





# Is "small" infrastructure the next factory for accessibility?

Evaluating the regional accessibility effects of a cycling-centric transport policy in Zurich

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## Is “Small” Infrastructure the Next Factory for Accessibility? Evaluating the Regional Accessibility Effects of a Cycling-Centric Transport Policy in Zurich.

--Manuscript Draft--

<b>Full Title:</b>	Is “Small” Infrastructure the Next Factory for Accessibility? Evaluating the Regional Accessibility Effects of a Cycling-Centric Transport Policy in Zurich.
<b>Abstract:</b>	<p>Decades of investments into “large” transport infrastructure, such as highways and heavy rail have created immense welfare gains through increased accessibility. Today, however, further accessibility improvements in dense urban regions are only possible at rapidly growing costs. Also, the high volumes of car traffic resulting from large highway infrastructure programs conflict with the need for rapid decarbonization. In this paper, we evaluate whether shifting the policy focus toward “small” infrastructure focused on micromobility modes is a viable option for decarbonizing the transport system and creating further accessibility gains. This work analyses a road space reallocation scheme termed “E-Bike City” for Zurich, Switzerland, presented at this conference in 2023. First, we use MATSim to simulate its effects on road traffic. Second, we calculate a logsum accessibility measure for a population sample, before and after the transformation. Value-of-distance indicators from a route choice model are used to quantify the effects of cycling infrastructure, as opposed to mixed traffic. And finally, we report the changes for different population groups and reflect on the impacts.</p> <p>Our first findings indicate that such a policy could strongly reduce the car traffic volumes in some areas, while slightly improving the median accessibility levels across the entire metropolitan region. However, various methodological challenges remain. Given the urgency of the underlying motivation, we want to spur a discussion about the future transport investment focus, as well as an appropriate methodological framework to evaluate the possible paths to be taken.</p>
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1 **Is “Small” Infrastructure the Next Factory for**  
2 **Accessibility?**  
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4 **Cycling-Centric Transport Policy in Zurich.**  
5  
6

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1 **ABSTRACT**

2 Decades of investments into “large” transport infrastructure, such as highways and heavy rail have  
3 created immense welfare gains through increased accessibility. Today, however, further  
4 accessibility improvements in dense urban regions are only possible at rapidly growing costs. Also,  
5 the high volumes of car traffic resulting from large highway infrastructure programs conflict with  
6 the need for rapid decarbonization. In this paper, we evaluate whether shifting the policy focus  
7 toward “small” infrastructure focused on micromobility modes is a viable option for decarbonizing  
8 the transport system and creating further accessibility gains. This work analyses a road space  
9 reallocation scheme termed “E-Bike City” for Zurich, Switzerland, presented at this conference in  
10 2023. First, we use MATSim to simulate its effects on road traffic. Second, we calculate a logsum  
11 accessibility measure for a population sample, before and after the transformation. Value-of-  
12 distance indicators from a route choice model are used to quantify the effects of cycling  
13 infrastructure, as opposed to mixed traffic. And finally, we report the changes for different  
14 population groups and reflect on the impacts.

15 Our first findings indicate that such a policy could strongly reduce the car traffic volumes in some  
16 areas, while slightly improving the median accessibility levels across the entire metropolitan  
17 region. However, various methodological challenges remain. Given the urgency of the underlying  
18 motivation, we want to spur a discussion about the future transport investment focus, as well as an  
19 appropriate methodological framework to evaluate the possible paths to be taken.

20 **KEYWORDS**

21 Transport Infrastructure Investments; Accessibility; MATSim; Value of Distance; Cycling  
22

## 1 INTRODUCTION

2 Decades of transport infrastructure investments in Switzerland have delivered massive  
3 improvements in accessibility [1]. Increasing speeds and decreasing real travel costs have created  
4 economic benefits in consumer choice, specialization, and residential options. More travel has  
5 allowed us to reach more destinations and develop settlements with lower density. However,  
6 further large infrastructure such as highways or heavy rail in today's complex built environments  
7 can only be built at a rapidly increasing cost, with a high proportion of bridges and tunnels [2].  
8 Moreover, it remains unclear how the resulting growth in travel distances and traffic volumes can  
9 be reconciled with the need to decarbonize [3] the transport sector within the next decades [4].  
10 Commonly discussed technical developments such as battery-electric vehicles (BEV) may not be  
11 sufficient and adopted fast enough [5], [6], [7] to reduce the carbon emissions of motorized traffic.  
12 Other approaches like mobility pricing, or massive transit investments are either politically  
13 infeasible [8] or will take too long to implement. And even despite high transit and rail investments  
14 in Switzerland, the national mode share of transit is stagnating at around only 20% [9].

15 Recently, we have proposed to discuss a focus shift in metropolitan transport planning, from the  
16 current heavily car-based accessibility production towards policies focused on small micromobility  
17 vehicles [10]. Building on top of recent urban livability discussions like 15-minute cities [11] or  
18 Superblocks [12], [13], our core hypothesis was that such approaches can lower transport-related  
19 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions while maintaining or even increasing the accessibility levels. We proposed to test  
20 reallocating approximately 50% of road space to dedicated micromobility infrastructure while  
21 ensuring prioritization of public transit, as well as access for essential car trips.

22 An algorithm for generating and rudimentarily evaluating such transportation schemes was  
23 presented in [14]. However, it remains unclear, so far, how such a transformation would affect the  
24 accessibility levels. In this paper, we use a logsum accessibility measure [15] to represent the  
25 changes experienced by people with different residential locations and demographic attributes. We  
26 use MATSim [16], in combination with one-to-many routing in R5 [17] and NetworkX [18] to  
27 simulate the traffic flows and travel behavior in the present and changed network, and report the  
28 resulting accessibility changes for a variety of spatial and social groups. This paper is structured as  
29 follows: Section 2 reports the current mobility choices in Zurich. Section 3 gives an overview of  
30 previous work. Section 4 explains the methods used and section 5 shows the results. Sections 6 and  
31 7 close the paper with a discussion and conclusions.

1 **2 MOBILITY IN ZURICH**

2 As of 2024, the municipality of Zurich, Switzerland had a population of 443'037 inhabitants, an  
 3 area of 91.9 km<sup>2</sup>, and roughly 1.9 Million inhabitants living within its larger metropolitan region  
 4 [19]. Table 1 gives an overview of travel in Zurich, based on the trips reported in the Swiss national  
 5 travel diary [9].

