



# **Final Report**

to the

# CENTER FOR MULTIMODAL SOLUTIONS FOR CONGESTION MITIGATION (CMS)

CMS Project Number: <u>CMS # 2010-017</u>

CMS Project Title: Enhancement of a Network Analysis Tool to Accommodate Multiple Construction Work Zone Analysis (Initial Investigation)

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#### ABSTRACT

A major issue in transportation projects is capacity reduction due to lane closures. Calculating capacity for a specific project can be done using information from the Highway Capacity Manual, but how often should a lane closure be expected is still not well studied. In this preliminary research project, we present the percentages that a lane closure can be expected in highway resurfacing projects and in major bridge projects, such as replacement and structural improvements. These values, combined with the capacity of the highway segment and the traffic demand can show us if during construction there will be traffic delays. Further research needs to be made to validate and expand this study.

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The objective of this project is to assess the feasibility of developing an analysis tool that will assist transportation planners in performing analyses of the impact of planned highway construction projects on regional highway networks. Calculating capacity for a specific project can be done using from the Highway Capacity Manual, but how often should a lane closure be expected is still not well studied. The ability to analyze multiple construction projects within a region will significantly improve congestion management capabilities.

Data on highway lane closures for a period for one year was obtained from the Florida Department of Transportation District 2 Information Office. The projects were broken into three categories, lane resurfacing, bridge repair and ramp resurfacing. For each project, the traffic movements were identified and all traffic closures were recorded. Two closure options were available per movement, totally closed and detoured, or single lane closed; while three time periods were available for closures, closed indefinitely, closed daily, and closed nightly. This created six unique closure possibilities for each movement.

From this information we calculated the probability that a closure will occur on any given day on a highway construction project. For example a state road resurfacing project requires that the road being resurfaced have a single lane closed either daily or nightly in each direction of travel for 41% to 62% of the project duration with an average of 53% and a standard deviation of 8.1%. In the case of major bridge work, the average value for a lane closure is 68.4% of the project's duration with a standard deviation of 13.7%. The initial results from ramp closures did not lend themselves well to this analysis method. This is a preliminary study and a more in depth analysis is needed to validate these results.

Knowing the amount of time we can expect a closure for a given project type can help us to understand what type of congestion, if any will be caused by it, and what type of advisory to the public is needed. Based on current traffic counts of roadway demand and Highway Capacity Manual methods for predicting capacity reductions it is possible to predict the severity of traffic impacts from closures. This, combined with our expected closure probabilities makes it possible to predict these impacts on any given day. This can be expanded to multiple projects within a localized highway network. For example if two projects, X and Y, are in the same network and we know that there is a 50% probability of a single lane closure on project X for any given day, and a 6% probability of a bridge closure on project Y for any given day then the probability of a traffic impact is 56%. Furthermore, we can predict a 3% chance of closures on both projects and the resulting traffic impacts.

From this research it is possible and we recommend constructing a continuous probability curve based upon multiple overlapping probabilities that can predict the probability of a traffic impact and the capacity reduction caused by construction in the network on any particular day. This would allow the designer to identify when, where and how likely impacts are to occur. This type of analysis lends itself particularly well to analysis by computer software and simulation.

#### CHAPTER 1 BACKGROUND

#### SUMMARY OF PROBLEM

Roadway construction and maintenance is unavoidable if we are to provide the best possible transportation infrastructure. However, these activities which appear to be on-going, can contribute to non-recurring congestion. Transportation planners recognize highway construction projects as a source of congestion and to the extent possible include estimates of construction congestion in planning forecast. However there are significant limitations to current practice. First, rather than a single project, multiple projects typically exist simultaneously within a geographic area. The traffic impacts of multiple projects may not be independent. Secondly, coarse categorization of construction projects does not permit identification of important project characterization significantly effecting congestion. Highway construction projects are generally performed in a series of phases in accordance with the project Traffic Control Plan. Therefore the impact on congestion is dependent upon the specific project construction/TCP phase underway.

