## NATIONAL COOPERATIVE <br> HIGHWAY RESEARCH PROGRAM REPORT

# PEAK-HOUR TRAFFIC SIGNAL WARRANT 

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# PEAK-HOUR TRAFFIC SIGNAL WARRANT 

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OPERATIONS AND TRAFFIC CONTROL
TRAFFIC FLOW, CAPACITY, AND MEASUREMENTS
(HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION)

## TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C.
SEPTEMBER 1982

## NATIONAL COOPERATIVE HIGHWAY RESEARCH PROGRAM

Systematic, well-designed research provides the most effective approach to the solution of many problems facing highway administrators and engineers. Often, highway problems are of local interest and can best be studied by highway departments individually or in cooperation with their state universities and others. However, the accelerating growth of highway transportation develops increasingly complex problems of wide interest to highway authorities. These problems are best studied through a coordinated program of cooperative research.
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# FOREWORD 

By Staff<br>Transportation

This report will be of special interest to state, county, and city traffic engineers having responsibility for installing traffic signals. Governmental agencies and national committees (e.g., the National Advisory Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices) that develop signal warrants will also be interested in the research findings. A new peak-hour traffic signal warrant is proposed for use at locations having heavy traffic flows of short duration (e.g., an industrial plant exit). The basis for the proposed warrant includes (1) a comparative evaluation of previously suggested peak-hour warrants, (2) traffic characteristics data collected at over 200 intersections, and (3) engineering judgment regarding the perceived need for a signal.

The need to install or remove a traffic signal is often difficult to determine and substantiate without a nationally accepted, objective, easily understood warrant. Many factors need to be considered in making a decision, and the use of a warrant ensures that the traffic-related aspects receive appropriate evaluation and also results in more consistent applications. Widely used traffic signal warrants are found in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), but these warrants do not cover the need for a traffic signal due to unique peak-hour conditions (e.g., industrial plant exits).

Several peak-hour warrants had been proposed but had not been verified in regard to the acceptability of the underlying assumptions and the actual numerical values. Individual states have developed and are using their own variations of this type of warrant, but the need for a nationally accepted warrant remains. The objective of this research was to evaluate and verify the peak-hour warrant suggested by the Signals Subcommittee of the National Advisory Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NAC) and the peak-hour warrant developed as part of NCHRP Project 3-20. A recommendation with supporting documentation and justification was desired for adoption of either of the two previously proposed warrants or an alternative warrant.

Traffic performance data were collected at over 200 intersections in six cities, and the researchers also evaluated the ability of the two warrants to provide the same conclusion regarding the need for a signal as would be determined through engineering judgment based on observation of the intersection. Following the comparative evaluation of the previously proposed warrants, a new warrant was developed. The form of the warrant is easily understood by the nonprofessional and facilitates application by minimizing the amount of data to be collected.

At the time of publication, the warrant proposed herein has not been considered, approved, or adopted by the NAC. Therefore, readers should check the current policy of the NAC in regard to the acceptability of this warrant. Also, although the results of this research provide an objective approach to determining the need for a traffic signal, the reader is reminded that, in applying this or any other warrant, care must be taken to take unique site conditions and considerations into account.

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The research reported herein was performed under NCHRP Project $3-20 \mathrm{~A}$ by JHK \& Associates and the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. JHK \& Associates was the contractor for this study. The work was undertaken at the Traffic Institute under a subcontract with JHK \& Associates.
R. David Henry, Senior Associate, and Jay H. L. Calhoun, Senior Transportation Engineer, at JHK \& Associates, were co-principal investigators. Ronald C. Pfefer, Associate Director of Research and Development, and Robert K. Seyfried, Senior Transportation Engineer, at the Northwestern University Traffic Institute, also authored portions of the report and provided invaluable aid in the statistical analysis of the data.

An important component of the research was the field studies. Appreciation is expressed to the following persons who gave their time and knowledge in aiding in the identification of candidate inter-
sections for study: Richard B. Nassi, City Traffic Engineer, Tucson, Arizona; William R. Bain, Traffic Engineering Supervisor, Phoenix, Arizona; Dennis E. Royer, Transportation Engineer, Denver, Colorado; Bhupen N. Patel, City Traffic Engineer, Hartford, Connecticut; Joseph M. Thomas, Jr., Deputy Director, Bureau of Traffic Engineering, Atlanta, Georgia; Michael Errico, Chief, Bureau of Transportation, Prince Georges County, Maryland; Kay Colpitts Traffic Engineer, Montgomery County, Maryland; Joseph M. Durkee, Traffic Engineer, Arlington County, Virginia; David R. Gehr, Regional Transportation Engineer, Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation; and Charles E. Kenyon, Traffic Director, Alexandria, Virginia.
Substantial contributions to this research were also made by the engineers of JHK \& Associates who performed the data collection effort. They include: Mary L. Gallagher; Stephen L. Bolduc; Louis G. Neudorff; James C. Gray; and Stephen D. Hetrick.

## PEAK-HOUR TRAFFIC SIGNAL WARRANT

## SUMMARY

Several peak-hour warrants for traffic signal installation have been developed and are in everyday use. These peak-hour warrants are typically applied at intersections in the proximity of large industrial parking lots to determine whether traffic signals should be installed.

