

Access to Destinations

Access to Destinations: Development of Accessibility Measures

Report # 1 in the series
Access to Destinations Study

Report # 2006-16

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ACCESS TO DESTINATIONS: DEVELOPMENT OF ACCESSIBILITY MEASURES

Final Report

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This research project comprises three main tasks. The first task reviews the literature on accessibility and its performance measures with an emphasis on measures that planners and decision makers can understand and replicate. The second task identifies the appropriate measures of accessibility, where accessibility measures are evaluated in terms of ease of understanding, accuracy and complexity. The third task illustrate these accessibility measures. During this process, a new accessibility measure named “*Place Rank*” is introduced as an accurate measure of accessibility that can take advantage of the vast amount of origin and destination information that is now available for land use and transportation planners. It is a measure that can be implemented and adopted in other regions without knowing point-to-point travel time. A sample of the *place rank* measure of accessibility to jobs is demonstrated in the following figure (using the U.S. Census Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics dataset).

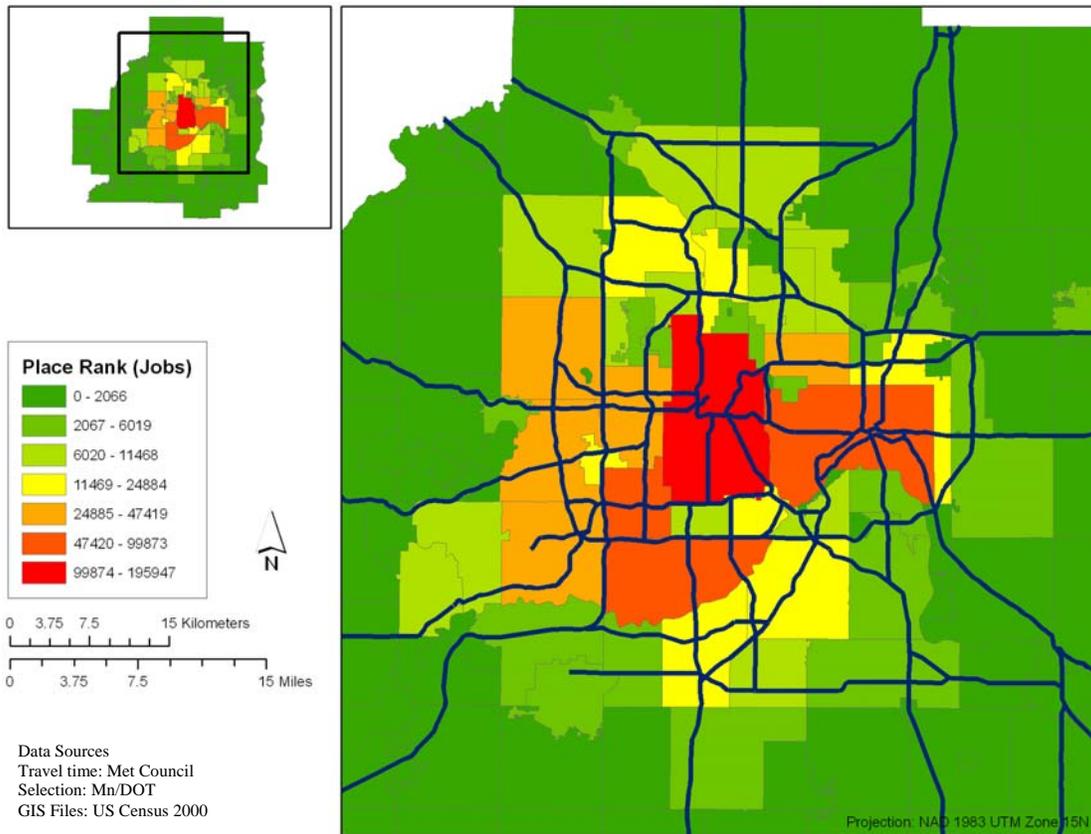


Figure ES2: *Place rank* measuring accessibility to jobs

In the *place rank* measure, the level of accessibility in a zone is determined based on the number of people coming into this zone to reach an opportunity. *Place rank* accounts for the number of opportunities that an individual passes over in a zone to reach an opportunity in another zone. As a result, a destination zone has a higher ranking if it is able to attract more workers from zones with high numbers of jobs. The legend included

in Figure ES2 reports weighted number of jobs at the minor civil division level of analysis.

In addition, several previously-defined accessibility measures are reviewed and demonstrated in this report. *Cumulative opportunity* and *gravity-based* measures tend to be similar when travel time is less than or equal to 30 minutes. *The gravity-based* measure is widely used in the literature, yet *cumulative opportunity* tends to be easier to understand and interpret by planners and higher level administration. A major contribution of this research is the comparison of accessibility measures over time and among various modes. Various accessibility measures are used to generate a longitudinal analysis measuring the changes in accessibility levels in the region. The following figures show accessibility over time using a *cumulative opportunity* measure for the years 1990 and 2000, while the consecutive figures show the difference between accessibility to jobs and accessibility to residents measured in 1990 and 2000 using 15 minutes of travel time as the base and auto as the mode of transportation. The travel time estimation is obtained from the Metropolitan Council transportation planning model, while the land use data comes from the Bureau of the Census.

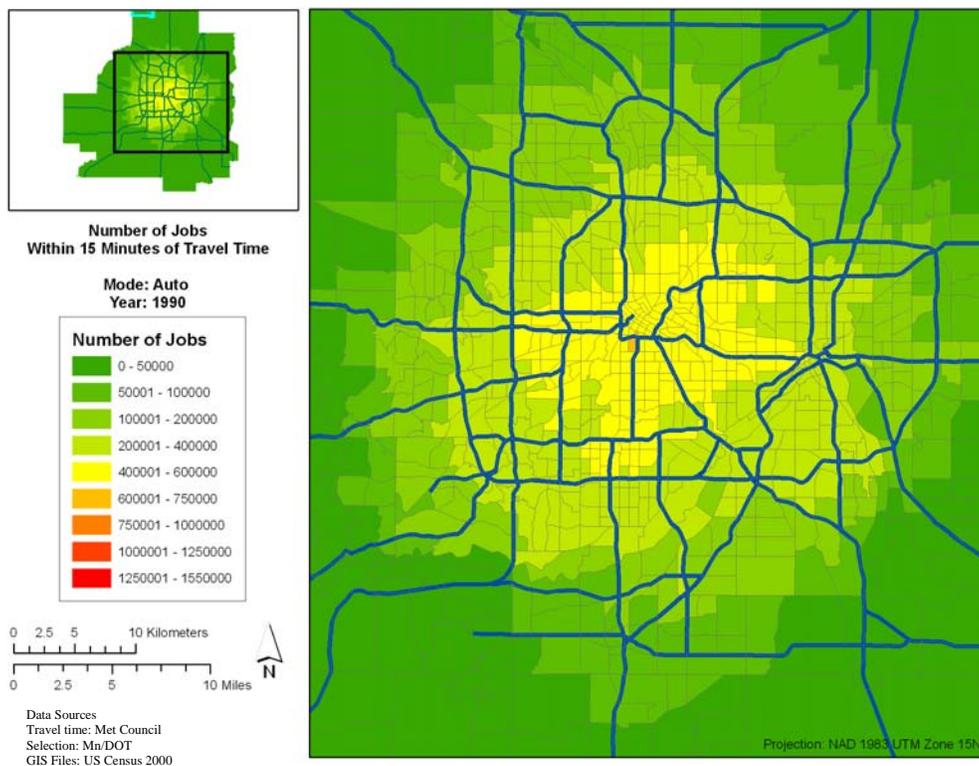


Figure ES3: Number of jobs that can be reached within 15 minutes of travel time in the year 1990 (Auto)

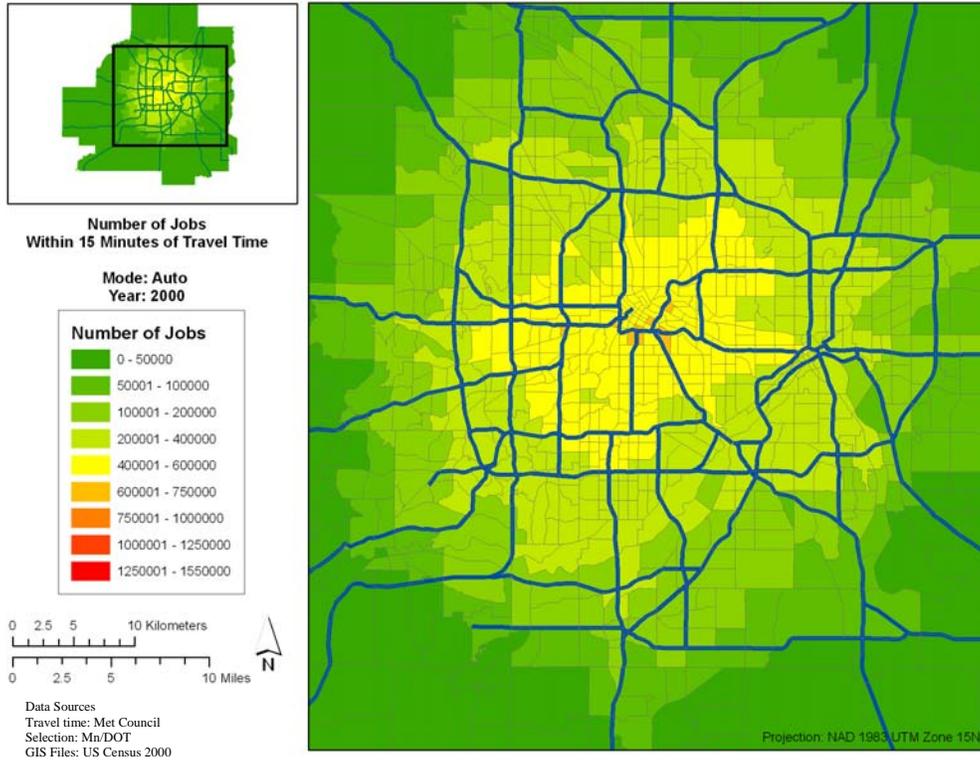


Figure ES4: Number of jobs that can be reached within 15 minutes of travel time in the year 2000 (Auto)

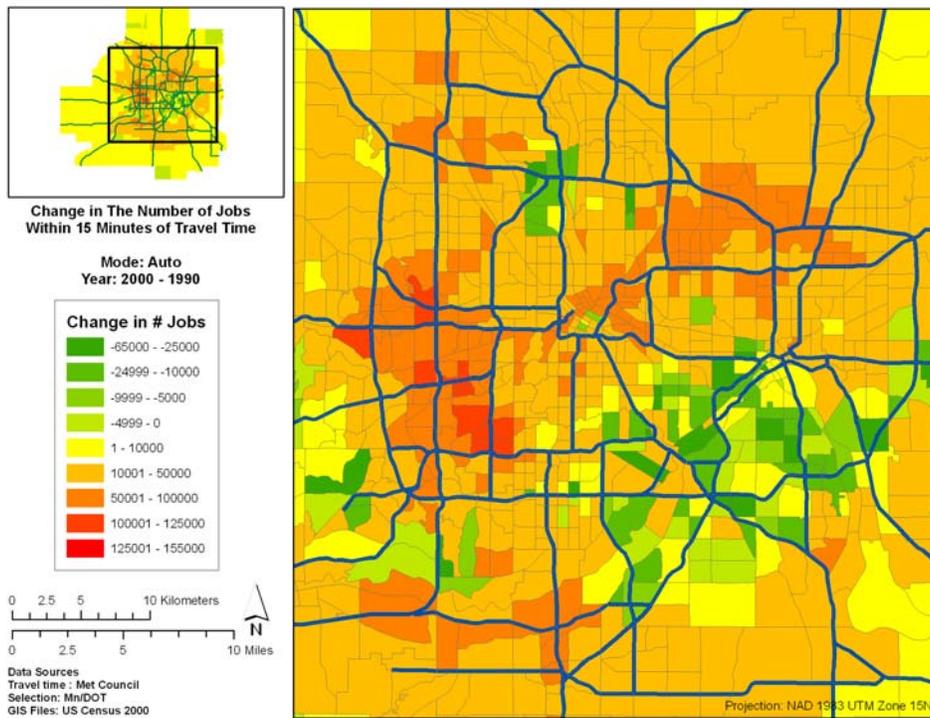


Figure ES5: Change in the number of jobs that can be reached within 15 minutes travel time (2000 - 1990) (Auto)

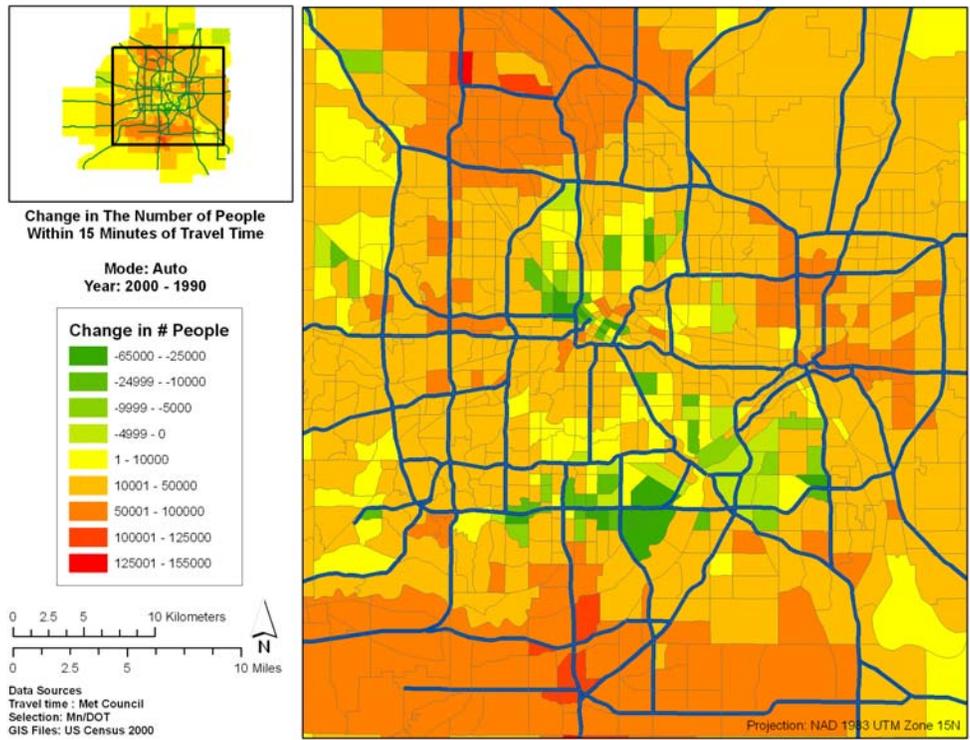


Figure ES6: Change in the number of people who can be reached within 15 minutes travel time (2000 – 1990) (Auto)

All of the studied measures of accessibility possess similarities, which are observed using both visual and statistical methods. Effects of accessibility on home sales are also tested to generate a better understanding of the value of accessibility to individual homebuyers. All tested accessibility measures to jobs are found to have a positive and statistically significant effect on home sales, while keeping all other variables affecting home sales at their mean values. On the other hand, all tested measures of accessibility to resident workers (the labor force) show a negative and statistically significant effect on home sales, while keeping all other variables affecting home sales at their mean values. Homebuyers pay a premium to live near jobs and away from competing workers.

Accessibility promises to be a useful tool for monitoring the land use and transportation system, and assessing and valuing the benefits of proposed changes to either land use or networks. This report proposes to use it in a way that engineers, planners, administrators, decision-makers, and the public can easily understand. Finally the report includes a discussion regarding how accessibility over time can be used to generate a land use and transportation performance measure to help in evaluating these systems both within a metropolitan area and between cities.

Accessibility illustrates clearly the benefits that transportation provides, connecting people with destinations given the travel times on the network, rather than simply focusing on costs (the congestion that people experience when moving along roads).

Chapter 1: INTRODUCTION

Introduction

Alexander *et al.* (1977, ¶ 59) want to “*Put the magic of the city within the reach of everyone in a metropolitan area.*” Alexander and his colleagues seek to create an ideal city or region where everyone can reach all the available opportunities. Transportation systems are designed to help people participate in activities distributed over space and time. Accessibility is a measure or indicator of the performance of transportation systems in serving individuals living in a community.

Definitions

The concept of “accessibility” has been coin in the transportation planning field for more than 40 years. Improving accessibility is a common element in the goals section in almost all transportation plans in the US (Handy, 2002). However, the term accessibility is often misused and confused with other terms such as mobility. In order to have a common language in this report, these terms are defined and introduced in this section.

Mobility measures the *ability to move* from one place to another (Handy, 1994; Hansen, 1959). For example,, assuming both are part of a connected network, a person who owns a car has a higher level of mobility than one who doesn’t. The word accessibility is derived from the words “access” and “ability”, thus meaning *ability to access*, where “access” is the act of approaching something. The word is derived from the Latin *accedere* “to come” or “to arrive.” Here we concern ourselves with ease of reaching destinations or activities rather than ease of traveling along the network itself. One of the first definitions of accessibility in the planning field was suggested by Hansen (1959), who defines accessibility as a measure of potential opportunities for interaction.

High levels of mobility can, but do not necessarily reflect high levels of accessibility. High levels of accessibility can be present with low levels of mobility. The distinction between accessibility and mobility can be illustrated by comparing Manhattan and Manitoba. Travel in Manhattan is slow in terms of distance that can be covered in a given unit of time, yet one can reach many things in that same short time. In contrast, speeds on roads in Manitoba are quite high, but the accessibility is lower because there are fewer things to reach. Thus we say Manhattan has higher accessibility while Manitoba has higher mobility.

Because activities take place over space, accessibility cannot be present without some mobility. Where we see both low levels of mobility coupled with high levels of accessibility, it is due to the presence of desired opportunities within a short distance and time – a high density of activities. An origin and a destination combined with potential activity at the destination and travel time or cost are the main parts of any accessibility measure (Koenig, 1980). For example,, when Murray and Wu (2003) measure accessibility to transit service, they use residential location as origin and bus stops as the destination, where the potential and cost of using the bus service is derived from service frequency and walking distance. From our point of view, bus stops are interim, but not final destinations, though the techniques for measurement may be quite similar. Measures

of accessibility are thoroughly discussed in the literature, Handy and Neimeier (1997) provide a comprehensive review of measurements of accessibility in the planning field.

Importance

From a linguistic stand point, the reader now understands the difference between accessibility and mobility. This section highlights the importance of accessibility measures to both the supplier and the user of transportation systems. Every year the Texas Transportation Institute releases an annual ranking of the levels of congestion for major cities in the United States. This measure shows the average amount of delay each resident is subject to by living in a certain city, which is an estimate based on a snapshot of a selected dimension of the city, measuring the ability to move around the city under certain constraints. Congestion is a measure of how movement is constrained by too many users for the capacity of the system. Thus congestion is in many respects the inverse of mobility (though mobility can be low even on an uncongested system if there is insufficient network). For example, in the year 2003, the most congested regions in the United States were Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington DC respectively (Schrank & Lomax, 2005). It is clear that the top three regions in the mobility report are not the least desirable regions in the country to live; they are attractive cities to residents in term of work opportunities, variety of land-use patterns, and other aspects of life and are among the largest metropolitan areas. Accordingly using mobility (or congestion) as measure of how well the land-use and transportation system interacts in a region is insufficient. This has been long understood by transportation professionals. The aim of the U.S. Department of Transportation is not just providing fast and safe transportation, it also includes providing accessible and convenient transportation that meets the vital interests of the people and enhances quality of life today and in the future (United States Department of Transportation, 1966). Similarly the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) has a mission to: *“Improve access to markets, jobs, goods and services and improve mobility by focusing on priority transportation improvements and investments that help Minnesotans travel safer, smarter and more efficiently.”* (Minnesota Department of Transportation, 2003) The role of accessibility as a measure of how well Mn/DOT is reaching its mission is clear, since accessibility is a measure of the ease of traveling on networks to reach opportunities (markets, jobs, goods and services).

For the public sector (For example, departments of transportation), accessibility can be used as an indicator of the performance of the land use-transportation systems being deployed in a region. Meanwhile the success of the public sector in delivering transportation goods cannot be measured solely by congestion or levels of mobility. Accessibility levels are important in terms of the quality of life in a region. The public sector balances between maximum density levels and the ease of reaching opportunities. For a department of transportation, the issue is not just constructing roads or removing snow from the streets, it is a matter of providing people with means to reach various opportunities in a region. Many transportation agencies take land use as given and uncontrollable, and so aim to improve mobility to increase accessibility (Levinson & Krizek, 2005).

Individuals uniquely perceive accessibility based on their individual priorities in life. For example, for a professor the increase in accessibility to jobs within a region might not be as important as the increase in the levels of accessibility to open space, since

he is less likely to change his job within the same region, yet he is likely to search for new places for outdoor activities. On the other hand for a computer programmer who changes her employer frequently, the increase in the accessibility to high-tech jobs might be more important than outdoor activities.

Table 1.1 illustrates the different types of accessibility that can be considered. Each person ranks the cells in this table based on individual priorities and based on his preferred mode(s) of transportation. For a public agency (department of transportation) the target may be increasing the levels of accessibility in all the cells. More columns can be added to the right hand side of the matrix to represent other important opportunities. More rows can be added to consider other modes (e.g., freight).

Table 1.1 Accessibility Matrix

	Jobs	Schools	Parks	Shopping
Automobile				
Transit				
Bicycling				
Walking				

Observing the accessibility matrix, it is clear that it includes many of the factors affecting residence location. The matrix includes many variables that affect land value, so any increase in accessibility can be translated to a dollar value or a premium.

The Need for Accessibility Measures

Based on the previous section it is clear that accessibility is an important measure that Mn/DOT and other departments of transportation can use to measure their performance in connecting origins and destinations in a region. The main aim of the larger *Access to Destinations* study is to generate dynamic accessibility maps that can fill in each cell in Table 1.1 measured over time to demonstrate how the accessibility levels have changed between the study time periods. Meanwhile the goal of the current research project is to develop a set of possible performance measurements that can be used to analyze historic (and forecast) land use and travel time data to understand accessibility in the Twin Cities region. These measures can be used in a variety of operational planning and public involvement activities of transportation agencies to ascertain how investments, transportation strategies, and land use policies affect the performance of the transportation-land use system.

Study outline

This research project consists of three main tasks. The first is conducting a comprehensive literature review of accessibility and its performance measures. This literature is included in Chapter 2 with an emphasis on measures that planners and decision makers can understand and replicate. The second task is the identification of the appropriate measures of accessibility. This is included in Chapter 3, where accessibility measures are evaluated in terms of ease of understanding, accuracy and complexity.

Then a new accessibility measure named “*Place Rank*” is introduced in Chapter 4. Place rank is a novel and data-intensive measure of accessibility that better accounts for the opportunities people have and choose, which benefits from the vast amount of information that is newly available for land use and transportation planners.

These measures are applied for the Twin Cities region measuring the levels of accessibility based on travel time generated from the Metropolitan Council traffic demand model and utilizing employment data. Accessibility to jobs and to resident workers is used as way to demonstrate the applicability of these measures and the ease of understanding them. Effects of accessibility on home sales are tested in Chapter 5 to generate a better understanding of the value of accessibility to individual homebuyers. Chapter 6 compares estimated accessibility measures over time using previously published data, as well as new calculations for a limited sample of zones. A major contribution of this research is the comparison of accessibility measures over time and among various modes included in this chapter. Various accessibility measures are used to generate a longitudinal analysis measuring the changes in accessibility levels in the region between 1990 and 2000. Finally Chapter 7 outlines how the findings from this project can be used to generate the desired information.

Chapter 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction

As was stated earlier, accessibility is a term that has been around for more than 4 decades. Accordingly the literature involving the measurements of accessibility is rich. The traditional measure of accessibility is place-based, and involves measurements of spatial separation of individuals and certain activities. Recently “people-based accessibility” measures have been proposed in the literature (H. Miller, 2005). There are various methods to measure accessibility in a region. For example, (Baradaran & Ramjerdi, 2001) identify five different ways for measuring accessibility, while Handy and Niemeier (1997) used only three of these five as potential measures for planners to use. In this chapter we discuss these measures of accessibility, followed by a discussion relating accessibility measures to changes in land use.

Network Size

We use Figure 2.1 to first introduce accessibility as a network concept. As shown on the top, there are two cities (or nodes), city A and city B. There are therefore two travel markets: A-B and B-A. The middle case adds one city, and one link, but greatly increases the number of travel markets: A-B and B-A remain, but A-C and C-A, and B-C and C-B are added (we increased by four markets to a total of six). One link tripled the number of Origin-Destination (O-D) pairs served. The bottom case adds one more link (for a total of 3), but the number of markets again increases significantly: we still have A-B, B-A, A-C, C-A, B-C, and C-B; but now we also have A-D, D-A, B-D, D-B, and C-D and D-C. The number of markets doubled (we increased by 6 markets to a total of 12).

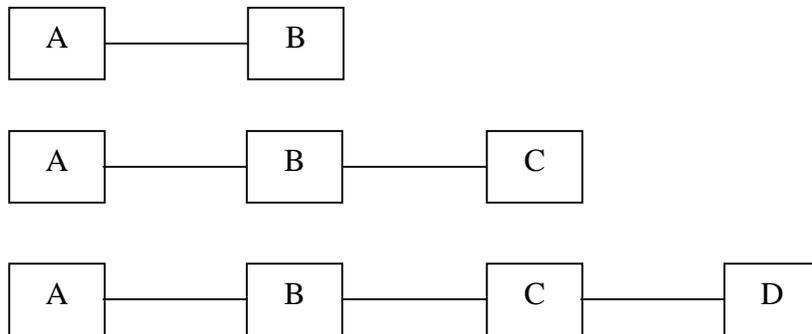


Figure 2.1: Networks to illustrate size

This phenomenon, dubbed the “Law of the Network” (and in a computer networking context, Metcalfe’s Law) can be expressed as

$$S = N(N - 1) \quad (1)$$

Where:

S = the size of the network (number of markets)

N = the number of nodes

(To illustrate: with 2 nodes: $S = 2*1 = 2$, with 3 nodes: $S = 3*2 = 6$, with 4 nodes: $S = 4*3 = 12$, etc.)

The value of S grows non-linearly as nodes are added to the network, until all nodes are connected. Clearly there is increasing value to the network as it gets larger. Since people are willing to pay more for goods of higher value, we would expect that people would pay more to belong to a larger network (live in a larger city).

Accessibility (A) differs from Network Size (S), in that accessibility multiplies each interaction by a function of the travel cost, such that far away interactions have less weight than nearby interactions. Accessibility also replaces the simple measure, number of nodes, with a slightly more sophisticated measure, e.g., number of jobs, to measure employment accessibility (or number of workers to measure labor force accessibility). This allows us to see how well the system connects workers with jobs.

Cumulative Opportunity Measure

The *isochronic* or *cumulative opportunity* measure is one of the basic and early measures discussed in the literature (Vickerman, 1974; Wachs & Kumagai, 1973). This approach counts the number of potential opportunities that can be reached within a predetermined travel time (or distance).

$$A_i = \sum_{j=1}^J B_j a_j \quad (2)$$

Where

A_i Accessibility measured at point i to potential activity in zone j

a_j Opportunities in zone j

B_j A binary value equals to 1 if zone j is within the predetermined threshold and 0 otherwise

For instance, this measure can be used to identify the number of recreational opportunities around a residential location i that are within 400 meters (approximately one quarter mile) of network distance (zone j). This measure does not account for the size of the facility (attractiveness) or the impedance of reaching it (cost). It is widely used in hedonic modeling to control for access to neighborhood amenities. It is simple to understand and calculate, but makes an artificial distinction that opportunities 399 meters away are valuable, while those 401 meters away have no value.

Gravity-Based Measure

The **gravity-based** measure discussed in (Hansen, 1959) is still the most widely used general method for measuring accessibility, although it is more complex in calculations and has some points of weaknesses.

$$A_{im} = \sum_j O_j f(C_{ijm}) \quad (3a)$$

$$A_{im} = \sum_j O_j C_{ijm}^{-2} \quad (3b)$$

$$A_{im} = \sum_j O_j \exp(\theta C_{ijm}) \quad (3c)$$

Where

A_{im}	Accessibility at point i to potential activity at point j using mode m
O_j	The opportunities at point j
$f(C_{ijm})$	The impedance or cost function to travel between i and j using mode m
$\exp(\theta C_{ijm})$	Negative exponential function to travel between i and j using mode m

The differences between various studies of accessibility that utilize this method are mainly in functional forms that measure the cost to move between origin and destination and how opportunities are calculated. The opportunities can be the frequency of bus service when measuring accessibility to transit service, while it can be the number of employees when measuring the accessibility to work, or park size when measuring accessibility open space. The accessibility measure is expected to increase with the increase in the opportunity measure. The summation is used so as to include all potential sites j that might encompass desired activities. In other words, if we are measuring accessibility to the Mall of America in the Twin Cities, the total number of individual sites j (denoted with a capital J) will be equal to one since only one Mall of America exists in the Twin Cities. Meanwhile measuring accessibility to shopping malls in the same region will require calculating the previous function to all shopping malls in the region, while using a factor such as number of stores or mall area or retail employees as the potential variable to differentiate between the various shopping mall sizes. This is done using each shopping mall as a destination j then calculating the accessibility variables for each j until we have J (J =total number of destinations) values of accessibility to be summed at the end of the process.

Accessibility is expected to decline the farther the opportunities are from the origin. Much of the literature defines impedance using a negative exponential function. When we say “farther” that can be in terms of time or distance or generalized cost.

The previous equation is applied to measure accessibility using a single transportation mode m . Accessibility can be measured in the same manner for various modes of transportation then a comparison can be conducted. For example,, accessibility to jobs can be measured using automobiles, public transit and bicycling. The findings

can then be compared to identify underserved areas or locations that need more attention in terms of accessibility using a certain mode.

Major disadvantages of this accessibility measure are the need to develop an impedance factor (though coefficients from destination choice or trip distribution models already estimated for regional transportation planning models are often used), and the appropriate weights for the destination (e.g., should retail be number of stores, number of retail jobs, or area). Combining the modes is also difficult. One might use one of the following composite measures:

$$A_i = \sum_j \sum_m O_j M_{ijm} f(C_{ijm}) \quad (4a) \text{ or}$$

$$A_i = \sum_j \sum_m O_j f(C_{ijm}) \quad (4b)$$

where:

M_{ijm} = share of mode m in market ij ($0-1$)

But in (4a) the mode share in a market also depends on the cost of travel, so the analysis weights travel costs doubly. In (4b), we could introduce a new mode and instantly increase accessibility, even if the new mode was essentially identical to existing modes. One might simply want to say something like this:

$$A_i = \sum_m A_{im} M_{im} \quad (5a) \text{ or}$$

$$A_i = \max(A_{im}) \quad (5b)$$

But equations (5a) and (5b) use mode share at the origin, while mode share is a trip (origin and destination-based) phenomenon, so these measures lose information.

Utility-Based Measure

The most complex and data intensive is the ***utility-based measure***. Several researchers use this method since it adheres to travel behavior theories (Ben-Akiva & Lerman, 1977; Neuberger, 1971). The general specification of the measure is as follows:

$$A_n^i = \ln \left[\sum_{\forall c \in C_n} \exp(V_{n(c)}) \right] \quad (6)$$

Where

- A_n^i Accessibility measured for individual n measure at location i
- $V_{n(c)}$ Observable temporal and spatial component of indirect utility of choice c for person n
- C_n Choice set of person n

This measure incorporates individual traveler preferences as part of the accessibility measure compared to the gravity model where the variation is not present across people living in the same zone. The *gravity model* implies that all people in zone i will experience the same level of accessibility. In reality people choose destination j he to maximize benefit. This is done through comparing the benefits from going to j_1 to the benefit of going to j_2 .

For example,, suppose we are measuring accessibility to grocery stores. A person n will choose shop c based on prices and other factors like cleanliness of the store. Still other choices are available for this person, who weights going to this one as more valuable than the others. This measure imitates the human choice since the attractiveness of each destination is included. It is based on economic benefits that people derive from having access to certain activities. This measure has several advantages yet its complexity and data intensity are the main barriers to implementing it.

Constraints-Based Measure

High levels of accessibility to various activities in a city can be present, yet the amount of time available in a day that people can spend to reach these activities might not. This leads to the *constraints-based measure* or *people-based measure* of accessibility (Wu & Miller, 2002). For example, if a person is at node i at time t_1 while at time t_2 the same individual has to return to i then the time $t = t_2 - t_1$ constrains the number of j destinations available.

Composite Accessibility Measure

A fifth measure is the *composite accessibility measure*. A composite measure is suggested by (Harvey Miller, 1999) where he combines *space-time* and *utility-based measures* in one measure. This approach introduces a higher level of complexity where time constraints are superimposed. The *composite accessibility measure* requires more data than *utility-based measures* and it is even more complex in terms of calculations and accordingly generalizing it for usage is not an easy task.

Spatial Comparisons

Some measurements of accessibility do not have an easily interpreted meaning at the zone or parcel level unless they are normalized to determine areas with actual lower levels of accessibility. Normalization can be done in two ways. The first is when accessibility is translated to a dollar value that is often associated with land value. This aspect will be discussed in more detail later in the report. The second aspect is to link accessibility values at a point to general accessibility values in the region. This introduces the aspect of relative accessibility, where accessibility level measured for point i to the potential activity at j , then later in the process the output is divided by the summation of accessibility values measured at all i points around the region.

Normalizing the accessibility to form relative accessibility introduces a measure of *equity* across the region (Talen, 1998). Relative accessibility is the share of total accessibility that a particular place has. A new transportation facility generally increases absolute accessibility for the region as a whole, we can say it increases the size of the pie.

However that facility especially increases the relative accessibility of those places whose residents, workers, or shoppers make use of facility, which is analogous to increasing the percentage of the pie that a particular slice comprises. While society overall has greater accessibility, these markets served by the improvement gain in both absolute and relative accessibility; this implies that other markets may lose relative, if not absolute position. New infrastructure benefits the area around it, but may make other areas worse off, at least in terms of relative position.

There is no right answer when asking which method to use to measure accessibility. The answer depends on what you are trying to measure. If the interest is in city level accessibility, a cumulative opportunity or gravity-based measure will be an option if impedances and attractiveness are well modeled. Relative accessibility can be used to compare neighborhoods. However, if the planner or researcher is more interested in accessibility from an individual perspective, one of the more complex methods mentioned above may be best.

The presence of advanced technologies such as geographic information systems (GIS) and intelligent transportation systems (ITS) introduce, more accurate ways for measuring accessibility. ITS data can provide better utilization, impedance and cost functions for calculations, since travel time and delays can be measured more accurately using such technology. GIS simplifies the city to points of origins and destinations, where potential measurements can be easily conducted. Yet these simplifications need to be conducted carefully, since the underlying calculations in GIS are not usually understood by users (H. Miller & Shaw, 2001). For example, most researchers in accessibility use straight line distances when calculating travel time, or distances from origin to destinations, which is the most common error in accessibility studies. Using distances measured along networks is a more appropriate way, since people generally travel in the city using street or transit networks and not through the air (and even aircraft generally follow fixed paths rather than flying in a straight line).

It is important to note that direct comparison of values or outputs from various measures of accessibility is not appropriate. Since each accessibility measure can be only correlated with itself, normalizations of the measures to relative accessibility are required to conduct such comparison.

Demand and Accessibility

The relationship between land-use, transportation, accessibility, and potential activities can be summarized in the following diagram developed by (Giuliano, 2004), shown in Figure 2.2. Assuming a positive change in the transportation infrastructure or services leads to an increase in accessibility to certain land use in the urban system. These land uses will be experiencing a premium that will eventually lead to a change in the land use patterns and activity. Since the old activity won't be the ideal usage of land, a change in activity pattern will be present.

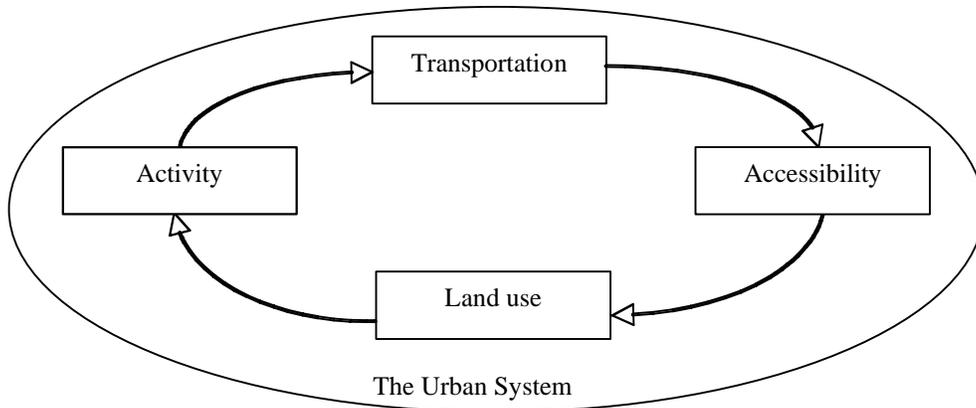


Figure 2.2: The Urban System

Chapter 3: ACCESSIBILITY MEASURES

Introduction

All accessibility measures have two major components: the first is the attractiveness component and the second is the impedance function. The attractiveness component is usually measured as the number of opportunities at destinations. For example, when measuring accessibility to jobs, the attraction value can be the number of jobs at the various potential destinations, while for shopping centers this can be the number of shops in the center. The impedance function decreases the probability of being attracted to such destinations based on distance or travel time. In this report we use accessibility to jobs as our base-case to demonstrate several of the measures discussed in the previous chapter.

The first section of this chapter discusses the available datasets that can be used to generate and demonstrate various accessibility measures. The second section includes a demonstration of the current and most common measures of accessibility used in the transportation planning field (*cumulative opportunity measure* and *gravity-based measure*).

Data

Measuring accessibility requires knowledge of levels of attractions at destinations and impedances between those destinations. Impedance can be presented as either distance or travel time or cost between origins and destinations. Travel time is one of the mostly common used functions in the transportation literature. Historically, in transportation planning models the finest disaggregated unit of space that is used for obtaining travel information is at the Transportation Analysis Zone (TAZ). A TAZ is “*a geographic area that identifies land uses and associated trips that is used for making land use projections and performing traffic modeling*” (American Planning Association, 2005). Travel time is obtained at the TAZ-to-TAZ level of analysis from the transportation planning model of the Metropolitan Council, which is the regional planning agency serving the Twin Cities seven-county metropolitan area. Travel time is available for both congested and uncongested time periods.

For demonstration purposes we measure accessibility to jobs as our base case. The *place rank* measure, which we discuss in the next chapter, requires knowledge of each worker’s residence and job location. For the *cumulative opportunity* and *gravity-based* measures only knowledge of the number of people residing each TAZ and working in it is needed. Origins (residence) and destinations (work location or job site) are available from the U.S. Census Bureau’s Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics dataset (LEHD), as processed by the University of Minnesota’s Center for Urban and Regional Analysis (LEHD, 2003). The LEHD is a comprehensive dataset that includes people’s place of residence identified at the Census Block level of analysis and their employment location identified at the same level. In the analysis in this report, the LEHD data is aggregated to the TAZ level of analysis to match the travel time information that was obtained from Metropolitan Council transportation model (Filipi, 2005). In order to compare the various measures of accessibility LEHD data will be used to calculate the

opportunities (jobs and resident workers) at origins and destinations for the *cumulative opportunity* and *gravity-based measures*. Other data sources also provide similar information about workers, jobs, and population by traffic zone, but only the LEHD links origins and destinations.

Figure 3 shows the number of workers residing each TAZ obtained from the Census Bureau’s LEHD dataset and the number of people living in each TAZ obtained directly from the Census Bureau website (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). Both datasets are normalized by the total number of people residing the region and the total number of workers in the region. It is clear from the figures that the data track closely.