In order to manage the renewal of our transportation infrastructure, it is essential that transportation planners and engineers have tools by which they can analyze the impact of multiple construction projects in a geographic region. Currently no analysis tools exist for adequately analyzing the impact multiple highway construction projects. Transportation planners have some flexibility with regard to the sequencing construction projects. The potential for mitigating construction congestion exists with improved analysis tools. Current state of the art modeling tools do not adequately address these issues.

#### **RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE**

The objective of this project is to assess the feasibility of developing an analysis tool that will assist transportation planners in performing analyses of the impact of planned highway construction projects on regional highway networks. The ability to analyze multiple construction projects within a region will significantly improve congestion management capabilities. This expected research outcome supports the goal of congestion mitigation at the local, state and national levels.

# Task 2 - Develop basic construction/TCP modeling logic for the most common construction project types

DOTs typically classify projects using standard project type codes. For example the FDOT assigns each type of project a work mix code. Given the project type code and the planned duration, construction/TCP phases can be modeled and the resulting traffic impacts over the life of the project can be modeled. The first step in this task will be to develop a short list of the most common project types to be modeled. This will be accomplished by performing an analysis of the FDOT's project statistics. The project types will be selected based upon frequency and the potential impact on transportation capacity. Our preliminary thinking is that a manageable list would be limited to not more than 10 project types for the purposes of this study.

The research team will determine a representative MOT phasing for each project type. This will be developed in consultation with FDOT and consultant MOT design engineers, and construction managers. We expect to review MOT phasing and construction schedules on several projects for each project type. Given the project MOT phasing, project location and roadway, estimates of project impacts on capacity will be developed. To the extent possible we will utilize existing guidelines/method/algorithms for determining the effects of work zones on roadway capacity. The result of task 2 is expected to be a matrix and flowchart graphical representation of the logic.

#### **Task 5- Prepare and Submit Final Report**

The research team will prepare and submit for review and approval a Final Report fully documenting the research effort. The report will be with the intended reader in mind. The report format and organization will adhere to the required CMS standards. The services of a technical editor will be used to insure editorial quality. The report will be useful to organizations that desire to improve planning and management of construction related highway congestion.

#### **Original Scope**

In order to manage the renewal of our transportation infrastructure, it is essential that transportation planners and engineers have tools by which they can analyze the impact of multiple construction projects in a geographic region. Currently no analysis tools exist for adequately analyzing the impact multiple highway construction projects. Transportation planners have some flexibility with regard to the sequencing construction projects. The potential for mitigating construction congestion exists with improved analysis tools. Current state of the art modeling tools do not adequately address these issues. The objective of this project is to develop a highway network analysis tool that is capable of accounting for the effects of multiple construction projects throughout the network, each with varying durations and phasing plans.

The project will review current software applications to determine which provides the best opportunity for this development. Those to be preliminarily considered include Cube Voyager and XXE. XXE is a software application previously developed by Drs. Washburn and Fred Mannering. An evaluation of the merits of each application will be conducted to determine which of the two, or a combination, offers the best opportunity for enhancement. The research team will expand the selected application to permit the inclusion of work zones within the network. The mathematical programming will be revised to accommodate the desired program enhancements, including user interfaces. Additional refinements will allow work zones to be characterized with regard to traffic impacts resulting from the construction activity and Traffic Control Plan (TCP) phase. Given the project type and the planned duration, construction/TCP phases can be modeled and the resulting traffic impacts over the life of the project can be analyzed.

The expected final result of this project is an analysis tool, in a software program format, that is capable of accounting for the impacts of multiple construction work zones on regional highway networks, in terms of standard highway network performance measures, such as vehicle/person-miles traveled, vehicle/person-hours traveled, delay, etc. Such a capability will be the first of its kind and will allow for performing an analysis of the impact of planned highway construction projects on regional highway networks.