For the most part, each existing warrant is used only in one state. Examples include the warrants used in Texas, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Missouri among others. Unfortunately, none of these warrants have been extensively validated.

## Canditate Warrants

Two warrants, however, have generated nationwide interest. The warrant suggested by the Signals Subcommittee of the National Advisory Committee (NAC) on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, referred to as the NAC warrant, is one. The peak-hour warrant developed as a part of NCHRP Project 3-20, referred to as the NCHRP warrant, is the other.

The NAC warrant has two elements, a volume element and a delay element. The volume warrant element is based on critical combinations of main street and cross street volumes during the peak hour (any four consecutive 15 -min periods) of the average day. This element is based on work done by Herman E. Haenel of the Texas Highway Department and was developed on the basis of a normalized traffic volume distribution over time.

The delay element of the NAC warrant indicates that signal control can be justified when the side street delay equals or exceeds 4 veh-hr for a one-lane approach, and 5 veh-hr for a two-lane approach, provided that there is at least a minimum volume on the side street and that the total number of vehicles entering the intersection exceeds a minimum value.

The warrant is satisfied when the conditions previously noted are met, or the plotted point representing the vehicular demand on the main and side streets falls above a warrant curve. A reduction of the warrant values for high-speed roads (40 mph or higher) and for isolated communities is considered with a second curve with less stringent warrant criteria.

The NCHRP peak-hour warrant was developed by KLD Associates as a part of NCHRP Project 3-20. It is based on the assumption that queue instability (growing without bound) is the primary factor justifying a traffic signal installation during a peak period of congestion. The queue instability assumption is based on the fact that as demand approaches capacity on an approach controlled by a stop sign, the probability of queue instability (growing without bound) increases markedly. Such instability reflects a breakdown in intersection control and must be prevented.

The NCHRP warrant was designed to identify the need for a signal when there is an intensive period of congestion extending over a relatively short period of time as characterized by: (1) a high level of delay experienced by side street vehicles controlled by a stop sign; and (2) unstable queue growth on the side streets.

The relationship between queue and delay was examined using a queue discharge model. It was further assumed, based on a survey response, that intensive congestion was equivalent to a mean delay of .7 sec per vehicle. Furthermore, the analysis indicated that the onset of unstable queue behavior occurred when there was a mean queue length of 4 vehicles. For the peak hour, therefore, the total delay on that approach would be approximately equal to 4 veh-hr per hour.

## Approach

A primary thrust of this research, therefore, was to determine which of the two candidate warrants is better, and if neither accurately reflects the need for signalization based on peak-hour demand, to develop a new warrant. The basic means of investigation used in this research was to collect a wide variety of field measures (i.e., turning movement counts, stopped-time delay, percent of vehicles stopping, queue length, etc.) to determine how these measures compare at intersections meeting the candidate warrants.

The major contribution of the study is the field measures of delay and queue length at 217 intersections in six widely separated metropolitan areas. A total of $81725-\mathrm{min}$ observations were obtained. For each $25-\mathrm{min}$ observation, a field engineer made a value judgment of whether the intersection would have operated "better" under stop-sign control or under signal control.

With the combination of the direct measures (volume, delay, queue, etc.) and the judgment of the field engineer, it was possible to test the two candidate warrants against each other as well as against the embedded assumptions that were used to develop the candidate warrants.

The NAC warrant curves are intended to represent iso-delay curves of 4 veh-hr for one-lane approaches and 5 veh-hr for two-lane approaches. To determine whether this, in fact, was achieved, the total approach delay was averaged for all observations at nonsignalized intersections with two-lane approaches that experienced main street and cross street demand volumes within limits approximating the warrant curve.

Although fewer than 2 percent of the data base met these selection criteria, a total of 16 observations, the fact that these observations averaged only 144 veh-min ( 2.4 veh-hr) is important. The assumption that observations within the volume region would reflect 5 veh-hr of delay is obviously incorrect.

The analysis testing of the embedded assumptions in the NCHRP warrant showed a much better consistency between the results and the assumptions. This analysis used average approach delay (vehicle-minutes per vehicle), total approach delay (vehicle-minutes), and queue length.

Because these measures were found to be highly correlated, it was desirable to select one for further analysis. Emphasis was placed on the queue measure for two reasons:

1. Total delay is derived from queue measures by factoring in time, and thus, as noted previously, it is simply another way of expressing average queue.
2. A lay person can more readily grasp the significance of queue length than of vehicle-minutes (or vehicle-hours) of delay, and thus, the queue concept provides a more universal means of communications. To actually realize this communications benefit, surrogate phrases would likely have to be used. Rather than average queue, "number of cars backed up" may be a more easily recognizable term.

Based on these analyses, queue length was found to be the optimum direct measure with a threshold value of 4.0 vehicles. That is, a signal is considered warranted when the average queue is 4.0 or more vehicles in length. Notice that this measure is independent of intersection geometrics but can only be applied on nonsignalized locations. For signalized locations, it is recommended that another measure, conflicts, which is derived from an intersection turning movement study, be used. A threshold value of 350 was recommended for the conflicts measure.

