

CMRB & BILD – Speaker Series Event  
Friday November 24, 2023  
Burnswest Theatre, Fort Calgary, Alberta

# Digital Twins in Urban and Regional Planning

Phil Allsopp, CEO



Collaborative Discovery for Urban Futures

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April 11, 1970



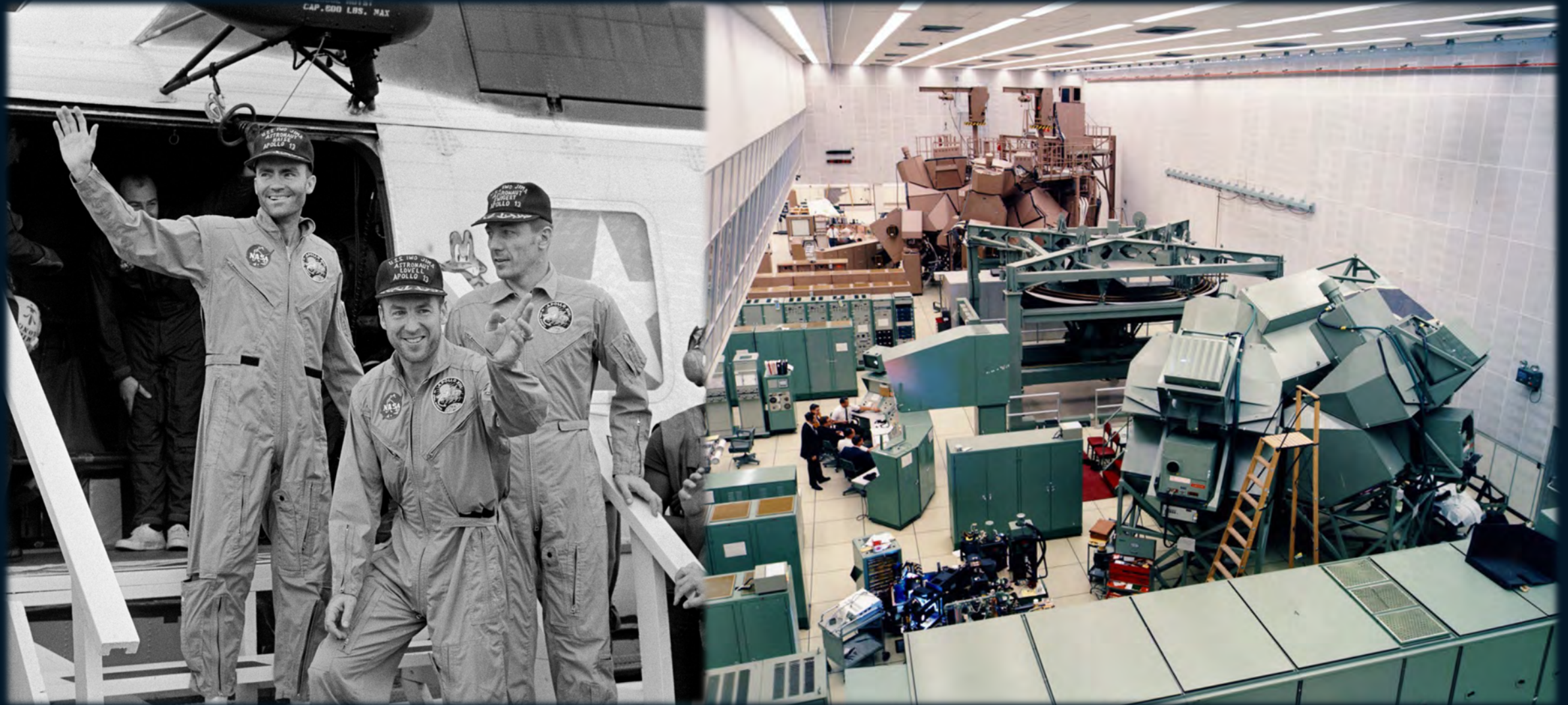
**April 11, 1970... "Houston...we've had a problem"**





**April 17, 1970**

**Safe return.....because of physical and electronic digital twins of the manned Apollo vehicles**

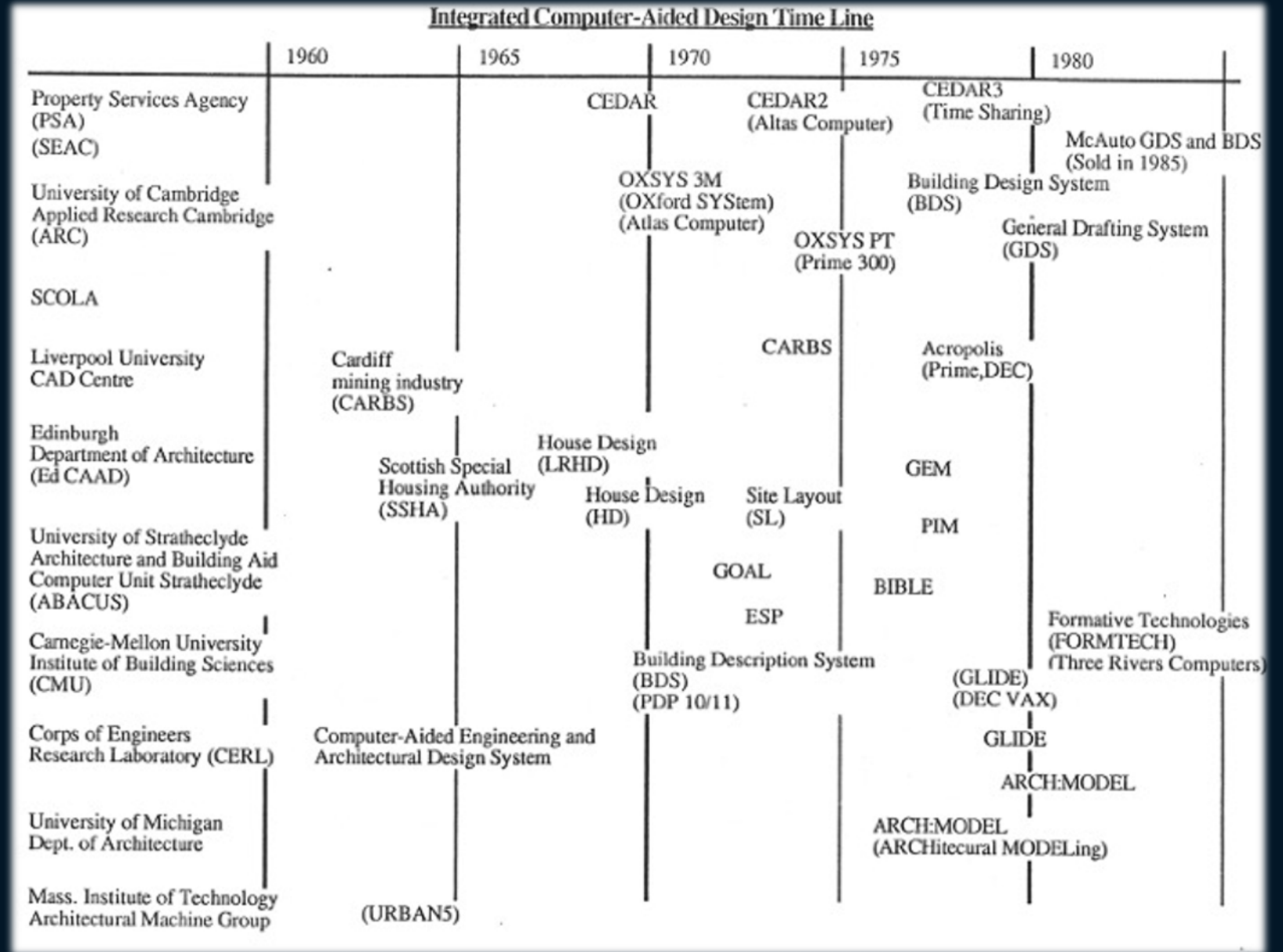


# Urban Planning, Design & Construction – Digital Twin Beginnings

*"Integrated Computer-Aided building Design Systems"*

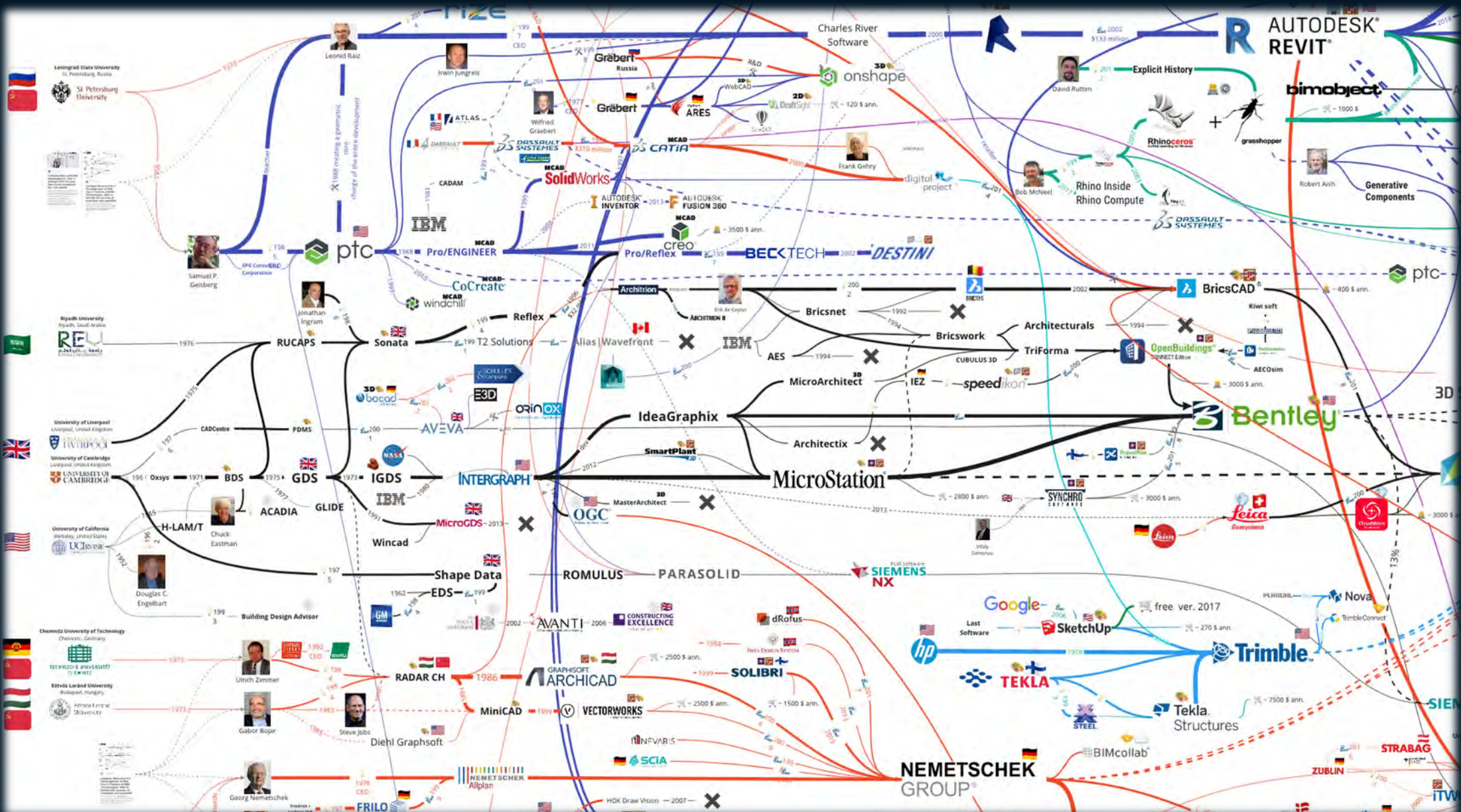
Dana Vanier  
 Institute for Research in Construction  
 National Research Council of Canada  
 Building M-24  
 Montreal Road  
 Ottawa, Ontario, Canada  
 K1A 0R6