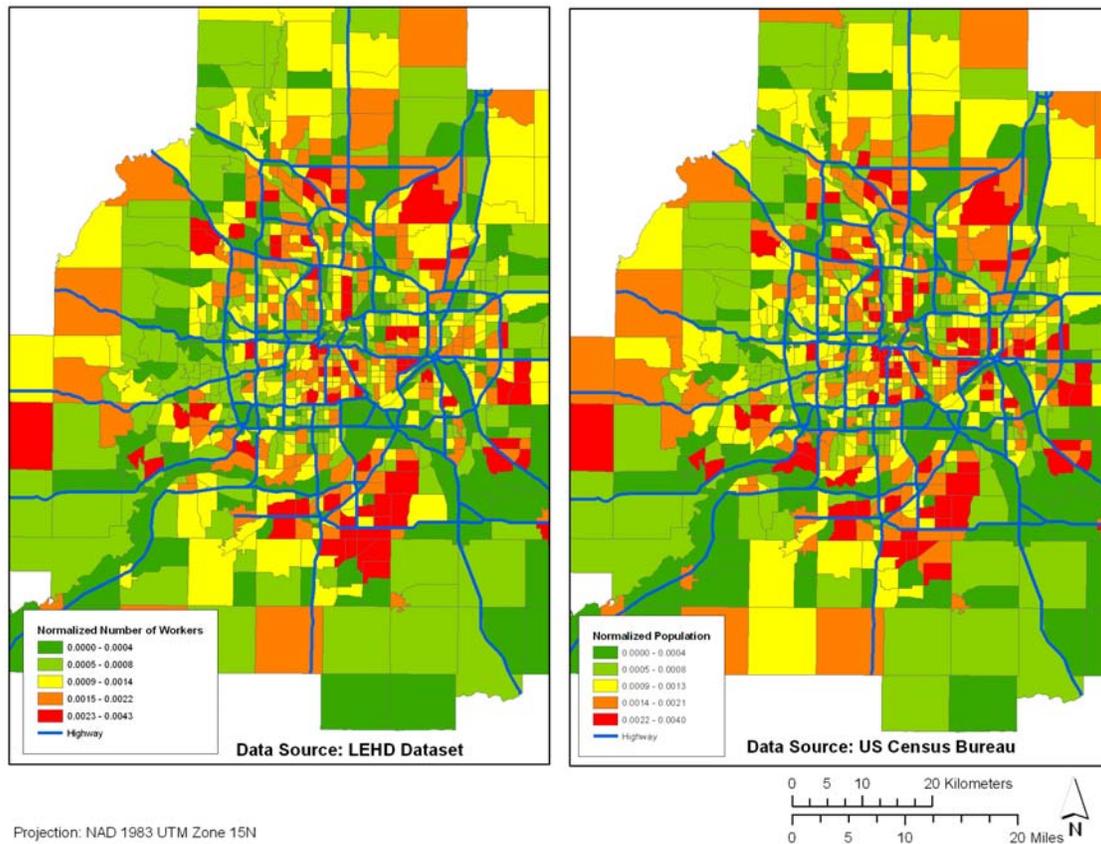


Figure 3.1: Distribution of workers residence and population in the Twin Cities region: LEHD Dataset (left), US Census Bureau (right)

Figure 3.2 shows the distribution of the normalized number of jobs obtained from the same data sources (LEHD and US Census Bureau). Areas with a high number of jobs are similar in the two maps. To increase the confidence level in the LEHD, a Pearson correlation was tested for the LEHD workers residency and TAZ population. LEHD workers residency is found to be highly correlated to the population residing in a TAZ with a value of 0.96, while the correlation coefficient between the number of jobs obtained from the TAZ and the number of jobs obtained from the LEHD had a value of

1.0, which indicates a perfect correlation (which is not surprising since both processed data sets were derived from the same raw Census data). Using LEHD for generating the *cumulative opportunity* and *gravity-based* measures of accessibility should lead to the same conclusions if we used Metropolitan Council household or population and jobs by traffic zones or Census datasets.

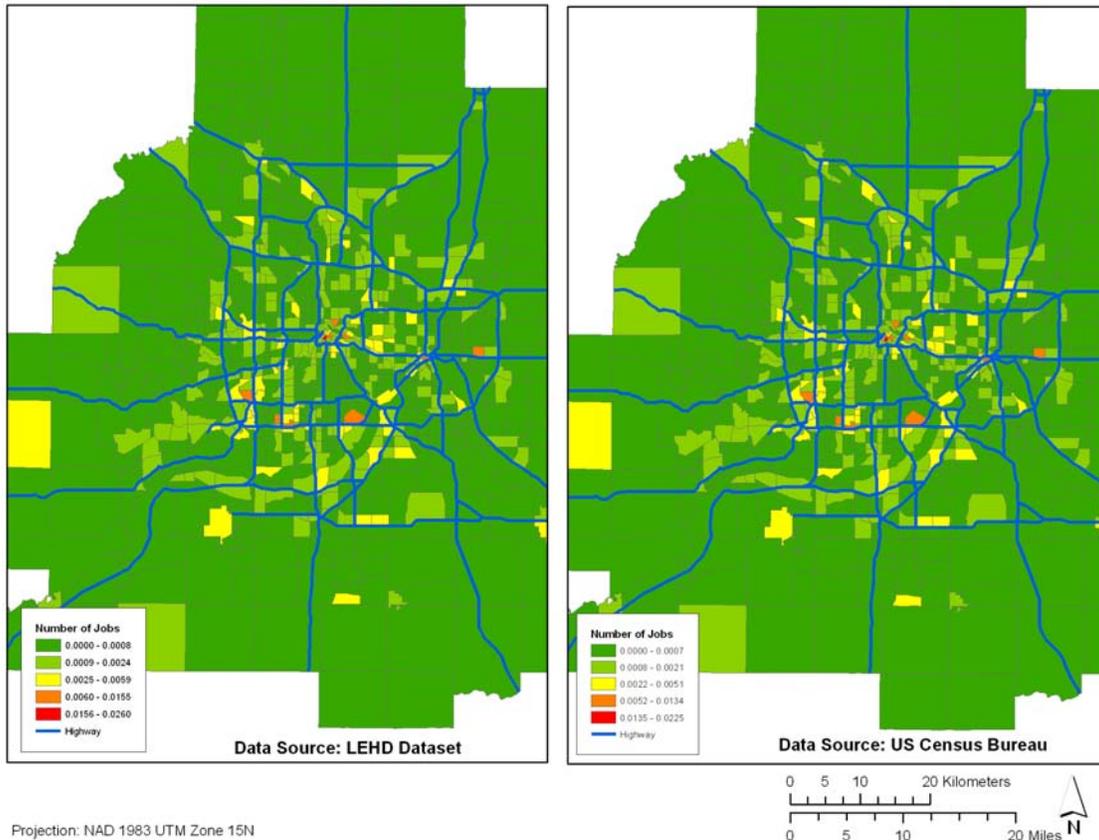


Figure 3.2: Distribution of the number of jobs in the Twin Cities Region: LEHD Dataset (left), US Census Bureau (right)

Cumulative Opportunity Measure

The *isochronic* or *cumulative opportunity* measure counts the number of potential opportunities that can be reached within a predetermined travel time (or distance). Figure 3.3 shows the *cumulative opportunity* measure of accessibility to jobs for the Twin Cities metropolitan region measured at 10 minutes of travel time during the morning peak hour from origins.

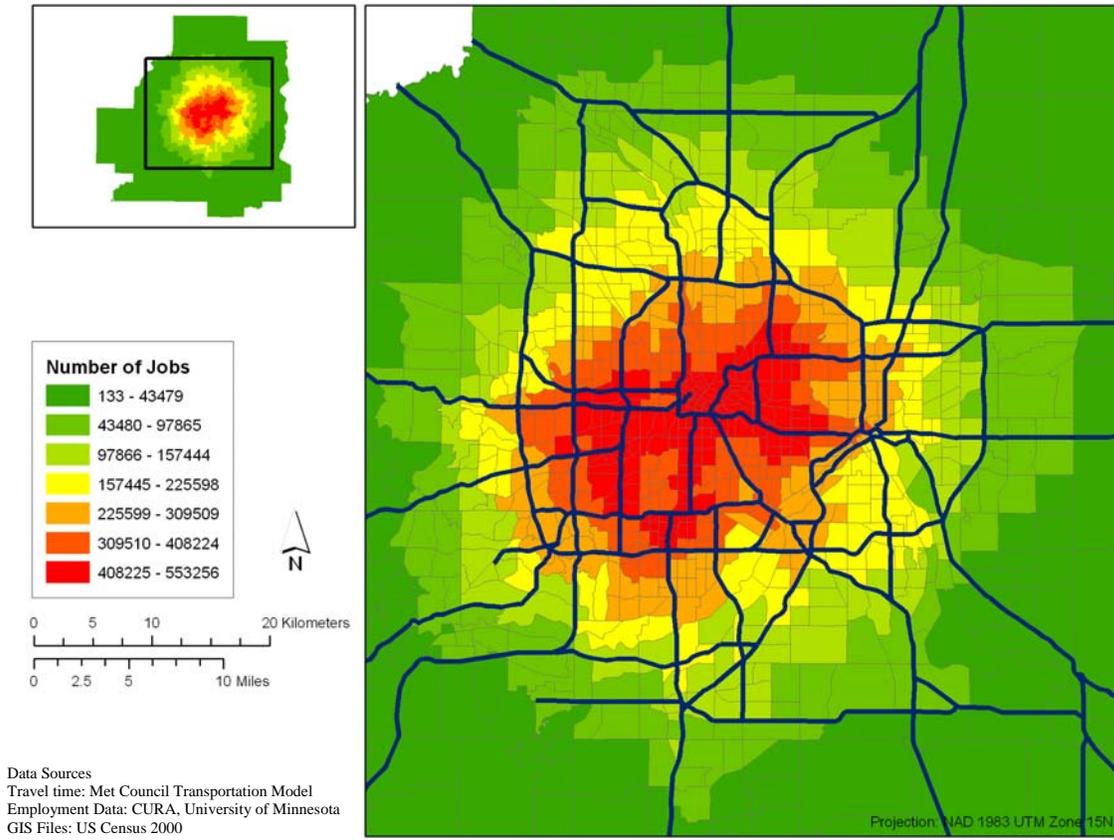


Figure 3.3: Number of jobs within 10 minutes of travel time by automobile during the morning peak in 2000

Planners and non-professionals can easily interpret this measure. A main point of weakness of the measure is that it does not account for people's actual choices of residence and employment location. Also, it equally weights people within the same bin of travel time without considering the attractiveness of the areas where they reside or where they are employed. A similar measure can be produced for various time ranges. Appendix A includes a set of Figures showing the *cumulative opportunity* measure at 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55 and 60 minutes of travel time from the origin counting the number of job opportunities within these ranges of travel time using the LEHD dataset. The figures indicate an increase in the number of opportunities with the increase in travel time. Around 70% of the TAZs had more than 1,281,710 jobs within a 50 minute travel time, which indicates the current level of accessibility in the region.

Appendix B includes a set of Figures showing the *cumulative opportunity* measure at 10 and 15 minutes of travel time from the origin counting the number of resident workers within these ranges of travel time using the LEHD dataset.

Similarly cumulative opportunity measures can be produced for retail and non-retail jobs. Appendix C provides the *cumulative opportunity* measure for accessibility measured to retail and non-retail jobs in the Twin Cities region using travel time intervals of 10 and 15 minutes of travel time during the morning peak of the year 2000.

Gravity-based Measure

The *gravity-based* measure developed by Hansen (1959) is still the most widely used general method for measuring accessibility, although it is complex in calculations and has some points of weaknesses. Figure 3.4 shows the Twin Cities metropolitan region with the *gravity-based* accessibility measured to jobs in the region (following equation 3b). The accessibility levels are shown in shades of color. The unit of analysis used in developing this measure is the TAZs, while using the reciprocal of the square of travel time between each TAZ as the impedance function. The attractiveness of a TAZ is calculated based on the number of jobs reported by the LEHD dataset that was previously used in producing Figure 3.3. The reciprocal of travel time squared, a common and widely used impedance function, is used as the impedance value when calculating this measure of accessibility.

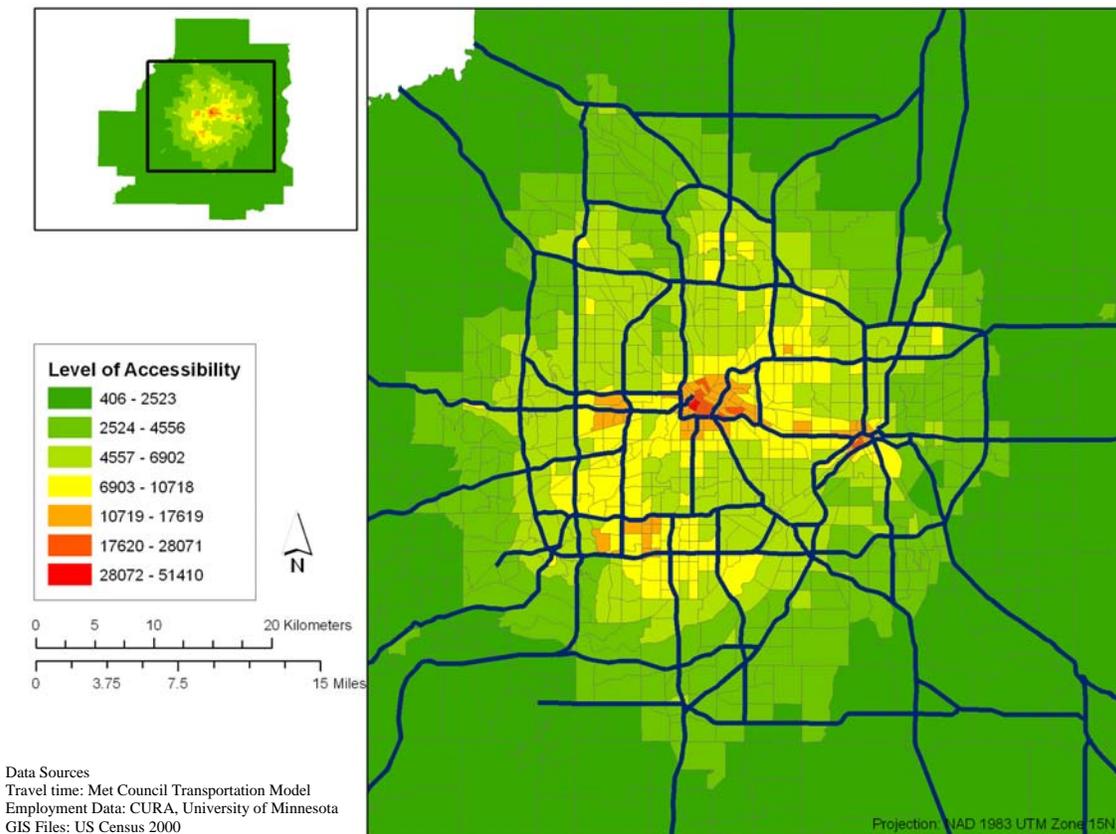


Figure 3.4: *Gravity-based* accessibility to jobs by automobile in the Twin Cities region in 2000 using $1/\text{travel time-squared}$ impedance function

Major disadvantages of this accessibility measure are the need to develop an impedance factor (though coefficients from destination choice or trip distribution models already estimated for regional transportation planning models are often used), and the appropriate weights for the destination (e.g., should retail be number of stores, number of retail jobs, or area). Combining the modes is also difficult.

First it is important to note that comparing accessibility measures should be done in a relative manner and not through comparing numbers directly. It is clear from comparing Figures 3.3 and 3.4 that similarities exist between the two measures of accessibility. TAZs with high levels of accessibility in Figure 3.3 tend to have high numbers of jobs within the 10 minutes travel time range in Figure 3.4. Both maps indicate centralization in the level of accessibility to jobs in the Twin Cities region similar to the centralization observed in the 10 minutes *cumulative opportunity* measure of accessibility. A statistical analysis conducted later in this report shows the relationship between these measures. It is clear that areas with high levels of accessibility to jobs are located in the area including and surrounding the two major downtowns in the region (Minneapolis and Saint Paul).

Another alternative is to change the impedance function used in generating the *gravity-based* measure of accessibility. Figure 3.5 shows the level of accessibility to jobs in the Twin Cities region using travel time and an exponential function with $\theta = -0.1$ (following equation 3c) multiplied by the travel time between each TAZ of origin and destination.

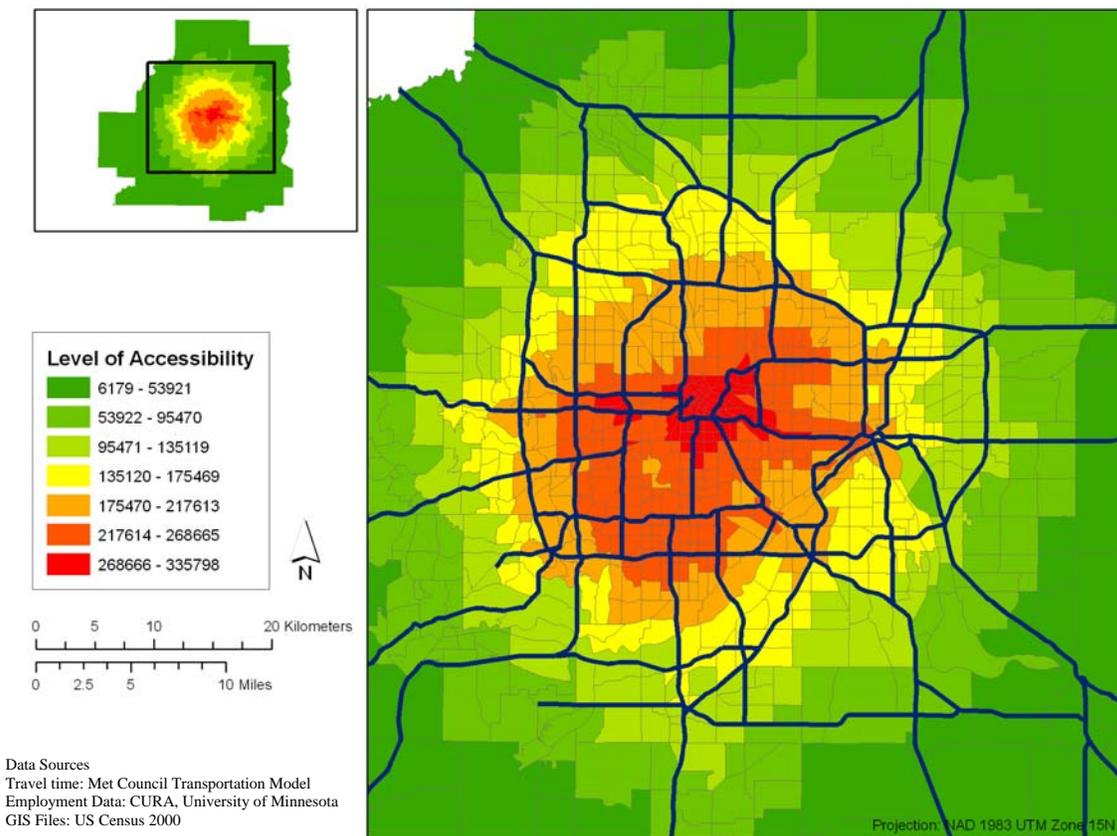


Figure 3.5: *Gravity-based* accessibility to jobs by auto in the Twin Cities region in 2000 using a negative exponential impedance function

Figure 3.5 is similar to Figures 4.6-6.3 which display the *cumulative opportunity* measure (see Appendix A). The process of selecting the appropriate impedance function is complicated and requires several trials. The reciprocal of travel time squared was the first function used (following Newton’s Laws of Gravity). Some researchers generate various impedance functions and include them as part of a land value analysis to reach the most appropriate measure that is statistically most correlated with land value (and thus how people perceive the effect of transportation on land). This concept is explored later in the report.

Similarly an accessibility measure to the number of employees in a region can be developed to measure the ease of jobs reaching their potential employees. Figure 3.6 shows the level of accessibility measured at jobs as origins and using the number of employees residing in a TAZ as the measure of attraction. The residence of employees is obtained from the LEHD dataset while for the impedance factor we use the reciprocal of the travel time squared, using travel time obtained from the Metropolitan Council transportation model. The difference between accessibility to jobs and accessibility to residency of workers is clear. People are more widely distributed in the region; a more decentralized map is present in Figure 3.6 than Figure 3.4 indicating workers are found in areas far from downtown Minneapolis or St. Paul.

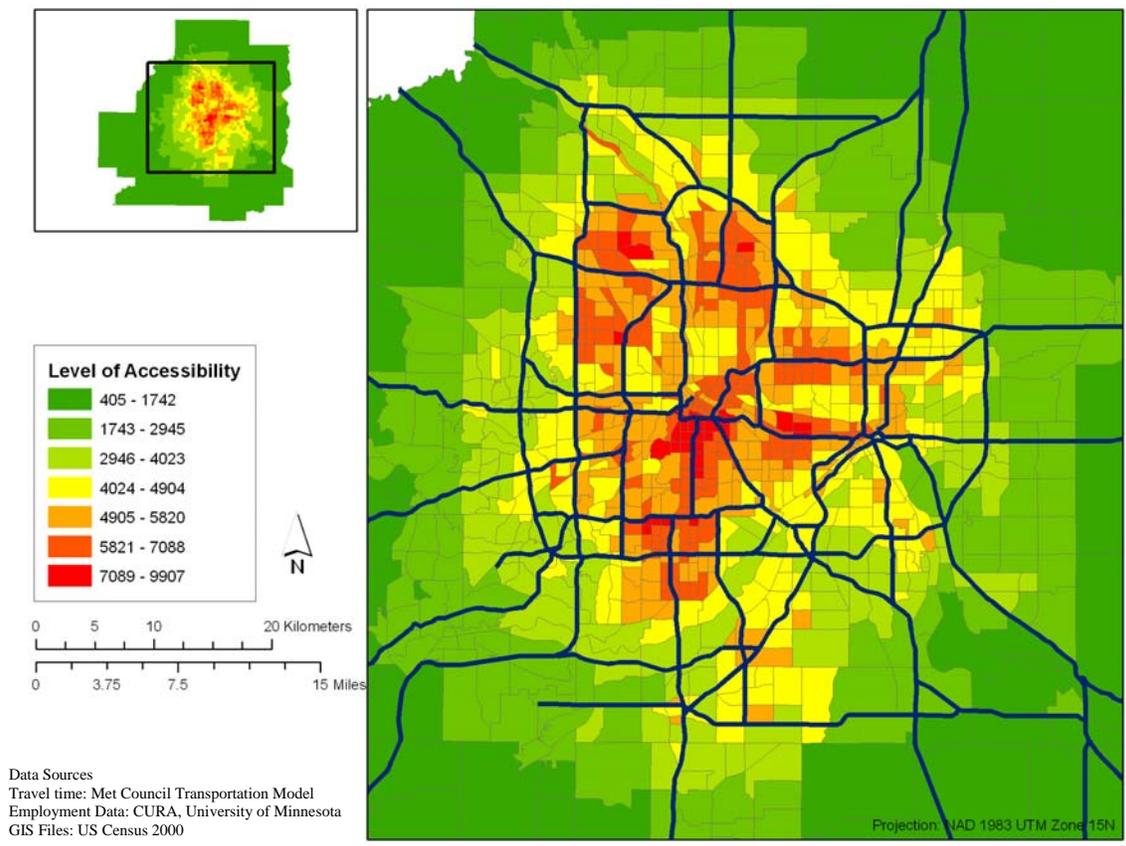


Figure 3.6: *Gravity-based* accessibility to resident workers in the Twin Cities region using 1/travel time-squared impedance function

Visualizing Measures of Accessibility

Linking a *gravity-based* accessibility measure to jobs and a *cumulative opportunity* accessibility measure to jobs within 10 minutes of travel time is possible through utilization of a geographic information system. Figure 3.7 compares the *gravity-based* and *cumulative opportunity* measure of accessibility in a three-dimensional format. The first part of the figure (Figure 3.7a) includes the *gravity-based* accessibility measure to jobs in the Twin Cities region represented in shades of colors and the height are derived from the same measure, while the second part of the figure (Figure 3.7b) shows the *cumulative opportunity* measure of accessibility to jobs within 10 minutes of travel time from the zone of origin represented in colors and height. Combining the information from both figures is possible in one figure through obtaining the height information from the *gravity-based* and the color from the *cumulative opportunity*. This is shown in the third section of the figure (Figure 3.7c). It is clear from Figure 3.7 that areas with high level of accessibility in both measures are similar, but not identical.

It is clear from the figure that a direct relationship exists between both measures of accessibility. This relation will be compared statistically later in this report. For a person familiar with the Twin Cities region observing sections A and C, of the figure can lead him to the idea that these are 3 dimensional maps showing building heights or land values in the region. Downtown Minneapolis and downtown Saint Paul appear to be higher than the rest of the region, while other commercial and suburban areas do show moderate heights.

Figures 3.3 through 3.7 account for the number of opportunities at destinations without weighting the value of the opportunities. The weighting is placed on travel time only, while the attractiveness of each opportunity is weighted based only on the number of opportunities (not the quality of the opportunity or the level of attractiveness of these opportunities). This highlights the need for a measure of accessibility that accounts for the level of attractiveness of a zone based on actual choices.

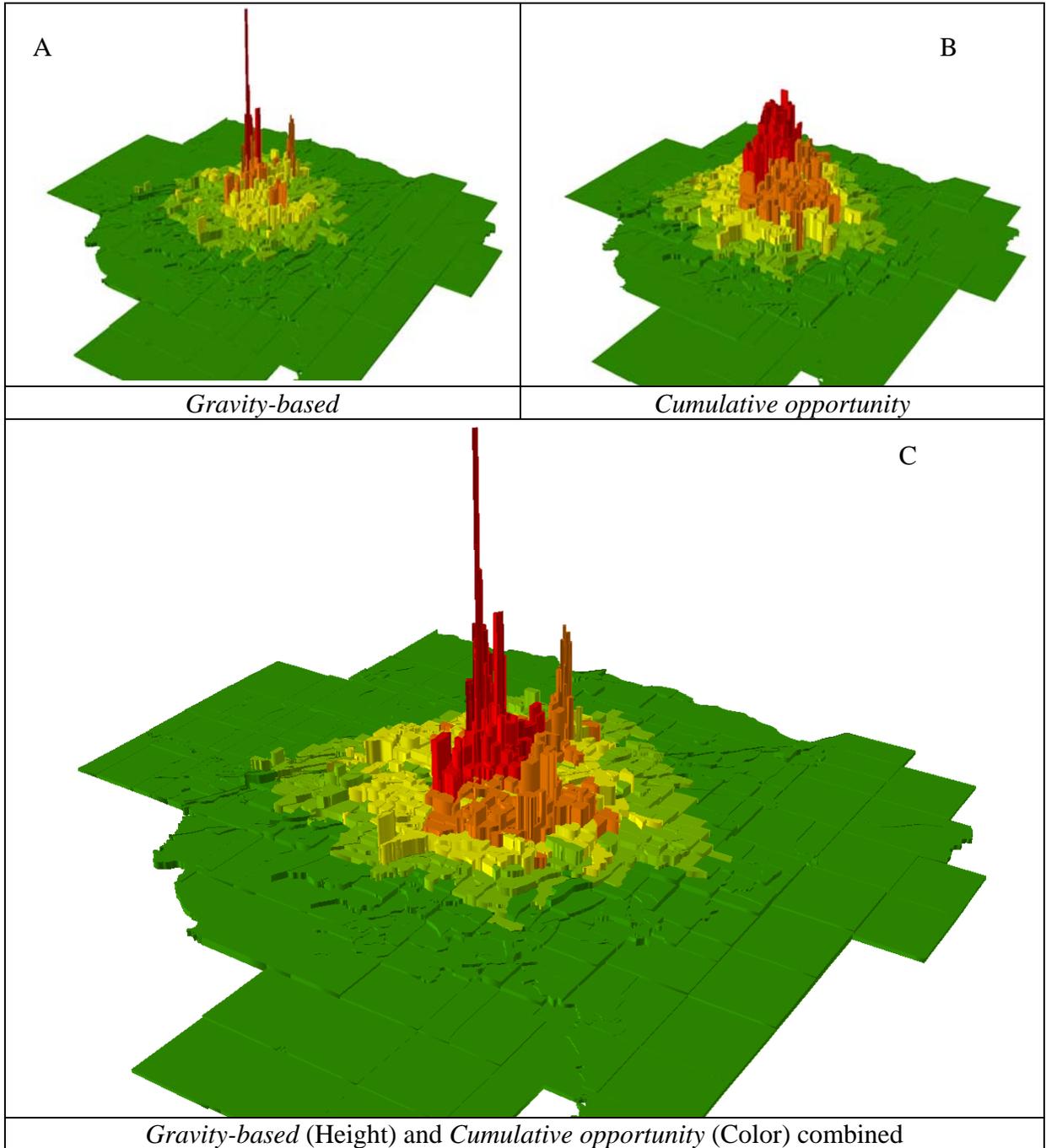


Figure 3.7: 3D comparison of measures of accessibility to jobs

Chapter 4: PLACE RANK – A NEW ACCESSIBILITY MEASURE

Introduction

This chapter proposes a new measure of accessibility: “*place rank*.” *Place rank* is an accessibility measure that requires the knowledge of actual choices of origins and destinations. Level of accessibility in a zone is determined based on the number of people coming to this zone to reach an opportunity, where each person contributes to the accessibility level in the zone to which he commutes with a different power. The power of the contribution of this person depends on the attractiveness of his zone of origin. In other words, a destination zone has a higher ranking if it is able to attract more workers from zones with high numbers of jobs. In this chapter we discuss the *place ranking* measure and compare it to two accessibility measures that are heavily used in the planning literature described in the previous chapter. The first is the *isochronic* or *cumulative opportunity* measure and the second is the *gravity-based* measure.

Methods

The *place rank* measure is inspired from a methodology developed by Brin and Page (1998) that is used in ranking web pages for large scale search engines, such as Google, which they founded. A web page gets its power from the links connecting to it, while the power of the links comes mainly from the rank of their original host. In an urban planning context this notion can be used to measure the levels of accessibility at destinations and origins. Knowing actual origins and destinations is a key component in this measure of accessibility. The *place rank* of a zone is determined based on the number of people commuting to this zone to reach an opportunity. The power of the contribution of this person depends on the attractiveness of his zone of origin. The mathematical formulation of the model is as follows:

$$R_{j,t} = \sum_{i=1}^I E_{ij} * P_{i,t-1} \quad (7a)$$

$$P_{i,t-1} = [E_j * [R_{j,t-1} / E_i]] \quad (7b)$$

Where:

$R_{j,t}$	The <i>place rank</i> of j in iteration t
I	The total number of i zones that are linked to zone j
E_{ij}	The number of people leaving i to reach an activity in j
$P_{i,t-1}$	The power of each person leaving i in the previous iteration
E_j	The original number of people destined for j $E_j = \sum_i E_{ij}$
$R_{j,t-1}$	The <i>place ranking</i> of j from the previous iteration
E_i	The original number of people residing in zone i : $E_i = \sum_j E_{ij}$

Place rank redistributes the total number of people involved in the studied activity between the zones in a manner that is weighted based on the zones, attraction and the power of the links. The calculations are processed for each zone for at least two iterations. The *place rank* is determined when the difference between each two consecutive ranking calculations is equal to zero or the model reaches stability. A mathematical example can help in explaining the method. Figure 4.1 displays the hypothetical zone structure used in the example. Each zone can be considered a TAZ or a city or a township where people might live and/or work. Accordingly origins and destinations are important and it is important that each zone will be used as both as an origin and as a destination.

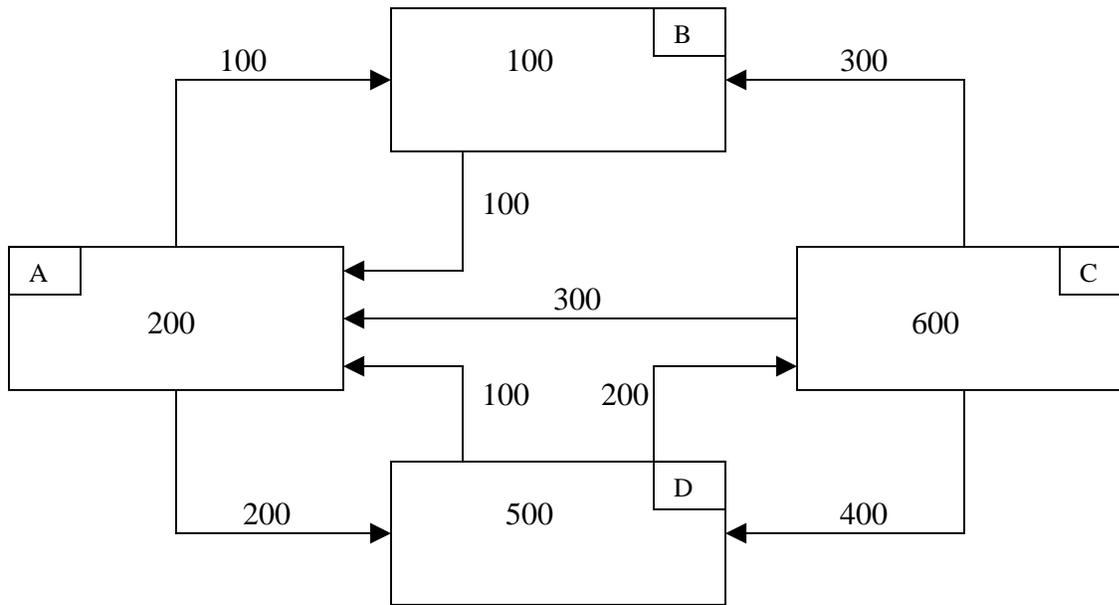


Figure 4.1: *Place rank* mathematical example

In this example we use 4 zones: A, B, C and D. Zone A has a total of 500 workers residing in it. Only 200 of these workers stay in A for jobs, while 100 workers leave zone A to reach a job opportunity at B and 200 workers leave A to reach an opportunity in D. A is a major employment attraction which attracts 700 workers from all zones. Of these, 200 come from A itself, another 100 come from B, 300 come from C and another 100 come from D. Meanwhile Zone B has 200 workers and 500 job opportunities. Similarly C and D respectively have 1600 and 800 resident workers and 800 and 1100 job opportunities.

A person leaving zone A to work in any zone will make a contribution of 1.4 to the zone in which he is going. This number is derived by dividing the total job opportunities in A by the total number of residing workers in A. For Zone B, the power for a worker leaving this zone is even higher, 2.5, which is based on the same ratio. A worker leaving zone B is more valuable than any other worker leaving other zones due to the number of opportunities at B compared to the number resident workers at B.

Table 4.1 includes a summary of the origins and destinations matrix with the power of each link or person leaving the zone, while Table 4.2 includes the output of the first iteration of the measure. The original number of workers who reside in a zone is multiplied by the power of each link to form the new matrix displayed in Table 4.1. The sum of the jobs by destination weighted is the current rank of the zones. This rank is used again to generate a new link power (P_{i2}). The new link power is then multiplied by the original matrix to form a third weighted origin-destination matrix. The third matrix is then compared to the second to check if the values in the third matrix stabilized, which means that the differences between values in the third and second matrix should equal to zero. If the value does not equal to zero the total number of jobs by destination is added to generate a new power link for the third iterations. Similarly the same process is repeated until the difference between two consecutive matrices is equal to zero. At this level the *place rank* would have reached stability.

Table 4.1: Example 1, Calculating *place rank* original data

	A	B	C	D	Total Workers by Origin
A	200	100	0	200	500
B	100	100	0	0	200
C	300	300	600	400	1600
D	100	0	200	500	800
<i>Total Jobs by Destination</i>	700	500	800	1100	
Total Workers by Origin	500	200	1600	800	
Power of a single link (Jobs/Workers) (P_{i1})	1.4	2.5	0.5	1.37	

Table 4.2: Example 1, Calculating *place rank* first iteration

	A	B	C	D	Total Workers by Origin
A	280	140	0	280	500
B	250	250	0	0	200
C	150	150	300	200	1600
D	137.5	0	275	687.5	800
<i>Total Jobs by Destination Weighted</i>	817.5	540	575	1167.5	
Total Workers by Origin	500	200	1600	800	
Power of a single link (Jobs/Workers) (P_{i2})	1.63	2.7	0.36	1.45	

Stability was reached after 19 iterations for the above example. The final *place rank* of each zone is equal to the sum of jobs at the destinations in the weighted format. The ranking of each zone is shown in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3: Final *Place rank* (R_j) For example, 1

Zone	<i>Place rank</i>
A	848.25
B	524.37
C	493.53
D	1233.83

Place rank measures only work when there are both jobs and residents in a geographic region (otherwise the power of a zone is zero or infinity). Traffic zones are often homogenous, with either many jobs and few or no houses, or many houses and few or no jobs. Thus they cannot be used in place rank measure that requires both incoming and outgoing trips. One needs to look at an area heterogeneous enough to include both jobs and houses. Minor Civil Divisions (MCD) (cities, towns, and townships) in the Twin Cities are one such geography. Alternatively, one could develop a more complex measure, which is not pursued here.

Case Study

The *place rank* measure is applied to the Twin Cities region through aggregating the LEHD data, which includes origins and destinations of workers resident and employment location. The data was aggregated to the MCD, then the ranking process was developed. Around 300 iterations were needed to reach stability for this model. Figure 4.2 shows the output of the *place rank* accessibility measure.

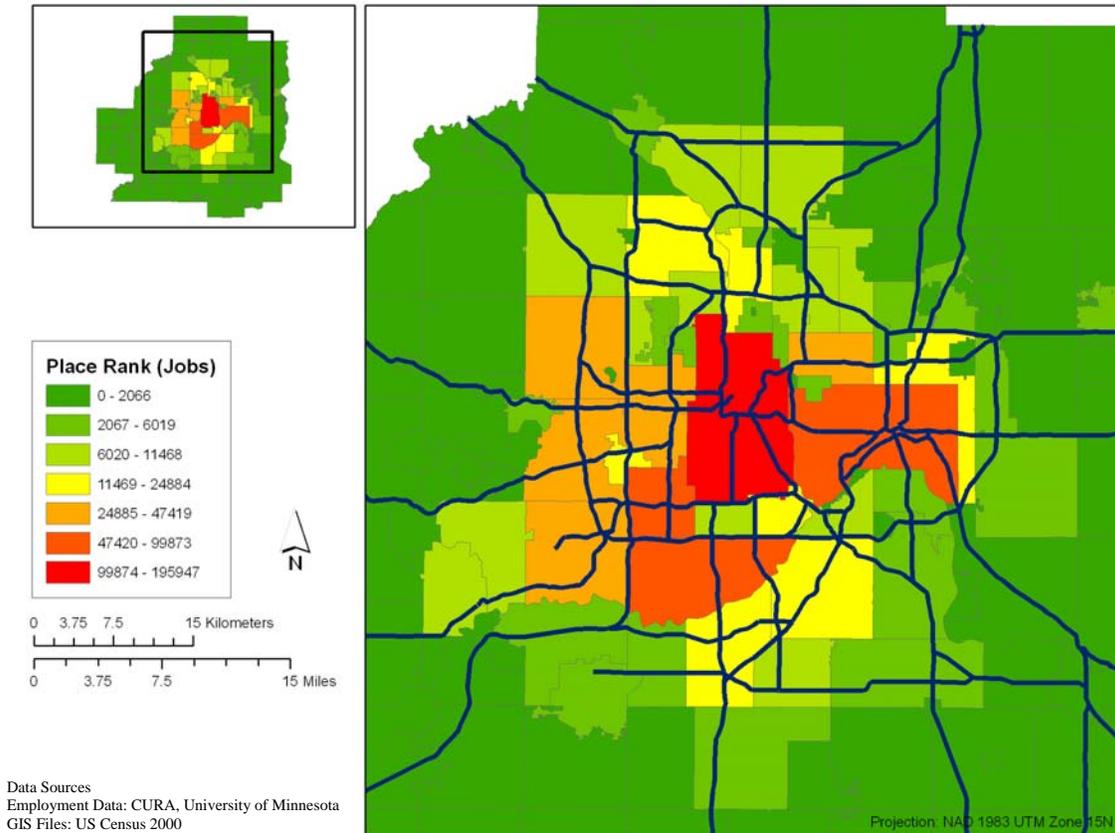


Figure 4.2: *Place rank* measure to jobs

It is clear from the figure that concentration of jobs in the heart of the metropolitan region (the City of Minneapolis) has the highest ranking, while the Cities of Saint Paul, Edina, and Bloomington fall in the second category. These three cities include major headquarters and office buildings such as the Mall of America. Meanwhile, areas in between these cities did show a lower ranking due to the fewer jobs in these areas. For example, a person residing in the city of Minneapolis (the center of the map) and working in the suburbs should be adding more to the ranking of zone where he is working. The reason the city of Minneapolis did show to be at this high ranking level, is not only due to the number of people attracted to the job opportunities in the city, yet it is also due to the strength of the origins where these workers reside.

