

Janzen, Heather

Subject: FW: Email - Request to Speak - Merlin Toth - Connecting Avenue C - Walking and Cycling Improvement Project - CK 6000-5
Attachments: Connect Ave C PDF -sm.pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:46 AM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Merlin Toth - Connecting Avenue C - Walking and Cycling Improvement Project - CK 6000-5

--- Replies to this email will go to [REDACTED] ---

Submitted on Monday, December 18, 2023 - 09:43

Submitted by user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

I have read and understand the above statements.: Yes

I do not want my comments placed on a public agenda. They will be shared with members of Council through their online repository.: No

I only want my comments shared with the Mayor or my Ward Councillor.: No

Date: Monday, December 18, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: He/him/his

First Name: Merlin

Last Name: Toth

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: Toth

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Isabella St E

Neighbourhood: [Exhibition](#)

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: [REDACTED]

What do you wish to do ?: Request to Speak

If speaking will you be attending in person or remotely: In person

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: Regular Business Meeting - Wednesday December 20th

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: 9.2.1 Connecting Ave C Walking and Cycling Improvement Project

Comments:

Good Morning,

Please find below a transcript of the presentation I wish to make before city council this coming Wednesday, December 20th. I also have attached a PDF file of a slide presentation that I need to accompany the transcript as it is presented. If there are any questions re this, I can be contacted as per the information on the submission form.

Thank you,
Merlin Toth

Connecting Ave C Presentation

Your worship Mayor Clark, council members.

My name is Merlin Toth and I sat in this gallery on Dec 5th at the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation meeting where the Connecting Ave C project was discussed. I heard several people speak strongly against this project, particularly phase 3, the portion between 38th and 45th Streets. Two of these presenters stated that they had never seen anyone cycling or walking on that part of Ave C, and it seemed to be quickly assumed by some present, that that meant that no one ever walked or cycled there and that there was no reason to ever want to.

I believe that assumption to be incorrect, for two reasons. One, for many years I travelled to work through Ave C and Circle Dr. While waiting at the light I was always surprised at the number of cyclists and pedestrians I saw passing northward through that intersection, likely on their way to work. Now I'm not saying that the presenters were wrong in stating that they had never seen anyone cycle or walk there, but rather that they had never noticed anyone cycle or walk there. There is a difference. I am a cyclist, and I also walk a lot so I tend to notice others doing the same. If you are not a cyclist or walker and have no interest in that, you tend not to notice those activities. And the second reason I will explain to you now.

Slide 1 please

What you see on the screen is a Strava Heatmap for the city of Saskatoon. For those of you not familiar with Strava, it is an online athletic community where you can record activities like walking, running or cycling for record keeping purposes and also to share with other Strava users.

If you give Strava permission, your activity maps are displayed anonymously and overlaid with other users' activity maps to create what is called a heatmap. Where the name heatmap comes in, is as more and more information is overlaid on the same route or street the "hotter", or brighter that area is displayed. This map has been set to display both walking and cycling activity. I will lump them together and call them Active transportation, or AT.

Looking at this heatmap of the entire city you can see the various levels of user activities; the brightest areas show that the highest amount of activity in the city is along the Meewasin Trail on both sides of the river. That is understandable if you have been on the trail on a day when the weather is pleasant at any time of the year. There is a lot of activity there. Note the colour of the high activity areas, we will talk more about that shortly.

Slide 2 Please

This shot of the airport area shows that there is a lot of AT activity along the Multi Use Pathway on Claypool Drive leading to Cynthia St. There is also considerable AT activity on Howell Avenue and 39th and on Avenue C funnelling northward into the Airport Industrial area.

Slide 3 Please

This is the Airport Industrial area. Note the colour of Claypool Drive and Cynthia Street along the south edge. Now think back to the colour of the trails along the river in the first slide. Follow eastward along Cynthia up to 45th street and across the pedestrian overpass over Idylwyld to the NW Industrial Area. Look at the amount of activity on the Pathway East of Airport Drive up to the hotels and the residences along Carole St and Berney Ave. There is AT activity all through that area.