c. 1985





# The Quest for Digital Twins ..... from the 1970s to today



# **Digital Twins – Urban Applications**

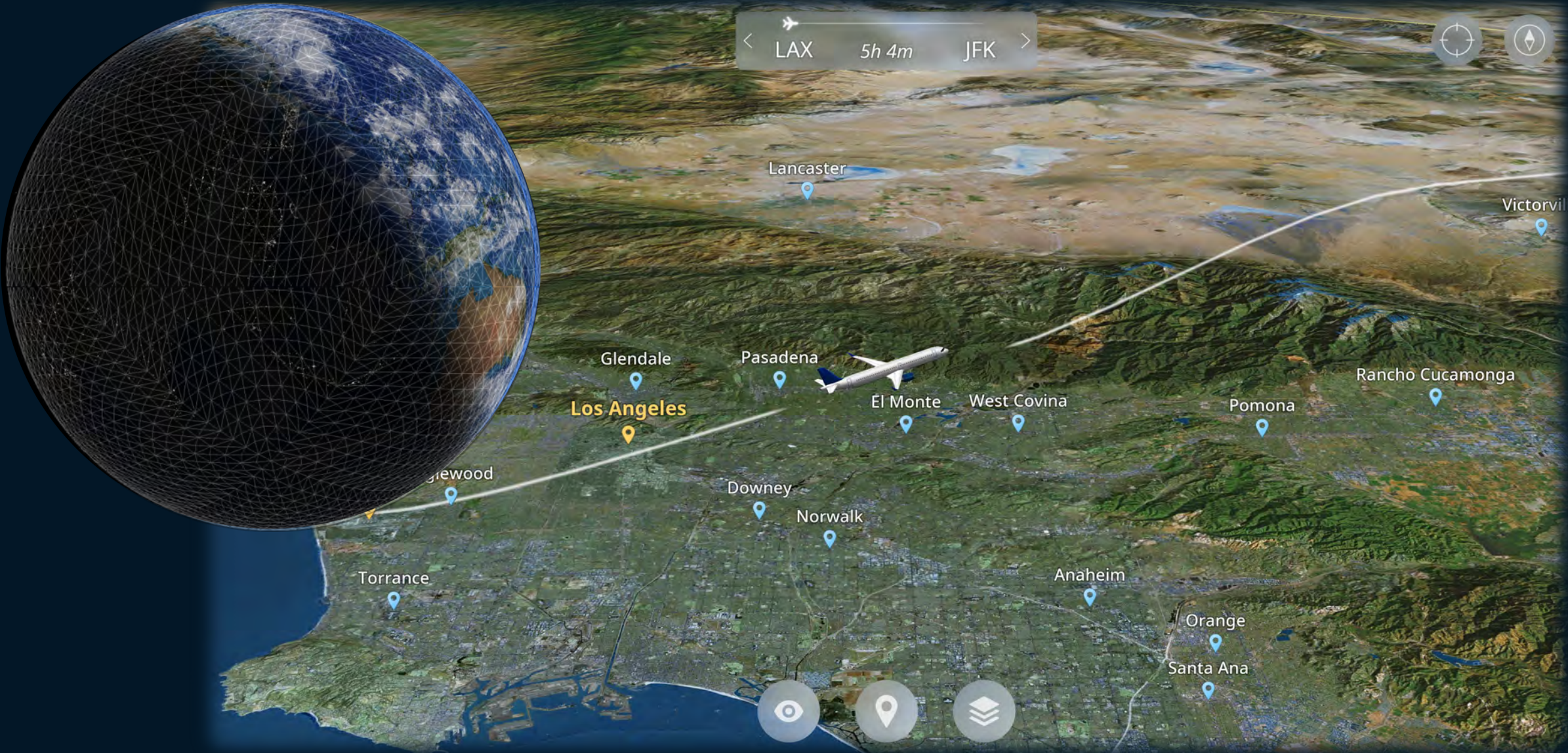


**Global Value of Real Estate Assets:  
CAD \$450 Trillion  
Significant vulnerabilities**





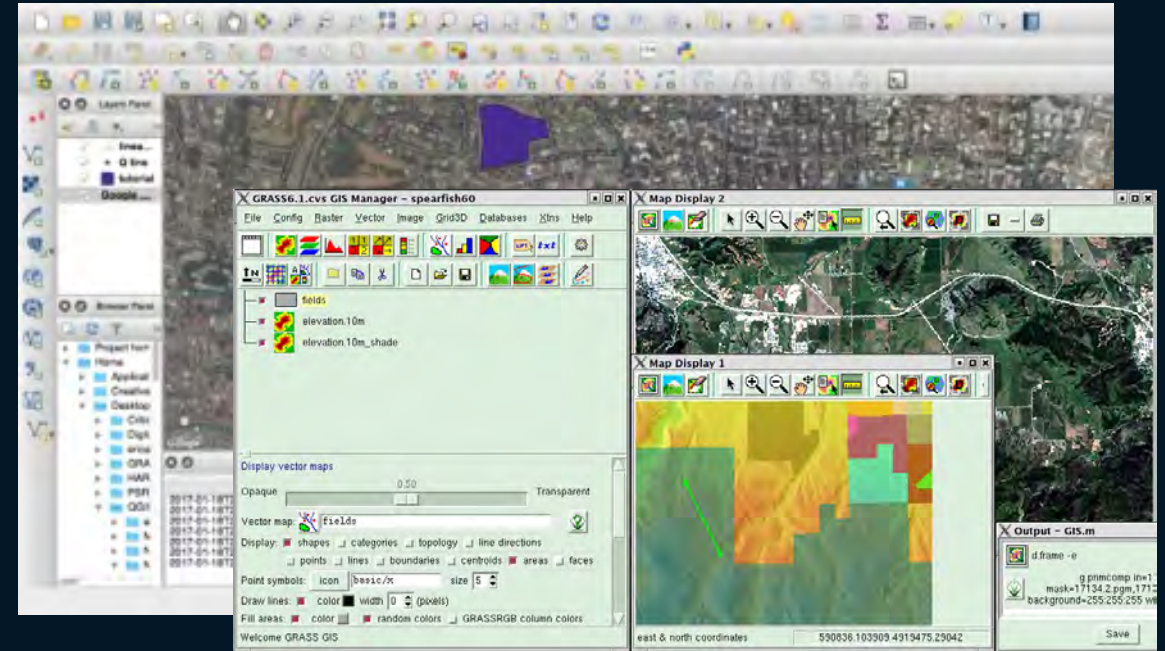
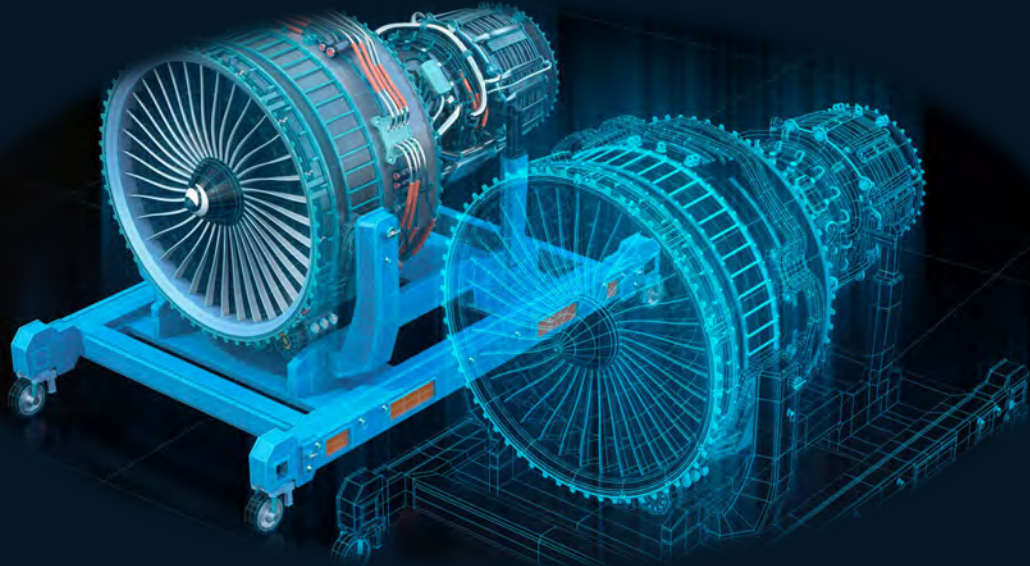
# Airline Entertainment Systems – Digital moving maps on a digital globe





# The era of "Digital Twins" – digital replicas of real-world objects and places

Urban policy & planning often lags other industrial & service sectors



## Manufacturing:

- **Advanced Simulations + Visualizations**
- **Integral to DFMA**
- **Tight connection to complexity models, performance data + outcomes**
- **Design driven by outcome goals**