Comparing the *place rank* to other accessibility measures is an essential step. Figure 4.3 shows the *cumulative* accessibility measure showing the number of jobs within 10 minutes of travel time from the origin. This was obtained by aggregating from the TAZ level of analysis to the MCD level for comparison purposes. Figure 4.4 shows the *gravity-based* accessibility measure to jobs. It is clear that though the three measures show similarities, they are not identical.

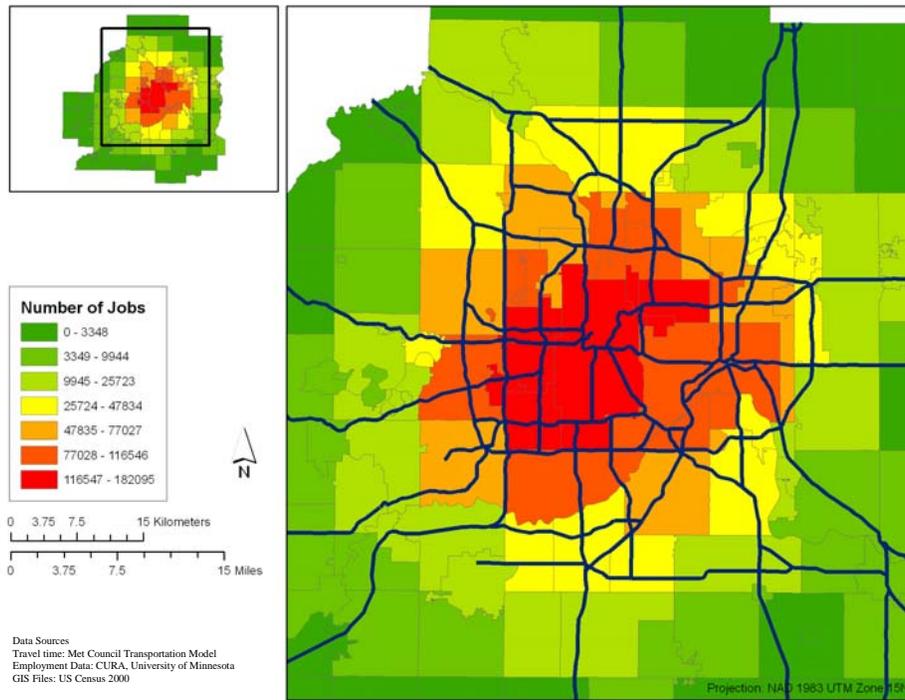


Figure 4.3: *Cumulative opportunity* (number of jobs in 10 minutes by auto in 2000)

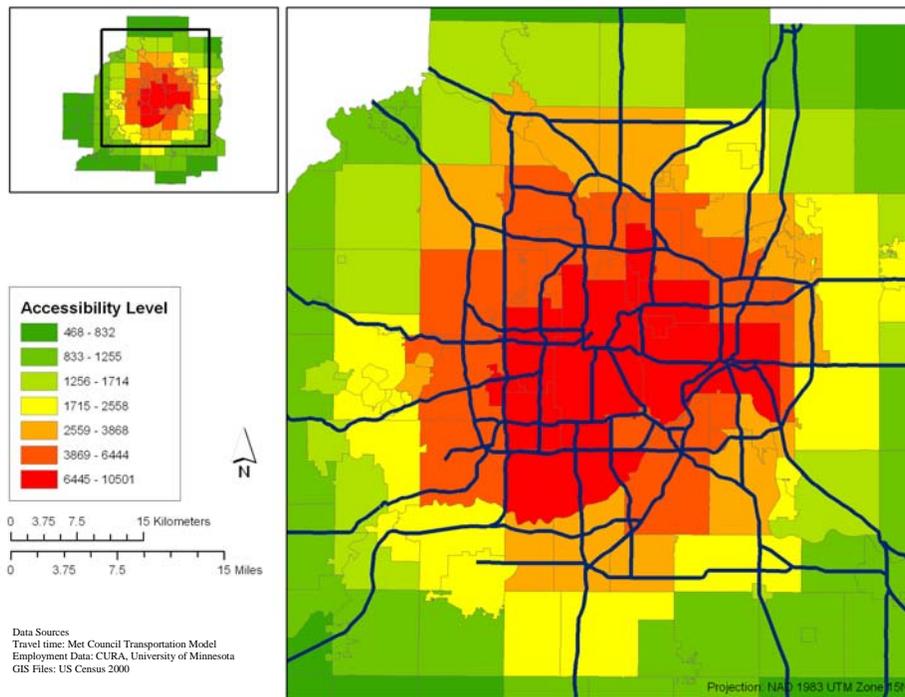


Figure 4.4: *Gravity-based* accessibility measure to jobs by auto in 2000 using $1/\text{travel time-squared}$ impedance function

It is clear from observing Figures 4.3 and 4.4 that the *cumulative opportunity* measure and *gravity-based* measure are highly correlated at this level of analysis, but differences exist when comparing these measures to the *place rank* measure of accessibility. Appendix D compares *place rank* accessibility to resident workers at the minor civil division level and both the *cumulative opportunity* measure (number of resident workers within 10 minutes of travel time from the origin) and *gravity-based* measure (using the inverse of travel time square to generate the impedance function). While the *cumulative opportunity* measure and *gravity-based* measure are highly correlated at this level of analysis, *place rank* is not as highly correlated.

Visual and Statistical Comparison

An image is worth a thousand words, so 3-D visualization is used Figure 4.5. The figure combines *place rank* and the *gravity-based* measures of accessibility in 3-D that can help in generating a visual comparison. The first part of the figure (Figure 4.5a) shows the gravity based measure conducted at the MCD level of analysis with both color and height representing the accessibility measure using *gravity based*. The second part of the figure (Figure 4.5b) includes a 3-D representation of the MCDs with *place rank* in both color and height. Finally the third part of the figure (Figure 4.5c) shows the combination of the two measures where *place rank* is represented in shades of colors and the height is derived from the *gravity-based* measure of accessibility. It is clear that some kinds of relationships do exist between *place rank* accessibility measures and other measures of accessibility. The *place rank* accessibility measure is also conducted to measure accessibility to resident workers measured from job destinations. The maps of this example are included in Appendix D.

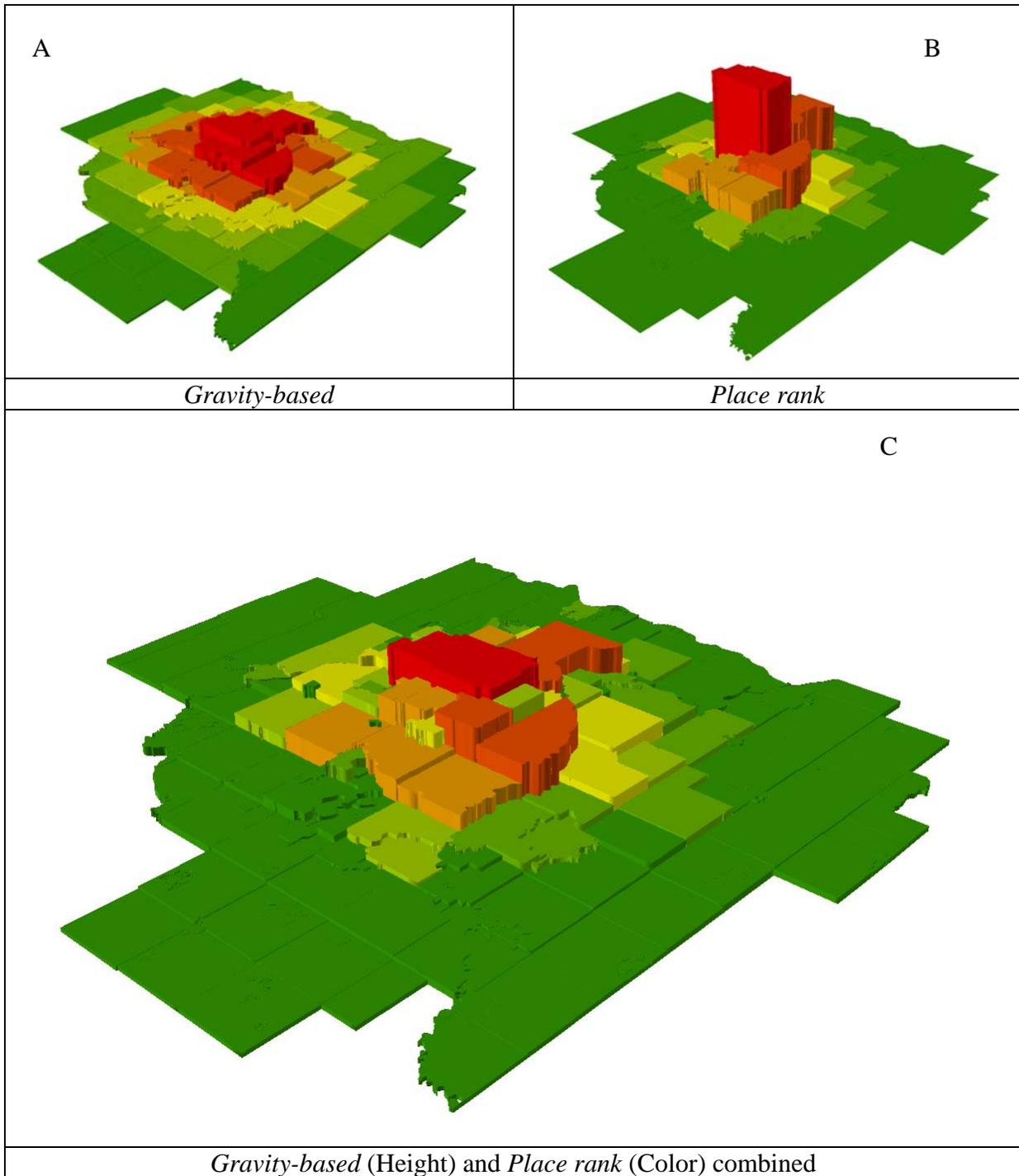


Figure 4.5: 3D Comparison of gravity and place-rank measures of accessibility

From a statistical standpoint, a correlation matrix can be generated to compare the three measures of accessibility. The correlation matrix was constructed using the Pearson's measure of correlation and is shown in Table 4.4.

Table 4.4: Correlation matrix for *place rank* and *gravity-based* accessibility measure

	<i>Place rank</i> to resident workers	<i>Place rank</i> to jobs	<i>Gravity-based</i> measure to jobs	<i>Gravity-based</i> resident workers
<i>Place rank</i> to resident workers	1.000			
<i>Place rank</i> to jobs	0.752	1.000		
<i>Gravity-based</i> measure to jobs	0.431	0.572	1.000	
<i>Gravity-based</i> resident workers	0.425	0.415	0.944	1.000

Place rank to jobs is highly correlated to *place rank* to resident workers, (even more, the *gravity-based* measure of accessibility to jobs is highly correlated with accessibility to resident workers). Accessibility to jobs measured used the *place rank* method shows a medium correlation to the *gravity-based* measure of accessibility.

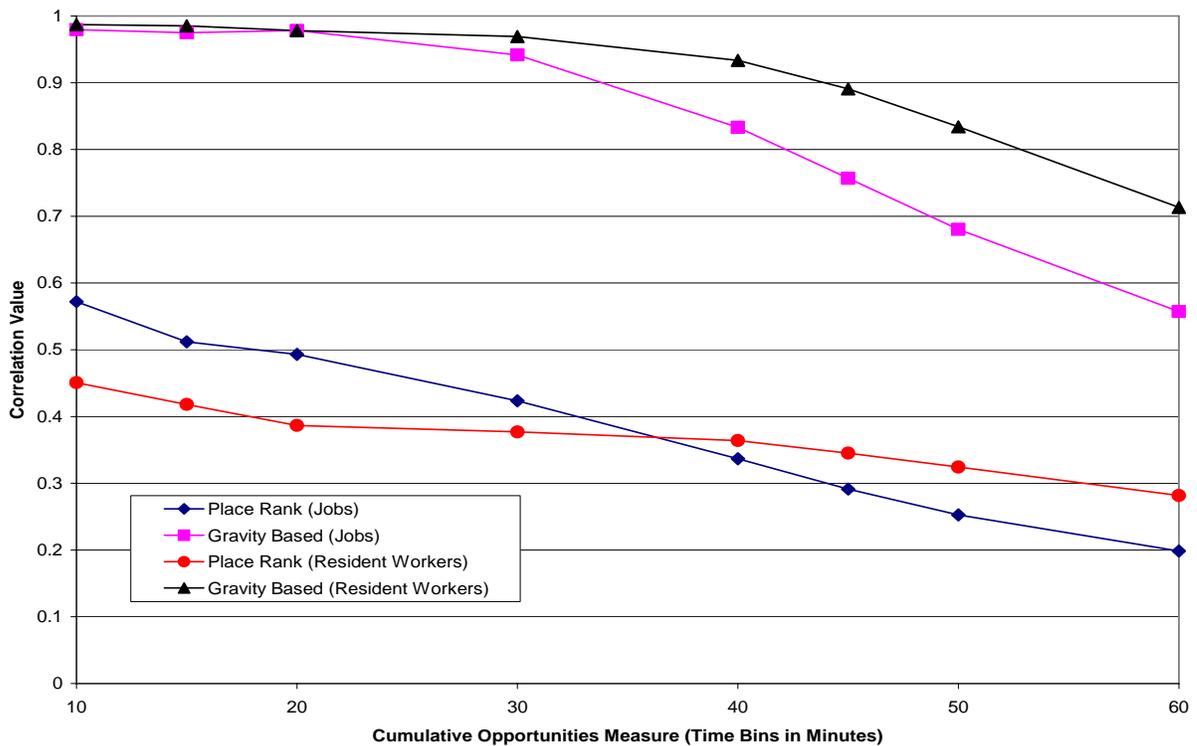


Figure 4.6: Cumulative opportunities correlated to other measures of accessibility

Figure 4.6 shows the level of correlation between the *gravity-based* measure and *place rank* measures of accessibility to jobs and resident workers to various *cumulative opportunity* measures. The *cumulative opportunity* measure is calculated either based on the number of jobs or resident workers that can be reached within 10, 15, 20, 30, 40, 45, 50 and 60 minutes of travel time. The *gravity-based* method is highly correlated to the cumulative accessibility measure at the 10, 15, 20 and 30 minutes bins. This relation tends to decline with the increase in the travel time bin (40, 45, 50 and 60). *Place rank* is

less correlated to the cumulative opportunity measure than the *gravity-based* method. In addition, a decline in the level of correlation is present at the higher level bins (40, 45, 50 and 60). The same phenomenon is present for the resident workers *place rank* measure.

Chapter 5: EFFECTS OF ACCESSIBILITY ON HOUSE PRICE

Introduction

In this chapter we examine the connection between single-family residence property values and accessibility to jobs and resident workers in the Twin Cities metropolitan region. This section of the study is conducted to illustrate the effects of accessibility on home sale prices in the region. All three accessibility measures (*gravity-based*, *cumulative opportunity*, and *place rank*) are tested against sale prices of single family houses.

Hedonic analysis

In a recent study, accessibility to jobs measured at the parcel level did show it to have a positive impact on land value (Srour *et al.*, 2002). This highlights the importance of accessibility to the individual, even though each person usually holds only one job at a time. Similarly Franklin and Waddell (2003) noticed a positive effect of accessibility measures to certain jobs in King County, Washington. Both studies show that benefits of accessibility can be capitalized into housing prices. A recent comprehensive review of the literature related to hedonic analysis is conducted by Sirmans and Macpherson (2003), who documented around 200 applications that have examined home sales to estimate values of several home attributes including structural features (e.g., lot size, finished square feet, and number of bedrooms), internal and external features (e.g., fireplaces, air conditioning, garage spaces, and porches), natural environment features (e.g., scenic views), attributes of the neighborhood and location (e.g., crime, golf courses, and trees), public services (e.g., school and infrastructure quality), marketing, and financing.

Other researchers included accessibility measures to their models as a way to increase the explanatory power of the hedonic models (Franklin & Waddell, 2003; Srour *et al.*, 2002). They included accessibility to jobs, school quality, and measures of environmental amenities. After reviewing several research papers related to the topic of hedonic analysis, the factors affecting single family sales can be summarized into building and lot characteristics, community characteristics, neighborhood characteristics, and accessibility measures.

Data

Home sale records for the year 2004 were obtained from the Minnesota Multiple Listing Service database (MLS). MLS is a realtors association that gathers data from home sales from multiple realtors in the Twin Cities region. MLS data includes detailed information related to the house that is being sold. This information includes the number of bedrooms, number of bathrooms, presence of a fire place, number of garage stalls, lot size, single family house ownership information (previously owned, new building, and under construction), information related to associations that the sold building is related to, and building foot print. Since this database is maintained for the Twin Cities region, which is a region well known for the lakes and ponds, a view variable is included to define if a view to one of the lakes or ponds exists. Accordingly such a comprehensive dataset can be used for generating information related to the building and lot

characteristics to be used in a hedonic analysis. In addition to all the previously mentioned information, the street address for each home being sold is included in this database. Such information can help in identifying community characteristics, neighborhood characteristics, and accessibility measures, which can be derived from other datasets including US Census data. GIS can be used to generate and merge these data sources. It can also be used in generating other variables, for example, distances to the nearest downtown. For the year 2004, around 49,000 sales are reported in the MLS database. After cleaning and simplifying the view variables, a sample of 44,429 sales was found to be usable for this study. Table 5.1 includes a list of the variables being prepared for the analysis.

Table 5.1: Variables included for analysis

Factors	Abbreviation	Coefficients
Building and Lot Characteristics	NUMBR	Number of bedrooms
	NUMBA	Number of bathrooms
	AGE	Building age
	AFP	Foot print area
	NUMFP	Number of fire place
	NUMGA	Number of garage stalls
	AREA	Lot size in acres
Ownership Information	NEWB	New building relative to under construction
	PROWN	Previously owned building relative to under construction
Association Payments	YASSO	Yearly association payment relative to no association
	MASSO	Monthly association payment relative to no association
	OASSO	Other association payment relative to no association
View	CRVIW	Creek view relative to no view
	LAVIW	Lake view relative to no view
	POVIW	Pond view relative to no view
	RVIW	River view relative to no view
Neighborhood Characteristics	PWHIT	Percent of residents in block group that are not white in 2000
	PBACH	Percent of population over 24 within block group with a Bachelor's or higher
	PMAST	Percent of population over 24 within block group with a Master's or higher
	INCOM	Median household income
School District Information	5GRLEV	5th grade school district standardized cumulative score
	SCHGRR	School district graduation rate
Accessibility Measures	DOPEN	Distance to the nearest open space
	DDTWN	Distance to the nearest downtown
	PRJ	<i>Place rank</i> to jobs
	PRRW	<i>Place rank</i> to resident workers
	GJ	<i>Gravity-based</i> measure for jobs
	GRW	<i>Gravity-based</i> measure to resident workers
	COJ20	<i>Cumulative opportunity</i> measure to jobs in 20 minutes
	CORW20	<i>Cumulative opportunity</i> measure to resident workers in 20 minutes
	COJ30	<i>Cumulative opportunity</i> measure to jobs in 20 minutes
	CORW30	<i>Cumulative opportunity</i> measure to resident workers in 30 minutes

It is important to note that the number of potential variables that could be included in such analysis is infinite. The selection of these variables was based on the literature

review and experience of the researchers in conducting similar research. Three sets of dummy variables are included to control for the view, ownership prior to the sale, and type of required payments to associations. Table 5.2 includes descriptive statistics for all the variables. Distances to downtown and open space are reported in meters.

Table 5.2: Descriptive Statistics

Coefficient	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
SALE	18000.00	5100000.00	254620.98	155570.69
NUMBR	0.00	10.00	3.03	0.96
NUMBA	0.00	13.00	2.13	0.87
AGE	0.00	168.00	35.57	29.63
AFP	0.00	16001.00	1057.95	435.13
NUMFP	0.00	10.00	0.68	0.74
NUMGA	0.00	21.00	1.90	0.83
AREA	0.00	4356.00	0.53	29.52
NEWB	0.00	1.00	0.04	0.19
PROWN	0.00	1.00	0.94	0.25
YASSO	0.00	1.00	0.03	0.18
MASSO	0.00	1.00	0.26	0.44
OASSO	0.00	1.00	0.71	0.46
CRVIW	0.00	1.00	0.01	0.08
LAVIW	0.00	1.00	0.01	0.11
POVIW	0.00	1.00	0.04	0.20
RVIW	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.04
PWHIT	0.00	0.27	0.01	0.03
PBACH	0.00	0.93	0.35	0.18
PMAST	0.00	0.60	0.10	0.08
INCOM	0.00	184488.00	61010.19	22052.16
5GRLEV	0.00	5245.80	4736.36	282.97
SCHGRR	0.00	100.00	80.40	15.91
DOPEN	0.00	8444.35	310.93	360.20
DDTWN	162.88	67293.93	17258.12	10785.68
PRJ	0.00	195946.86	46387.20	64866.36
PRRW	0.00	70381.30	26816.40	23965.39
GJ	0.00	10501.00	5012.70	3012.82
GRW	0.00	6272.00	4085.45	1499.69
COJ20	0.00	749845.00	371940.77	237300.16
CORW20	0.00	539615.00	315191.59	144910.61
COJ30	0.00	1173678.00	770864.95	324328.49
CORW30	0.00	1021454.00	680151.71	256502.71

Statistical Models

In order to measure the effects of accessibility on sale values of single family houses, a linear regression model is estimated for sale values during the studied year as the dependant variable and various building and neighborhood characteristics as the independent variables. The models are presented in Table 5.3.

The first model did not include any accessibility measure to jobs nor resident workers. It is clear from the model that most of the variables had the expected sign and statistical significance compared to previous research that involved hedonic analysis. For example, each bedroom adds around \$8,225 to the home sale price, while keeping all other variables at their mean value. An additional bathroom contributes around \$62,144 to the home sale price, while keeping all other variables at their mean. Meanwhile each fireplace and each garage stall adds around \$28,422 and \$20,802 respectively to the home sale value. Requirements to pay an association fee did not show statistical significance in the model relative to homes with no association payment are required. Regarding the neighborhood characteristics, surprisingly median household income did show a statistically significant negative effect on home sale value, while 5th grade bench marking exams did show a positive and statistically significant effect on home sale values during the studied year.

A similar model is developed in the second column including distance to nearest downtown as simple measure of accessibility. The distance to the nearest downtown did show a statistically significant negative effect on home sale value. Comparing the first model to the second in terms of r-squared, we notice no change was present in the way the variance is explained in the studied dataset. Adding distance to downtown as a simple accessibility measure did not improve the predictive power of the model.

In the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth models two accessibility measures are added. Accessibility to jobs and resident workers are measured at the minor civil division level of analysis. Each model includes both measures calculated using a different method. For the third model, accessibility is calculated using place rank measure of accessibility. Place rank accessibility measure to jobs did show a statistically significant positive effect on home sale values, while accessibility to resident workers did show a statistically significant negative effect on home sale values. This is to be expected from theory as additional workers nearby will compete for the available jobs. The model did show a slight improvement in terms of explaining the variance in the dependant variable. It is clear that place rank accessibility measure has a statistically significant effect on home sale values.

In the fourth model accessibility was calculated using a gravity-based measure of accessibility. A similar relation is observed in terms of the effects of both accessibility measures. Meanwhile for the fifth and sixth models accessibility measures did show a similar relation, even though differences exist in the way accessibility is measured in these two models. Accessibility is measured in these two models using a cumulative opportunity measure at 20 and 30 minutes respectively. Cumulative opportunity measured by counting the number of opportunities at 20 minutes from each minor civil division in the region had the highest r-squared and accordingly this is the best model explaining the variance in sale price (though the difference between the different accessibility models is very small). The home sale value increases by \$0.25 for each job

within 20 minutes of travel time from the minor civil division that this home is present in, while keeping all the other measures that affect home sales price at their mean value.

Table 5.3: Hedonic analysis with accessibility to jobs and resident workers

	No Accessibility Measure		Distance to Downtown		Place Rank		Gravity Based		Cumulative 20		Cumulative 30	
	B	t	B	t	B	t	B	t	B	t	B	t
(Constant)	-55698.7	-3.08*	-60861.1	-3.35*	-98821	-5.12*	-105929	-5.76*	-54971.7	-3.02*	-12518	-0.67
NUMBR	8225.11	11.27*	8256.77	11.32*	8753.47	12.05*	9249.88	12.75*	9421.94	12.99*	8418.78	11.57*
NUMBA	62144.96	75.24*	62105.39	75.2*	61988.01	75.4*	61746.78	75.26*	61591.4	75.08*	61364.11	74.32*
AGE	553.7	22.06*	538.54	21.22*	492.76	19.52*	445.36	17.46*	438.04	17.16*	513.89	20.23*
AFP	87.42	65.48*	87.52	65.56*	86.43	65*	86.32	65.1*	86.1	64.93*	86.98	65.3*
NUMFP	28422.15	35.63*	28298.53	35.46*	27416.45	34.48*	27470.49	34.54*	27448.72	34.52*	27657.79	34.61*
NUMGA	20802.29	27.21*	21151.76	27.49*	21472.54	28.2*	21520.17	28.16*	21784.77	28.51*	21828.75	28.37*
AREA	45.42	2.79**	45.96	2.82*	43.9	2.71**	43.2	2.67**	43.02	2.66**	42.74	2.63**
NEWB	33960.9	2.44**	33205.54	2.38**	34010.49	2.45**	35669.38	2.58**	32055.49	2.32**	31296.15	2.25**
PROWN	-21238.4	-1.55	-21511.1	-1.57	-21478	-1.58	-19178.8	-1.41	-22416.4	-1.65	-24108	-1.76
YASSO	-3990.61	-0.29	-4326.67	-0.32	-4772.9	-0.35	-3901.36	-0.29	-8000.17	-0.59	-5883.1	-0.43
MASSO	-7431.43	-1.93	-7489.99	-1.95	-7195.78	-1.88	-7615.88	-1.99	-8038.77	-2.11**	-6675.99	-1.74
OASSO	-61079.1	-19.78*	-61839.3	-19.99*	-60069.1	-19.55*	-57325.7	-18.66*	-57179.7	-18.62*	-61731.9	-20.02*
CRVIW	33769.56	5.56*	34459.68	5.67*	30553.2	5.05*	29189.43	4.84*	29406.17	4.87*	33709.06	5.56*
LAVIW	49312.08	11.34*	50233.29	11.53*	48126.12	11.11*	48124.7	11.13*	46157.37	10.67*	47515.1	10.93*
POVIW	8786.29	3.59*	8903.6	3.64*	8725.08	3.59*	8364.13	3.45*	8345.67	3.44*	9659	3.96*
RVIW	64226.99	5.09*	64991.15	5.16*	65939.71	5.26*	65110.77	5.2*	65984.11	5.27*	68300.32	5.43*
PWHIT	-88911.6	-4.44*	-85132.8	-4.25*	-2999.58	-0.15	15445.41	0.76	54061.43	2.62**	-3056.82	-0.15
PBACH	40367.28	5.97*	39463.13	5.84*	15294.04	2.23**	14190.45	2.07**	17896.96	2.61**	10209.43	1.45
PMAST	343579.5	25.76*	336721.5	25.05*	338235.6	25.48*	315746.1	23.76*	323999.2	24.41**	376236.1	27.83*
INCOM	-0.16	-4.57*	-0.14	-3.73*	-0.04	-1.23	0.02	0.48	0.01	0.29	-0.08	-2.01**
5GRLEV	9.33	3.00*	10.84	3.46*	2.62	0.84	10.87	3.52*	10.52	3.41*	5.98	1.92
SCHGRR	-524.59	-9.03*	-498.79	-8.53*	350.05	3.67*	63.67	0.99	-371.08	-6.17*	-657.14	-10.76*
DOPEN	14.81	10.73*	16.00	11.33*	13.97	10.15*	11.71	8.38*	10.96	7.85*	15.35	10.99*
DDTWN			-0.24	-3.99*								
PRJ					0.42	21.23*						
PRRW					-0.45	-9.15*						
GJ							12.71	25.67*				
GRW							-16.93	-21.96*				
COJ20									0.25	26.24*		
CORW20									-0.35	-24.4*		
COJ30											0.19	15.21*
CORW30											-0.23	-14.4*
R2	0.576		0.576		0.580		0.582		0.583		0.578	

* Indicates Statistical significance at 99% level of confidence

** Indicates Statistical significance at 95% level of confidence

For each resident worker in the region competing for these opportunities, the home sale value is expected to decrease by \$0.35, while keeping all the other measures that affects home sale price at their mean value.

It is important to note that model specification did not vary much due to change in the way accessibility was measured. This can be used as an indication for the robustness of the dataset being used. It also increases our confidence level in using any of the proposed models

Discussion

It can be concluded from this study that measures of accessibility have a statistically significant effect on home sale prices. The effects here may be understated, as there is a correlation between other attributes of a house and its accessibility. A well-located house is likely to be improved in other aspects (e.g., square footage or bathrooms), while little investment will be made in poorly placed houses.

The results highlight the importance of accessibility and how people value it. Cumulative opportunity measures of accessibility calculated using 20 minutes of travel time did show to have the highest effect on home sale prices in terms of statistical significance and model fitting. Place rank did show a statistically significant effect on home sale prices similar to the other measures. It is important to note that the difference between all the models in terms of explaining the variation in the home sale values (third, fourth, fifth and six) is minor and not large enough to say that a measure is better than the other in terms of explaining home sale prices.

Appendix E includes a similar comparison. Table E.1 shows four hedonic analysis models with accessibility to jobs measured using four different methods (*place rank*, *gravity-based*, *cumulative opportunity* to jobs in 20 minutes of travel time and *cumulative opportunity* to jobs in 20 minutes of travel time). The first model, with a *place rank* measure of accessibility, has a higher r-squared and *place rank* did show the highest level of statistical significance compared to all the other measures of accessibility. The differences between the models are still small and, all show that accessibility has a statistically significant effect on home sale prices.

Chapter 6: ACCESSIBILITY OVER TIME

Introduction

The power of any accessibility measure is revealed when it is included in a longitudinal analysis. Comparison of accessibility measures over time can help public agencies to better understand how well the land use and transportation system is performing. For example, if congestion levels increase in a city while levels of accessibility have increased, then this can be used as an indicator for some kind of success in land use planning or market performance. This chapter demonstrates how changes in accessibility can be compared using a statistical analysis method.

Methodology and data sources

When comparing accessibility measures over time, it is important to unify the data sources and the measure of accessibility being used. For example, if comparing accessibility to jobs in 1990 to accessibility to jobs in 2000, obtaining the number of jobs from the same data source is essential, while if using *cumulative opportunity* measure fixing the time range and methods for calculating travel time is a key. Comparing *cumulative opportunity* in 2000 to a *gravity-based* or *place rank* accessibility measure in 1990 is not possible since the methods are different and accessibility is a relative measure.

Vollum (1996) conducted an analysis to measure accessibility using *cumulative opportunity* in some TAZs in the Twin Cities region for the year 1990. In his study he measures accessibility to jobs and resident workers. For travel time information, he used data obtained from the Metropolitan Council's transportation planning model during the morning peak in the studied year, while his source for population and number of resident workers was the US Census Bureau. Accessibility to jobs was calculated from 10 different TAZs in the region, while accessibility to workers was measured from 11 TAZs. Similarly we obtained travel time for the year 2000 from the Metropolitan Council's transportation planning model and we obtained the same datasets from the US Census Bureau to conduct a comparative analysis of accessibility over time. Figure 6.1 shows the location of the TAZs that were selected by Vollum (1996) in his study. The *cumulative opportunity* measure was calculated at the 30, 45 and 60 minutes of travel time from each TAZ of origin for the 1990 time period. Similarly the same *cumulative opportunity* measures are calculated for the year 2000.

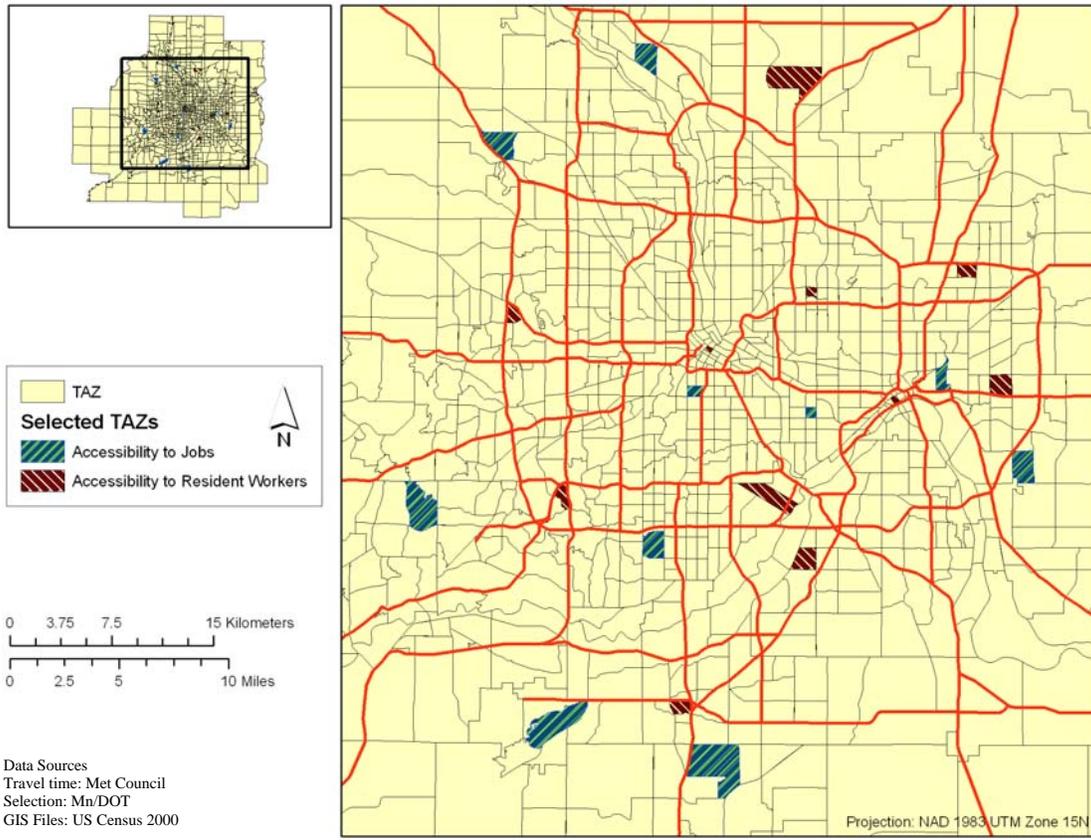


Figure 6.1: Selected TAZ for the comparative study

Detailed Comparative Study

As is clear from Figure 6.1 the selected TAZs for the study are dispersed and the sample is small (21 observations). Table 6.1 includes a summary of the *cumulative opportunity* measures of accessibility to jobs obtained from the Vollum (1996) presentation for the 1990 accessibility measured at these TAZs. Also accessibility is reported for the year 2000 measured using *cumulative opportunity* measures.

Table 6.1: Comparative analysis of cumulative opportunity to jobs

ID	TAZ location	<i>Cumulative Opportunity 1990</i>			<i>Cumulative Opportunity 2000</i>		
		30 MIN	45 MIN	60 MIN	30MIN	45 MIN	60 MIN
63	NE Coon Rapids	590707	1184024	1268827	644335	1342616	1501995
139	NE Chanhassen	496776	1148186	1272445	565316	1306132	1492699
185	N Central Lakeville	502256	1184105	1278982	764536	1424366	1521253
373	Inner Minneapolis	1193011	1276471	1284215	1395120	1511870	1524205
501	N Central Bloomington	1109762	1272442	1283279	1257434	1509065	1523788
787	Central Maple Grove	658448	1195604	1274110	712232	1367898	1510357
840	Inner St. Paul	880959	1244795	1277576	957349	1473606	1514070
904	Macal St Paul	1130503	1272028	1282828	1287642	1502583	1522568
1053	NE Prior Lake	350887	1121307	1274634	452335	1319684	1512416
1103	E Central Woodbury	519676	1195946	1277215	518034	1372227	1510527

Table 6.2 includes a similar comparison for *cumulative opportunity* measure of accessibility to residents.

Table 6.2: Comparative analysis of cumulative opportunity to residents

ID	TAZ location	<i>Cumulative Opportunity 1990</i>			<i>Cumulative Opportunity 2000</i>		
		30 MIN	45 MIN	60 MIN	30 MIN	45 MIN	60 MIN
85	Central Blaine	1309933	2009244	2241642	1284782	2184400	2583347
193	Burnsville Center	1213623	2055632	2264258	1311269	2394264	2612135
253	N. Central Eagan	1486646	2109030	2267759	1667212	2435844	2624283
308	International Airport	1557260	2148446	2279622	1845676	2508435	2634707
408	Minneapolis CBD	1870534	2214011	2284438	2207639	2575465	2640733
544	N E Eden Prairie	1331867	2115518	2271675	1635577	2497141	2629229
663	S. Cent Plymouth	1366657	2107737	2281347	1614105	2460591	2633423
816	St. Paul CBD	1674497	2186098	2274899	1925616	2544038	2630996
921	3M Campus	1263286	2102113	2260955	1256016	2398189	2602698
931	Maplewood Mall	1452227	2144750	2257790	1522939	2418850	2600732
965	N. of Rosedale	1798235	2203596	2271005	2019628	2556743	2626900

Observing Tables 6.1 and 6.2, it is clear that the number of jobs and residents that can be reached within 30, 45, and 60 minutes of travel time have increased in almost all of the studied TAZs. In order to confirm this observation statistically, a difference in means t-test is conducted. The results of the difference in means test are presented in Table 6.3 with the critical value for the t-statistics at the 95% level of confidence.

Table 6.3: Difference in means test

	<i>Cumulative Opportunity to jobs</i>			<i>Cumulative Opportunity to residents</i>		
	30 Min	45 Min	60 Min	30 Min	45 Min	60 Min
Mid Point	139,739	292,954	351,715	225,703	468,155	524,716
t Stat	4.456	18.690	118.612	4.701	18.371	180.762

All variables in Table 6.3 did show a statistically significant increase in the accessibility measures at the 95% confidence level. The number of jobs within 30 minutes of travel time measured from each of the studied TAZs experienced an average increase of 139,739 jobs between 990 and 2000, while the number of jobs within 45 minutes of travel time increased on average by 292,954 jobs. Similarly the number of jobs within 60 minutes did increase on average by 351,715 jobs. Meanwhile the number of residents increased at a higher rate than the number of jobs. The number of residents within 30 minutes of the studied TAZs showed an average increase of 225,703 residents between the years of 1990 and 2000, while the number of residents within 45 minutes of the studied TAZs increased by an average of 468,155 residents and the average number of residents residing within 60 minutes of travel time from the studied TAZs increased by 524,716 residents.