Slide 4 Please

So this is the Circle Drive and Avenue C intersection and as you can see, many AT users are already using that intersection and then traveling through the hotel parking lots on either side of Avenue C. Why use the parking lots? Because there is no other safe way to move through that area. I can tell you now, if there were a sidewalk along the west side of Avenue C and a pathway away from the street along the city right of way on the east side, you would see a dramatic shift of those lines. Who wants to be dodging traffic in busy parking lots if there is a better way. Please take a good look at that slide and tell me that there is no demand for safe AT infrastructure along Avenue C, especially in the phase 3 area that you see before you now.

Also this heat map represents ONLY the people who take the time to record their travels on Strava. Many of the people who use active transportation because they have no other choice, do not use Strava. They do not show up on these images. Think of them. Do they not deserve to get safely from home to their destination and back again each day? I think they do, and the whole of the Connecting Ave C project and especially Phase 3 will help them to do just that.

Slide 5 Please

Attachments:

- [Connect Ave C PDF -sm.pdf](#)1.39 MB

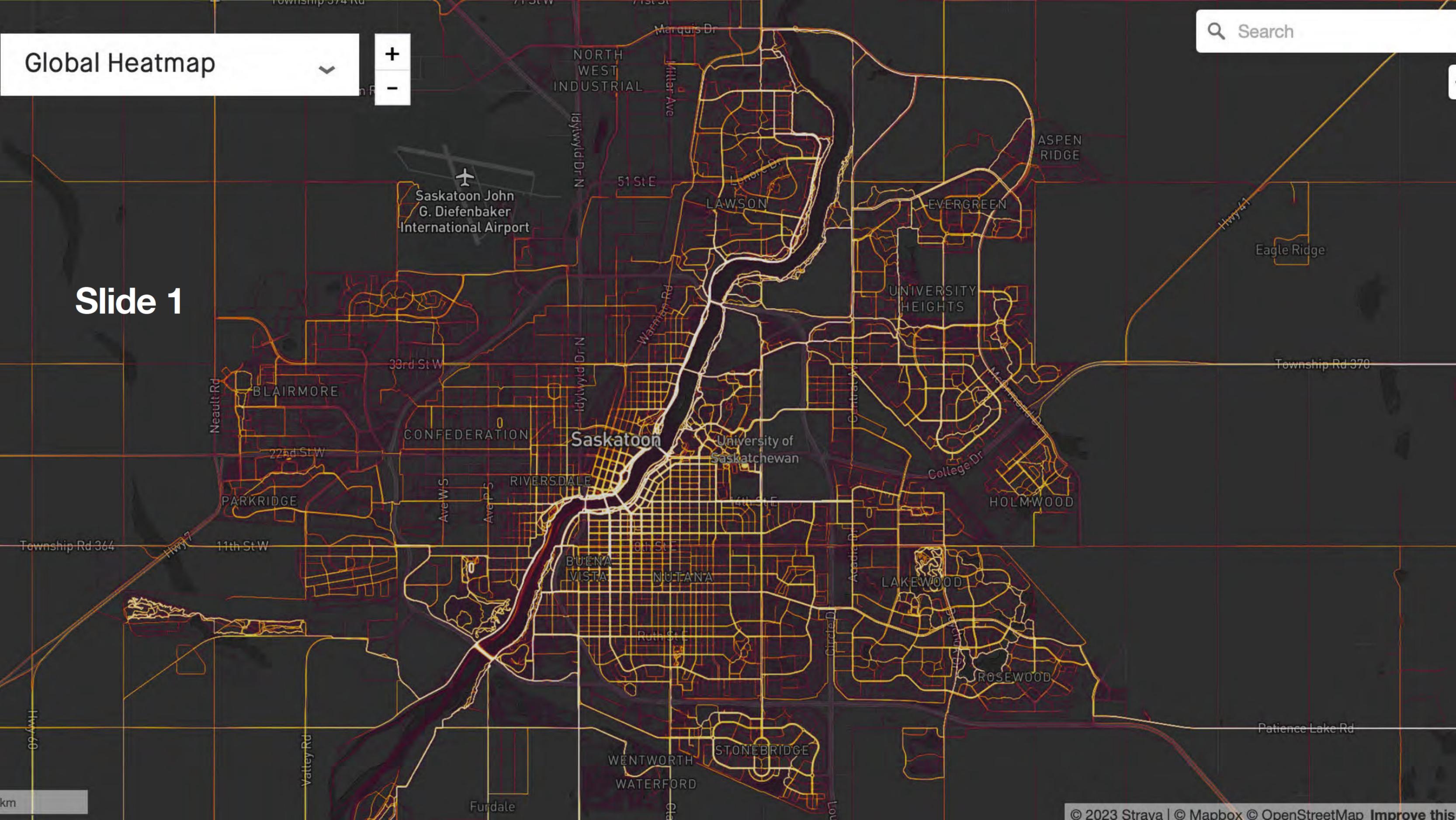
Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting?: No

