War of the Forecasts: Model vs Project

North Carolina Model Users Group

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Forecasts
Model vs Project

WHAT’S THE PROBLEM?

&

(WHY) DO WE CARE?
Project Level Traffic Forecast
Evolving Process and Procedures

- **Process**
  - How forecasts are handled

- **Procedures**
  - The technical analysis for developing a project level traffic forecast
Project Level Traffic Forecast

Process

- Request is made
- Communicate with Requestor
- Official Review
- Distribution
Project Level Traffic Forecast

Procedure

• Analysis tools and data
• Scenarios
• Documentation
• Resolution of Issues
Analysis Tools

• Traffic Forecast Utility
  – straight line
  – simple interest
Analysis Tools

- Travel Demand Model (beware of mixing model output)
Project Level Traffic Forecast

Procedure

• Analysis tools and data
• **Scenarios**
• Documentation
• Resolution of Issues
Scenarios

- Base year no-build *
- Base year build
- Future year no-build
- Future year build *
- Other alternatives

* Required Scenario
Project Level Traffic Forecast

Procedure

• Analysis tools and data
• Scenarios
• Documentation
• Resolution of Issues
Documentation

If the goal were inconsistency - we would win the gold!

- Planning Group - random
- Forecast Group - better - standard outline
- Consultants - good - establishing expectations and standards
Project Level Traffic Forecast

Procedure

- Analysis tools and data
- Scenarios
- Documentation
- Resolution of Issues
Resolution of Issues

- State Traffic Forecast Engineer
Model vs Project

• Why are they different?
  – assumptions
  – outputs
  – use

• Who cares?
  – public
Model vs Project

• What can we do?
  – better labeling/education
  – documentation

• How is NCDOT doing?
  – getting better and heading in the right direction
Model & Project - Forecasts at Peace

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