

Monty

A new agent-based transport model for
Aotearoa New Zealand



Patrick Manser

Trafinz Conference, 6 September 2023

Project Monty

What is Monty?

Monty predicts people movements in New Zealand, for now and the future.

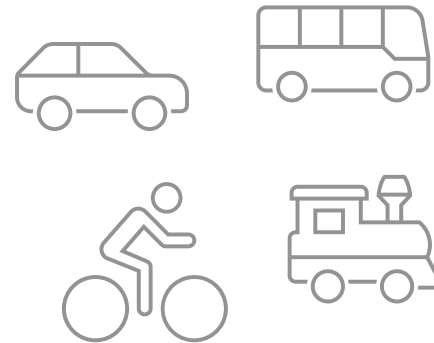
It is a cutting-edge transport behaviour model, initiated by the Ministry of Transport.



Entire Country



Forecasting



Multimodal

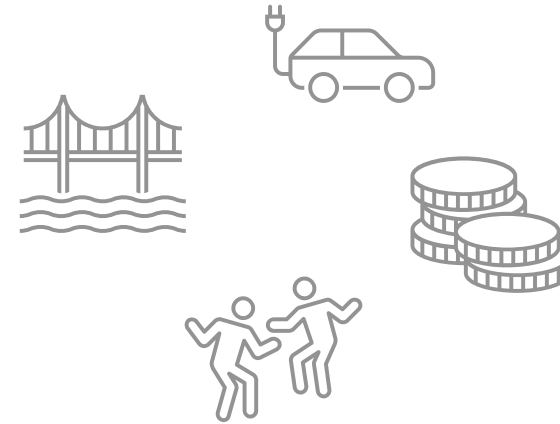


Human-centric

Project Monty

The motivation behind it

Monty provides a unified, integrated approach for evidence-based policy assessments surrounding road pricing, emissions reduction schemes, land use and future infrastructure planning.



Country-wide Simulations

New Zealand's existing strategic models cover individual cities, causing:

- Fragmentation in modelling and assumptions across assessments.
- Lack of modelled coverage for less populated areas.
- Lack of understanding surrounding inter-city travel choices.

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Complex Human Behaviour

Emerging policy questions, such as:

- Impact of complex pricing interventions that vary based on time of day?
- What are the equity impacts of specific interventions across demographic groups?
- How are temporal effects like peak spreading going to affect people's behaviour?

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Use Cases

- Road Infrastructure
- Public Transport Infrastructure
- Road Pricing
- Fare Schemes
- Behaviour Change (e.g. WFH)
- Land Use Change
- ...

Project Monty

A global network of contributors & skills



Dan Jenkins, Jade Mackay, Mac Townsend, Lucie Jilkova, Shrividya Ravi

Devin Kilminster - Consulting

ARUP

NZ: Patrick Manser, Liz Halsted, Elizabeth Cheng, George Alexander, Kevin Guo

AU: Michael Byrne, Bruce Johnson, Tri Nguyen, Jack Minster

UK: Gerry Casey, Kasia Kozłowska, Theo Chatziioannou, Michael Fitzmaurice, Fred Shone, Panos Tsoleridis

