



NCDOT Congestion Management Capacity Analysis Guidelines

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Introduction/Purpose

This document provides standard values to ensure consistent traffic analysis. Deviation from these practices requires justification. By reviewing reports, plans, and submittals, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) in no way relieves the analyst of possible claims or additional work resulting from errors or omissions.

Pre-Analysis

Submittal Document Requirements

The submitted traffic analysis document should include, but is not limited to: a summary of the analysis and results, site plans, traffic counts and forecasts, volume generation, any assumptions used in the analysis, and any variations from these guidelines.

TIA	TIP
Summary of Results	Summary of Results
Site Plan	Traffic Forecasts
Traffic Counts and Forecasts	Traffic Breakouts (Existing, No Build, Build
Existing Lane Diagram	Traffic Adjustments and Reroutes)
Existing Traffic Diagram	Analysis (Existing, No Build, Build)
Projected Growth Traffic Diagram	Existing Lane Diagram
Approved Development Traffic Diagram	Recommended Lane Diagram
Projected Background Traffic Diagram	Digital Files (including analysis files)
Unadjusted Trip Generation	
Trip Reductions	
Distribution Chart	
Site Traffic Diagram	
Total Projected Traffic Diagram	
Recommended Lane Diagram	
Assumptions Used in Analysis	
Variations from these Guidelines	
Digital Files (including analysis files)	

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For review purposes, a printable digital copy of the submittal is preferable, although NCDOT may require a hard copy. For plan sheets, such as site plans, the digital submittal should be legible and to scale when printed as a 22"x34" sheet. Use of the Portable Document Format (PDF) is preferred.

Project Coordination

On larger developments, the applicant is encouraged to arrange a pre-submittal conference with the District Engineer and local jurisdiction prior to formally submitting an

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27 application for a driveway permit. During this conference the scope of the TIA can be
28 discussed.

29
30 TIP Design Year analysis should be performed for the TIA when an impacted TIP
31 project is:

- 32 • In the planning phase
- 33 • In the design phase
- 34 • During construction
- 35 • Within 5 years after construction

36
37 These impacts may include additional traffic generated by the development not included
38 in the traffic forecasts, and/or a new or modified driveway along the project corridor.

39
40 When schools are located near a TIP Project or new development, coordination with the
41 Municipal and School Transportation Assistance Section is required.

42
43 All intersections within the study area should be analyzed, unless otherwise justified or
44 explained.

45
46 **Strategic Highway Corridors**
47 The vision for strategic corridors must be maintained. Interim measures, such as
48 signalized intersections on expressways for identified interchange locations, may be
49 required due to scoping limitations for a specific project.

50
51 Access to developments on roadways designated as Strategic Highway Corridors may
52 be restricted. In order to protect the safety, mobility and traffic carrying capacity of this
53 Strategic Highway Corridor, access along the corridor may be closed or relocated if an
54 alternative access is developed in the future or if any safety concerns or other traffic
55 impacts arise. Investigate alternative operational methods to maintain mobility on the
56 corridor.

57
58 **Median and Control-of-Access Breaks**
59 Changes in Control-of-Access (C/A) will require approval from the Right-of-Way
60 Disposal and Control-of-Access Committee. New or modified median crossovers must
61 be approved by the State Traffic Engineer or designee for existing roadways, the
62 Roadway Design Project Engineer for active TIP projects, and the State Highway
63 Design Engineer for exceptions to the Median Crossover Guidelines on active TIP
64 projects. These requests must be initiated by the District Engineer.

65
66 For driveway requests that require a change in C/A, a new median crossover, or both,
67 the benefit to the travelling public should be demonstrated. To provide a basis for
68 comparison, analysis should demonstrate the benefit along the following hierarchy: no-
69 access, right-in/right-out, directional crossover, unconventional intersection designs,
70 and full access.

71
72

73 **Interchanges**

74 New and modified interchanges along Interstate routes may require Interchange
75 Justification/Modification Reports for federal approval.

