THE EASTERN TRANSPORTATION COALITION

CONNECTING FOR SOLUTIONS

Freight Data and Planning Working Group Web Meeting

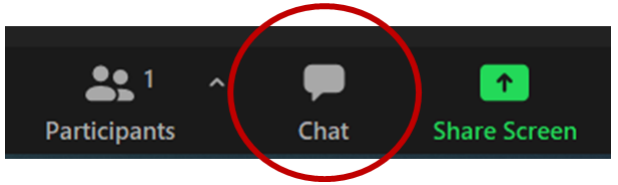
September 13, 2023

Welcome

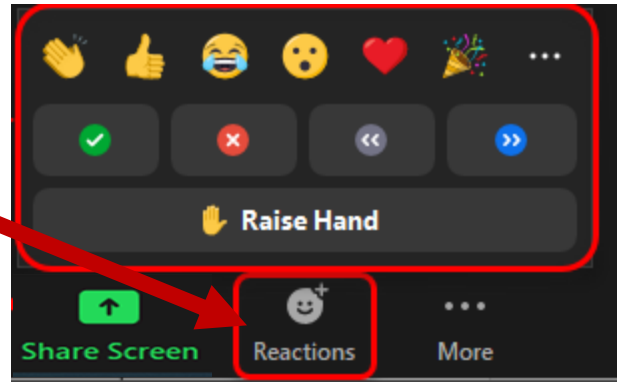
- We are using **Zoom Meeting**
- **VIDEO:** You are welcome to turn on your camera by pressing the camera icon in the bottom left corner of your screen
- **AUDIO (Computer):** Use your computer speakers and microphone by clicking the “Join Audio” button at the bottom left of the screen.
- **Alternate Audio (Phone):** Call into the meeting by dialing the phone number based on your location (provided in the confirmation email) and enter the Meeting ID at the prompt.
- Please keep your line muted when you are not speaking.
- **This web meeting is being recorded.**
- **Questions** with the audio or web? Please contact Esther directly via the chat box or email (ekleit@kmjinc.com)

Asking Questions in Zoom Meeting

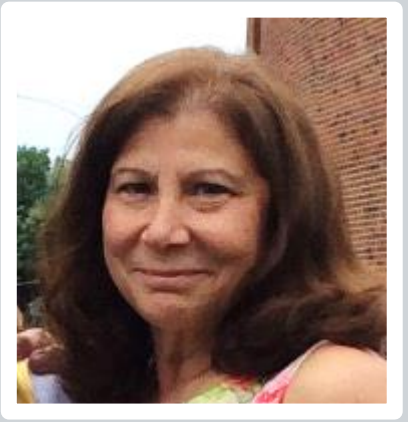
- **In the Chat Box**
  - You may pose your question using the Chat Box. Click on the chat icon at the bottom of your screen



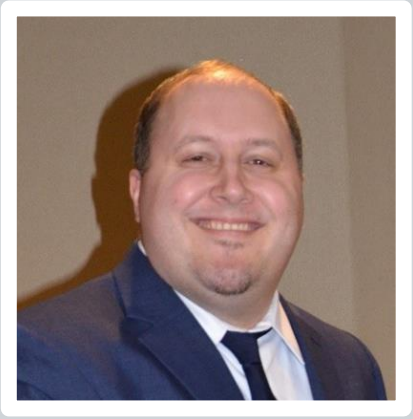
- **Verbally**
  - Please raise your hand (click on the reactions button at the bottom of the screen then select the “Raise Hand” button), then you can unmute your line.
  - Please give your name and organization before asking your question
  - All questions will be monitored and answered at the end of the session.
  - Please mute yourself when you are finished speaking



Welcome



Marygrace Parker, Freight Program Director,
The Eastern Transportation Coalition



Josh O'Neill, Supervising Planner,
Rhode Island Statewide Planning
Freight Data and Planning Working Group Chair

Coalition Update – Recent & Upcoming Events

RECENT

- ✓ Info Sharing Event: Considerations for Digital Infrastructure – June 28, 2023
- ✓ RITIS User Group Meeting – July 27, 2023
- ✓ Truck Parking Quarterly Working Group Meeting – August 4, 2023

UPCOMING

- ➢ Regional HOGs In-person Exchanges with Virtual Reality TIM Training Sessions *(invite only)* – Oct-Dec 2023
- ➢ RITIS User Group Meeting – October 19, 2023
- ➢ Travel Information Summit, Raleigh, NC & via web *(invite only)* – October 24 & 25, 2023
  - ➢ **Trucking Session (Virtual) – October 24, 2023**
- ➢ RITIS Workshop – November 2023
- ➢ Truck Parking Working Group Meeting – November 3, 2023

New Hampshire DOT
Department of Transportation

THE EASTERN TRANSPORTATION COALITION
CONNECTING FOR SOLUTIONS

Agenda

Topic	Speaker
Welcome & Introductions	Marygrace Parker, The Eastern Transportation Coalition Josh O'Neill, RI Statewide Planning/Freight Data & Planning Working Group Chair
Spotlight Presentation 1: • Philly Freight Finder - Freight Data Portal for the Delaware Valley	Kristen Scudder, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Spotlight Presentation 2: • "The Rhode Island Freight Finder" - Rhode Island's Freight and Goods Movement Plan Mapping Application	Josh O'Neill, RI Statewide Planning/ Freight Data & Planning Working Group Chair
Polling & Discussion Questions	Marygrace Parker, The Eastern Transportation Coalition

Participating Agencies (by state)

Alabama Alabama DOT	**Georgia** Georgia DOT	**Maryland** Baltimore Metro Council Maryland DOT - SHA	**New Jersey** NJDOT NJTPA	**Rhode Island** RI Statewide Planning	**Virginia** Virginia DOT
Connecticut ConnDOT	**Kentucky** KYTC	**Massachusetts** Boston Region MPO MassDOT	**New York** NYSDOT	**Tennessee** Tennessee DOT	**Washington DC** District DOT
Delaware DelDOT Wilmapco	**Maine** Maine DOT	**New Hampshire** New Hampshire DOT	**Pennsylvania** PennDOT DVRPC Southwestern PA Commission	**Vermont** Vermont AOT	**USDOT** BTS FHWA

Spotlight Presentation: Philly Freight Finder

Kristen Scudder,
Freight Program Manager
DVRPC

September 13, 2023

PhillyFreightFinder

Freight Data Portal for the Delaware Valley

TETC Freight Data and Planning Working Group

dvrpc

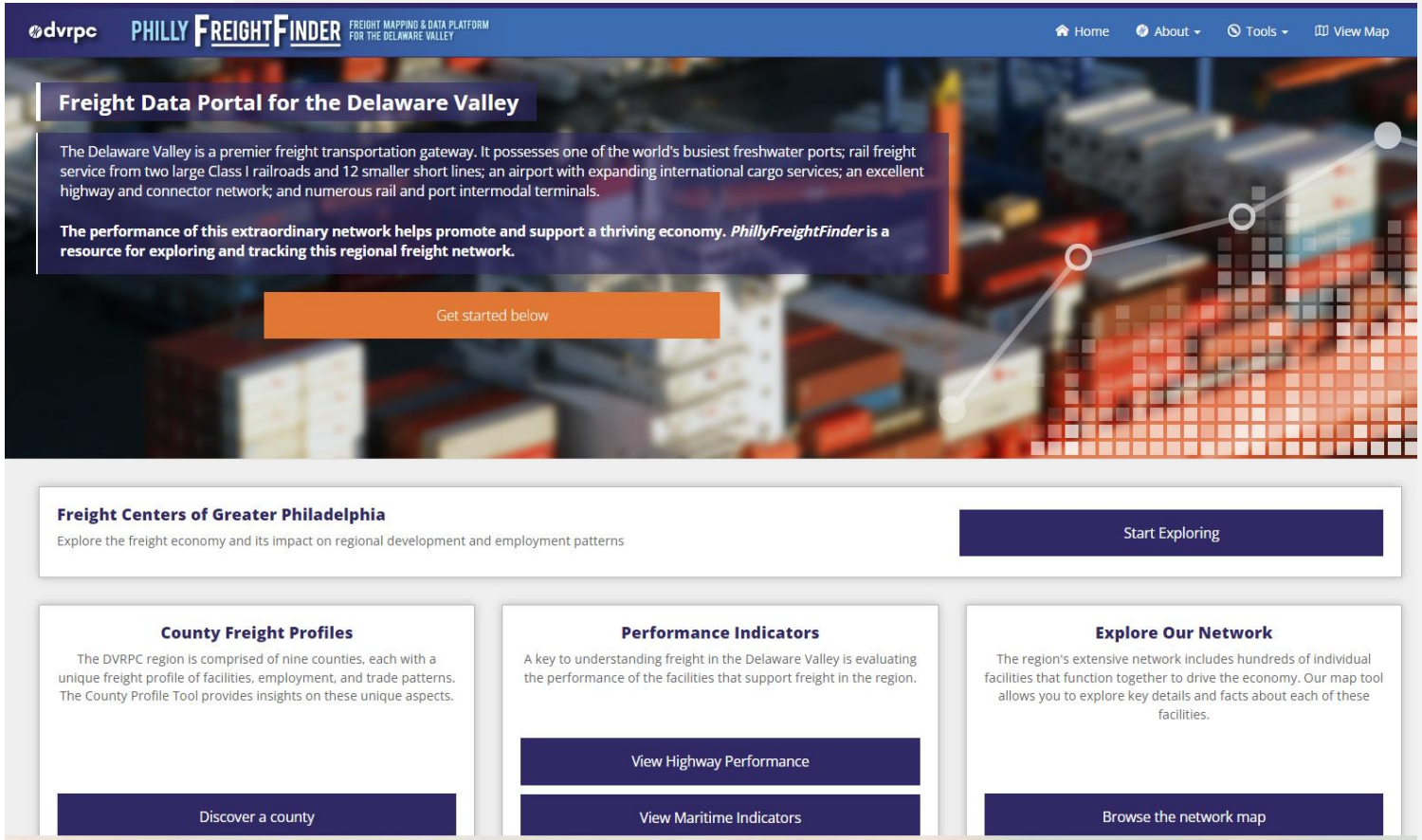
Kristen Scudder
Freight Program Manager
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Background

An **online, interactive** platform for sharing freight network **data to enhance the understanding** of performance and value of freight in the regional economy

LAUNCHED IN 2013

With support from the DVRPC Freight Advisory Committee, the initial product was made public in 2013. The FAC assisted with identification of data and included a mix of public and private-sector members.



Why build *PhillyFreightFinder*

- **Expand reach** of freight planning efforts
- Improve **visibility + availability** of freight data
- **Educate** regional planners and the public
- Develop **better data sharing** with public- and private-sectors

Twenty Years of Technical Studies

PhillyFreightFinder offered a new platform for putting data in the hands of those who needed it; beyond the countless printed reports sitting on shelves.

Value to our partners

- County planners have expanded freight planning capacity
- Engaged new partners (public + private)
- Centralized, accessible data resource for region
- Foundation for additional performance measure tracking

> **ADDED VALUE TO OUR WORK**
> being a resource **improves visibility** of all our products and **improves the quality and level** of input we get in our process

Components of PFF

FRONTEND APPLICATION

- Built 100% in-house
- Flexible, lightweight
- Open Source code
- Independent of Esri stack

BACKEND DATA WAREHOUSE

- ArcGIS Server + PostgreSQL
- Python for data intake
- Automation of data updates built-in to workflow

Data, data, and more data!

PRIORITIZE DATA

- essential to understanding the **intermodal supply** for freight movements;
- that explains freight demand and **supply-chain logic**; and
- that measures **system performance**.

4
internal

4
private

11
public

Evaluation of Data

CONSIDERATIONS

- Practical use or application
- Cost to acquire
- Time/cost of processing
- Computational requirements
- Utility and availability over time

WHAT WE LEARNED

- Recency/frequency is a key consideration
- Consistency and reliability impact the utility of data for planning and tracking purposes
- Telling the story of freight with data requires an ongoing commitment

TOOLS WE USE FOR DATA MANAGEMENT

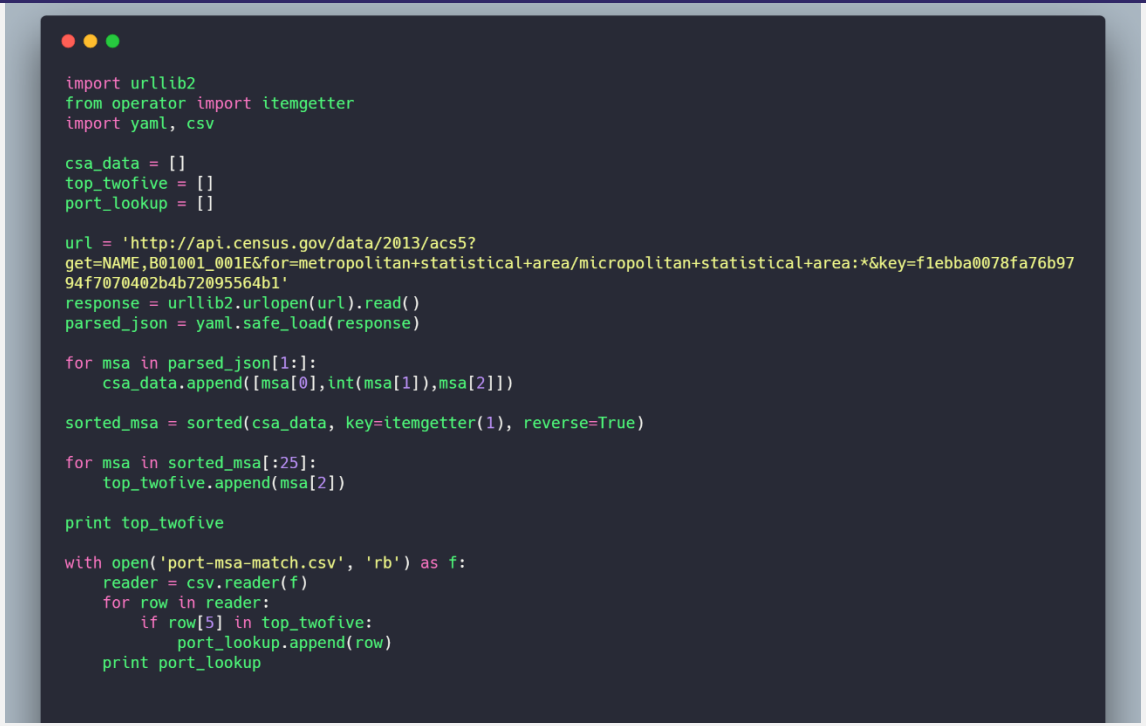
Schema Design

- Helpful step to understand context/relationships
- Key for planning optimization
- Provides documentation
- Foundation for Extract-Transform-Load process

Extract + Transform

- Only what we need
- Optimize for analysis/use
- Data validation checks

WHAT SHOULD WE AUTOMATE?