Transport Planning

Behavioural Science

Co-Design Partnership

High-Performance Modelling Tooling

Stakeholder Management



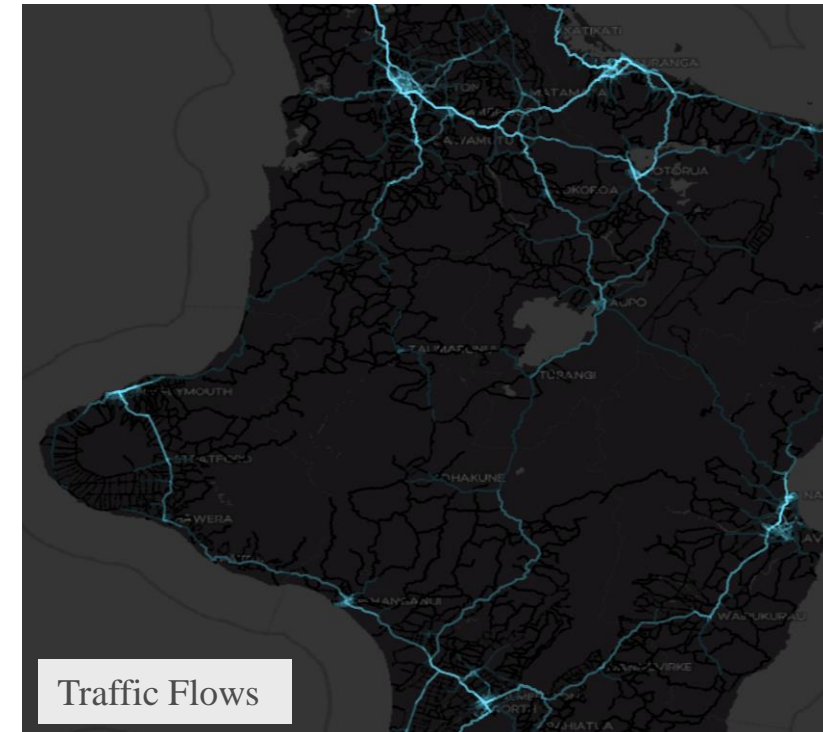
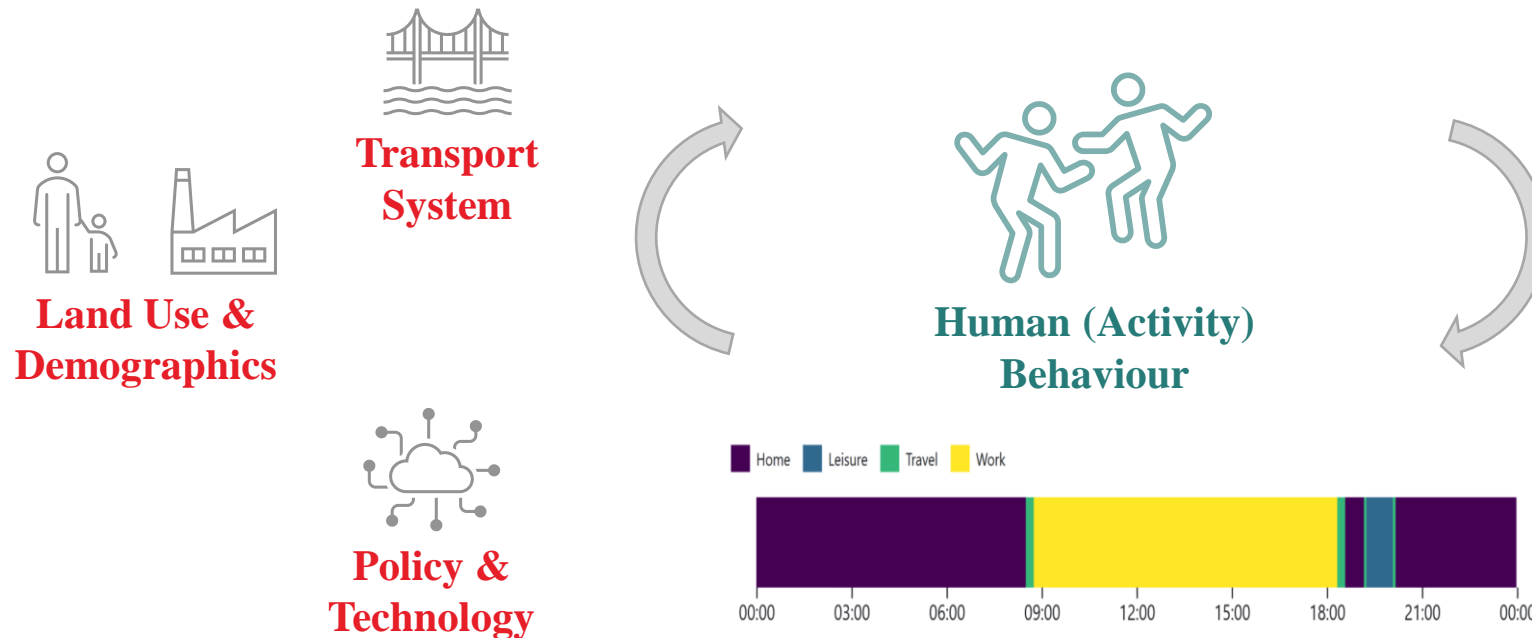
Cloud Orchestration