76
77 Accesses located near interchanges should provide C/A for a minimum of 1000 feet
78 beyond the ramp terminals. If this is not feasible, full C/A will extend for a minimum of
79 350 feet and a raised island will be installed to a point a minimum of 1000 feet beyond
80 the ramp terminals.

81
82 **Unconventional Intersections**

83 Unconventional intersection designs such as roundabouts and superstreets should be
84 evaluated. Unconventional intersections have demonstrated their ability to move traffic
85 more efficiently, and consideration should be a part of any traffic analysis.

86
87
88 **Volumes**

89
90 **Traffic Counts**

91 Traffic counts should reflect normal daily and/or peak hour traffic conditions. The
92 following practices are outlined in the Driveway Manual.

93
94 When submitting a traffic analysis document for review, the traffic counts used for
95 capacity analysis purposes should have been taken no more than one year prior to the
96 submittal date of the document. Exceptions to this will need to be approved individually.
97 Heavy vehicles and pedestrians should be included in all traffic counts and used in the
98 traffic analysis.

99
100 When using traffic count data to predict future year volumes an appropriate growth rate
101 should be applied. Growth rates should be consistent with historical growth rates in the
102 study area.

103
104 Normally, counts should be taken during the following weekdays: Tuesday, Wednesday,
105 or Thursday. In areas with high seasonal traffic variations, counts should be taken
106 during peak seasonal conditions or appropriate seasonal factors should be applied to
107 the traffic count volumes. Counts should not be taken on holidays, when school is not
108 in session, or when a significant weather event or traffic incident occurs.

109
110
111 **Traffic Breakouts**

112 Traffic forecasts for TIP projects should be completed or approved by the NCDOT
113 Transportation Planning Branch before performing traffic analysis work. To perform the
114 traffic volume breakouts, traffic forecasts should provide the following information:

- 115 • Average annual daily traffic volume (AADT)
- 116 • Percent of trucks (duals, TTST) on a facility
- 117 • Directional split (D)

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- 118 • Percent of traffic during the peak hour K (DHV)
- 119 • The direction of D during the PM peak hour

120
121 Traffic breakout spreadsheets provided by the Transportation Planning Branch are
122 available on the Congestion Management website to convert forecasted AADT to Peak
123 Hour Volumes. If this spreadsheet is not used, justification should be provided for any
124 alternate method chosen.

125
126 The Intersection Analysis Utility (IAU) spreadsheet should be used when traffic forecast
127 volumes are displayed with two-way arrows. The Intersection Analysis Utility for
128 Directional Data (IAU_directional) spreadsheet should be used when traffic forecast
129 volumes are displayed with one-way arrows.

130
131 Clear documentation should be provided when traffic volumes are converted from the
132 intersection traffic volume layout shown on the forecasts to unconventional intersection
133 layouts.

134
135

136 **Interpolations**

137 An interpolation spreadsheet is available on the Congestion Management website to
138 determine intermediate year traffic volumes. This spreadsheet is based on a straight-
139 line calculation method. Please refer to the forecast document for information on how to
140 properly determine intermediate year volumes.

141
142 When determining intermediate traffic year volumes, the appropriate traffic breakout
143 spreadsheet should be applied to the Base and Future Year AADT forecasts first, and
144 then the interpolation spreadsheet should be used.

145
146

147 **Traffic Adjustments**

148 Provide documentation and methodology for all traffic adjustments and rerouting.

149
150 The *NCDOT Alternative Intersection Count Converter* spreadsheet is available to assist
151 in converting a "standard" intersection traffic volume layout to layouts for unconventional
152 intersection designs. (Examples include: superstreets, quadrant designs, etc.)

153
154

155 **Trip Generation**

156 **Identifying Land Uses**

157 The *ITE TRIP GENERATION MANUAL* describes the key traits of each land use. Some land
158 uses have very similar traits and require attention to ensure the correct land use is
159 used.

