

TRAFFIC CENSUS EXPLANATIONS

Explanation of AADTs

AADT – Annual Average Daily Traffic are traffic volumes estimates representing the average value of daily traffic over the course of a year.

Back annual average daily traffic (AADT) usually represents traffic South or West of the count location and is the total volume for the year divided by 365 days.

Ahead annual average daily traffic (AADT) usually represents traffic North or East of the count location and is the total volume for the year divided by 365 days.

Do not double the counts because these numbers capture both directions of traffic. The counts are taken at a location on the highway for both directions of travel.

Peak Hour usually represents an estimate of the "rush hour" traffic which usually occurs between 7 and 8 AM, and between 5 and 6 PM. Peak Hour values indicates the volume in both directions. In urban and suburban areas, the peak hour normally occurs every weekday. On roads with large seasonal fluctuations in traffic, the peak hour is the hour near the maximum for the year but excluding a few (30 to 50 hours) that are exceedingly high and are not typical of the frequency of the high hours occurring during the season.

Peak Month ADT is the average daily traffic for the month of heaviest traffic flow, usually July or August. This data is obtained because on many routes, high traffic volumes which occur during a certain season of the year are more representative of traffic conditions than the annual ADT.

MADT Monthly Average Daily Traffic, representing the average daily volume over the course of a given month.

Ramp ADT Ramp Average Daily Traffic, the average value of daily ramp traffic over the course of a year.

Explanation of AADTTs

AADTT – Annual Average Daily Truck Traffic. Annual average daily truck traffic is the total truck traffic volume divided by 365 days. Truck traffic is classified by number of axles. The two-axle class includes 11/2-ton trucks with dual rear tires and excludes pickups and vans with only four tires

Explanation of Legs:

Highway segments are defined according to postmile designation, which is a location on the state highway system. Counts are taken ahead or in back of a given location on the state highway system. There are also legs assigned to on-ramps and off-ramps, and other count locations. The legs are listed below.

A = ahead leg

B = back leg

S = cross street

N = on-ramp

F = off-ramp

O = equal traffic volume for back and ahead legs

X = interchange (with counts collected in the middle of the interchange).

Postmile – Reference values used to establish relative locations along highways in terms of miles and their fractions.

Postmile Prefix - New postmile values are assigned whenever a length of highway is changed due to construction or realignment. To differentiate the new values from the old, an alpha code is added prefixing the postmile for new values.

Postmile Prefix Codes

L- Overlap postmile

M- Realignment of R mileage

N- Realignment of M mileage

R- First realignment

S- Spur

T- Temporary connection

Traffic Volume – Count or estimate of the number of vehicles passing a given point on a road in a given period of time.

Traffic Count – Tally of vehicles passing a given point on a roadway in a given period of time.

Types of Counts

The Traffic Census Program measures traffic volumes, vehicle classification, and weigh-in-motion. Volumes and classification are measured on a continuous, short-term, and quarterly basis. Continuous counts and quarterly counts are referred to collectively as control counts.

Types, Duration, and Frequency of Census Program Counts

1. Continuous Monthly
2. Control: Seven-day period on a quarterly rotation (every third month, for example, October-January-April-July) every three years (a three year rotating schedule)
3. Profile: Sample, typically for a seven-day period every three years
4. Ramp: Seven-day period every three years
5. Classification: Seven-day period or continuous
6. Quarterly/Rotation: (for example, October-January-April-July) every three years
7. Cross-Street: Minimum 48 hours every 10 years

GIS Geospatial Technology Branch provides Traffic Census AADT and AADTTs in a zipped shapefile format .