A new peak-hour warrant based on queue length for stop-sign-controlled intersections and conflicts for signal-controlled intersections is recommended for inclusion into the Manual of Traffic Control Devices.

## INTRODUCTION AND APPROACH

## BACKGROUND

As noted in the original Research Problem statement, ". . . The need for a traffic signal warrant based on peak-hour conditions has been identified. ..." Several peak-hour warrantes have been developed and are in everyday use. For the most part, each warrant is used only in one state. Examples include the warrants used in Texas, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Missouri, among others. Unfortunately, none of these warrants has been validated beyond the state in which they are used.
Two warrants, however, have generated nationwide interest. The warrant suggested by the Signals Subcommittee of the National Advisory Committee (NAC) on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, referred to as the NAC warrant, is one. The peak-hour warrant developed as a part of NCHRB Project 3-20, referred to as the NCHRP warrant, is the other.

A primary thrust of this research, therefore, was to determine which of the two candidate warrants is better, and if neither accurately reflects the need for signalization based on peak-hour demand, to develop a new warrant. The basic means of investigation used in this research was to collect a wide variety of field measures (i.e., turning movement counts, stopped-time delay, percent of vehicles stopping, queue length, etc.) to determine how these measures compare at intersections meeting the candidate warrants.

Unfortunately, there is no definitive agreement within the traffic engineering professional community of when it is "better" to have a signal installed. Worse yet, there is little agreement as to which measure should be used to evaluate the performance of the intersection. To address these issues, empirical analyses of data collected at a large number of intersections, both signalized and nonsignalized, which have geometric and demand characteristics that would make them candidates for meeting a peak-hour traffic signal warrant, were conducted.

In essence, the research was directed towards identifying which measures of effectiveness that could be observed in the field can be used to determine when an intersection is
operating "better" under signal control than under stop-or yield-sign control. If this measure can be defined and if a threshold value above which a signal should be installed can be developed, a definition of "better" would be obtained.

Before delving into the analytical procedures employed to investigate the characteristics of the peak-hour delay warrant, it is helpful to consider the real world situations for which the warrant is intended to apply. In general, the problem can be considered in the abstract by stating it in terms of time and demand.

## Peak-Hour Problem

The peak-hour problem may be characterized as having two dimensions, time and demand. In the time dimension, the key characteristic is duration, nominally 1 hr .
At the typical intersection, there are usually 2 peak hours each day where need for signal control is greatest. At locations subject to application of a peak-hour warrant, there is ordinarily only 1 hr per day (during heavy discharges).
The demand dimension is generally characterized by a large, short-term increase in the approach volumes on one or more approaches to the intersections in question.

The abstract representation of the peak-hour problem is a potential framework from which an objective analysis procedure could be developed. However, it is probably more useful to consider the peak-hour problem in less abstract terms that are much more recognizable in the real world.

The classical peak-hour problem occurs at an intersection that is heavily impacted by its proximity to a large industrial parking lot. During the early stages of the project, it was thought the peak-hour problem would also be common at such locations as regional shopping centers, where a peakhour problem would manifest itself during certain days of the week. Additional examples were expected to be found in the proximity of institutions such as churches, hospitals, and schools.

The actual field experience did not confirm these expectations. Only two general conditions were found to be common in the six cities where field measurements were made. The first was the industrial parking lot, as expected; the second was conditions found at intersections that were impacted by commuter traffic. Unfortunately, with the exception of the demand volume characteristic, no other attribute of these commuter-impacted intersections was identified that could be used as an aid in identifying them as potentially meeting a peak-hour warrant.

## Demand Profile

The major premise on which the need for a peak-hour warrant is based is that situations exist in which there are relatively short-lived delays to vehicles on the side street approach to an intersection, but that these delays are sometimes of an intolerable length. A signal, therefore, may be warranted on the basis of the amount of delay incurred during this transient period even though it may not be warranted on the basis of one of the existing warrants in the MUTCD.
The duration and extent of these delays are highly variable. They may be of extremely short duration, but with a high average delay per vehicle during that period; or they may extend over a longer period, but have a considerably smaller average delay per vehicle.
Figures 1 through 4 illustrate the variation in the volume distributions that might be found at intersections that could conceivably fall into the application area of a peak-hour warrant. In each case, the volume distributions are from the highest volume side street approach and a signal is not warranted under the existing volume warrants in the MUTCD.
Figure 1 represents a case in which the volumes are not highly peaked. This is typical of a volume distribution on a major arterial street. Figure 2 represents a highly peaked condition, with 23 percent of the 24 -hr volume occurring in the peak hour. The peak volume in Figure 2 is higher than that found in Figure 1, but volumes during the remaining hours are much less. The approach in Figure 2 may far exceed the "tolerable" limits of delay whereas the approach in Figure 1 may not. A peak-hour warrant would conceivably justify a traffic signal at the latter but not at the former.

Figures 3 and 4 indicate other typical volume distributions for locations with greater than average peaking characteristics. At these locations, the peak hour usually ranges between 16 and 25 percent of daily volume for average conditions. Driveways from office and industrial complexes may have as high as 50 percent of the daily volume in one direction in the peak hour.