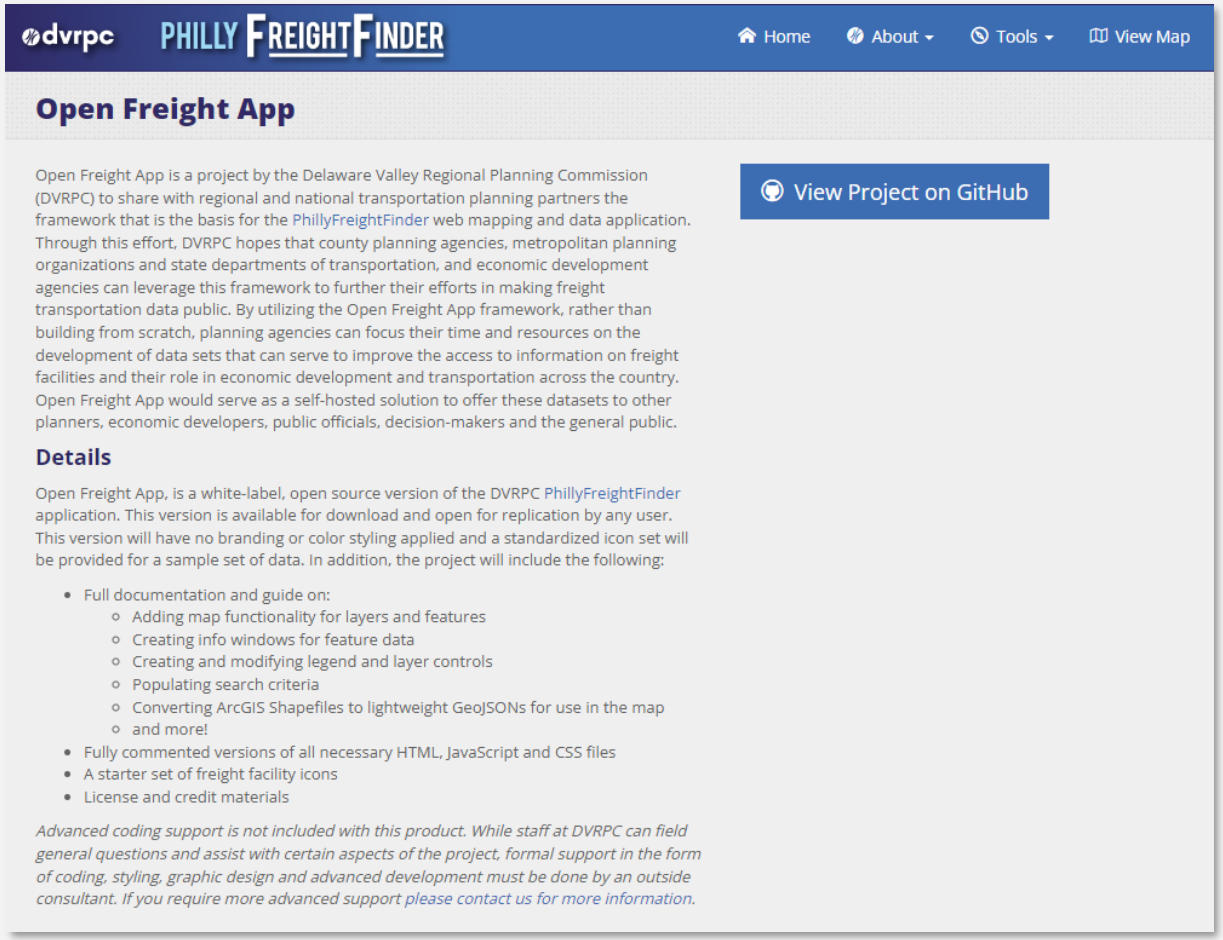


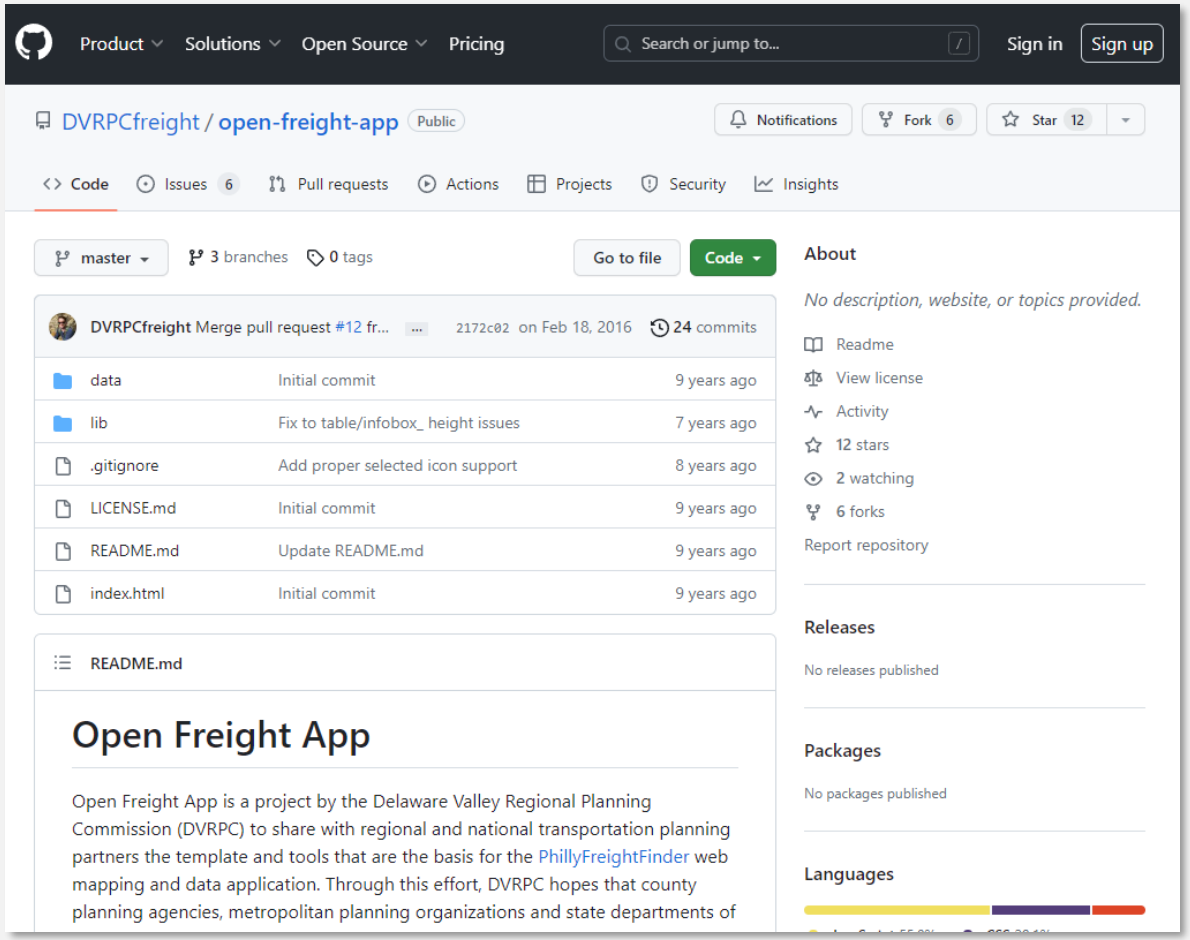
```
import urllib2
from operator import itemgetter
import yaml, csv

csa_data = []
top_twofive = []
port_lookup = []

url = 'http://api.census.gov/data/2013/acs5?
get=NAME,B01001_001E&for=metropolitan+statistical+area/micropolitan+statistical+area:*&key=f1ebba0078fa76b97
94f7070402b4b72095564b1'
response = urllib2.urlopen(url).read()
parsed_json = yaml.safe_load(response)

for msa in parsed_json[1:]:
    csa_data.append([msa[0],int(msa[1]),msa[2]])

sorted_msa = sorted(csa_data, key=itemgetter(1), reverse=True)

for msa in sorted_msa[:25]:
    top_twofive.append(msa[2])

print top_twofive

with open('port-msa-match.csv', 'rb') as f:
    reader = csv.reader(f)
    for row in reader:
        if row[5] in top_twofive:
            port_lookup.append(row)
    print port_lookup
```

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

automation is an effective tool to reduce future work **but** dependent on data source consistency. Error reporting and log tables are essential

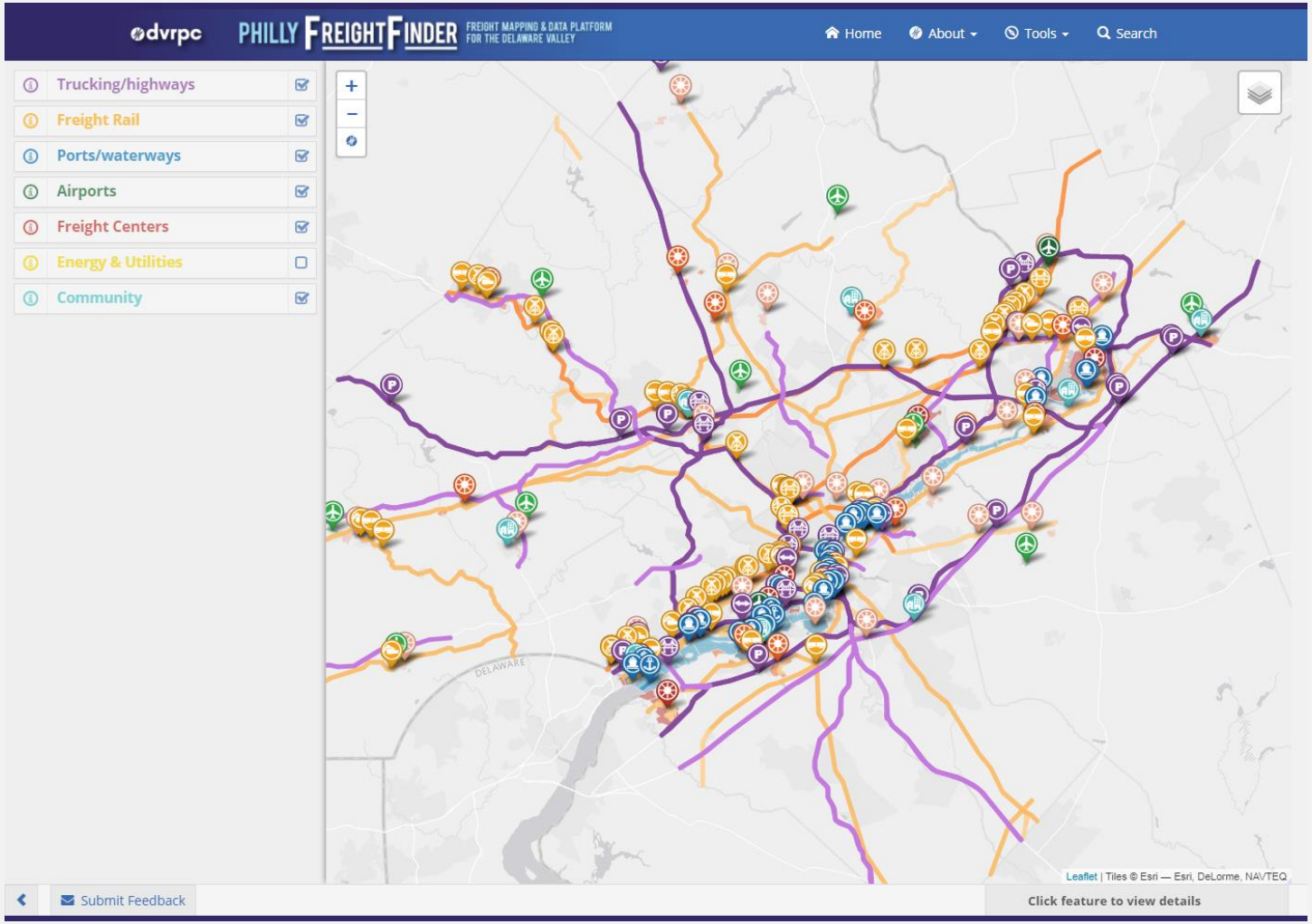
Open Freight App





Evolution of Philly Freight Finder

- Addition of tools over time
  - County Profiles
  - Maritime Indicators
  - Highway Performance Measures
  - Freight Center Interactive Story
- Data updates- challenge to maintain regular maintenance
- Other agency data center tools
- What's next?



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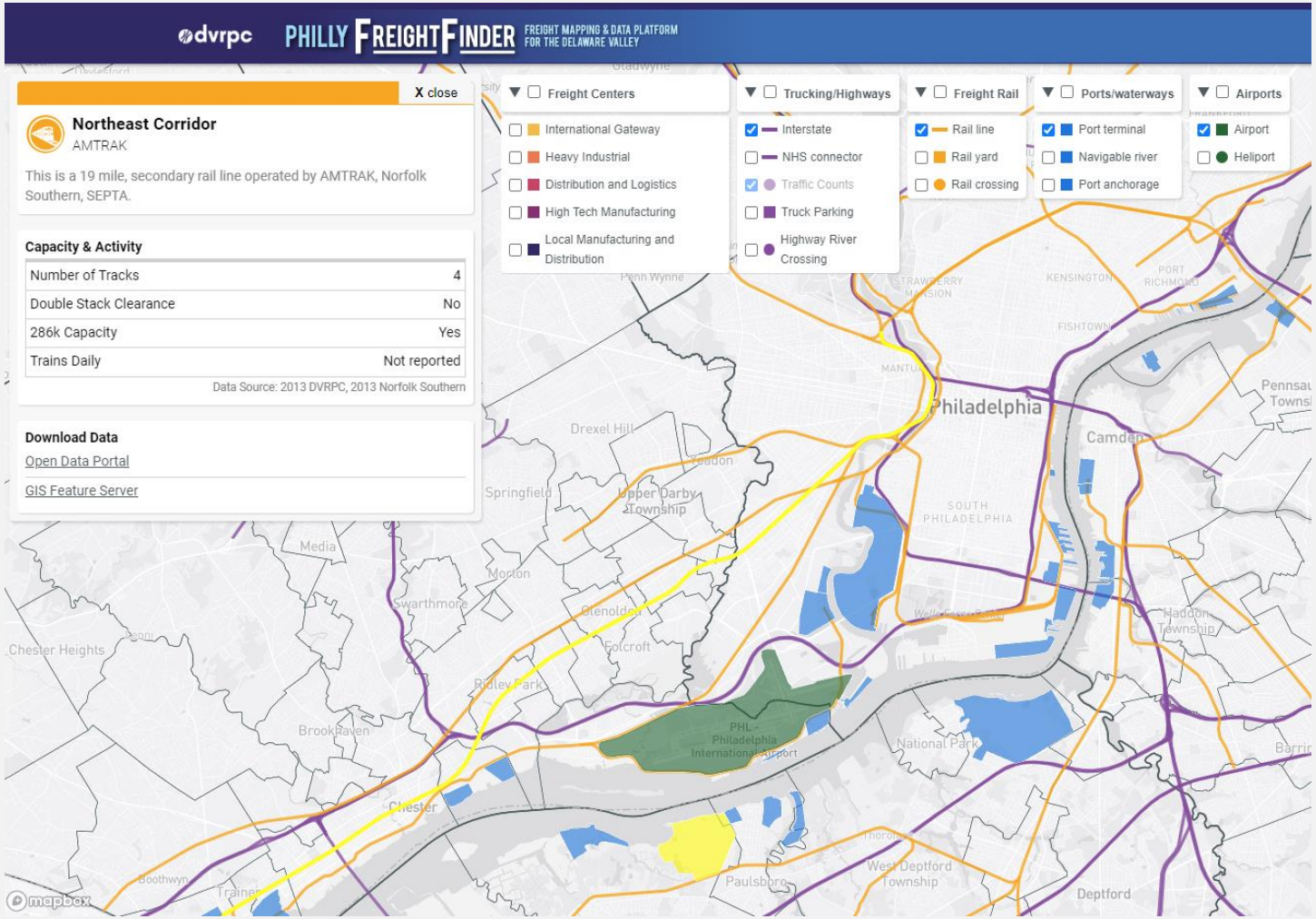
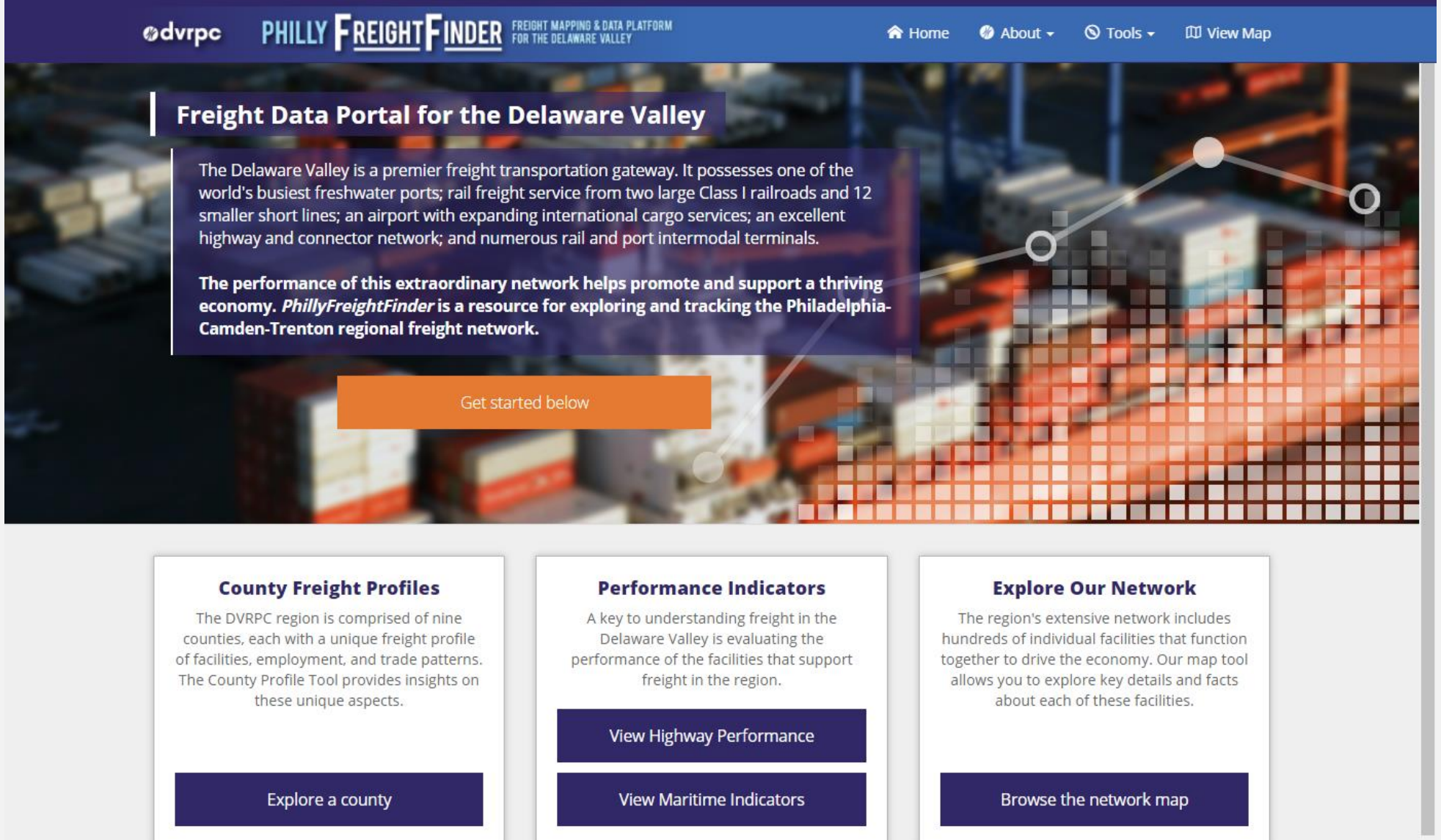


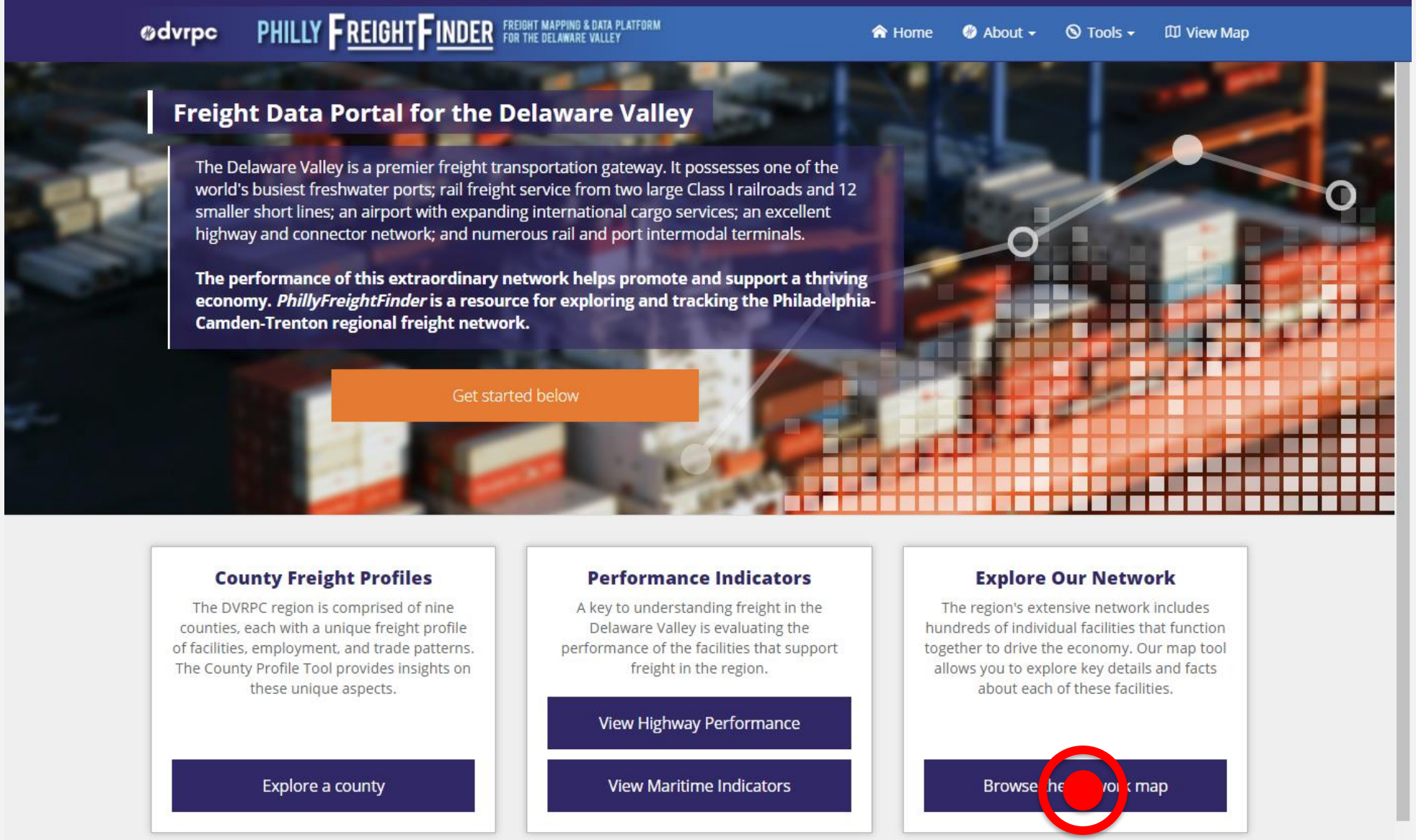
Thank You

Kristen Scudder
Freight Program Manager
Office of Freight and Clean Transportation
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
kscudder@dvrpc.org
215.238.2939