Geospatial Big Data Visualisation

Technical Insights

Modelling philosophy

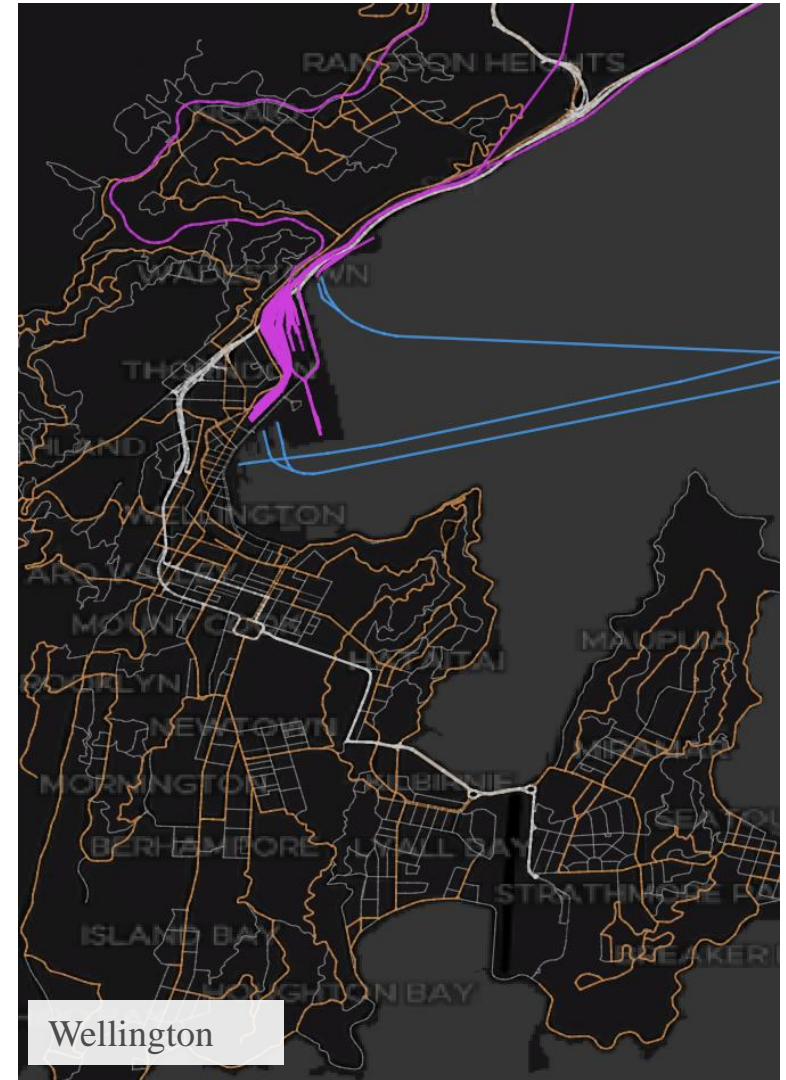
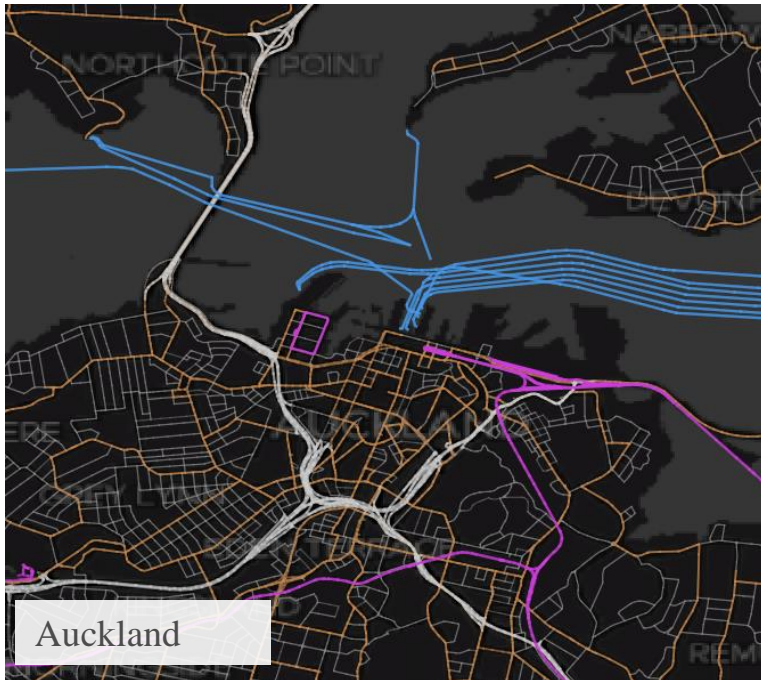
Monty is methodologically **one of the first of its kind**, applying an activity- and agent-based approach. It finds a **behavioural response to every change in input assumptions**.



