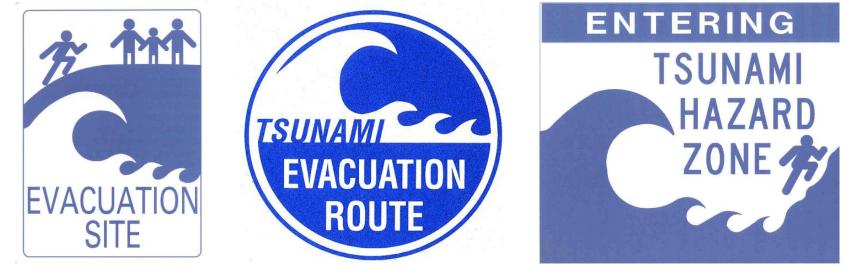
# SEASIDE, OREGON TSUNAMI EVACUATION ANALYSIS



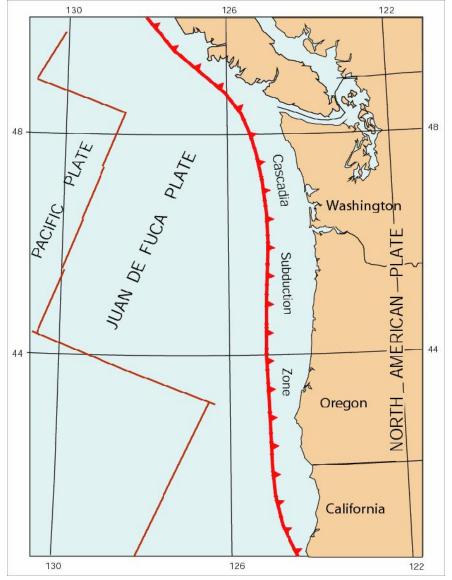
JOSEPH BARD, CHRISTINE RUTAN, AND HANNAH WELLS GEOGRAPHY 493/593: DIGITAL TERRAIN ANALYSIS

## **BACKGROUND:**

#### **CASCADIA SUBDUCTION ZONE**

- 13 CSZ-related tsunamis in the last 7,600 years
  - 140 to 1,000 years apart. (1)
- Last CSZ earthquake: 1700
  - Average span between quakes: 500 years.
- 10 14% chance of a tsunami in the next 50 years. <sup>(2)</sup>
- Magnitude 9.0 will render many roads and bridges unusable by cars.

→ Many people will have evacuate to the safety of high ground by foot.



(1) Wood N, Soulard C (2008) Variations in community exposure to tsunami hazards on the open-ocean and Strait of Juan de Fuca coasts of Washington. USGS Scientific Investigations Report 2008-5004, 34

(2) Cascadia Region Workgroup (2005) Cascadia subduction zone earthquakes—a magnitude 9.0 earthquake scenario. Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, Portland

## **RESEARCH QUESTION:**

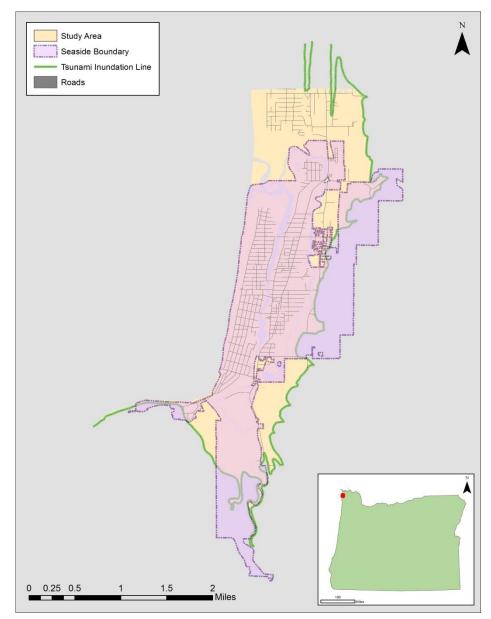
Assuming:

- Evacuees are on foot
- 25 minute evacuation window
- An average walking speed of 1.1 m/s