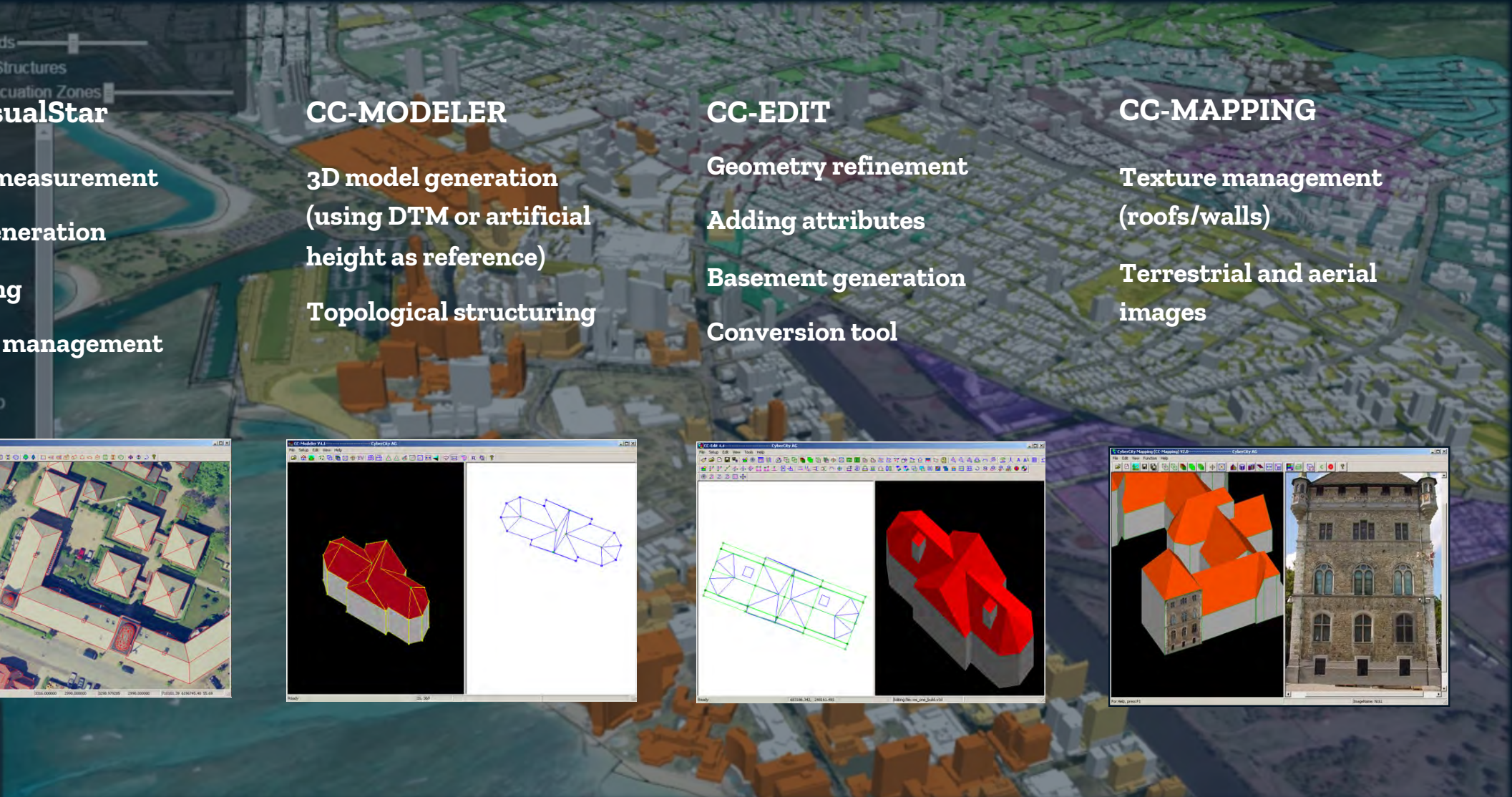
## Urban Design & Planning:

- **Gap between s/ware systems & needs of policy-makers**
- **Significant time lag between key questions and answers**
- **Limited simulation capabilities accounting for complex systems**
- **Focus on "what is?" vs "what could be?"**

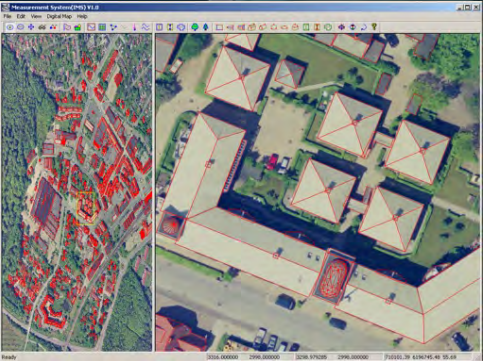


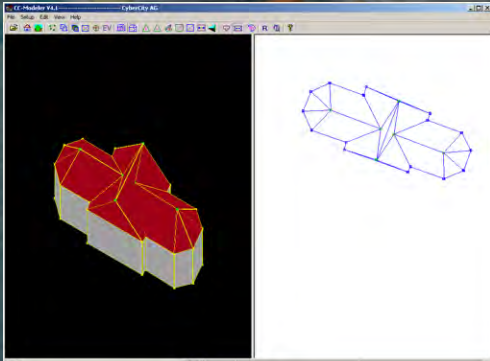
# Digital Twins of Urban Regions – Making physical infrastructure models intelligent

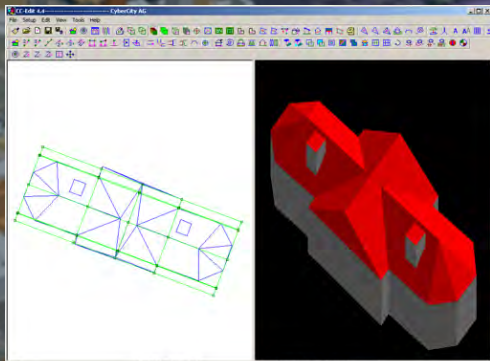
Among the most advanced were developed by ETH, Zurich in the late 1990s

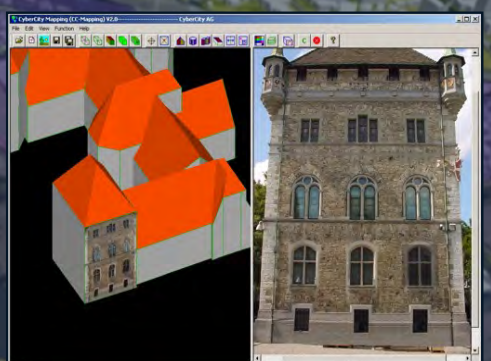


CC-VisualStar	CC-MODELER	CC-EDIT	CC-MAPPING
Stereo measurement	3D model generation (using DTM or artificial height as reference)	Geometry refinement	Texture management (roofs/walls)
DTM generation	Topological structuring	Basement generation	Terrestrial and aerial images
Updating		Conversion tool	
Quality management			









Number of Units

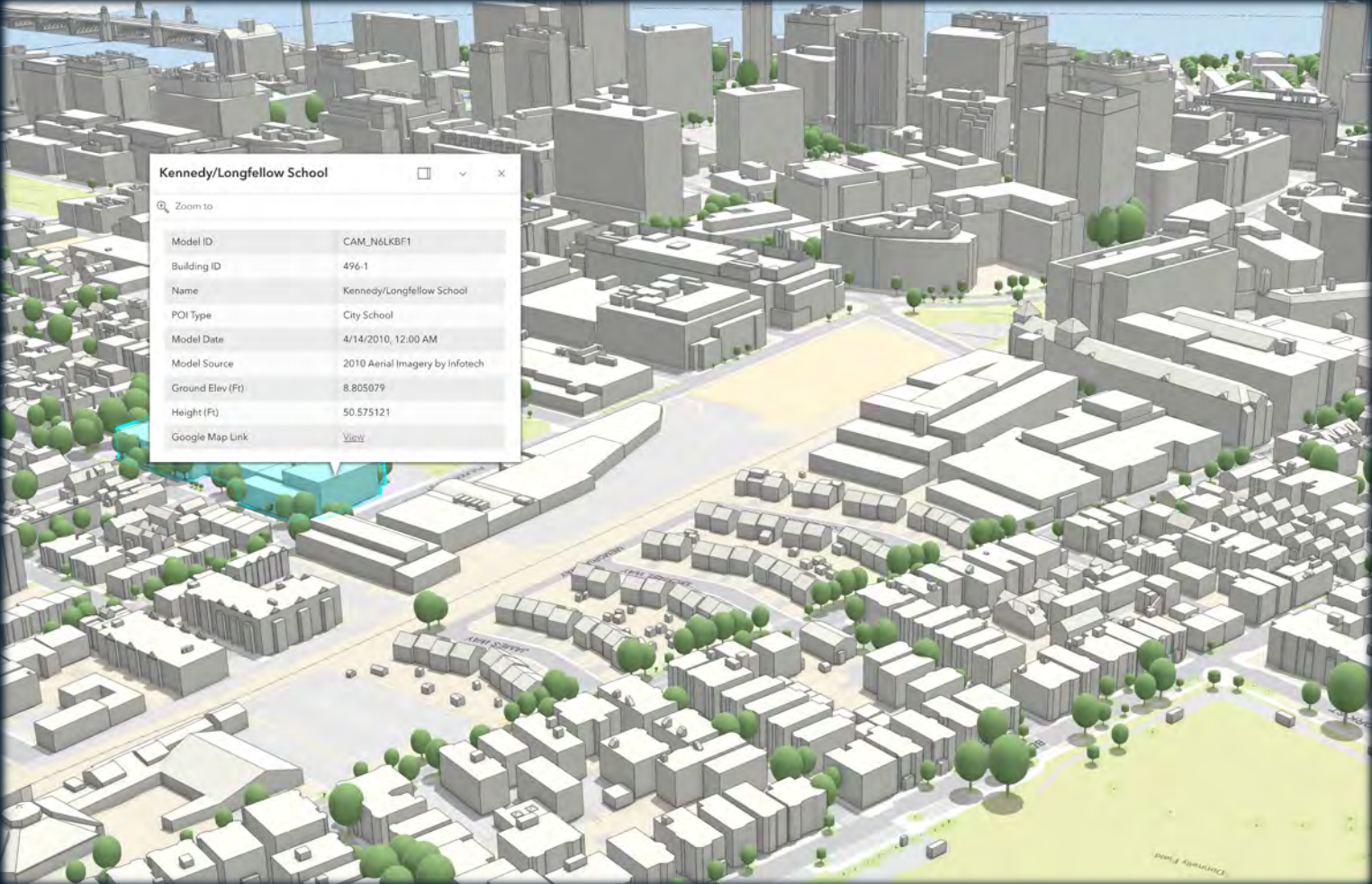
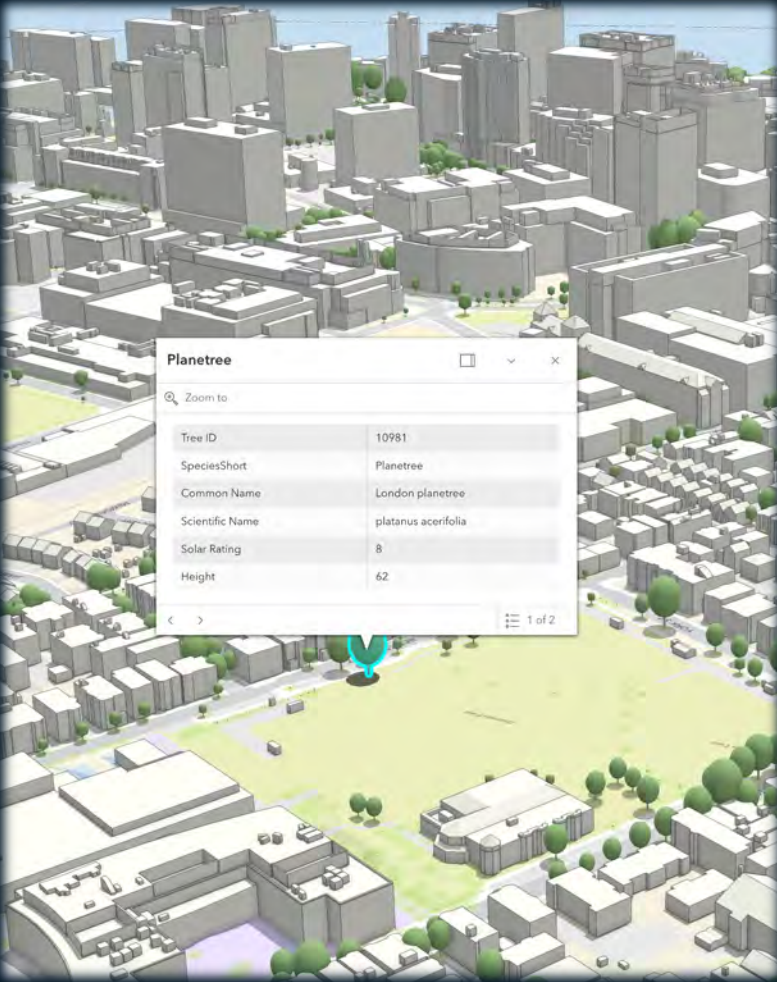
- 1-100
- 101-200
- 201-300





