



# Stable Linear Referencing for OSM



October 2017  
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Mapzen Mobility

# Valhalla - Open Source Routing



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- Global, multi-modal routing using open source data
  - OpenStreetMap
  - Transitland (open public transit data)
- **Dynamic, run-time costing**
  - Flexible
  - Extensible
- **Routing graph tiles**
  - Optimize memory use/caching
  - Off-line routing capabilities
- **Map matching**
- Improved guidance
  - Clear and concise, with verbal prompts
  - Focus on mobile navigation applications



<https://github.com/valhalla>

# How to Associate Data to OSM Road Network?



- Wish to associate data to roads to add value and create new applications
- Data that:
  - Is not readily available to OSM mappers
  - May vary over time (traffic)
  - May be proprietary (travel counts, ratings)
- Desire a set of stable identifiers that reference a path along roadway
  - Persistent Ids
  - Stable under small, local changes to road network
  - Ability to add new Ids as roads are added

# Location Referencing

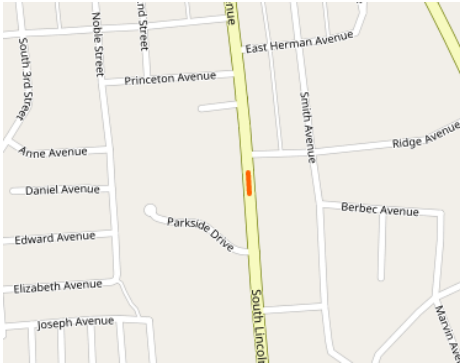


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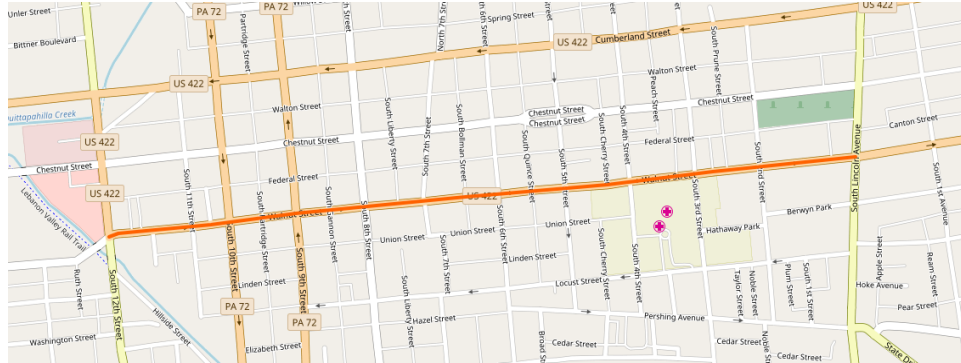
→ OSM way Ids are not feasible

- Not persistent - way Ids change as edits occur
- Inconsistent localization - ways vary greatly in extent

→ **Linear location referencing** provides a way to describe a linear path



Overpass



Long stretch of roadways with many intersections

# OSMLR



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## → OpenStreetMap derived Location Referencing

- Open source (part of Open Traffic organization)
  - <https://github.com/opentraffic/osmlr>
- Protocol buffer and GeoJSON
  - <https://github.com/opentraffic/osmlr-tile-spec>

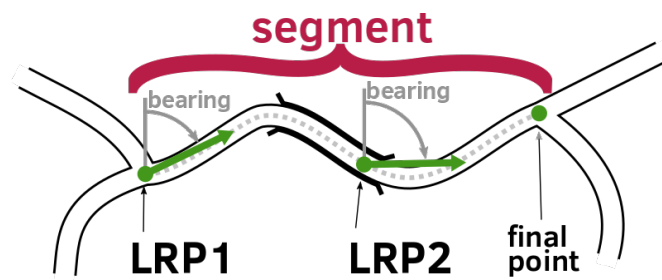
## → Based on **OpenLR** – open standard developed by TomTom

- <http://www.openlr.org/>
- [http://www.openlr.org/data/docs/OpenLR-Whitepaper\\_v1.5.pdf](http://www.openlr.org/data/docs/OpenLR-Whitepaper_v1.5.pdf)