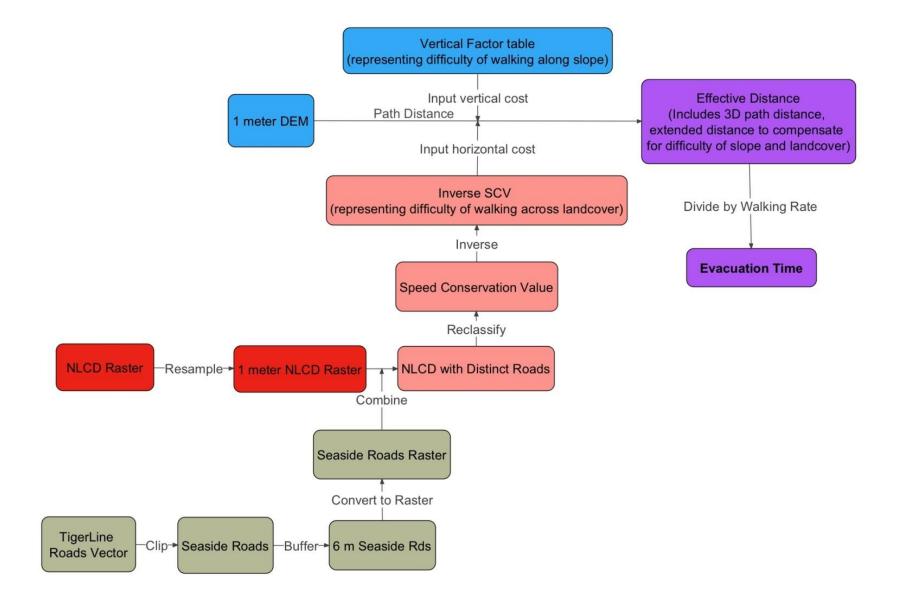
- 1. What areas within the tsunami inundation zone are within range of safe ground?
- 2. What sensitive sites, such as schools, hospitals, and elderly care facilities, are in dangerous locations?
- 3. How much of the population is in danger?
- 4. How will evacuation potential be affected by route restrictions?

# **STUDY AREA**

- Census Population (2010): 6,457<sup>(1)</sup>
- Total Area within in City Limits:
  3.84 Square Miles
- Total Area within Study Area: 4.09 Square Miles
- Tourism is a major portion of the city's economy – seasonal variations in population need to be taken into account for disaster planning.
  - 27.3 % of all housing units were "for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use."<sup>(1)</sup>
- Daily changes in population between home and work/school also need to be considered.

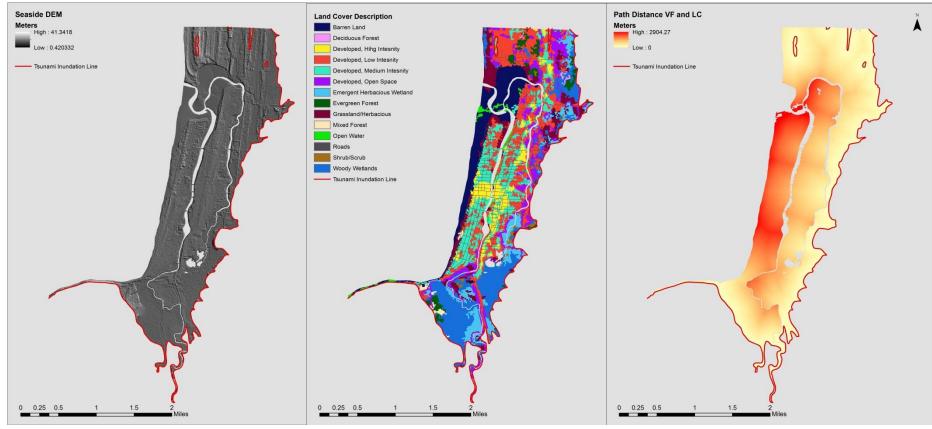


### **METHODS OVERVIEW:**



## **PATH DISTANCE TOOL:**

**Speed Conservation Value**: The factor by which walking speed is reduced when crossing a surface that impedes optimal travel speed. Expressed as a number between 1.0 - 0.



