

Appendix C

Level of Service (LOS) Description Unsignalized Intersections with All-Way Stop Control (AWSC)

AWSC intersections require every vehicle to stop at the intersection before proceeding. Since each driver must stop, the judgement as to whether to proceed into the intersection is a function of traffic conditions on the other approaches. While giving priority to the driver on the right is a recognized rule in some areas, it is not a good descriptor of actual intersection operations. What happens is the development of a consensus of right-of-way that alternates between the drivers on the intersection approaches, a consensus that depends primarily on the intersection geometry and the arrival patterns at the stop line.

If no traffic is present on the other approaches, a driver can proceed immediately after the stop is made. If there is traffic on one or more of the other approaches, a driver proceeds only after determining that there are no vehicles currently in the intersection and that it is the driver's turn to proceed. Since no traffic signal controls the stream movement or allocates the right-of-way to each conflicting stream, the rate of departure is controlled by the interaction between the traffic streams themselves.

For AWSC intersections, the average control delay (in seconds per vehicle) is used as the primary measure of performance. Control delay is the increased time of travel for a vehicle approaching and passing through an AWSC intersection, compared with a free-flow vehicle if it were not required to slow down or stop at the intersection.

The criteria for AWSC intersections have different threshold values than do those for signalized intersections, primarily because drivers expect different levels of performance from different kinds of traffic control devices (i.e., traffic signals, two way stop or all way stop, etc.). The expectation is that a signalized intersection is designed to carry higher traffic volumes than an AWSC intersection and a higher level of control delay is acceptable at a signalized intersection for the same LOS.

For AWSC analysis using the HCM 2010 method, the LOS shown reflects the weighted average of the delay on each of the approaches. 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 AWSC INTERSECTIONS
(Reference 2010 Highway Capacity Manual)

Level of Service	Control Delay (seconds / vehicle)
A	0 - 10
B	>10 - 15
C	>15 - 25
D	>25 - 35
E	>35 - 50
F	>50; $v/c > 1.0$