



Study Title

Evaluation of Existing
Transportation Demand
Management Calculators

Brief Type

Final

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Study Timeline

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Principal Investigators

Walter Scheib
Advanced Mobility Strategist V
Felsburg, Holt, & Ullevig
Walter.Scheib@fhueg.com

Ian Kilpatrick
Planner IV
Felsburg, Holt, & Ullevig
Ian.Kilpatrick@fhueg.com

CDOT Contact Info Study Champions

Thomas Joyce
Mobility Services Project
Coordinator, Office of Innovative
Mobility
Thomas.Joyce@state.co.us

Project Manager

Thomas Joyce
Mobility Services Project
Coordinator, Office of Innovative
Mobility

Research Manager

Bryan Roeder
Office of Applied Research
Bryan.Roeder@state.co.us

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What Makes a Good Transportation Demand Management Calculator?

Study Objectives

The study evaluates existing Transportation Demand Management (TDM) calculators on their interface, format, directions, methodology, validity, and versatility.

Background

TDM is becoming increasingly important to mitigate the negative effects of the transportation system. To achieve CDOT and the State's goals around Greenhouse Gas Reduction, mode shift, reducing congestion, and improving safety, TDM strategies will need to be utilized at the local and state level. However, the impact of these strategies can be difficult to capture. Many states, nonprofits, and the federal government have created tools to measure the impact of TDM strategies. This report looks to evaluate those calculators and identify best practices for a future CDOT TDM calculator.

Methods

This study identified seventeen TDM calculators in use around the country. These calculators were evaluated on their interface, format, directions, methodology, validity, and versatility. The study then conducted two rounds of interviews. The first round was with some of the jurisdictions currently using these calculators to understand what went into creating a calculator and how it is currently being used. The second round focused on local Colorado stakeholders to understand if and how they would use a potential calculator.

Results

There is not currently an existing calculator that meets all Colorado's needs. Rather, different elements of different calculators can be combined to create a statewide calculator that best fits Colorado's needs.

Research Benefits

The evaluation of existing TDM calculators provides a survey of what is currently in use by a variety of jurisdictions. This report highlights best practices for creating future TDM calculators. This study also illustrates current limitations of existing calculators.

Recommendations for Implementation/ Next Steps

While no current calculator fulfills CDOT's needs, this study recommends CDOT moves forward with creating its own statewide TDM calculator. CDOT will take the recommendations of this study and begin creating a statewide TDM calculator. The creation of the calculator will combine existing best practices identified in the study with stakeholders' feedback. CDOT is hoping to launch a pilot calculator in the summer of 2026.