PhillyFreightFinder: http://dvrpc.org/webmaps/phillyfreightfinder
Open Freight App: http://dvrpcfreight.github.io/open-freight-app/



www.dvrpc.org/webmaps/phillyfreightfinder



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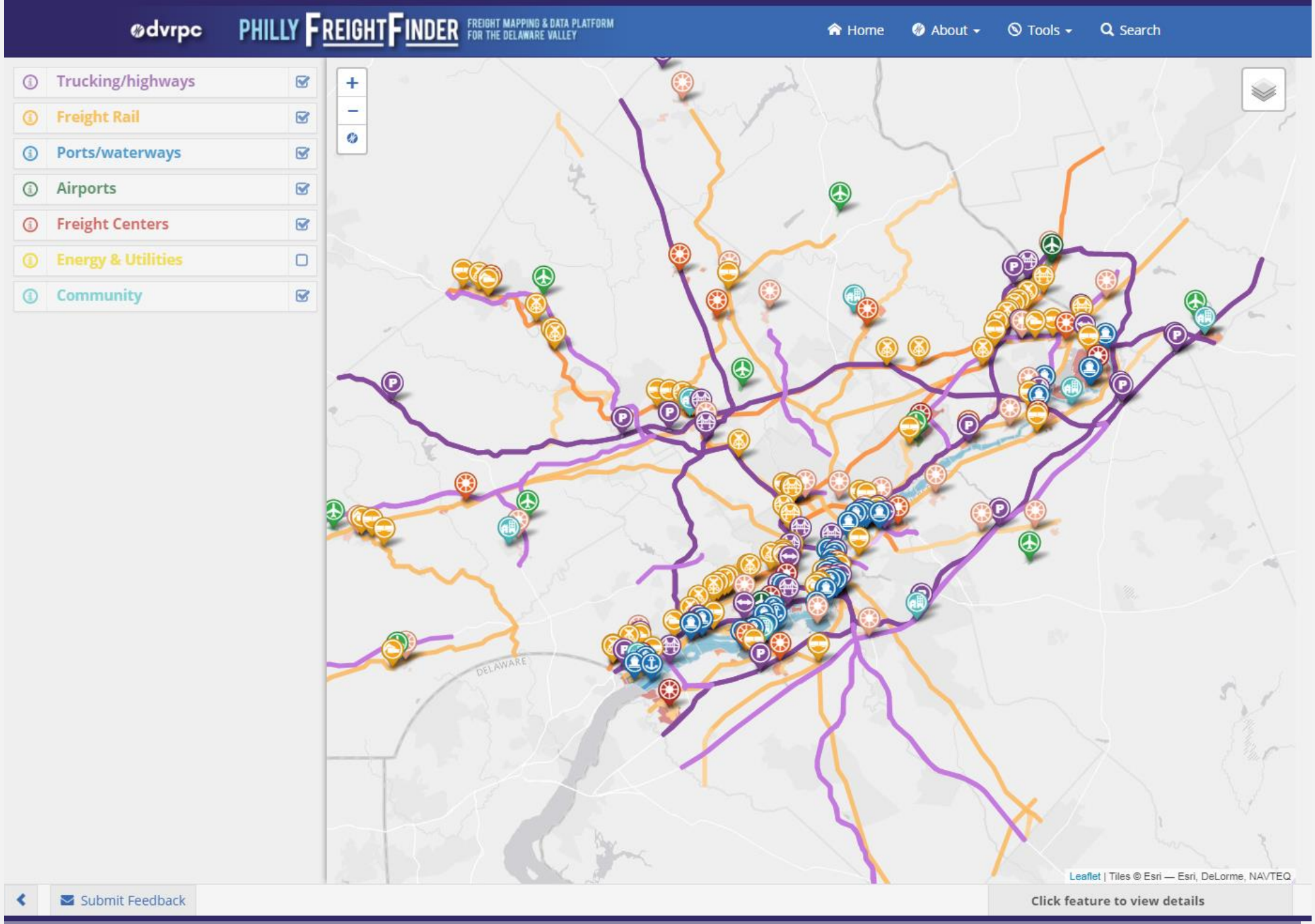

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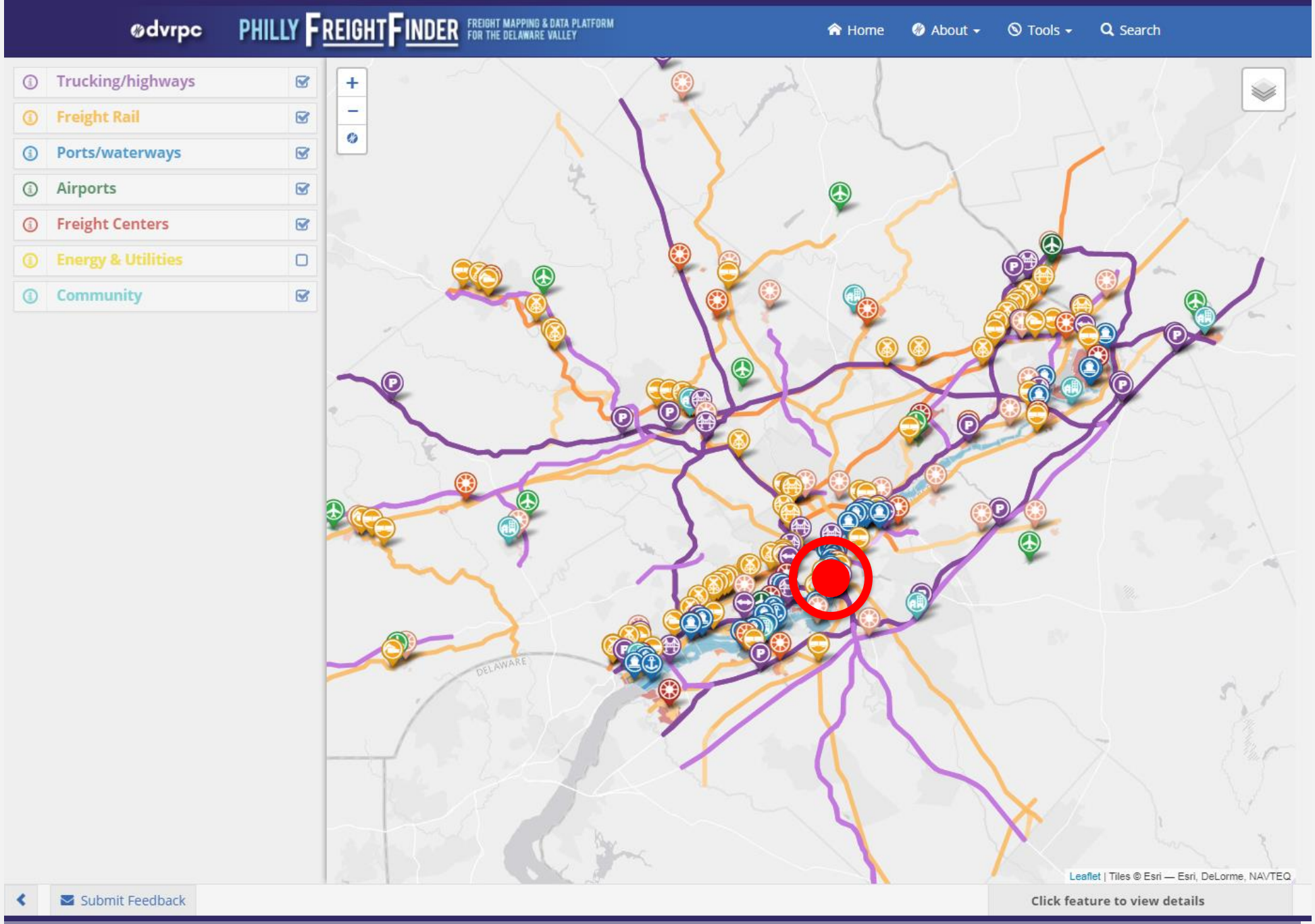

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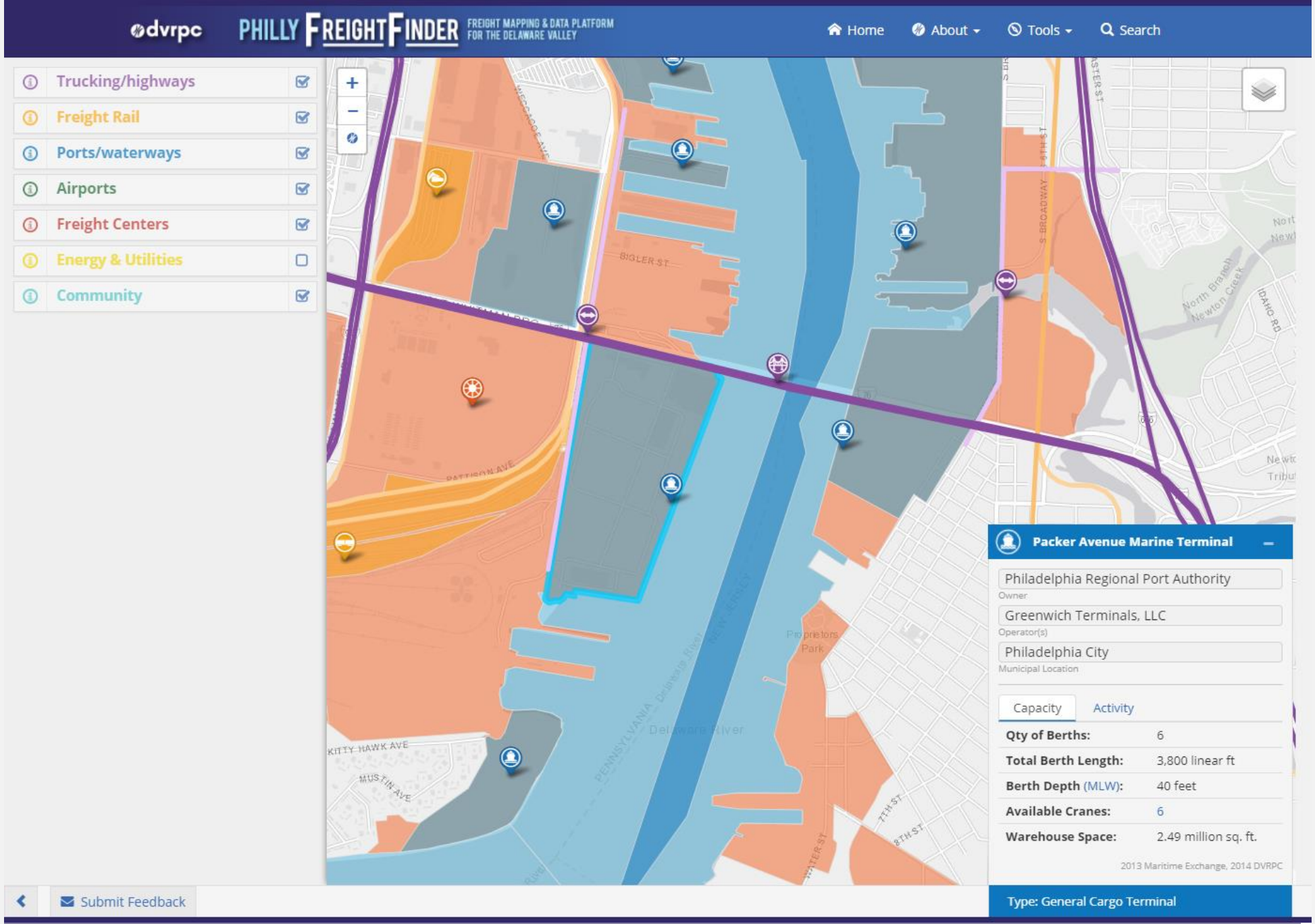

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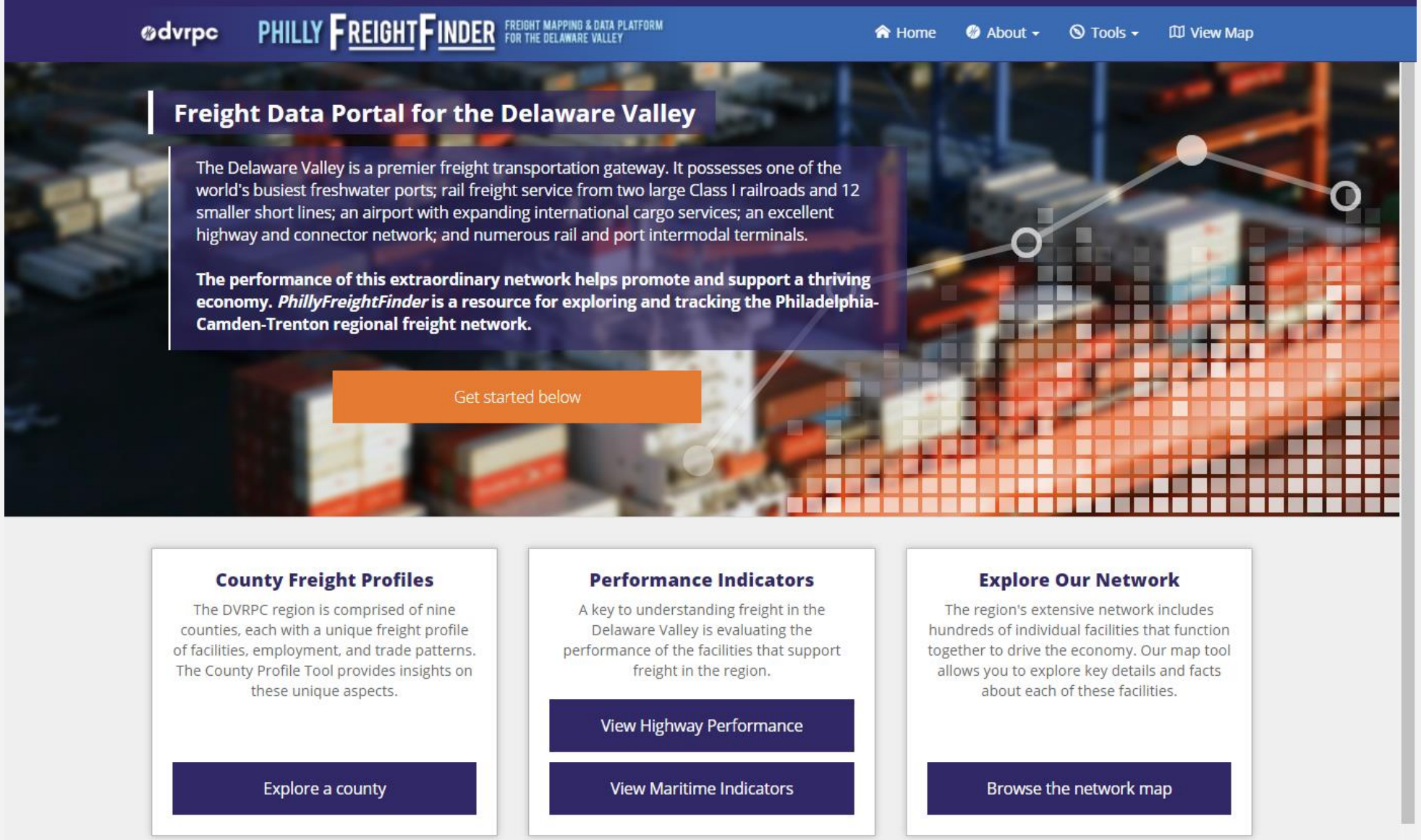

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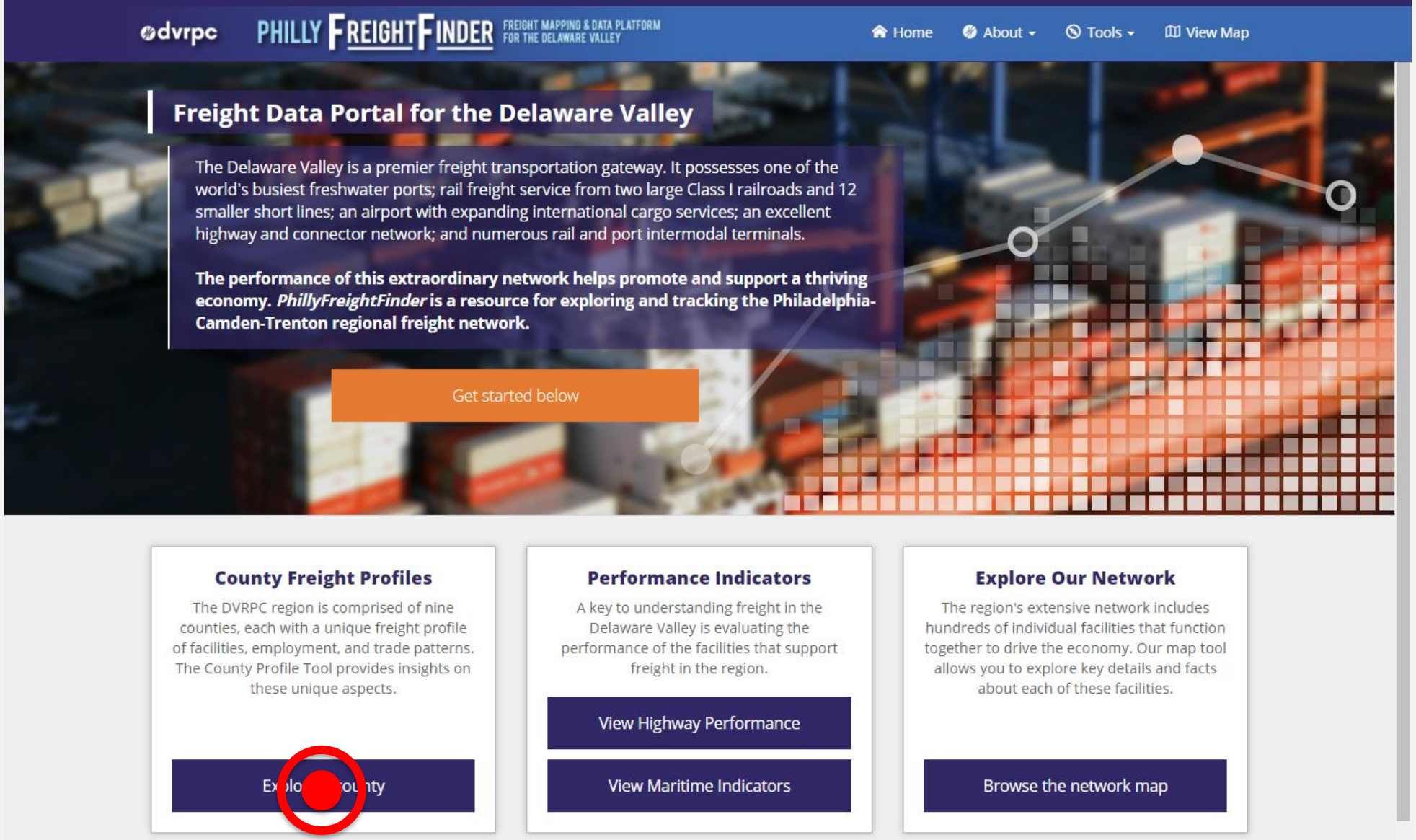

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DVRPC Region | Overview

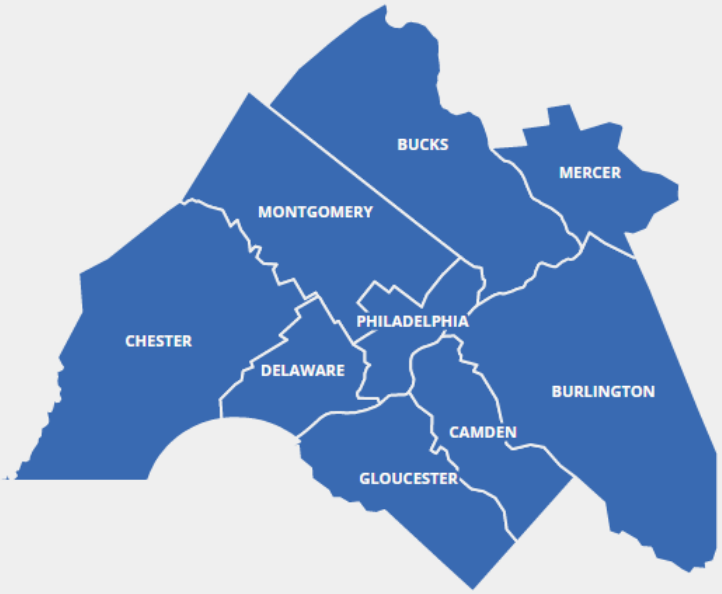
overview — network — trade patterns

The Delaware Valley region consists of nine counties: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia in Pennsylvania, and Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Mercer in New Jersey.

