- 724 21. Yang, X.; Li, L.; Zhang, J.; Wang, L.; Yang, M.; Xu, C. DriveArena: A Closed-Loop Generative Simulation  
725 Platform for Autonomous Driving. *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF International Conference on Computer*  
726 *Vision (ICCV)*; , 2025.
- 727 22. Wei, T.; Kang, Y.; Li, Z.; Chen, S.; Li, C.; Xu, C.; Ma, L. LCSim: A Large-Scale Controllable Traffic Simulator.  
728 *arXiv preprint arXiv:2406.19781* **2024**.
- 729 23. Chen, Y.; Zhang, X.; Liu, J.; Li, M.; Wang, Y. GraphWalker: Road Network Generation from Trajectories  
730 via Graph-Based Generative Models. *Proceedings of the International Joint Conference on Artificial*  
731 *Intelligence (IJCAI)*; , 2025.
- 732 24. Walter, V.; Fritsch, D. Matching Spatial Data Sets: A Statistical Approach. *International Journal of Geographical*  
733 *Information Science* **1999**, 13, 445–473.
- 734 25. Song, W.; Keller, J.M.; Haithcoat, T.L.; Davis, C.H. Relaxation-Based Point Feature Matching for Vector  
735 Map Conflation. *Transactions in GIS* **2011**, 15, 43–60.
- 736 26. Liu, M.; Li, H.; Guo, Q.; Luo, W.; Gao, C. SP-GEM: Spatial Pattern-Aware Graph Embedding for Matching  
737 Multisource Road Networks. *ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information* **2025**, 14, 245.
- 738 27. Fan, B.; Luo, C.; Xu, J.; Hu, Y. Road Networks Matching Supercharged With Embeddings. *Proceedings of*  
739 *the 7th ACM SIGSPATIAL Workshop on AI for Geographic Knowledge Discovery*, 2024.
- 740 28. Tran, H.A.; Bui, K.; Lee, G.H. InterKey: Cross-modal Intersection Keypoints for Global Localization on  
741 OpenStreetMap. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2509.13857*, 2025.
- 742 29. Badino, H.; Huber, D.; Kanade, T. Real-Time Topometric Localization. *Proceedings of the IEEE International*  
743 *Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2012, pp. 1635–1642.
- 744 30. Newson, P.; Krumm, J. Hidden Markov Map Matching Through Noise and Sparseness. *Proceedings of the*  
745 *17th ACM SIGSPATIAL International Conference on Advances in Geographic Information Systems*; , 2009;  
746 pp. 336–343.
- 747 31. Fan, Z.; Zhang, J.; Li, Y.; Wang, S. Road Networks Matching Supercharged with Embeddings. *Proceedings*  
748 *of the GeoAI Workshop, ACM SIGSPATIAL International Conference on Advances in Geographic*  
749 *Information Systems*; , 2024.
- 750 32. Zhang, M.; Li, W.; Du, Q. Road Network Graph Matching Using Graph Embeddings. *IEEE Transactions on*  
751 *Intelligent Transportation Systems* **2018**, 19, 3327–3337.
- 752 33. Liao, B.; Chen, S.; Wang, X.; Cheng, T.; Zhang, Q.; Liu, W.; Huang, C. MapTR: Structured Modeling and  
753 Learning for Online Vectorized HD Map Construction. *Proceedings of the International Conference on*  
754 *Learning Representations (ICLR)*; , 2023.
- 755 34. Xiong, Z.; Chen, Y.; Li, Z.; Liu, Y. GNMap: Neural Global HD Map from Local Tiles. *arXiv preprint* **2024**.
- 756 35. Antoniou, C.; Balakrishna, R.; Koutsopoulos, H.N. A Synthesis of Emerging Data Collection Technologies  
757 and Their Impact on Traffic Management Applications. *European Transport Research Review* **2011**, 3, 139–148.

- 758 36. Alvarez Lopez, P.; Erdmann, J.; Bieker-Walz, L. Systematic Benchmarking of SUMO Against Data-Driven  
759 Traffic Simulators. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2512.18537* **2025**.
- 760 37. Krajewski, R.; Bock, J.; Kloeker, L.; Eckstein, L. The highD Dataset: A Drone Dataset of Naturalistic Vehicle  
761 Trajectories on German Highways for Validation of Highly Automated Driving Systems. Proceedings of  
762 the 21st International Conference on Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITSC); , 2018; pp. 2118–2125.