160
161 **Identifying Variables and Trip Calculations**

162 A land use variable describes the size of the land use. Examples include square
163 footage, employees, number of rooms, etc. Most land uses have more than one

164 variable for trip generation. A trip calculation uses a rate or equation to determine the
165 volume of trips.

166
167 The *ITE TRIP GENERATION HANDBOOK* recommends a method to determine the variables
168 and the type of trip calculations. These determinations are summarized in the *Rate vs*
169 *Equation* spreadsheet on the Congestion Management website.

170
171 Trip generation for individual outparcels should be calculated separately from the
172 remainder of the development. If a development includes multiple buildings of the same
173 land use, trip generation should be calculated separately for each building unless
174 otherwise specified in the *ITE Trip Generation Manual*.

175
176 Results from Trip Generation software should be confirmed with the *Manual*, for
177 example peak hour type.

178
179 Some Lane Uses require additional justification or local studies. For example, the use
180 of Specialty Retail or Gasoline/Service Station with Convenience Market should include
181 definite plans for specific retail that will be in place.

182
183

184 **Trip Reductions**

185 **Internal Capture**

186 Internal capture calculations should be used cautiously. The internal capture calculation
187 should utilize the percentages from the *ITE Trip Generation Handbook* to estimate the
188 internal capture reduction percentage. Use of internal capture requires justification and
189 approval on a case by case basis.

190
191 Reductions for internal capture should be limited to the land use categories and time
192 periods included in the current *Handbook*. Internal Capture is only applicable to sites or
193 subdivisions of sites that are accessible without using or crossing public streets.

194
195 Internal Capture rates may be estimated using the NCHRP 684 spreadsheet procedure
196 referenced in the current *Handbook*. When using this spreadsheet, transit or non-
197 motorized splits should not be used unless otherwise justified and approved. Vehicle
198 occupancy should be "1.1" in accordance with North Carolina averages. The Walking
199 Distances between land uses should be 4000' or the calculated maximum distance
200 between a given pair of land use categories in the proposed site.

201
202 The internal capture reduction should be applied before the pass-by trips are calculated.

203
204

204 **Pass-by**

205 Pass-by percentages should be obtained from the *ITE TRIP GENERATION HANDBOOK*.
206 The percentages are summarized in the *Rate vs Equation* spreadsheet on the
207 Congestion Management website.

208

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209 Pass-by percentages should only be applied to land uses numbered in the 800s and
210 900s.

211
212 For multi-use developments, pass-by percentages should be applied to the retail
213 component only. Total pass-by trips (sum of entering and exiting) should not exceed
214 10% of the volume on the adjacent street.

215 216 Diverted Trips

217 Diverted trips should only be estimated in a TIA if reliable data reporting the percentage
218 distribution of the three types of trips (primary, pass-by, and diverted trips) are available
219 for the land use being considered and the travel routes for diverted trips can be clearly
220 established. If these conditions cannot be met, the analyst should treat all non-pass-by
221 trips as primary trips.

222 223 224 Volume Balancing

225 All efforts should be made to ensure that upstream and downstream traffic volumes
226 along corridors balance and maintain continuity. If balanced volumes are not attainable,
227 explanation should be provided.

228
229 Documentation regarding the balancing methodology should be provided.

230
231

232 General Analysis

233 234 Analysis Scenarios

235 Analysis should normally be submitted for the following scenarios:

236

Scenario	TIA	TIP
Existing Base Year	When Specified in Scope	Yes
No-Build Design Year	Yes	Yes
Design Year Build without Improvements	Yes	N/A
Intermediate Years Build with Improvements for all Alternatives	When Specified in Scope	When Specified in Scope
Design Year Build with Improvements for all Alternatives	Yes	Yes
Ultimate Build*	When LOS concerns exist	N/A

237 * For TIAs, Unfunded Improvements may only be identified in Ultimate Build Analysis.

238

239 AM and PM Peak Hour analysis should be performed for all reports; explanation should
240 be provided for alternate time periods or to not perform an analysis for the AM or PM
241 peak. Laneage should be identical for all time periods within the same scenario. The
242 requirement to review other key analysis periods, such as a seasonal peak, lunch peak,

243 or weekend peak, should be discussed with NCDOT prior to completion of the traffic
244 analysis.