#### **Revised Scope**

Initial external reviews of the original proposal expressed support for the project goals and for the software development activities. However, there was some concern with regard to the feasibility of developing the construction/TCP modeling logic for the most common construction project types (Task 2). After a careful review of the review comments and the preliminary literature review, the project PIs now propose to undertake Task 2 as the scope this initial development project. If Task 2 can be successfully developed, hopefully support for the entire project can be obtained.

The expected result of the revised scope are a list of more frequent FDOT projects and a preliminary study on frequency of lane closure of some of these types of highway projects.

#### CHAPTER 2 RESEARCH APPROACH

# LITERATURE REVIEW

Through literature review, we have identified characteristics of different work zone configurations, i.e. partial lane closures, crossovers, and temporary closures, as well as different work schedules, i.e. weekend work, night work, day work. We have also identified the most common transportation project as shown in table 2-1 (I):

WMC	Description
0002	New road construction
0005	Flexible pavement reconstruction
0012	Resurfacing
0121	Multilane reconstruction
0213	Add lanes & reconstruction
0217	Rigid pavement reconstruction
0218	Add lanes & rehabilitate pavement
0221	Widen/Resurface existing lanes

 Table 2-1. Most common transportation projects

The measurements taken by other researchers are for the most part the following: speed, before, during and after the work zone, queue length and volume data (2, 3, and 4). Other authors have taken into account work intensity, weather, and familiarity of users (5).

Another important aspect is how well informed are the users (7). In a six lane, 50 year old, 26.3 km segment of I-70 near Long Beach, CA being rebuilt with long-life asphalt concrete, major congestion was avoided by informing users. The work was performed during the weekend and the public was informed through different methods of potential delays. The authors reported a 39% reduction in average demand and as the project advance, traffic demand increased but no congestion was observed. As a comparison, a project on I-65 in Indiana (8) required traffic to be stopped to place bridge beams for a new overpass and there were no announcement made or signs posted on the highway. The authors of this study reported delays of up to 31.2 minutes and queue lengths of up to 3.1 miles. This project was also done during weekdays.

The common factors found in the literature to calculate work zones capacity are:

- 1. Speed before, during and after work zone
- 2. Entrance and exit ramps volume
- 3. Number of lanes closed vs. number of total lanes

- 4. Crossover lanes
- 5. Time of day of work performed
- 6. Weekday vs. weekend
- 7. Original traffic capacity
- 8. Queue length
- 9. Type of work preformed

Other factors that we have identified through literature review are short-term work zones (9, 10) and how they affect the capacity. Data was classified based upon the total number of lanes and how many were closed during construction working hours. Other items considered are ramps within the working zone, entrance and exits ramps, and other factors already considered in our study.

Other studies from different states such as Texas (9), Iowa (11) and North Carolina (12) can help us identify commonalities and differences that arise from work zones in different locations. Furthermore, the locations not only refer to different states but also differences between rural and urban areas (13). The effects of these locations will be further discussed in the final report.

#### When to reduce capacity in work zones

Per the Highway Capacity Manual (15), capacity is calculated per lane and then added up to calculate the total capacity of the highway segment. Capacity for normal work conditions is 1,600 vehicles per hour, per lane. Downstream on-ramps traffic is deducted from the calculated capacity to account for entering traffic while traffic entering on ramps located 1,500 ft or more upstream of the work zone is not included when calculating capacity.

The capacity per lane in the work zone is not affected during non-working hours (13). Furthermore, the capacity of the lanes that are not adjacent to the work area is not affected. For lanes not adjacent to the work zone and for non-working hours, the capacity can be assumed to be the normal capacity of the segment when there is no construction present.

#### When to expect lane closures

First we need to differentiate between partial closure and crossover. Partial closure is when one lane is closed in one direction and no disruption is caused in the other direction; crossover is when one direction of travel is completely closed and the traffic is diverted to use lanes in the opposing direction of travel(4).