Technical Insights

Multimodal transport network

Monty generates a multimodal transport network including strategic road infrastructure and detailed public transport representation.



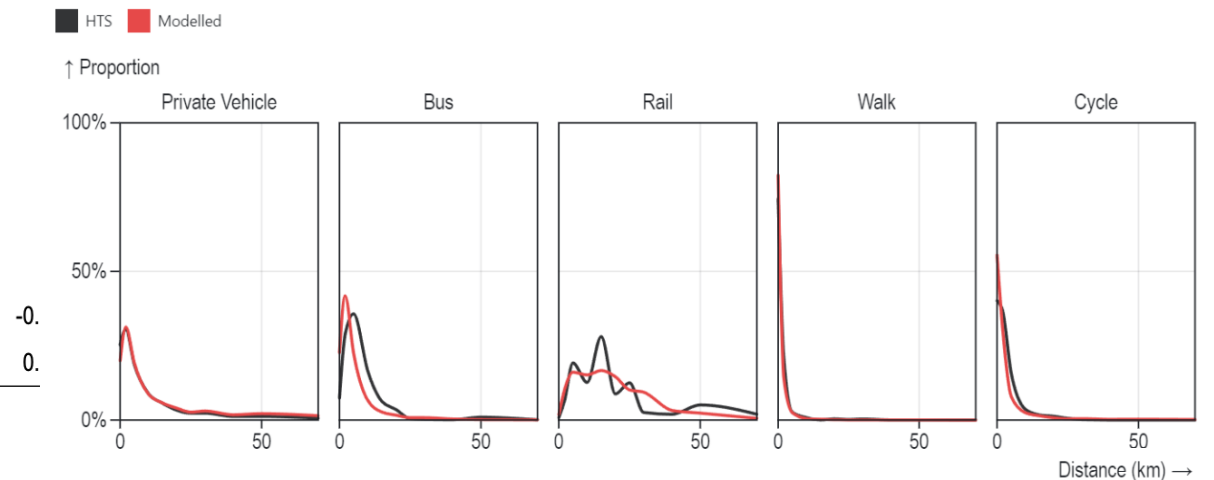
Technical Insights

Mode choice behaviour in New Zealand

Monty statistically measures the **behavioural response of people to changes in their environment across the entire country based on surveys and historical data.**

Variable	Car Driver	Car Passenger	Public Transport	Cycle	Walk
ASC	-(ref.)	-2.9382	1.1048	-2.6711	2.0666
ASC shift no car in hh.	-	1.9859	2.6230	2.4631	2.7605
β_{tc} (log.)	-0.6184	-0.6184	-0.6184		
$\beta_{tt,car}$ (linear)	-0.0408	-0.0351			
$\beta_{tt,car}$ (box cox*)	-0.1525	-0.1525			
$\lambda_{pc,car}$	0.4508	0.4508			
$\beta_{ivt,pt}$ (linear)			-0.0162		
$\beta_{accegr,pt}$ (log.)			-1.3901		
$\beta_{tt,active}$ (box cox*)				-0.	
$\lambda_{tt,active}$				0.	