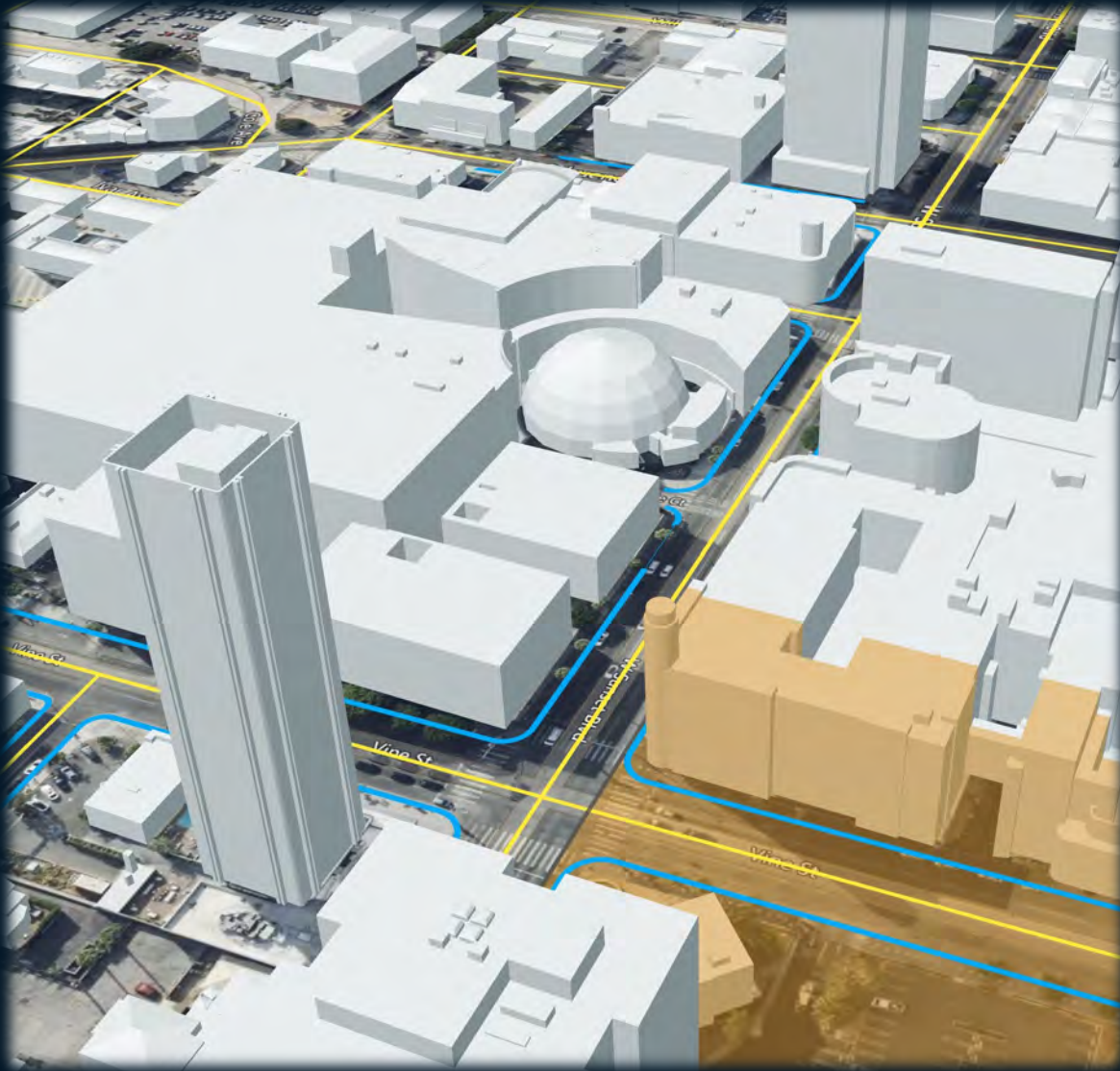
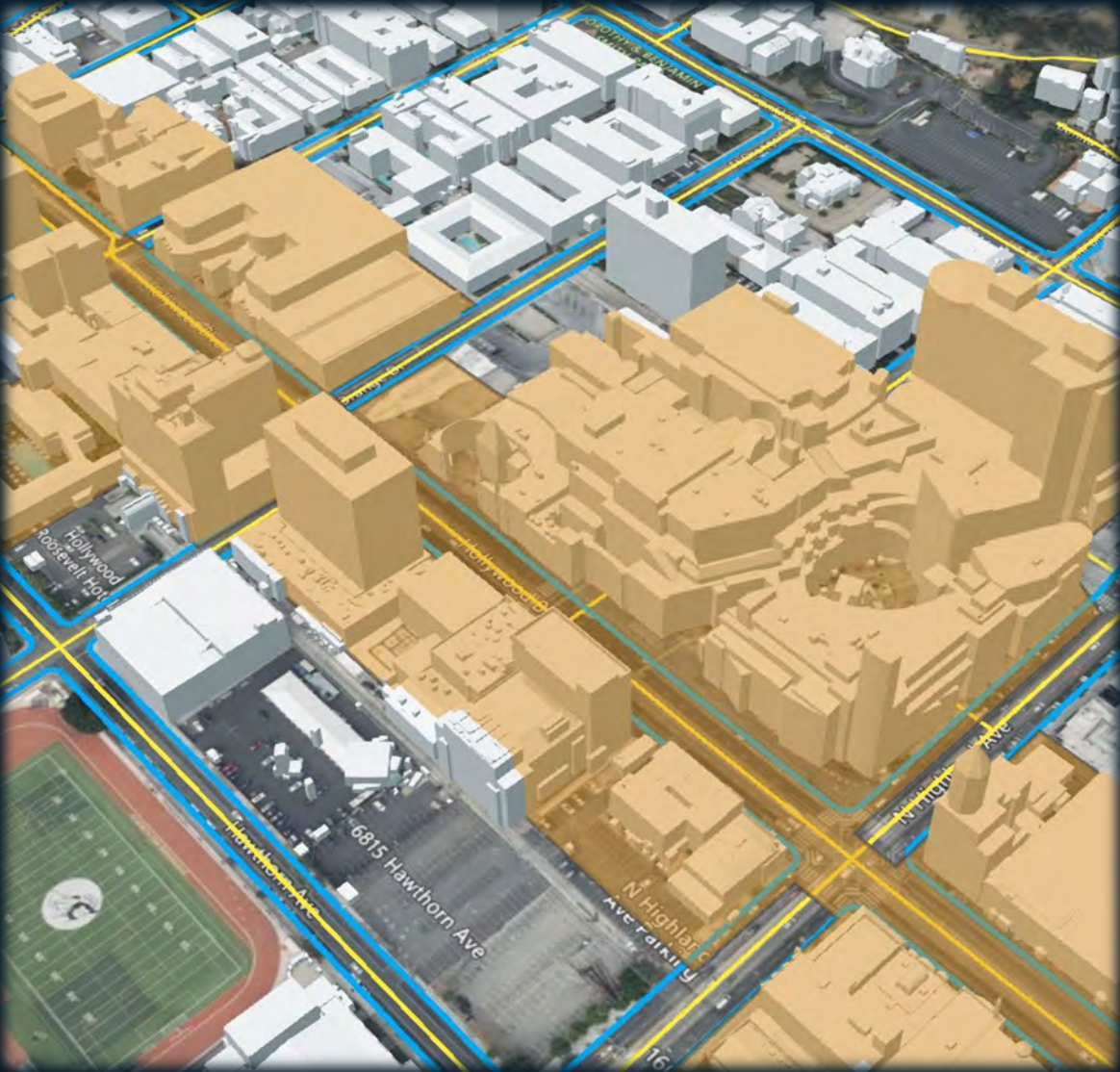


# From 2D maps, street and aerial photographs to data-rich 3D Digital Twins





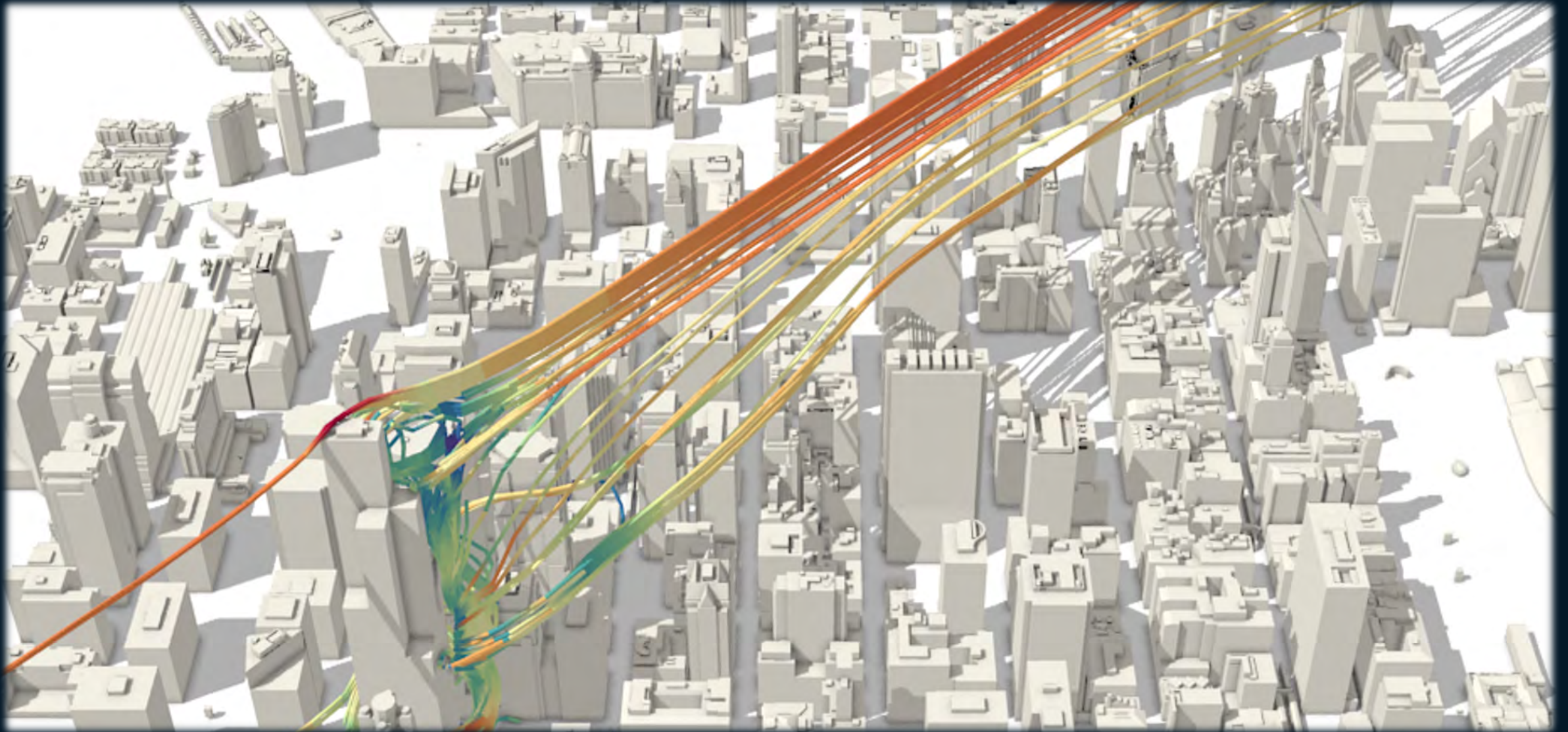
# Hollywood – Commercial + Transit routes