The DVRPC region contains an impressive freight transportation network consisting of highways, rail lines, ports, airports, and pipelines. These key linkages unite an expansive list of facilities including warehouses, manufacturing sites, rail yards, and truck stops.

Strategically positioned in the middle of the densest population center in the United States; over 100 million people live within a 500-mile radius of Philadelphia, representing a vast consumer base and making the region ideally situated as a manufacturing and distribution hub.

Explore freight facilties and activity by county
(select a county of interest)



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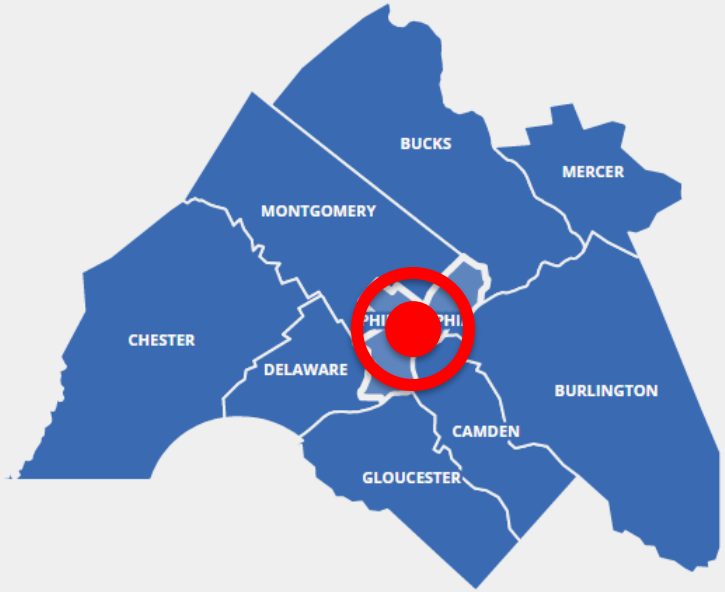

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Philadelphia County | Network

overview — network — trade patterns

Like powerful Internet networking tools, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania's freight system affords rapid, productive, and global connections. Once known as the *Workshop of the World*, Philadelphia now serves as the calling card of the Delaware Valley region's impressive freight assets. For even the casual observer, the City's prominence in international commerce is abundantly evident: mammoth container cranes, multi-cultural company logos, and non-stop daily pick-up and delivery patterns dot the landscape.

A Ship being unloaded at Packer Avenue Marine Terminal

Freight Network Statistics

HIGHWAY STATISTICS

- **39** MILES INTERSTATE ROUTES
- **91** MILES NATIONAL HIGHWAY
- **4** NHS CONNECTORS
- **26** INTERSTATE HIGHWAY INTERCHANGES
- **0** TRUCK STOPS AND REST AREAS

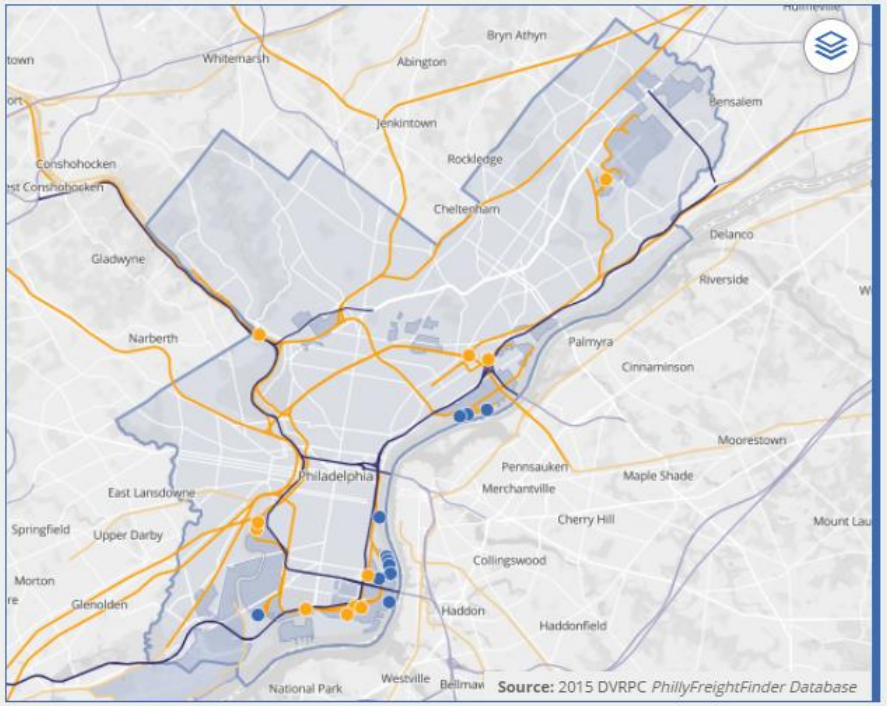
FREIGHT RAIL STATISTICS

- **105** MILES FREIGHT TRACKAGE
- **11** YARDS AND INTERMODAL TERMINALS

MARITIME STATISTICS

- **10** PORT TERMINALS
- **734** ANNUAL SHIP CALLS

- **8** UNIQUE FREIGHT
- **37.3 k** EMPLOYMENT FREIGHT



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overview network

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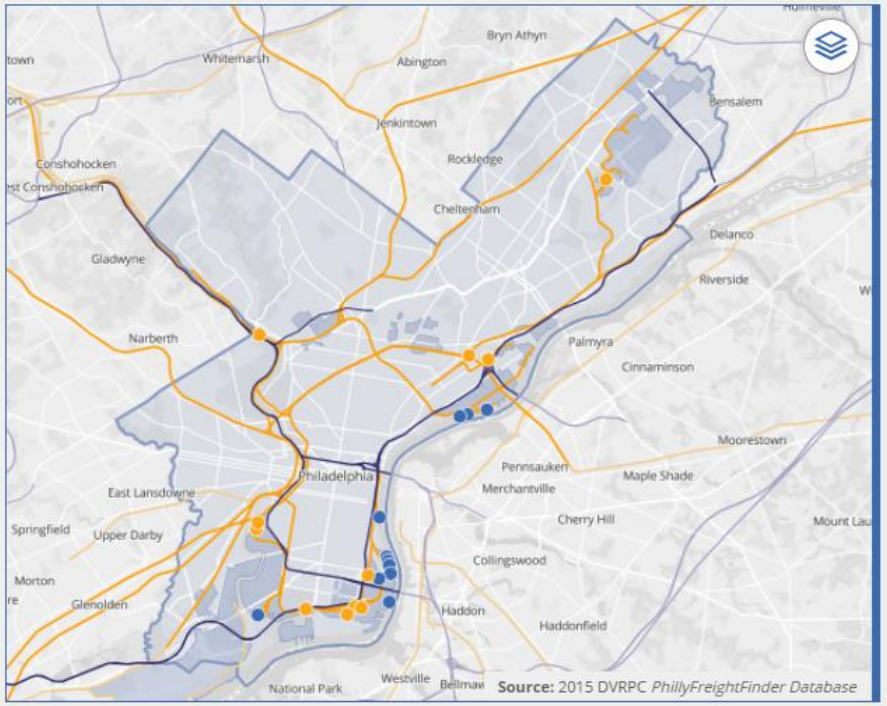

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Philadelphia County | Domestic Trade Patterns

overview — network — trade patterns

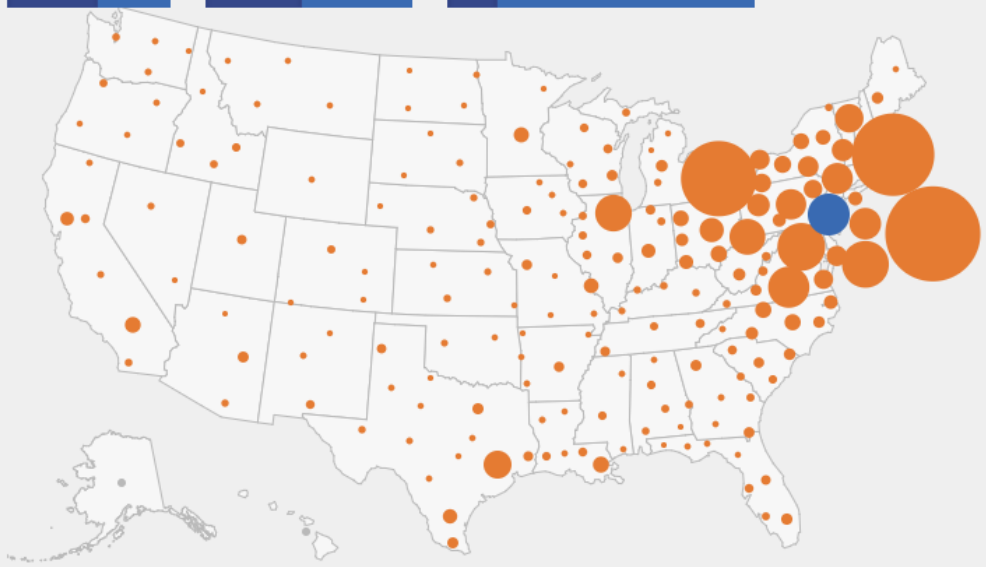
Top Trading Partners

Southern New Jersey	4,176.2 ktons
New York Metro Area	3,244.9 ktons
Harrisburg, PA	2,759.6 ktons
Delaware County, PA	1,195.9 ktons
Gloucester County, NJ	1,151.4 ktons
Washington DC Metro Area	903.2 ktons
Chicago, IL	719.0 ktons
Pittsburgh, PA	688.2 ktons
Chester County, PA	537.0 ktons
Bucks County, PA	518.4 ktons

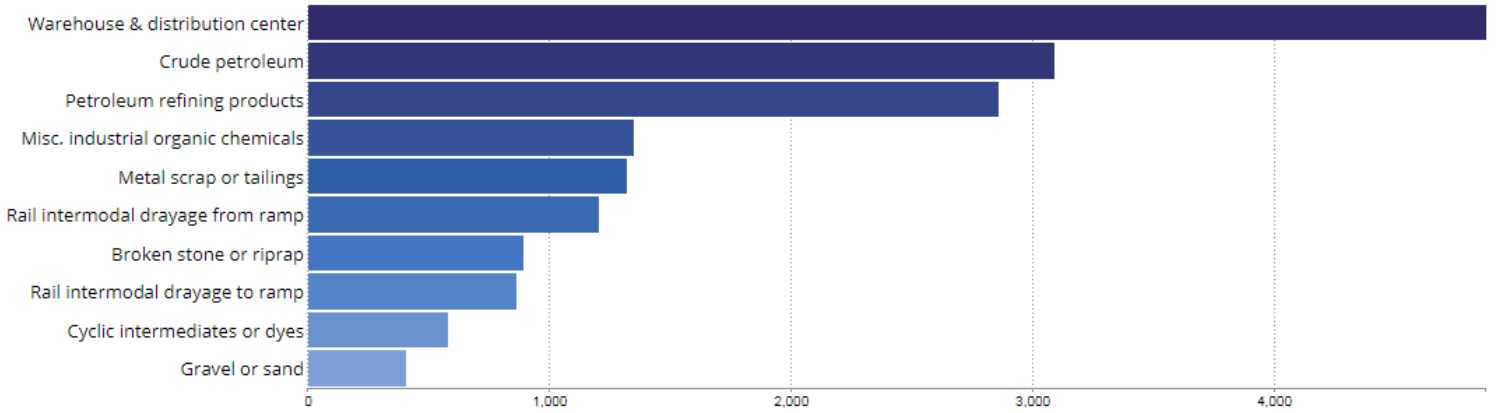
Measured by: Volume | Value

Shipment direction: Inbound | Outbound

Mode of transportation: All | Truck | Rail | Water | Air



Top Inbound Commodities by Volume



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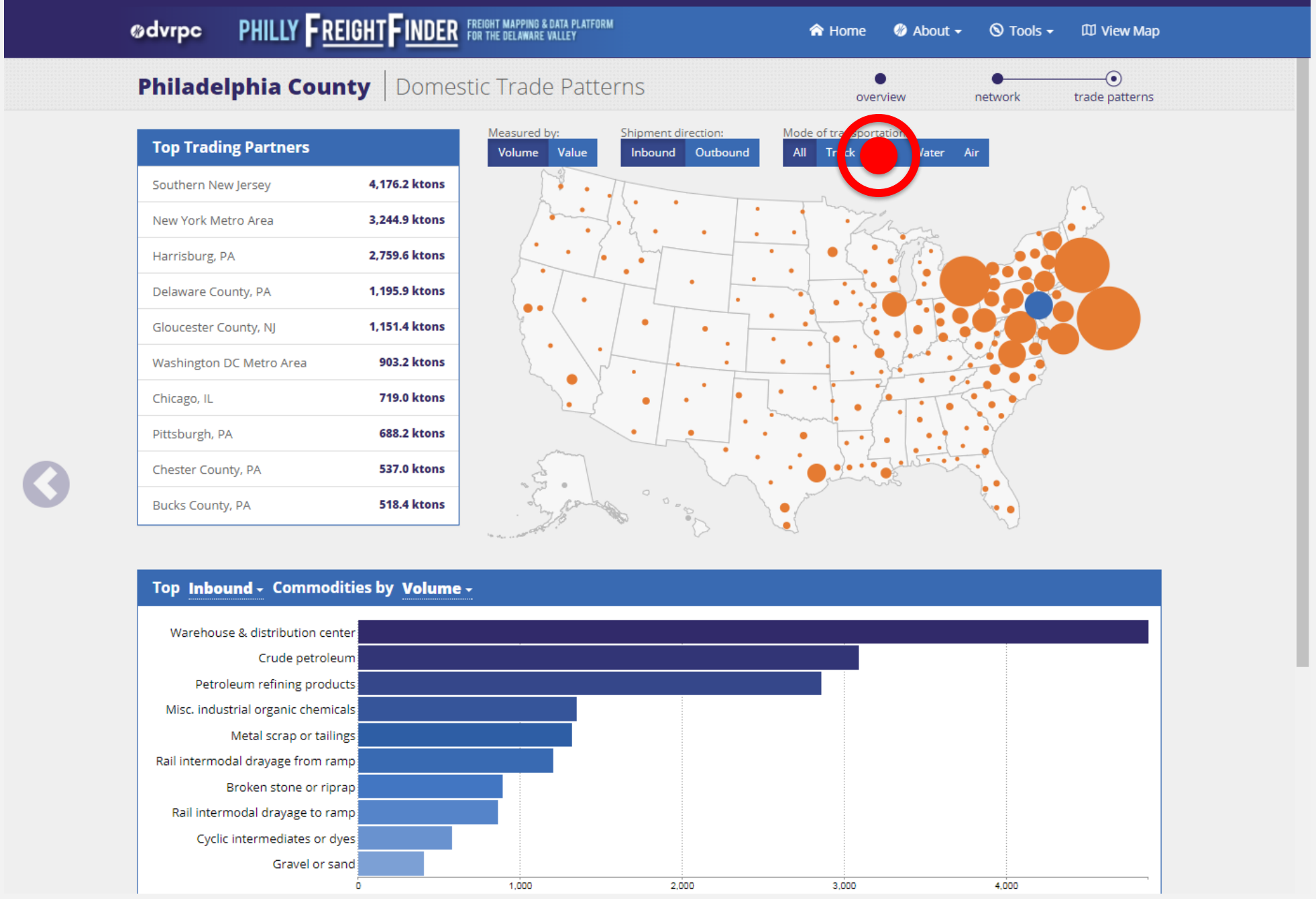

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Philadelphia County | Domestic Trade Patterns

overview network trade patterns

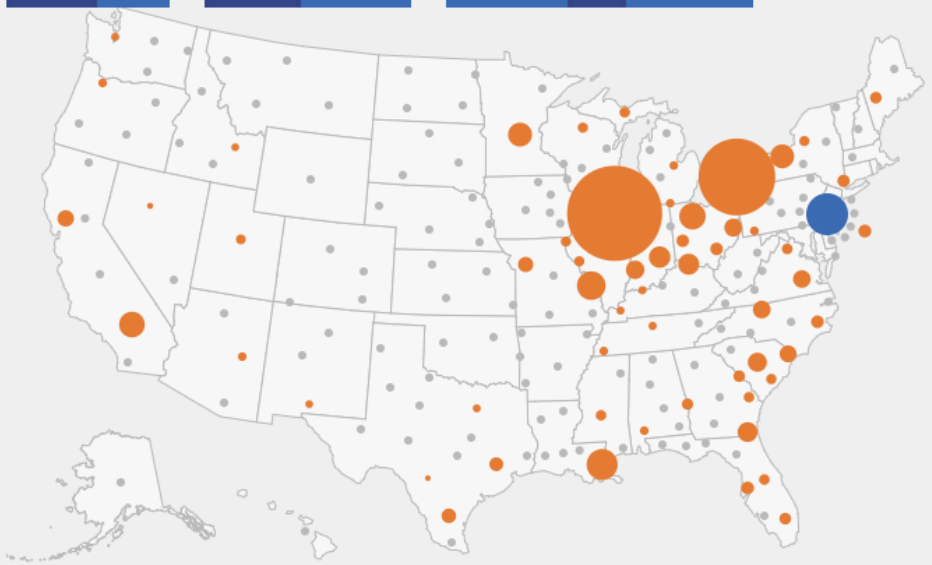
Top Trading Partners

Chicago, IL	664.3 ktons
Harrisburg, PA	456.2 ktons
New Orleans, LA	85.8 ktons
St. Louis, MO	73.4 ktons
Toledo-Fremont, OH	62.7 ktons
Los Angeles-Long Beach, CA	58.9 ktons
Minneapolis, MN	51.0 ktons
Buffalo, NY	50.7 ktons
Indianapolis, IN	40.7 ktons
Cincinnati, OH	39.0 ktons

