**Travel Time Reliability**

Few people will dispute the fact that traffic congestion is common in many cities in the United States. In these cities, drivers are used to congestion and they expect and plan for some delay, particularly during peak driving times. Many drivers either adjust their schedules or budget extra time to allow for traffic delays. But what happens when traffic delays are much worse than expected? Most travelers are less tolerant of unexpected delays because they cause travelers to be late for work or important meetings, miss appointments, or incur extra childcare fees.

Travel time reliability measures the extent of this unexpected delay. A formal definition for travel time reliability is: the consistency or dependability in travel times, as measured from day-to-day and/or across different times of the day.

In other words, commuters have to build in a time cushion or buffer to their trip planning to account for the variability. If they build in a buffer, they will arrive early on some days, which is not necessarily a bad thing, but the extra time is still carved out of their day—time they could be using for other pursuits besides commuting.¹

**Travel Time Reliability Performance Measures**

1. Percent of Person-Miles Traveled on the Interstate that are Reliable
2. Percent of Person-Miles Traveled on the non-Interstate NHS that are Reliable

**CARTS Baseline Data 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Person-Miles Traveled on the Interstate that are Reliable</td>
<td>91.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Person-Miles Traveled on the non-Interstate NHS that are Reliable</td>
<td>89.68%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Adopted Targets by ArDOT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>2-Year</th>
<th>4-Year</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Person-Miles Traveled on the Interstate that are Reliable</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Person-Miles Traveled on the non-Interstate NHS that are Reliable</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Did you know?** Commuters and travelers value reliability because it allows them to make better use of their own time.
Reliability 2017
Weekdays 6:00 AM - 10:00 AM
LOTTR®
1.00 to 1.24
1.25 to 1.49
1.50 to 1.75
> 1.75

Reliability 2017
Weekdays 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM
LOTTR®
1.00 to 1.24
1.25 to 1.49
1.50 to 1.75
> 1.75

Source: 2017 ArDOT NPMRDS Data