# Simulating wind flow and turbulence around buildings

*Direct and measurable effects on human comfort at street level and on structural design*





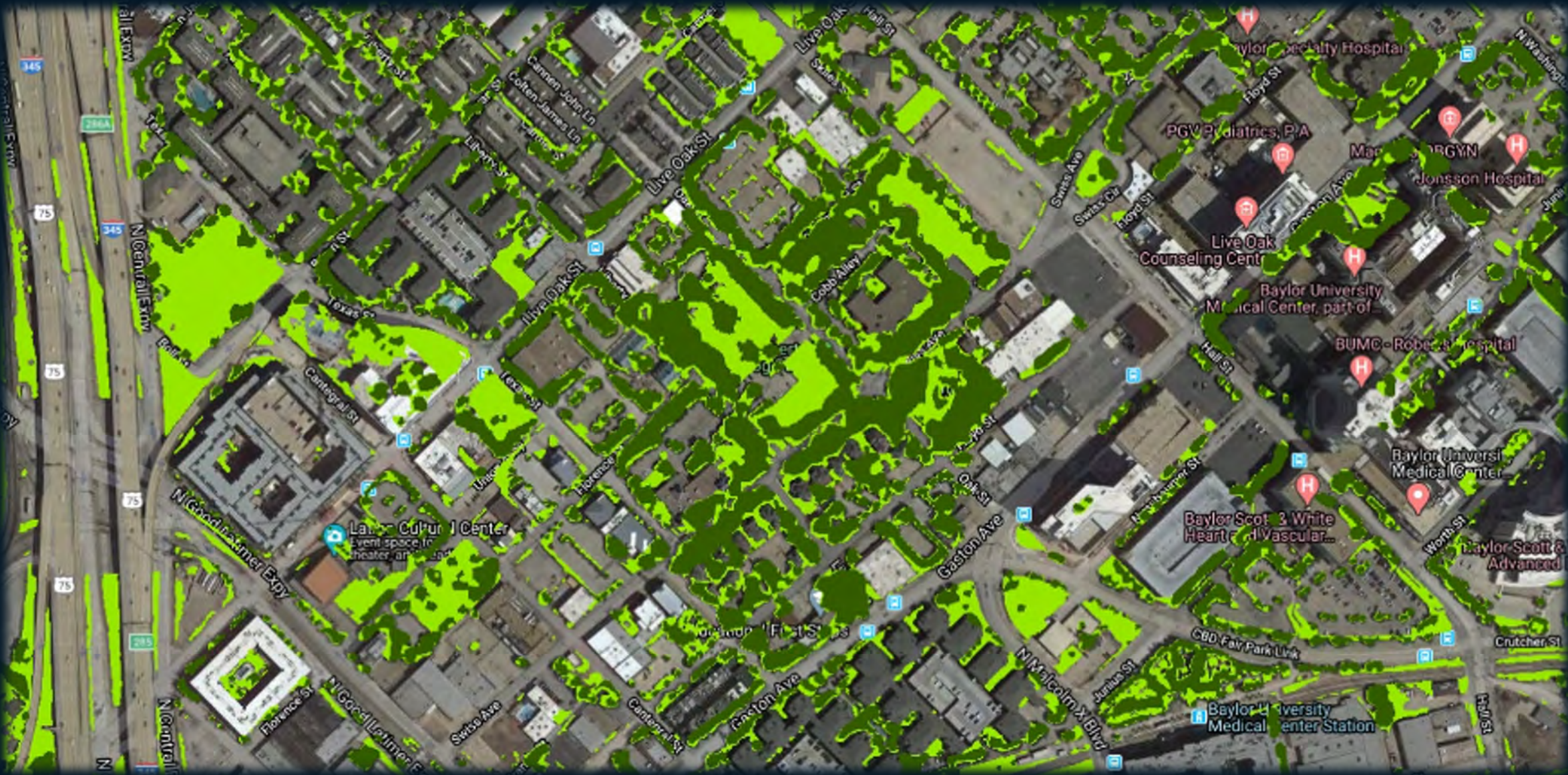
# Los Gatos - 3D Buildings + Current Solar Generation + Solar Potential





# Solar Induced Fluorescence Data

Tree canopy, species ID and health of plant life





# Visualization portals into digital urban regions

Location:

City of London UK - North Bank

Data View:

Insured Properties

Run Scenarios?



## Scenarios – Insured Risk KPIs



01/01/2022

12/31/2045



2D



3D



Fly



Select data layers



Select KPI group



Run



Save



Results



Print/Share



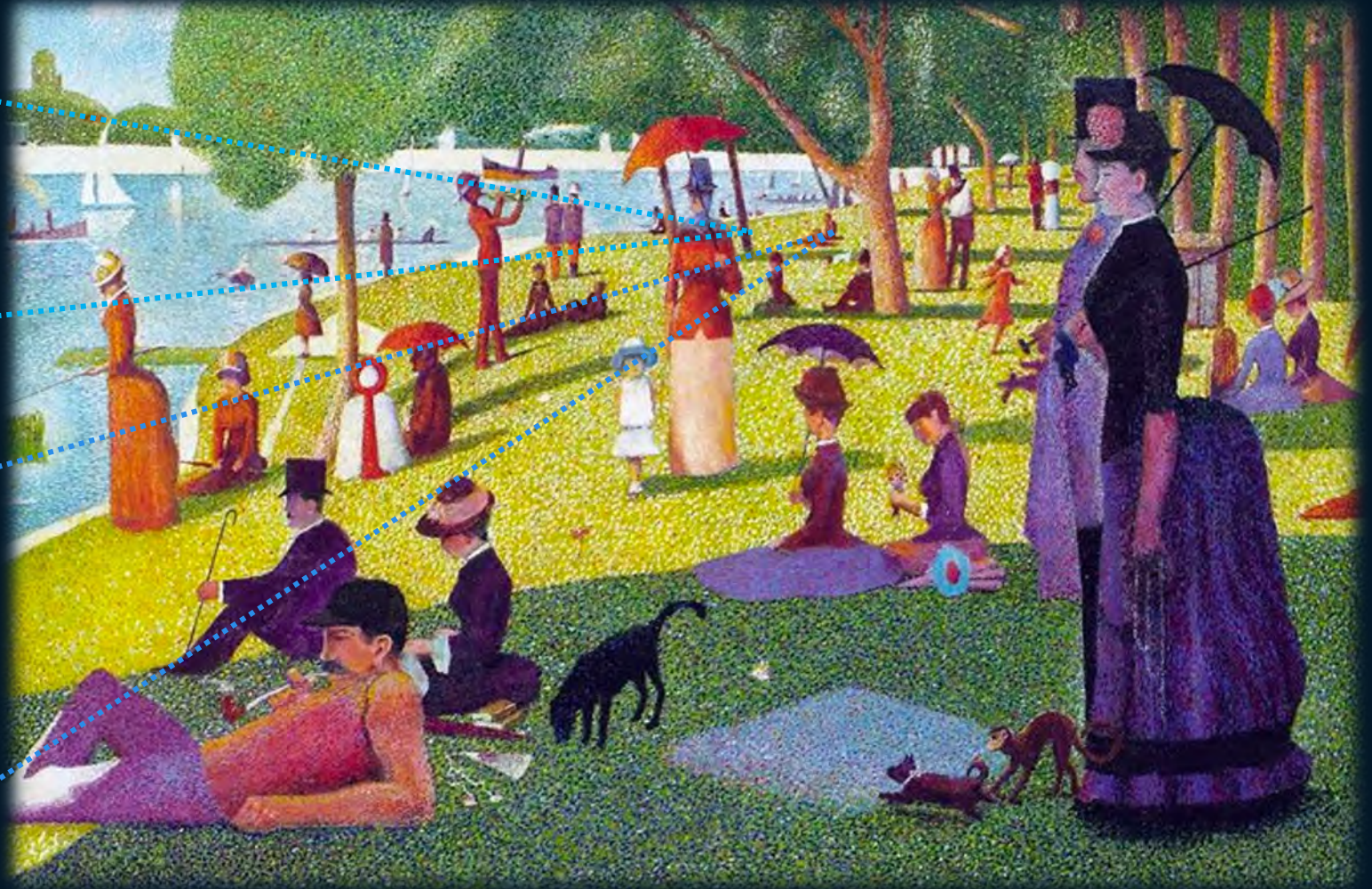
# **Digital Twins**

**From What is? To What could be?**



## Big pictures have small beginnings:

*Our professional team is multi-disciplined. We understand how and why detailed human, environmental & economic sub-systems work and interact – start small, identify crucial connections, inspire productive discussions and explore broader questions*