Merlin Toth

Connecting Ave C Presentation



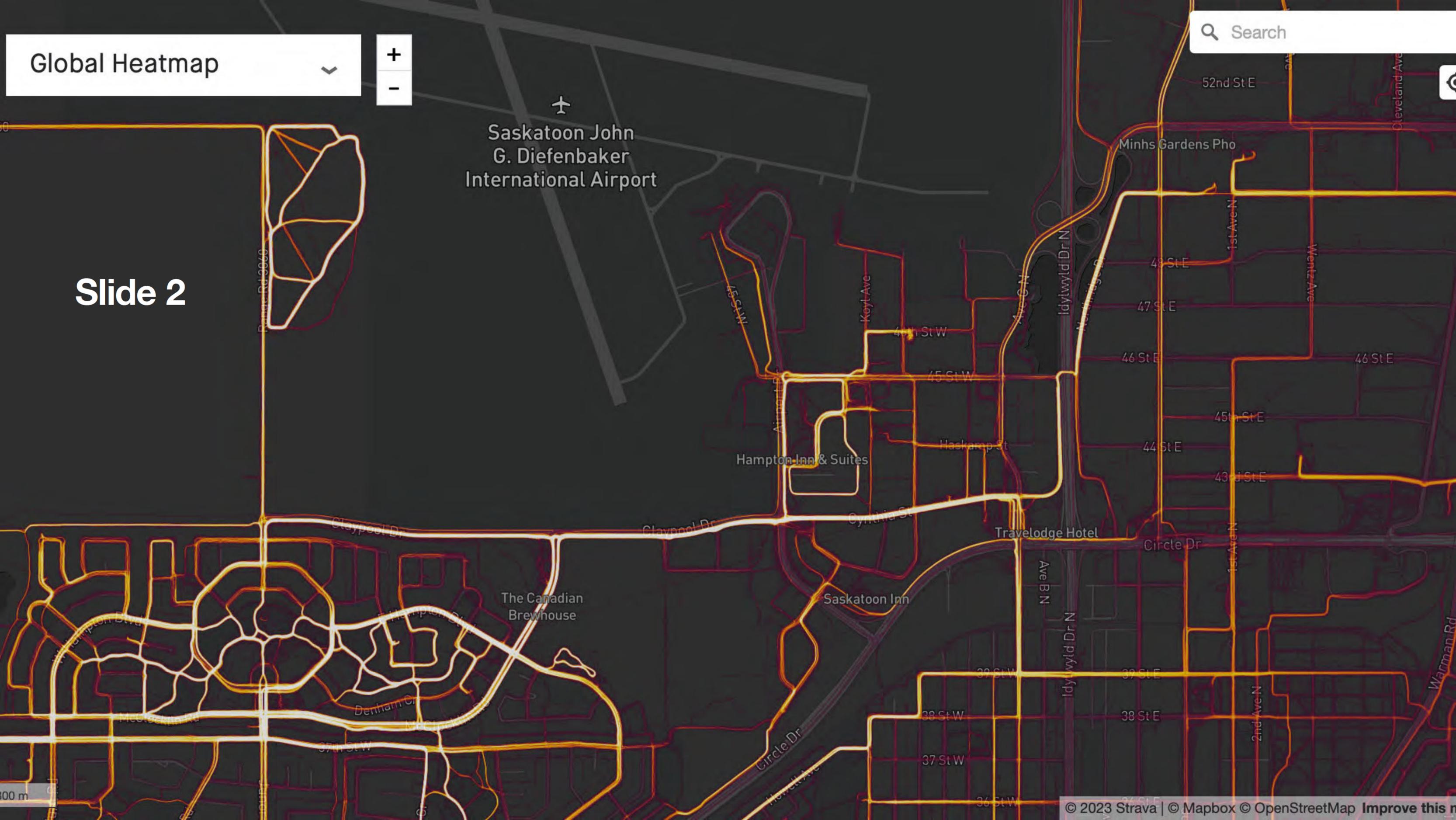
Slide 1