245
246 Signal phasing should remain consistent for all time periods. As an example, if split
247 phasing is used for the AM peak, it must be used for the PM peak. Changing the
248 phasing sequence such as altering left-turn phasing from leading left to lagging left is
249 dependent on the traffic signal controller equipment.

250
251

252 **Default Values**

253 The Base Saturation Flow Rate should be used in accordance with the *Highway*
254 *Capacity Manual* (HCM).

255
256 Lane Utilization Factors should be used in accordance with the HCM .

257
258 A Peak Hour Factor (PHF) of 0.90 should be used, which is a median value between
259 0.88 for Rural and 0.92 for Urban conditions listed in the HCM. If traffic counts have
260 been acquired, the resulting PHF may only be used for existing conditions. For
261 projected conditions, the PHF should be 0.90. Where schools are present, coordination
262 with the MSTA group is necessary due to the possible differences in the acceptable
263 PHF.

264
265 A total flow period of 60 minutes and a peak flow period of 15 minutes should be used.

266
267 If known actual conditions differ from analysis, the model should be calibrated to match
268 actual conditions.

269
270

271 **Signal Recommendations**

272 Monitoring for Signalization should be recommended when Peak Hour Warrants are
273 met. Poor LOS on a side street does not always result in a recommendation for
274 signalization if v/c ratios and queuing are acceptable.

275
276 The following list indicates when signals are less desirable:

- 277 • Strategic Highway Corridors
- 278 • In close proximity to other signals
- 279 • When the signal creates operational and queuing problems greater than it solves

280
281 When signals are warranted, every option to reduce phasing should be analyzed,
282 especially on a Strategic Highway Corridor.

283

284 **Lane Recommendations**

285 Lane continuity should be verified and should logically flow through the network of
286 intersections.

287

288 Recommended storage lane lengths should be provided for all exclusive turn lanes.
289 The 95th percentile queue from analysis or the maximum observed queue from a
290 simulation (whichever is larger) should be used to determine the storage lane length.
291 Queuing should not exceed the storage capacity of the approach. Full storage for
292 queue lengths should be rounded up to the nearest 25 feet with a minimum of 100 feet
293 for both right-turn and left-turn lanes. A default taper length of 100 feet should be
294 modeled for all added lanes unless specific taper lengths are known.
295

296 Recommendations where improvements are identified “by others” should clarify which
297 parties are to provide the additional improvements.
298

299 Dual Left Turns should be used cautiously due to:

- 300 • Turn Conflicts requiring split phasing
- 301 • Protected Phasing (see signal plans)
- 302 • Driveways in close proximity to the intersection on the receiving lanes can lead to
303 erratic movements
- 304 • Merges on the receiving lanes can create false capacity in the analysis
305

306 Dual Right Turns sharing a Through movement perform poorly in overlap and Right-
307 Turn-On-Red conditions.
308

309 Through Movements on highway ramps should not be combined with right turns for
310 three phase signals or standard diamond configurations. The through movement
311 should be shared with the left-turn lanes.
312

313 If an improvement is in place to demonstrate the impact of traffic, it is expected that the
314 improvement will be in place at construction. Mitigation dependent on unfunded or
315 uncommitted improvements provided by others are not acceptable.
316

317 **Measures of Effectiveness**

318 When performing analyses, providing an adequate overall intersection LOS alone is not
319 sufficient. Items such as queuing, individual movement level of service, and volume-to-
320 capacity ratio should be evaluated and addressed.
321

322 All poor levels of service and/or excessive queuing in the analyses should be
323 addressed. Additional measures of effectiveness beyond level of service should be
324 reported for near or over capacity conditions.
325
326
327

328 **Intersection Details**

329 **Signalized Intersections**

330 New Signals

331 If an intersection is not anticipated to be signalized but may warrant signalization within
332 five years of construction, both signalized and unsignalized analyses should be
333