Our preliminary literature review of highway projects lane closures, crossovers and detours, found that lane closures occur about 30% of the time when rebuilding or replacing concrete pavement (14).

The following data was obtained from the Ohio Department of Transportation (16):

- During bridge replacements project detours occur about 35% of the time throughout the duration of the project.
- Bridge closures for repair occur about 57% of the total construction time.

• Rehabilitation projects have a 20% of closure time during the total construction time.

#### **Data Collection**

Different projects require different analysis of capacity reduction depending on lane closures, detours, type of projects, length of the project, etc. We have studied data for resurfacing projects that required lane closures at some point during the project duration to determine a generalized formula that can provide a better prediction of when to expect that a lane closure may occur on this type of project.

Data was obtained from the Florida Department of Transportation District 2 Information Office. The data consisted of weekly public notices on road and lane closures listed by project in the Jacksonville area. A one year period was observed from June 13, 2009 to June 12, 2010(17). Some projects have less than a 365 day observation period because the project was either completed before the observation period ended, or the project began after the start of the observation period. Table 2-2 shows District 2 projects used for this study.

Project Name	<b>Observed Period</b>
	(days)
I-10 resurfacing and widening project between Lane Ave. and Hallsema	365
Rd.	
Branan Field Chaffe Road, SR 23 Extension between I-10 and 103 St.	99
I-95/SR 9A East interchange reconstruction near JIA	365
J. Turner Butler Blvd widening between Kernan Blvd. and San Pablo Rd.	307
SR 9A/Heckschuer Dr. interchange	160
SR A1A resurfacing project between 9th Ave N and Duvall/St. Johns	192
County line	
Atlantic Blvd/ SR A1A resurfacing from Mayport Rd. to 9th Ave.	192
SR A1A resurfacing from Mayport Rd. to Ferry Landing	173
SR A1A traffic signal improvement from 7th St. to NAS airport	97
US 17/Doctors Inlet bridge widening	365
US 17th resurfacing between CR 220 and Creighton Rd.	180
I-95 interchange modification at CR 210	311
Black Creek Bridge replacement on SR 21 in Middleburgh	341
Broward Bridge repainting project	118
Heart Bridge repainting and structural repair	365
I-10 pavement improvements between Stockton St. and Lane Ave.	328

Table 2-2. Florida District 2 highway projects

#### CHAPTER 3 FINDINGS AND APPLICATIONS

For each project, the traffic movements were identified and all traffic movement closures were recorded. Two closure options were available per movement, totally closed and detoured, or single lane closed; while three time periods were available for closures, closed indefinitely, closed daily, and closed nightly. This created six unique closure possibilities for each movement.

The number of days a particular closure type occurred was totaled for each traffic movement in each project. Based on the total number of days a particular closure occurred and the 365 day observation period it was possible to calculate the percentage of days that the closure occurred. For example a state road resurfacing project requires that the road being resurfaced have a single lane closed either daily or nightly in each direction of travel for 41% to 62% of the project duration.

#### **RESURFACING PROJECTS**

For this report, we have narrowed down the closures to single lane closures either during the day or night in resurfacing projects. From the data collected table 3-1 shows the projects that are part of our study:

			single closed	e lane l daily	single closed	e lane nightly	single may be nigl	lanes closed htly
	I-10 Resurfacing and Widening Project between Lane Ave. and Hallsema Rd.	Total Days	Days	%	Days	%	Days	%
	I-10 both directions various locations Chaffe road both directions	365 365	0	0.0% 0.0%	0 21	0.0% 5.8%	226 130	61.9% 35.6%
	SRA1A Resurfacing Project between 9th Ave N and Duvall/St.Johns County line	Total Days	Days	%	Days	%	Days	%
	NB SB	192 192	0	0.0% 0.0%	116 108	60.4% 56.3%	0 0	0.0% 0.0%
1	Atlantic Blvd/ A1A Resurfacing from Mayport rd to 9th Ave	Total Days	Days	%	Days	%	Days	%
	NB SB	192 192	65 65	33.9% 33.9%	26 26	13.5% 13.5%	0 0	0.0% 0.0%
I	SR A1A Resurfacing from Mayport rd to Ferry Landing	Total Days	Days	%	Days	%	Days	%