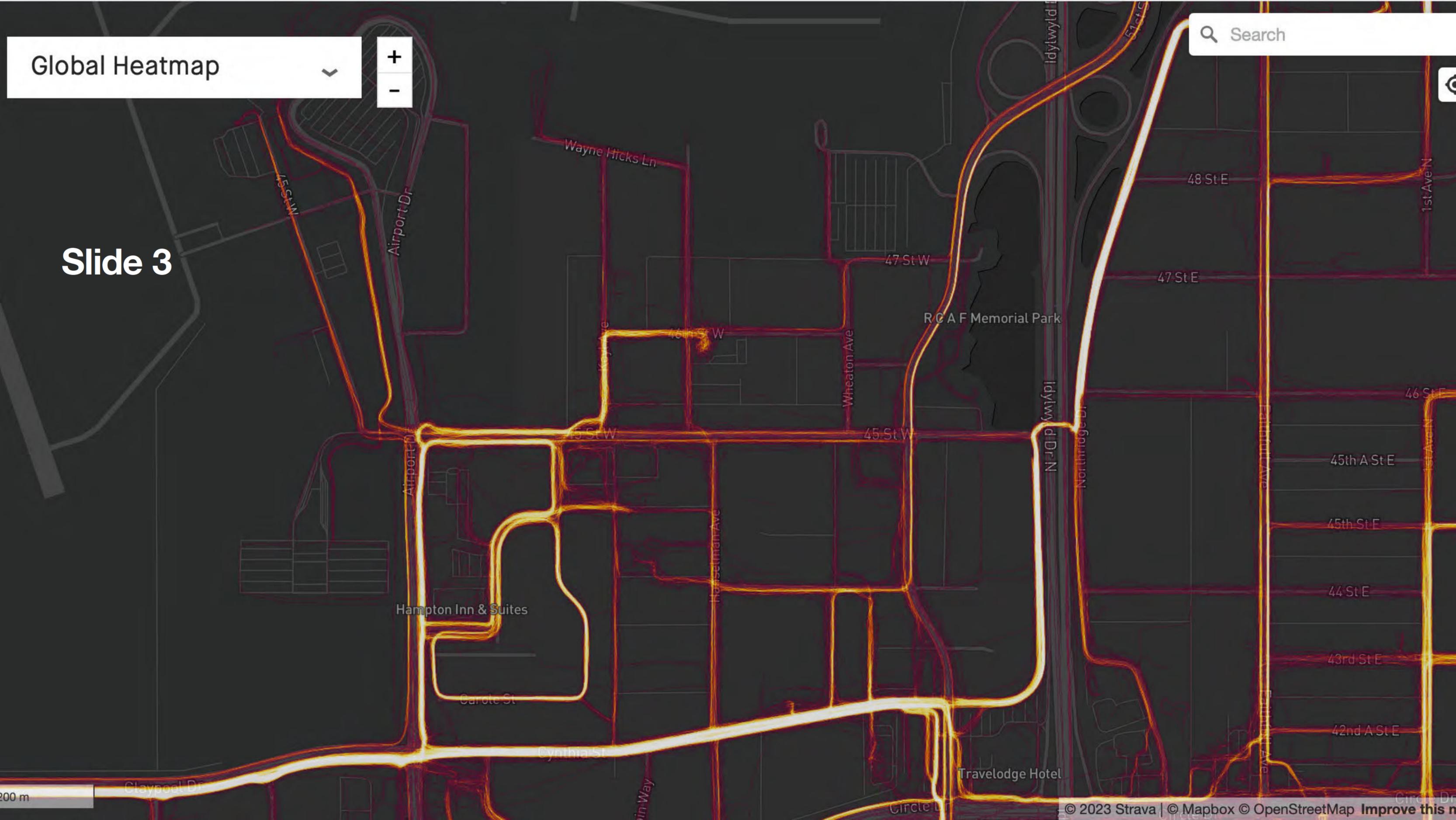
Saskatoon John G. Diefenbaker International Airport