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334 performed to ensure adequate lanes and storage are provided for both signalized and
335 unsignalized operations in the future. The recommended storage lane lengths should
336 reflect the maximum queue from both analyses.
337

338 Left-Turn Treatment

339 For analysis of future operations, use protected-only phasing not protected/permitted
340 phasing. This analysis will identify the required storage in the event that protected-only
341 phasing is necessary. In the design of the traffic signal, the use of protected/permitted
342 phasing may be allowed and is encouraged.
343

344 Intersections with combination through/left-turn lanes should have either permitted-only
345 left-turn treatment or split phase left-turn treatment for that approach. This is not a
346 recommended geometric configuration and should be avoided when possible.
347

348 Lane configuration for opposing side streets should match when possible to avoid driver
349 confusion (for example: avoid a combination through/left-turn and right-turn lane on one
350 approach opposite a combination through-right-turn and left-turn lane on the opposite
351 approach).
352

353 For analysis, generally use protected left-turn treatment instead of permitted when:

- 354 • Dual left-turn lanes are present
- 355 • Hourly volume exceeds 240 cars
- 356 • Left-turn lanes are crossing 3 or more opposing through lanes of traffic
- 357 • When a condition is satisfied in the table below:
358

Number of Opposing Lanes (Through and Right)	Condition
1	Left-Turn Volume * Opposing Volume > 50,000
2	Left-Turn Volume * Opposing Volume > 90,000
3 or more	Left-Turn Volume * Opposing Volume > 110,000

359 Right-Turn Treatment

360 For analysis of future operations, Right-Turn-On-Red (RTOR) operation should not be
361 included. To provide for a proper comparison, do not use RTOR for existing conditions.
362 In the design of the traffic signal RTOR may be allowed.
363
364

365 Use overlapping right-turn phasing where appropriate. Use of a shared through-right
366 turn lane limits the effectiveness of the right-turn overlap, especially where volumes
367 require dual right turns.
368

369 Coordinated Signal Systems

370 Multiple signalized intersections should be analyzed as a coordinated signal system.
371

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372 The coordinated phase should be the main street through movement (typically phases
 373 2+6) unless special circumstances dictate otherwise. For coordinated signals under
 374 recall, the usual condition will specify none for minor streets or movements.

375
 376 Cycle lengths for individual intersections in coordinated systems should be equal.
 377 Double or half cycles can be used if the minimum cycle lengths are accommodated.

378
 379 It should not be the intent at the planning stage of a project to fully design and optimize
 380 a coordinated traffic signal system.

381
 382 Signal Phasing and Timing
 383

Recommended Timing Settings*	
Timing Setting	Time (seconds)
Minimum Initial Green Time, Protected Left Turns and All Side Street Movements	7
Minimum Initial Green Time, Major Street Through Movements ≤ 35 mph	10
Minimum Initial Green Time, Major Street Through Movements 36-45 mph	12
Minimum Initial Green Time, Major Street Through Movements > 45 mph	14
Yellow Time*	5
All-Red Time*	2
Lost Time Adjustment (Synchro)	-2
Total Lost Time*	5
Minimum Split	Minimum Initial Green Time (or Pedestrian Walk + Clearance) + Yellow Time + All-Red Time

* Increase clearance and lost time as needed for large cross sections such as single point urban interchanges (SPUI).

384

Recommended Minimum Cycle Lengths by Phase	
Number of Phases	Minimum Recommended (seconds)**
2	60
3	90
4 or more*	120
Maximum recommended cycle length is 180, but circumstances may warrant cycle lengths up to 240 seconds.	

* Traffic Signal Timing Manual (FHWA) for planning level analysis.