The increase in the level of accessibility at the studied TAZs indicates a success in the land use and transportation systems that these TAZs experienced. Generalization from this analysis is limited due to the size of the sample, yet it can be used as an indication and help in providing a methodology for comparing accessibility over time. Comparing

these findings with levels of delays in the region between the years of 1990 and 2000 can help in better understanding the value of the accessibility measure. In 1990 the average annual delay per person during the peak period was 19 hours, while in 2000 the average annual delay per person during the peak period was 43 hours (Schrank & Lomax, 2005). This indicates an increase in the level of congestion that each traveler is exposed to during the morning peak in the Twin Cities region rose by more than the 100% during the period between 1990 and 2000.

Using this morning congestion measure solely would lead us to conclude that there was a failure in how the transportation system is performing in the region. Yet the urban transportation system is too complex for one measure to evaluate its success or failure. In addition, the transportation system cannot be separated from the land use and economic forces in the region, which drive the development, yet governments and planning authorities can have an effect on accessibility if they are viable economically. Accordingly accessibility measures can be used as a better indicator for the performance of the land use and transportation system in a region, since it incorporates both travel times and changes in density, type, and location of activities (changes in opportunities).

General Comparative Study

In this section a general comparison is conducted between levels of accessibility, using *cumulative opportunity* measures, in two time periods (1990 and 2000) using two modes of transportation (Auto and Transit). This comparison is conducted measuring accessibility to the number of jobs in each TAZ within 15 minutes of travel time. Travel time for auto and transit are obtained from the Metropolitan Council transportation planning model. For auto, travel time is determined based on morning commute using shortest network path. Transit travel time accounts for both in-vehicle and out-of-vehicle travel time, which includes time associated walking from TAZ centroids to the nearest bus stop, waiting time at the stop derived from the schedules, in-vehicle travel time obtained from schedules, and egress time from the nearest bus stop to the centroid of the destination TAZ. The transit travel time calculations account for a maximum of two transfers and waiting time associated to them. It also accounts for the possibility of driving to park and ride locations between TAZs if service was not available near the centroids.

Figure 6.2 shows the level of *cumulative opportunity* measure of accessibility to the number of jobs that can be reached within 15 minutes of travel time from each TAZ during the morning peak in year 1990 using auto, while Figure 6.3 shows a similar measure for the year 2000. Similarly Figure 6.4 shows the number of jobs that can be reached within 15 minutes of travel time from each TAZ during the morning peak in the year 1990 using transit and Figure 6.5 shows that information for the year 2000.

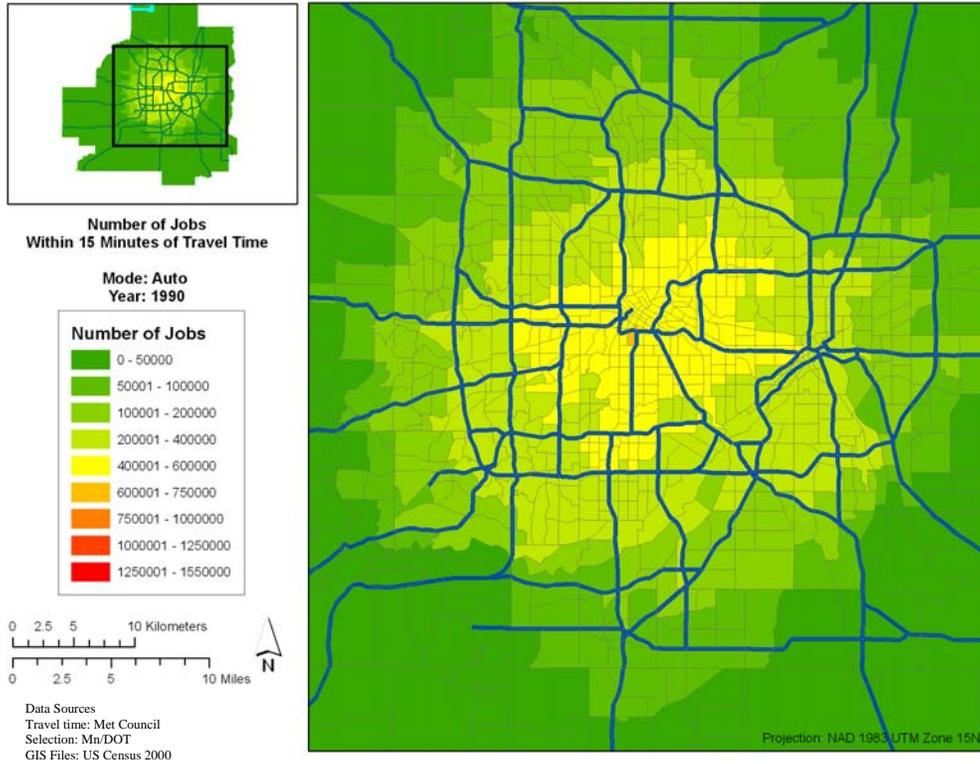


Figure 6.2: Number of jobs within 15 minutes of travel time in the year 1990 (Auto)

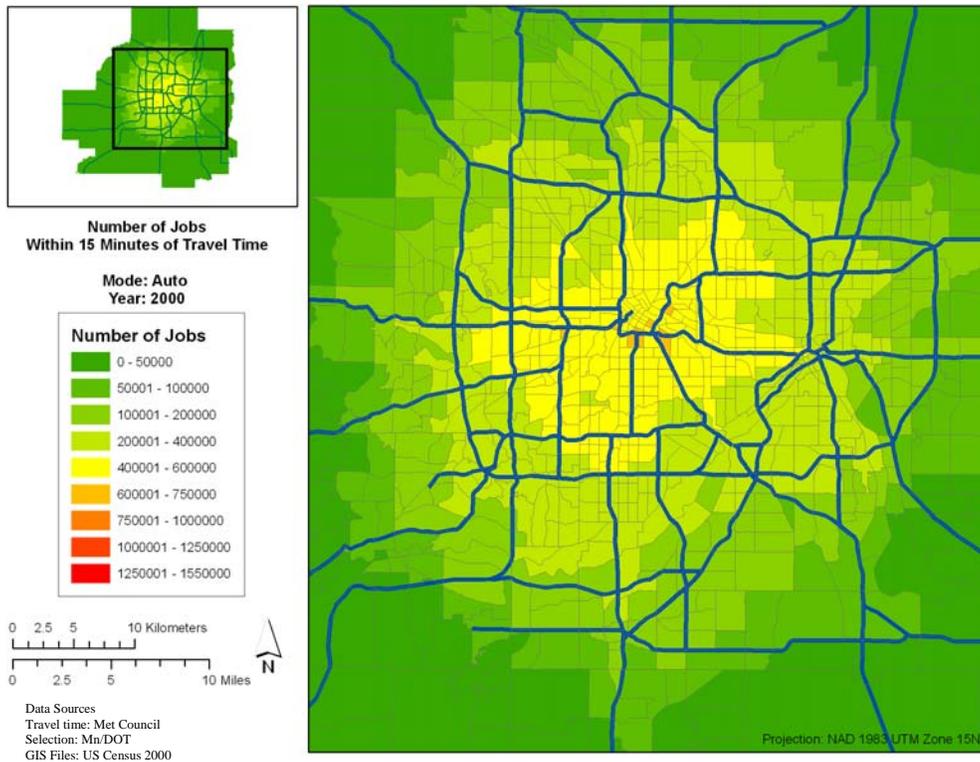


Figure 6.3: Number of jobs within 15 minutes of travel time in the year 2000 (Auto)

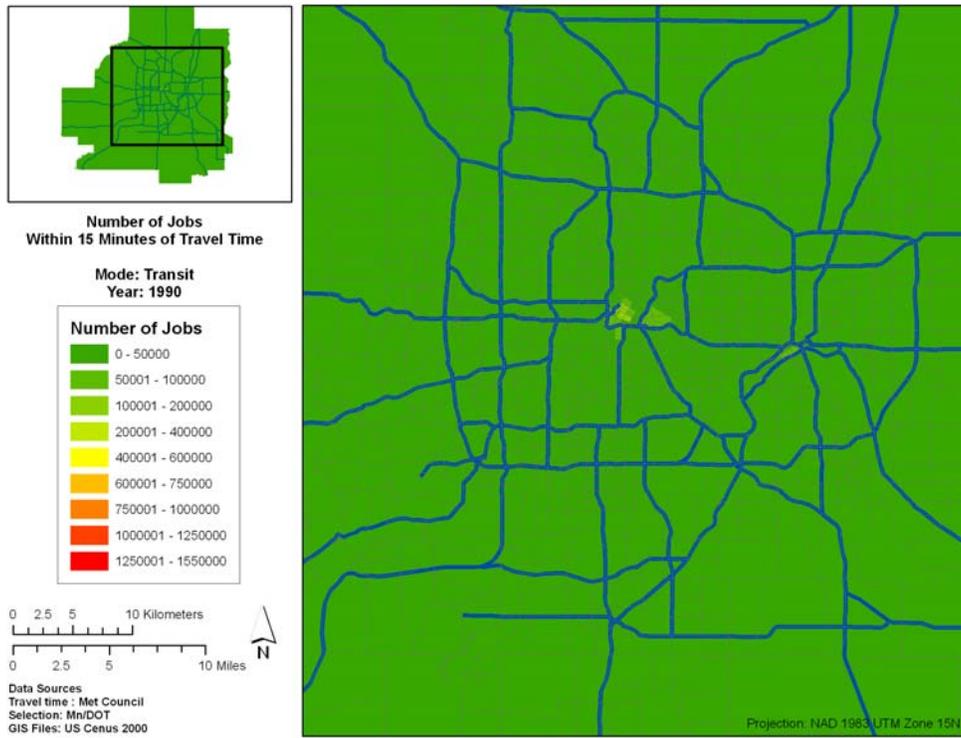


Figure 6.4: Number of jobs within 15 minutes of travel time in the year 1990 (Transit)

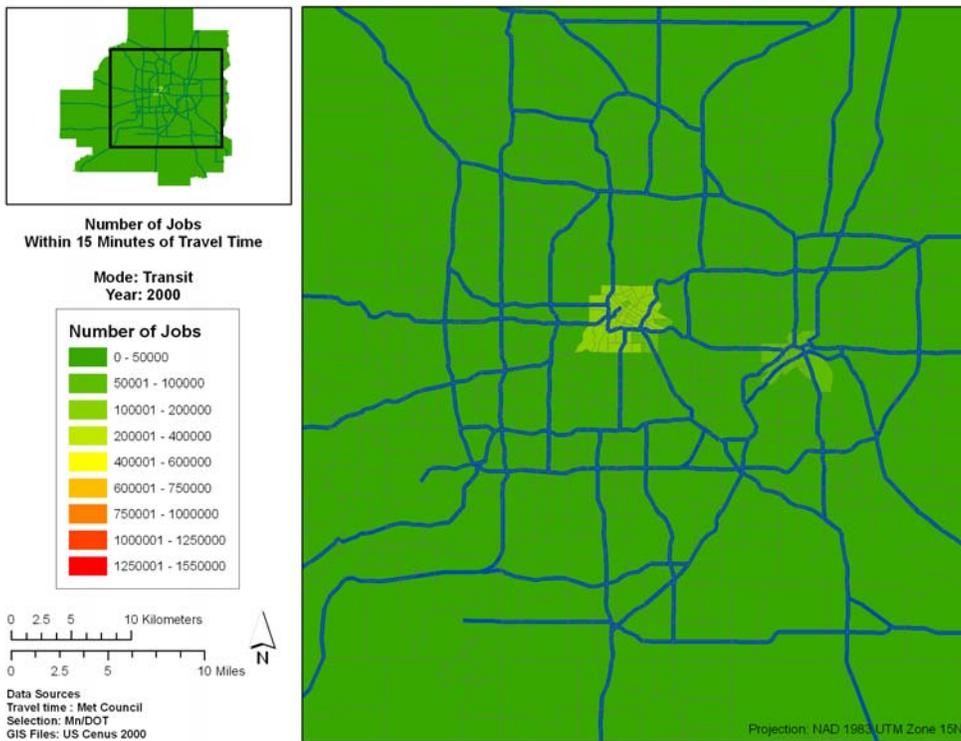


Figure 6.5: Number of jobs within 15 minutes of travel time in the year 2000 (Transit)

Appendix F includes a set of figures similar to Figures 6.2 through 6.5 measuring accessibility to jobs using *cumulative opportunity* measures at the 30, 45 and 60 minutes level of analysis using both transit and auto in the years 1990 and 2000. Appendix G includes a similar set of figures measuring accessibility to residents using *cumulative opportunity* measures at the 15, 30, 45 and 60 minutes level of analysis using both transit and auto in the years 1990 and 2000.

Although nine categories are defined in the legend, observing changes in the level of accessibility between modes and over time in Figures 6.2 through 6.5 and in the figures included in Appendices F and G can be hard. Figure 6.6 shows the difference between the number of jobs that can be reached within 15 minutes of travel time using auto in the years 2000 and 1990. This figure helps in directly interpreting the change in the level of accessibility over time in the Twin Cities region.

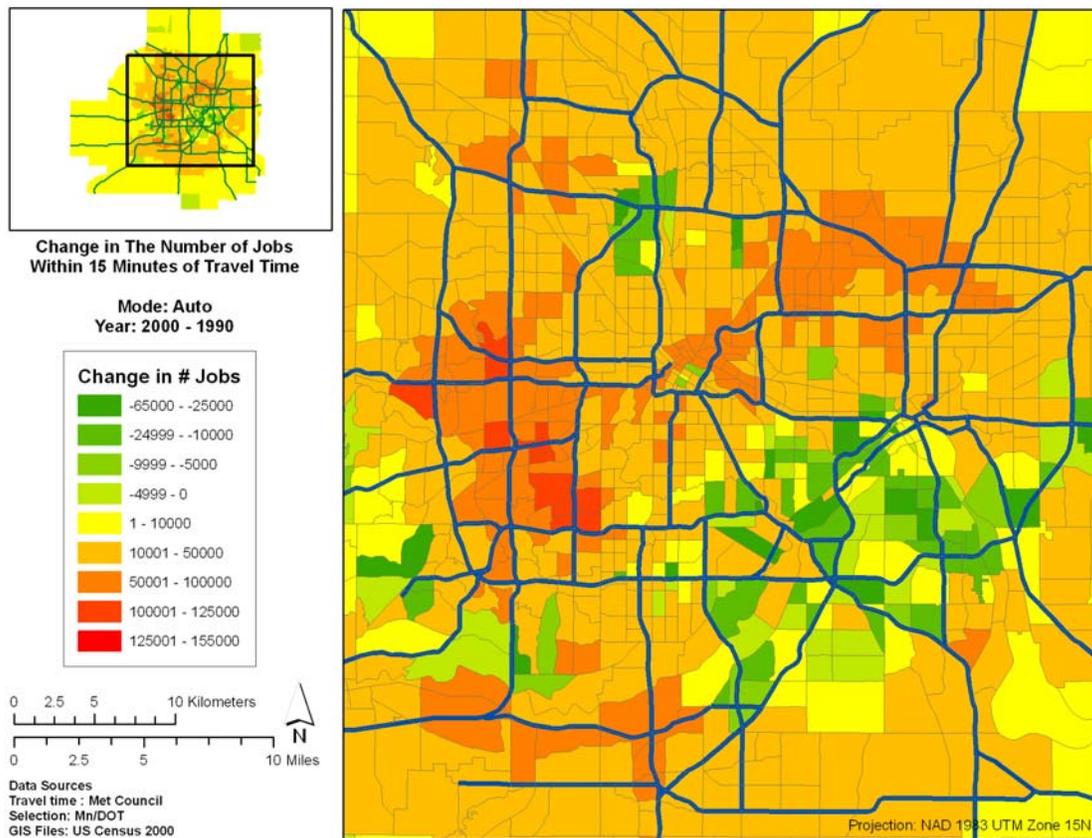


Figure 6.6: Change in the number of jobs within 15 minutes travel time (2000 – 1990) (Auto)

Most of the region saw an increase in accessibility, while a few areas, particular North Minneapolis and South Saint Paul, as well as areas along I-494 in the first and second ring suburbs, saw a decline. This decline may be associated with increases in congestion faster than increases in opportunities. The “rational locator hypothesis” (Levinson and Kumar 1994) that both individual households and firms, respond to changes in

transportation supply by locating themselves to reduce commuting times may be an important explanatory factor in the increase in accessibility. As congestion worsens, firms continue to suburbanize to be near their labor force, and retailers suburbanize to be near their customers, thereby increasing accessibility in suburban areas. Individual homeowners reorient themselves as well, choosing commutes that maximize their personal benefit, including travel time and home attributes.

Similarly Figure 6.7 shows the difference between the number of jobs that can be reached within 15 minutes of travel time during the morning peak using transit as the mode of transportation in the year 2000 and 1990.

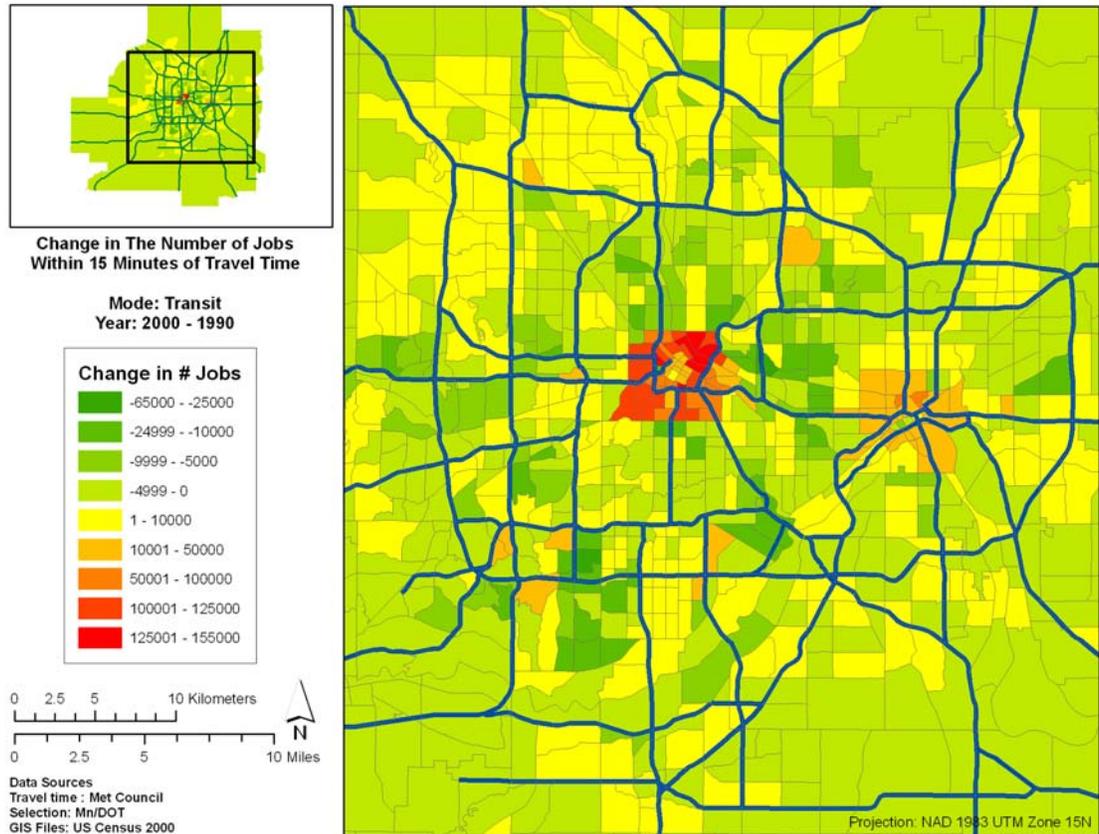


Figure 6.7: Change in the number of jobs within 15 minutes travel time (2000 – 1990) (Transit)

It is clear from Figure 6.7 that changes in the number of jobs that can be reached within 15 minutes of travel time during the morning peak using transit is minor between the years 1990 and 2000, when compared to the change that was observed in Figure 6.6 for auto. This is in part due to the lower accessibility available by transit than by auto. A decline was present in the level of accessibility in most areas however, the only increases were found in the downtown areas and a few random zones.

This may be due to the increase in the number of bus routes and frequency of service in this part of the region. Meanwhile downtown Saint Paul did observe an increase in the level of accessibility to jobs at a lower rate compared to downtown Minneapolis.

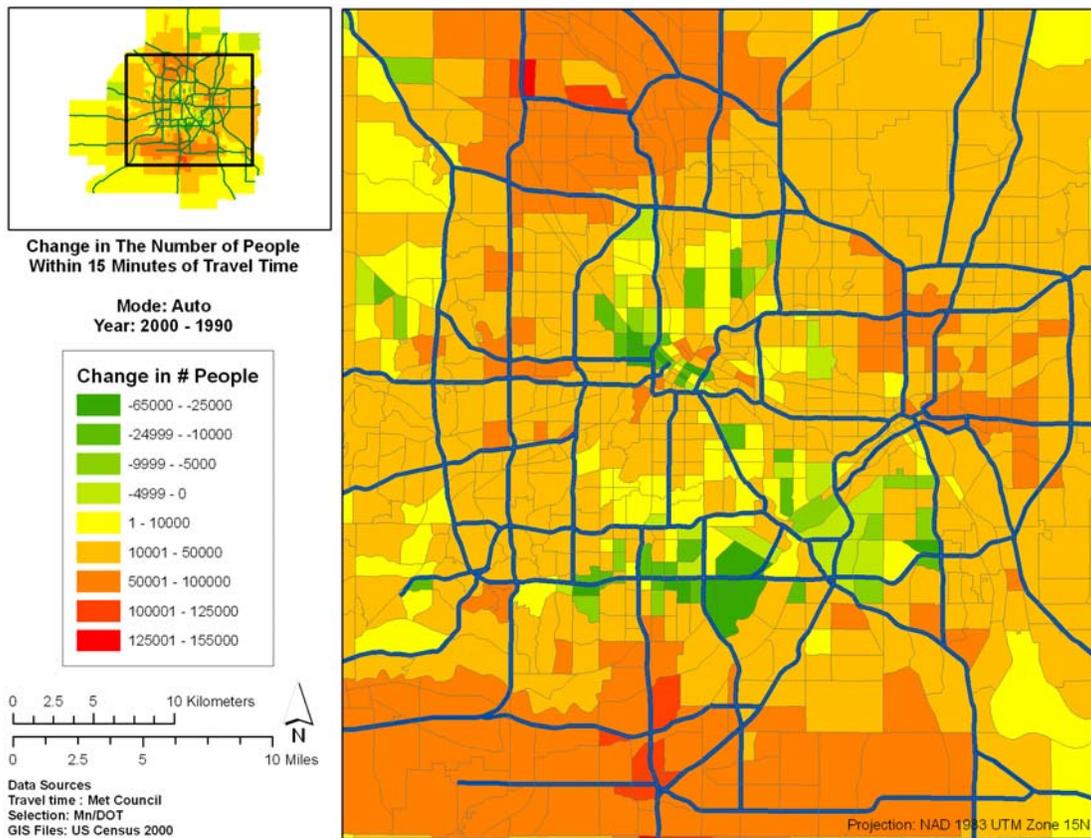


Figure 6.8: Change in the number of people within 15 minutes travel time (2000 – 1990) (Auto)

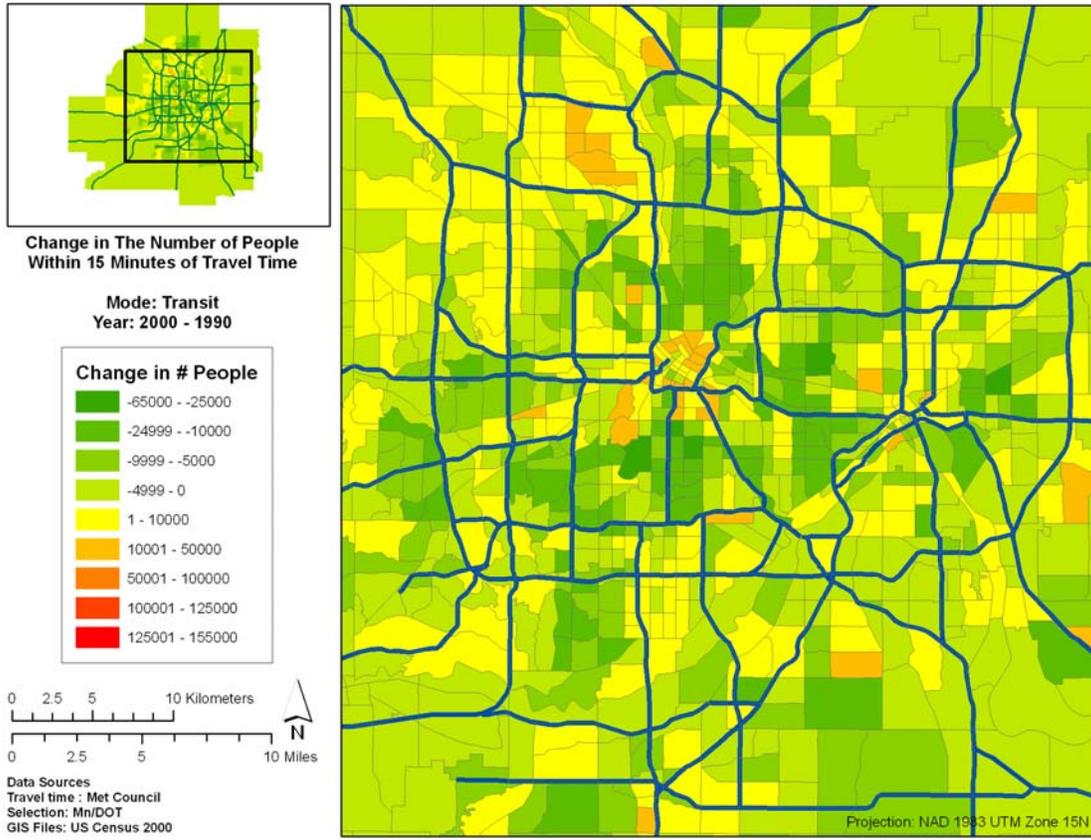


Figure 6.9: Change in the number of people within 15 minutes travel time (2000 – 1990) (Transit)

Figures 6.8 and 6.9 show similar results for number of people within 15 minutes travel time by auto and transit respectively.

Changes in Accessibility to Special Destinations

Observing the network structure of the Twin Cities, it is clear that this region is a well connected one. During uncongested time periods, a person can drive from the far East side of the region to the far West in less than 25 minutes. (The width of the region on is around 40 km (24 miles) traveled at an average speed of 96 km/hr (60 miles/hour.) The Twin Cities is a region in which most of the desired activities can be reached within 20 minutes of travel. Accordingly we will use this number to measure accessibility to people from the some of the major attractions in the region. In each city there are major attractions to people residing in it, in these art of the analysis we have chosen seven different attractions. Figures 6.10 and 6.11, and Table 6.4, show the change in the number of people that can be reached within 20 minutes of travel during the morning peak between the years 1990 and 2000 using auto and transit, respectively.

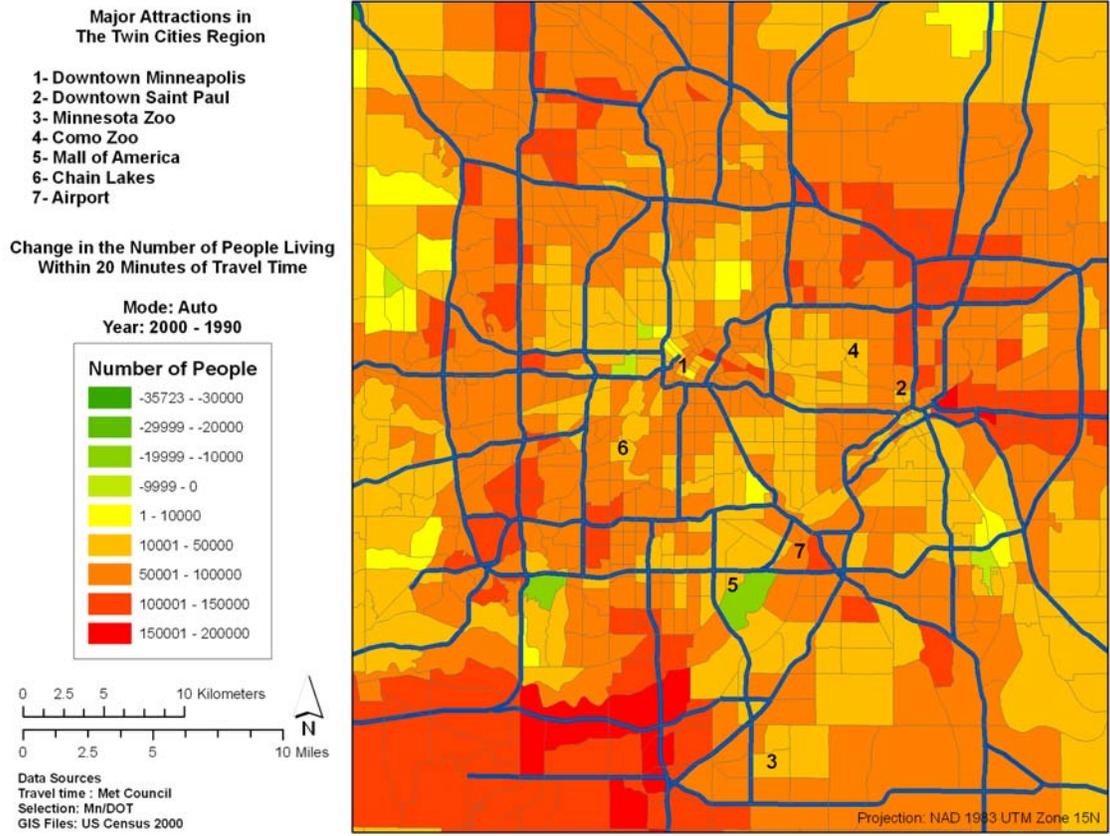


Figure 6.10: Change in the number of people living within 20 minutes of travel time between the years 2000 and 1990 (Auto)

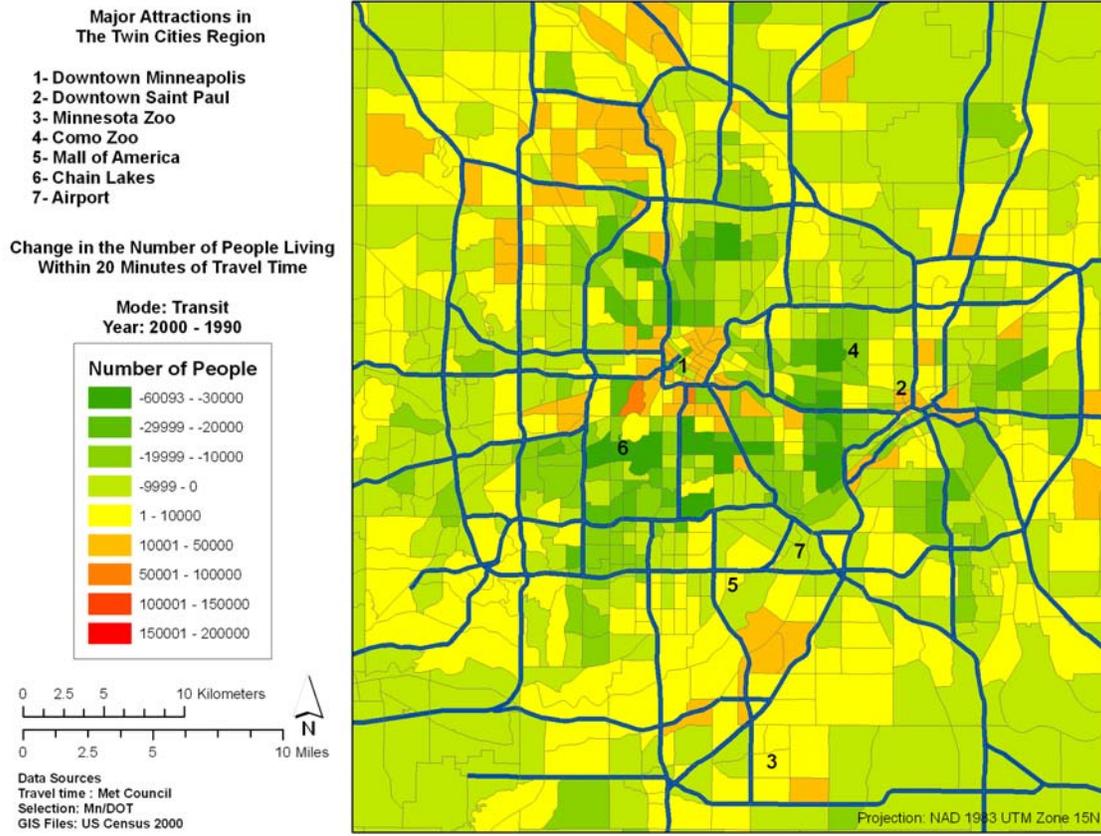


Figure 6.11: Change in the number of people living within 20 minutes of travel time between the years 2000 and 1990 (Transit)

Table 6.4: Change in the number of people within 20 minutes of special destinations between the years 2000 and 1990

	Auto			Transit		
	1990	2000	% of Change	1990	2000	% of Change
1- Downtown Minneapolis	1181834	1221413	3.24%	43989	48472	9.25%
2- Downtown Saint Paul	937288	981343	4.49%	10808	41669	74.06%
3- Minnesota Zoo	404621	443993	8.87%	14214	19326	26.45%
4- Como Zoo	844245	872369	3.22%	28456	12111	-134.96%
5- Mall of America	938084	978660	4.15%	2114	4622	54.26%
6- Chain Lakes	793595	811443	2.20%	55718	17456	-219.19%
7- Airport	833771	898892	7.24%	4095	894	-358.05%

Chapter 7: CONCLUSIONS

Introduction

This report introduced the importance of accessibility as a measure of land use and transportation performance. Also it introduced the importance of such measures to both individuals and public agencies. The report synthesized the literature on accessibility performance measures, and described the available data for the Twin Cities region, to develop a set of accessibility measures that can be used to trace historical trends in a way that is meaningful across time. These measures were illustrated using both hypothetical and real data sets to demonstrate how each measure behaves and differs from the others.

Measures of Accessibility

The goal of this research was to develop a set of possible performance measurements that can be used to analyze variable sets of historic land use and travel time data, including data from the freeway networks and surface streets, transit systems, and non-motorized travel to understand accessibility. These measures can be used in a variety of operational planning and public involvement activities of transportation agencies to ascertain how investments, transportation strategies, and land use policies affect the performance of the transportation-land use system.

Several accessibility measures were reviewed and demonstrated in this report. *Cumulative opportunity* and *gravity-based* measures tend to be similar when travel time is less than or equal to 30 minutes. *The gravity-based* measure is widely used in the literature yet *cumulative opportunity* tends to be easier to understand. It was clear that similarities exist in all of the studied measures of accessibility. Similarities were observed using both visual and statistical methods. Several measures of accessibility were conducted for Twin Cities region using estimated travel time obtained from Metropolitan Council's transportation planning model. The availability of a comprehensive dataset including work and resident information at the census block level analysis allowed the testing of a new accessibility measure: "*place rank*."

Place Rank

Place rank is a new accessibility measure that accounts for the number of opportunities that an individual foregoes in a zone to reach an opportunity in another zone. Since origins and destination of actual choices are known (jobs and residence), the impedance function that is used in traditional gravity-based accessibility measures is embedded in the origin and destination matrix. *Place rank* shares some similarities with other commonly used measures of accessibility. *Place rank* appears to be a promising measure of accessibility, but more work is needed to determine the appropriate unit of analysis that can be used to generate such measure. The major disadvantage of this measure is in terms of the complexity of calculations and the diminishing effect that zones with low levels of attractiveness are observing. The major advantage is that travel time is not needed and accordingly no estimations are incorporated in the analysis. The data used in *place rank* can be obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Applications

Several accessibility measures were tested and selected based on the literature review conducted during the first task and feedback from the technical advisory panel. Accessibility to jobs was used as the main example to compare the various measures, while accessibility to resident workers, and retail and non-retail jobs were also demonstrated using *gravity-based*, *cumulative opportunity*, and *place rank* measures. Each accessibility measure was tested and illustrated to demonstrate the workability and typical results of the proposed methods. Real land use data (number of jobs and number of resident workers) was coupled with modeled travel time data for a single point in time (AM peak for the Year 2000). The use of observed travel time data was not yet possible since such data is not readily available in a usable form. Use of actual data is anticipated to be performed as part of a subsequent project.

Measurement Errors

It is important to note that the travel time used in this report was obtained from a transportation planning model, and not from directly measured transportation data. The use of such model can impose a measurement error to the analysis. For instance, relatively small inconsistencies in the model application or errors in the calibration between 1990 and 2000 may change a small decrease in accessibility to a small increase. Yet it remains the best available estimate for travel time in the Twin Cities region. Other projects being conducted as part of the Access to Destinations aim to estimate travel time using various modes of transportation from either archived traffic data along freeways and arterials and/or transit schedules, and will help in better estimating the travel time and decrease the potential error associated with using estimates from transportation planning models.

Effects of Accessibility

It was clear from chapter five that accessibility measures do have an effect on home sale values. *Place rank* measure of accessibility did show a similar effect as all the other measures of accessibility on home sale values. Accessibility to jobs did show a statistically significant and positive effect on home sale value, while resident workers do show a statistically significant negative effect on home sale value too.

The value of accessibility to individuals is reflected in the home sale price, which highlights how it affects willingness to pay relative to location.

Time Series

The importance of accessibility as a measure of land use and transportation planning performance in a region was explored by comparing it over time. The longitudinal analysis being conducted did show improvements along the studied TAZs in terms of the level of accessibility. The findings were compared tentatively to the levels of congestion in the region between the same time periods. This comparison did show the difference between the two measures and strengthened the importance of accessibility measures as a tool for monitoring and evaluating land use and transportation planning performance in a region.

Future Research

After the completion of various ongoing and proposed projects at the University of Minnesota, travel time based on archived data and improved estimates will be available for various points in time. Accordingly, generation of various and more accurate accessibility maps similar to what was demonstrated in this report will be possible. *Place Rank* did show to be a promising measure of accessibility, yet more research is needed to measure the accuracy and applicability of such measure in other regions and over different geographical aggregations, since it requires origins and destinations information, which is available presently only for journey to work trips.