# ORBIS comprises experienced professionals and collaborations operating globally and in diverse fields

**Digital Twin Development**



**Ai + Generative Design & Simulation Systems**



**Smart Cities**



**Urban Design**



**Transportation**



**Public Health**



**Urban Agriculture + Food Security**



**Non-Linear Analytics + Simulation**



**Environmental Physics**



**System Dynamics**



**Sustainability Policy**



**BIM**

*(Systems Development & Application)*

**Public Private Partnerships**



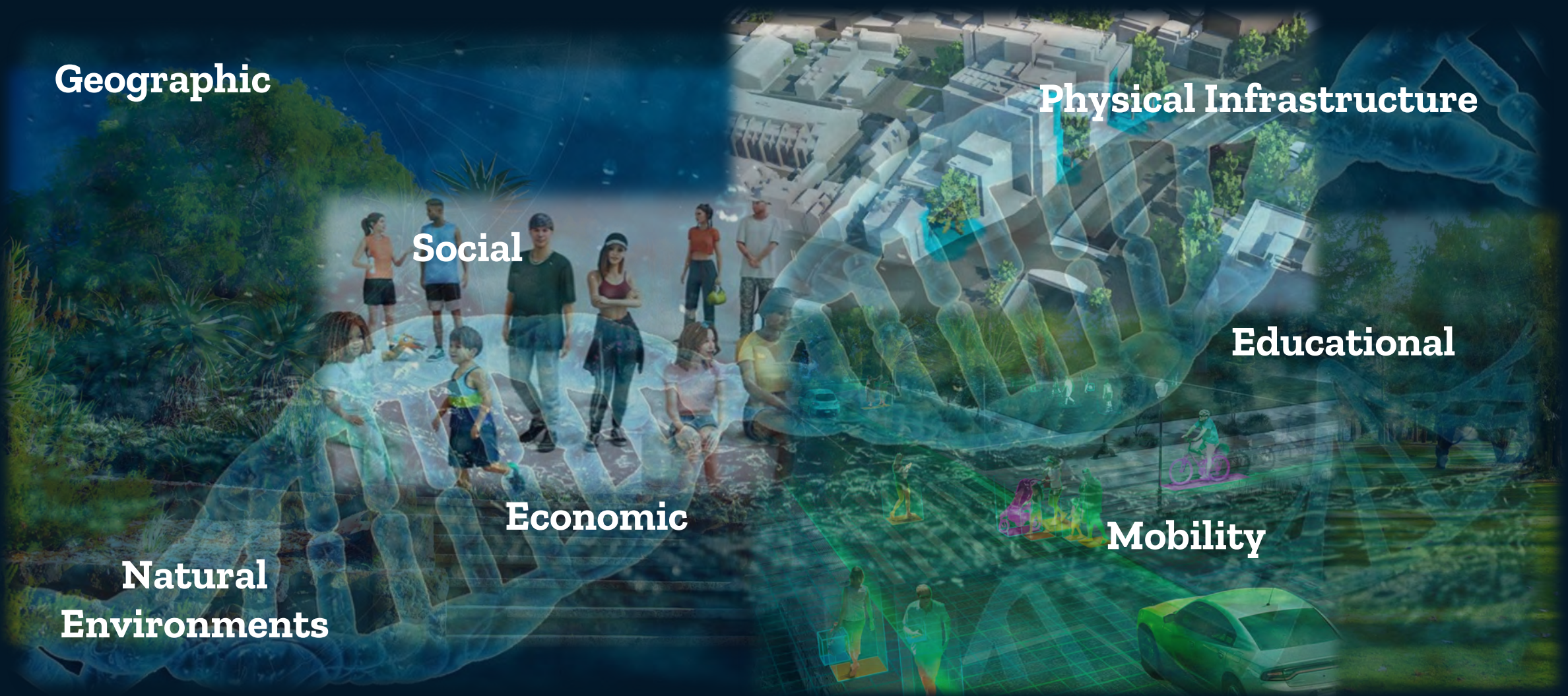
**Energy Systems & Green Building**





# Human settlements – large or small, compact or spread out, have their own DNA signatures

*Change attributes of any of its sequences and the region will perform differently as will its physical form and density*





# The spatial DNA of cities is measurable; it too drives performance and sustainability

Physical form and density of built environments have profound and lasting effects on social, economic, mobility, and environmental objectives

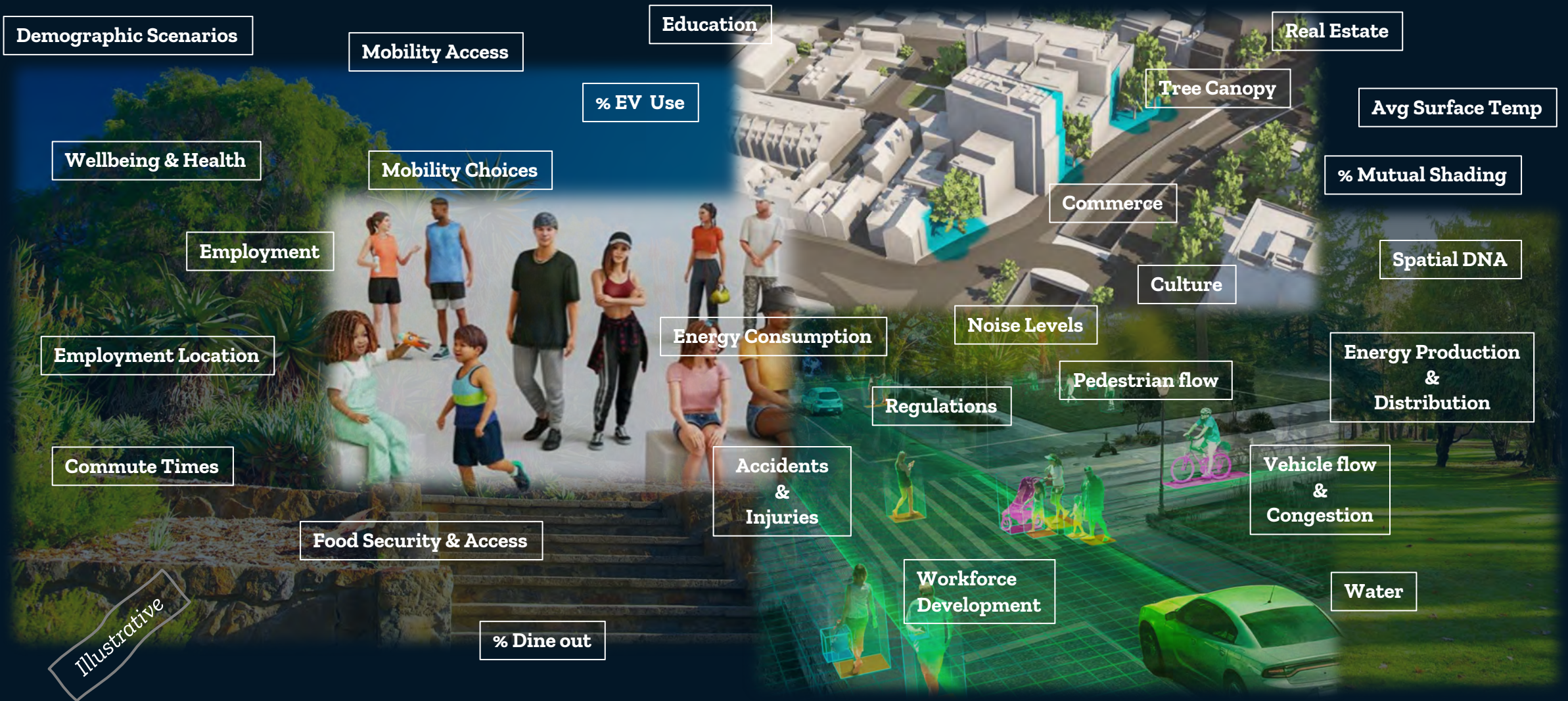




# Governing Dynamics of Urban Regions

Characteristics of sustained livability:

Quantifying these starts with the people who live and work in these regions





# Any city is a complex interrelated dynamic system

Navigating the future requires persistent instrumentation, insight and communications with diverse constituencies living and working in urban regions





# City Plans impact each other's success

Coordination – Collaboration - Communication





# Understanding urban complexities requires diverse professional skills & experience





# Assembling the components of an urban observatory capable of simulating policies for future livability & prosperity



- **Baseline City performance**
- **Policy Scenario testing**
  - Risk analysis
  - Socio-economic impacts
  - Environmental challenges
  - Mobility Strategies
  - Water, food & energy security
  - Business/industrial development
  - Housing & schools
- **Communications**
  - Results
  - Opportunities



**City Council**



**City Departments**



**City Residents,  
Visitors +  
Businesses**



# The Observatory amplifies powerful simulation technologies with professional skills & domain experience





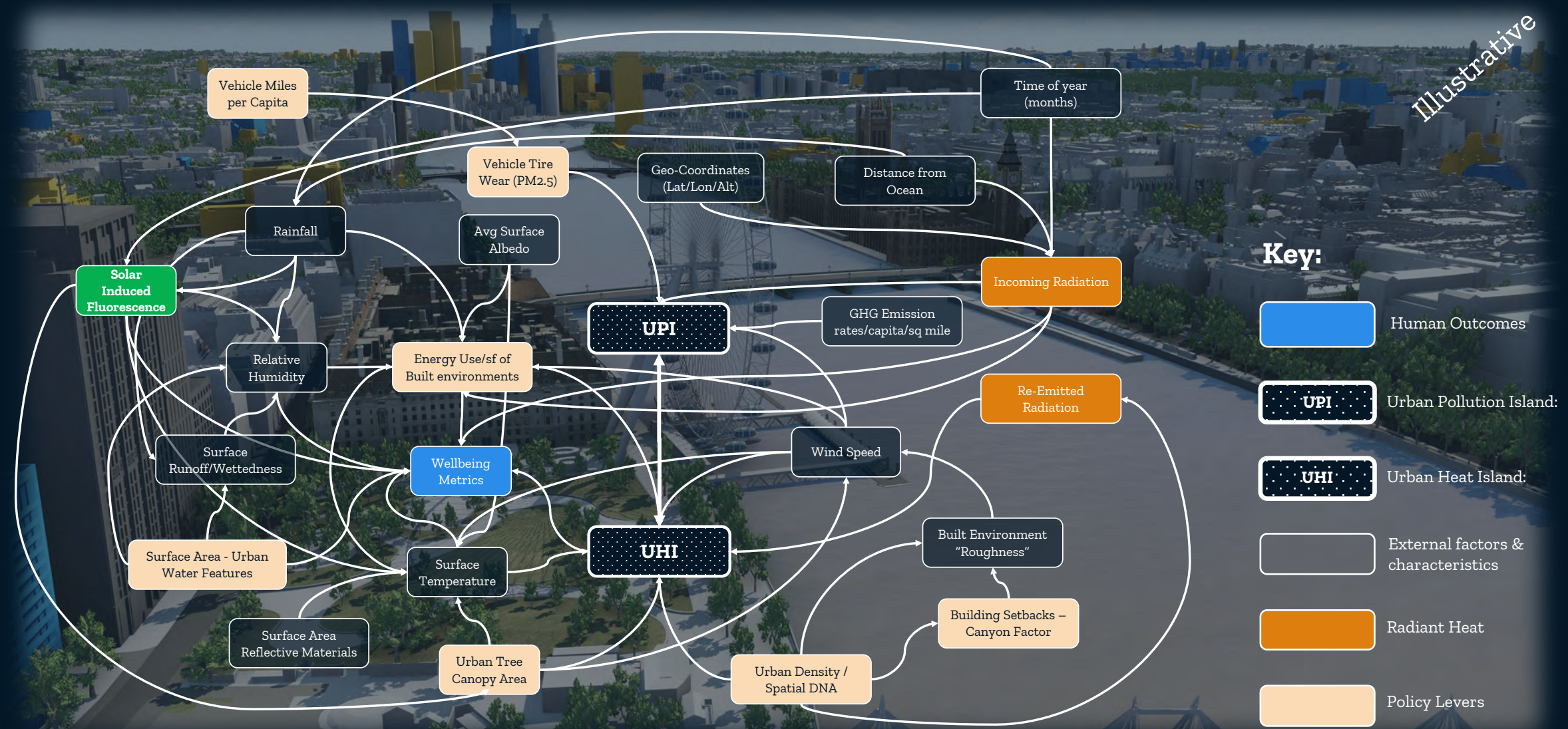
**This enables us to build & operate urban policy simulations, which account for the highly complex realities of urban regions**