**Table 1: Mobility in Zurich based on trips in the Swiss national travel diary**

		Other (Motor- cycle)	E-bike	Cars	Public Transport	Bicycle	Walking	All modes	All modes excl. walking
	average occupancy	-	1	1	1.5	20	1		
	emissions CO <sub>2</sub> eq. <sup>1</sup>	g/pkm	163.6	11.3	186.4 <sup>2</sup>	25.4	5.6		
	sample scaling <sup>3</sup>	-	164	164	164	164	164		
Within the City of Zurich	person km traveled (sample)	pkm	202	793	13'030	14'360	6'886	10'549	
	person km traveled	pkm	33'044	129'721	2'131'484	2'349'049	1'126'431	1'725'635	7'495'365
	vehicle km traveled	vkm	33'044	129'721	1'420'989	117'452	1'126'431		2'827'638
	person km share	%	0.4%	1.7%	28.4%	31.3%	15.0%	23.0%	100.0%
	vehicle km share	%	1.2%	4.6%	50.3%	4.2%	39.8%		77.0%
	emissions CO <sub>2</sub> eq.	t	5.4	1.5	397.3	59.7	6.3		470
	share of emissions	%	1.1%	0.3%	84.5%	12.7%	1.3%		100.0%
Cross-Border	person km traveled (sample)	pkm	1'189	416	113'723	137'841	2'488	631	
	person km traveled	pkm	194'527	67'975	18'603'186	22'548'356	406'980	103'273	41'924'296
	vehicle km traveled	vkm	194'527	67'975	12'402'124	1'127'418	406'980		14'199'023
	person km share	%	0.5%	0.2%	44.4%	53.8%	1.0%	0.2%	100.0%
	vehicle km share	%	31.8	0.8	3'467.6	572.7	2.3		4'075
	emissions CO <sub>2</sub> eq.	t	0.8%	0.0%	85.1%	14.1%	0.1%		100.0%
Cross-Border (part within the city)	person km traveled (sample)	pkm	238	83	10'865	14'658	712	316	
	person km traveled	pkm	38'933	13'577	1'777'327	2'397'797	116'471	51'692	4'395'798
	vehicle km traveled	vkm	38'933	13'577	1'184'885	119'890	116'471		1'473'756
	person km share	%	0.9%	0.3%	40.4%	54.5%	2.6%	1.2%	100.0%
	vehicle km share	%	6.4	0.2	331.3	60.9	0.7		399
	emissions CO <sub>2</sub> eq.	t	1.6%	0.0%	83.0%	15.2%	0.2%		100.0%
Total within the city	person km traveled (sample)	pkm	440	876	23'895	29'018	7'598	10'865	72'692
	person km traveled	pkm	71'976	143'299	3'908'812	4'746'846	1'242'902	1'777'327	11'891'163
	person km share	%	0.6%	1.2%	32.9%	39.9%	10.5%	14.9%	100.0%
	cross-border trips share in person km	%	54.1%	9.5%	45.5%	50.5%	9.4%	2.9%	37.0%
	vehicle km	vkm	71'976	143'299	2'605'874	237'342	1'242'902		4'301'394
	vehicle km share	%	1.7%	3.3%	60.6%	5.5%	28.9%		100.0%
	cross-border trips share in vehicle km	%	54.1%	9.5%	45.5%	50.5%	9.4%		34.3%
	emissions CO <sub>2</sub> eq.	t	11.8	1.6	728.6	120.6	7.0		870
	share of emissions	%	1.4%	0.2%	83.8%	13.9%	0.8%		100.0%

<sup>1</sup> Mobitool Swiss emission factors: <https://www.mobitool.ch/de/tools/mobitool-faktoren-v3-0-25.html?tag=18>, Fleet averages in 2024, including all propulsion types

<sup>2</sup> 89.8 g CO<sub>2</sub> eq./pkm for average battery-electric vehicles

<sup>3</sup> Swiss Population 9'000'000 / Sample size 55'018

1 Trips within the municipal borders are done largely using public transport, walking, and cycling  
2 — only 28.4% of person-kilometers (pkm) are traveled by car. The remaining distance traveled  
3 relies on public transport (31.3%), walking (23%), and cycling (15%). For cross-border trips (only  
4 considering their part within the city), cars account for a mode share of 40.4%. However, despite  
5 these moderate shares, they are responsible for 60.6% of vehicle kilometers (vkm) and 83.8% of  
6 all traffic-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions within the city borders. Even if the cross-border trips, accounting  
7 for 45.5% of vkm within the city are excluded, the local car trips account for almost 50% of  
8 Zurich's transport CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Replacing the entire car fleet with battery-electric vehicles will  
9 theoretically reduce the emissions of car traffic by roughly 50% compared to the fleet in 2024, to  
10 89.8 g CO<sub>2</sub>/pkm, cutting Zurich's transport emissions by about 40%. But even in that case, car  
11 traffic will still account for 74.2% of transport emissions in Zurich. Lower cost of operating electric  
12 vehicles, and potentially the adoption of autonomous driving may induce more car traffic and  
13 eliminate some of these benefits. Thus, redesigning the transport system in favor of other modes  
14 has a large potential for reducing emissions, while potentially generating negative effects only for  
15 a moderate proportion of trips.

## 16 **3 PREVIOUS WORK**

### 17 **3.1 Accessibility**

18 Many different definitions of accessibility exist to represent the performance of transport systems.  
19 [20] criticize that the measures often used are insufficient and propose a systematic framework of  
20 different accessibility types. The possibilities of different people to interact with others are  
21 commonly expressed using Hansen [21] accessibility. To represent the utilities of different modes,  
22 considering each person's capabilities, [15] propose to combine the original formulation with a  
23 discrete mode choice model. The resulting measure is a sum of opportunities for every person,  
24 discounted by the costs of reaching them, given their residential location, as well as their  
25 characteristics, such as age. The generalized cost of reaching an opportunity is the average of all  
26 mode-specific generalized costs, weighted by the choice probability of each mode. The resulting  
27 accessibility measure captures the combination of place-based opportunities and personal  
28 capabilities, following the capability approach [22]. To calculate the underlying travel time  
29 matrices efficiently, [17] introduced a Java-based software R5 (Rapid Realistic Routing on Real-  
30 world and Reimagined Networks) for rapid calculation of one-to-many connections in multimodal  
31 transportation systems. It can account for varying travel times across different public transport  
32 connections [23], as well as fare structures [24].

### 1 **3.2 Representing cycling comfort in models**

2 The effects of cycling infrastructure include not only travel time changes but also safety and  
3 comfort gains. Discrete route choice studies such as [25], [26], [27], and [28] have developed robust  
4 estimates of these effects on perceived utility. [29] present such estimates specifically based on a  
5 recent GPS-tracking study in Zurich. Converting their model parameters to Value of Distance  
6 (VoD) indicators allows representing these effects as added or reduced distance, which can be  
7 converted into travel time. This approach allows for representing the benefits of cycling  
8 infrastructure while using parts of the modeling methodology that rely purely on travel time.