Measured by: Volume Value

Shipment direction: Inbound Outbound

Mode of transportation: All Truck Rail Water Air



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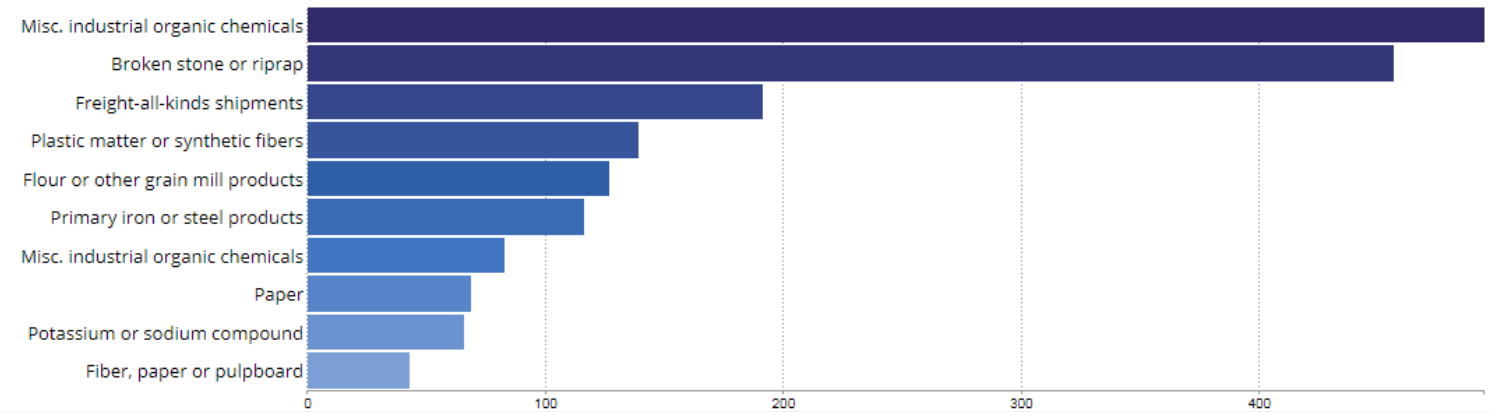

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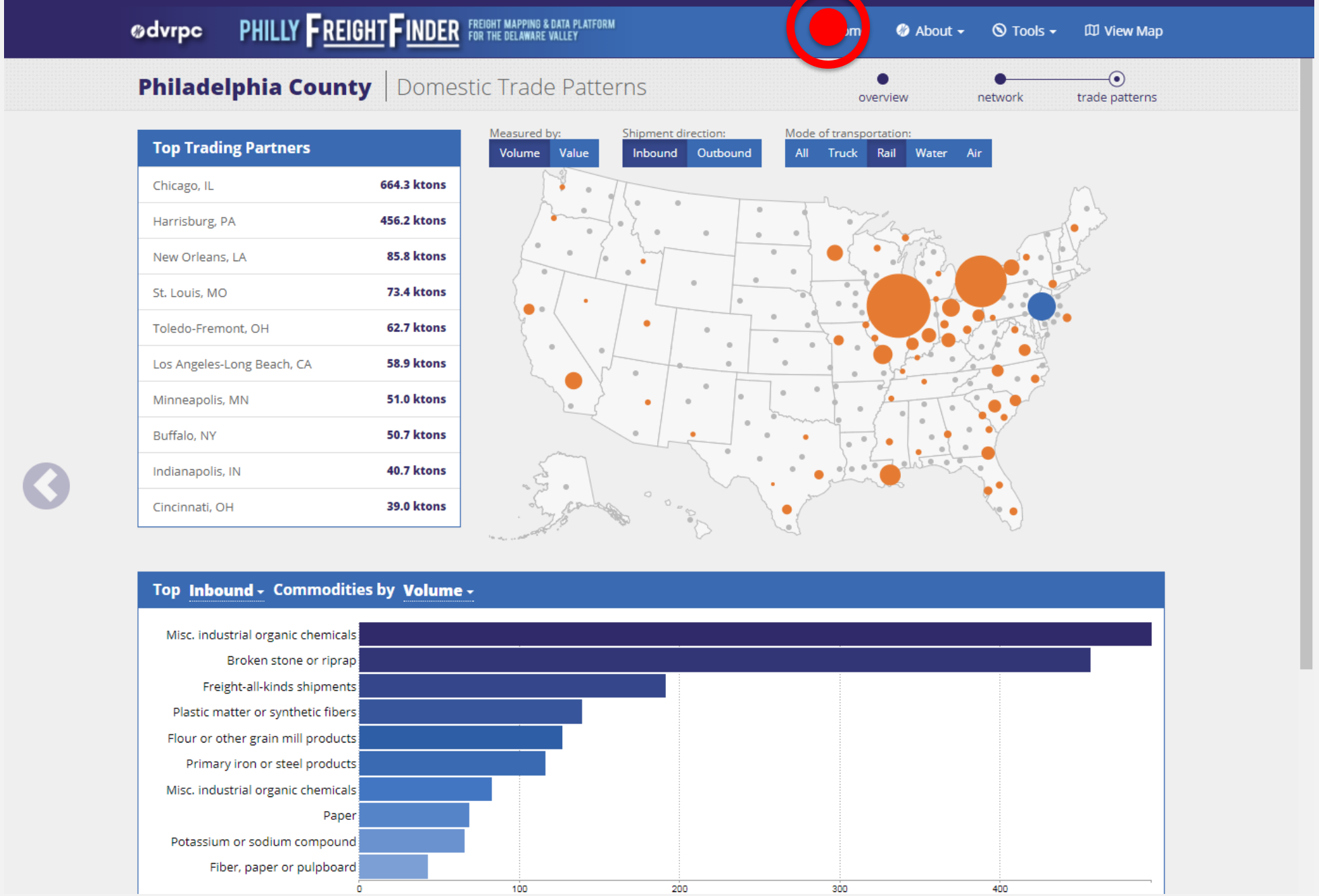

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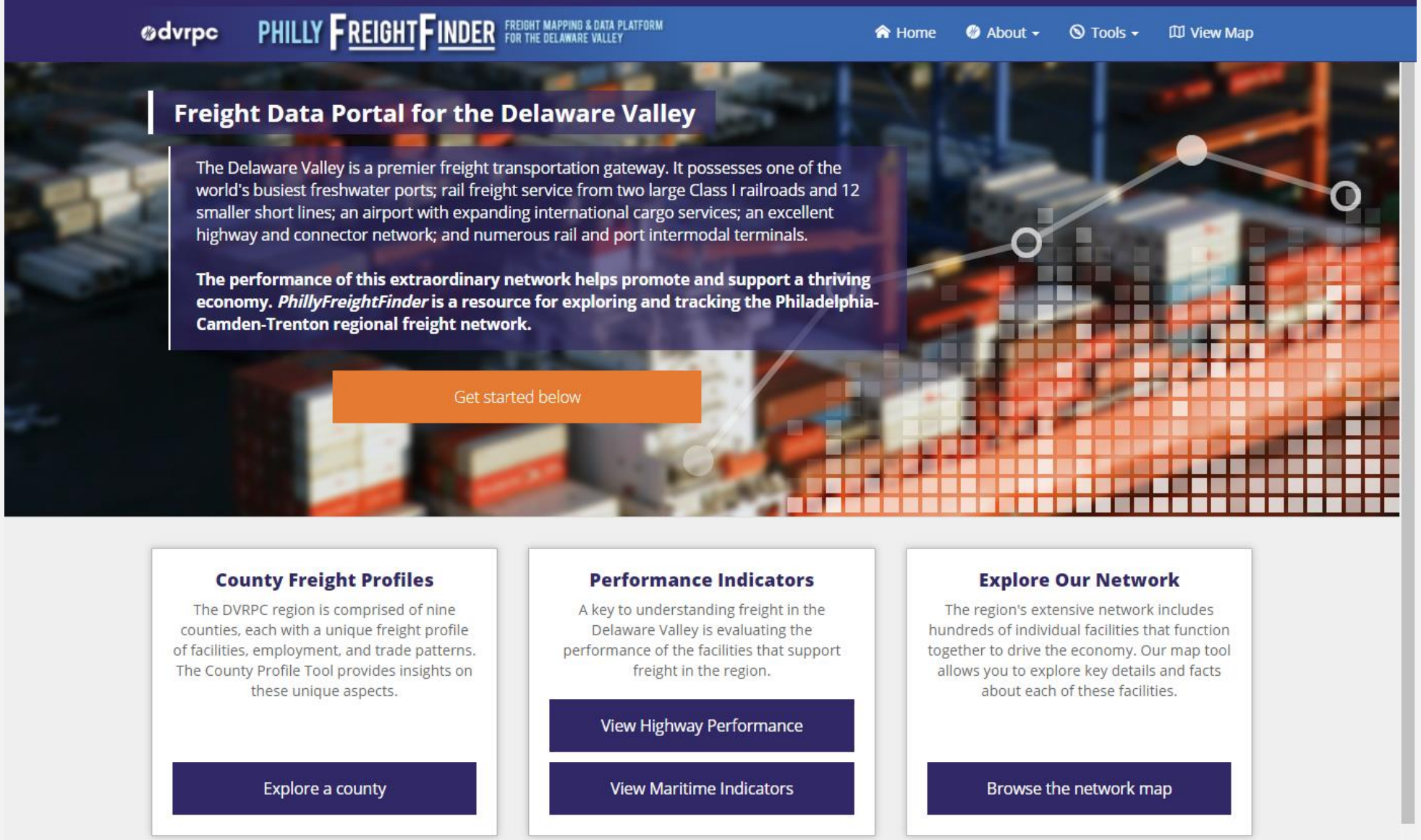

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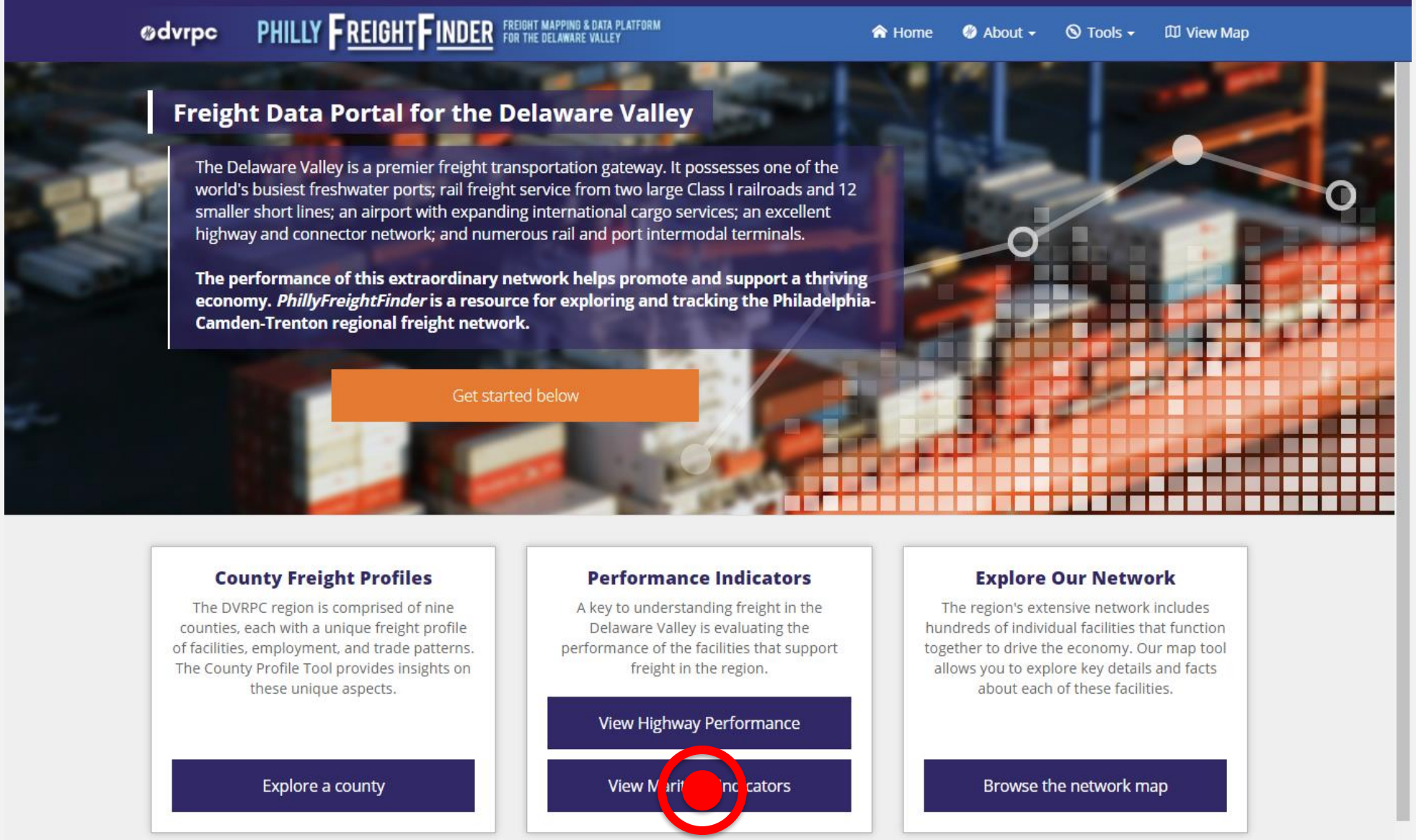

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Maritime Indicators

select a year: 2015

2015 Annual Indicators

4 regional port rank by volume

62.2 M total trade (tons)

10.0% regional change vs. **-2.3%** national change

$24 B total foreign trade

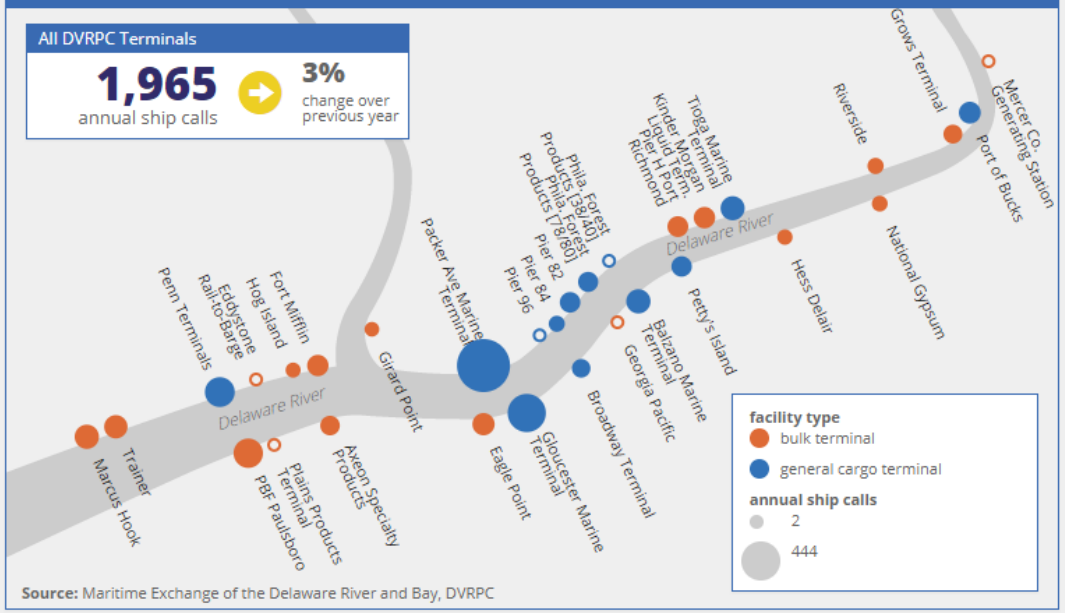
-6.1% regional change vs. **-10.8%** national change

5.4 M martime exports (tons)

1.2% regional change vs. **-15.1%** national change

18% export share of foreign trade by volume

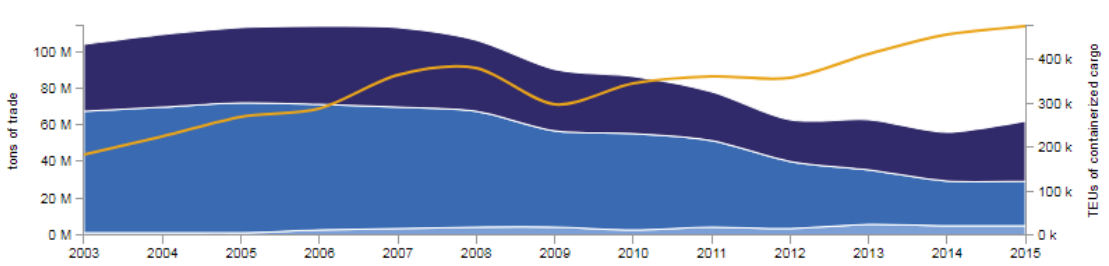
2015 vessel activity by terminal



Source: Maritime Exchange of the Delaware River and Bay, DVRPC

Maritime Activity over time

Trade type by volume 2003 - 2015

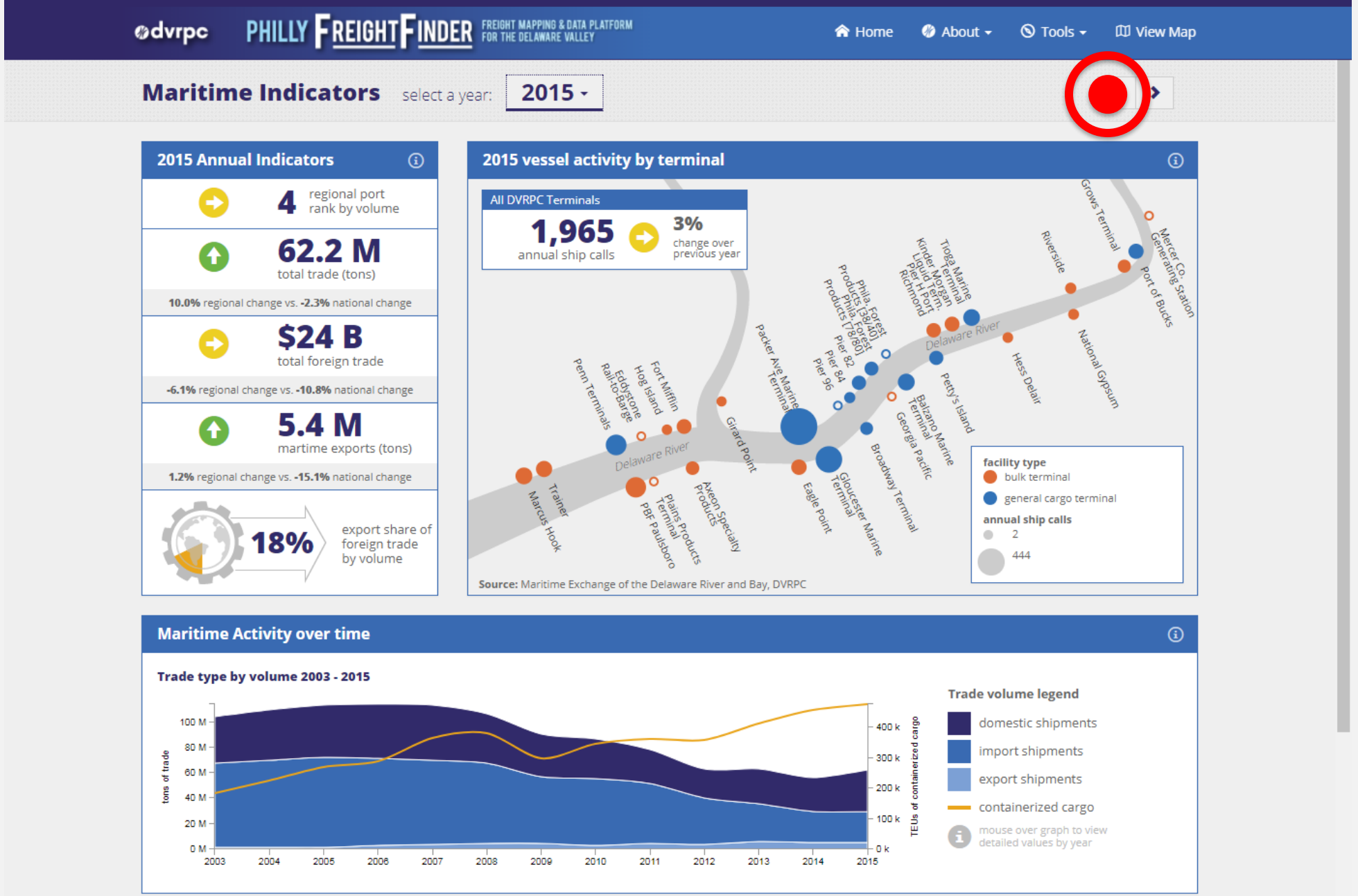


Trade volume legend

- domestic shipments
- import shipments
- export shipments
- containerized cargo

mouse over graph to view detailed values by year

www.dvrpc.org/webmaps/phillyfreightfinder



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dvrpc PHILLY FREIGHTFINDER FREIGHT MAPPING & DATA PLATFORM FOR THE DELAWARE VALLEY