** All cycle lengths should be rounded to the nearest 5 seconds.

385

386 Pedestrians should be considered and accommodated as appropriate. This can
387 include, but is not limited to: pedestrian phases, adequate pedestrian clearance, and
388 potential conflicts with phasing, such as overlapping phases.
389

390
391 **Unsignalized Intersections**

392 Based on the HCM LOS for unsignalized intersections is not defined as a whole, and
393 should only be reported for individual stop-controlled or yield movements.
394

395
396 **Roundabouts**

397 The design of a roundabout should be based on projected traffic 20 years after the
398 completion of construction. A flow-scale analysis determining the expected failure year
399 of the proposed roundabout based on a maximum v/c (degree of saturation) of 0.85
400 should be provided. A peak hour v/c greater than 0.85 in the future design year does
401 not absolutely remove a roundabout from consideration as a solution. Synchro should
402 not be used for analysis of roundabouts. SIDRA, HCS, or Vissim are currently the only
403 acceptable analysis tools for roundabouts in North Carolina.
404

405 If a dual-lane roundabout is needed for the design year, consider construction as a
406 single-lane roundabout designed for simple expansion to a dual-lane design.
407

408 The interaction between the proposed roundabout and adjacent intersections should be
409 considered. Roundabouts should not be constructed where queues from adjacent
410 intersections restrict the flow of vehicles leaving the roundabout.
411

412 For single-lane roundabout analysis, use a minimum 120 feet for the roundabout
413 diameter, with 16 foot lanes, and an 88 foot inside diameter. The speed of the
414 roundabout should be restricted to a maximum of 25 mph.
415

416
417 **Superstreets**

418 The main street should be analyzed as parallel one-way streets, rather than a single
419 facility, because each two-phase signal impacts only one direction of traffic on the main
420 street.
421

422 Median U-turn crossovers should be located approximately 800-1000 feet from the side-
423 street. Spacing may also be determined by the U-turn queuing.
424

425
426 **Alternate Intersections**

427 Consider alternate intersections as a possible solution when applicable, such as:

- 428 • Quadrant Left
- 429 • Continuous Flow Intersection

430
431

432 **Analysis Software**

433 For software to be acceptable it must be based on HCM methods.

434

435 System analysis software should be used for arterials and networks of multiple
 436 signalized and/or stop/yield-controlled intersections. Simulation software should be
 437 utilized to aid in determining storage lengths, verifying geometry and lane continuity,
 438 and to identify overall network operations. Analysis procedures utilizing gap acceptance
 439 methodology should be used for roundabout analysis.

440

Preferred Software*	
Item for Analysis	Useful Software
Multiple Intersections	Synchro
Isolated Signalized Intersections	Synchro
Isolated Unsignalized Intersections	Synchro, HCS
Simulation	SimTraffic, VISSIM, CORSIM
Roundabouts	SIDRA, VISSIM
Roadway Segment	HCS
Merge, Diverge, and Weave	HCS

* Use of alternate analysis software must be approved by NCDOT, however the above software is not specifically endorsed by NCDOT.

441

442 Turn lane storage lengths and node distances should be appropriately coded into the
 443 analysis files. Incorrect storage lengths or node/link distances may impact intersection
 444 operations during simulation.

445

446

447 **Synchro (version 7)**

448 Any approaches or movements whose 95th percentile queue lengths are flagged with “#”
 449 or “m” should be reviewed for improvements given there may be serious delay and
 450 queuing problems for this approach or in the vicinity. These problems will need to be
 451 addressed in order for the intersection to operate properly. In these cases, the Synchro
 452 output should be compared to the SimTraffic output and/or other analysis tools such as
 453 CORSIM, VISSIM, or the Red Time Formula. The Red Time Formula should only be
 454 used for protected phasing when operations are under capacity.

455

456 Intersection approaches should only be coded by cardinal directions (north, south, east,
 457 and west) as other approach directions (northeast, southeast, northwest, and
 458 southwest) may prevent Synchro from discerning turn movements from through
 459 movements resulting in inaccurate capacity and queuing results.

460

461 The analysis period “T” in Synchro should remain at the default of 15 minutes.

462

463 The absence of traffic volumes on some movements that are allowed at one or more
 464 intersections may cause Synchro to incorrectly calculate one or more movements as

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465 being prohibited. We recommend changing zero volume movements to four vehicles
466 per hour.