### 9 **3.3 Mode choice modeling**

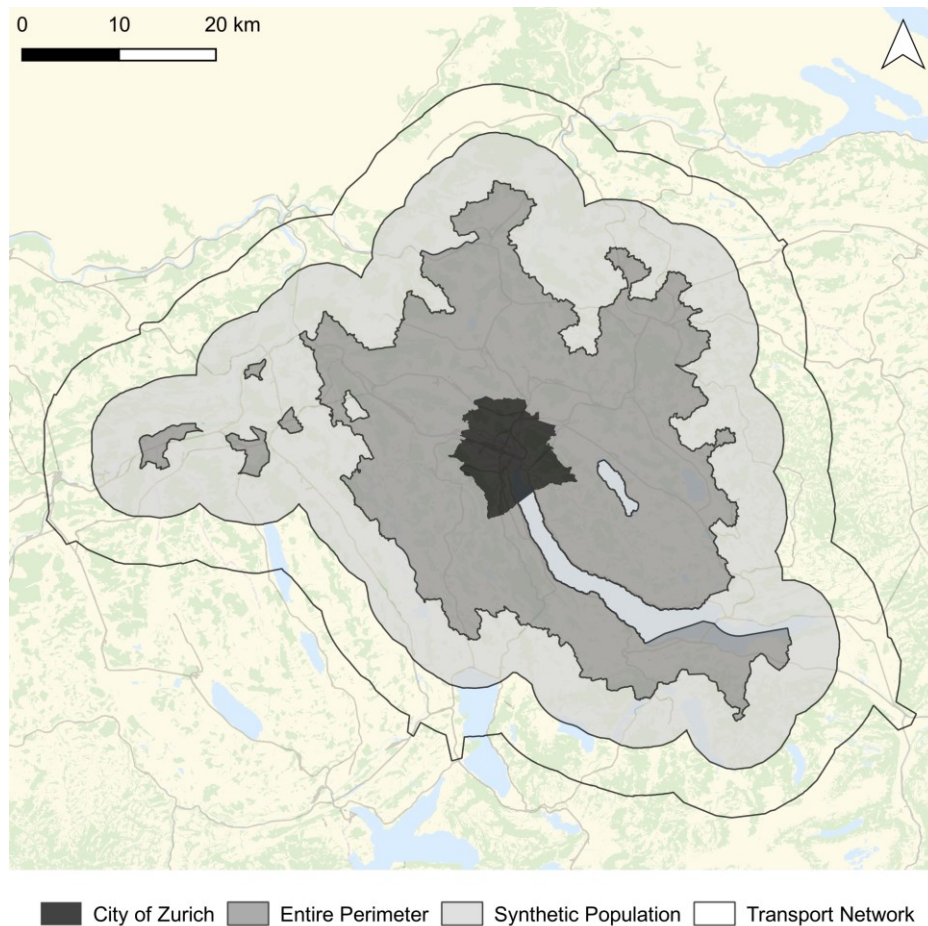
10 The behavioral mode choice component of accessibility [15] introduced above requires a discrete  
11 choice model to provide the choice probability of each mode. [30] present such a model for  
12 Switzerland, originally developed for a study on the usage of future autonomous vehicles.  
13 However, high uncertainty remains about secondary effects, such as those of shifting transport  
14 cultures [31].

## 15 **4 METHODS**

### 16 **4.1 Perimeter**

17 The perimeter for analyzing the outcomes covers the larger Zurich area (1'343 km<sup>2</sup>). We define it  
18 as all municipalities with at least 15% of their population commuting to the City of Zurich. For  
19 generating travel demand in the MATSim model (see section 4.4), the synthetic population is  
20 provided for the same area plus a 5 km buffer. Traffic generated by trips beyond that buffer is  
21 represented by trip portions cut out of the available nationwide model. The transportation network  
22 includes an additional buffer of 5 km, with small extensions for adjacent highway interchanges to  
23 avoid long disconnected highway sections. Figure 1 shows a map of the perimeter geometries.





**Figure 1: Perimeter geometries**

## 1 4.2 Datasets on population and destinations

2 The population data is provided by the 2017 STATPOP dataset of Switzerland<sup>4</sup>, representing the  
3 home location of each permanent resident, with attributes such as age, sex, and residence permit,  
4 but no data on income. The residential locations in this dataset show slight spatial disparities, with  
5 a higher-than-average proportion of foreigners, younger residents, as well as males at central  
6 locations. The destinations are based on the aggregated STATENT dataset<sup>5</sup>, containing economic  
7 information, such as the number of jobs, aggregated to cells of 100x100 meters.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/de/home/statistiken/kataloge-datenbanken.assetdetail.27965868.html>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/de/home/dienstleistungen/geostat/geodaten-bundesstatistik/arbeitsstaetten-beschaeftigung/statistik-unternehmensstruktur-statent-ab-2011.html>

### 1 4.3 Network data

2 The transportation network data is acquired from OpenStreetMap (OSM) and enriched with an on-  
 3 street-parking dataset of the City of Zurich<sup>6</sup> and public transit routes<sup>7</sup>. Out of this data, we generate  
 4 a status quo network, as well as one that has been transformed to represent the proposed policies<sup>8</sup>.  
 5 The latter allocates a large proportion of the existing road space within the city to separated cycling  
 6 paths and reorganizes the remaining travel lanes to provide access for essential car trips. It creates  
 7 a high-quality infrastructure for cycling and other micromobility vehicles while maintaining the  
 8 total road width on every street — unlike other approaches for generating cycling infrastructure  
 9 which ignore the road space trade-offs, e.g., [32] and [33]. The transformation is limited to an area  
 10 that roughly corresponds to the municipal boundary. No changes are made to the transportation  
 11 systems beyond this area. The generation process was introduced in [14] and the network used in  
 12 this paper is a newer version, presented in [34].

13 The effects of infrastructure and grades on the generalized cost of cycling trips are included by  
 14 adjusting the cycling length  $l_{uvk,cycling}$  of each link  $uvk$  ( $u$ : node from,  $v$ : node to,  $k$ : key for  
 15 distinguishing multiple parallel links) with VoD indicators from [29]:

$$16 \quad l_{uvk,cycling} = l_{uvk} * [1 + \text{VoD}_{\text{infra}}(\text{infra}) + \text{VoD}_{\text{grade}}(\text{grade})]$$

17 For  $\text{VoD}_{\text{infra}}$ , we assume -0.5 if dedicated cycling infrastructure is present and 0 otherwise. For the  
 18 effects of elevation differences,  $\text{VoD}_{\text{grade}}$  is 0.55 for  $2\% < \text{grade} \leq 6\%$ , 3.11 for  $6\% < \text{grade} \leq$   
 19  $10\%$  and 4.33 for  $\text{grade} > 10\%$ .

20 Table 2 shows descriptive statistics of the current, as well as of the reallocated transportation  
 21 network, adapted from [34]. The transformation increases the proportion of road space allocated to  
 22 cycling infrastructure from 12.1% to 54.3%, while the space for motorized traffic lanes decreases  
 23 from 66.6% to 35.1%. As a result of many one-way streets and detours in the car network, the  
 24 average shortest path for car trips increases by 35.7%. On the other hand, the higher number of  
 25 streets with cycling infrastructure reduces the generalized cost for cycling trips at a level that is  
 26 equivalent to reducing their average shortest path by 24.1%. The total road space changes slightly  
 27 due to limitations of the algorithm that cannot guarantee the road space constraint under some  
 28 circumstances.

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<sup>6</sup> [https://data.stadt-zuerich.ch/dataset/geo\\_oeffentlich\\_zugaengliche\\_strassenparkplaetze\\_ogd](https://data.stadt-zuerich.ch/dataset/geo_oeffentlich_zugaengliche_strassenparkplaetze_ogd)

<sup>7</sup> [https://data.stadt-zuerich.ch/dataset/ktzh\\_linien\\_des\\_oeffentlichen\\_verkehrs\\_ogd\\_](https://data.stadt-zuerich.ch/dataset/ktzh_linien_des_oeffentlichen_verkehrs_ogd_)

<sup>8</sup> A complete map of the network before and after transformation can be found here:  
<https://polybox.ethz.ch/index.php/s/msguyrD6M9zd0qk>

**Table 2: Descriptive statistics of the network from [34]**

Metric		Status Quo	E-Bike City	Change
avg shortest path for cars	km	5.463	7.412	35.7%
avg shortest path for bicycles	km	5.391	5.334	-1.1%
avg shortest path for bicycles with VoD indicators	km	4.824	3.661	-24.1%
avg normalized betweenness centrality for cars	-	0.00506	0.01303	157.5%
avg normalized betweenness centrality for bicycles	-	0.00367	0.00354	-3.5%
road space general travel lanes	km <sup>2</sup> (66.6%)	3.7564 (35.1%)	2.0257	-46.1%
road space parking	km <sup>2</sup> (14.3%)	0.8040 (3.8%)	0.2188	-72.8%
road space dedicated public transport lanes	km <sup>2</sup> (7%)	0.3962 (6.9%)	0.3962	0.0%
road space cycling infrastructure	km <sup>2</sup> (12.1%)	0.6816 (54.3%)	3.1340	359.8%
total road space	km <sup>2</sup>	5.6382	5.7747	2.4%

#### 1 4.4 MATSim simulation

2 The distances, after they were adjusted using the VoD indicators can be transformed directly to  
3 travel time, using assumptions about average speeds. However, in the case of car traffic, they would  
4 not account for differences due to congestion. Therefore, we use the agent-based traffic simulation  
5 toolkit MATSim to obtain the car travel times on each link. These are then used as inputs for the  
6 successive accessibility calculations. We use the travel times for the morning peak time, at 7:00-  
7 7:30.