Slide 2



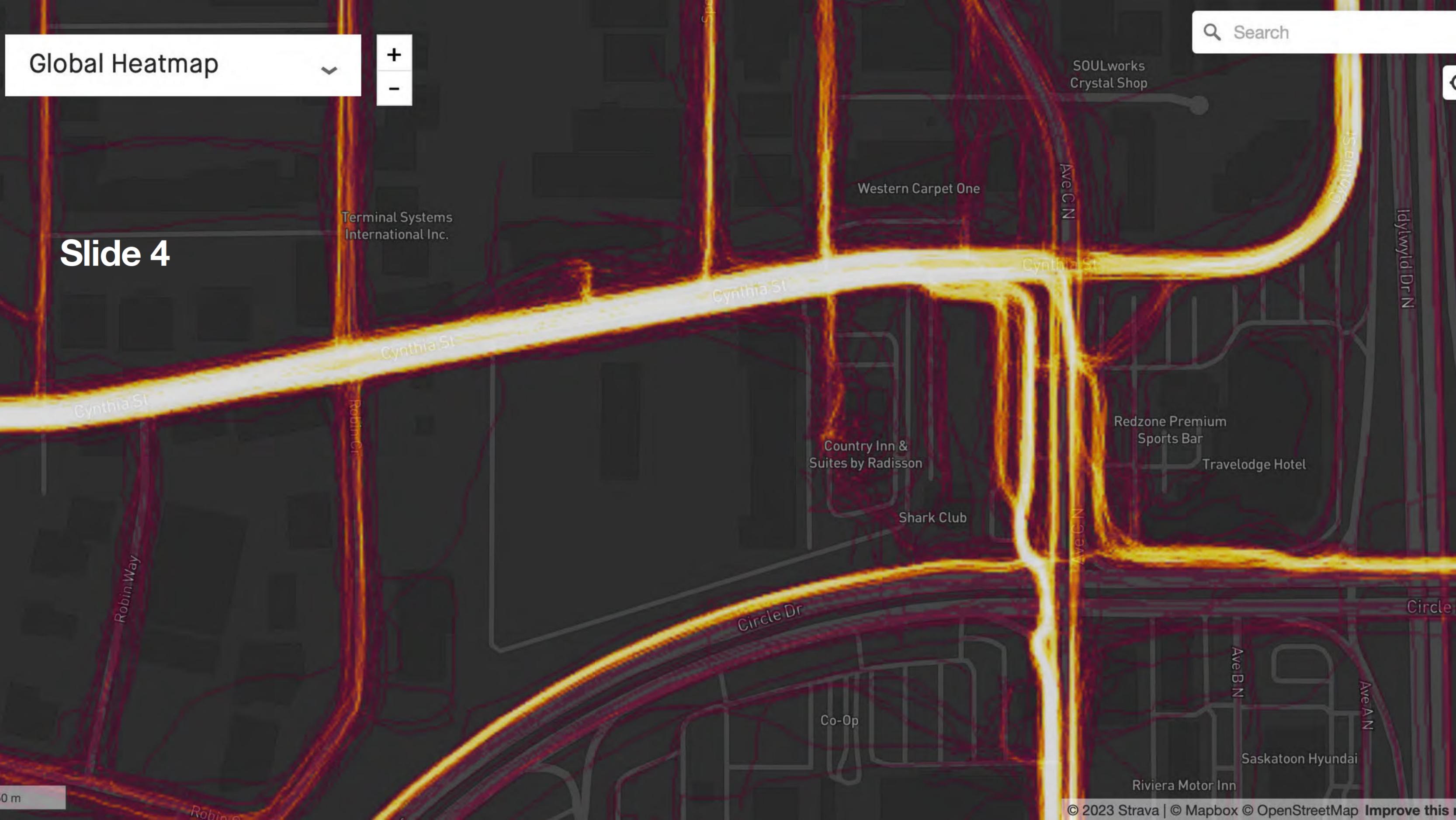


Slide 3





Slide 4



Slide 5

- **Desire Line
east side of
Ave C
between
Cynthia St
and Gyles
Place**