#### Table 3-1. Resurfacing projects lane closure data

NB	173	78	45.1%	20	11.6%	0	0.0%
SB	173	77	44.5%	21	12.1%	0	0.0%

Table 3-2 summarizes the values obtained when calculating the total percentage of closures:

I-10 Resurfacing and Wide Ave. and H	ening Project between Lane allsema Rd.	Total % of lane closure
	I-10 both directions	61.9%
	Chaffe Rd both directions	41.4%
SR A1A Resurfacing Proj Duvall/St. Joh	ect between 9th Ave N and ns County line	Total % of lane closure
	NB	60.4%
	SB	56.3%
Atlantic Blvd/ A1A Resurf 9th	facing from Mayport Rd to Ave	Total % of lane closure
	NB	47.4%
	SB	47.4%
SR A1A Resurfacing fro Lan	Total % of lane closure	
	NB	56.6%
	SB	56.6%

 Table 3-2. Resurfacing projects percentage of lane closure

If we average these values we obtain 53.1% of the time there will be a lane closure with a standard deviation of 8.1%. This value needs to be further analyzed using data from more projects, preferably from different DOTs around the country.

Most of these closures occurred at night with only one project, SR A1A Resurfacing from Mayport Rd to Ferry Landing, having the majority of closures occurring during the day. Only one project, SR A1A Resurfacing Project between 9<sup>th</sup> Ave N and Duvall/St. Johns County line, shows a difference in frequency of closures based on direction of travel. All other projects were closed an equal amount of time in both directions of travel even though the closures did not necessarily occur at the same time.

#### **BRIDGE PROJECTS**

For the year 2009, table 3-3 summarizes three bridge projects that, due to the complexity of the work, had nightly or daily closures. These are:

			Single la da	ane closed aily	single lane closed nightly		
US 17/Do	octors inlet bridge widening	Total Days	Days	%	Days	%	
	NB	365	0	0.0%	281	77.0%	
	SB	365	0	0.0%	329	90.1%	
Black Creel	S Bridge replacement on SR21 in Middleburgh	Total Days	Days	%	Days	%	
	NB	341	0	0.0%	200	58.7%	
	SB	341	0	0.0%	175	51.3%	
Heart Brid	ge Repainting and Structural Repair	Total Days	Days	%	Days	%	
	NB	365	244	66.8%	0	0.0%	
	SB	365	243	66.6%	0	0.0%	

#### Table 3-3. Bridge projects lane closures

In the case of major bridge work, the average value for closure of a lane is 68.4% of the project's duration with a standard deviation of 13.7%. As with the resurfacing data, a more in depth analysis is needed to validate these results.

#### **USE OF DATA**

Knowing the amount of time we can expect a closed lane in a resurfacing project can help us to understand what type of congestion, if any will be cause by it, and what type of advisory to the public is needed. DOTs conduct traffic counts prior to the start of a project to obtain the current roadway demand. This data combined with the capacity of the roadway, 1,600 veh/hr/lane, can assist us in predicting congestion due to the closure of a lane. This is achieved by calculating the new expected capacity after the lane is closed and comparing it to the expected traffic count made by the DOT. Furthermore, now that we know the probability of a road closure during a resurfacing project from based upon the data collected in this research, we can estimate the expected effect the closure will have in the regular traffic of the area. For example, if we have a two lane road that is to be resurfaced in both directions, with a non-construction capacity of 3,200 veh/hr and one lane is to be closed, the capacity of the open lane is reduced about 15% from its previous capacity of 1,600 veh/hr to 1,360 veh/hr. This combined with the other lane being closed lowers the total capacity of the road form 3,200 veh/hr to 1,360 veh/per If the traffic count for this road is of 1,400 veh/hr, we have created a congestion problem in an area that previously did not have a congestion problem. This problem has a roughly 53% chance of impacting traffic on any given day during the project duration.