8 The MATSim [16] simulation is built using the eqasim pipeline [35] and its implementation for  
9 Switzerland [36]. [37] describes the process of cutting the national scenario to the perimeter in  
10 Figure 1, with a resulting synthetic population of roughly 2.6 million. We create two separate  
11 simulations, one with the network before space reallocation and one after. Both simulations are run  
12 for 60 iterations with MATSim 13.0 and the eqasim 1.3.1 discrete mode choice models extension  
13 [35]. At the beginning of each iteration, 5% of the agents are replanning their schedule: given the  
14 travel times and conditions they experienced previously, they reevaluate their mode (see section  
15 4.5) and route choice. No changes in destination choice or departure time are considered. The  
16 remaining 95% keep their previously selected plan. Six transport modes are modeled: “bike”, “car”,  
17 “car passenger”, “truck”, “walk”, and “public transport”. Only tours that contain trips by car, bike,  
18 public transport, and walking are allowed to change modes during the replanning stage. All  
19 motorized individual modes (“car”, “car passenger”, and “truck”), as well as “bike” are routed on  
20 the network, which allows for modeling the effects of congestion. For bicycles, we use a seepage  
21 [38] link dynamics on links shared with motorized traffic – they are affected by congestion but can  
22 seep through the queues. Walking and public transport are modeled as teleported modes. Any

1 effects of additional congestion on the punctuality of public transport are neglected, which is  
 2 reasonable given that all dedicated bus lanes, as well as the effective priority at signalized  
 3 intersections, remain unchanged. Any systematic congestion-related delays occurring in the status  
 4 quo, however, are included in the official scheduled travel times which are different for the peak  
 5 hours than for the rest of the day.

6 The key metrics of the two simulations are presented in Table 3. We distinguish between the entire  
 7 study area and the trips that start and/or end in the city of Zurich. Over the entire area, the volume  
 8 of cycling grows the most (+14.78% in pkm, +11.29% in pkm-based mode share), followed by  
 9 public transport (+6.78% in pkm, +3.65% in pkm-based mode share). However, the total volume  
 10 of car travel increases as well (+0.44% in pkm, -2.52% in pkm-based mode share).

**Table 3: Comparison between the two simulations**

Metric			Before reallocation		After reallocation		Relative difference (%)	
			All trips	Start/End within City of Zurich	All trips	Start/End within City of Zurich	All trips	Start/End within City of Zurich
Mode share (trip-based)	Car	%	31.56	21.62	30.03	16.12	-4.85	-25.44
	Public transport	%	17.90	34.42	18.54	36.62	+3.58	+6.39
	Bike	%	9.38	9.95	10.27	13.34	+9.49	+34.07
Mode share (pkm-based)	Car	%	48.82	37.67	47.59	34.03	-2.52	-9.66
	Public transport	%	24.94	41.35	25.85	43.03	+3.65	+4.06
	Bike	%	4.43	4.96	4.93	6.70	+11.29	+35.08
Person-km	Car	x10 <sup>6</sup>	37.35	7.62	37.51	7.40	+0.44	-2.86
	Public transport	x10 <sup>6</sup>	19.08	8.37	20.37	9.36	+6.78	+11.92
	Bike	x10 <sup>6</sup>	3.39	1.00	3.89	1.46	+14.78	+45.42
Person-hours	Car	x10 <sup>4</sup>	124.68	27.78	126.92	36.89	+1.79	+32.79
	Public transport	x10 <sup>4</sup>	118.29	51.56	124.46	56.15	+5.22	+8.90
	Bike	x10 <sup>4</sup>	27.43	8.7	41.36	20.87	+50.79	+139.86

11  
 12 These effects are visible to a greater extent in trips that start or end in the city: The trip-based mode  
 13 shares decreases for cars by 25.44% and increases for cycling by 34.07%. However, the pkm-based  
 14 mode shares change by -9.66% and +35.08%. This suggests that either predominantly short car  
 15 trips were replaced, or existing trips became longer due to detours.

16 The total number of pkm increases for all modes, including cars (despite a slight decrease in the  
 17 pkm-based mode share), indicating that the new network leads to longer trips. An analysis of the  
 18 temporal distribution of departures and arrivals reveals that the maximum car traffic flows (and  
 19 levels of congestion) observed during peak hours decrease, but they take more time to dissolve in

1 the network. This suggests that car drivers travel longer distances and spend more time driving  
 2 until they reach their destinations during peak hours.

### 3 **4.5 Mode choice model**

4 The mode choice model used in the MATSim simulation, as well as in the logsum accessibility  
 5 measure is adapted from [30] and represents the choice probabilities for cars, public transport (PT),  
 6 cycling, and walking. It considers the attributes of each trip, as well as the age of the person. The  
 7 model parameters used are shown in Table 4.

$$\begin{aligned}
 U_{\text{car}}(x) &= \alpha_{\text{car}} \\
 &+ \beta_{\text{TT,car}} x_{\text{IVT}} \left( \frac{x_{\text{dist}}}{\mu_{\text{dist}}} \right)^{\lambda_{\text{distTT}}} \\
 &+ \beta_{\text{TT,walk}} x_{\text{AET}} \\
 &+ \beta_{\text{cost}} \left( \frac{x_{\text{dist}}}{\mu_{\text{dist}}} \right)^{\lambda_{\text{distCost}}} x_{\text{cost}} \left( \frac{x_{\text{hhIncome}}}{\mu_{\text{hhIncome}}} \right)^{x_{\text{hhIncome}}} \\
 &+ \beta_{\text{work,car}} x_{\text{work}} \\
 &+ \beta_{\text{cityCenter,car}} x_{\text{cityCenter}}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 U_{\text{PT}}(x) &= \alpha_{\text{PT}} \\
 &+ (\beta_{\text{railTT}} x_{\text{railTT}} + \beta_{\text{busTT}} x_{\text{busTT}}) \left( \frac{x_{\text{dist}}}{\mu_{\text{dist}}} \right)^{\lambda_{\text{distTT}}} \\
 &+ \beta_{\text{AET}} x_{\text{AET}} \\
 &+ \beta_{\text{wait}} x_{\text{waitingTime}} \\
 &+ \beta_{\text{lineSwitch}} x_{\text{numberOfConnections}} \\
 &+ \beta_{\text{cost}} \left( \frac{x_{\text{dist}}}{\mu_{\text{dist}}} \right)^{\lambda_{\text{distCost}}} x_{\text{cost}} \left( \frac{x_{\text{hhIncome}}}{\mu_{\text{hhIncome}}} \right)^{x_{\text{hhIncome}}} \\
 &+ \beta_{\text{headway}} x_{\text{headway}} \\
 &+ \beta_{\text{OVGK}}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 U_{\text{bike}}(x) &= \alpha_{\text{bike}} \\
 &+ \beta_{\text{TT,bike}} x_{\text{bikeTT}} \left( \frac{x_{\text{dist}}}{\mu_{\text{dist}}} \right)^{\lambda_{\text{distTT}}} \\
 &+ \beta_{\text{age} \geq 60, \text{bike}} x_{\text{age} \geq 60}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 U_{\text{walk}}(x) &= \alpha_{\text{walk}} \\
 &+ \beta_{\text{TT,walk}} x_{\text{walkTT}} \left( \frac{x_{\text{dist}}}{\mu_{\text{dist}}} \right)^{\lambda_{\text{distTT}}} \\
 &+ \left( 1 - 100^{\frac{x_{\text{walkTT}}}{\theta_{\text{thresholdWalkTT}}}} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

