

APPENDIX C

Capacity/Level-of-Service Methodology

CAPACITY/LEVEL-OF-SERVICE ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

The detailed capacity/level-of-service analysis contained in this transportation impact study was performed in accordance with the standard techniques contained in the *Highway Capacity Manual 2010*. By definition, capacity represents "the maximum sustainable hourly flow rate at which persons or vehicles reasonably can be expected to traverse a point or a uniform section of a lane or roadway during a given time period under prevailing roadway, environmental, traffic, and control conditions." The level at which an intersection or a uniform section of a lane or roadway function can be expressed in terms of a level of service. Level of service (LOS) is defined as "a quantitative stratification of a performance measure or measures that represent quality of service, measured on an A-F scale, with LOS A representing the best operating conditions from the traveler's perspective and LOS F the worst."

Stop-Controlled Intersections

At unsignalized stop-controlled intersections, such as two-way stop-controlled (TWSC) or all-way stop-controlled (AWSC), a methodology for evaluating the relative functioning of these intersections is based upon the control delay. For these types of unsignalized intersections, the analysis of the control delay is based upon the following data:

- Number and configuration of lanes on each approach;
- Percentage of heavy vehicles on each approach;
- Demand flow rate for each entering vehicular movement and pedestrian crossing movement;
- Unique geometric factors such as, channelization aspects; two-way left-turn lanes, raised or striped median storage; approach grades, flared approaches on the minor street; and upstream signals within 0.25 miles.

At TWSC intersections, only drivers on the minor street approaches are required to stop before proceeding into the intersection and left-turning drivers from the major street may have to yield to on-coming major street through or right-turning traffic, but are not required to stop in the absence of on-coming traffic. The capacity at stop-controlled legs is based primarily on three factors: the distribution of gaps in the major stream, driver judgment in selecting the gaps, and the follow-up headways required by each driver in a queue.

At AWSC intersections, every vehicle is required to stop at the intersection before proceeding, and as a result, the decision to proceed is a function of the traffic conditions on the other approaches. Each driver proceeds only after determining that no vehicles are currently in the intersection and that it is the driver's turn to proceed. Capacity at an AWSC intersection is described by the saturation headway or time between departures of successive vehicles on a given approach for a particular case assuming a continuous queue; departure headway or the average time between departures of successive vehicles on a given approach accounting for the probability of each possible case; and service time or the average time sent by a vehicle in first position waiting to depart.

At both TWSC and AWSC intersections, the level of service is based upon the control delay, as well as the corresponding volume-to-capacity ratio for each movement/lane group. For TWSC intersections, the level of service is not calculated for major-street approaches or for the intersection as a whole; however, the intersection-wide level of service is calculated for AWSC intersections. The following table provides a summary of the relationship between the level of service, control delay, and volume-to-capacity ratio for TWSC and AWSC intersections.

Control Delay (Sec/Veh)	LOS by Volume-to-Capacity Ratio	
	v/c ≤ 1.0	v/c > 1.0
≤ 10	A	F
> 10 – 15	B	F
> 15 – 25	C	F
> 25 – 35	D	F
> 35 – 50	E	F
> 50	F	F

Signalized Intersections

At three or four-legged signalized intersections, a methodology for evaluating the capacity and quality of service provided to road users traveling through the signalized intersection. For signalized intersections, the level of service can be characterized for the entire intersection, each approach, and each lane group. The level of service is based upon the control delay and volume-to-capacity ratio. The delay quantifies the increase in travel time due to the traffic signal control and is a surrogate measure of driver discomfort and fuel consumption, while the volume-to-capacity ratio quantifies the degree to which a phase's capacity is utilized by a lane group. Input data in determining the delay and volume-to-capacity ratio include:

- Demand flow rate for each entering vehicular movement and pedestrian crossing movement, including right-turn on red volumes and percent of heavy vehicles;
- Initial queue for each lane group;
- Number and configuration of lanes on each approach;
- Type of signal control and phase sequence;
- Allocation of minimum/maximum green times and clearance intervals (Yellow plus All Red phases); and
- Phase recall.

At signalized intersections, the level of service is based upon the control delay, as well as the corresponding volume-to-capacity ratio for each movement/lane group. The following table provides a summary of the relationship between the level of service, control delay, and volume-to-capacity ratio for signalized intersections.

Control Delay (Sec/Veh)	LOS by Volume-to-Capacity Ratio	
	v/c ≤ 1.0	v/c > 1.0
≤ 10	A	F
> 10 – 20	B	F
> 20 – 35	C	F
> 35 – 55	D	F
> 55 – 80	E	F
> 80	F	F