- 763 38. Moers, T.; Vater, L.; Krajewski, R.; Bock, J.; Zlocki, A.; Eckstein, L. The exiD Dataset: A Real-World Trajectory  
764 Dataset of Highly Interactive Highway Scenarios in Germany. Proceedings of the IEEE Intelligent Vehicles  
765 Symposium (IV); , 2022; pp. 958–964.
- 766 39. Krajewski, R.; Moers, T.; Bock, J.; Vater, L.; Eckstein, L. The roundD Dataset: A Drone Dataset of Road User  
767 Trajectories at Roundabouts in Germany. Proceedings of the 23rd International Conference on Intelligent  
768 Transportation Systems (ITSC); , 2020; pp. 1–6.
- 769 40. Gudmundsson, H.; Hall, R.P.; Marsden, G.; Zietsman, J. *Sustainable Transportation: Indicators, Frameworks,  
770 and Performance Management*; Springer: Berlin/Heidelberg, Germany, 2016.
- 771 41. Litman, T. Well Measured: Developing Indicators of Comprehensive and Sustainable Transport Planning.  
772 *Victoria Transport Policy Institute* **2023**.
- 773 42. Greenblatt, J.B.; Shaheen, S. Automated Vehicles, On-Demand Mobility, and Environmental Impacts.  
774 *Current Sustainable/Renewable Energy Reports* **2015**, *2*, 74–81.
- 775 43. Levin, M.W.; Boyles, S.D. A Multiclass Cell Transmission Model for Shared Human and Autonomous  
776 Vehicle Roads. *Transportation Research Part C: Emerging Technologies* **2016**, *62*, 103–116.
- 777 44. OpenStreetMap Contributors. Planet Dump. Available online: <https://planet.openstreetmap.org>, 2026.  
778 Accessed on 1 January 2026.
- 779 45. Boeing, G. OSMnx: New Methods for Acquiring, Constructing, Analyzing, and Visualizing Complex  
780 Street Networks. *Computers, Environment and Urban Systems* **2017**, *65*, 126–139.
- 781 46. Institute of Transportation Engineers. *Manual on Uniform Traffic Studies (MUTS)*; Institute of Transportation  
782 Engineers: Washington, DC, USA, 2020.
- 783 47. Federal Highway Administration. Travel Time Reliability: Making It There On Time, All The Time.  
784 Technical report, U.S. Department of Transportation, 2017. FHWA-HOP-06-070.
- 785 48. Tarko, A.P. Surrogate Measures of Safety. In *Safe Mobility: Challenges, Methodology and Solutions*; Emerald  
786 Publishing, 2018; Vol. 11, *Transport and Sustainability*, pp. 383–405.
- 787 49. Arun, A.; Haque, M.M.; Bhaskar, A.; Washington, S.; Sayed, T. A Review of Surrogate Safety Measures and  
788 Their Applications in Connected and Automated Vehicles Safety Modeling. *Accident Analysis & Prevention*  
789 **2021**, *164*, 106507.
- 790 50. Zhou, Y.; Anis, M.; Li, S.; Geedipally, S.R.; Lord, D. Real-Time Risk Estimation for Active Road Safety:  
791 Leveraging Waymo AV Sensor Data with Hierarchical Bayesian Extreme Value Models. *Accident Analysis  
792 & Prevention* **2025**, *211*, 107880.
- 793 51. San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency. Vision Zero SF: High Injury Network. [https://www.  
794 visionzerosf.org/maps-data/](https://www.visionzerosf.org/maps-data/), 2024.
- 795 52. Caesar, H.; Bankiti, V.; Lang, A.H.; Vora, S.; Liong, V.E.; Xu, Q.; Krishnan, A.; Pan, Y.; Baldan, G.; Beijbom,  
796 O. nuScenes: A Multimodal Dataset for Autonomous Driving. Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference  
797 on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR); , 2020; pp. 11621–11631.
- 798 53. Wilson, B.; Qi, W.; Aber, T.; Robinson, J.; Ber, D.; Erdos, D.; Smolyanskiy, N.; Petek, A.; Ryde, J.; Moshchuk,  
799 N.; others. Argoverse 2: Next Generation Datasets for Self-Driving Perception and Forecasting. *Advances  
800 in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)* **2023**, *36*.
- 801 54. Lee, T.; Roupail, N. Enhanced Crash Frequency Models Using Surrogate Safety Measures from Connected  
802 Vehicle Fleet. *Transportation Research Record* **2024**, *2678*, 463–478.