This study has taken the position that examining the peak hour alone is sufficient and that the primary purpose of such a warrant is to eliminate conditions with "intolerable" delays, if such conditions exist for 1 hr or more.

## PREVIOUS RESEARCH

During recent years, there were three major studies that contained findings directly related to the peak-hour trafficsignal warrant problem:

1. "Assembly, Analysis, and Application of Data on Warrants for Traffic Control Signals," by Paul C. Box and Associates for Signals Committee National Joint Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, March 1967 (Box-Alroth Study).
2. "Traffic Signal Warrant for Heavy Traffic Volumes Occurring During Short Periods of Time," by Wilbur Smith and Associates for West Virginia Department of Highways, April 1975 (Wilbur Smith Study).
3. "Traffic Signal Warrants," by KLD Associates, Inc. for the National Cooperative Highway Research Program, Transportation Research Board, National Research Council, December 1976 (KLD Study).

Each of these studies has contributed significant knowledge to the peak-hour signal problems. A brief summary of each of the findings pertaining to the peak-hour warrant issue is provided in the following.

## Box-Alroth Study

In preparation of a revision of the MUTCD in 1966, the signal committee of the NJCUTD recognized a need for review of the existing warrants. Since publication of the 1964 edition of the Manual, widespread research and individual study have gone into traffic elements that potentially affect warrant values. The scope of this study was defined as:

1. The search for and collection of all information and data presently available in the literature on intersectional traffic volumes, vehicle headways, gaps in traffic streams, gap acceptance, etc., and any other factors that should be considered in establishing warrants for traffic control signals.
2. The preparation of a bibliography of the information collected in (1) above.
3. The grouping, consolidation and coordination of the information gathered to allow the establishment and/or intelligent review of warrants for traffic control signals.
4. The preparation of suggested factors and considerations to be included in warrants for traffic control signals, and suggested numerical values thereof.

The methodology was specified as a thorough search for existing data, the review and combination of the available data, and at least suggestions on factors applicable to signal warrants.

The study resulted in observations, opinions, findings, and conclusions several of which are excerpted below:

- If the construction "warrant' for a highway improvement can logically use the 30th highest hour concept, surely similar rationale can be applied to traffic signals. The urban weekday park-hour occurs some 250 times a year, and the combined AM and PM peak-hours occur 500 times a year. Why should signal warrants use the eighth highest hour of the weekday, which typically occurs some 2000 times a year? Similarly, five hours on a Saturday or Sunday would roughly equate to the weekday peak-hour.
- Satisfactory and nationally accepted standards for treat-


Figure 1. Moderated peaked demand profile.


Figure 3. Typical high-peak, high-volume demand profile.


Figure 2. Highly peaked demand profile.


Figure 4. Typical high-peak, low-volume demand profile.
ing short-burst traffic control demands have not been established. The typical high-volume industrial driveway, the drive-in theater exit and even certain shopping centers may exhibit this characteristic. These are troublesome areas, and the hiring of off-duty police officers is not necessarily the best answer. For example, the use of officers at suburban or semi-rural locations typical of drive-in theaters and newer industrial developments may be hazardous. The major route speeds tend to be higher, and the peak demands frequently occur during hours of darkness. Signal control may be far preferable because of its higher visibility. It can be warranted if peak-hour concepts are accepted.

Other points made by Box and Alroth include the concept of flashing operation when side street demand is less than a threshold and single lane approaches should not be signalized when widening is possible.

- Another consideration in signal warrants may be the specification of signal type. As an example, perhaps semi-actuated signal control should never be allowed at a factory exit, unless interconnected as part of a progressive route system. The logic should be self-evident, since an isolated semi-actuated controller cannot sense major route flow, and hence cannot properly balance the exit needs with the major route needs.
- An additional element to be resolved in setting a peakhour delay warrant is minimum side-street volume. As pointed out in the discussion on delay warrants in other countries, some minimum is needed to prevent absurd installations from being requested.

The report concluded with a tentative peak-hour warrant based on delay. The warrant contained the following as factors:

- Number of approaches under stop sign control.
- Total vehicle-hours of delay.
- Minimum vehicle volume.
- Type of signal control (fixed-time, actuated).

In addition, the warrant suggested flashing operation when delay to side street traffic is less than 60 percent of the warrant values for two consecutive hours. The actual wording is as follows:

From the limited field and simulation studies performed to date, a tentative value of 3.0 vehicle hours delay is suggested for a peak-hour warrant. This would apply to total waiting time for two side-street approaches under two-way Stop sign control. If only one approach is involved (such as from a " $T$ " intersection or a commercial driveway) a value of 2.0 vehicle hours might be appropriate. If the intersection to be studied is under three or four-way Stop control, appropriate adjustments should be made in total delay values and minimum volumes.

