**Crime Mapping for Policy Analysis**

Your town seems to have a higher-than-average number of traffic accidents (a long-term problem) and local leaders are arguing about the best solution. Remember, all of these people are making **empirical claims** that could be **tested**, but at this point in time, they don’t have any evidence – just their opinions.

* Barb Jones, head of the local Temperance Union, says it’s because there’s too many drunk drivers thanks to all the bars in the area – “Look at a map,” she says, “I bet all the accidents are people heading home from the downtown bar scene.” She proposes that all local bars stop serving alcohol at 10pm and that police set up sobriety checkpoints on major roads from 10pm – 3am every night.
* John Smith, a local construction worker, says Bob’s idea is ridiculous. He says that the reason there’s so many accidents is because there are a few dangerous intersections in town. He argues that these dangerous intersections make up most of the traffic accidents, and if we redesigned those intersections, traffic accidents would decrease.
* Morgan Adams, head of the local Commuter Interest Organization, says they’re both nuts – the traffic accidents are clearly the result of traffic congestion and inadequate parking for commuters. They say that the accidents are probably happening in and near MBTA parking lots around peak commute times as stressed-out workers try to get to and from work.

You’re a local analyst with GIS skills and you’ve got access to traffic accident reports. What sort of analysis could you do to settle the argument between Jones, Smith, and Adams?

**Make sure you explain your plan in detail:**

1. What information do you need?
2. How will you know which solution (if any!) is most likely to reduce traffic accidents? Hint: think not only about geographic information (where), but also time, day, suspect characteristics, and other characteristics of the accidents (when and how).
3. What will you present to the community leaders to make your case?