# Dynamic Digital Twins :

Digital replicas whose future form (their spatial DNA) is driven by simulated and tested social, economic, mobility and environmental policies using dynamic data and AI models of how cities function



Illustrative



# The challenge for regional planning remains illuminating actionable urban policy options for driving successful, prosperous futures

Cities, urban professionals, insurers and developers need faster, more immersive analytic and simulation capabilities:

- That can easily be used on a routine basis
- That provide a timely and reliable communications platform for dialogue with diverse constituencies





# **Making the Future Visible**

## **Sustainability Use Case Example: Air Quality and Mobility Options**

**Whether included in a hard-copy plan or not, interdependencies among the social, economic, human health, mobility, growth and environmental characteristics of the city remain in play and will likely impact the success of policy decisions constrained to a narrower view**



# Air Quality is driven by several factors including:

Zoning

Housing Affordability

Commute Distance

Tailpipe Emissions

Tire Wear

Brake Wear

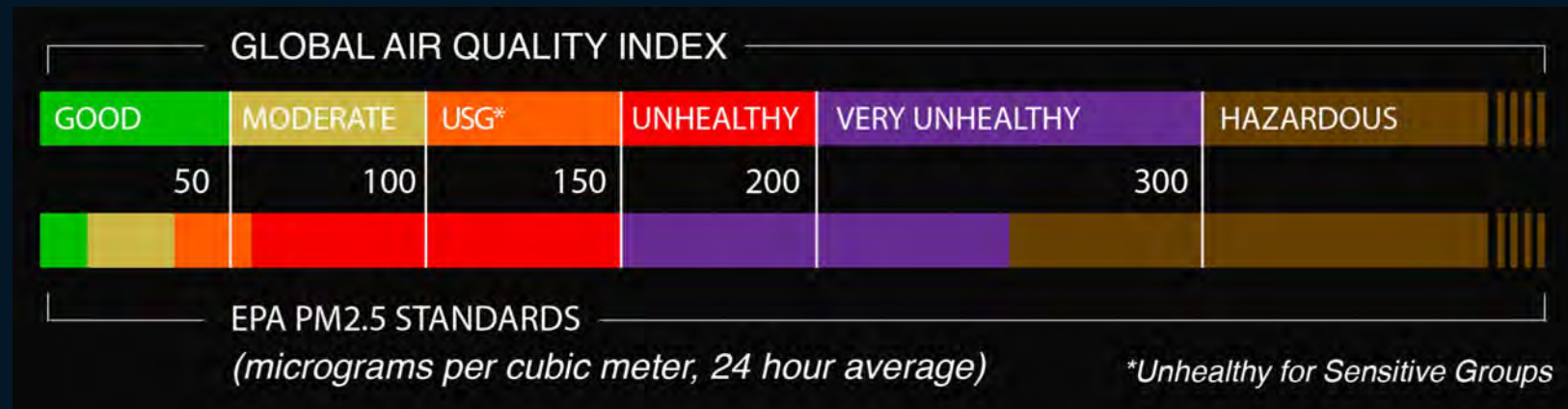
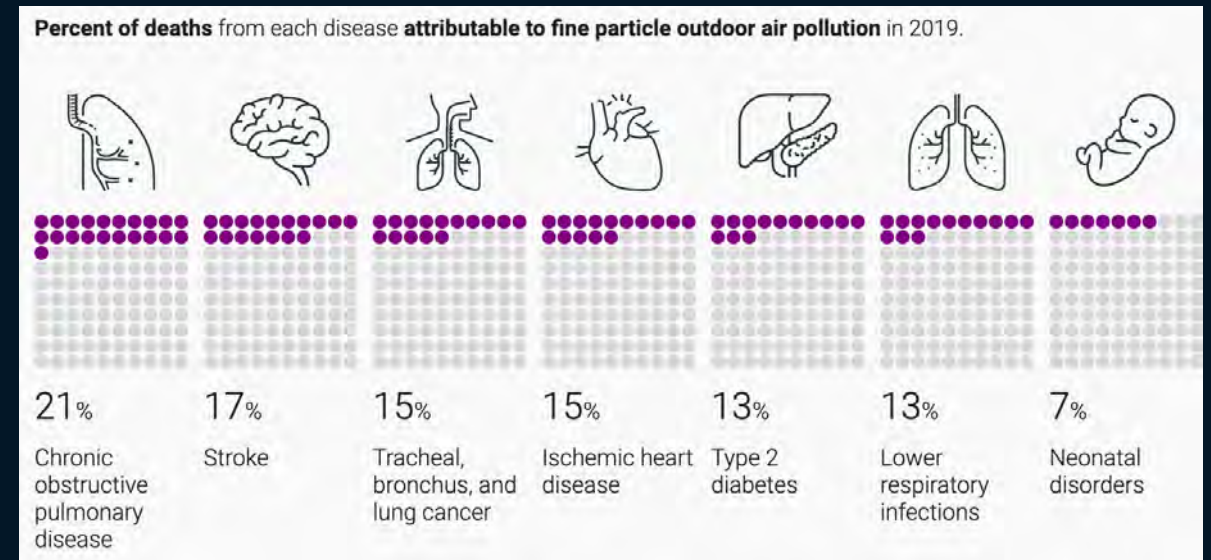
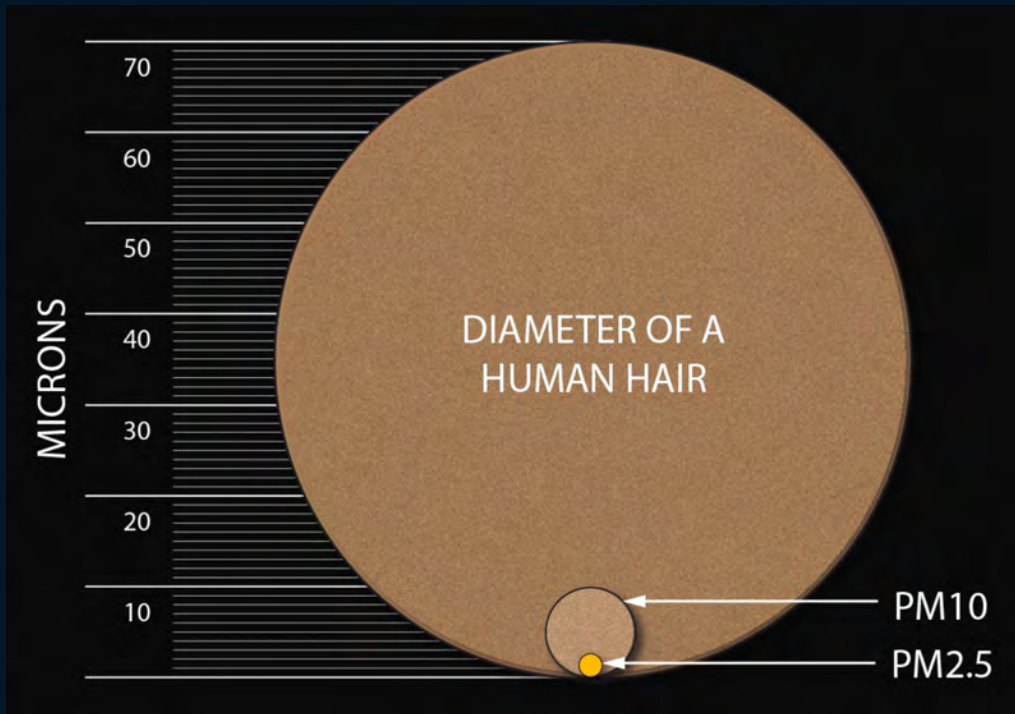
Fires





# Air Quality – PM<sub>10</sub> & PM<sub>2.5</sub>

**Harmful** *inhalable airborne particulates*





# Traffic Intersection PM<sub>2.5</sub> Particulate Emissions from Tire and Brake Wear – 21.7 tons per annum<sup>1</sup>

Data from 203 traffic intersection points

City GIS Data									
ID	N_S_STREET	E_W_STREET	DATA COLLECTION DAY	EB	WB	NB	SB	TOTAL Vehicles	Total Vehicle miles within a 1 Mile Cell <sup>1</sup>
143	101 FWY	FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT	None	25000	22000	18095	19180	84,274	168,548
140	101 FWY	SHEA	None	21500	31000	13557	17446	83,502	167,004
53	SCOTTSDALE	FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT	Tuesday, March 14, 2023	16990	15359	20604	22472	75,425	150,850
89	HAYDEN	INDIAN SCHOOL	Tuesday, March 14, 2023	21561	20713	16060	16420	74,754	149,508
148	90TH	SHEA	Tuesday, March 14, 2023	31938	29646	10429	2353	74,366	148,732
45	SCOTTSDALE	SHEA	Tuesday, March 14, 2023	17988	17995	18875	17671	72,529	145,058
47	SCOTTSDALE	CACTUS	Tuesday, March 14, 2023	14149	15765	20603	21392	71,909	143,818
56	SCOTTSDALE	101 FREEWAY	None	16744	10636	24500	19500	71,380	142,760
152	92ND	SHEA	Saturday, February 11, 2023	27274	26000	9066	7942	70,282	140,564
98	HAYDEN	SHEA	Tuesday, March 14, 2023	22676	21762	12192	9699	66,329	132,658
204	117TH	MOUNTAIN VIEW	Thursday, April 13, 2023	1584	802	0	1165	3,551	7,102
113	GRANITE REEF	OSBORN	Thursday, September 14, 2023	1808	736	905	0	3,449	6,898
5	60TH	OAK	Friday, January 13, 2023	1213	1190	0	481	2,884	5,768
187	104TH	SWEETWATER	Friday, January 13, 2023	777	743	556	0	2,076	4,152
<b>Totals</b>				1,593,368	1,600,828	1,776,399	1,680,526	6,651,114	13,302,228
<b>Hourly Traffic Flow (vehicles)</b>				66,390	66,701	74,017	70,022	277,130	
<b>Average Traffic Flow per minute</b>				1,107	1,112	1,234	1,167	4,619	
<b>Daily PM<sub>2.5</sub> Tire and Brake Emissions in GRAMS @ 4.05 mg/mile for Passenger Cars</b>				6,453	6,483	7,194	6,806	26,937	53,874
<b>Daily PM<sub>2.5</sub> Tire and Brake Emissions in POUNDS</b>				14.25	14.31	15.88	15.02	59.46	118.93
<b>Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> Tire and Brake Emissions in pounds</b>				5,200	5,224	5,797	5,484	21,704	43,408
<b>Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> Tire and Brake Emissions in Tons</b>				2.60	2.61	2.90	2.74	10.85	21.70

Average PM 2.5 and PM10 Brake Wear emission rates (mg/vehicle mile) for passenger cars from a national scale run inventory for calendar year 2017 using MOVES3