1

2 The choice probability for mode  $i$  is calculated as follows:

$$P_i = \frac{e^{U_i}}{\sum_j e^{U_j}}$$

3

4 Variables used in the model:

$x_{\text{IVT}}$	Car in-vehicle time (min)
$x_{\text{dist}}$	Euclidean distance (km)
$x_{\text{AET}}$	Access-egress time (min)
$x_{\text{IVT}}$	Cost of the trip (CHF)
$x_{\text{hhIncome}}$	Monthly household income (CHF)
$x_{\text{work}}$	1 if the origin or destination purpose is work, otherwise 0 (-)
$x_{\text{cityCenter}}$	1 if the origin or the destination of the trip lies within the boundaries of the City of Zurich, otherwise 0 (-)
$x_{\text{railTT}}$	Travel time in rail vehicles (min)
$x_{\text{busTT}}$	Travel time in busses (min)
$x_{\text{waitingTime}}$	Waiting time (min)
$x_{\text{numberOfConnections}}$	Number of trip legs (-)
$x_{\text{headway}}$	PT connection headway (min)
$x_{\text{bikeTT}}$	Bicycle travel time (min)
$x_{\text{age} \geq 60}$	1 if the person is at least 60 years old, otherwise 0 (-)
$x_{\text{walkTT}}$	Travel time walking (min)

5

6 The cost variables are being calculated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 x_{\text{costCar}} &= 0.26 \text{ CHF/km} * x_{\text{dist}} && \text{Car trip cost (CHF)} \\
 x_{\text{costPT}} &= \max(2.7 \text{ CHF}, 0.6 \text{ CHF/km} * x_{\text{dist}}) && \text{PT trip costs, at least 2.70 (CHF)}
 \end{aligned}$$

7

- 1 The mode choice model relies on a set of trip and personal attributes, in addition to travel time.
- 2 Some of them are not available in the STATPOP dataset or cannot be calculated by R5 and
- 3 NetworkX without a heavy computational overhead. We replace these missing attributes with the
- 4 following assumptions:

$$x_{\text{hhIncome}} = 10'000 \text{ CHF}$$

$$x_{\text{work}} = 0.5$$

$$x_{\text{cityCenter}} = 0.2$$

$$x_{\text{railTT}} = 0.8 x_{\text{TT,PT}}$$

$$x_{\text{busTT}} = 0.2 x_{\text{TT,PT}}$$

$$x_{\text{AET,PT}} = 0$$

$$x_{\text{numberOfConnections}} = x_{\text{TT,PT}} / 20 \text{ min}$$

$$x_{\text{headway}} = 10 \text{ min}$$

$$x_{\text{waitingTime}} = 5 \text{ min}$$

50% of trips for work

20% of trips start or end in the city

80% travel time in rail vehicles

20% travel time in busses

Access and egress are already included in the travel times from R5, therefore 0

Transfers on average every 20 minutes

5

**Table 4: Mode choice model parameters adapted from [30]**

General	$\mu_{hhIncome}$	CHF	12'260 Reference monthly household income
	$\mu_{dist}$	km	39 Reference distance
	$\lambda_{distTT}$	-	0.1147 Elasticity of travel time w.r.t. distance
	$\beta_{cost}$	-	-0.088
	$\lambda_{distCost}$	-	-0.2209 Elasticity of travel cost w.r.t. distance
	$\lambda_{hhIncome}$	-	-0.8169 Elasticity of cost w.r.t. monthly household income
Car	$\alpha_{car}$	CHF	-0.8 Alternative-specific constant
	$\beta_{TT,car}$	CHF/min	-0.0192
	$\beta_{work,car}$	CHF	-1.1606
	$\beta_{cityCenter,car}$	CHF	-0.4590
Public Transport	$\alpha_{pt}$	CHF	0.0 Alternative-specific constant
	$\beta_{railTT}$	CHF/min	-0.0072
	$\beta_{busTT}$	CHF/min	-0.0124
	$\beta_{AET\_PT}$	CHF/min	-0.0142
	$\beta_{wait}$	CHF/min	-0.0124
	$\beta_{lineSwitch}$	CHF	-0.17
	$\beta_{headway}$	CHF/min	-0.0301
	$\beta_{OVGK}$	-	-0.8 PT quality level at the trip origin
Bike	$\alpha_{bike}$	CHF	-0.1522 Alternative-specific constant
	$\beta_{travelTime,bike}$	CHF/min	-0.1258
	$\beta_{age\geq 60,bike}$	CHF	-0.0496
Walking	$\alpha_{walk}$	CHF	0.5903 Alternative-specific constant
	$\beta_{TT,walk}$	CHF/min	-0.0457
	$\Theta_{thresholdWalkTT}$	min	120

1

## 2 4.6 Accessibility calculation

3 We calculate the accessibility for every person, with their residential location as a starting point  
4 and all employment opportunities as destinations. The modes considered are car, bicycle, public  
5 transport, and walking with their respective choice probabilities according to the mode choice  
6 model in section 4.5. The cost  $c_{ij}$  of reaching each destination  $j$  from an origin  $i$  is a weighted  
7 average of the costs of the available modes  $m$ , using the choice probability  $P_{ijm}$  as the weight:

$$8 \quad c_{ij} = \sum_m P_{ijm} * c_{ijm} \quad \text{with the cost from the mode choice utility function: } c_{ijm} = -U_{ijm}$$

9 The utility of each destination is equal to the number of full-time job equivalents. The accessibility  
10  $a_i$  of an origin  $i$  is the sum of all destination utilities  $u_j$  within a given distance, each discounted  
11 by the travel cost of reaching it  $c_{ij}$ , by applying a cost function:



$$1 \quad a_i = \sum_j f(c_{ij}) * u_j \quad \text{with the cost function:} \quad a_i f(c_{ij}) = c_{ij}^{-0.7}$$

2 The shortest paths by public transport are calculated on the Swiss 2023 GTFS dataset<sup>9</sup>, using the  
 3 travel time matrix calculator in r5py<sup>10</sup> [39], a Python wrapper for R5 [17]. For walking, cycling,  
 4 and car trips, we use the one-to-many Dijkstra algorithm implementation in NetworkX<sup>11</sup> [18],  
 5 which, unlike R5, enables the use of pre-calculated edge weights without further adjustments. In  
 6 R5, we have provided the coordinates of the origin and destination. In NetworkX, the shortest path  
 7 is found between a pair of nodes in the street network. These are chosen as the closest points to the  
 8 origin/destination, accessible by the respective mode. The crowfly distance between the  
 9 origin/destination points and those nodes is considered the access/egress walking distance and it is  
 10 multiplied by a detour factor of 1.5. To reduce the computational workload, we calculate the  
 11 accessibility for a reduced sample: 50% origin cells, 5% of the population within each cell, and  
 12 10% of all destinations within 70 km – resulting in a sample size of 43'783 persons, each with  
 13 ~3'000 destinations. Given the option of four modes, in total, ~530 Million paths need to be  
 14 considered. The calculation was carried out on the ETH Euler cluster, running on 60 CPUs in  
 15 parallel.