## → OSMLR uses Location Reference Points (LRP)

- Hints to describe path in between: length, bearing, form of way, road class

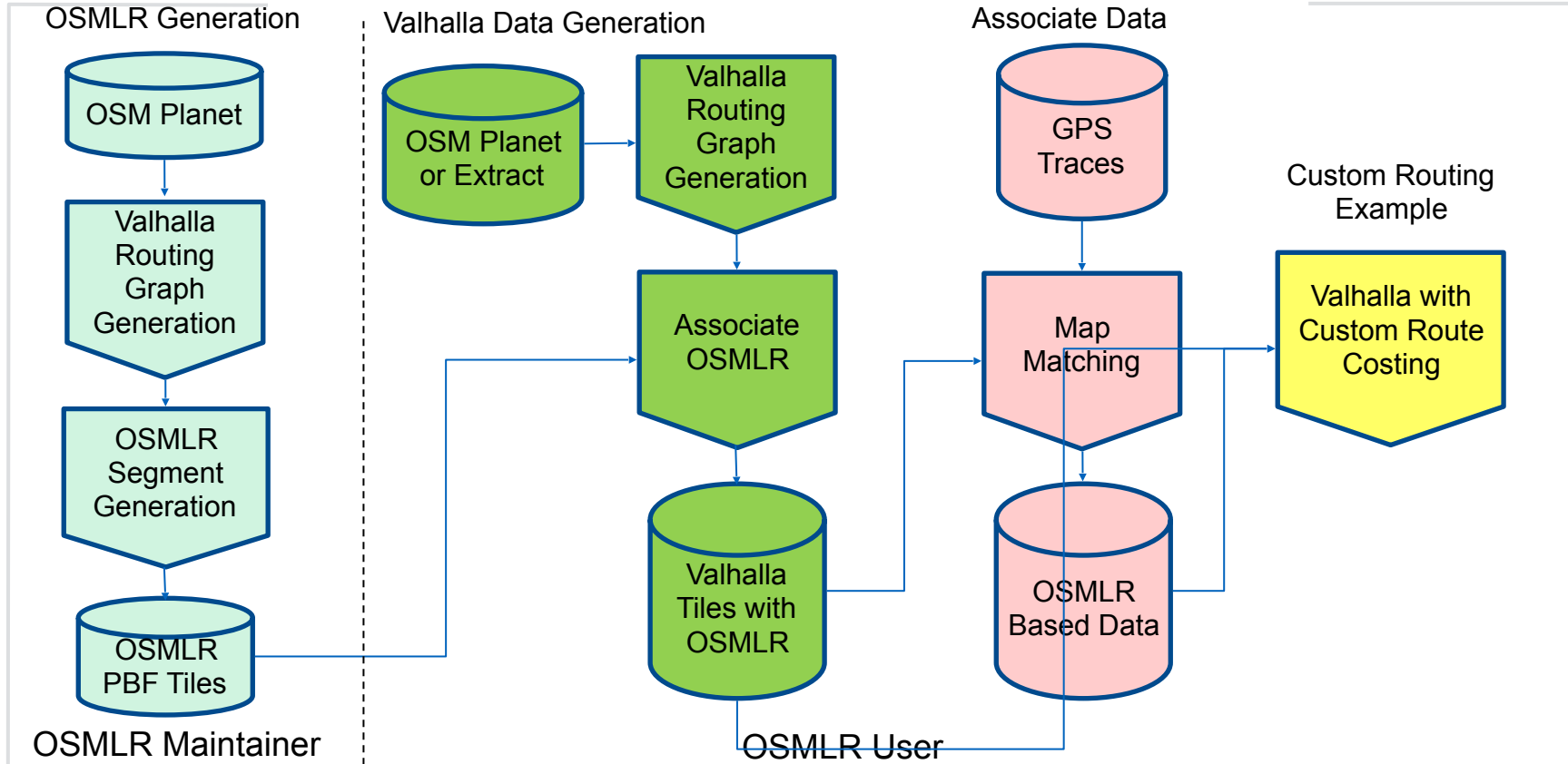
→ <https://mapzen.com/blog/open-traffic-osmlr-technical-preview/> <https://mapzen.com/blog/osmlr-2nd-technical-preview/>



# Sample Use of OSMLR



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# Open Traffic



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→ Open Traffic is a global platform

- <https://github.com/opentraffic>
- Import anonymous GPS positions/traces
- Create historical traffic statistics