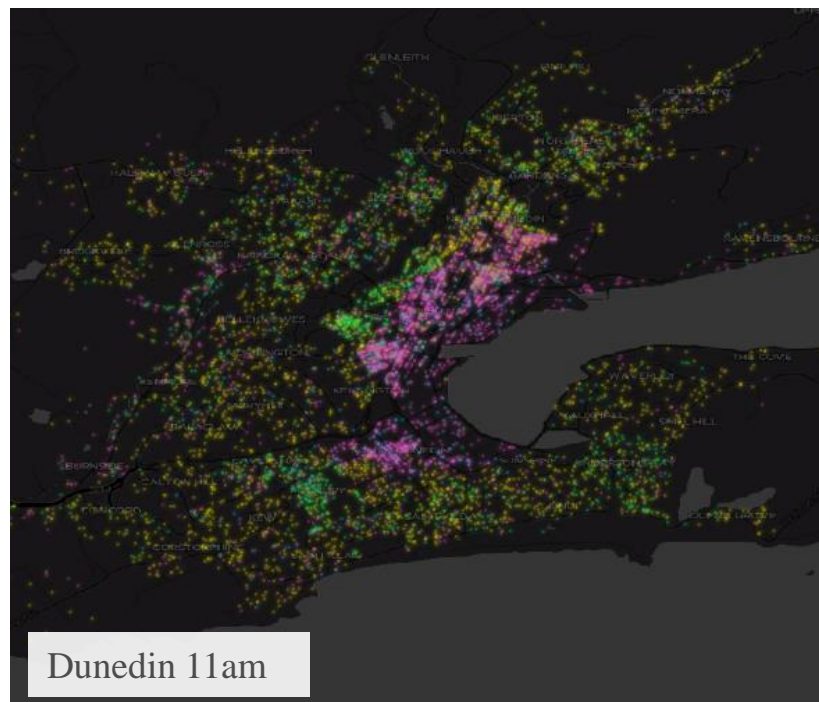
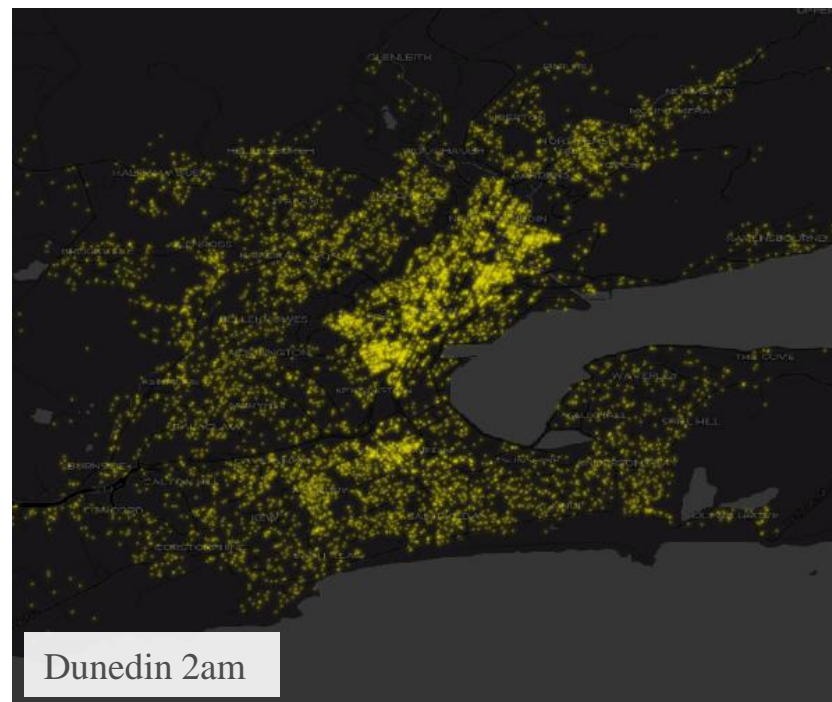
* $(x^\lambda - 1)/\lambda$
All values are statistically significant at the 99% confidence level.