467
468 The link speed used in the analysis should represent the posted or proposed speed limit
469 of the actual roadway.

470
471 All link termini should extend a reasonable distance beyond the last node (typically 1000
472 feet) to ensure adequate queuing can be calculated in SimTraffic.

473
474 The “Coding Error Check” should be run in Synchro before finalizing the analysis, and
475 any errors or warnings should be justified or corrected prior to activating SimTraffic.

476
477 When analyzing superstreets Left- or U-turning movements that do not cross each other
478 should be modeled on separate links. On these short turn-only median links, the
479 “Simulation Left Turn Speed” entering the link and the link speed should be 10 mph
480 below the speed limit.

481
482 Nodes should be numbered in a logical order along the main route to facilitate review of
483 the results.

484

485

486 **SimTraffic**

487 Overall network operations should be reviewed during the simulation, and any
488 significant queuing, starvation, spillback, or gridlock should be addressed.

489
490 A SimTraffic “Queuing and Blocking Report” for the network should be included for
491 review.

492

493 All instances where the SimTraffic Maximum Queue length (maximum observed queue)
494 exceeds the Storage Bay Distance should be addressed. The SimTraffic Maximum
495 Queue or Synchro 95th Percentile Queue, whichever is higher, should be used in
496 determining recommended storage lane lengths. Excessive queuing indicated in
497 SimTraffic should be reviewed for appropriateness and possible unrealistic lane
498 blockages. The 95th percentile queue from SimTraffic should not be used.

499

500 Networks should be seeded for a period long enough to traverse the two most distant
501 points of the network including stops prior to recording. The suggested default seed
502 time is 10 minutes. The seeding time should also be longer than the maximum cycle
503 length used in the network. The recording interval duration used in SimTraffic should be
504 60 minutes unless otherwise justified.

505

506 It is unacceptable to retain a coded U-turn and Right-turn overlap conflict in Synchro.

507

508 Multiple simulation runs may be necessary. If multiple runs are performed the set of
509 seeding values should be consistent in all scenarios.

510

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HCS

Default Values

Operational analysis should be used to obtain levels of service.

Enter driver population factor $f_P = 1.00$, unless in a tourist area, then use 0.95.

Appropriate terrain should be used depending on location. In absence of local data, typical average grades can be approximated by the terrain shown:

	Freeway Grades**	Non-Freeway Grades**
Level	2% or less	3% or less
Rolling	Between 2% and 6%	Between 3% and 7%
Mountainous	6% or more *	7% or more *

522 * Mountainous terrain should be considered where heavy vehicles operate at crawl
523 speeds

524 ** Average grade for the entire facility should be used.

525

526 All truck/bus and RV equivalents (E_T or E_R) and similar calculated adjustments should
527 remain at HCM defaults.

528

529 The percentage of trucks should be based on where the traffic flow is heading towards
530 (e.g. ramps and weaving analyses).

531

532 If demand exceeds available capacity for any segment or junction analysis, LOS F
533 results for that segment or junction, but these oversaturated conditions could further
534 cause poor network operations for adjacent segments or junctions.

535

536 Use measured speeds if available. The Free Flow Speed (FFS) can be estimated when
537 measured field data is unavailable. Use the HCM methods for estimating FFS.

538

Freeway Weaving

540 Ramp-to-ramp volume (V_{B-D}) assumptions should be provided.

541

542 Truck and bus percentages should be based on the freeway/mainline value. Use the
543 higher percentage.

544

545 Check "Limitations on Weaving Segments" to ensure that none of the limitations
546 specified are exceeded. Where any limits are exceeded, consult the appropriate notes
547 near the bottom of the output. These situations should be eliminated where feasible
548 and addressed in the included report. HCS may provide values that are too short.