This warrant is summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Peak-hour warrant, Box-Alroth.

| $\begin{gathered} \text { Number } \\ \text { of } \\ \text { Approaches(1) } \end{gathered}$ | Vehicle Delay(2) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Min } \\ & \text { Veh } \\ & \text { Vel.(3) } \end{aligned}$ | Type of Allowable Control by Peak Hour Factor (4) |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | 0.3 or less | 0.31 to 0.50 | over 0.50 |
|  | 2.0 | 100 | FA(s) | SA or FA | any |
| 2 | 3.0 | 100 | FA | SA or FA | any |
| 3 | 4.0 | 300 | FA | SA or FA | any |
| 4 | 4.0 | 400 | FA | any | any |

(1) When a single approach, or one leg with over 60 percent of common phase entering traffic, has less than two moving lanes, the warrant test may not be applied without first adding a second lane by parking prohibition for at least 100 ft on approach and departure sides or by widening, provided such widening is not physically impractical due to restricted built-up right-of-way, or other major physical barriers such as bridge abutments.
(2) Waiting time delay, measured by $15-\mathrm{sec}$ queve count, at 15 -minute intervals during the peak traffic hour of a typical weekday, or five hours of a Saturday or Sunday.
(3) Entering volume from minor leg or legs, during same period as delay study.
(4) The entering volume of (3) above, divided by four times the highest 15 -min volume of the one or two lowest volume approaches which would operate on the same signal phase.
(5) $\quad$ FA $=$ full-actuated type control.
$S A=$ semiactuated type control.
These limitations apply only where the location will not be progressively timed as part of a signal system on one of the routes.

NOTE: To determine flashing needs, the peak-hour volume of (3) above, should be divided by the eight highest hours volume. If the percentage thus found is 20 percent or greater, delay studies should also be conducted at other lower volume hours. Flashing operation should be used during hours when STOP sign delay measurements show less than 60 percent of the peak hour delay warrant for at least two consecutive hours.
could be used to determine the need for traffic signals at isolated intersections subject to short-duration heavyvolume peaking characteristics. A warrant of this type was established based on volume-delay counts obtained at selected typical intersections and comparable date from other research and simulation studies in West Virginia. Moreover, the warrant values have been tested using similar data from other locations.

Not all intersection configurations and conditions were included in the field samples. Consequently, the warrant values presented in this report were viewed as tentative. It was recommended that additional field tests be undertaken.

The tentative peak-hour delay warrants for traffic signals developed in this research study contained the following as factors:

- Type of intersection (three-way "T" or four-way).
- Number of lanes on the side street approach.
- Minimum total intersection volume.
- Minimum highest side street volume.
- Minimum total delay to side street traffic.
- Percent of left-turn from the main street and left-turn delay.

The actual criteria are given on Table 2.
This warrant was similar but not identical to that developed by Box and Alroth. An important recommendation from the Wilbur Smith analysis was that one-lane minor street approaches should be widened to two lanes (if physically feasible) before application of the warrant test.

## KLD Study

The objectives of this study were to evaluate the adequacy

Table 2. Peak-hour warrant from Wilbur Smith study.

|  |  | Signal Warrant Values |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Type of <br> Intersection | Number of <br> Approach Lanes <br> On Minor Street | Major Street <br> Volume <br> (Vehicles per <br> Hour) | Minor Street <br> Volume <br> (Vehicles per <br> Hour) | Minor Street <br> Total Delay <br> (Vehicle <br> Hours) |  |
| 3-Way T | 1 | 750 | 150 | 7.0 |  |
| 4-Way + | 1 | 800 | 200 | 3.0 |  |
| 3-Way T | 2 | 750 | 400 | 4.5 |  |
| 4-Way + | 2 | 800 | 500 | 5.0 |  |

of the existing traffic signal warrants published in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and to evaluate the need for revised or additional warrants.

The research included the following activities: (1) review and survey of current practices; (2) empirical studies of traffic operations; (3) statistical analysis of accident data; (4) application of a microscopic traffic simulation model; (5) application of analytical models; (6) development of recommended traffic signal warrants; (7) preliminary warrant evaluation survey; and (8) design of warrant verification study.

Of the ten warrants defined in the KLD study, the PeakHour Warrant is the one of major interest. This warrant was developed using estimates of intersection capacity provided by the simulation study and assumptions concerning the stability characteristics of traffic on side streets controlled by stop signs as indicated by the queue-theoretic models. A description excerpted from NCHRP Project 3-20 report follows.

[^2]One other criterion applied to the Peak-Hour Volume Warrant is that no signal will be installed unless the side street volume equals or exceeds $100 \mathrm{vph}(150 \mathrm{vph}$ for a two-lane approach).
Although the warrant has only two criteria, the saturation ratio exceeds 0.8 and a minimum side street volume, the actual execution of the warrant procedures calls for the use of graphs that reflect geometric conditions (number of main and cross street lanes, one-way or two-way operation) and combinations of main and side street volumes. In addition, it is necessary to convert observed side street demand to effective side street volumes based on correction tables for percent trucks and percent right turns. A complete description of the warrant is provided in Appendix A.

## EXISTING WARRANTS

The concept of a peak-period warrant is not new. In fact, the 1948 MUTCD contained an explicit warrant for trafficactuated signalized intersections:
3. Peak-Hour Volumes. - When signal control is required at an intersection during only a small part of the day, such as during peak traffic hours, traffic-actuated signals may be installed if economically justified, since they will not unduly delay traffic at other times.