Technical Insights

Modelling individual activity behaviour

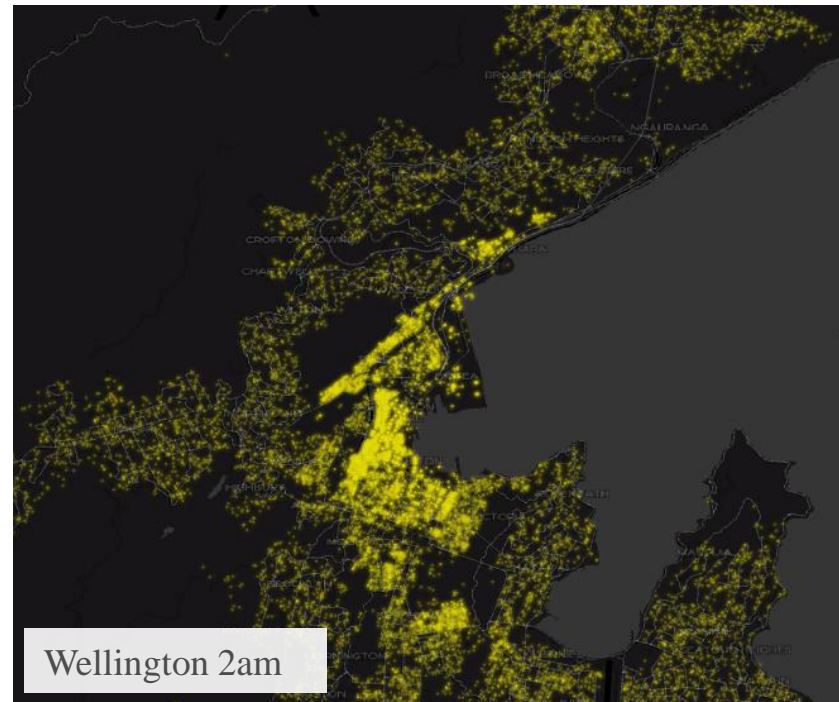
Monty shows in high resolution when, where, and why individual persons perform activity tasks based on land-use information.



Technical Insights

Modelling individual activity behaviour

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Technical Insights

Traffic simulation outcomes

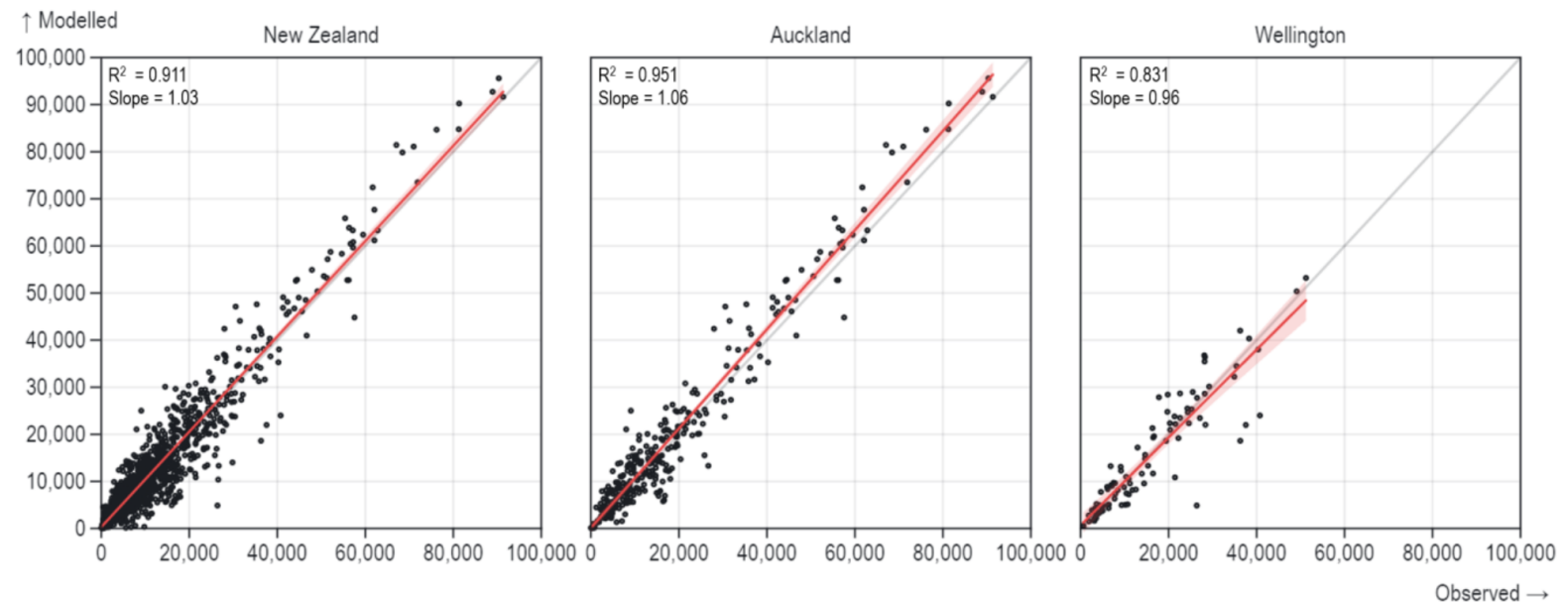
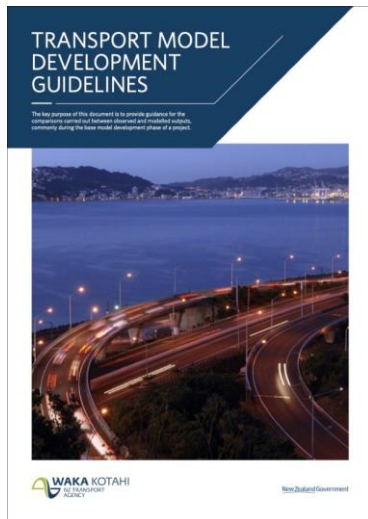
Monty predicts vehicle traffic flows for each road segment as well as public transport patronage for any given time during the day.