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**APPENDIX A: CUMULATIVE OPPORTUNITY MEASURE AT TAZ LEVEL
MEASURING ACCESS TO JOBS**

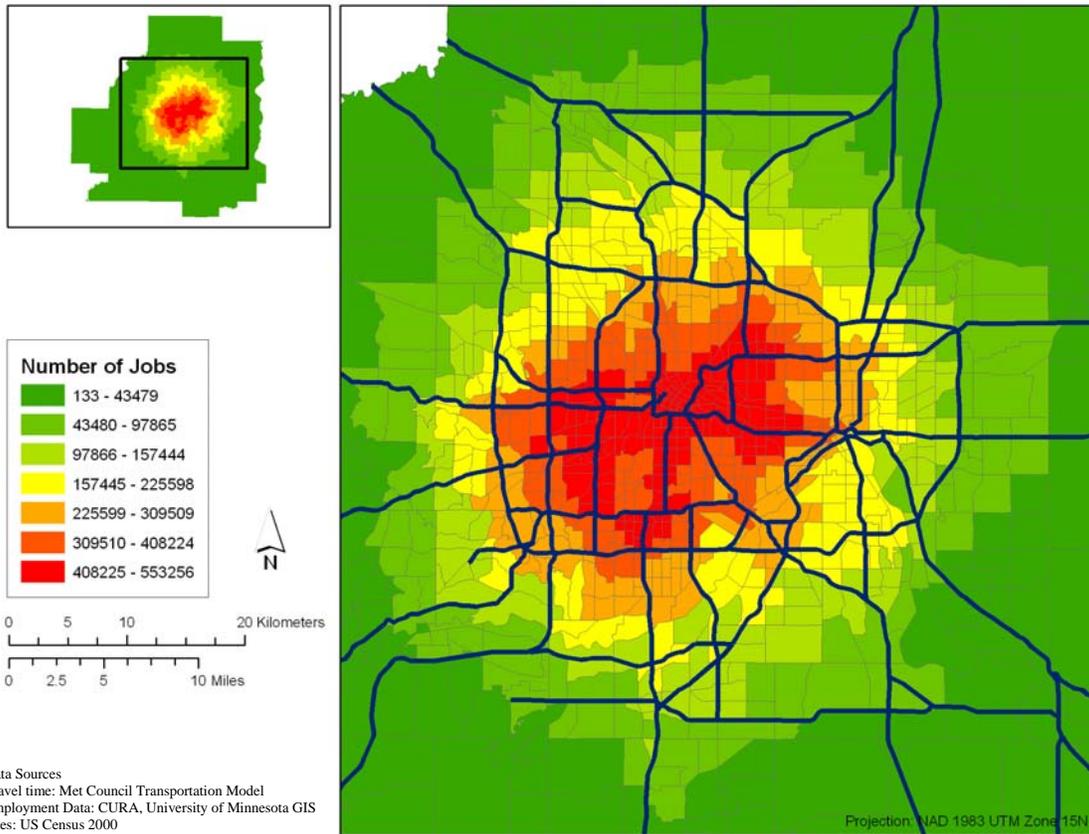


Figure A.1: Number of jobs within 15 minutes of travel time during the morning peak

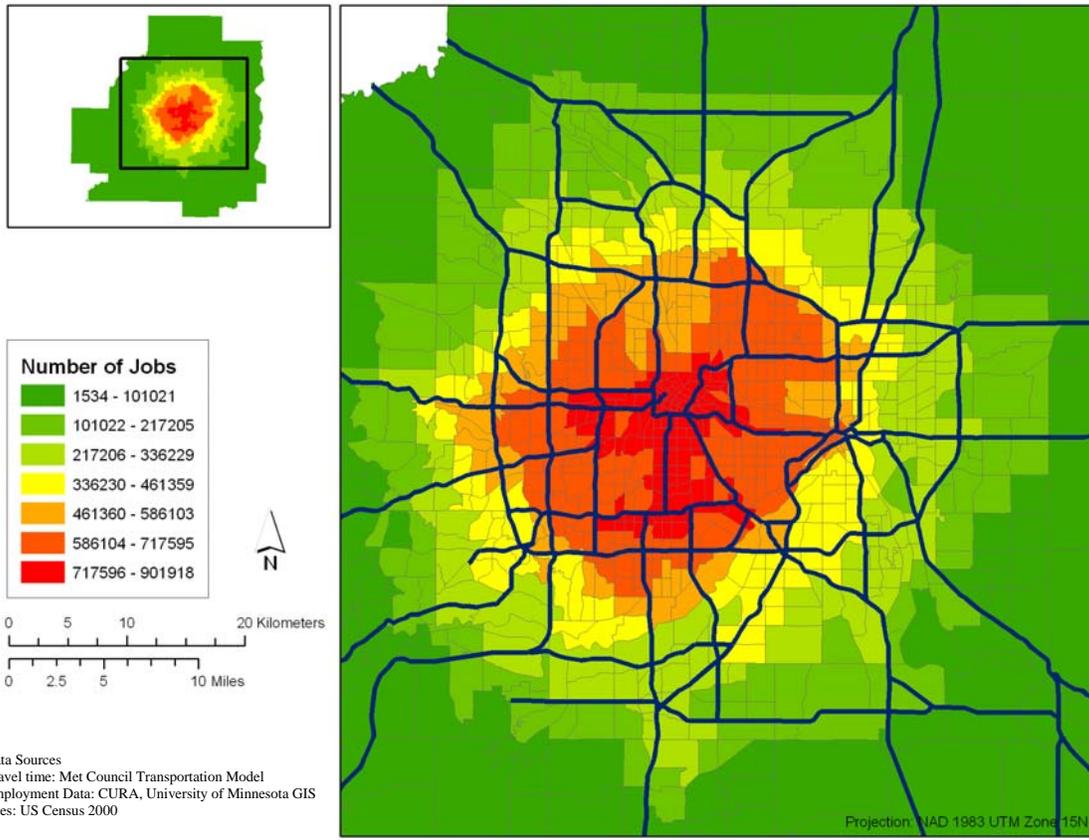


Figure A.2: Number of jobs within 20 minutes of travel time during the morning peak

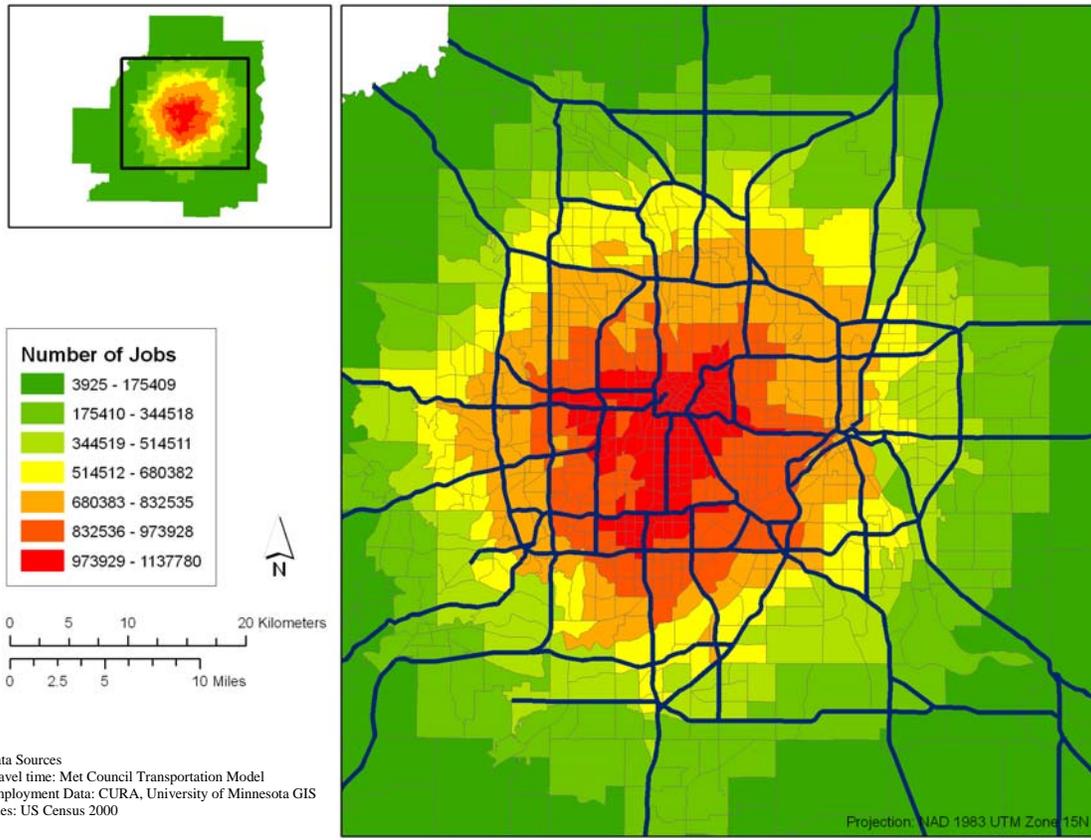


Figure A.3: Number of jobs within 25 minutes of travel time during the morning peak

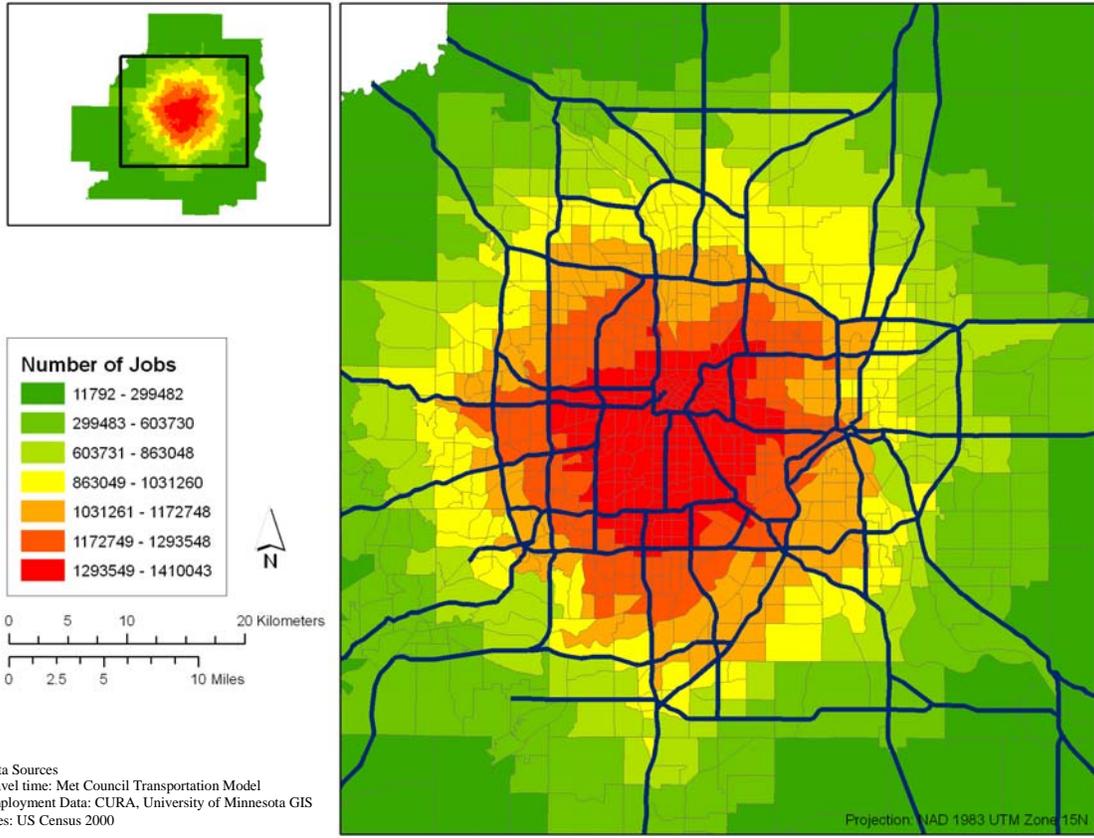


Figure A.4: Number of jobs within 30 minutes of travel time during the morning peak

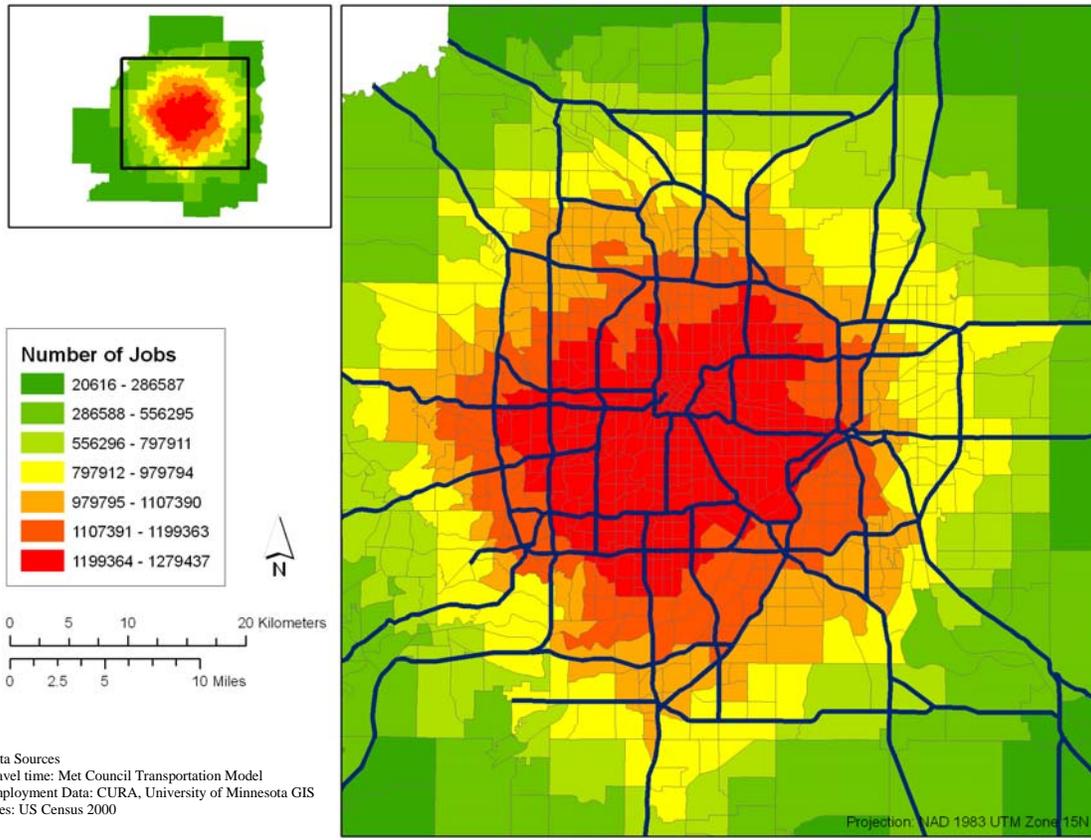


Figure A.5: Number of jobs within 35 minutes of travel time during the morning peak

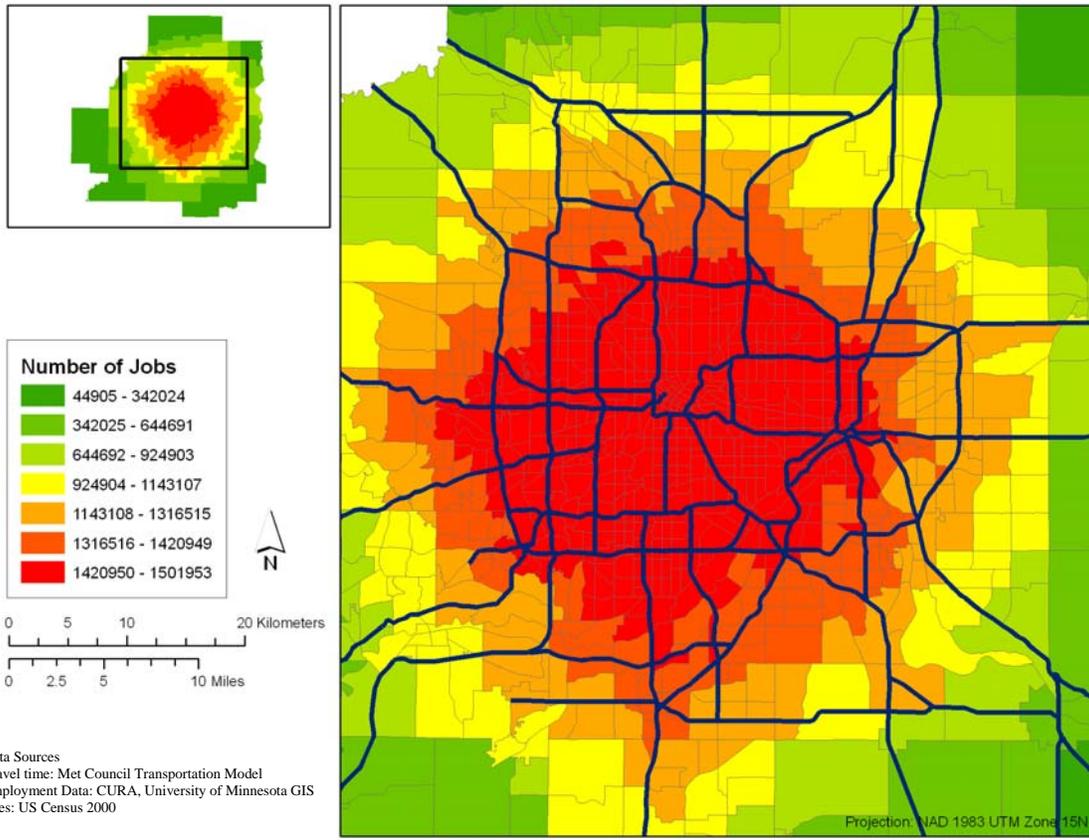


Figure A.6: Number of jobs within 40 minutes of travel time during the morning peak

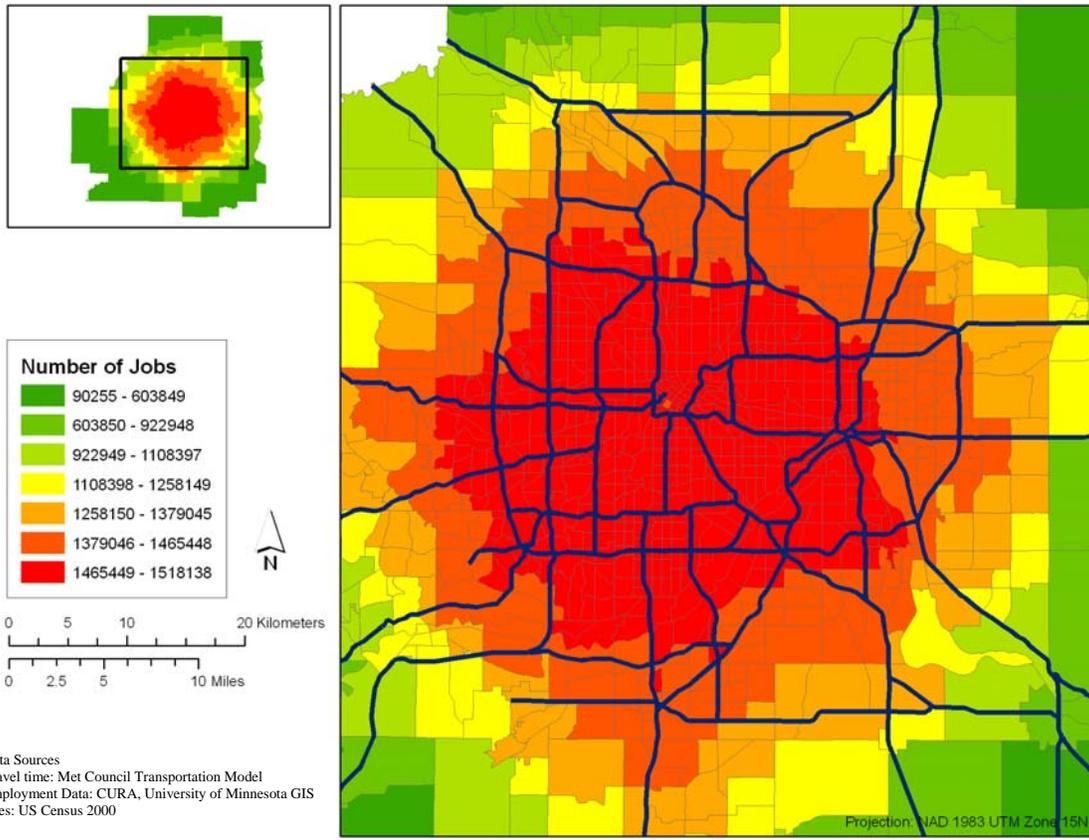


Figure A.7: Number of jobs within 45 minutes of travel time during the morning peak

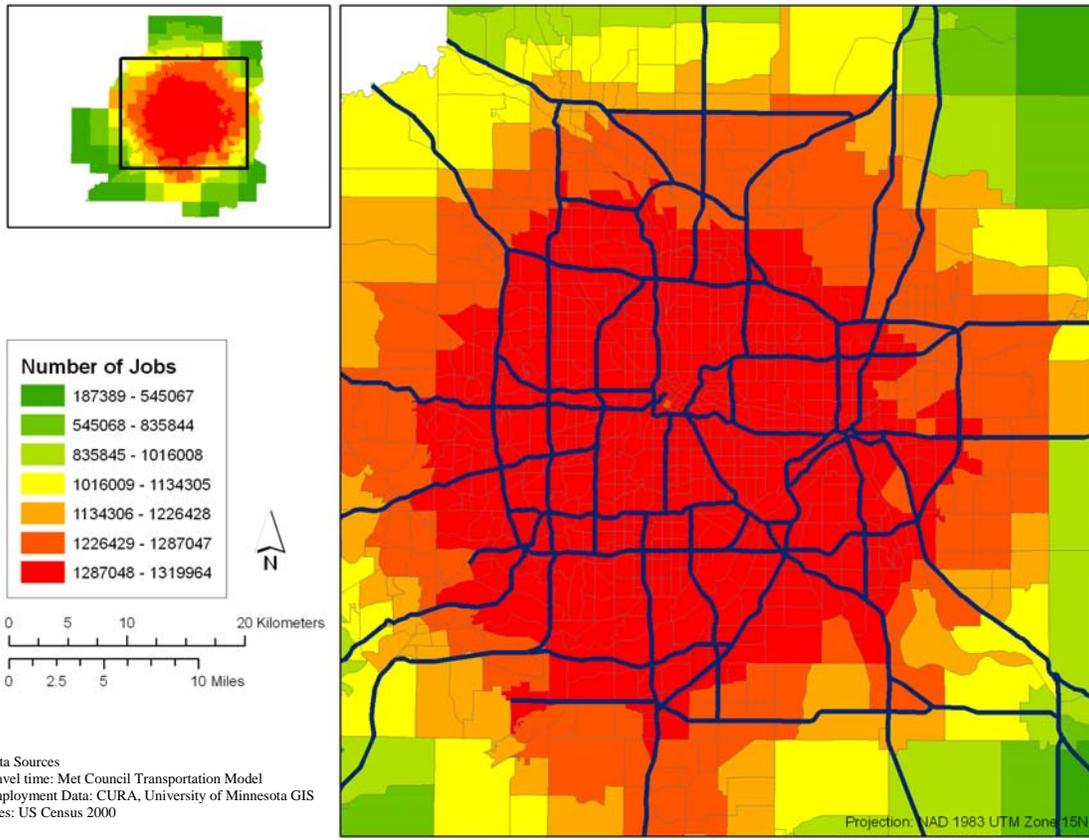


Figure A.8: Number of jobs within 50 minutes of travel time during the morning peak

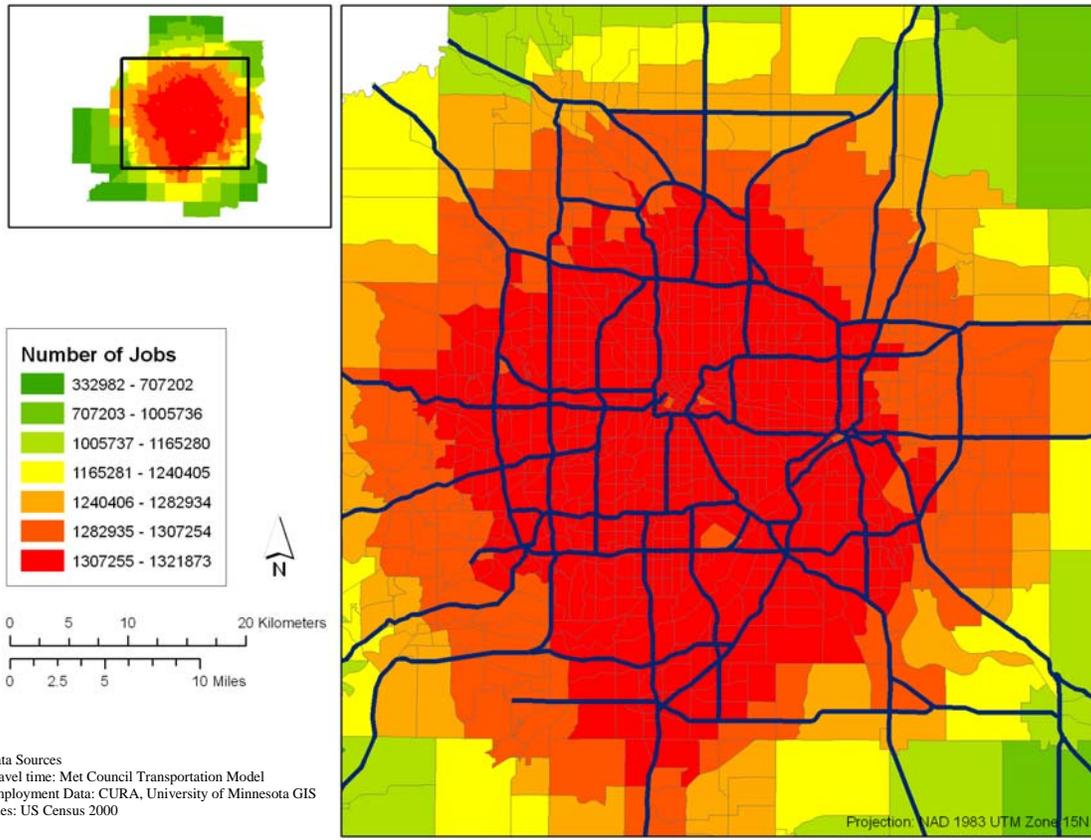


Figure A.9: Number of jobs within 55 minutes of travel time during the morning peak

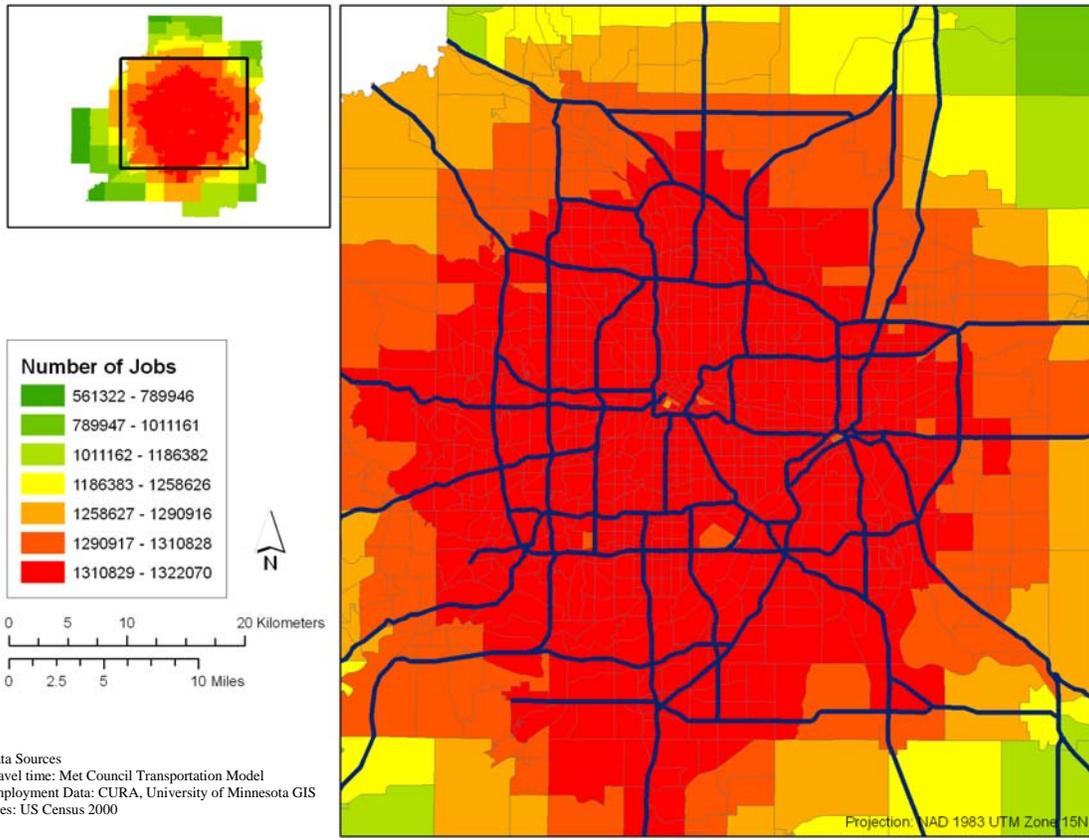


Figure A.10: Number of jobs within 60 minutes of travel time during the morning peak

**APPENDIX B: CUMULATIVE OPPORTUNITY MEASURE AT TAZ LEVEL
MEASURING ACCESS TO WORKERS**

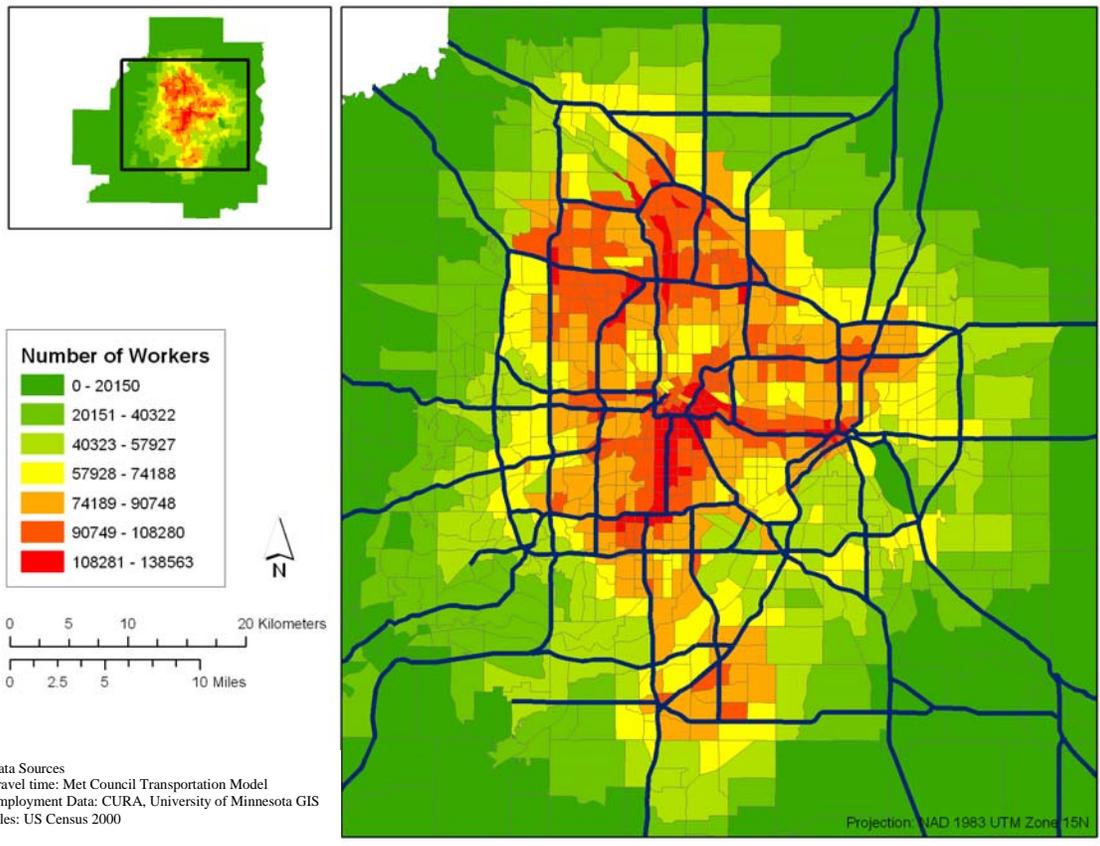


Figure B.1: Number of resident workers within 10 minutes of travel time during the morning peak

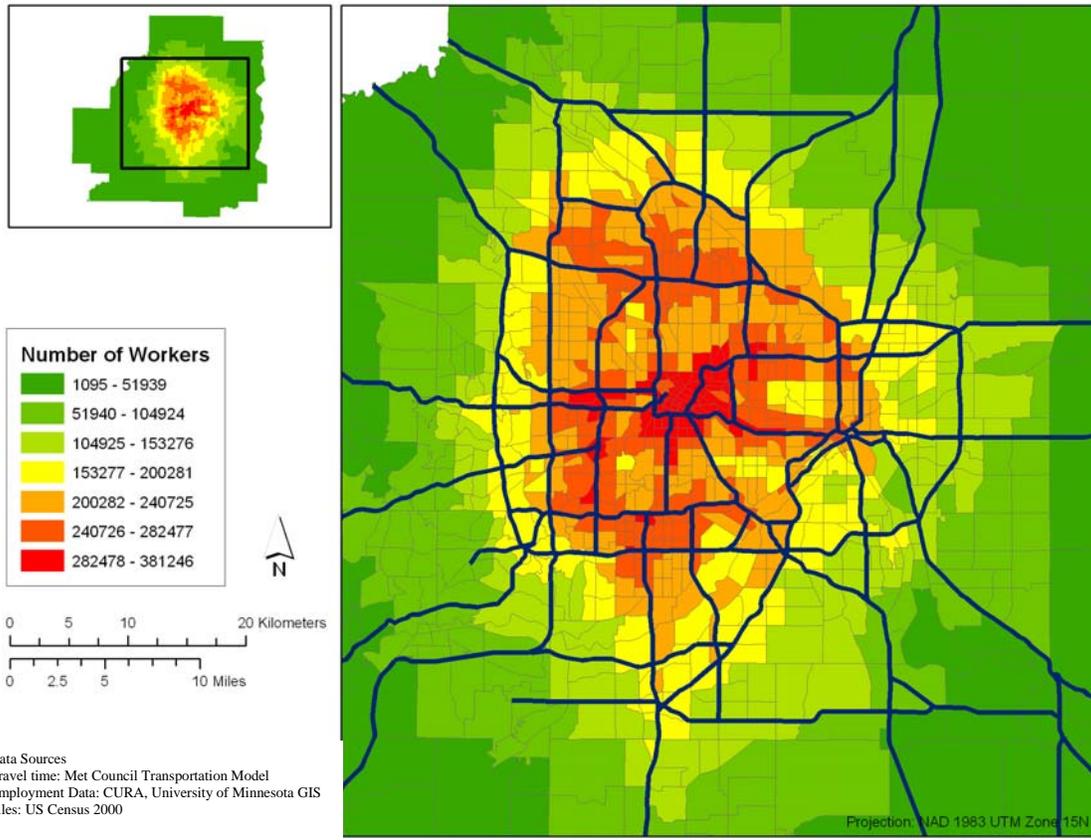


Figure B.2: Number of resident workers within 15 minutes of travel time during the morning peak

**APPENDIX C: CUMULATIVE OPPORTUNITY MEASURE AT TAZ LEVEL
MEASURING ACCESS TO RETAIL AND NON-RETAIL JOBS**

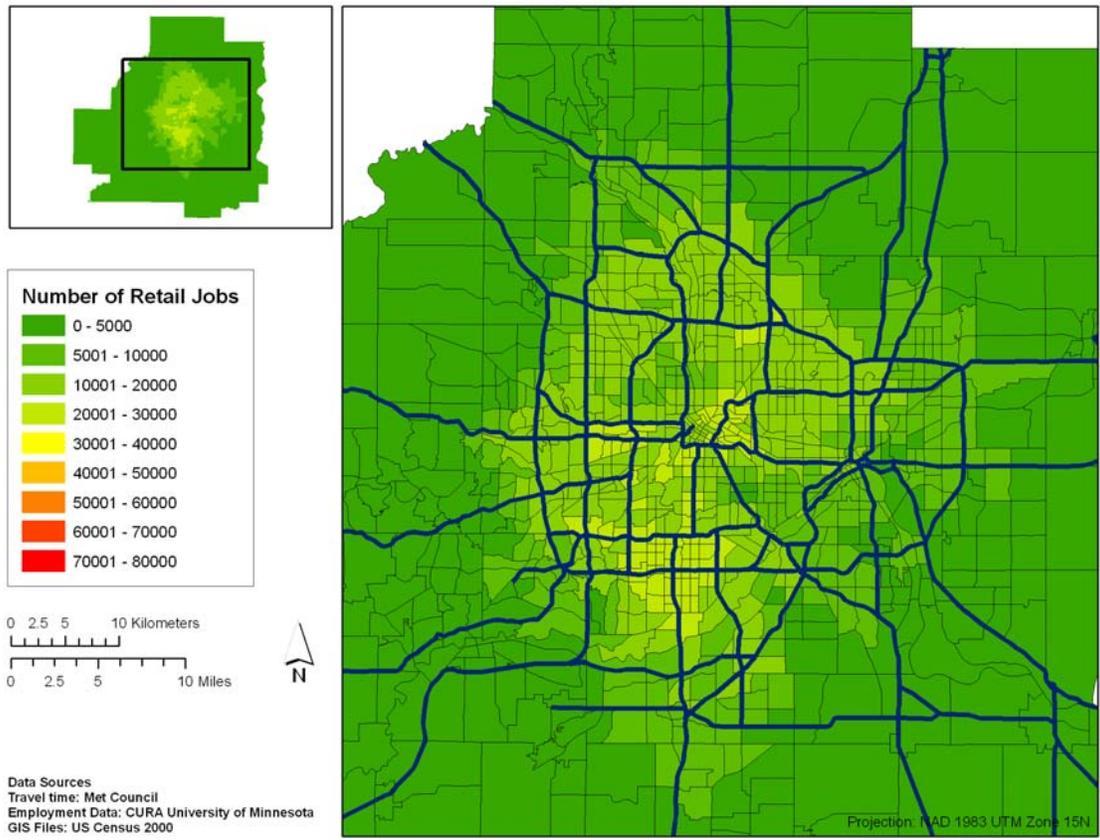


Figure C.1: Number of retail jobs within 10 minutes of travel time during the morning peak

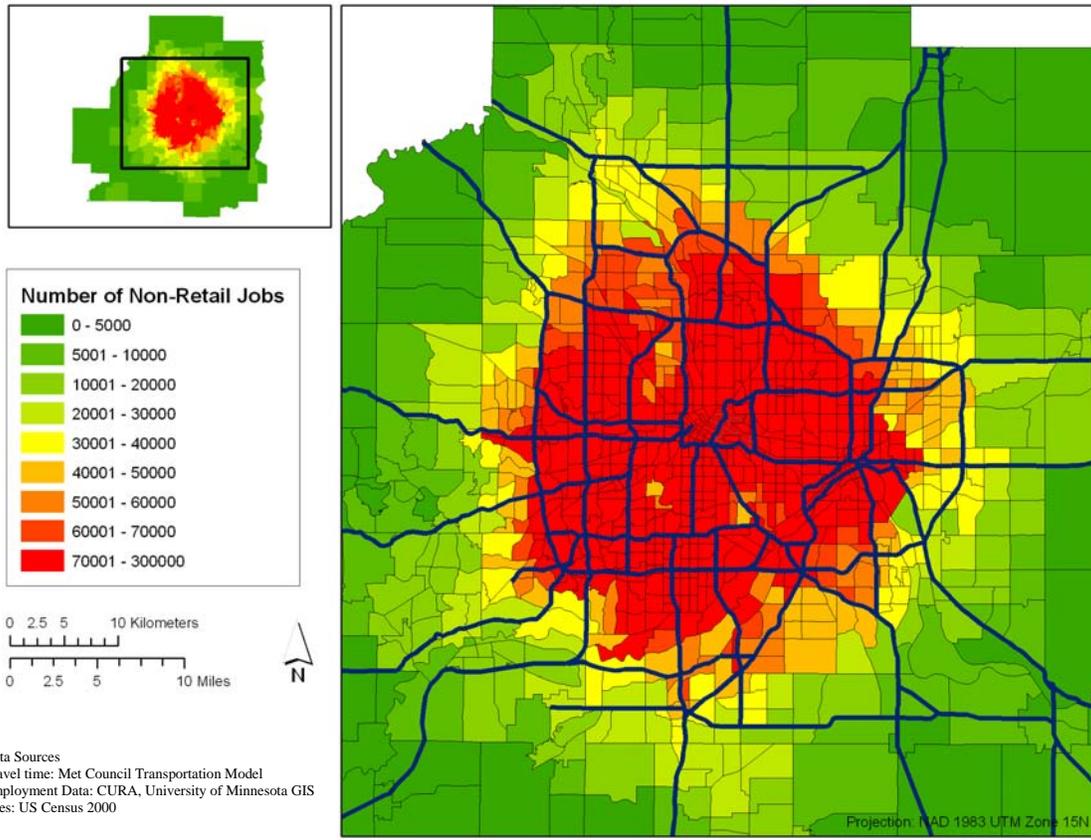


Figure C.2: Number of non-retail jobs within 10 minutes of travel time during the morning peak