Although neither the 1961 addition nor the 1971 edition of the MUTCD contained explicit provisions for peak-hour warrants, several states have recognized the need for a peakhour warrant and have developed warrants that are used in their respective jurisdictions. The current MUTCD does, however, recognize a warrant for a demand condition that is of direct duration.

> ... Systems warrant is applicable when the common intersection of two or more major routes has a total existing, or immediately projected entering volume of at least 800 vehicles during the peak-hour of a typical weekday, or any five hours of a Saturday and/or Sunday. . .

The important element included in this warrant is the time duration- 1 hr per day and 5 hr per week. Another interesting aspect of this warrant is that it is independent of intersection geometrics.

Brief descriptions of the peak-hour warrants used in several states are provided as follows. Brief descriptions of the two candidate warrants, the NAC Peak-Hour Warrant and the NCHRP Peak-Hour Warrant, are also given.

## EXISTING PEAK-HOUR WARRANTS

The Texas Highway Department has conducted a considerable amount of work developing a peak-period warrant. The Texas Peak Period Warrant is actually a series of warrants covering $1-, 2-$, and $4-\mathrm{hr}$ periods. Numerical values used in this warrant were developed based on the values currently used in the MUTCD. The curves for shorter time periods were constructed on a basis of a normalized traffic volume distribution over time. That is, if historical records have shown the traffic in the nth highest hour to be, on the average, $k$ times the traffic in the eighth highest hour, the curve for the nth highest hour is the base curve translated by factor $k$. This approach is the basis for the NAC peak-hour traffic signal warrant which is one of the two candidate warrants evaluated in this research program.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has adopted a similar warrant, the salient difference being that consideration is given to pedestrian volumes. Illinois has a commercialindustrial warrant that is based on multipliers to be applied to either the volume or the interruption warrant stated in the MUTCD. A similar approach, the use of multipliers to be applied to the MUTCD warrant values, is also taken by the State of Missouri. In both Illinois and Missouri, a minimum of 2 hr during which the warrant must be met is specified.

## CANDIDATE WARRANTS

There were two candidate warrants to be evaluated and verified in this research project, the NAC warrant and the NCHRP warrant.

## NAC Warrant

The NAC warrant has two elements, a volume element and a delay element. The volume warrant element is based on critical combinations of main street and cross street volumes during the peak hour (any four consecutive $15-\mathrm{min}$ periods) of the average day. This element is based on work done by Herman E. Haenel of the Texas Highway Department and was developed on the basis of a normalized traffic volume distribution over time.

The delay element of the NAC warrant indicates that signal control can be justified when the side street delay equals or exceeds 4 veh-hr for a one-lane approach, and 5 veh-hr for a two-lane approach, provided that there is at least a minimum volume on the side street and that the total number of vehicles entering the intersection exceeds a minimum value.

The warrant is satisfied when the conditions previously noted are met, or the plotted point representing the vehicular demand on the main and side streets falls above a warrant curve. A reduction of the warrant values for high-speed roads ( 40 mph or higher) and for isolated communities is considered with a second curve with less stringent warrant criteria.

The actual NAC warrant is provided in Appendix A.

## NCHRP Warrant

The NCHRP peak-hour warrant was developed by KLD Associates as a part of NCHRP Project 3-20. It is based on the assumption that queue instability is the primary factor justifying a traffic signal installation during a peak period of congestion. The queue instability assumption is based on the fact that as demand approaches capacity on an approach controlled by a stop sign, the probability of queue instability (growing without bound) increases markedly. Such instability reflects a breakdown in intersection control and must be prevented. The criterion adopted therefore indicated a need for a traffic signal installation whenever the saturation ratio of traffic demand to capacity on a side street approach exceeds 0.8 for a period of 1 hr .

Through simulation it was also shown that the mean delay experienced by side street vehicles would substantially exceed 25 sec . The NCHRP warrant was designed to identify the need for a signal when there is an intensive period of congestion extending over a relatively short period of time as characterized by: (1) a high level of delay experienced by side street vehicles controlled by a stop sign; and (2) unstable queue growth on the side streets.

The relationship between queue and delay was examined using a queue discharge model. It was further assumed, based on a survey response, that intensive congestion was equivalent to a mean delay of 57 sec per vehicle. Furthermore, the analysis indicated that the onset of unstable queue
behavior occurred when the ratio of demand to capacity on an approach approximated 80 percent. This was determined to be the equivalent of having a mean queue of 4 vehicles. For the peak hour, therefore, the total delay on that approach would be approximately equal to 4 veh-hr per hour.

The full NCHRP peak-hour warrant is provided in Appen$\operatorname{dix} \mathrm{A}$.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Two specific objectives were addressed in this research study:

1. To evaluate and verify the peak-hour warrant suggested by the Signals Subcommittee of the National Advisory Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NAC) and the peak-hour warrant developed as part of NCHRP Project 3-20.
2. To recommend with supporting documentation and justification a peak-hour warrant, including modifications to the above warrants that may result from this research, or consideration of an alternative warrant.