## 16 5 RESULTS

17 The results are documented in a set of maps, showing the traffic flows in the downtown area of  
 18 Zurich (Figure 2), the region-wide accessibility changes for car and cycling trips (Figure 3), as well  
 19 as a table showing the aggregate median accessibility changes for different population groups  
 20 (Table 5).

21 Figure 2 shows a decrease in car speeds and car traffic volumes in parts of the inner city. Residents  
 22 living in these areas experience the highest reductions in their car-based accessibility. The region-  
 23 wide accessibility maps in Figure 3 show, however, no substantial car accessibility changes outside  
 24 of the city. In the western part, around the city of Aarau, car-based accessibility even slightly  
 25 improves. On the other hand, the cycling-based accessibility increases substantially across the  
 26 entire city and roughly 10km beyond the area where the road space reallocation was applied. Table  
 27 5 shows that car-based accessibility in the city decreases in the median by ~2%. Focusing only on  
 28 the Seefeld area, on the eastern side of the lake in Figure 2, the median decrease is 7-8%. Outside  
 29 of the city, the car-based accessibility levels decrease only slightly, by 0.5% in the median. Cycling-

<sup>9</sup> <https://opendata.swiss/en/dataset/timetable-2023-gtfs2020>

<sup>10</sup> <https://github.com/r5py/r5py>

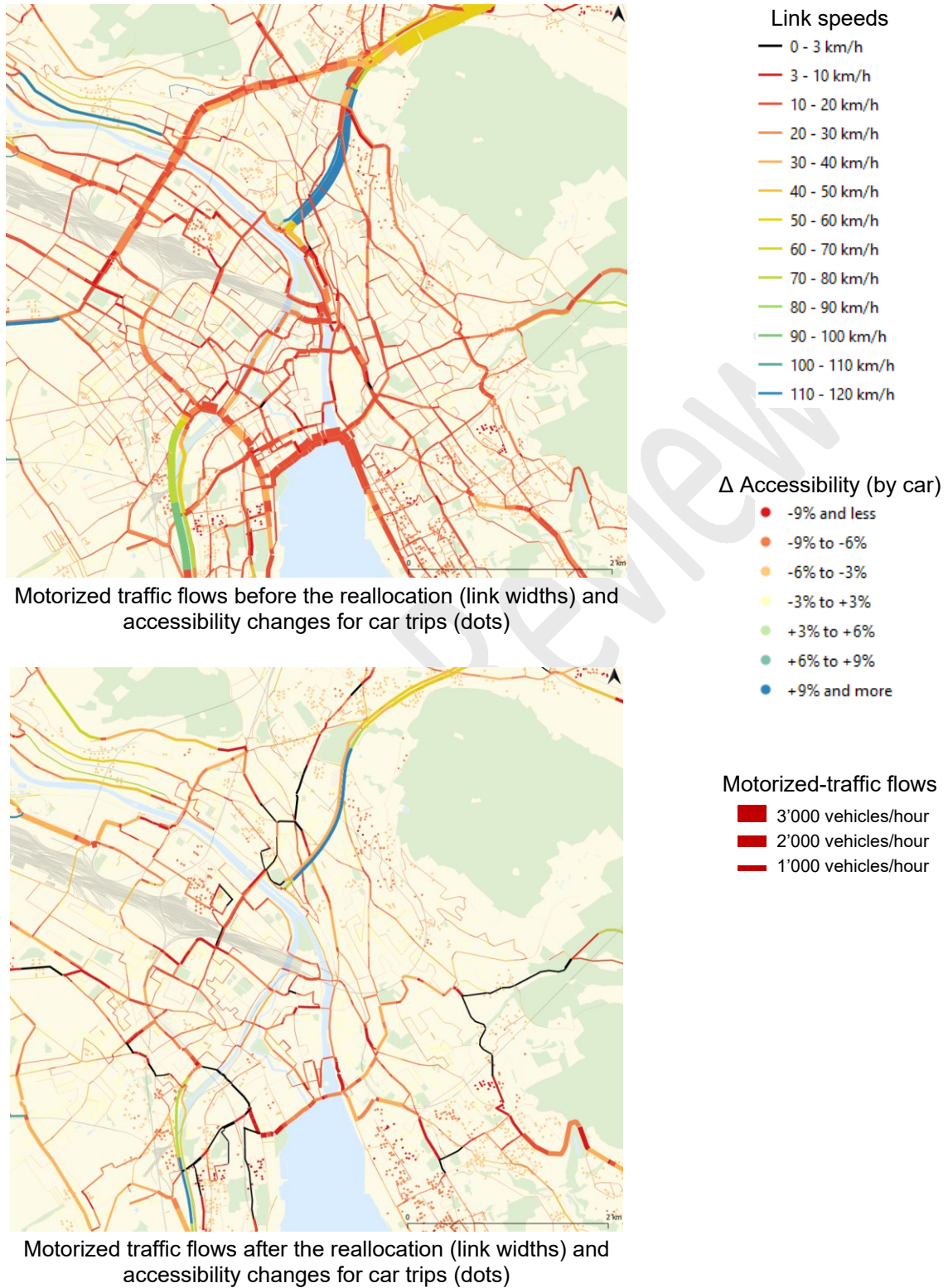
<sup>11</sup> <https://github.com/networkx/networkx>

1 based accessibility grows in the median by up to ~19% within the city and by 3-4% in the rest of  
2 the region. Since no changes were made to public transit, its accessibility remains unchanged.  
3 Across the entire perimeter, car-based accessibility decreases by 1%, and cycling-based  
4 accessibility grows by 4.5%.

