FAQ's for Abley webinar: TomTom Traffic Analytics Tools (26 October 2022)

Q. Is the data only related to driving or is there a way to look at multimodal trips and travel?

A. The data is captured from various sources for trips via commercial or private vehicles only. Some ride sharing apps contribute trip information, but these are added to the pool of trips and not available to be analysed as an individual mode.

Q. What areas of NZ do you cover? I am mostly interested in local road in smaller towns.

A. TomTom Traffic Analytics data covers all public roads across NZ. Sample sizes are typically lower on rural roads and in smaller towns than in urban areas.

Q. Any thoughts on how this might be used to understand loading and servicing vehicle patterns in a city context?

A. Individual vehicle movements and trip purpose are not provided through the MOVE portal tools. Aggregated vehicle speeds and common paths to/from locations that may be used by service vehicles for loading and service can be analysed.

Q. For junctions and paths, can historic data be accessed or only data after the sites has been defined?

A. The Junction Analytics tool is a live data tool and information is only collated for that junction once it has been defined by the user. Once it has been created it will store up to 6 months of data to be downloaded. The Origin Destination tool is a historic data tool and users can access historical data for a two-year rolling period.

Q. Can any of this data be downloaded for reporting?

A. Yes both Traffic Statistics and Origin Destination tools allow data to be downloaded in both spatial and tabular formats for analysis in other applications. Junction Analytics can store up to 6 months of data from the time that the Junction is defined. Route Monitoring is a live traffic monitoring app and data cannot be downloaded.

Q. Carbon emissions? Or are we asking too much?

A. Not yet, but we hope so! TomTom have their Traffic Index information which reports on congestion and other metrics for countries and cities including Australia and New Zealand.

Q. Do we only get aggregated data, or can we drill down to identify occasions of drastic changes in speed (potential near misses) in the data?

A. TomTom anonymise and aggregate their trip data with the smallest increment of aggregation being 15 minutes.

Q. Can Junction Analytics report a traffic signal site by phase?

A. Unfortunately not. Junction Analytics does not have any information about traffic signal phases.

Q. Is there a difference in the cost of running a report that breaks down into 15-minute interval vs a report looking at hourly intervals? What about if you look at a 6-month timeframe vs a 2-year timeframe?

A. There is no difference in cost between reporting at 15-minute vs hourly intervals. The length of the date range does not impact on the cost. However, the number of discrete date ranges acts as a multiplier.

Q. Can you try the Transmission Gully example with just trucks selected?

A. TomTom splits its Traffic Stats into All, Passenger and Fleet categories. The fleet category is broad and captures all vehicles that supply information via vehicle telematics hardware. TomTom does not provide a way to extract only "truck" data within the MOVE portal tools.

Q. Is there a free public version to used?

A. There is no free version, but users can access a fully functional trail version.

Q. Any chance this can pick out motorcycles?

A. Not at present.

Q. Related to sample size, is there any indication of the demographics of the people that may be included in the data vs those that may be excluded/missing? Are households with lower incomes representative with the general population of an area, for example? Gender, race, ability, age, etc. would be other variables I would be interested in knowing if the diversity of the population is consistent with the data sample for TomTom.

A. TomTom does not link their trip data to any demographic information, and they do not receive any information relating to users from their probe data. However, as custom geographic boundaries can be uploaded for analysis demographic data linked to these boundaries could be analysed/attributed to the trip data. TomTom aggregate the trip data so that individual trips cannot be extracted with minimum data aggregation periods of 1 hour for Origin/Destination analysis. The number of connected vehicles and telematics systems, penetration of specific device operating systems (e.g. iOS) and driver apps (e.g. Uber) within a given geography will influence who the samples are drawn from, and this will vary across and within different geographies.

Q. For speed measurement. How does TomTom data compare with tubes, ERoad, and fixed traffic monitoring sites? e.g. sample size per hour, 85%ile speed, defining of vehicle categories

A. Abley have yet to undertake a comparative analysis of TomTom speed data vs other sources across NZ

Q. What is the HV's proportion in the data sample

A. TomTom splits its Traffic Stats into All, Passenger and Fleet categories. The fleet category is broad and captures all vehicles that supply information via vehicle telematics hardware. TomTom does not provide a way to extract heavy vehicle only data within the MOVE portal tools.

Q. Can you provide TomTom for Australia?

A. Yes, Abley can help with provisioning the TomTom MOVE tools for Australia.