Technical Insights

Validation statistics

Monty validates the simulation outcomes with available **count data** from various **sources**, for both road traffic volumes and public transport patronage.



First Applications

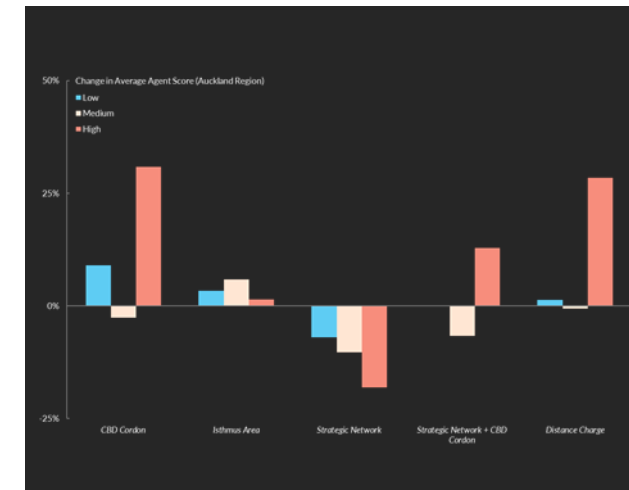
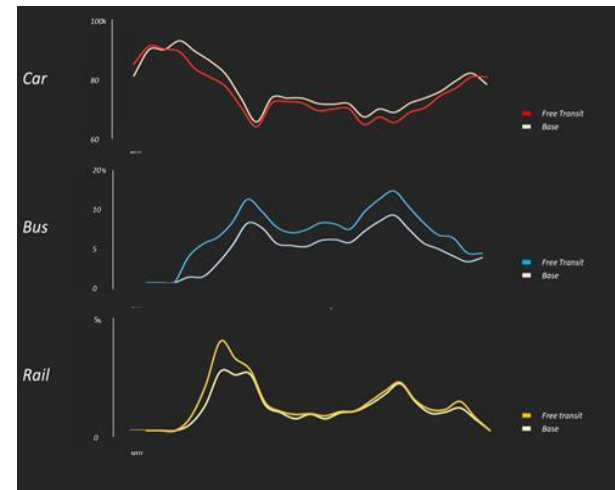
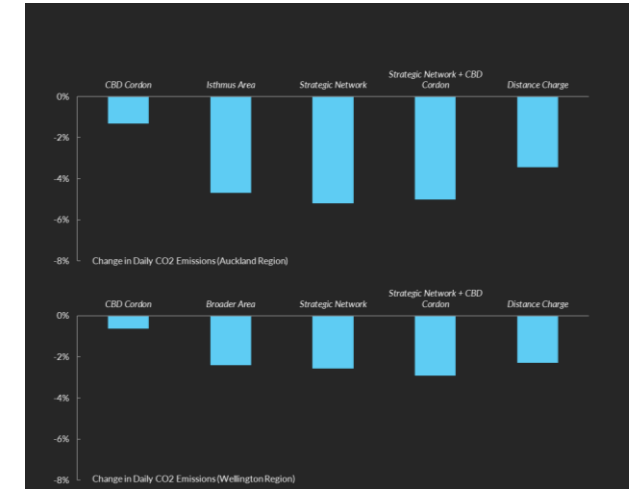
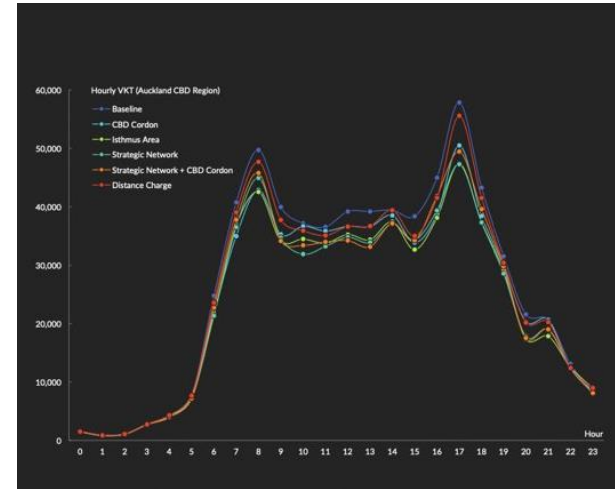
Showing the capabilities of Monty