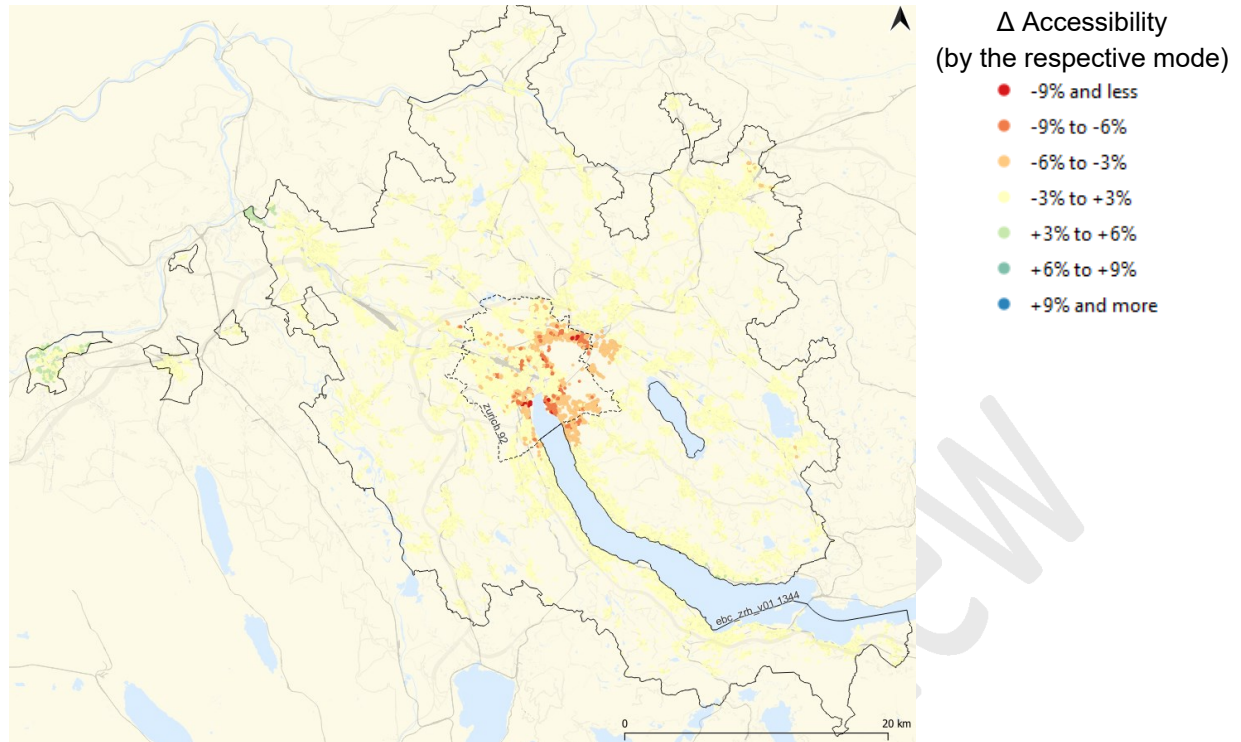
5 The spatial disparities in the residential locations of the different groups have no substantial impact  
6 on their accessibility changes. However, residents over 60 receive substantially lower cycling  
7 accessibility gains in comparison to the rest of the population, with only 5.3% within the city,  
8 compared to ~19% for the other age groups. This effect is even stronger in the Seefeld area, with  
9 cycling accessibility improvements of 32.7% for other age groups but only 6.5% for people above  
10 60. This is due to the formulation of the mode choice model that penalizes cycling trips of residents  
11 above 60. As a result, the logsum accessibility of this group living within the city decreases slightly  
12 by 1.1% (and -3% in the Seefeld area) while for all other age groups, it grows by ~5.5%. Outside  
13 of the city, the logsum accessibility for the elderly remains unchanged and increases for all other  
14 age groups by no more than 0.5%. Over the entire area, the logsum accessibility remains almost  
15 constant, with +0.7% in the median.

**Table 5: Median accessibility and changes during the peak time 7:00-7:30**

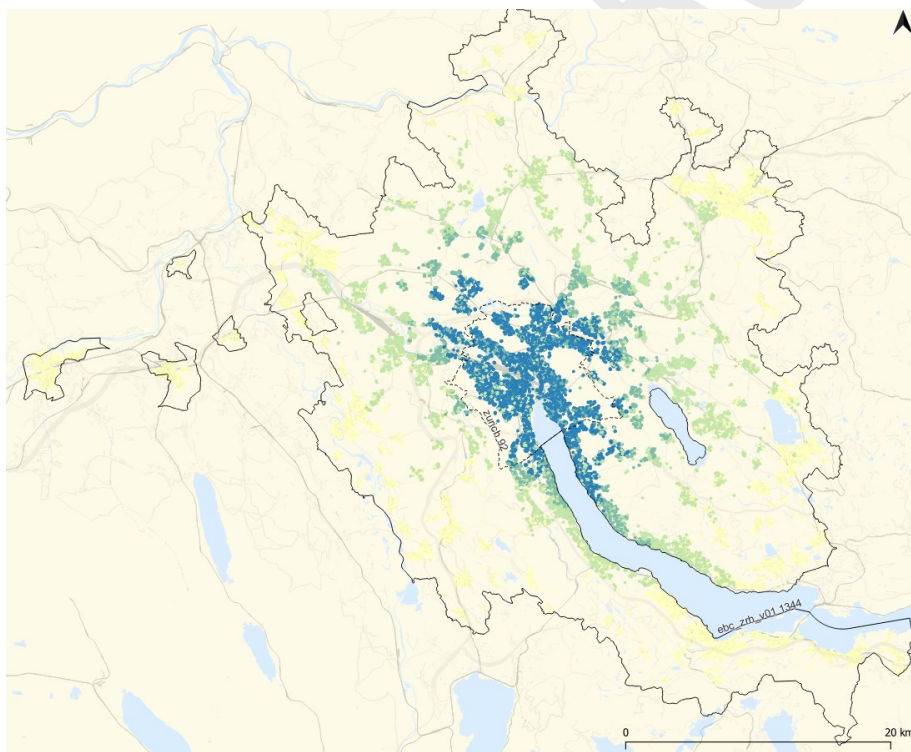
Scenario	Mode	Entire Region excl. City of Zurich							City of Zurich							All
		age: other	age <=25	age >=60	nat: other	nat: swiss	sex: female	sex: male	age: other	age <=25	age >=60	nat: other	nat: swiss	sex: female	sex: male	
(Count)	All	14'769	8'120	6'870	7'883	21'876	14'849	14'910	6'062	2'745	2'024	3'511	7'320	5'358	5'473	41'030
Before	Cars	67'099	67'103	67'000	67'439	66'949	67'030	67'119	71'462	71'259	71'203	71'475	71'272	71'349	71'386	68'254
	PT	59'459	59'367	59'325	60'250	59'168	59'390	59'404	70'378	69'791	69'605	70'325	69'982	70'046	70'149	61'507
	Cycling	43'231	43'051	29'956	43'371	38'926	39'697	40'596	73'542	71'479	36'712	71'630	68'584	69'110	70'046	43'168
	Foot	1'902	1'894	1'808	2'204	1'789	1'866	1'880	12'040	11'135	10'834	11'717	11'481	11'471	11'652	2'939
After	Cars	66'524	66'484	66'401	66'864	66'355	66'446	66'524	69'546	69'333	69'302	69'626	69'388	69'440	69'462	67'356
	PT	59'459	59'367	59'325	60'250	59'168	59'390	59'404	70'378	69'791	69'605	70'325	69'982	70'046	70'149	61'507
	Cycling	45'001	44'750	30'758	45'170	40'158	41'017	41'980	88'951	86'463	38'682	86'410	81'585	82'456	84'256	44'908
	Foot	1'903	1'895	1'810	2'206	1'790	1'868	1'882	12'161	11'253	10'920	11'864	11'628	11'568	11'766	2'945
Diff	Cars	-0.5%	-0.5%	-0.5%	-0.4%	-0.5%	-0.5%	-0.5%	-2.1%	-2.2%	-2.1%	-2.1%	-2.1%	-2.1%	-2.1%	-1.0%
	PT	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Cycling	3.9%	3.8%	2.6%	4.0%	3.2%	3.4%	3.5%	19.2%	19.0%	5.3%	17.9%	16.9%	17.2%	17.4%	4.5%
	Foot	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%
Before	All	67'322	67'251	66'841	67'759	66'944	67'086	67'224	78'956	78'020	70'769	78'326	76'692	76'922	77'517	68'459
After	All	67'466	67'392	66'783	67'927	67'016	67'154	67'263	83'713	82'573	69'685	83'057	80'940	81'365	81'998	68'451
Diff	All	0.5%	0.4%	0.0%	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	5.6%	5.5%	-1.1%	5.3%	4.9%	5.0%	5.1%	0.7%
Scenario	Mode	Seefeld														
		age: other	age <=25	age >=60	nat: other	nat: swiss	sex: female	sex: male								
(Count)	All	191	71	73	113	222	180	155								
Before	Cars	71'866	71'866	71'775	71'887	71'761	71'866	71'775								
	PT	72'052	72'052	71'980	72'485	71'991	72'052	72'047								
	Cycling	74'068	74'068	37'093	74'068	69'682	72'391	72'391								
	Foot	13'773	15'049	14'191	14'470	14'005	13'796	14'470								
After	Cars	66'540	66'761	66'698	66'630	66'630	66'638	66'559								
	PT	72'052	72'052	71'980	72'485	71'991	72'052	72'047								
	Cycling	98'471	97'802	39'526	96'908	94'998	96'246	95'363								
	Foot	14'243	15'161	14'576	14'576	14'367	14'367	14'367								
Diff	Cars	-8.0%	-6.7%	-6.8%	-8.2%	-7.0%	-7.0%	-7.8%								
	PT	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%								
	Cycling	32.7%	32.7%	6.5%	31.6%	30.4%	31.6%	29.2%								
	Foot	0.2%	-0.1%	1.0%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	1.0%								
Before	All	80'221	80'275	73'126	80'275	78'535	79'117	78'759								
After	All	85'808	85'344	70'943	85'808	84'368	84'889	84'743								
Diff	All	7.0%	7.2%	-3.0%	6.4%	6.0%	6.2%	6.0%								