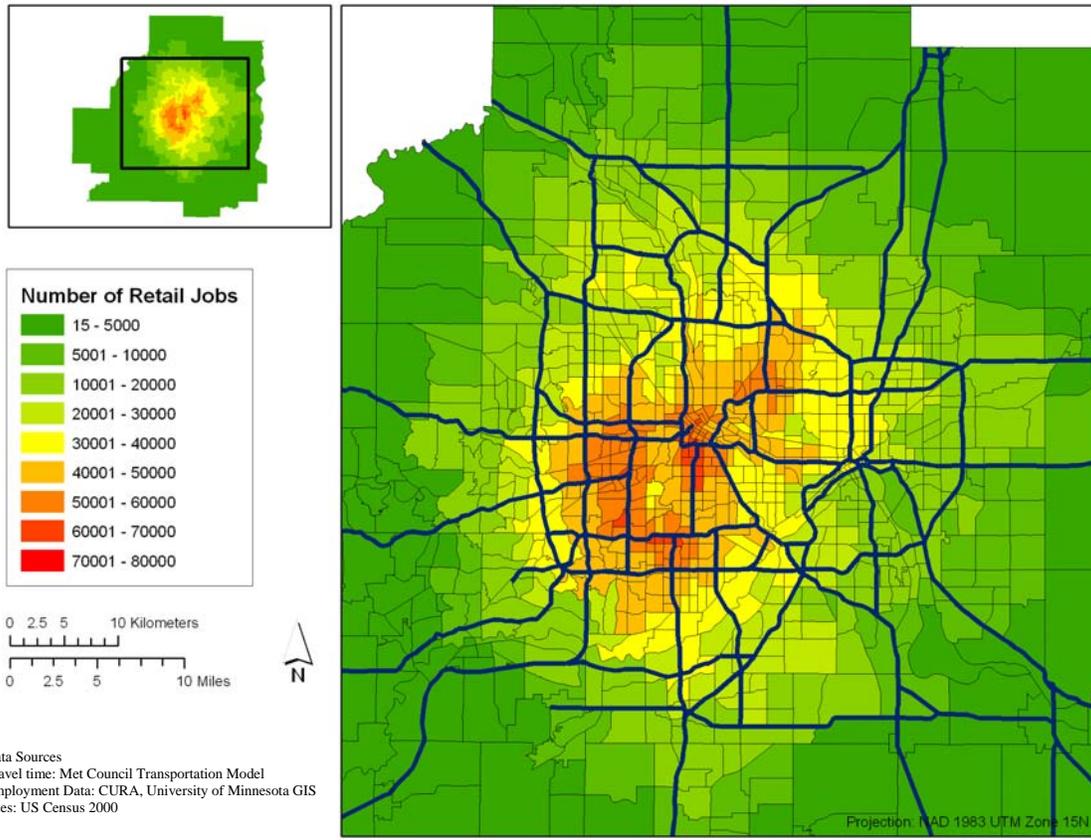


Figure C.3: Number of retail jobs within 15 minutes of travel time during the morning peak

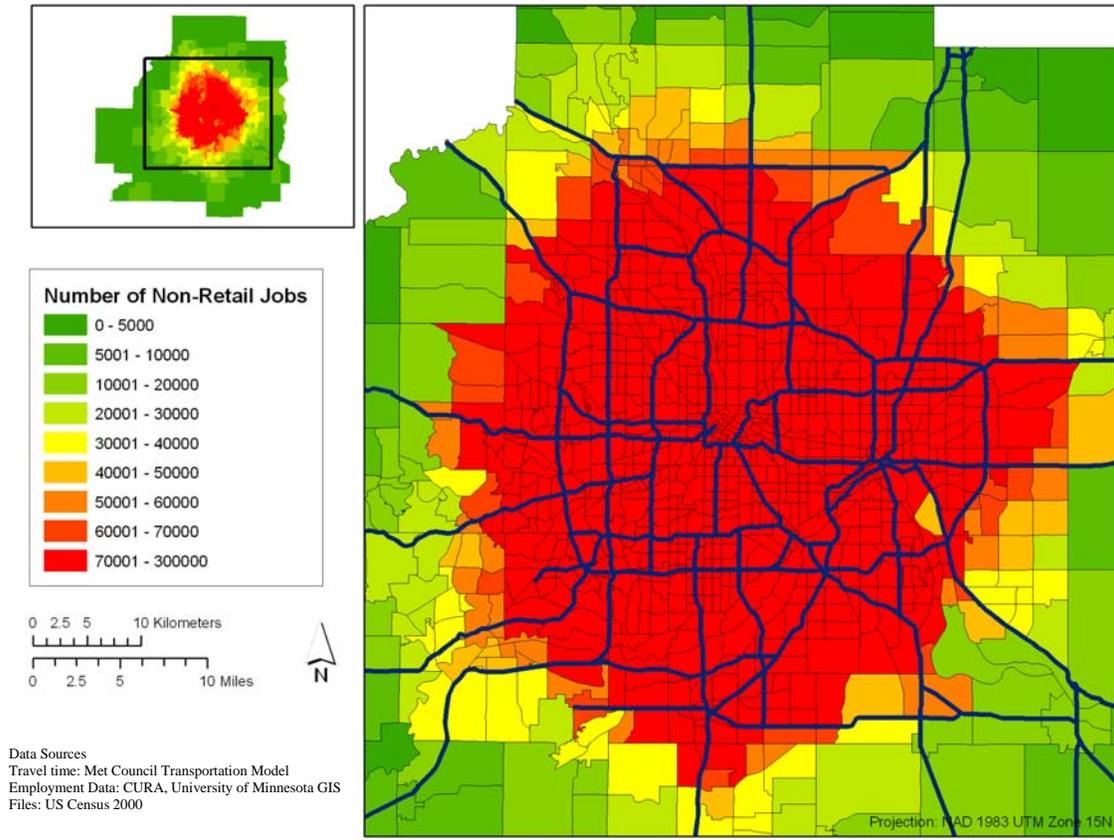


Figure C.4: Number of non-retail jobs within 15 minutes of travel time during the morning peak

**APPENDIX D: ACCESSIBILITY TO RESIDENT WORKERS AT THE MINOR
CIVIL DIVISION LEVEL**

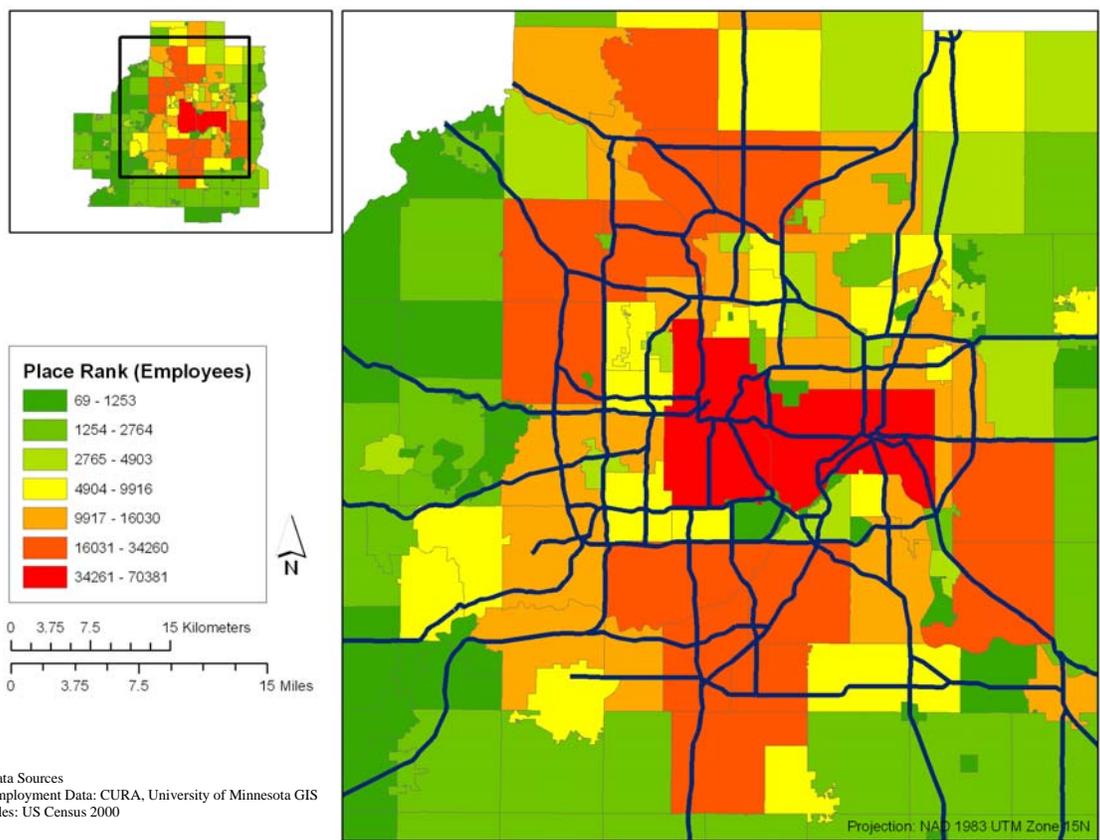


Figure D.1: *Place rank* measuring accessibility to resident workers

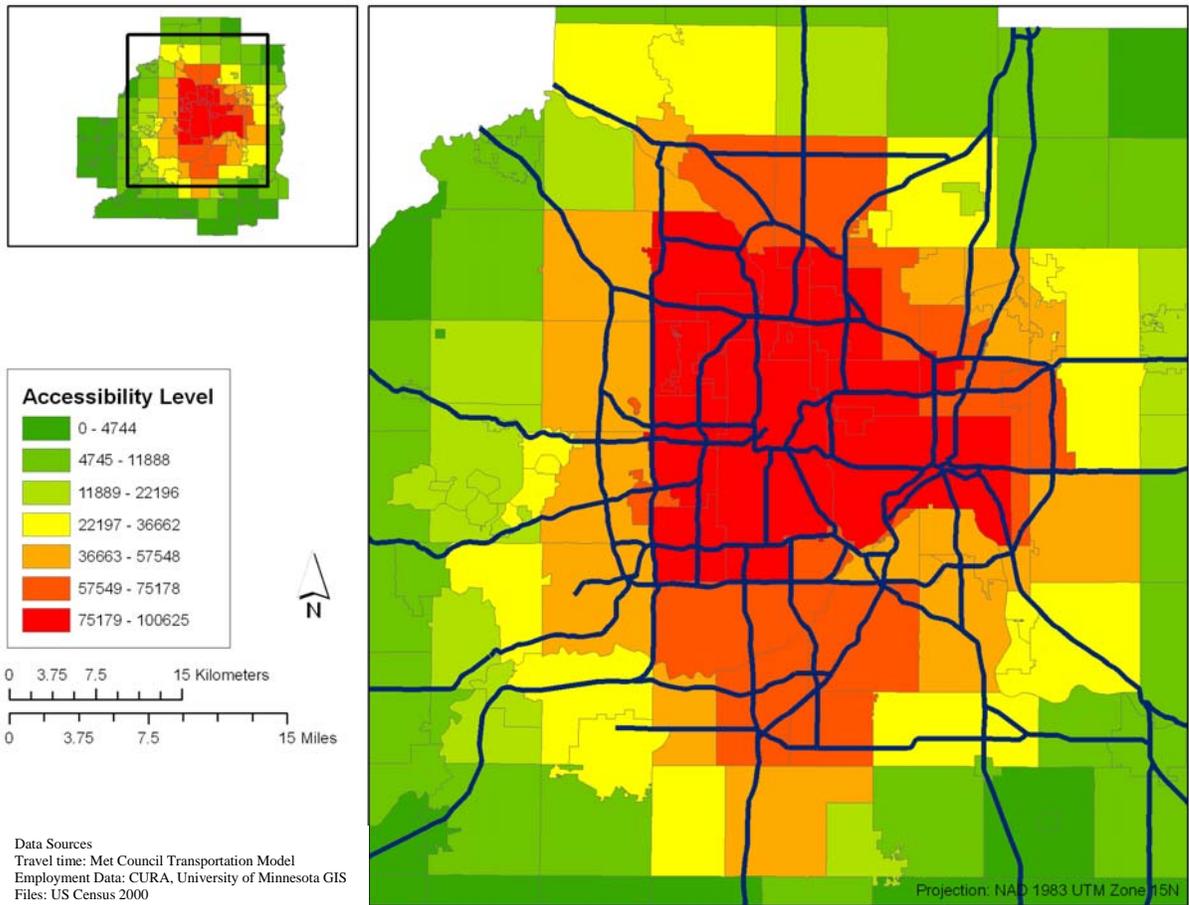


Figure D.2: Number of resident workers within 10 minutes of travel time during the morning peak

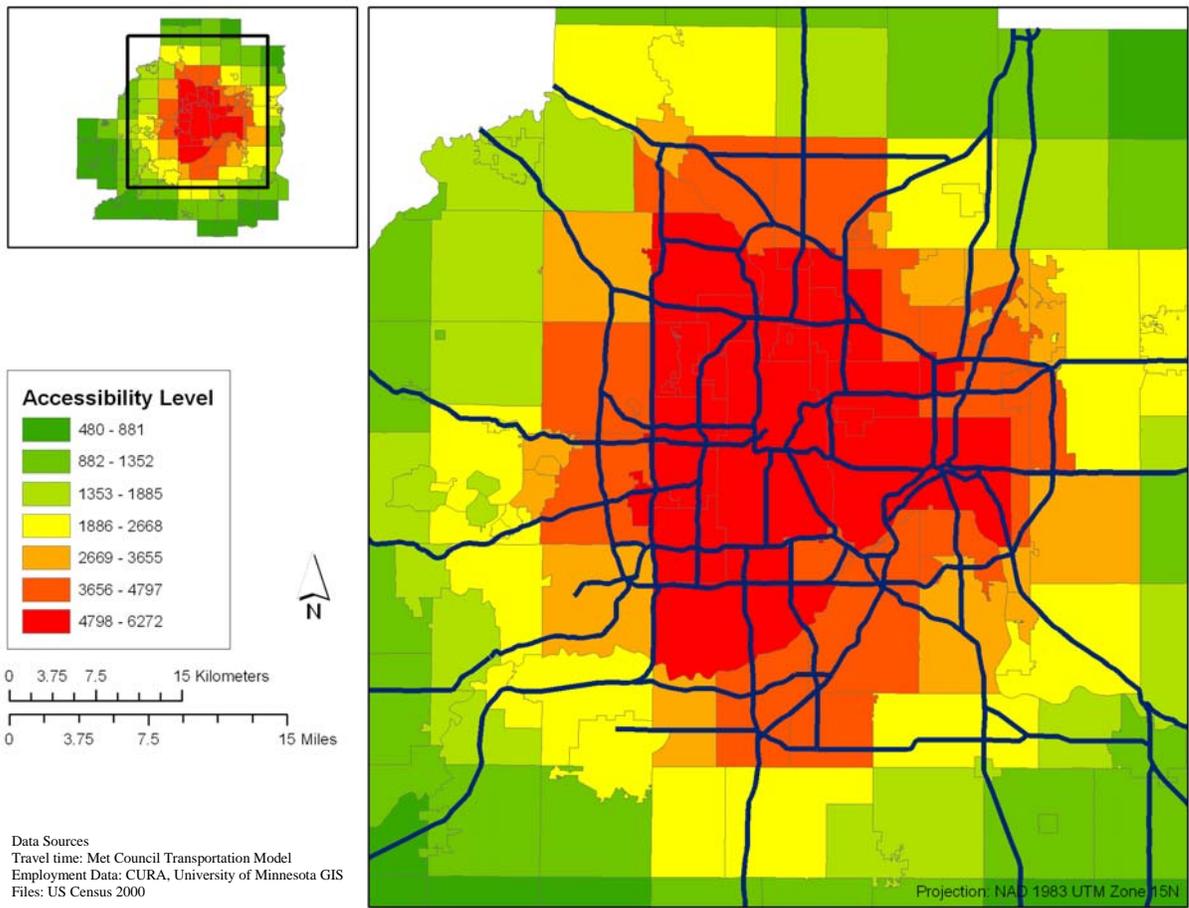


Figure D.3: Gravity-based accessibility to resident workers

APPENDIX E: ACCESSIBILITY TO RESIDENT WORKERS AT THE MINOR CIVIL DIVISION LEVEL

Table E.1: Hedonic analysis with accessibility to jobs

	Place Rank		Gravity Based		Cumulative 20		Cumulative 30	
	B	t	B	t	B	t	B	t
(Constant)	-145458.92	-7.81*	-109024.20	-5.89*	-83731.22	-4.57*	-70843.90	-3.88*
NUMBR	8535.08	11.74*	8507.90	11.68*	8427.29	11.56*	8278.26	11.35*
NUMBA	61839.85	75.17*	62327.35	75.60*	62292.68	75.48*	62165.06	75.29*
AGE	484.19	19.17*	483.94	18.92*	507.32	19.87*	528.54	20.78*
AFP	86.93	65.37*	87.27	65.49*	87.33	65.47*	87.46	65.53*
NUMFP	27715.70	34.85*	27414.93	34.29*	27690.32	34.59*	27986.77	34.95*
NUMGA	21477.05	28.18*	21998.56	28.64*	21690.07	28.20*	21390.20	27.76*
AREA	44.49	2.74**	45.85	2.82*	45.78	2.81*	45.67	2.81**
NEWB	32967.64	2.38**	34022.41	2.45**	33662.19	2.42**	33753.74	2.42**
PROWN	-22048.54	-1.62	-21001.32	-1.54	-21411.67	-1.56	-21571.21	-1.57
YASSO	-4376.53	-0.32	-4858.74	-0.36	-5033.22	-0.37	-4427.64	-0.32
MASSO	-6965.34	-1.82	-7102.48	-1.85	-7193.80	-1.87	-7249.14	-1.89
OASSO	-59955.95	-19.49*	-61604.11	-19.99*	-61711.82	-20.00*	-61923.21	-20.04*
CRVIW	31932.88	5.28*	33863.19	5.58*	33771.71	5.56*	34235.22	5.63*
LAVIW	49609.44	11.45*	51790.34	11.92*	51043.96	11.74*	50507.82	11.60*
POVIW	8844.85	3.63*	9507.34	3.90*	9240.42	3.78*	9103.64	3.72*
RVIW	67673.57	5.39*	66649.77	5.30*	66110.16	5.25*	65828.10	5.22*
PWHIT	-2246.73	-0.11	-60269.24	-3.00*	-66195.29	-3.29*	-76122.34	-3.78*
PBACH	15383.20	2.25**	21000.14	3.05*	26916.81	3.91*	31426.27	4.54*
PMAST	336531.24	25.33*	329976.76	24.72*	334984.64	25.09*	341475.64	25.61*
INCOM	-0.04	-1.17	0.00	-0.05	-0.05	-1.36	-0.10	-2.73**
5GRLEV	4.27	1.37	9.98	3.22*	9.75	3.14*	9.14	2.94*
SCHGRR	716.09	8.27*	-168.14	-2.64**	-357.99	-5.91*	-448.41	-7.54*
DOPEN	14.80	10.77*	16.86	12.17*	16.31	11.76*	16.18	11.57*
PRJ	0.36	19.28*						
GJ			3.94	13.40**				
COJ20					0.03	9.62*		
COJ30							0.01	5.95*
R2	0.580		0.578		0.577		0.577	

* Indicates Statistical significance at 99% level of confidence

** Indicates Statistical significance at 95% level of confidence

**APPENDIX F: CUMULATIVE OPPORTUNITY MEASURE AT TAZ LEVEL
MEASURING ACCESS TO JOBS OVER TIME USING AUTO AND TRANSIT**

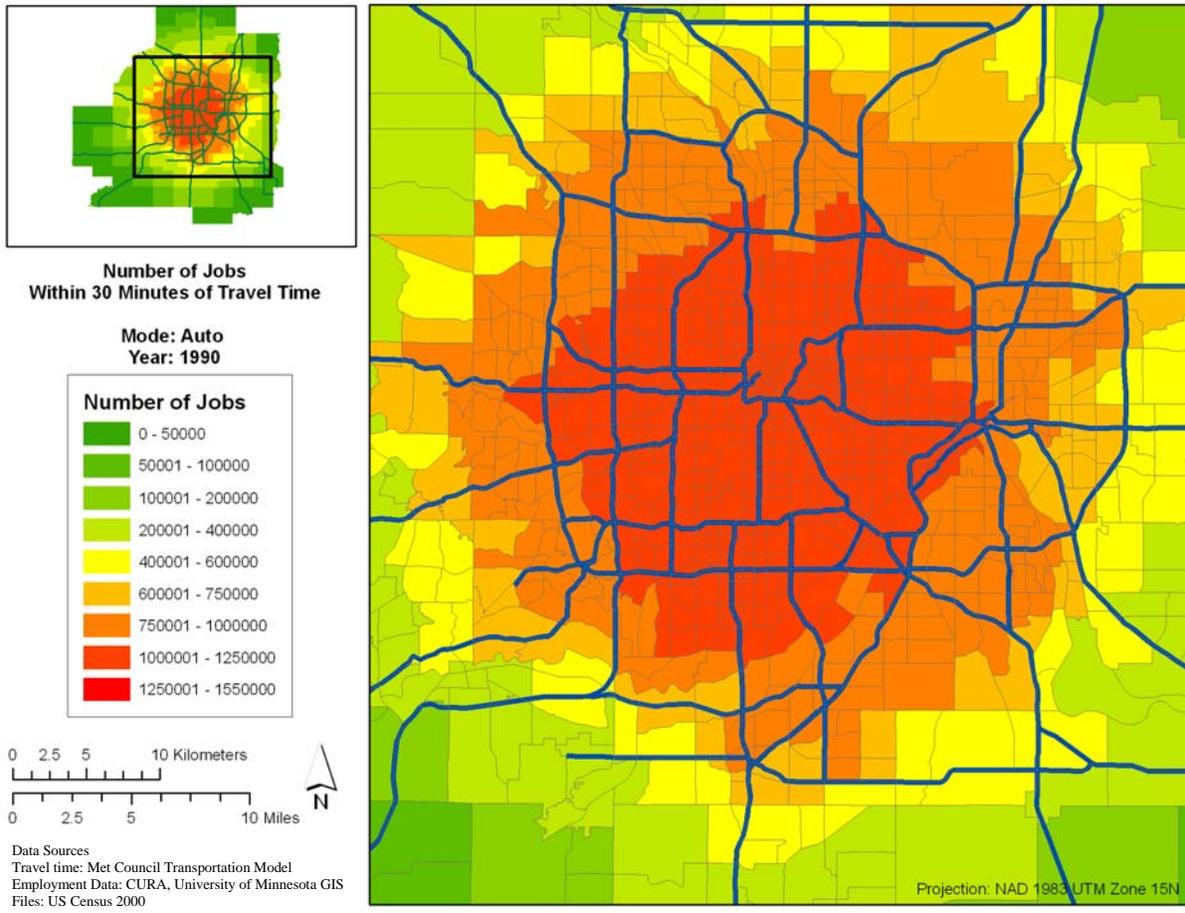


Figure F.1: Number of jobs within 30 minutes of travel time in the year 1990 (Auto)

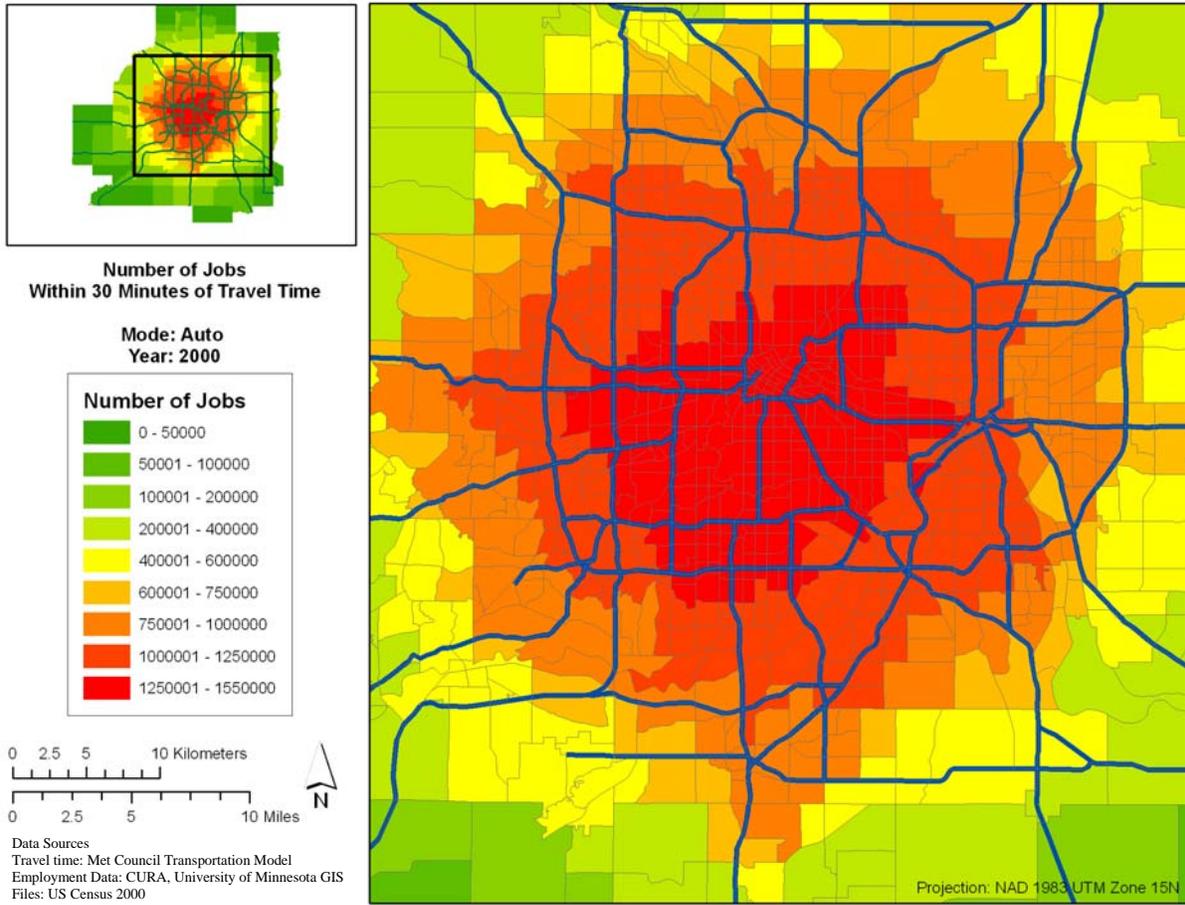


Figure F.2: Number of jobs within 30 minutes of travel time in the year 2000 (Auto)

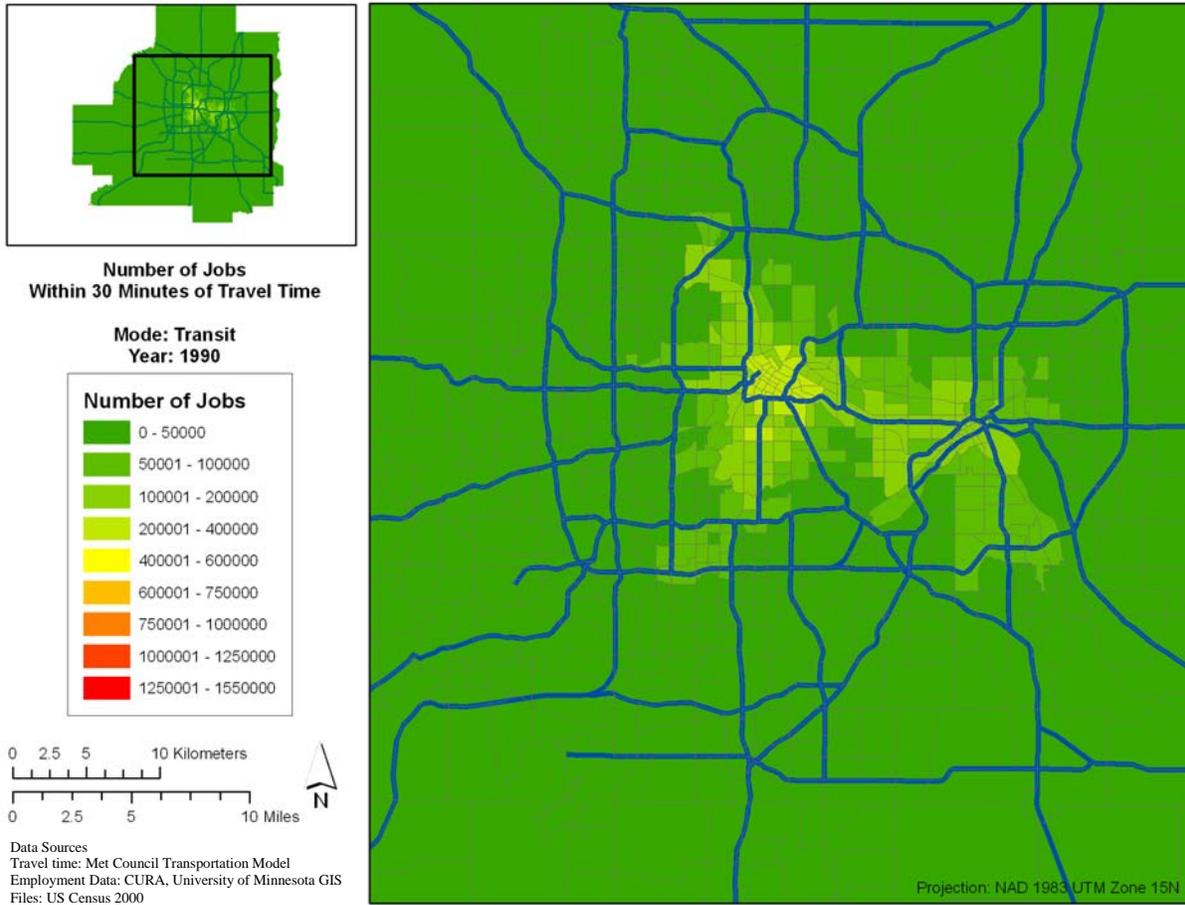


Figure F.3: Number of jobs within 30 minutes of travel time in the year 1990 (Transit)

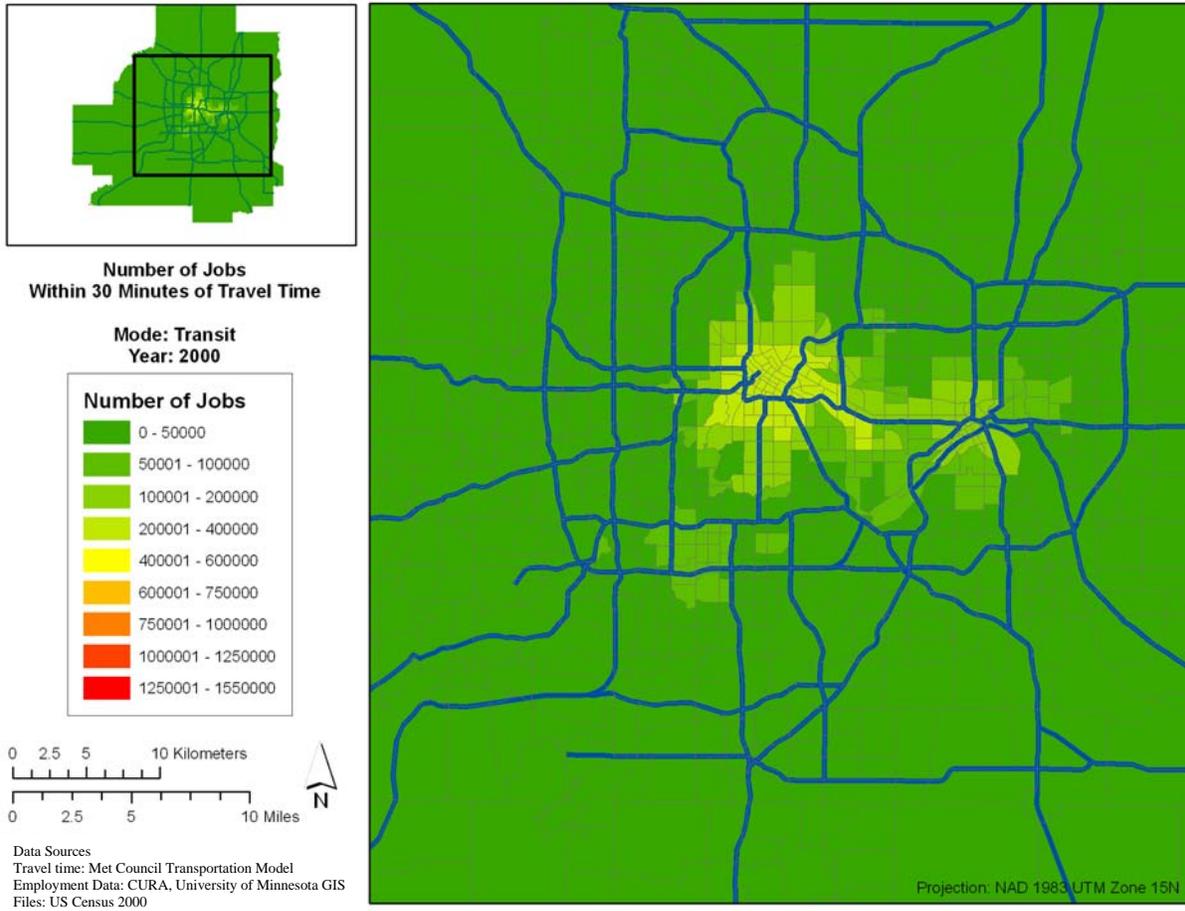


Figure F.4: Number of jobs within 30 minutes of travel time in the year 2000 (Transit)

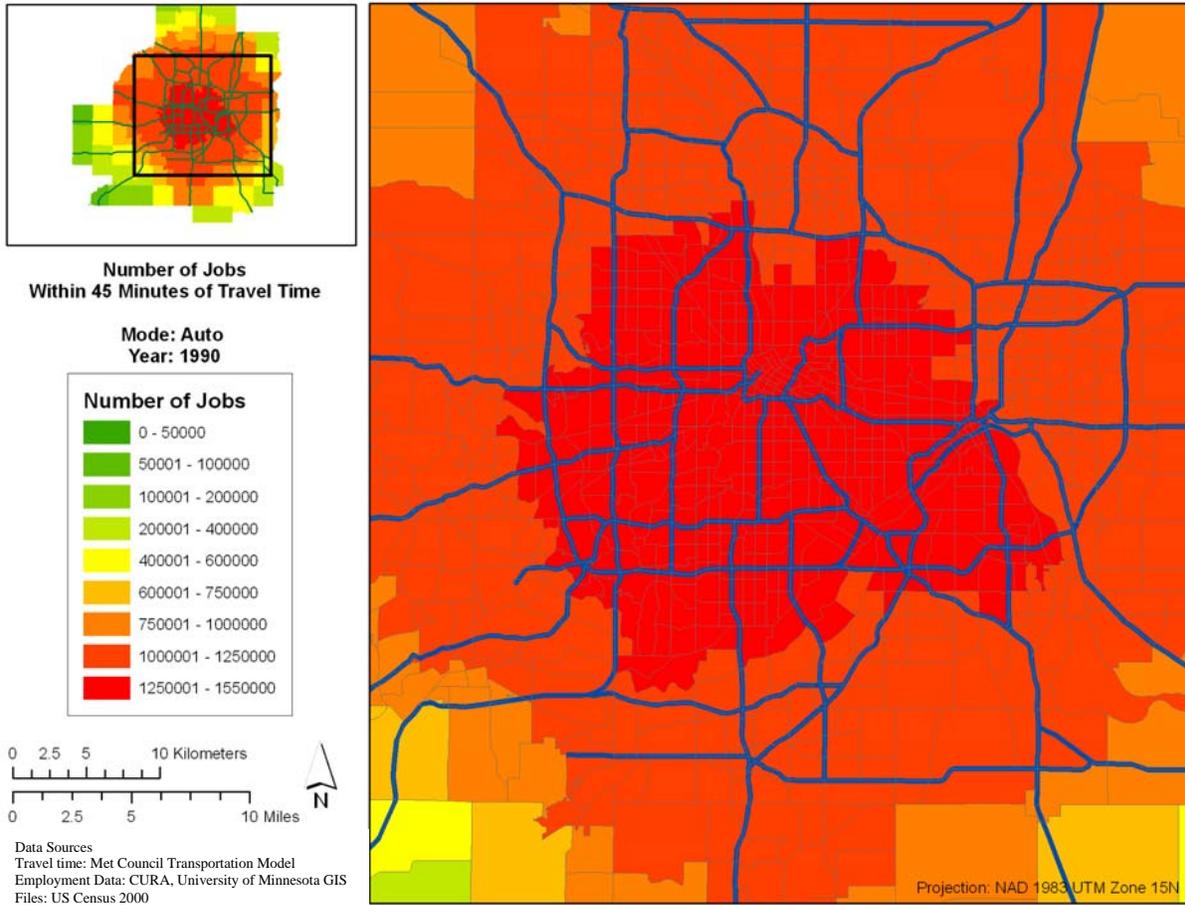


Figure F.5: Number of jobs within 45 minutes of travel time in the year 1990 (Auto)

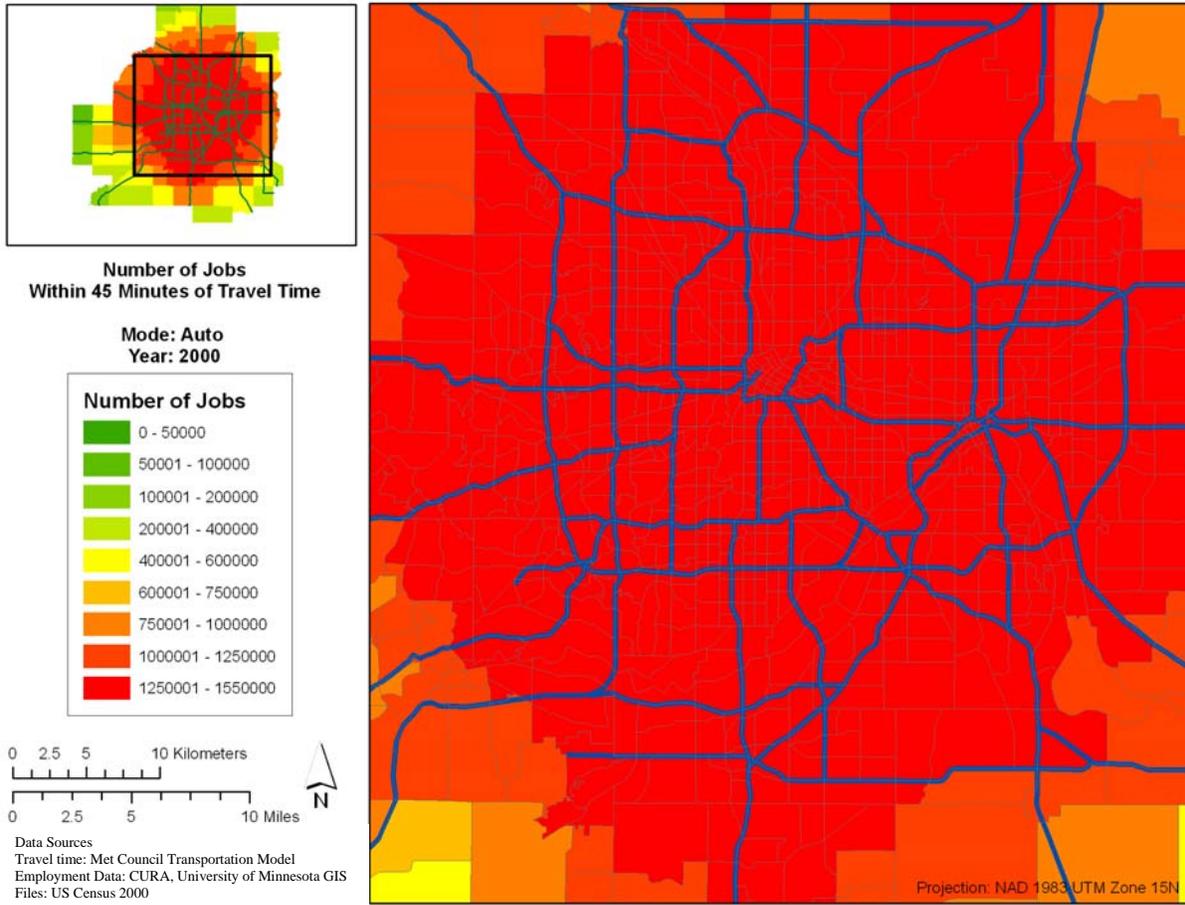


Figure F.6: Number of jobs within 45 minutes of travel time in the year 2000 (Auto)

