

Jeff LaMondia

Auburn University

LD Travel is a Critical Industry



30% of the passenger miles traveled in recent decades in the United States is long-distance travel

90% of long-distance trips are by personal vehicle

Aviation accounts for 2.5% of Global CO₂ Emissions

LD Travel Behavior is Complex

Destination and Mode Choices are Linked

Activities, Distances, Tour Structures

Trip Purposes are Incredibly Varied

Routine vs. Non-Routine

Work vs. Leisure vs. Personal

Seasonal Trends

Urban vs. Rural

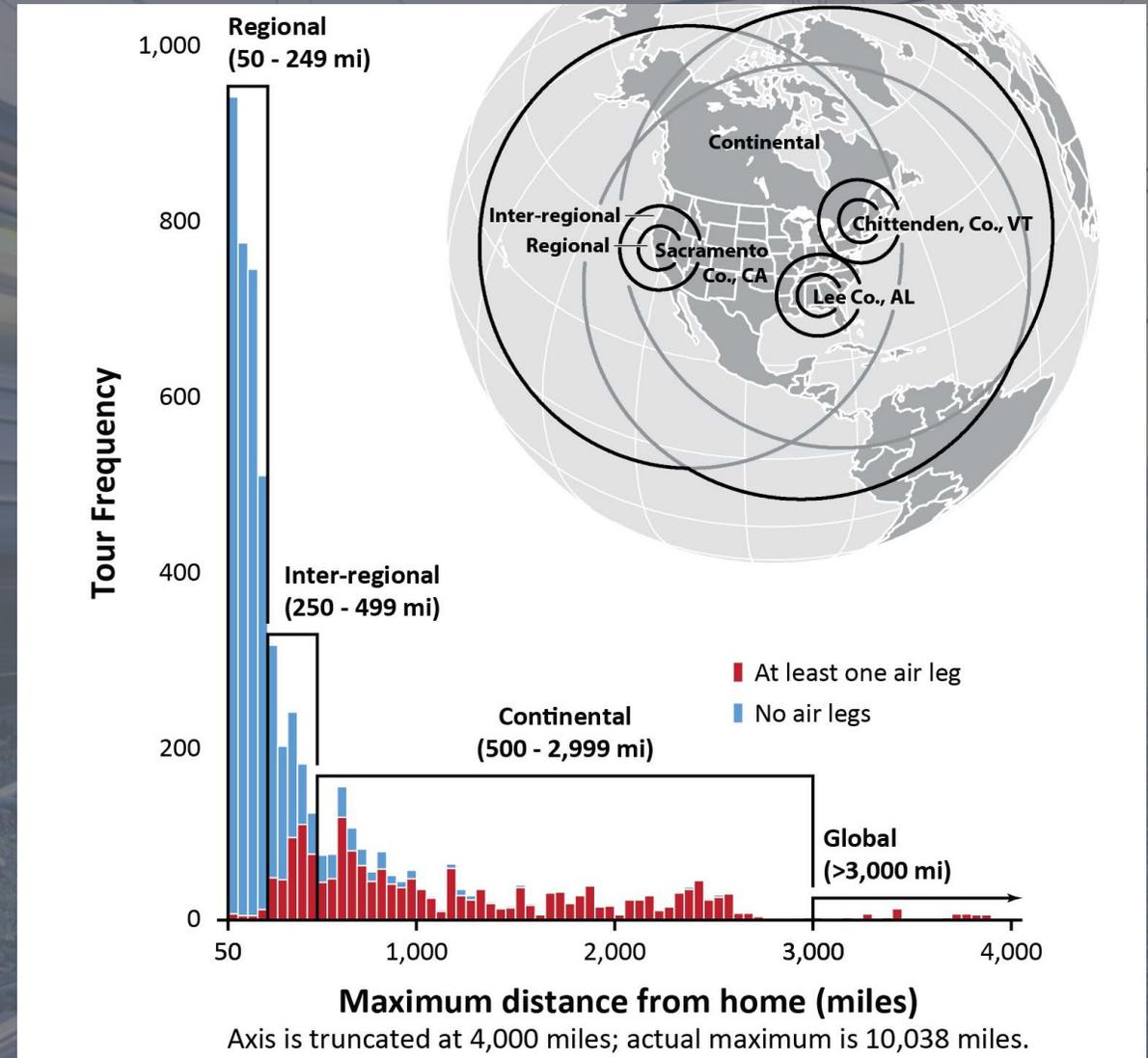
Activity specialization & Satiation Limits

Need Coordinated Data Collection & Modeling

Year-long Analyses

Comprehensive Modes

National or Regional Geographic Scales



LD Travel Behavior is Complex

Destination and Mode Choices are Linked
Activities, Distances, Tour Structures

Trip Purposes are Incredibly Varied

Routine vs. Non-Routine
Work vs. Leisure vs. Personal
Seasonal Trends
Urban vs. Rural
Activity specialization & Satiation Limits

Need Coordinated Data Collection & Modeling

Year-long Analyses
Comprehensive Modes
National or Regional Geographic Scales

NAME	VISUAL DESCRIPTION	TOUR SHARE	GUNN	MINGS	
				AND	LCF
				MCHUGH	
<i>SINGLE</i> <i>DESTINATION</i>		80.7%	Destination	Direct Route	Single Destination
<i>FULL LOOP</i>		15.5%	Touring	Full Orbit	Regional Tour
<i>DESTINATION</i> <i>AREA LOOP</i>		0.7%	Touring	Partial Orbit	Regional Tour
<i>STOPOVER</i>		1.7%	Destination	Direct Route	En-Route
<i>MULTI</i> <i>DESTINATION</i> <i>AREA LOOP</i>		0.5%	Touring	Full Orbit	Trip Chaining
<i>BASE CAMP</i>		0.1%	Destination	Direct Route	Base Camp

Clusters of LD Travelers

Traveling Workers

- Many Trips >500mi
- Most Trips for Work

Regional Roaming Families

- Most Trips Mid-distances
- Most Travel with Children

Jet-Setting Leisurists

- Leisure Trips Dominate Travel
- Few Work Trips

Far-Away Leisurely Workers

- Mix of Leisure and Work Travel
- Mix of Distances

In-State Roamers

- Most Shorter Distances
- Many Annual Trips

Leisurely Wanderers

- Most Annual Trips
- Few Work Trips, Many Leisure Trips

**10% of Travelers Make
90% of the Long-Distance
Travel (by Miles)**

Key Variables:

Income

Children

Age

Gender

Work Type

Urban vs. Rural

...and Also Geography

Urban Percentage

Median Household
Income

Median Household Age

Largest Accessible
Airport Hub

Amtrak Access



Post-COVID LD Travel Trends

Returning Volumes:

“Revenge” travel demand
Quick rebound of shorter LD trips

Shifting Modes/Destination Choices:

Recovering interest in far-distance, air travel
Renewed interest in regional, auto travel

Adapting Purposes:

More leisure-focused travel
Less work-focused travel
More combined remote work and leisure

Global Air Travel Is Approaching Cruising Altitude

Global scheduled seat capacity on commercial passenger aviation*



* includes domestic and international flights

Source: OAG



statista