**Figure 2: Traffic flows and car accessibility changes in Zurich's downtown, 7:00-7:30**



Accessibility changes for car trips



Accessibility changes for cycling trips

**Figure 3: Accessibility changes for cars and cyclists, 7:00-7:30**

## 1 **6 DISCUSSION**

2 Our results indicate that reallocating 42.2% of road space within the city to cycling infrastructure  
3 would increase the overall accessibility values for all population groups, except the elderly living  
4 in the city assuming unchanged behavior. Within the city, notable accessibility gains of up to ~7%  
5 can be achieved, while the rest of the region also experiences very small gains. This is contrary to  
6 the original assumptions conceptualized in [10], suggesting that the accessibility of urban residents  
7 will grow at the expense of those living outside of the city. Although they feel slight accessibility  
8 losses for car trips, these are compensated by the improved cycling accessibility. Creating such  
9 benefits by merely repainting existing roads within the city would be a promising approach for  
10 producing accessibility in the future, potentially with a return on investment that is superior to the  
11 present paradigm. On the other hand, however, despite reduced traffic flows in the peak hour, the  
12 overall volume of car traffic does not decrease, as any benefits of mode shifts are consumed by  
13 detours and growing trip lengths.

14 Nevertheless, the results are subject to multiple methodological limitations. First, the mode choice  
15 model used includes only age as a personal characteristic affecting the choice probabilities,  
16 neglecting any special needs, individual skill levels, culturally imposed behaviors, or the present  
17 mode choice. Second, the route choice model used to account for cycling comfort only  
18 distinguishes whether cycling infrastructure is present and does not provide a reliable distinction  
19 between different cycling infrastructure types: Converting narrow cycling lanes without protection  
20 to fully separated cycling paths with larger widths currently does not generate any accessibility  
21 changes, thus vastly underestimating the cycling accessibility improvements. Third, the  
22 micromobility modes were represented by bicycles only. Higher comfort and speed of newer  
23 vehicle types such as e-bikes, electric scooters, or vehicles for the elderly have not been included  
24 yet. Considering these advances would further increase the cycling accessibility gains. Fourth, the  
25 opportunities considered do not include any personal needs for specific destinations that cannot be  
26 easily replaced and the origin-centric perspective does not reflect the impacts on destinations, such  
27 as businesses. Fifth, the accessibility measure used is strictly trip-based, thus neglecting any  
28 constraints that emerge from previous trips (although this aspect is considered in the MATSim  
29 simulation). Finally, the accessibility analysis was done only for the morning peak time, while the  
30 results may be different for other times of the day.

## 31 **7 CONCLUSIONS AND FURTHER WORK**

32 In this paper, we have presented the first steps toward assessing a hypothetical car-reduced  
33 transport planning paradigm in the Zurich metropolitan region. The first results suggest that

1 reallocating large parts of the road space within the city to micromobility modes has a high potential  
2 to increase cycling activity, reduce car traffic in some areas, and generate slight accessibility gains.  
3 However, in its current form, the scheme does not succeed in reducing the overall number of person  
4 kilometers traveled by car.

5 To strengthen the evidence, future work should focus on two areas: Improving the assessment  
6 methodology, and evolving the design. In the case of cycling, a more precise representation of the  
7 attributes affecting behavior is needed. The models should distinguish different cycling  
8 infrastructure types, traffic volumes, and vehicle types. Including further personal characteristics  
9 of people beyond age, such as level of education, household size, employment status and home  
10 responsibilities, gender, and cultural background, is crucial for a better, finer-grained  
11 understanding of the equity effects. The micromobility modes should be extended with the  
12 advantages of newer, electric vehicles that offer higher speeds and comfort. Further work may also  
13 focus on including each person's present mode choice and destination preferences, as well as using  
14 activity-based accessibility measures [40], [41] to include the effects of trip chaining. Also,  
15 exploring destination-based accessibility changes would help to understand the impacts on a variety  
16 of stakeholders, including business owners. Finally, a better understanding of the traffic patterns  
17 and accessibility changes during other times of the day would be beneficial.

18 On the design front, the outcomes are heavily determined by assumptions made when generating  
19 the reallocated network. Experimenting with different design strategies that address the detours  
20 issue may produce scenarios with better performance. Moreover, the mere road space reallocation  
21 may be combined with further adjustments and policy measures such as restricting through traffic  
22 in some areas, imposing mobility pricing, parking restrictions, or changes in the public transport  
23 supply. A quick automated generation of the scenarios enables to test a large number of different  
24 approaches, without introducing possible sources of bias through manual preparation of the  
25 designs. Advancing the field of automated transport network design approaches, e.g., [32], [33],  
26 [42], [43], together with interactive tools, e.g., [44] to focus on "small" infrastructure may spur a  
27 new generation of transport planning approaches that leverage rapid experimentation, rather than  
28 the implementation of few large capital projects.

1 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

- 2 Lukas Ballo: Conceptualization, Accessibility Calculations, Investigation, Writing – Original  
3 Draft,  
4 Aurore Sallard: MATSim Simulations, Writing – Original Draft  
5 Lucas Meyer de Freitas: Data on Mobility in Zurich, Writing – Review & Editing  
6 Kay Axhausen: Conceptualization, Writing – Review & Editing

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16 Lighthouse Project funding of ETH D-BAUG;  
17 Swiss Federal Office of Energy

18 **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

- 19 None.

20 **NOTES**

- 21 The code used in this paper is published open-source as part of the Python project snman:  
22 <https://github.com/lukasballo/snman>. To access the version used to produce the presented results,  
23 refer to the “accessibility\_paper” branch.  
24  
25 The maps are created using data from OpenStreetMap contributors.



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