→ Sponsored by the World Bank

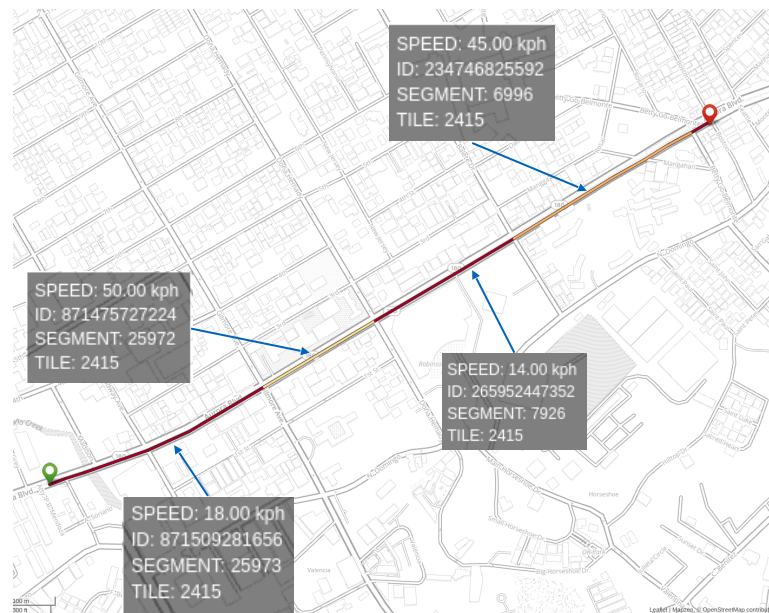
- Import archived data from Grab
  - Southeast Asia

→ Open source software components

- <https://github.com/opentraffic/otv2-platform>

→ Uses Valhalla map matching

- GPS trace → Valhalla edges → OSMLR



Showing traffic along a route.  
Also computes ETA

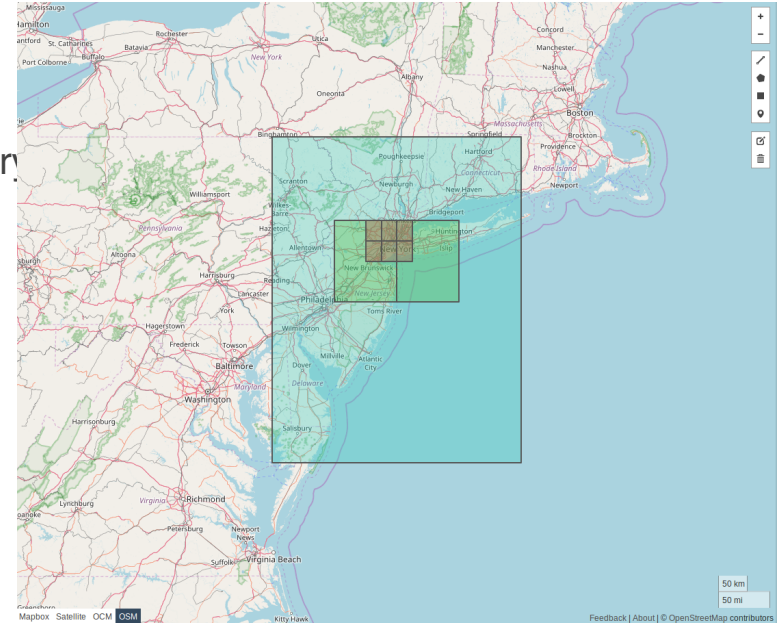


# OSMLR Identifiers



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- Unique identifiers consist of a tile Id, a hierarchy level, and a unique Id within the tile/level
- Uses Valhalla tile definitions
- Level 0 - highway
  - 4 degree tiles: motorway, trunk, and primary
- Level 1 - arterial
  - 1 degree tiles: secondary and tertiary
- Level 2, local
  - ¼ degree tiles: unclassified, residential





# OSMLR Generation

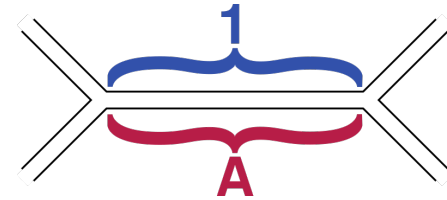


→ OSMLR is generated using Valhalla data

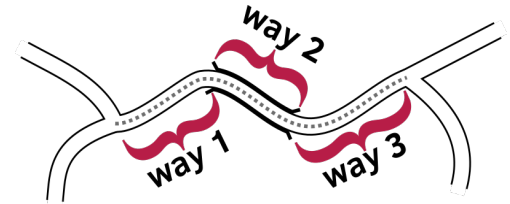
- Tiled, routing graph
- Nodes – intersections of ways or begin/end of a way
- Edges – directional portions of OSM ways between nodes

→ <https://mapzen.com/blog/open-traffic-osmlr-technical-preview/>

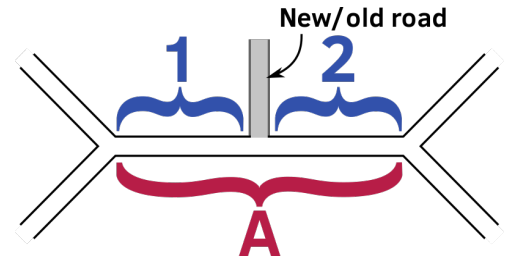
- Most edges produce 1 OSMLR segment
- Edges can be merged (many edges → 1 OSMLR)
  - Across nodes with no other intersecting edges (e.g. overpass)
  - Across intersections with local or non-driveable edges
- Edges can be split (1 edge → many OSMLR)
  - Data edits, length limit (1 km)