Home About Tools View Map

Maritime Indicators

select a year: 2014

2014 Annual Indicators

4 regional port rank by volume

56.6 M total trade (tons)

-10.3% regional change vs. **5.2%** national change

$25 B total foreign trade

-0.7% regional change vs. **0.3%** national change

5.3 M martime exports (tons)

-13.8% regional change vs. **0.4%** national change

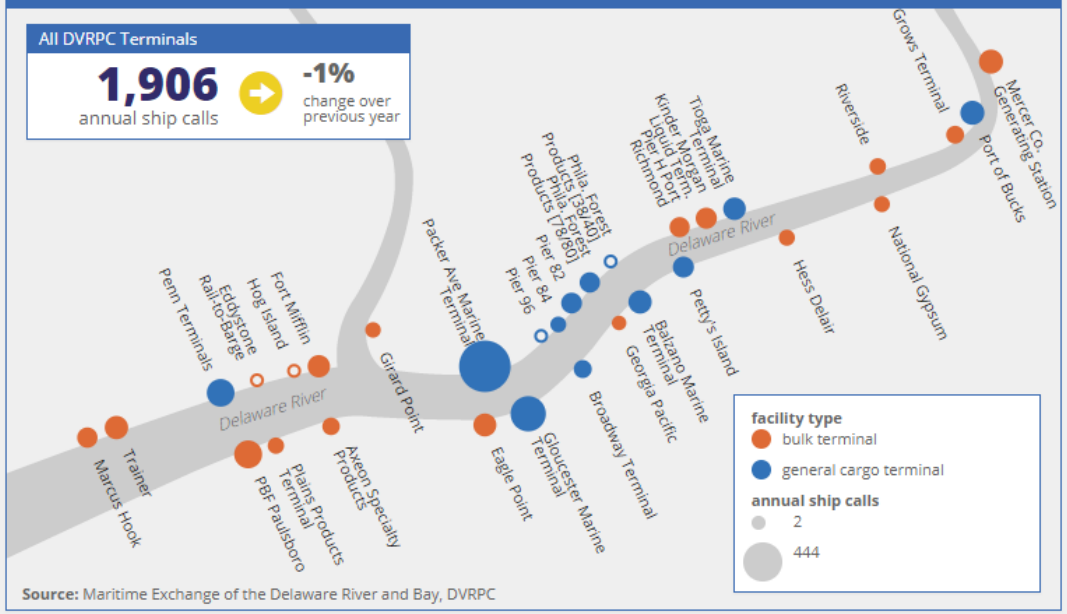
18% export share of foreign trade by volume

2014 vessel activity by terminal

All DVRPC Terminals

1,906 annual ship calls

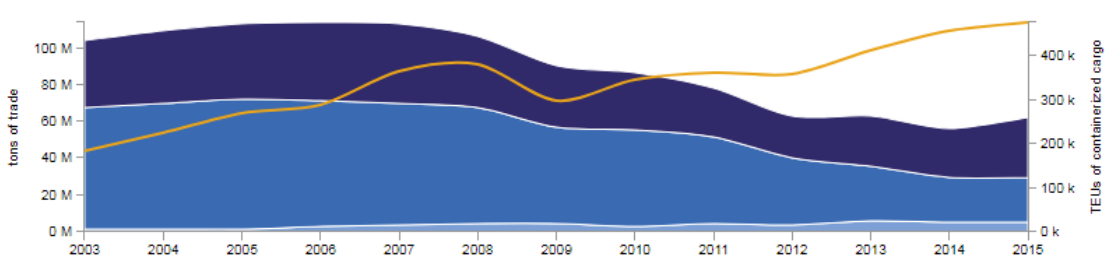
-1% change over previous year



Source: Maritime Exchange of the Delaware River and Bay, DVRPC

Maritime Activity over time

Trade type by volume 2003 - 2015



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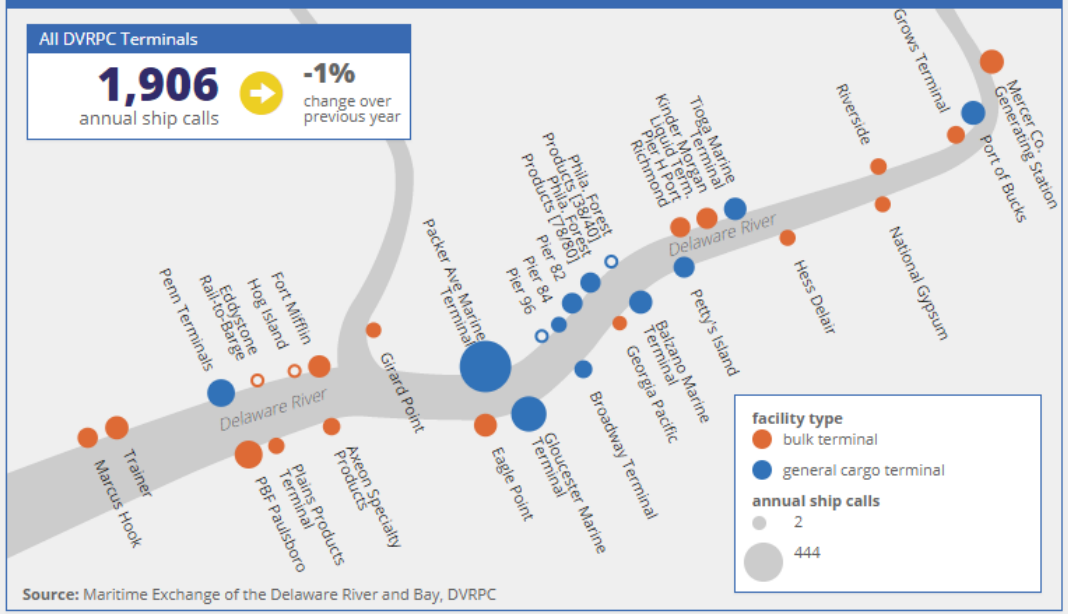

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Maritime Activity over time

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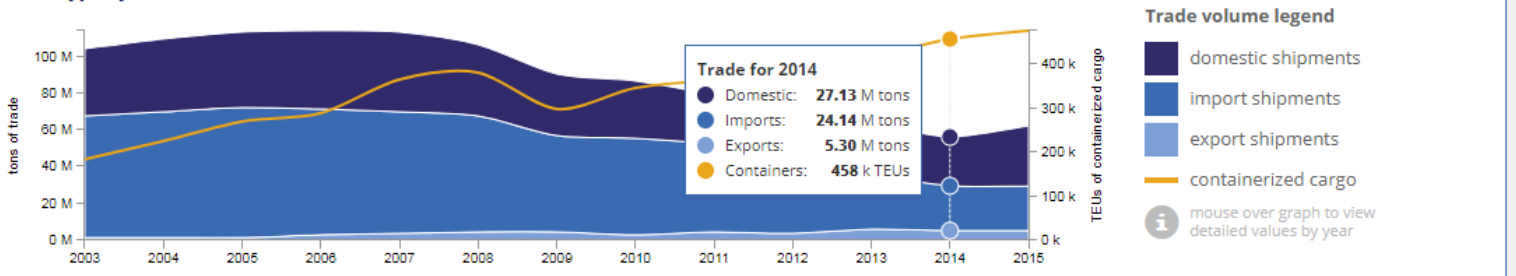

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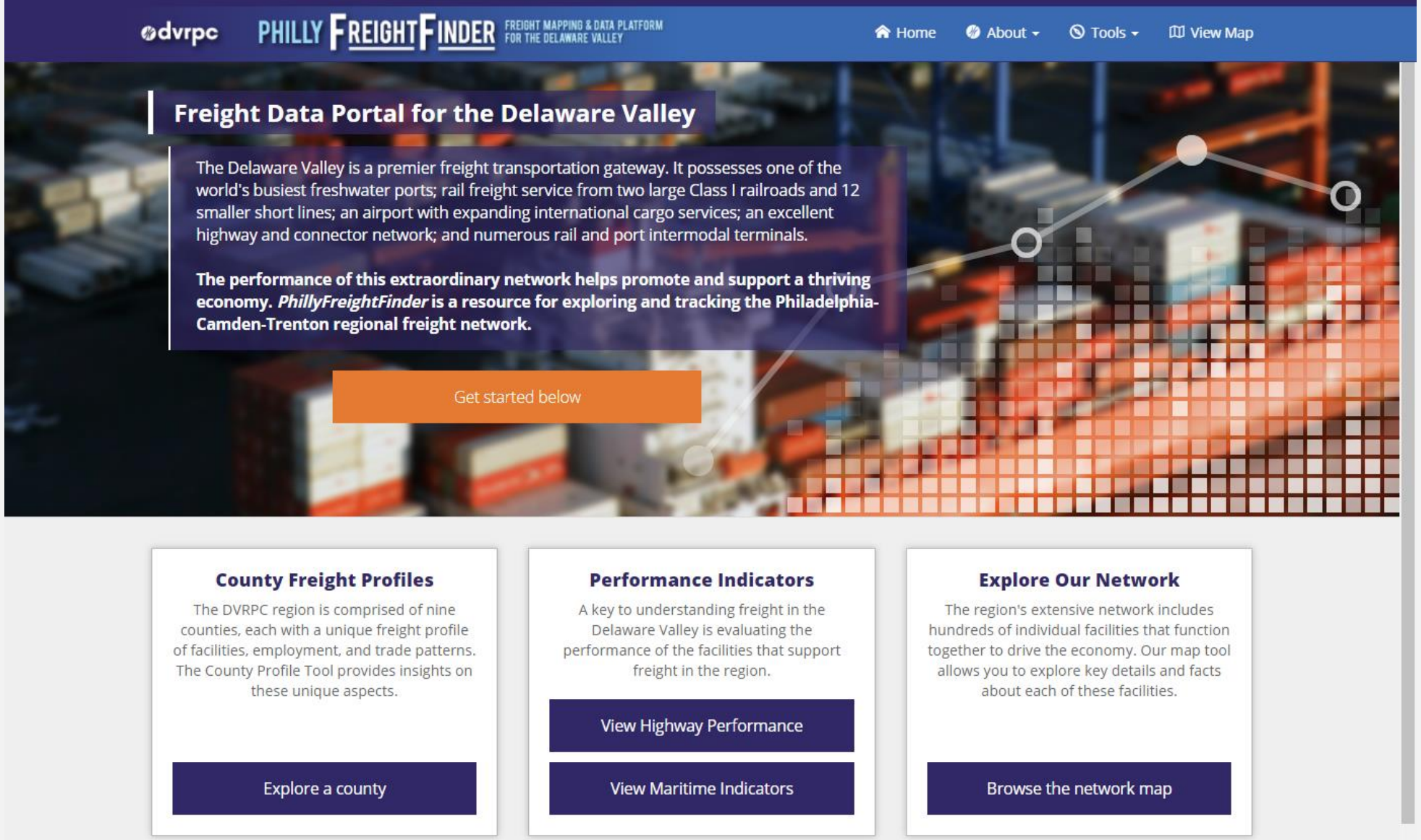

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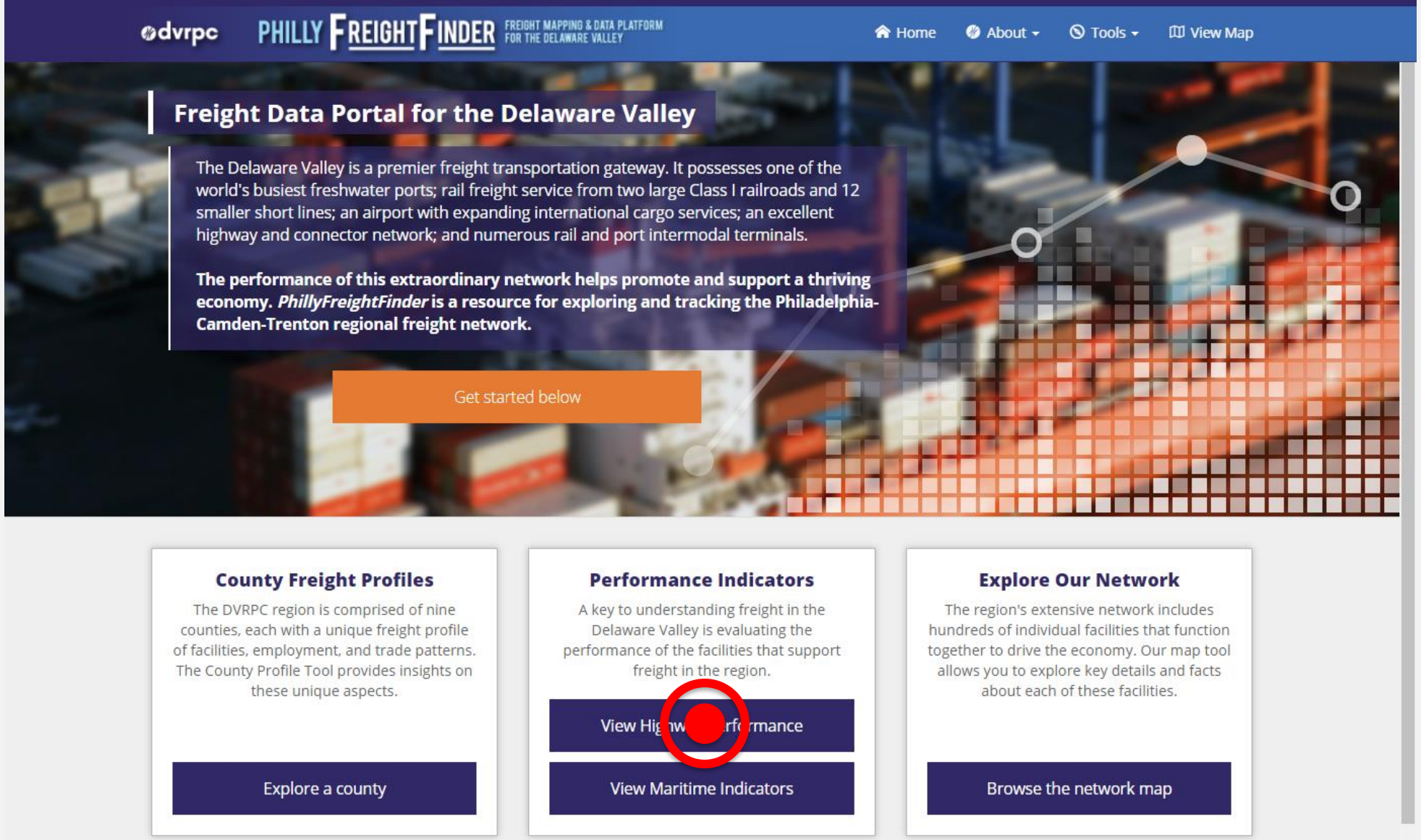

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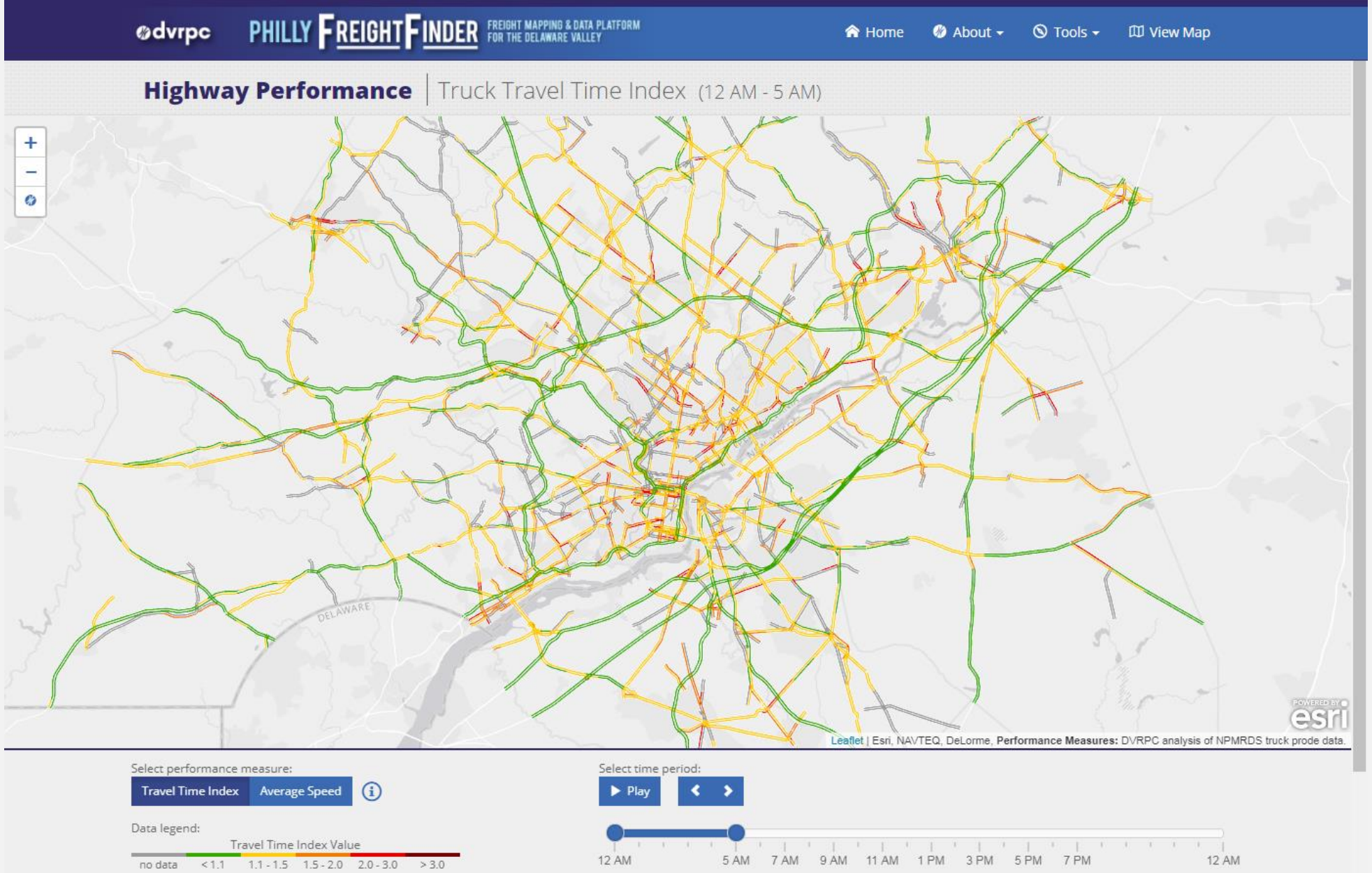