## APPROACH

An initial review of the problem showed that a great deal of original research had been directed towards the problem, but that there had been little research based on field observations of traffic flows at intersections during peak-hour conditions. The approach taken by the research team, therefore, was based on a pragmatic, empirical analysis of data collected at as many different locations as possible within the scope of the budget. The procedures used to collect these data are described in Appendix C. The final research plan placed heavy emphasis on field data collection preceded by a carefully structured data requirements analysis. The actual reduction of the peak-hour data was structured using three distinct approaches; the simulation approach, the intuitive approach, and the direct measure approach.

The simulation approach attempted to examine the validity of the volume/delay relationships of both the NAC and the NCHRP warrants. An issue with the NAC warrant is whether both the delay and volume elements are necessary. With the NCHRP warrant, the issue is related to the impacts of percent of right turns from the side street and percent of truck traffic.

The intuitive approach involved following the candidate warrant criteria for using the NAC and the NCHRP criteria separately for each 25 -min observation period and comparing the results (a signal is or is not warranted) with a field engineer's judgment of whether the intersection would have operated better with or without a traffic signal during each 25 -min period.

The direct measure approach involved the formulation of alternative criteria that can be measured directly in the field and that are, either explicitly or implicitly, embedded in the NAC and the NCHRP warrants.

These approaches were designed as a check against one another as well as the proposed warrants, and were devel-
oped using the same extensive set of field data. These approaches are amplified in the following.

## Simulation

There are several functional relationships that were derived through the use of simulation and analytical models during the conduct of the NCHRP 3-20 project. These include the following:

- Through vehicle equivalence for right-turn traffic.
- Relationship of main and side street volumes to total intersection delay.
- Relationship of main and side street volumes to average delay on stop-sign-controlled approaches.

It was planned to study these relationships by comparing the predicted parameter (say, delay per vehicle) with actual measured parameters for comparable demand and geometric conditions. Once the verification process was completed, it was planned to extrapolate these parameters through the use of the simulation model to obtain data in regions not observed with actual field measurements.

## Model

To investigate these issues, a simulation model, STOPSIGN, was developed. STOPSIGN simulates the operation of a one- or two-lane stop-sign approach to a " T " intersection using a simple queueing model. It is a menu-driven program written in Applesoft BASIC. Where feasible, variable names have been retained. The program is structured, with most modules corresponding to a menu selection or a utility used by one or more other modules.

STOPSIGN assumes Poisson arrivals on the stop approach (i.e., exponential headway distribution). The gap which any particular vehicle will accept is log-normally distributed. The headway on the main street has a shifted exponential distribution. The parameters of the latter two distributions are user-modifiable. When two approach lanes are present, it is assumed that all traffic in the left lane will turn left, and all traffic in the right lane will turn right. The lanes are modeled independently, so a long "gap" simulated for left-turn traffic will not necessarily be present for rightturn traffic at that particular time.

STOPSIGN calculates stop-line occupancy (percent of time occupied), average queue (including first car in queue), queue remainder at end of simulation, total number served, average wait time, and average delay including acceleration/ deceleration. When two lanes are specified, separate statistics will be provided for each.

The final version of STOPSIGN produced results similar to the results of models by Thommason \& Wright, Kell, and UTCS-1, as shown on Figure 5.

## Results

Unfortunately, the results of any one run were highly variable. This was thought to be due, at least in part, to the
random number generator. Because of the problems of wide variability of the results given identical input values, and because the other two approaches were showing definite signs of being more productive, additional simulation runs were not conducted.

## Intuitive

In the evolution of traffic engineering, engineering judgment has long played a dominant role. Intuition was, at first, the only criterion available to the engineer for determining whether certain traffic control devices, such as traffic signals, should be installed. When the need for additional traffic control devices became prevalent, so did the need for a more quantitative and systematic basis for determining applications. The development of these systematic guidelines has partially, but far from completely, eliminated the need for the traffic engineers' intuition and judgment.

The development of the proposed peak-hour signal warrants has followed somewhat the same pattern. Situations were identified in which a traffic signal was obviously needed, but which did not satisfy any of the existing warrants. The peaking nature of traffic demand is a consistent feature of these situations. The intuitive approach, therefore, capitalizes on the fact that the engineer has a "sense" of when a problem exists that has a solution through the use of a traffic signal.


- Thommason \& Wright
- UTCS-1
••••• Kell
$=-=$ STOPSIGN

Figure 5. Comparison of other simulation models with STOPSIGN.

Ideally, the traffic engineer's "sense" of when a signal is necessary should closely match the results of following the prescribed signal warrant criteria. If it does not, there are two possibilities: either the engineer's "sense" is correct and the warrant is in error, or the warrant is correct and the traffic engineer's "sense" is wrong. The intuitive approach assumes that, in general, the former is true. Using this approach, both signalized and nonsignalized intersections were analyzed.
The warrant evaluation criteria used in the intuitive approach is the value judgment of the JHK field engineer as to whether the intersection would operate more effectively under signal control or under stop-sign control. This decision was made for each $25-\mathrm{min}$ observation of the data collection period. Thus, a direct comparison between an engineer's intuition and various derived and observed measures was possible. Problems anticipated with this approach were related to potential bias of one or more of the field engineers.