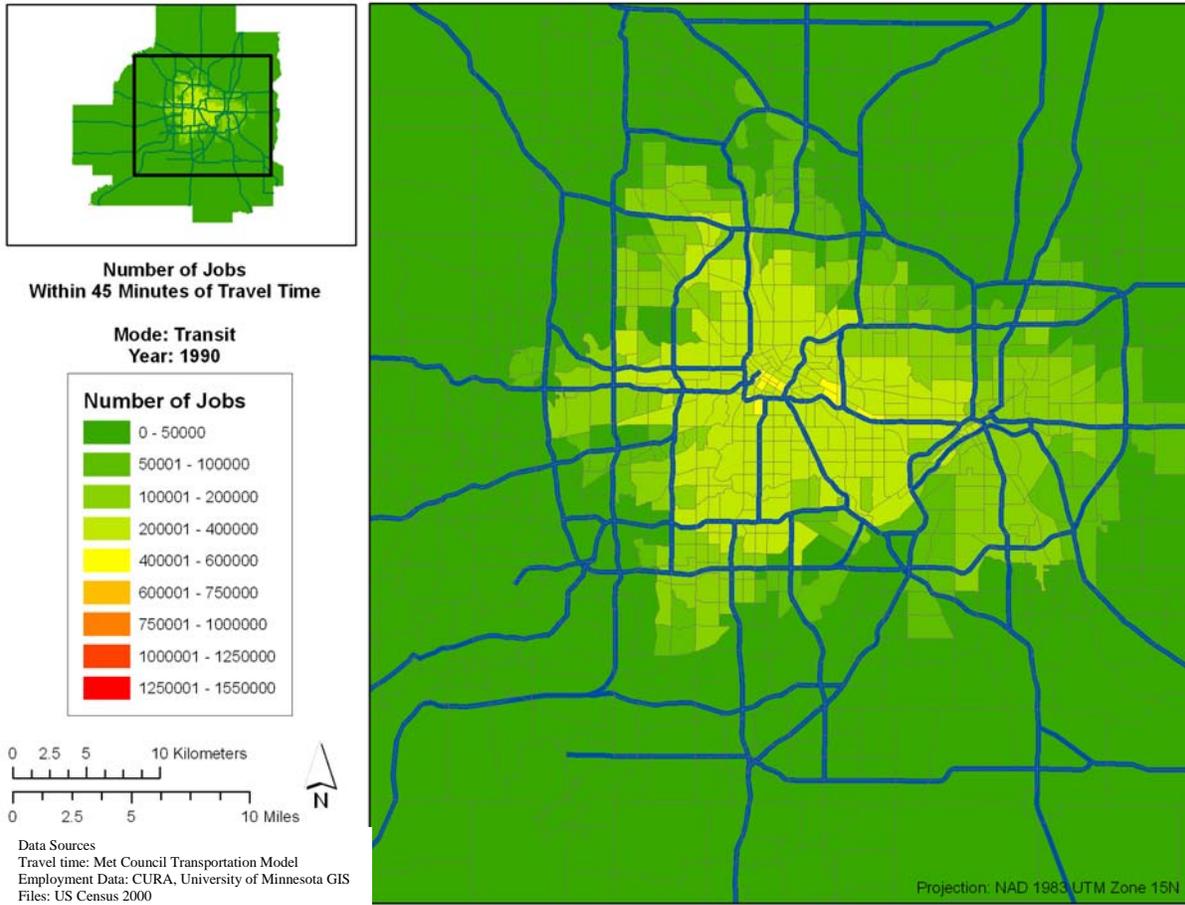


Figure F.7: Number of jobs within 45 minutes of travel time in the year 1990 (Transit)

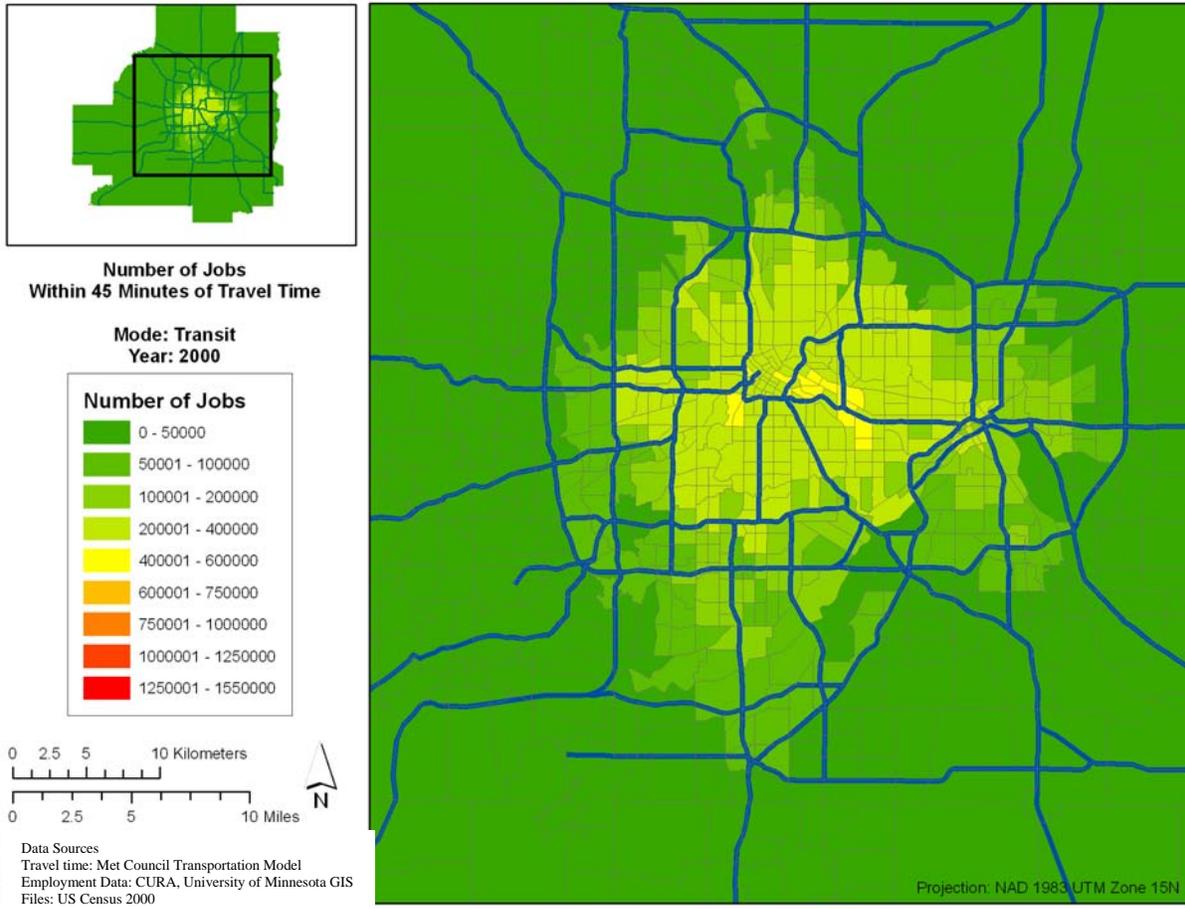


Figure F.8: Number of jobs within 45 minutes of travel time in the year 2000 (Transit)

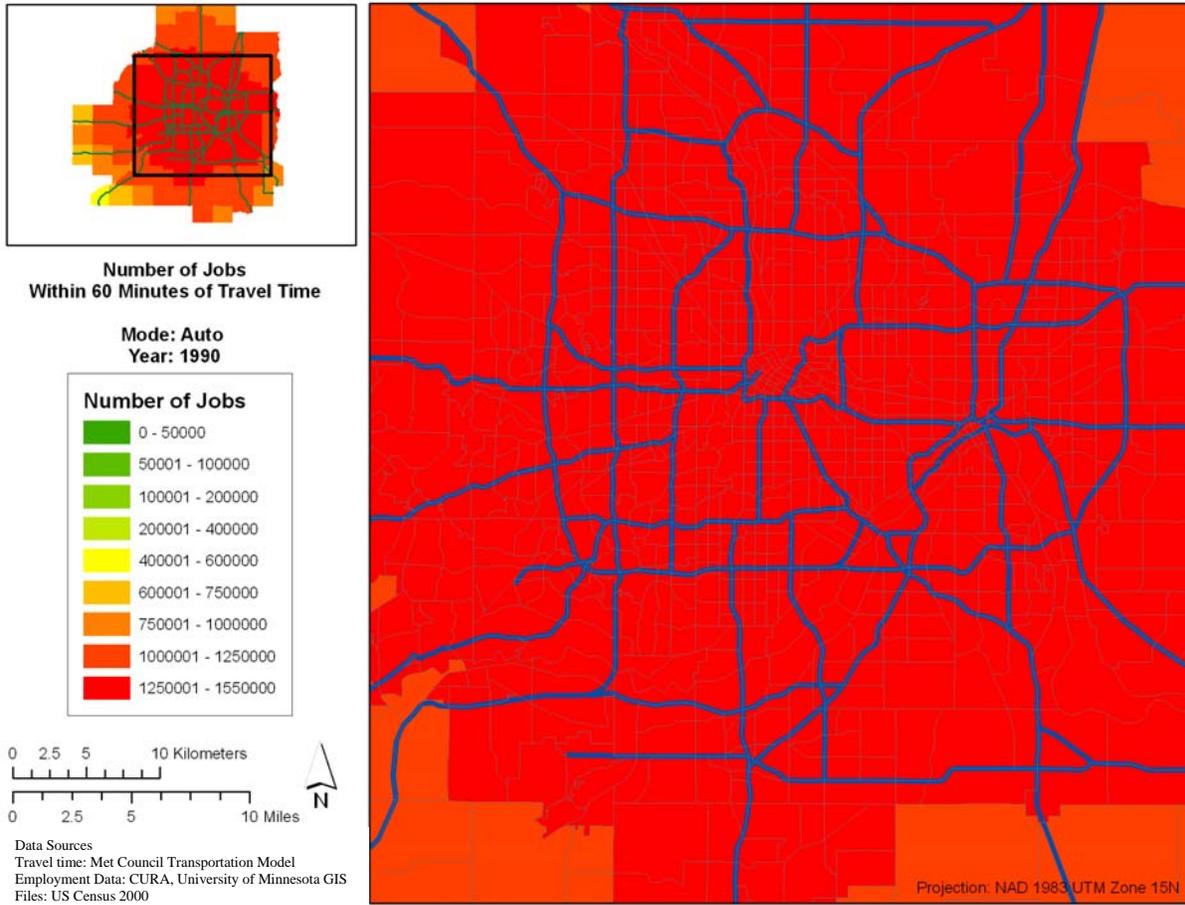


Figure F.9: Number of jobs within 60 minutes of travel time in the year 1990 (Auto)

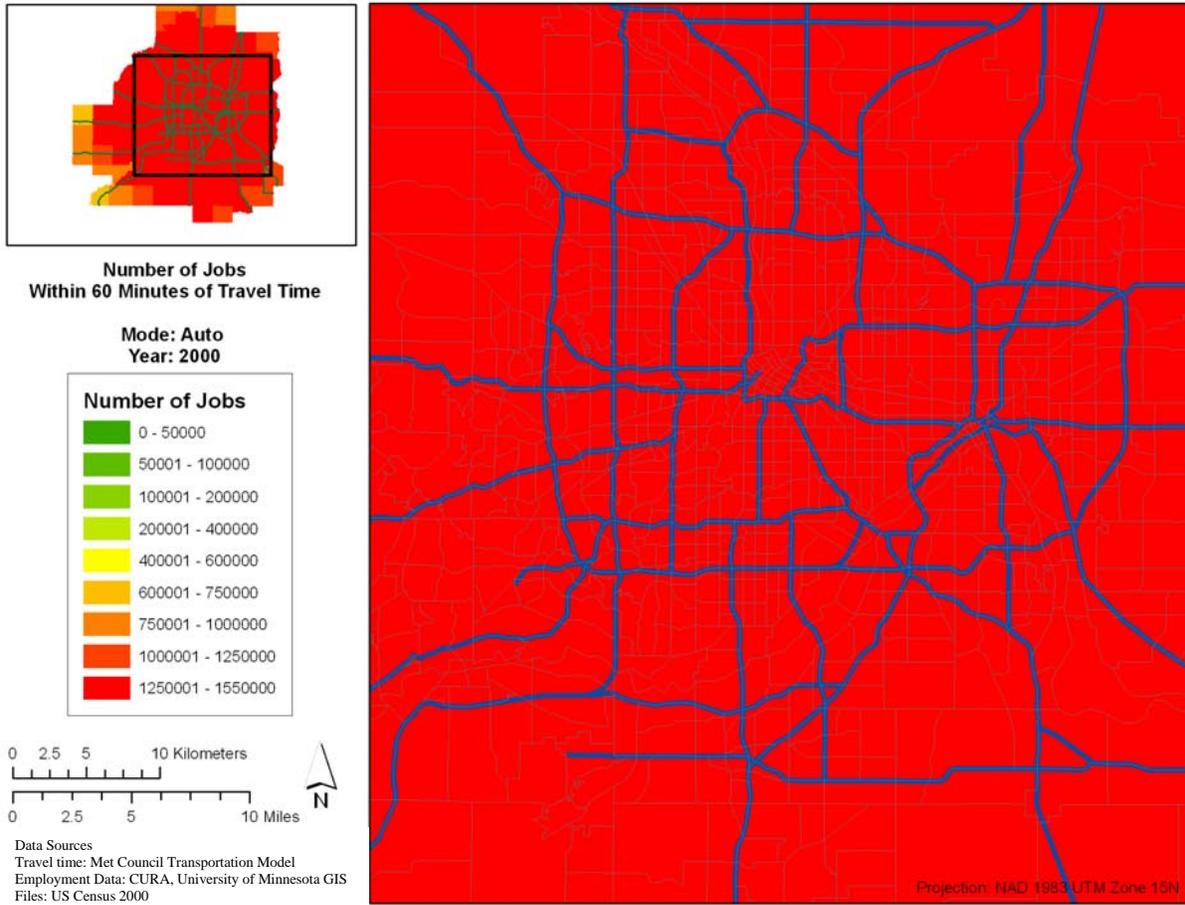


Figure F.10: Number of jobs within 60 minutes of travel time in the year 2000 (Auto)

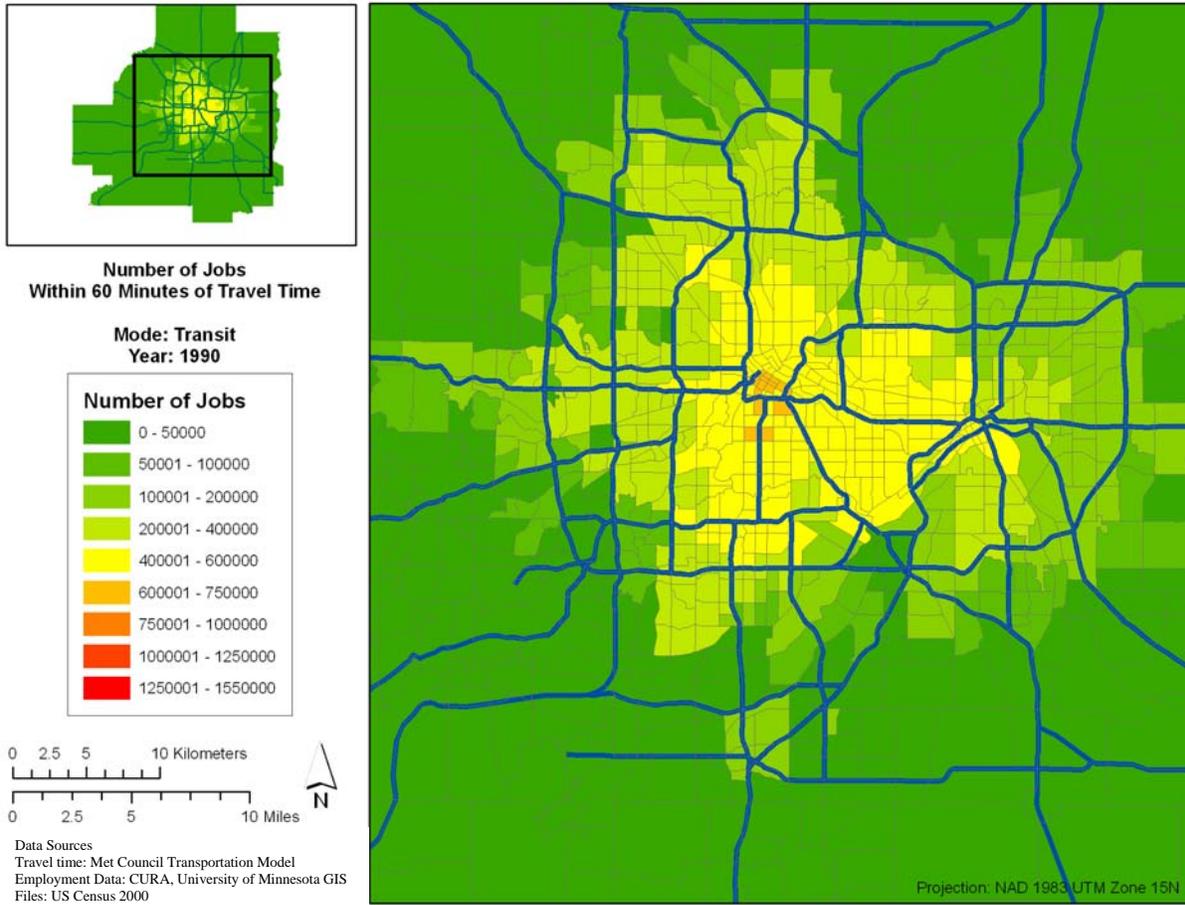


Figure F.11: Number of jobs within 60 minutes of travel time in the year 1990 (Transit)

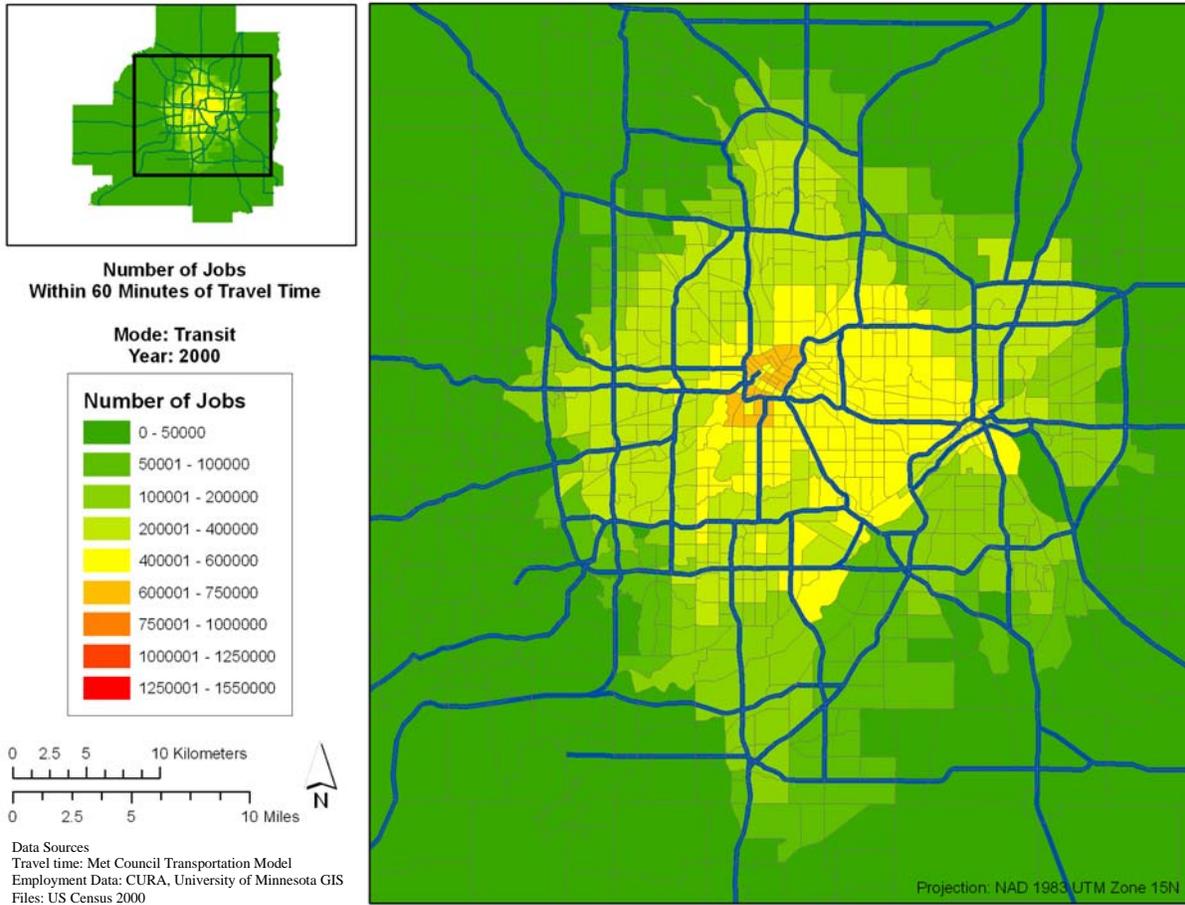


Figure F.12: Number of jobs within 60 minutes of travel time in the year 2000 (Transit)

**APPENDIX G: CUMULATIVE OPPORTUNITY MEASURE AT TAZ LEVEL
MEASURING ACCESS TO JOBS OVER TIME USING AUTO AND TRANSIT**

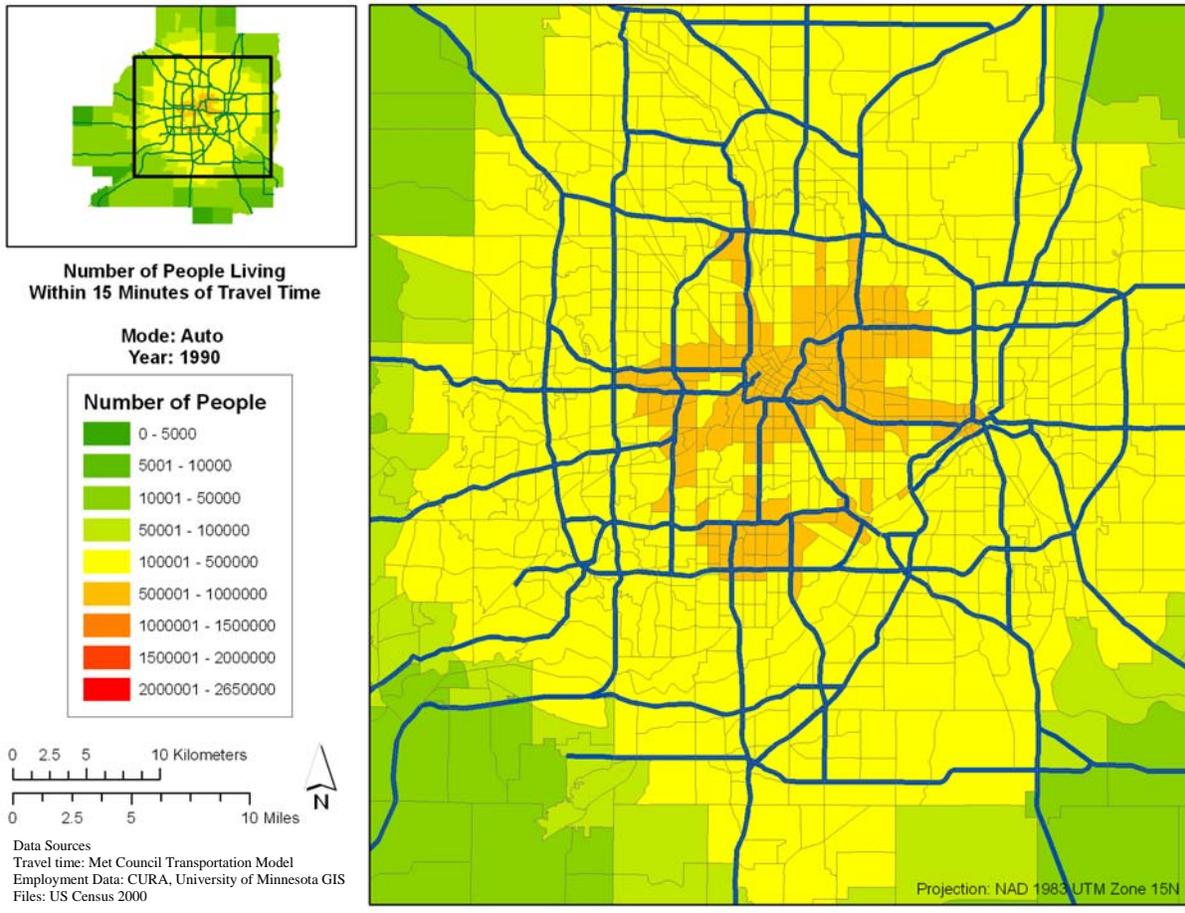


Figure G.1: Number of people living within 15 minutes of travel time in the year 1990 (Auto)

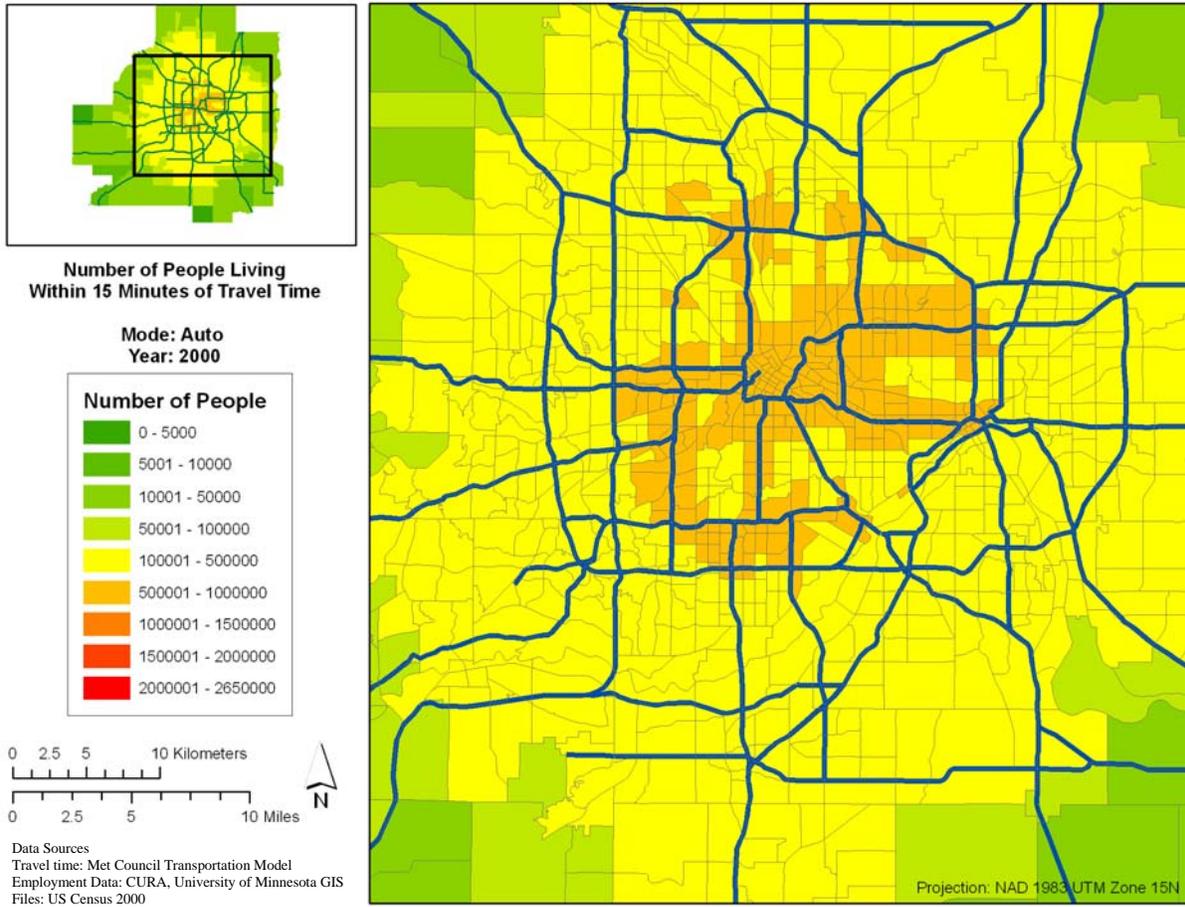


Figure G.2: Number of people living within 15 minutes of travel time in the year 2000 (Auto)

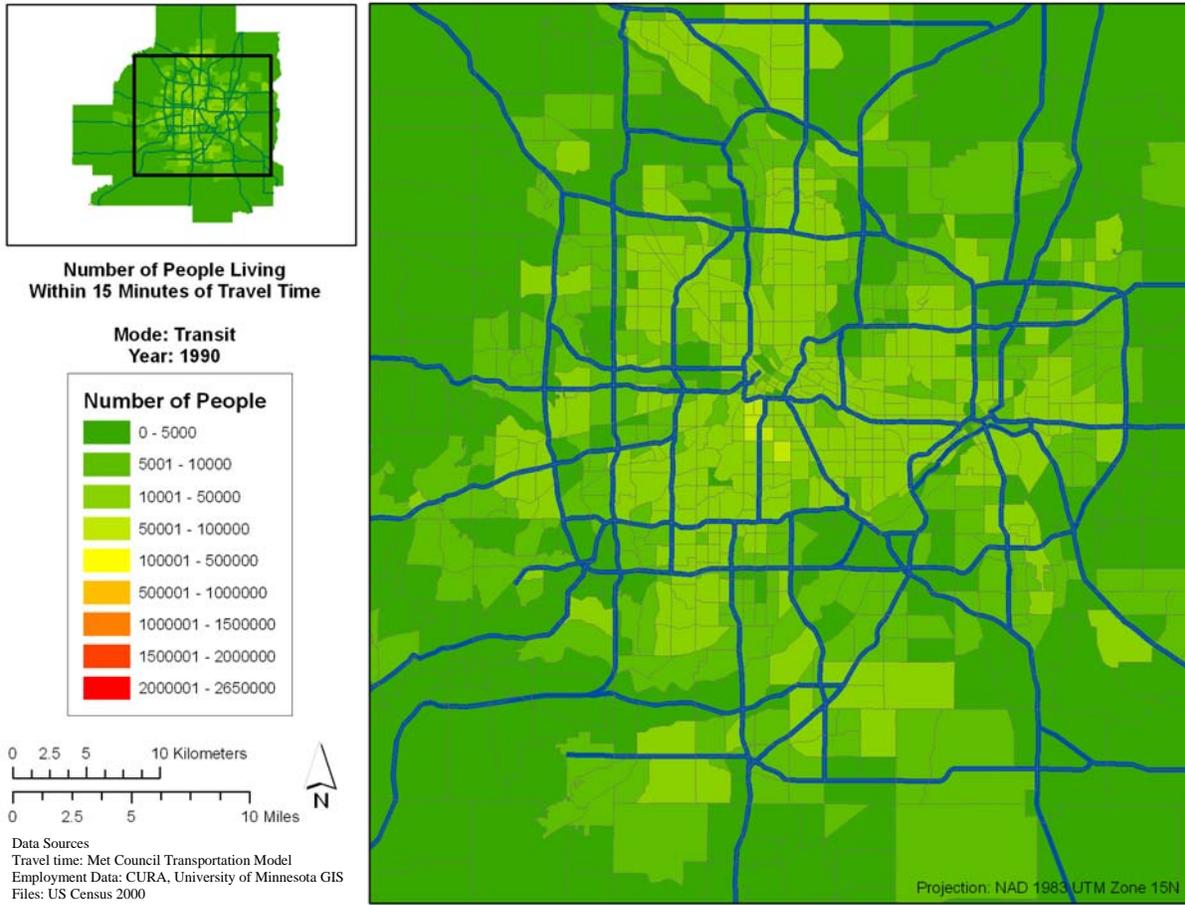


Figure G.3: Number of people living within 15 minutes of travel time in the year 1990 (Transit)

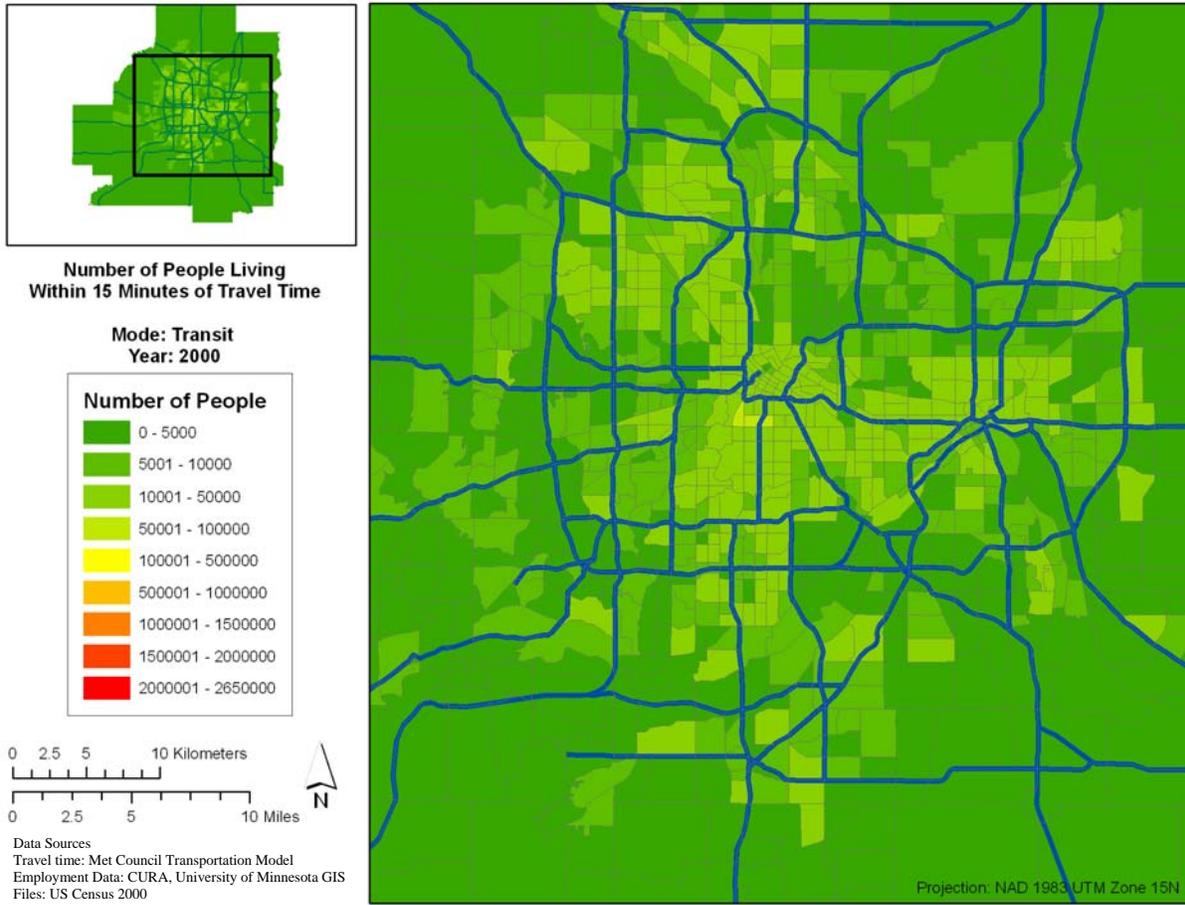


Figure G.4: Number of people living within 15 minutes of travel time in the year 2000 (Transit)

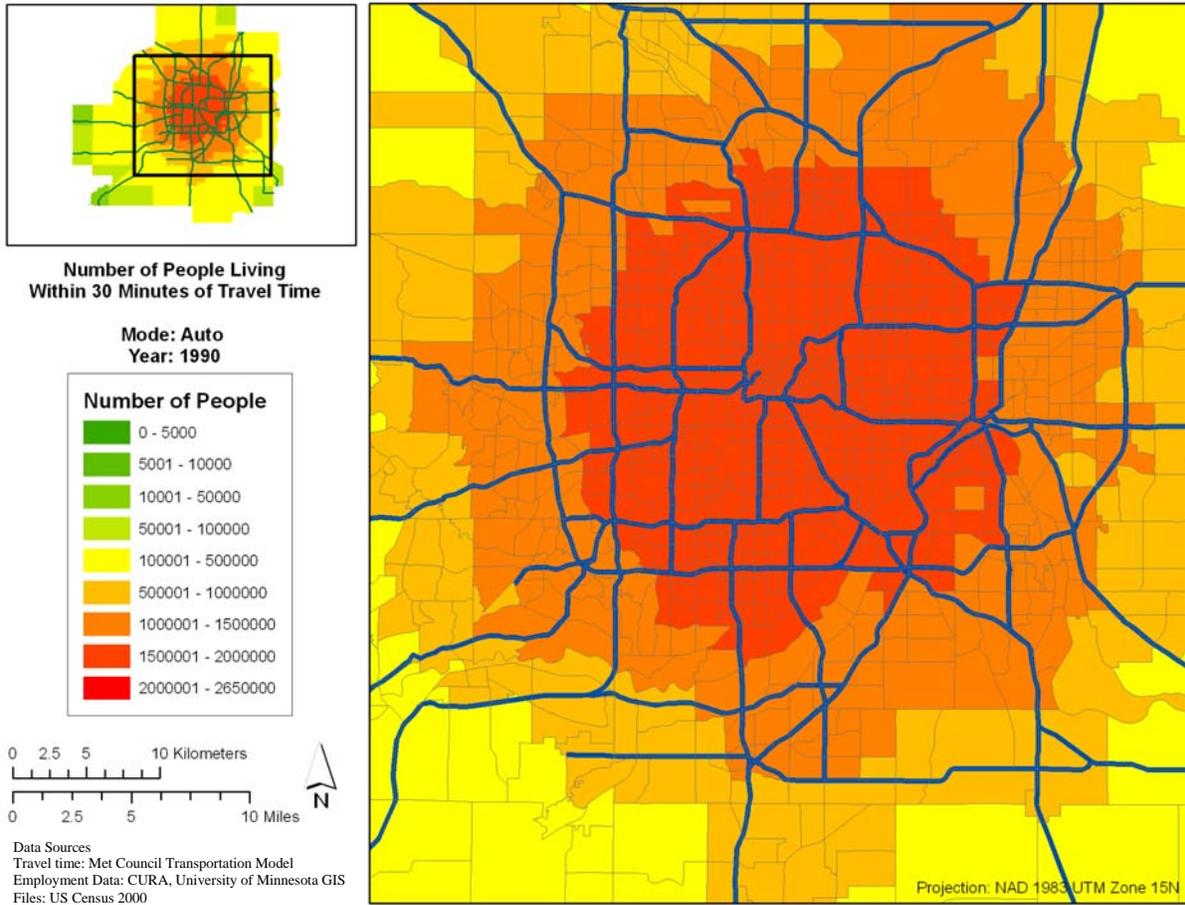


Figure G.5: Number of people living within 30 minutes of travel time in the year 1990 (Auto)