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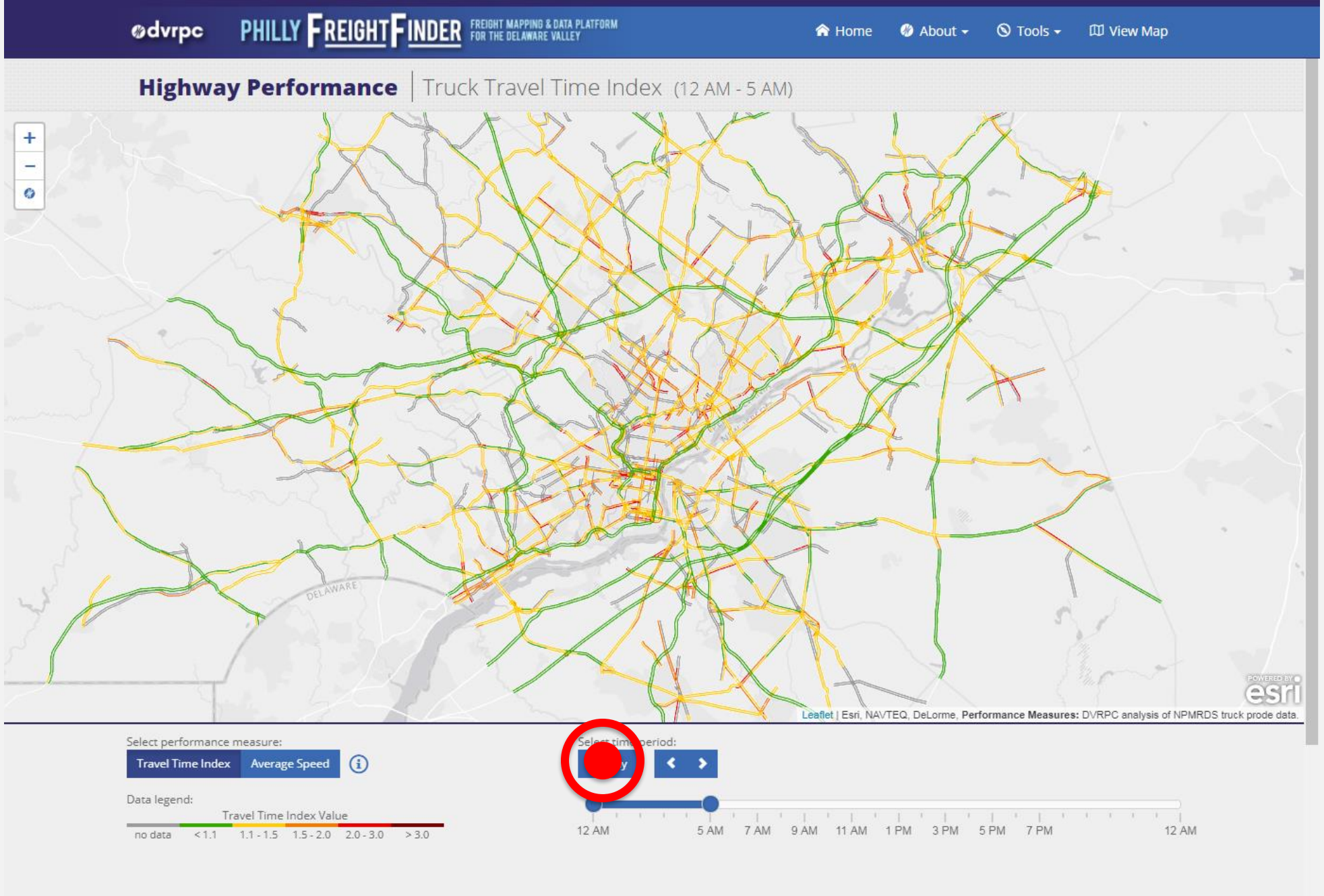

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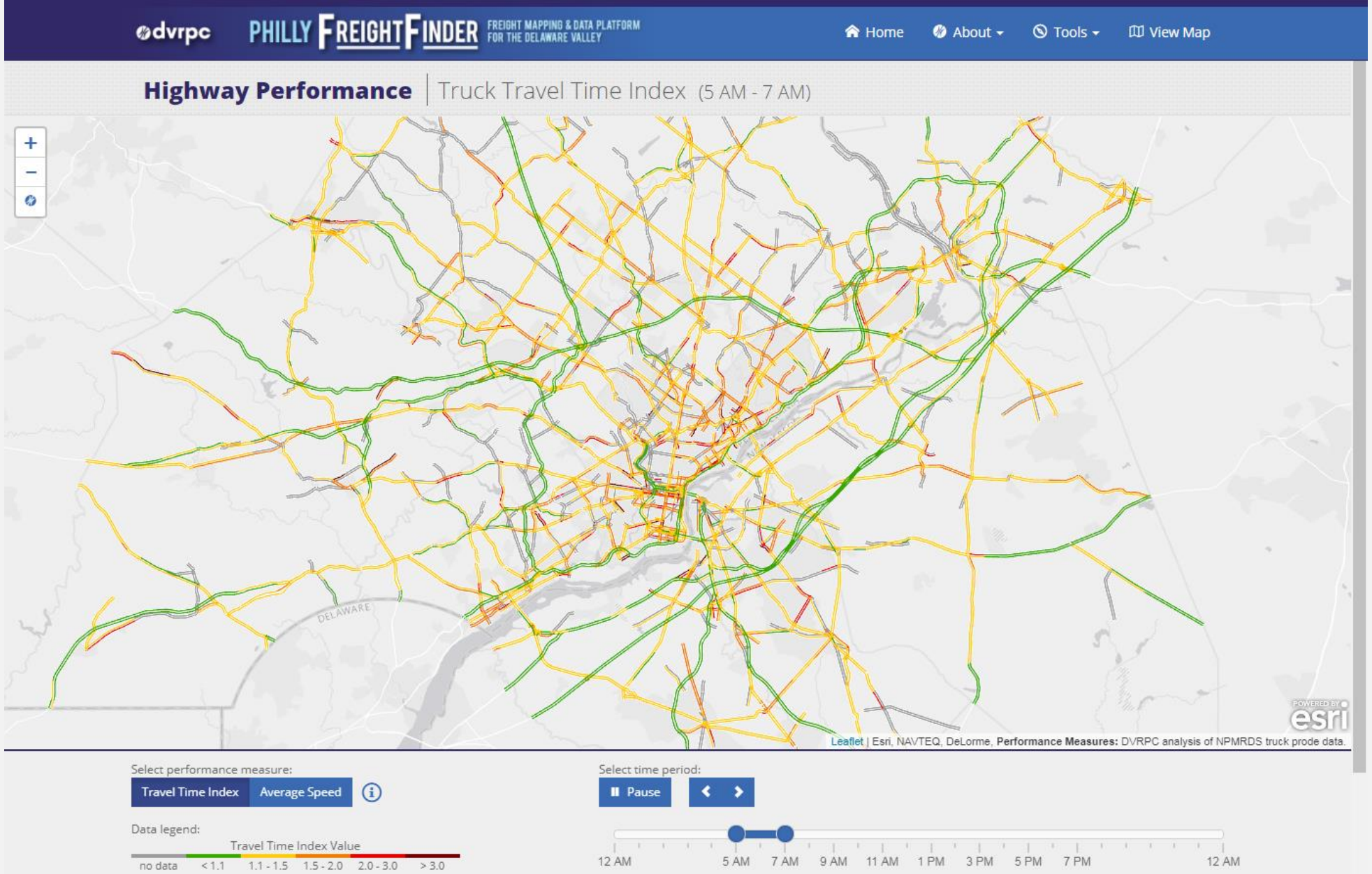

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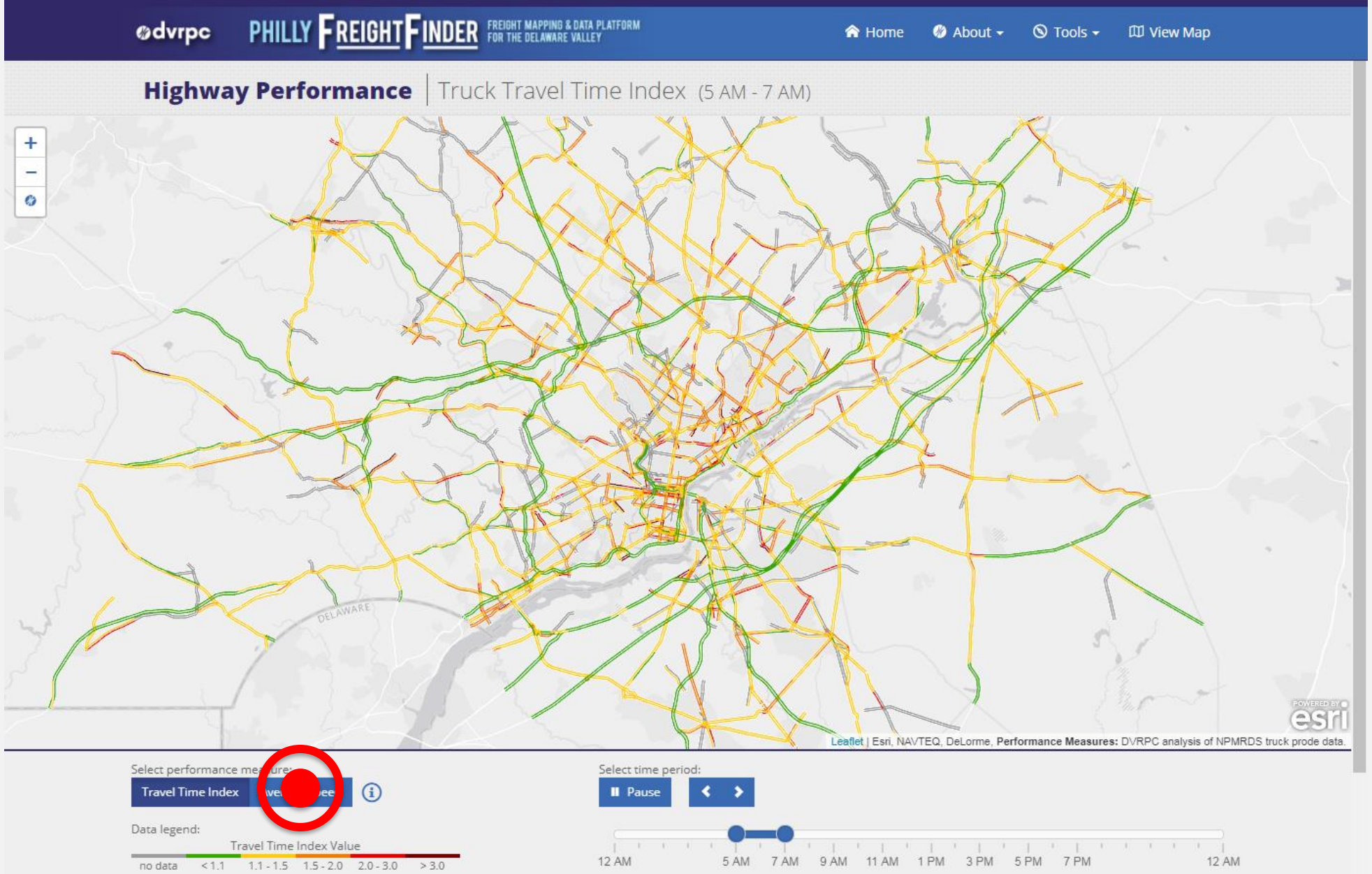

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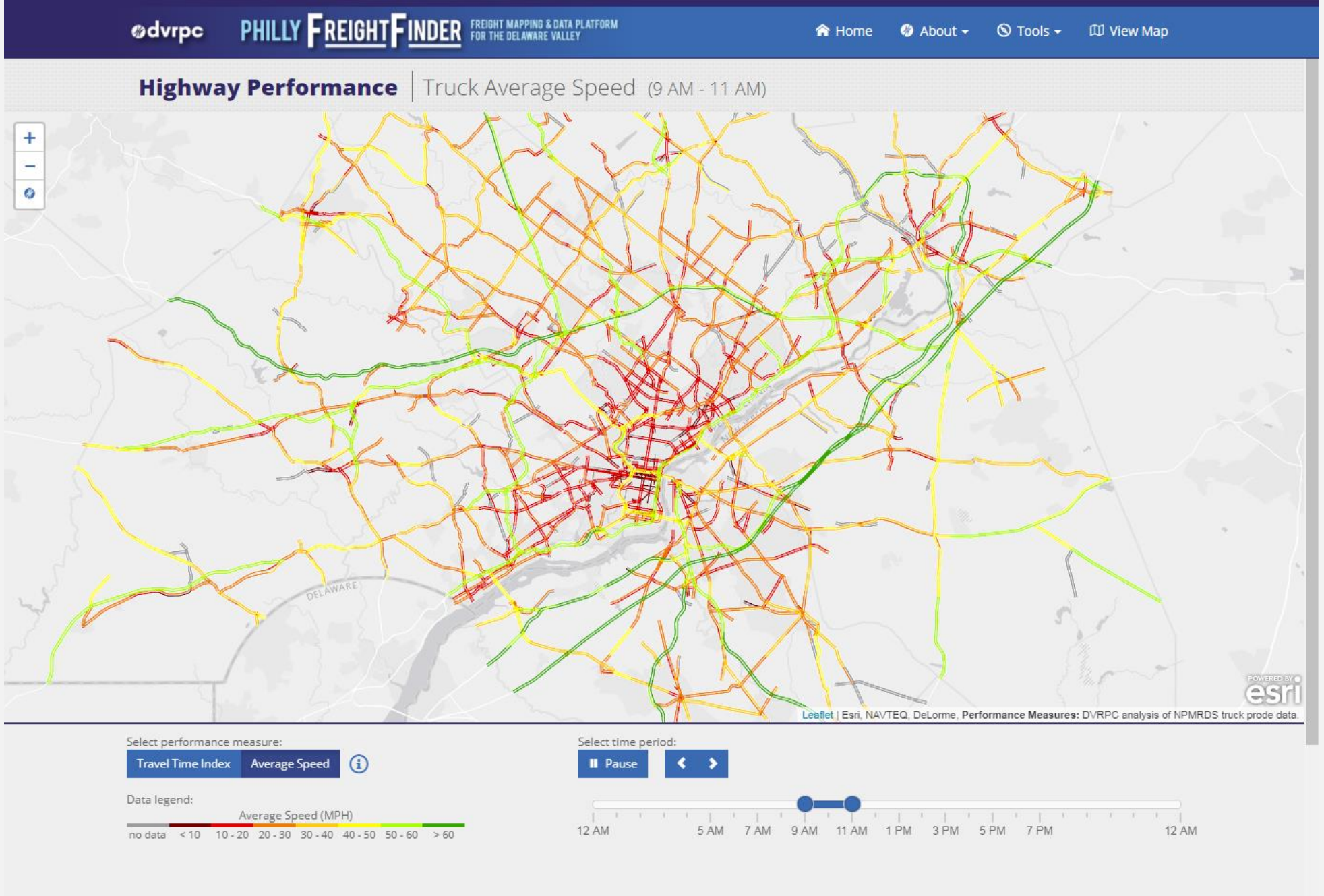

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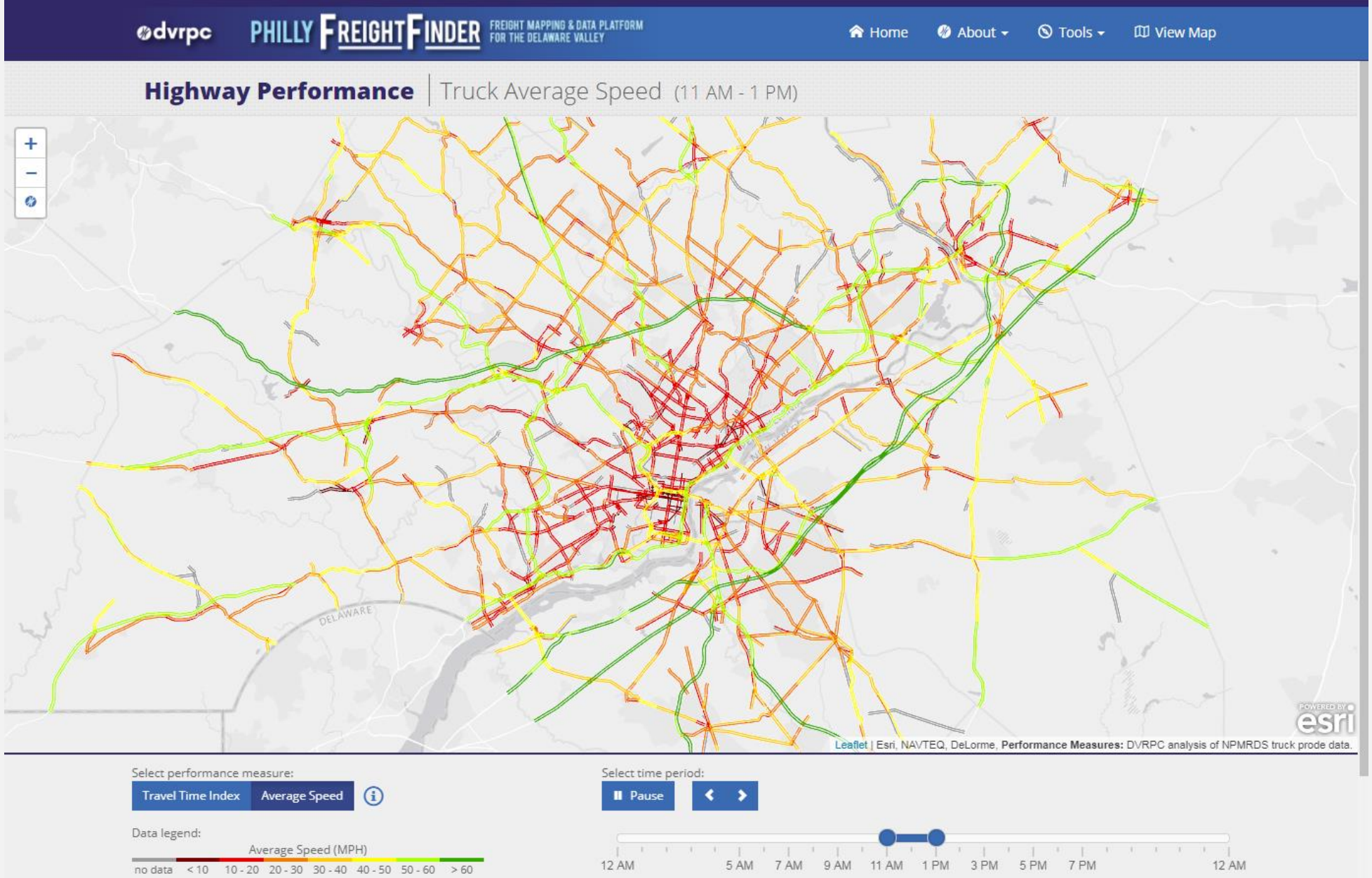