#### CHAPTER 4 CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTED RESEARCH

#### CONCLUSIONS

This research investigated the feasibility of predicting and modeling traffic impacts caused by multiple roadway construction projects on a localized roadway network. It was hypothesized that by knowing the quantity, type and duration of construction projects in a network, that it is possible to predict the probability of a traffic impact. Our research has shown that this is a feasible method.

The data was broken into 3 categories, ramps, bridges and lanes; lane data showed the most consistency within the data collected. On average, lane closures were needed for 53.1% of a project duration, with a standard deviation of 8.1%. This method also worked well for bridges but was not as consistent in the data collected as lane closures; bridges had a 68.4% probability of a lane closure with a 13% standard deviation. This method did not work well for individual ramps closures. Using a method based on total days appeared to be more appropriate with individual ramp closures; however, it may be possible to calculate ramp closures for the entire project based on probabilities and project duration.

For any given project it is therefore possible to predict the probability of each type of closure on any given day. This can be expanded to multiple projects all within a local network. For example if two projects, X and Y, are in the same network and we know that there is a 50% probability of a single lane closure on project X for any given day, and a 6% probability of a bridge closure on project Y for any given day then the probability of a traffic impact is 56%. Furthermore, we can predict a 3% chance of closures on both projects and the resulting traffic impacts. It is possible to construct a continuous probability curve based upon multiple overlapping probabilities that can predict the probability of a traffic impact caused by construction in the network on any particular day.

This methodology can be further be developed to predict the impact and severity of a traffic impact in addition to the mere likely hood of an impact occurring. Based on the architecture of the roadway and the Highway Capacity Manual it is possible to predict the reduction in capacity for each particular closure type. Knowing the actual traffic counts from each project roadway allows the actual traffic to be compared to the capacity in the event of an impact. This would allow the designer to identify when, where and how likely impacts are to occur. This type of analysis lends itself particularly well to analysis by computer software and simulation.

#### RECOMENDATIONS

It is recommended that more data be gathered to create a data set large enough to provide reliable confidence intervals for the probability of each closure type based on project. Next a computer model should be formulated to predict traffic impacts based on the probability of a closure, roadway architecture and Highway Capacity Manual methods. This computer model should be tested and validated based upon actual traffic impacts to a roadway network during construction.

### **FUTURE RESEARCH**

Research is needed to identify what types of projects are the best candidates to model using this method. Future research is also needed to identify real world complications that alter the results of the computer model.

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# APPENDIX A – CONSTRUCTION DELAYS DATA

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			1.10 Beautiful frameworks i station of a full days for 2 of Alexies i bernares i stree days and tai file and a	
Date	F10 both directions various locations	Chaffe road both directions	daffe colsbart i Lüne form 26 to i Lüne forman 26 to i Lüne formannessen i Lüne formannessen i Lüne formanness derctors ja an Am Veram and Chaffer (soli and an Am and Chaffer of Chiffer and America and America 2019). 2019 derctors i Lan Am Verama and Chaffer (soli and an Am and Chaffer of Chiffer and America and America 2019).	DEB to Rearph-LDWB to Rempfror H285 SB to I Rampfrom Maintta to Chaffe LDWB Cahoon road
Tuesday, January 05, 2010 Wednesday, January 06, 2010	**	***		
Thursday, January 07, 2010 Friday, January 08, 2010	*			
Saturday, January 09, 2010 Sunday, January 10, 2010	8	*0		
Monday, January LL, 2010 Tuesday, January L2, 2010	• •	10 10 11		
Weinesday, January 13, 2010 Thursday, January 14, 2010	~ ~		••	
Filday, January 15, 2010 Saturday, January 16, 2010				
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Wednesday, February 10, 2010				
Friday, February 12, 2010	•	0		
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