	PM2.5	PM10
Passenger Cars	2.77	22.17

Average PM 2.5 and PM10 Tire Wear emission rates (mg/vehicle mile) for passenger cars from a national scale run inventory for calendar year 2017 using MOVES3

	PM2.5	PM10
Passenger Cars	1.28	8.55

## References

### US EPA-Brake and Tire Wear Emissions from On road Vehicles in MOVES3-November 2020.

Assessment and Standards Division  
Office of Transportation and Air Quality  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



# Visualizing Traffic Intersection Data in 3D (superimposed on digital twin data)

Overlapping vehicle milage cells indicate the high concentration of  $PM_{10}$  and  $PM_{2.5}$  emissions with spill-over into residential and other areas





## PM2.5 induced clinical conditions – analyzing paid insurance claims data:

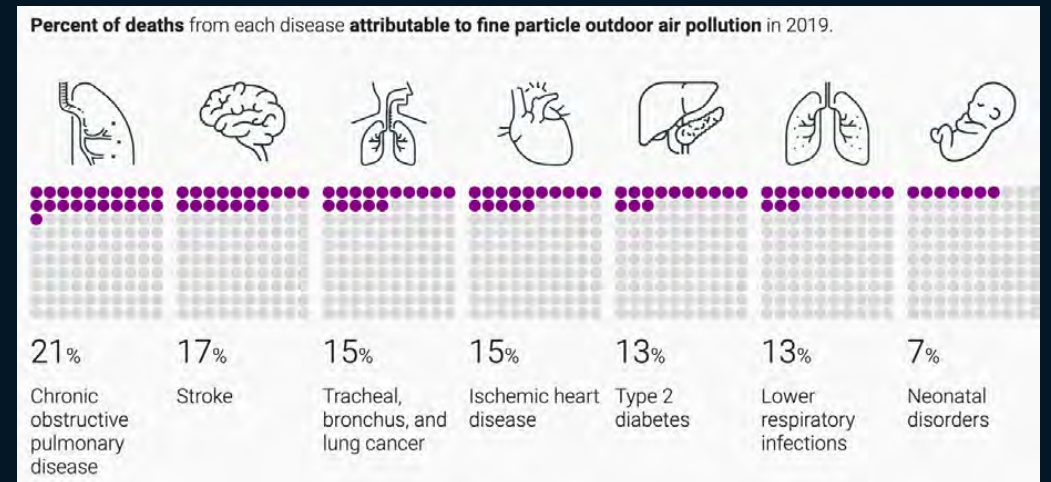
measuring the incidence of 7 clinical conditions and determining linkages that may exist with the daily and annual PM2.5 emissions from vehicle volumes and tire + brake wear for each highway intersection at the center of a one mile "cell"

UNIQUE Patient ID	Gender	D.O.B	Street Address	Zip Code	ICD-10	CPT Code	Admitting DRG	Discharge DRG	Attending MD	Admitting MD	\$ Charges
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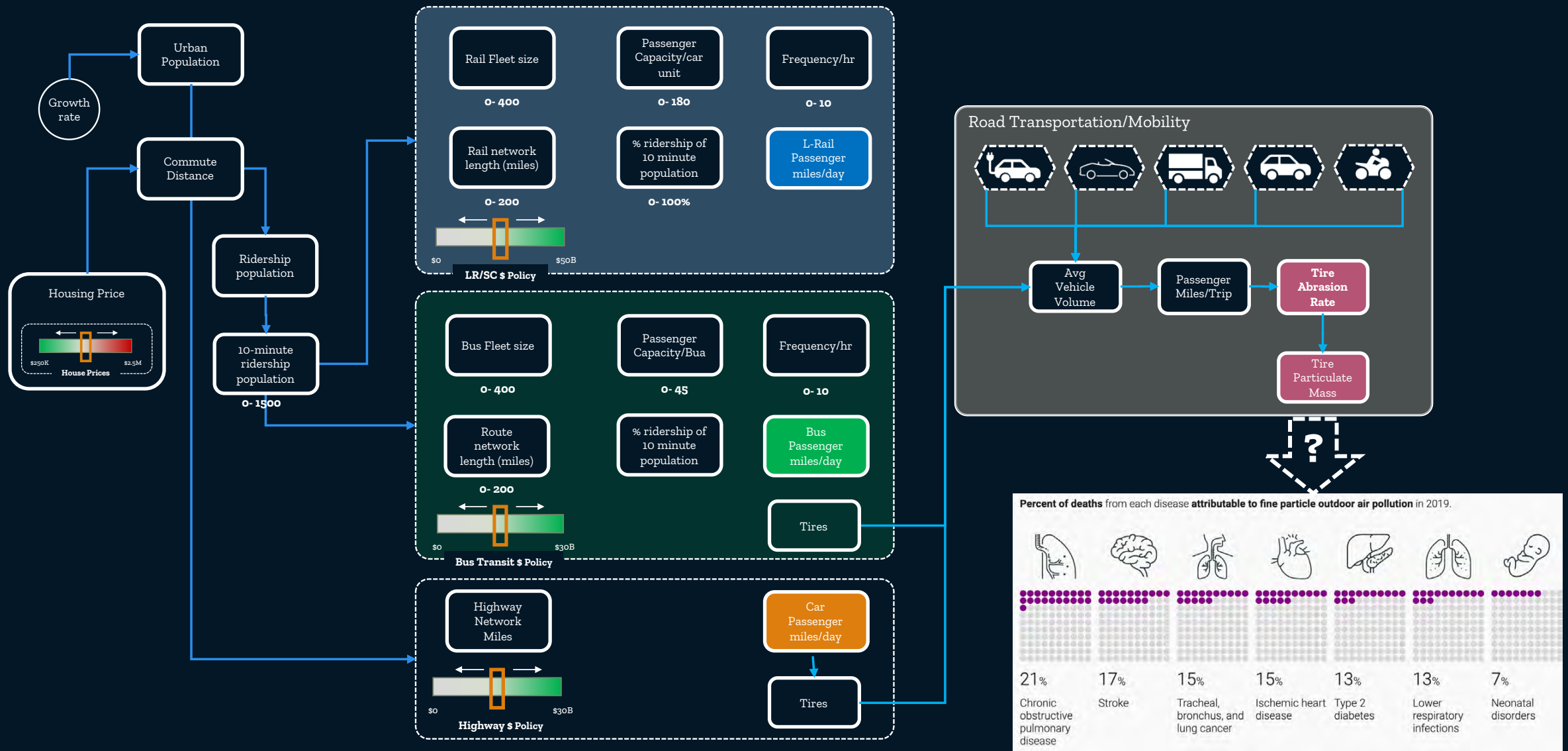
The above data (+ a lot more) is captured by all health insurers including private-sector fiscal intermediaries processing Medicare Part A and B claims and Medicaid claims. Any patient presenting themselves at an MD's office, ER, urgent care, clinic or, if admitted as an inpatient, hospital will generate this type of data used by every insurer for insurance payments or co-pays.

HIPAA-compliant analysis of this data enables the total costs to be aggregated for treating pollution induced conditions and showing where concentrations of problems lie at the census tract and census block level where demographic data reside.





# Policy levers available for reducing the impact of PM<sub>2.5</sub> Emissions on human health from high volume road traffic conditions





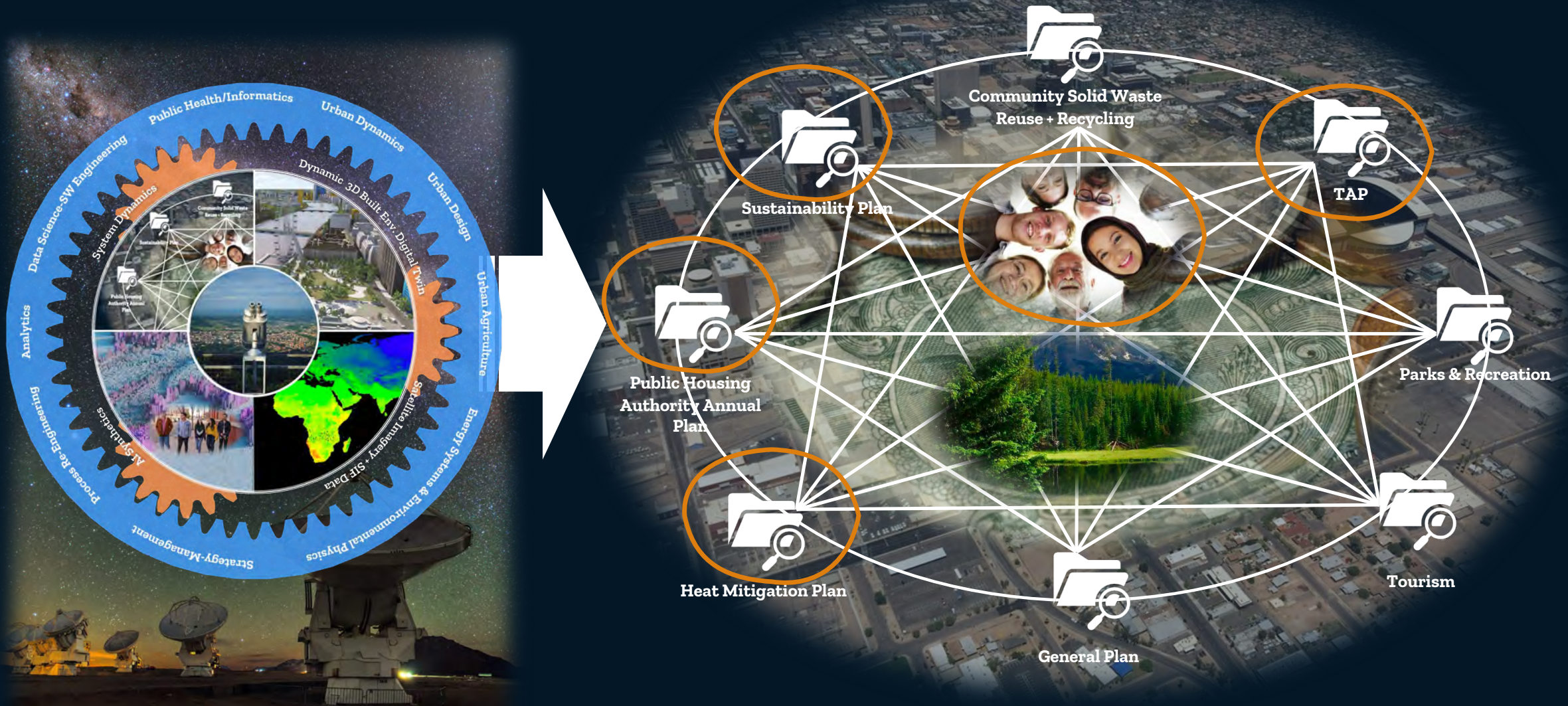
# Improving Air Quality: Likely to increase as vehicle miles driven per day are reduced

Simulate AQ, social, clinical & economic impacts of integrating attainable housing with broader transit choices





# Applying an integrated digital model of the City's governing dynamics and fixed infrastructures pointed directly to unmet human wellbeing needs





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