Monty has been applied for various interventions:

This includes road pricing studies, road closure modelling (flood response), or city-shaping infrastructure predictions.

Comprehensive outcome analysis:

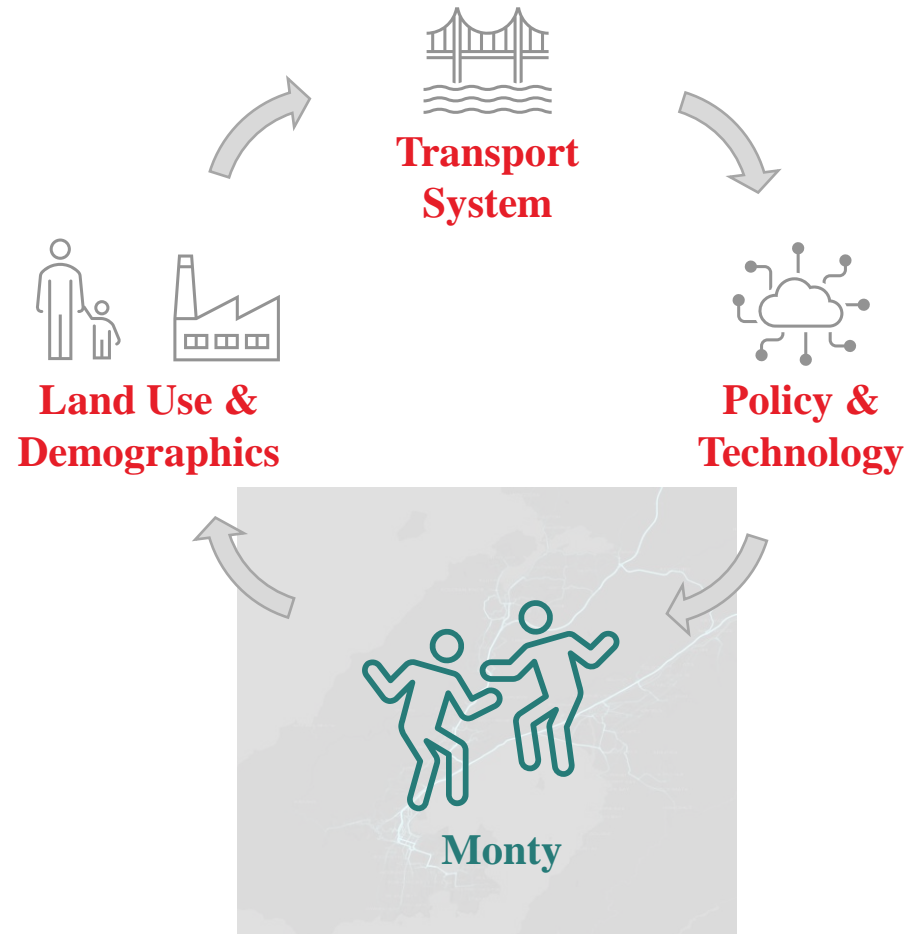
- Vehicle kilometres travelled
- CO₂ Emissions
- Mode shifts
- Impact on individual people



Monty's vision

Work on the future of New Zealand, together!

An integrated, transparent planning approach with different partners improving the future for New Zealanders.



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