Input 1: DEM

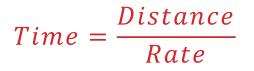
- Slope VF SCV
- Distance

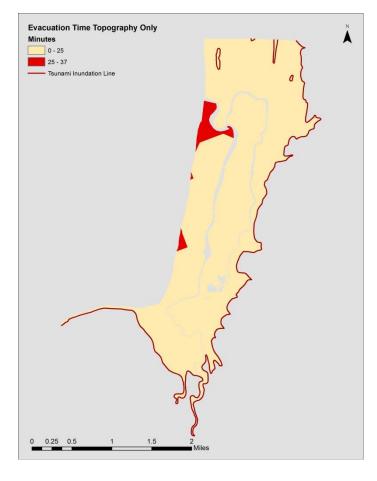
- Input 2: Land Cover
- Cost Surface LC SCV

Output: Distance Raster

Meters to Safe Zone

### WALKING TIME:



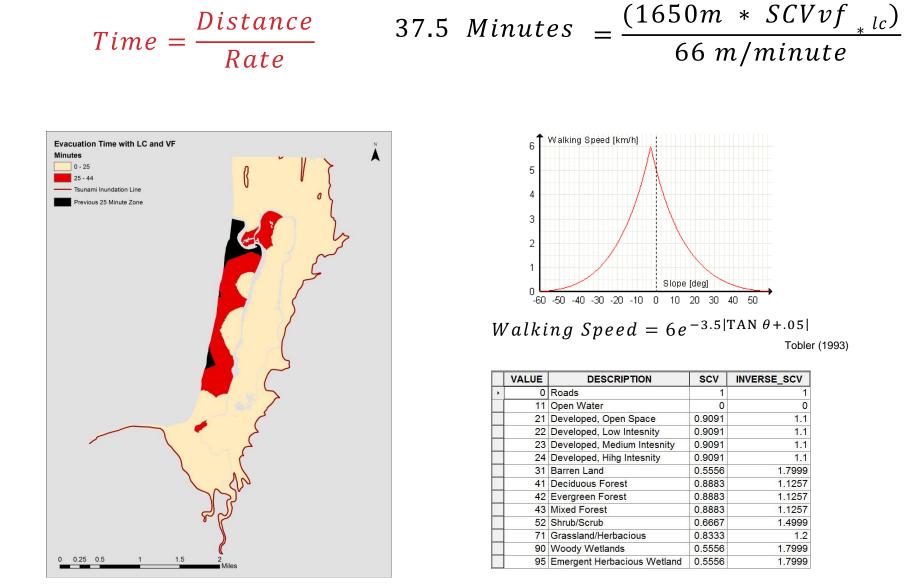


Comparing the findings from the TCRP/ NCHRP study with previous work resulted in the following recommendations:

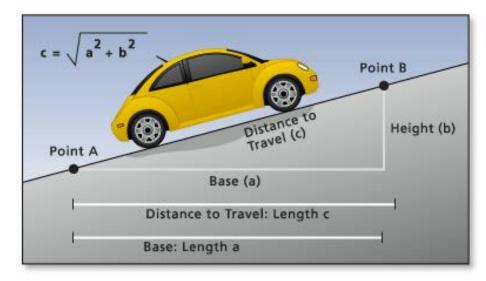
• 3.5 ft./sec. (1.1 m/sec.) walking speed for general population

For our study: 66 m/minute = 1.1m \* 60 seconds

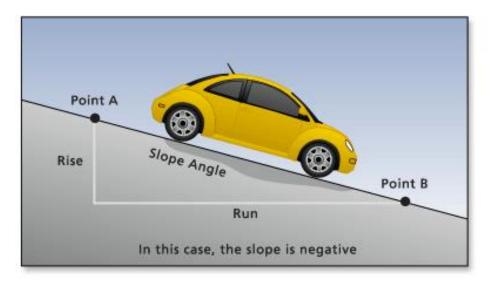
### WALKING TIME:



### **PATH DISTANCE EXPLANATIONS:**



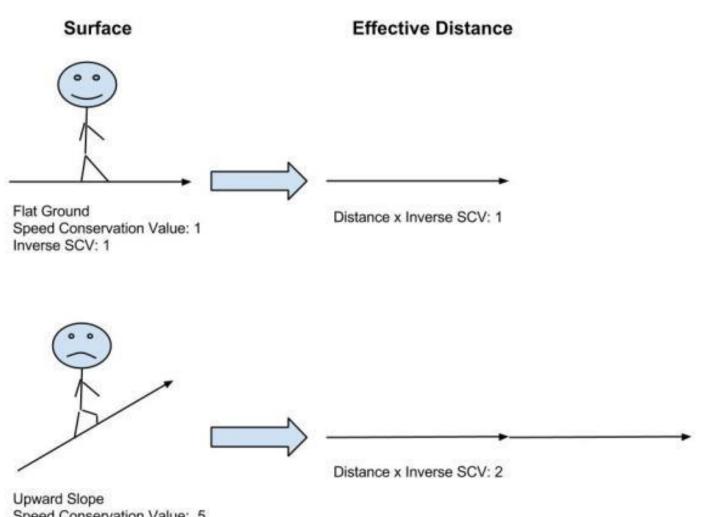
#### Trigonometric distance



Reduced Travel Impedance: SCV ~ 1.0

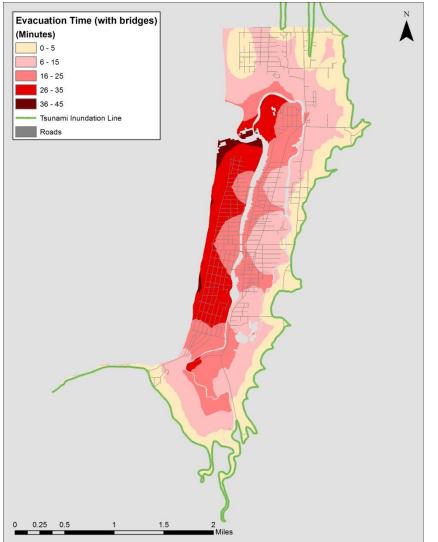
### **SPEED CONSERVATION VALUE**

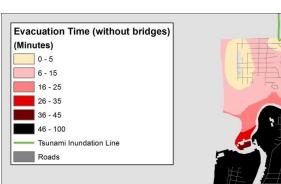
#### **EFFECTIVE WALKING DISTANCE**



Speed Conservation Value: .5 Inverse SCV: 2

## **EVACUATION TIME**





#### Without Bridges

1.5

0.25 0.5

0

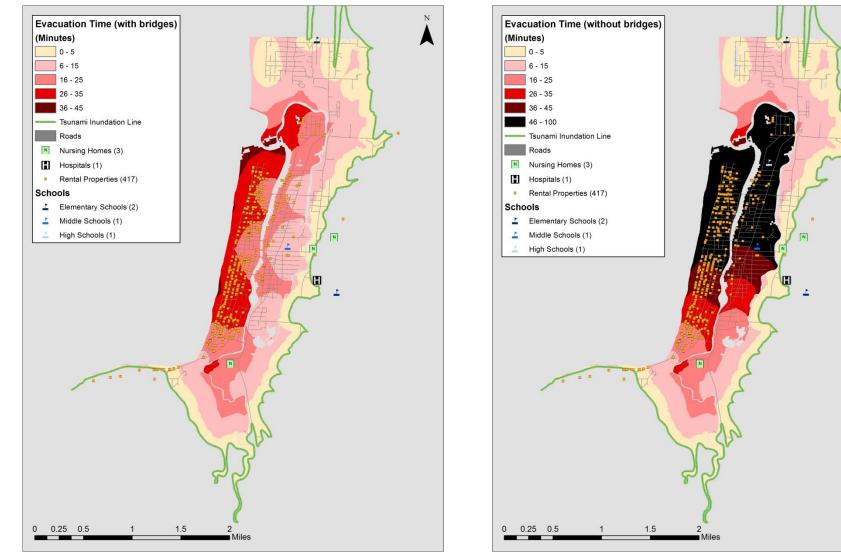
• Longest evacuation time: 97 minutes

#### With Bridges

• Longest evacuation time: 44 minutes

## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

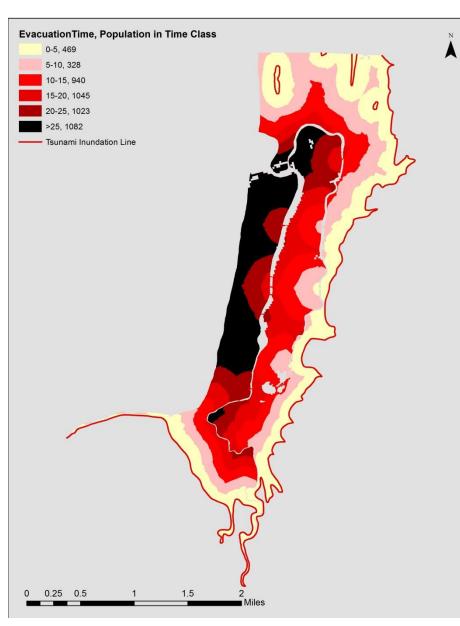
#### **HIGH RISK POPULATIONS**



With Bridges

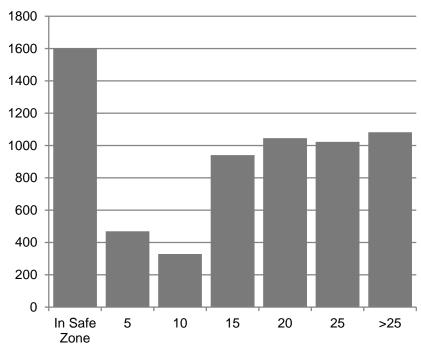
Without Bridges

### **POPULATION IN PERIL:** EVACUATION WITH BRIDGES INTACT

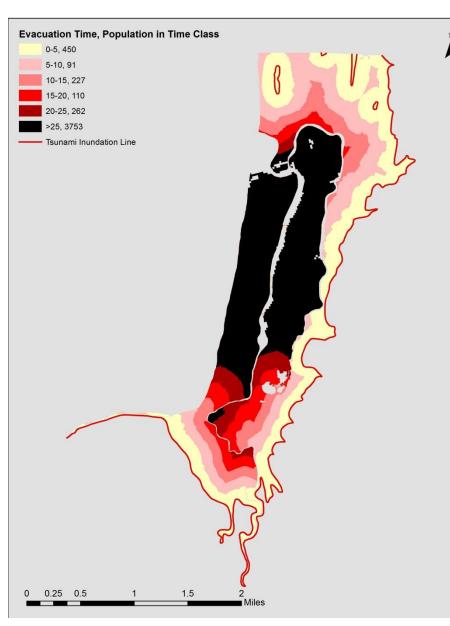


Evacuation Time	Population with Bridges	Percent	
In Safe Zone	1601	24.68	
5	469	7.23	
10	328	5.06	
15	940	14.49	
20	1045	16.11	
25	1023	15.77	
>25	1082	16.68	
	6488	100.00	Total

#### **Population with Bridges**

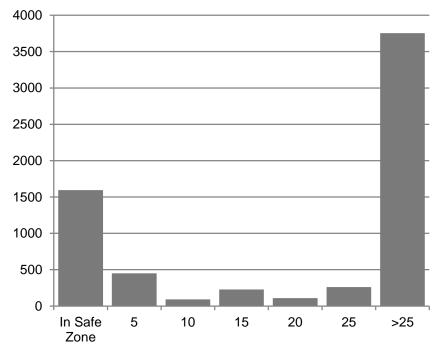


### **POPULATION IN PERIL:** EVACUATION WITHOUT BRIDGES INTACT



Evacuation Time	Population No Bridges	Percent	
In Safe Zone	1595	24.58	
5	450	6.94	
10	91	1.40	
15	227	3.50	
20	110	1.70	
25	262	4.04	
>25	3753	57.85	
	6488	100.00	Total

#### **Population No Bridges**



## CONCLUSIONS & LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

- Expand analysis to other coastal communities along the Pacific Ocean, especially those with extensive low lying areas.
- Consider alternative evacuation means for people living and working in the northern park of the City where evacuation times exceed 25 minutes, especially for venerable populations (young, elderly, and ill).
  - Consider vertical evacuation structures.
- Evaluate structural integrity of bridges and other navigational routes, as well as buildings and objects that may impede traffic if they were to collapse following an earthquake.
- Begin developing City specific resiliency plans (see the Oregon Resilience Plan, 2013) for disaster planning, preparedness, and post disaster operations.