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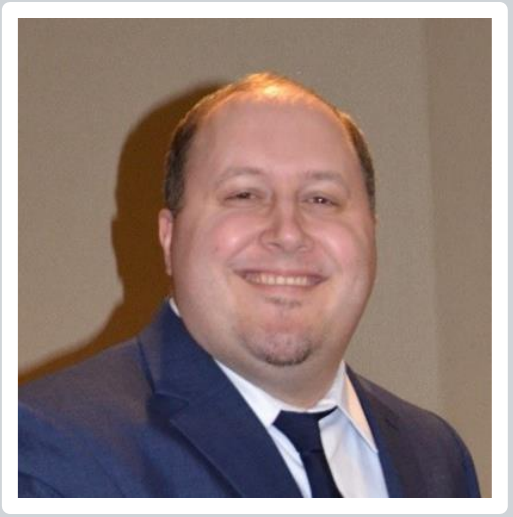
Spotlight Presentation: How Rhode Island Used DVRPC's Tool & What They Are Doing Now



Josh O'Neill
Supervising Planner
Rhode Island Statewide Planning
Freight Data and Planning Working Group Chair

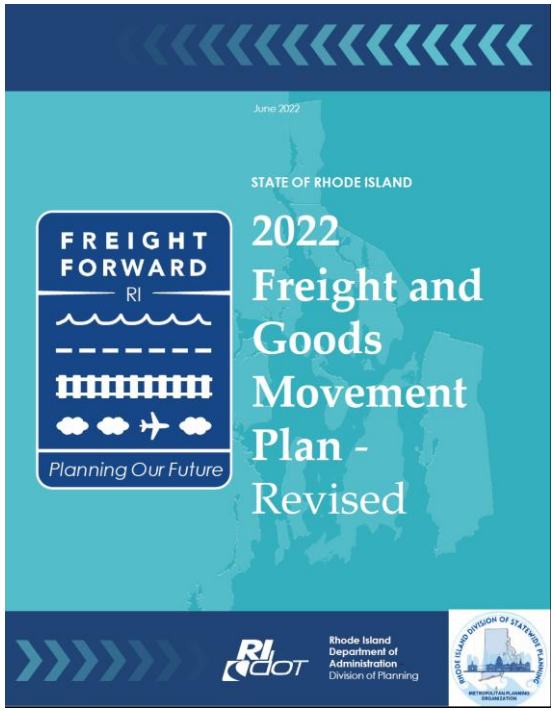
“The Rhode Island Freight Finder”

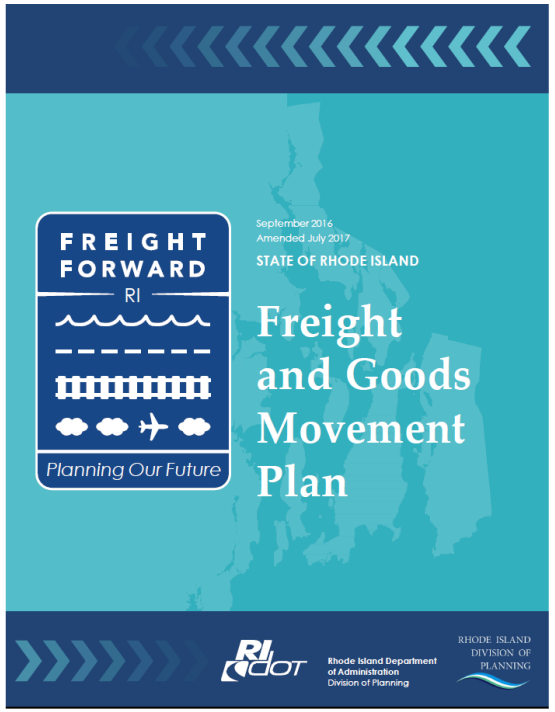
Rhode Island’s Freight and Goods Movement Plan Mapping Application

Josh O’Neill, AICP

Supervising Planner, Division of Statewide Planning

Department of Administration (DOA)





Purpose of a Freight Mapping Application

1

Visualize key freight data for the state for those individuals who won't read a 250 page planning document

2

Help answer basic questions about the freight transportation network for the public

3

Produce an interactive mapping platform relating to freight that members of the RI Freight Advisory Committee can reference for basic data needs

RI Freight Finder Background

Background Rhode Island Freight Finder:

- Division of Statewide Planning staff wanted a way to visually display our 2016/2017 RI Freight Plan data on our state website
- We became aware of the DVRPC's "Philly Freight Finder" https://www.dvrpc.org/webmaps/phillyfreightfinder/ as a model for what we wanted to produce and so we set up a couple conference calls with their staff to learn more about how they created their product as well as their "freight scan" projects
- We then developed an in house approach to determine which staff would be needed to utilize and take advantage of the DVRPC open source program "The Open Freight App" and make our own RI mapping product

RI Freight Finder Background

Initial Staffing Expertise Needs

- We were fortunate enough to have a GIS Staffer who also had some coding experience
- Because we are a state agency we needed to coordinate with the programmers in our State Department of Information Technology staff for this project
- I led the overall project management and design for the data fields and data layers to include for this mapping project and our GIS staff and DOIT staff “built” the mapping application utilizing the “Open Freight App” template along with our existing in house freight data
- Staff Involved included:
- Josh O’Neill, AICP Supervising Planner, RI Division of Statewide Planning
- Christina De Lage Baza, GISP Data Analyst 1, RI Division of Statewide Planning
- Moises Ramirez, Digital Services Technician, RI Division of Information Technology

RI Freight Finder Background

Approach to Mapping Application Data Layers:

- Staff reviewed all mapping data layers included within the 2016/2017 RI Freight Plan and realized some of the data needed to be recreated for this application
- Freight Rail lines were re-created for better accuracy and consultation with our Port Partners at the Quonset Business Park
- A map of freight related businesses was developed utilizing an annual business survey conducted by the Providence Business News.
- Their survey datasets can be purchased in excel and pdf formats for relatively cheap prices and proved to be good information for the mapper.

So How Does It Work?

- **Basic Description of the DVRPC Open Freight Application:**
  - Open Source, downloadable application with a full documentation guide on how to set it up
  - The project requires a computer programmer or IT staffer with coding skills who is familiar with common web languages like HTML, CSS, Javascript, and Jquery web language libraries
  - The Application itself needs a modern web browser, Leaflet Javascript Map Library, Jquery, and Bootstrap framework
  - Consultant support may be required for agencies that do not regularly coordinate with IT staff or have an IT agency to work with

What Are Some Issues We Encountered Along the Way?

- Contract Language is Important!!!
  - Our 2016/2017 RI Freight and Goods Movement Consultant contract did not include the state retaining ownership of all GIS databases and map files
- This meant that we did not have many of the state data layers associated with the maps in the Plan
- As mentioned above, we did re-create several sets of map data and refined information included in the Plan such as information relating to ports, rail lines, and truck parking.
- The officially designated freight corridors for RI had to be re-created in-house as well

What Are Some Issues We Encountered Along the Way?

- The “Open Freight App” cannot utilize GIS “layer” formats or geodatabases. All GIS data had to be converted into GeoJSON format before sending to our IT staff.
- In 2018, our ArcGIS Desktop did not have the easy ability to convert data layers to GeoJSON format
- Also, data formats like GeoJSON don't contain any styling information, so you can’t utilize the regular ESRI symbology in the mapping application
- Luckily with ArcPro this is a more straightforward conversion process now
- This does however highlight the styling “constraints” of the existing “Open Freight Application”

Freight_Corridors

Primary Highway Freight System Network / Intermodal Connections

Interstate / Urban /Rural Corridors

Corridor Field Value	R-G-B	Line Width
Primary Highway Freight System Network (PHFS)	132-0-168	3
PHFS Intermodal Connections	132-0-168	3
Interstate not on PHFS	202-122-245	3
Critical Urban Corridors	202-122-245	3
Critical Rural Corridors	202-122-245	3

Freight Rail:

Below is the Red-Green-Blue for the rail lines as well as a snip-it of the symbology.

Rail

Rail Layer	R-G-B	Line Width
Rail	230-135-0	4

Ports and Commercial Harbors:

Below is the Red-Green-Blue for the fill and outline color as well as a snip-it of the symbology.

Ports and Commercial Harbors

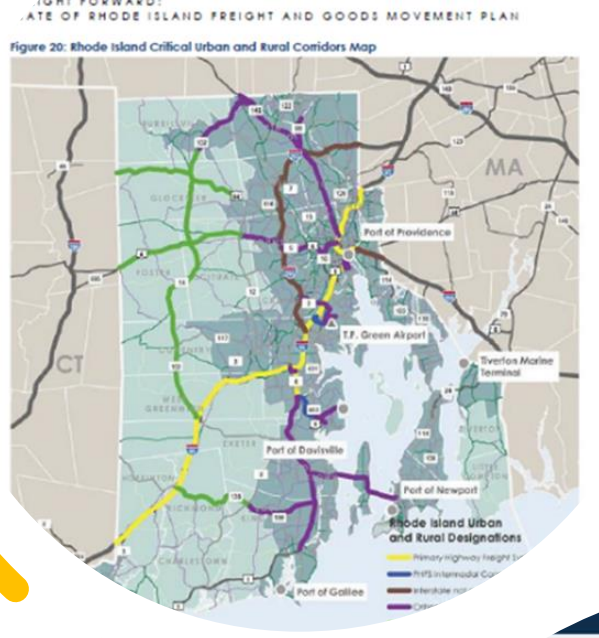
Ports and Commercial Harbors Layer	R-G-B	Width
Fill color	122-182-245	NA
Outline color	89-130-224	0.5

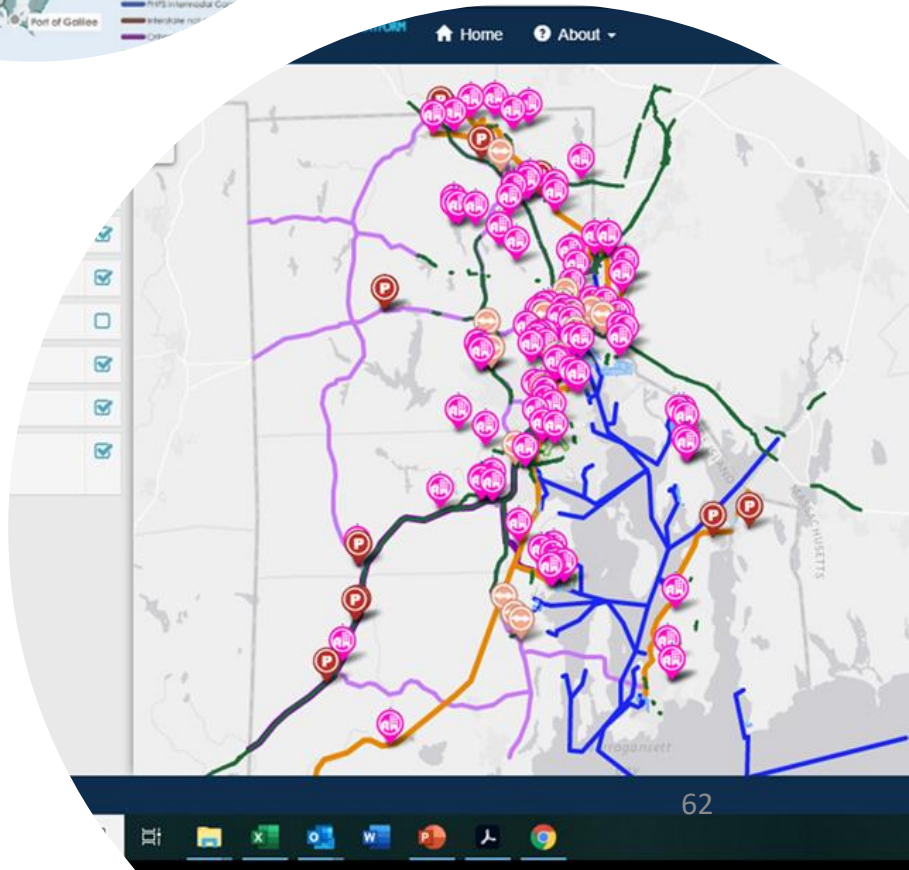
What Are Some Issues We Encountered Along the Way?

- We actually ended up using QGIS software to convert shapefiles into GeoJSON format as ArcMap conversion wasn't working.
- To match the Esri ArcMap symbology the Red-Green-Blue (R-G-B) numbers were collected for both fill and outline colors as well as line width and shared with IT so that they could code it within the GeoJSON layer.
- So we had to create these "RGB" tables to share for each GIS layer included in the final mapper

Additional Considerations

- What freight information is “critical” enough to be displayed in the mapper? How do you narrow down the list?
- We started with some of the freight network base layers in our 2016/2017 Plan and then expanded
- We utilized truck volume data from our state travel demand model and state AADT (data now woefully out of date)
- We decided to include pipeline data but with a “scale dependency”. Some concerns were voiced about homeland security issues with finer grained detailed pipeline data.





Things We Would Have Liked to Have:

- We have some very detailed narratives about our Ports in our State Freight and Goods Movement Plan
- We would have liked to have added ship call data and some line data for shipping routes within the mapper but the closest we were able to include were “navigable waterways”
- Even that data didn’t include updated dredged depths or restrictions based on shell fishing or other environmental concerns

RI Freight Finder Mapping Demonstration

- Pause Now For Mapping Demonstration !

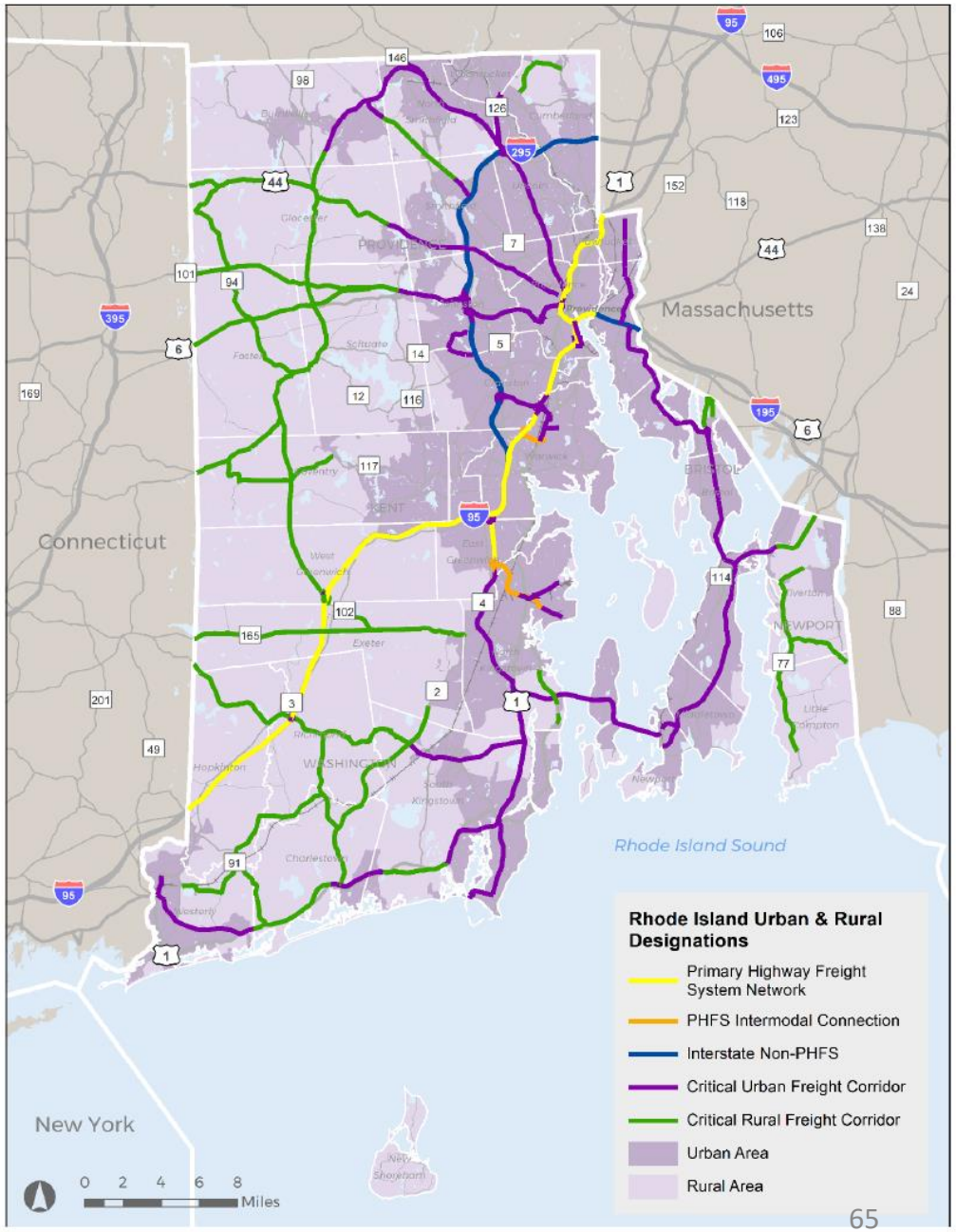
https://datadoa.ri.gov/plan/ri-freight-finder/index.html

Next Steps

New 2022 Freight Plan Data:

- Rhode Island completed its update of the 2022 Freight and Goods Movement Plan this year (June 2023) with the adoption of a revised version including multiple appendix studies - statewide truck parking study, freight commodity flow forecast to 2050, Update to RI Freight Corridors
- All of this new data will now need to be incorporated into the “RI Freight Finder” mapping application

Figure 3: Rhode Island Critical Urban and Rural Freight Corridors Map



Next Steps

- Focus will be on new truck volume data, truck parking data, updated freight corridors
- We would like to update the RI freight businesses data layer, but may need a better data source than the Providence Business News. Transearch and other Private Companies may be utilized for data purchase.
- As a MPO, we would need to included this as a project in our next Work Program (UPWP) beginning July 1, 2024.

Questions?

Joshua O'Neill, AICP
Supervising Planner
RI Department of Administration
Division of Statewide Planning
235 Promenade Street, Suite 230
Providence, RI 02908
(401) 222-4849

Polling Question 1

1. Do you find this product to be a useful?
    a. Yes
    b. No
    c. Other (please provide)

Polling Question 2

2. Do you find this to be easy to understand?
    a. Yes
    b. No
    c. Other (please provide)

Questions for the Audience/Roundtable Discussion

- What other information would you like to see included?

- What data needs would your agency have to produce a similar mapper?

Future Working Group Activities

Upcoming Freight Activities

SAVE THE DATE

- October 24, 2023 - Trucking Discussion (Virtual)
  - Part of hybrid TIS Summit
- December 13, 2023 – Freight Data & Planning Working Group Meeting
  - 1:30pm-3:00pm, ET
  - Topic – in development

THE EASTERN TRANSPORTATION COALITION

CONNECTING FOR SOLUTIONS

THANK YOU

Marygrace Parker, Freight Program Director

The Eastern Transportation Coalition

mgparker@tetcoalition.org