

Appendix A

Level of Service (LOS) Description Signalized Intersections

The capacity of an urban street is related primarily to the signal timing and the geometric characteristics of the facility as well as to the composition of traffic on the facility. Geometrics are a fixed characteristic of a facility. Thus, while traffic composition may vary somewhat over time, the capacity of a facility is generally a stable value that can be significantly improved only by initiating geometric improvements. A traffic signal essentially allocates time among conflicting traffic movements that seek to use the same space. The way in which time is allocated significantly affects the operation and the capacity of the intersection and its approaches.

The methodology for signalized intersection is designed to consider individual intersection approaches and individual lane groups within approaches. A lane group consists of one or more lanes on an intersection approach. The outputs from application of the method described in the HCM 2010 are reported on the basis of each lane. For a given lane group at a signalized intersection, three indications are displayed: green, yellow and red. The red indication may include a short period during which all indications are red, referred to as an all-red interval and the yellow indication forms the change and clearance interval between two green phases.

The methodology for analyzing the capacity and level of service must consider a wide variety of prevailing conditions, including the amount and distribution of traffic movements, traffic composition, geometric characteristics, and details of intersection signalization. The methodology addresses the capacity, LOS, and other performance measures for lane groups and the intersection approaches and the LOS for the intersection as a whole.

Capacity is evaluated in terms of the ratio of demand flow rate to capacity (v/c ratio), whereas LOS is evaluated on the basis of control delay per vehicle (in seconds per vehicle). The methodology does not take into account the potential impact of downstream congestion on intersection operation, nor does the methodology detect and adjust for the impacts of turn-pocket overflows on through traffic and intersection operation. If the volume-to-capacity (v/c) ratio at the intersection is larger than 1.0, the intersection operates at LOS F, regardless of the actual control delay.

LEVEL OF SERVICE (LOS) CRITERIA FOR SIGNALIZED INTERSECTIONS
(Reference 2010 Highway Capacity Manual)

Level of Service	Control Delay (seconds / vehicle)
A	<10
B	>10 - 20
C	>20 - 35
D	>35 - 55
E	>55 - 80
F	>80; $v/c > 1.0$