

APPENDIX A

Glossary of Traffic Engineering Terms

APPENDIX A: GLOSSARY OF TRAFFIC ENGINEERING TERMS

Term	Definition
Link	A network link represents a specific, one-directional section of roadway. A link has both physical (length, number of lanes, topology, etc.) and operational (turn movement percentages, service rate, free-flow speed) characteristics.
Measures of Effectiveness	Statistics describing traffic operations on a roadway network
Node	A network node generally represents an intersection of network links. A node has control characteristics, i.e., the allocation of service time to each approach link.
Origin	A location attached to a network link, within the EPZ or shadow area, where trips are generated at a specified rate in vehicles per hour (vph). These trips enter the roadway system to travel to their respective destinations.
Network	A graphical representation of the geometric topology of a physical roadway system, which is comprised of directional links and nodes.
Prevailing roadway and traffic conditions	Relates to the physical features of the roadway, the nature (e.g., composition) of traffic on the roadway and the ambient conditions (weather, visibility, pavement conditions, etc.)
Service Rate	Maximum rate at which vehicles, executing a specific turn maneuver, can be discharged from a section of roadway at the prevailing conditions, expressed in vehicles per second (vps) or vehicles per hour (vph).
Service Volume	Maximum number of vehicles which can pass over a section of roadway in one direction during a specified time period with operating conditions at a specified Level of Service (The Service Volume at the upper bound of Level of Service, E, equals Capacity). Service Volume is usually expressed as vehicles per hour (vph).
Signal Cycle Length	The total elapsed time to display all signal indications, in sequence. The cycle length is expressed in seconds.
Signal Interval	A single combination of signal indications. The interval duration is expressed in seconds. A signal phase is comprised of a sequence of signal intervals.
Signal Phase	A set of signal indications (and intervals) which services a particular combination of traffic movements on selected approaches to the intersection. The phase duration is expressed in seconds.

Term	Definition
Traffic (Trip) Assignment	A process of assigning traffic to paths of travel in such a way as to satisfy all trip objectives (i.e., the desire of each vehicle to travel from a specified origin in the network to a specified destination) and to optimize some stated objective or combination of objectives. In general, the objective is stated in terms of minimizing a generalized "cost". For example, "cost" may be expressed in terms of travel time.
Traffic Density	The number of vehicles that occupy one lane of a roadway section of specified length at a point in time, expressed as vehicles per mile (vpm).
Traffic (Trip) Distribution	A process for determining the destinations of all traffic generated at the origins. The result often takes the form of a Trip Table, which is a matrix of origin-destination traffic volumes.
Traffic Simulation	A computer model designed to replicate the real-world operation of vehicles on a roadway network, so as to provide statistics describing traffic performance. These statistics are called Measures of Effectiveness.
Traffic Volume	The number of vehicles that pass over a section of roadway in one direction, expressed in vehicles per hour (vph). Where applicable, traffic volume may be stratified by turn movement.
Travel Mode	Distinguishes between private auto, bus, rail, pedestrian and air travel modes.
Trip Table or Origin-Destination Matrix	A rectangular matrix or table, whose entries contain the number of trips generated at each specified origin, during a specified time period, that are attracted to (and travel toward) each of its specified destinations. These values are expressed in vehicles per hour (vph) or in vehicles.
Turning Capacity	The capacity associated with that component of the traffic stream which executes a specified turn maneuver from an approach at an intersection.