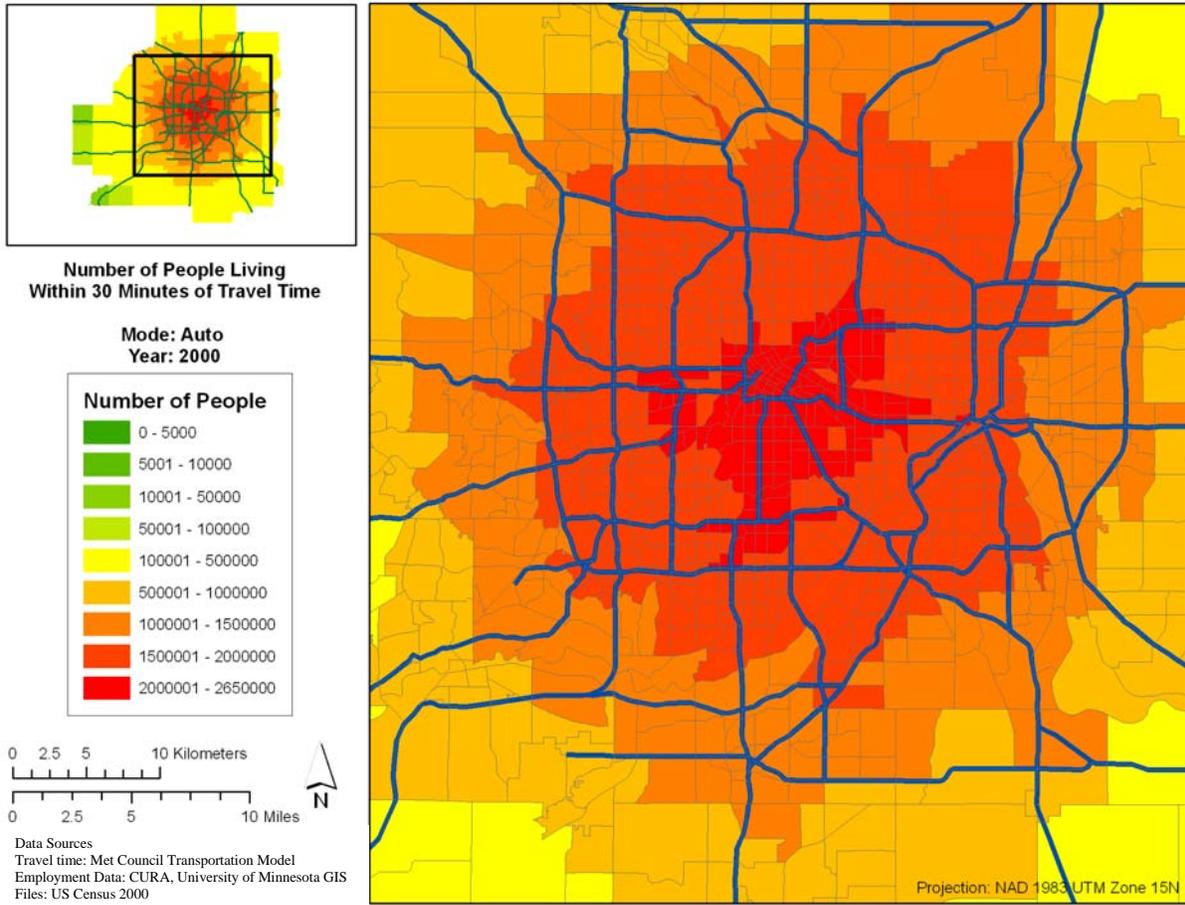


Figure G.6: Number of people living within 30 minutes of travel time in the year 2000 (Auto)

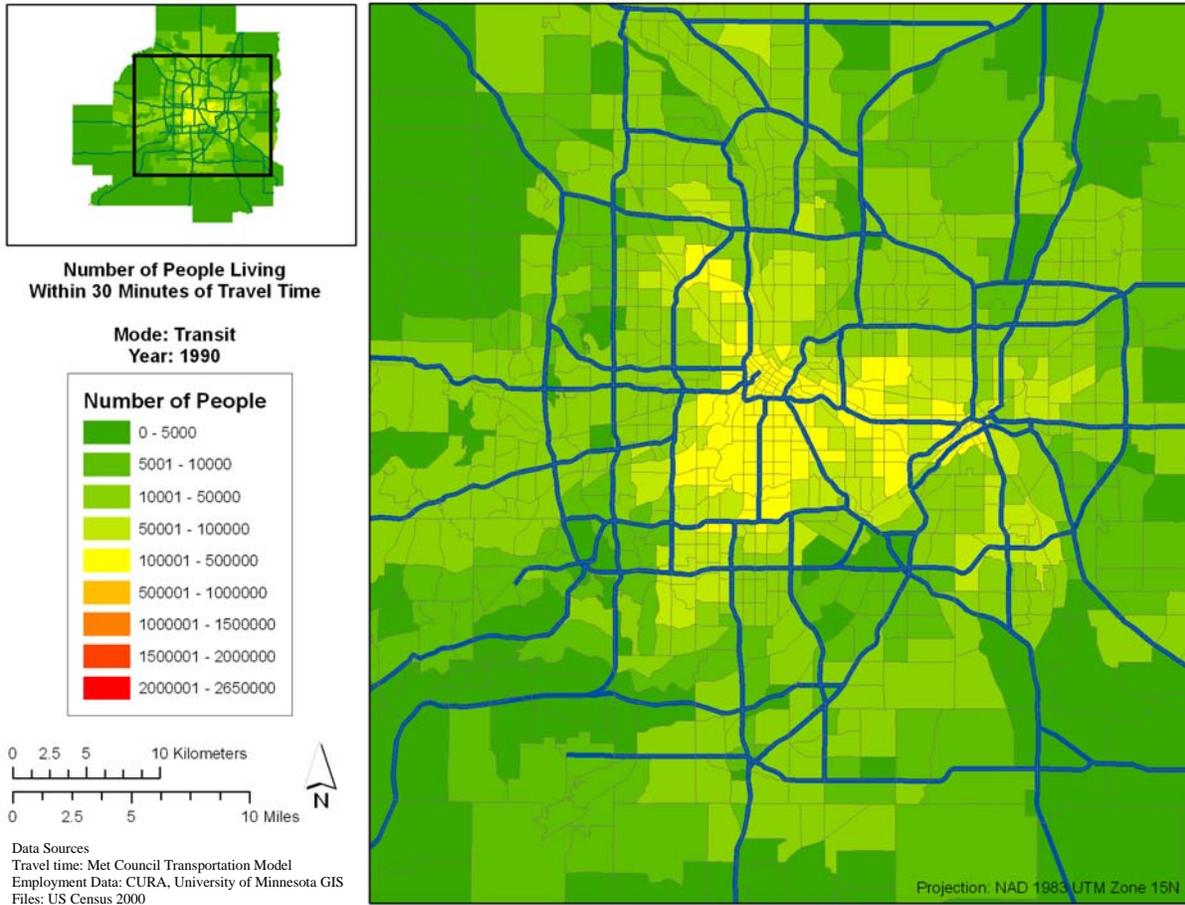


Figure G.7: Number of people living within 30 minutes of travel time in the year 1990 (Transit)

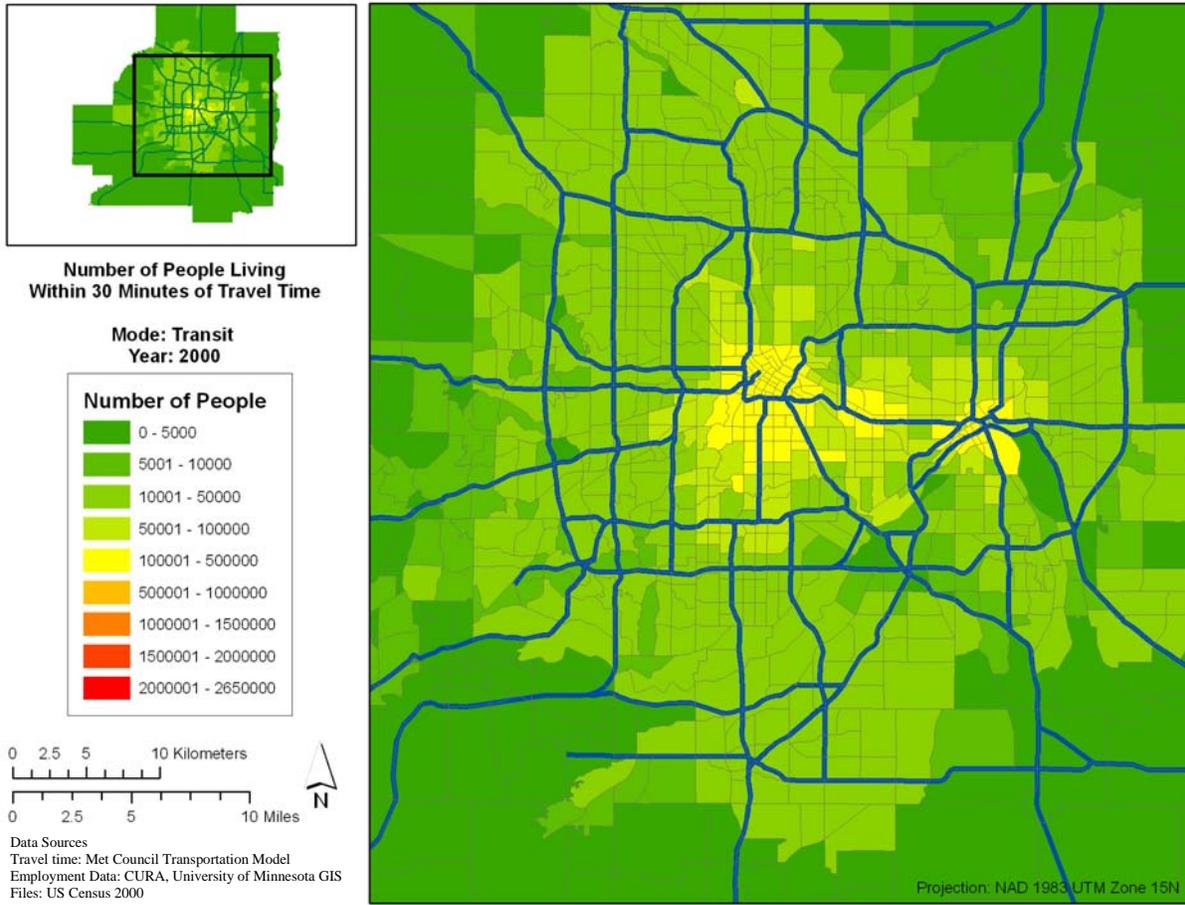


Figure G.8: Number of people living within 30 minutes of travel time in the year 2000 (Transit)

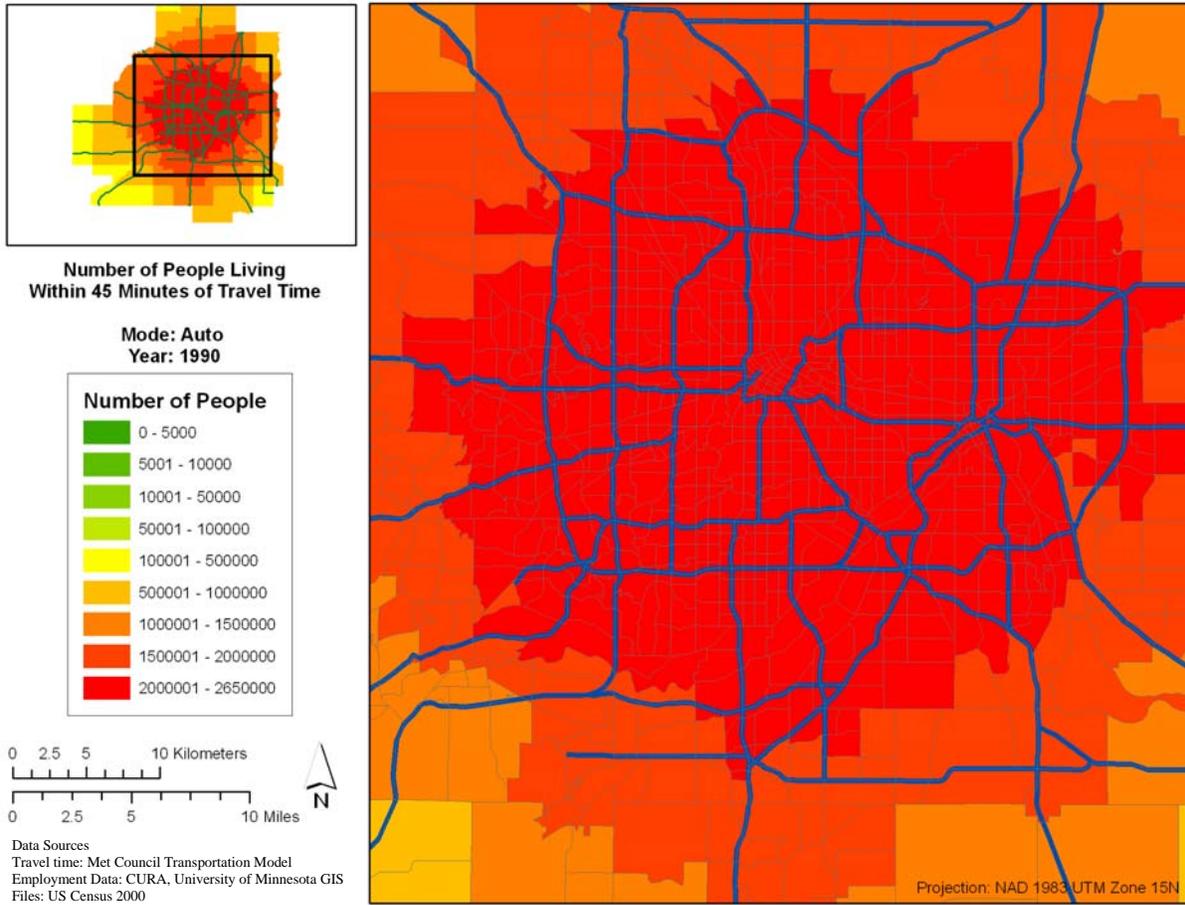


Figure G.9: Number of people living within 45 minutes of travel time in the year 1990 (Auto)

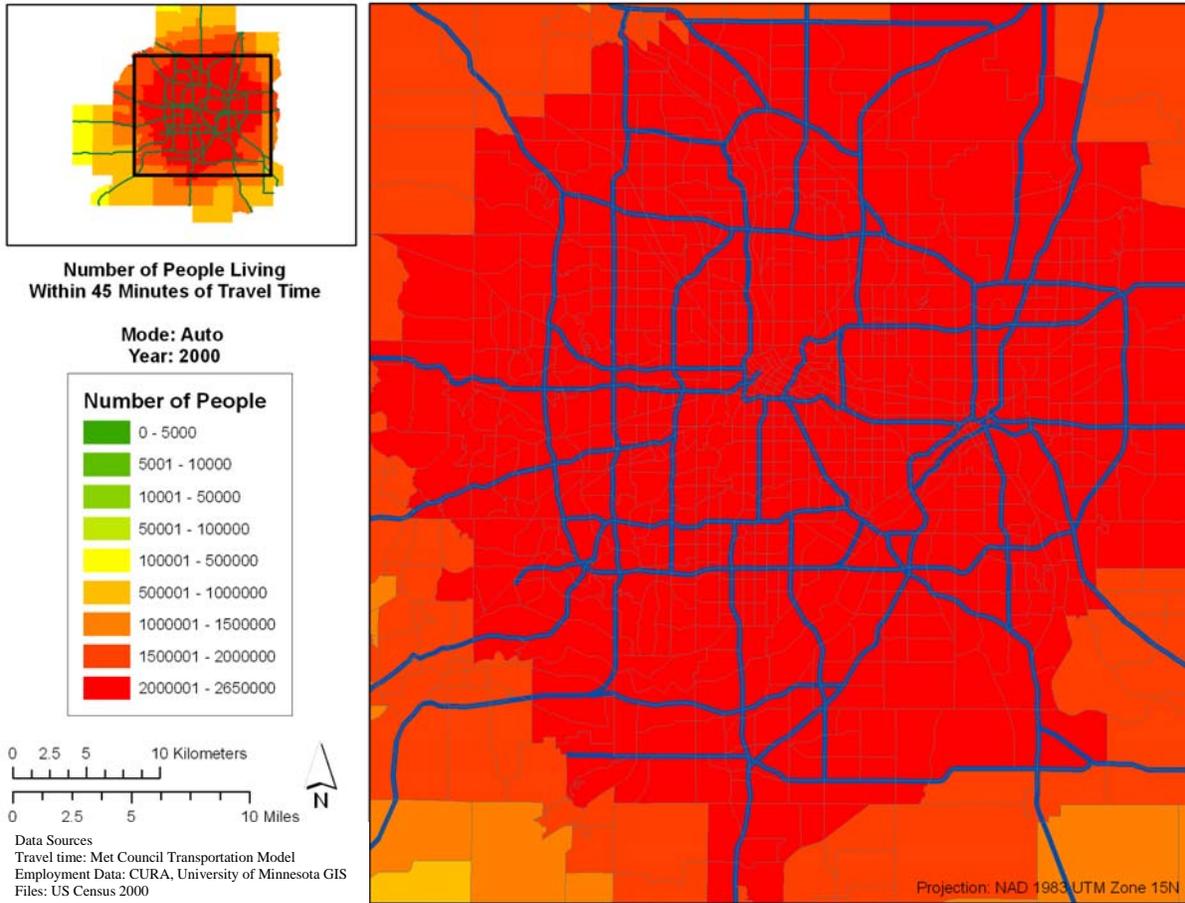


Figure G.10: Number of people living within 45 minutes of travel time in the year 2000 (Auto)

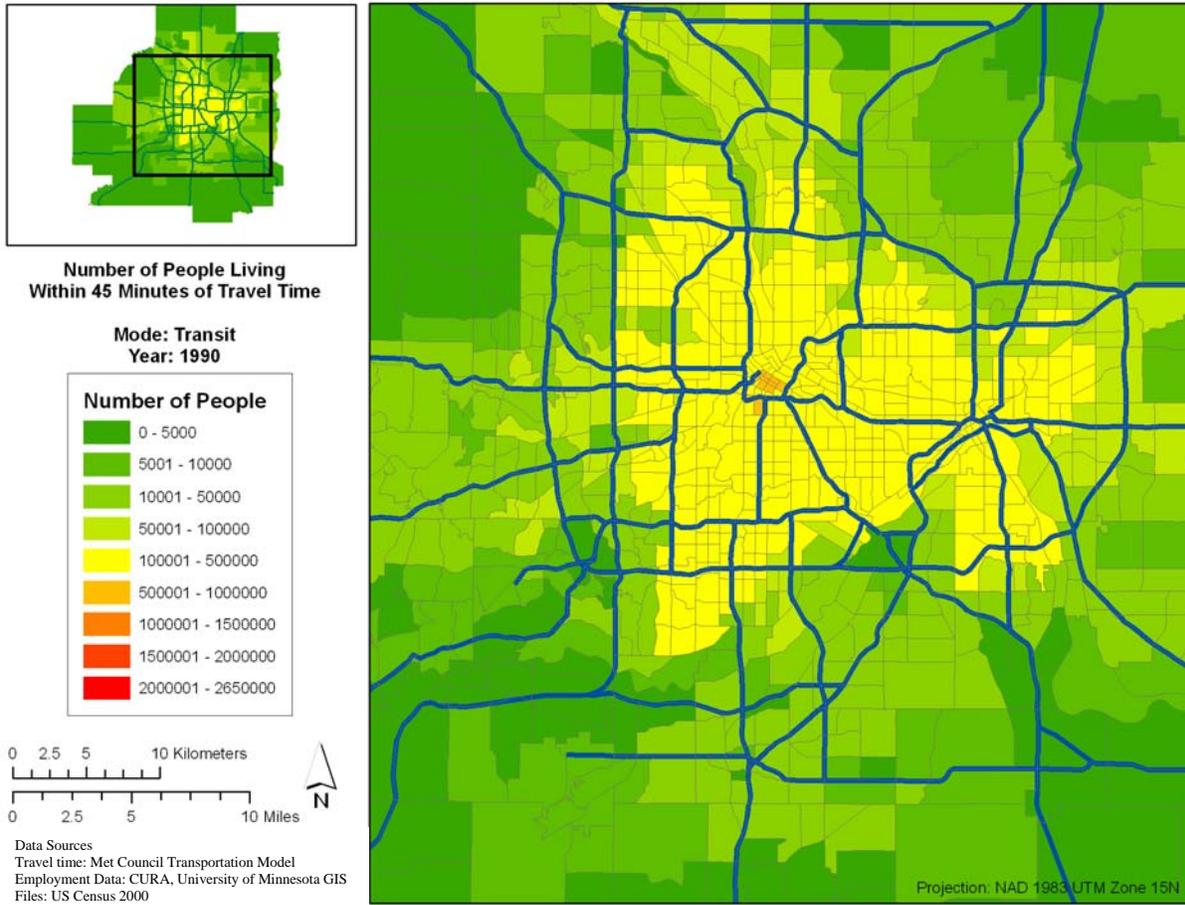


Figure G.11: Number of people living within 45 minutes of travel time in the year 1990 (Transit)

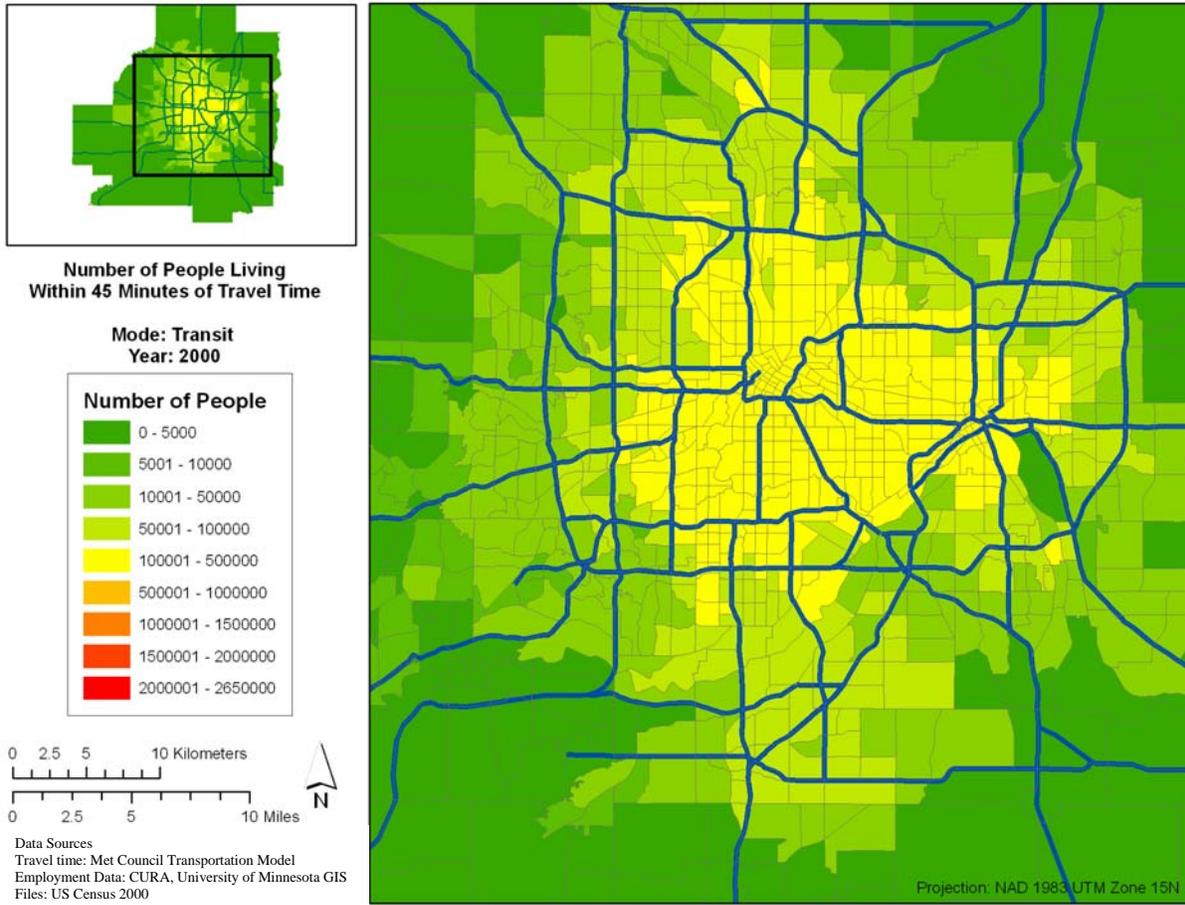


Figure G.12: Number of people living within 45 minutes of travel time in the year 2000 (Transit)

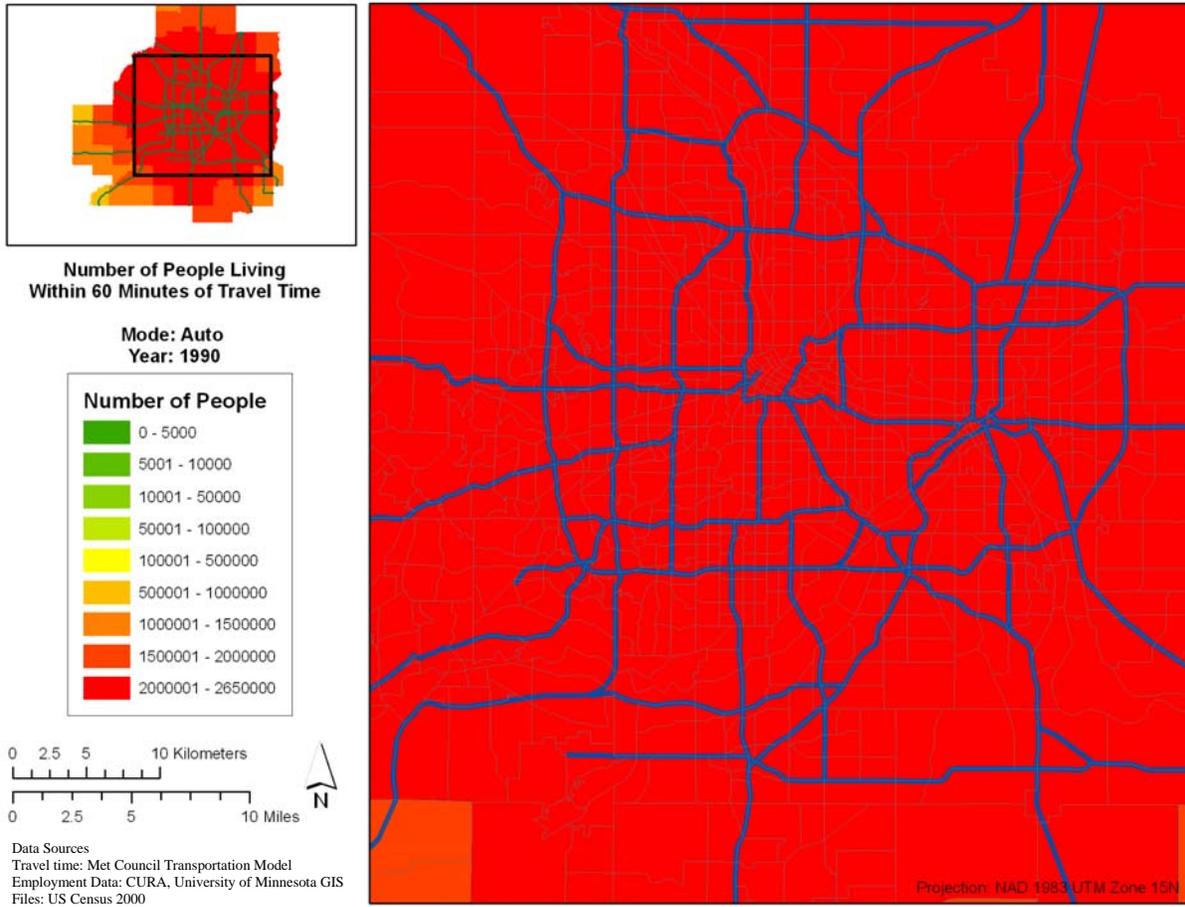


Figure G.13: Number of people living within 60 minutes of travel time in the year 1990 (Auto)

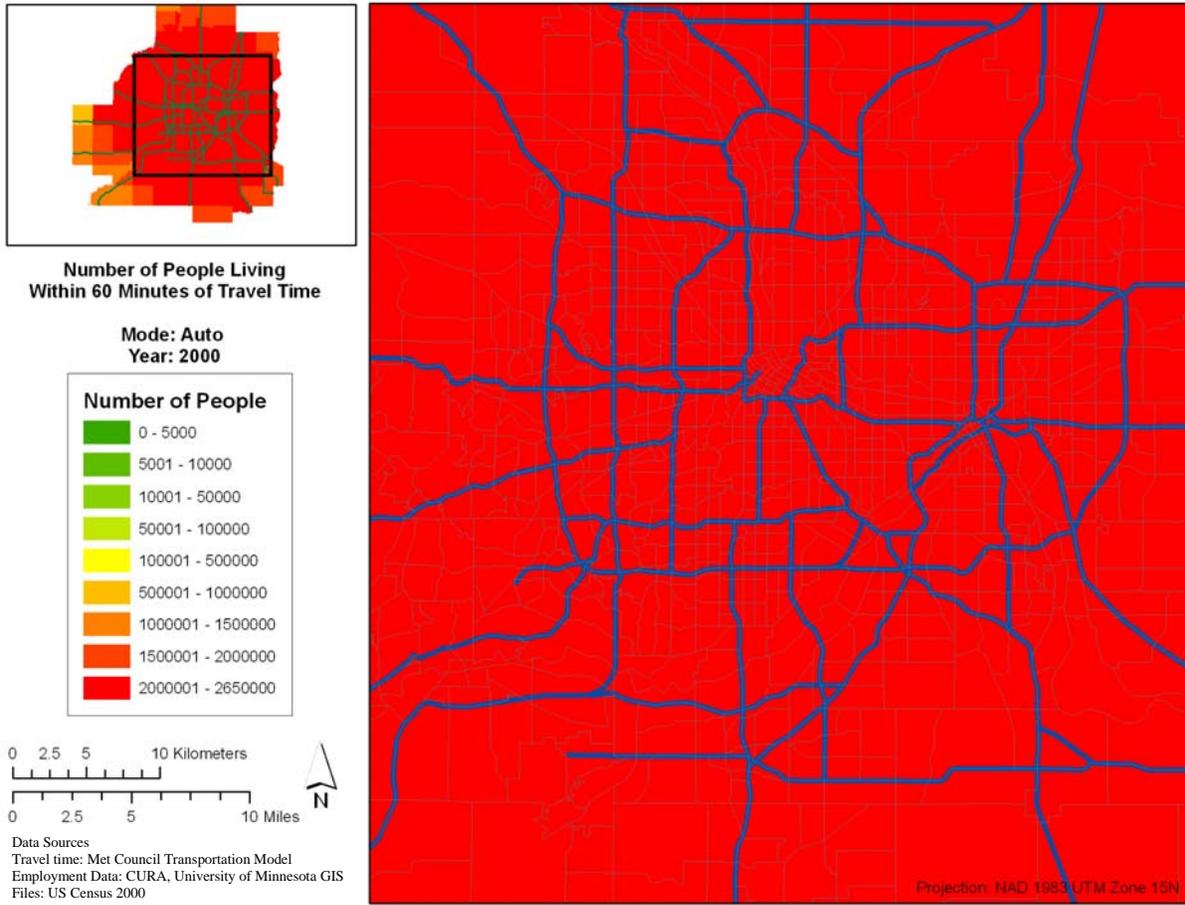


Figure G.14: Number of people living within 60 minutes of travel time in the year 2000 (Auto)

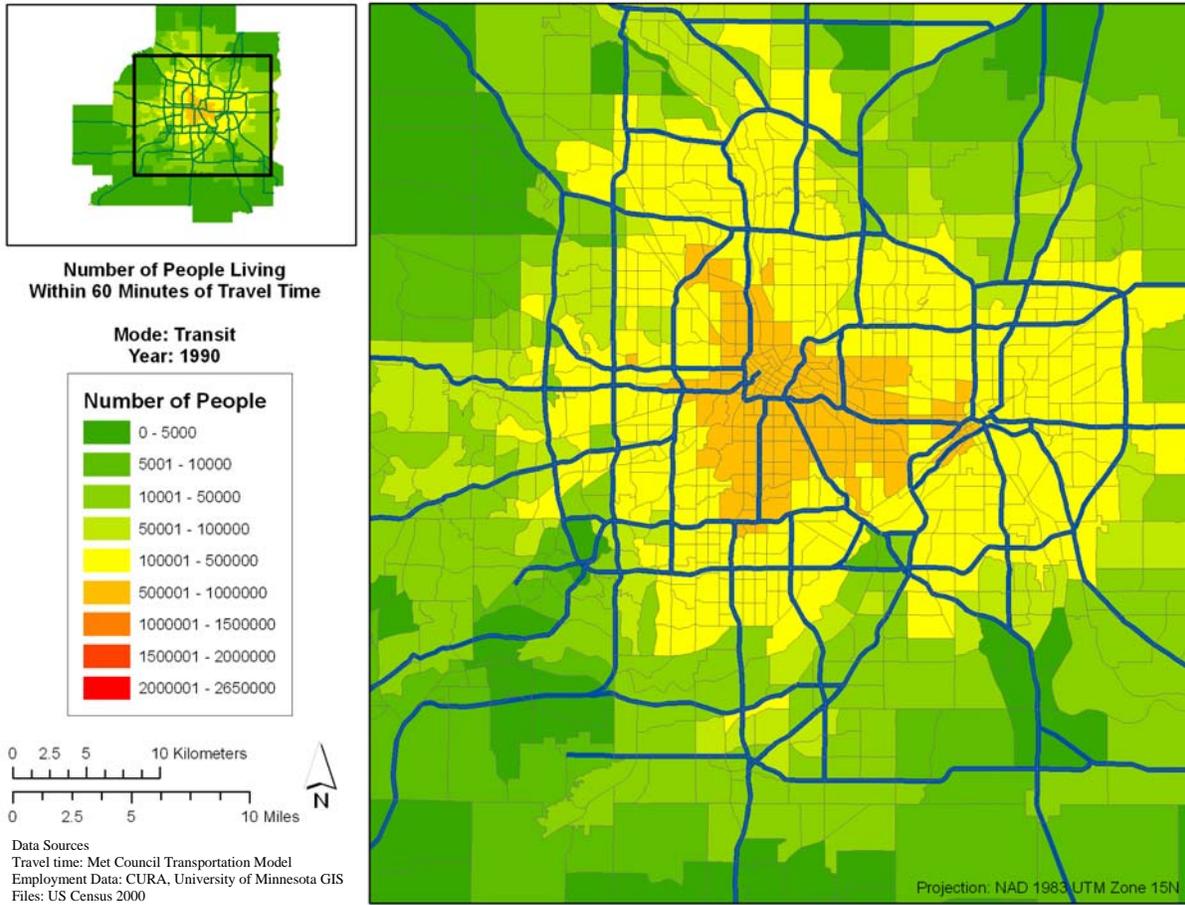


Figure G.15: Number of people living within 60 minutes of travel time in the year 1990 (Transit)

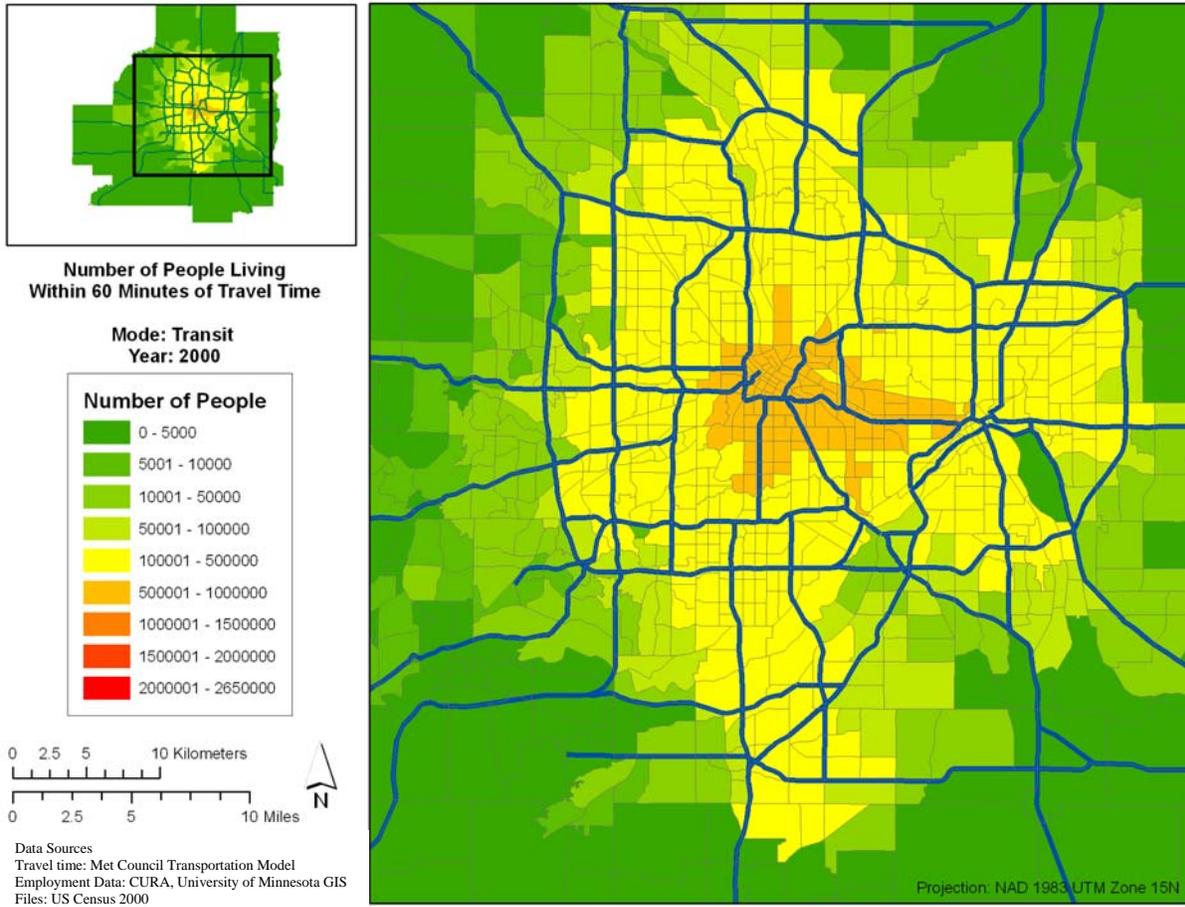


Figure G.16: Number of people living within 60 minutes of travel time in the year 2000 (Transit)