1 Edge → 1 OSMLR Segment



3 edges → 1 OSMLR segment



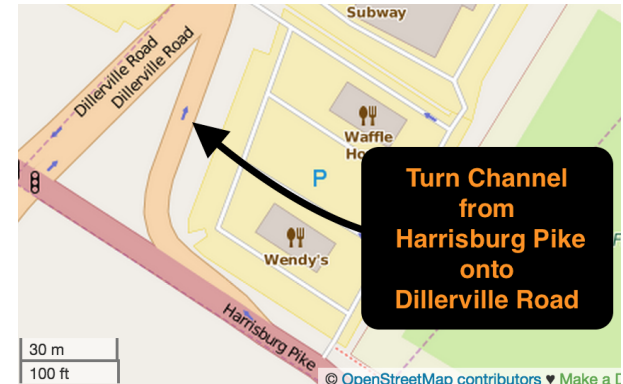
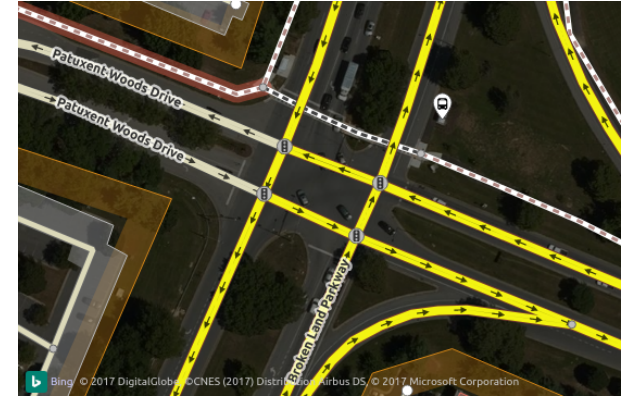
1 edges → 2 OSMLR segments

# “Internal” Edges



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- “Internal” edges do not receive OSMLR Ids
  - Generally considered as providing “transition” between two other OSMLR Ids
- **Internal intersection** edges
  - Edges that are “internal” to intersections
- **Turn channels**
  - Short, at-grade “links”
- **Roundabouts**
  - Often have very short ways/edges



# Statistics

Hierarchy	OSMLR Count	Average Length (meters)
Level 0	11,257,706	660
Level 1	26,792,704	641
Level 2	183,500,211	94

→ OSMLR version 1.1 is available in Amazon Web Service's Public Dataset program

- <https://s3.amazonaws.com/osmlr/listing.html>
- <https://mapzen.com/blog/osmlr-released-as-public-dataset/>

# OSMLR Updates



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## → Strategy:

- Ids for OSMLR segments associated to Valhalla edges remain unchanged
- Deprecate Ids no longer associated to Valhalla edges
- Create new Ids
  - To replace deprecated Ids
  - For newly added OSM ways

## → Goal: stable OSMLR Ids under certain OSM edits

- Moving nodes within some tolerance
- Single to doubly digitized or double to singly digitized
- Classification changes within same hierarchy
  - E.g., primary -> trunk

# OSMLR Quality Through Time



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- How quickly do OSMLR Ids degrade under OSM editing?
- Evaluate percentage of OSMLR Ids that fail to associate to Valhalla edges

Due to OSM edits

Hierarchy	Success Count: Successfully Associated to Valhalla Edges	Failure Count: No Longer Associate to Valhalla Edges	Percentage
Level 0	10,779,466	351,438	96.8%
Level 1	25,646,511	642,091	97.6%
Level 2	177,147,235	2,250,141	98.7%

\* Association to Valhalla after 4 months

# Future



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- Experiment with update tolerances (LRP locations, bearings, length)
  - When is an edit/change large enough to warrant deprecating a segment?
- Develop methods for tracking lineage of an OSMLR segment
  - Approaches and guidelines for migration of data associated to a deprecated Id.
- Extend to other OSM ways
  - Footways, cycleways, etc.
  - Extend Id space to separate them from current OSMLR Ids
- Extend OSMLR Id space to accommodate other types of linear data
- Fix issues caused by “overlapping” ways or ways that have overlapping sections

# OSMLR / Valhalla Team



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Also, big thanks to Matt Amos!



# Questions, Comments, Contributions?



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