549

550 If $V_{FO} V_F$ or $V_R = \text{LOS F}$, the resultant density does not apply.

551

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552 Ramps and Ramp Junctions

553 Freeway Analysis should be performed for high speed ramp segments with two or more
554 lanes that begin/end as merge/diverge segments.

555
556 Typical Free Flow Speed for Ramps = 45 mph, and for Loops = 25 mph. These can be
557 adjusted as needed based upon designs if that information is available.

558
559 Freeway truck and bus percentages should be based on freeway/mainline values, and
560 ramp truck and bus percentages should be based on minor/crossing street values,
561 unless specific information is available.

562
563 If V_{12} or VR_{12} exceed the available capacity indicated, but the other capacity checks are
564 under capacity, the computed density and LOS A-E applies. If other or multiple capacity
565 checks are over capacity, LOS F results and any density values should not be indicated
566 in the results.

567
568 If a ramp section exceeds two lanes, assumptions for the analysis volume of the two
569 inside ramp lanes should be documented.

570
571 For circumstances where HCS Ramp and Ramp Junction analysis cannot be
572 performed, ramp operations should be evaluated based on volume-to-capacity ratios.

573 Multilane Highways

574 This methodology does not address highways that have one of the following categories:
575 Signal spacing of 2.0 miles or less, significant presence of on-street parking, heavily
576 used bus stops, or significant pedestrian activity. Facilities falling under one or more of
577 these categories may be analyzed and evaluated with the methodology of Urban
578 Streets (Synchro Arterials or HCS Arterials).

579
580
581 If the access point density is known, only access points that influence traffic flow should
582 be included; access points unnoticed by the driver or with little activity should not be
583 included. If no information is available for access points per mile use the following
584 table. If there is potential for a rural section to become suburban by the design year,
585 use the appropriate suburban value. This includes right-side only access points. For a
586 one-way roadway it is appropriate to include intersections and driveways on both sides
587 of the roadway. Existing and proposed driveways and intersections may be used where
588 known for specific conditions.

589

Section Description	Density (access points per mile)
Rural	8
Low Density Suburban	16
High Density Suburban	25

590

591 Two-lane Highways

592 This methodology does not address two-lane highways with signalized intersections.
593 Two-lane highways in urban and suburban areas with multiple signalized intersections

NCDOT Congestion Management Capacity Analysis Guidelines

594 at spacings of 2.0 miles or less can be evaluated with the methodology of Urban Streets
595 (HCS Arterials or Synchro Arterials).

596
597 Class I highways are primary US/NC highways, primary arterials, or daily commuter
598 routes that serve long-distance trips where mobility is critical. Class II highways are
599 access routes to Class I highways, local roads, or scenic routes that serve relatively
600 short trips where mobility is less critical. Use caution when analyzing Class I highways
601 with low speed limits as low levels of service may result solely based on lower travel
602 speeds.

603
604 Enter 100% no passing zones unless the presence of passing zones is known.

605
606
607 **Sidra**
608 Sidra roundabout analysis submittals should include the Movement Summary table in
609 addition to the digital data file. A flow scale estimate should be used to project the
610 failure year of a roundabout.

611
612

613 **Links**

614
615 Congestion Management Section
616 <https://connect.ncdot.gov/resources/safety/Pages/Congestion-Management.aspx>

617
618 Municipal and School Transportation Assistance Section
619 <https://connect.ncdot.gov/municipalities/School/Pages/default.aspx>

620
621 Strategic Highway Corridors
622 <https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/planning/pages/NCTransportationNetwork.aspx>

623
624 TIP Projects
625 <https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/planning/Pages/default.aspx>

626
627 Traffic Volume Maps (AADT)
628 <http://www.ncdot.gov/travel/statemapping/trafficvolumemaps/default.html>

629
630 Comprehensive Transportation Plans
631 [https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/planning/pages/comprehensive-transportation-](https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/planning/pages/comprehensive-transportation-plans.aspx)
632 [plans.aspx](https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/planning/pages/comprehensive-transportation-plans.aspx)

633
634 **Please note that links may change.**