## Direct Measure

Whereas the intuitive approach strictly considers the judgmental appropriateness of a signal, the direct measure approach determines the appropriateness on a quantitative basis. Through the formulation of an objective function and the collection of field data, this approach determines whether an intersection meets the requirements of the hypothetical warrants. The direct measure approach included the following:

1. Total side street delay - The signal is warranted when the total side street delay exceeds a threshold. Comparisons were made for thresholds varying between 0 and 800 veh-min per hour.
2. Average side street delay-The signal is warranted when the average delay to each vehicle exceeds a threshold. Comparisons were made for thresholds varying between 0 and 200 sec per vehicle.
3. Average queue-The signal is warranted when the average queue exceeds a threshold. Comparisons were made for thresholds varying between 0 and 10 vehicles in queue.
4. Conflict -The signal is warranted when conflict (a variable representing potential conflicts between side street and main street traffic) exceeds a threshold. Comparisons were made for thresholds varying between 0 and 800 per hour.

These comparisons were made for the full data base and for subsets of the data base. The subsets included stratification by traffic control (signal or no signal) and by geometrics (number of lanes on major and side streets). The comparisons were made with decisions reached by applying the NCHRP peak-hour warrant criteria, the judgment of the field engineer, and by applying the NAC warrant criteria. The direct measure approach produced results complementing the intuitive approach and ultimately provided the foundation for the recommended peak-hour warrant.

## PROJECT DATA BASE

The project data base exists in three different formats, one
of which is physical, the other two are machine readable. A great deal of thought and care was expended in developing this data base with the expectations that this effort will benefit not only this current research, but would also provide a valuable data base for other researchers.

## Physical Format

The physical portion of the data base includes all the forms, photographs, and worksheets that relate to an individual intersection. This includes an intersection data sheet that describes the basic type of intersection control (the signal phasing if signalized), a sketch of the intersection, and space for comments for the field engineer. The packet also includes two photographs, nominally $31 / 2 \times 5 \mathrm{in}$., of each approach to the intersection. One photograph was taken approximately 100 ft upstream from the intersection and shows the intersection geometrics in detail, while the second photograph was taken further back, a distance ranging from 400 to 800 ft , to show the general geometrics on the approach to the intersection. Worksheets used to compute the intersection delay and percent stopping, as well as turning movement counts and classification worksheets, are included. Each intersection was identified with a three-digit number. The first digit is a code for each city. The other two digits identify the intersection within the city. For example, numbers from 100 to 199 represent intersections in Atlanta.

## Magnetic Format

In order to conduct the analyses with the variables contained in this data base, it was necessary to code the data into a machine readable format. For convenience in manipulating the data, the data were actually coded into two different data bases for reasons described below. One of these is the Creative Computer Applications Data Management System (DMS). This data base management system was chosen for two primary reasons. First, the principal investigator was familiar with the syntax and capabilities of the system and felt that it would provide a useful means for manipulating the large amount of data to be analyzed. The second, and perhaps more important reason, is that the data stored using this system are accessible from other programs. That is, the format of the records in the file is described in the documentation making it possible to write software which accesses the file created by DMS for further manipulation. In fact, this was an absolute necessity as the data were analyzed using a statistical analysis package that required the data in yet another format. It was possible by using DMS, however, to write a straightforward program that converted the data from the data base format to that required by the statistical analysis package.

The third format is that required by the other data base management package used in this research, DB MASTER. The work involved in recording the data base into the DB MASTER format, approximately two technician-days, was justified by two attributes of DB MASTER that are impossible with the DMS package. The first of these is the ability to count the number of records that meet a specified complex criteria. For example, DB MASTER was used to generate a
listing of all records of observations where the intersection delay was greater than 240 min , the intersection was signalized, and the criteria of the NCHRP warrant were not met. This query capability provided the means to rapidly access the relative importance of a number of the variables in the
data base early in the analysis phase.
The second capability of DB MASTER that was felt to be a major contribution to the analysis is the report generating capability. An example of this is provided in the listing shown in Appendix B, Database.

## FINDINGS

The results of the analysis of the data base are presented in this chapter. The chapter includes three major topics. The first is an overview of the factors that were used to describe the physical conditions and traffic flows that were observed and measured at each of the 241 intersections included in the study.

The second topic explores the differences between the two candidate warrants, the NAC warrant and the NCHRP warrant. The third topic relates the field measures to each of the two candidate warrants as well as to the observations of the professional engineer.

## FIELD OBSERVATIONS

The data were collected in six cities where JHK maintains offices. The selection of these cities allowed the data to be collected under the supervision of a permanent JHK engineer. For the most part, observations of the peak-demand periods for candidate intersections required approximately 2 hr during the peak period. The peak-period observations were conducted at 241 intersections in the six cities. More intersections were observed in the Washington area than in the other five cities because of the location of the co-principal investigators in the Washington office which allowed costeffective data collection activities. The number of $25-\mathrm{min}$ observations as well as the number of intersections in each city are given on Table 3.

With the assumption that many intersections would exhibit demands that would manifest themselves quickly and be dissipated within the hour, four observations were conducted at each intersection. It was planned that the first $25-\mathrm{min}$ observation be timed so that the measures would be taken before the peak-period demand occurred. The second 25 -min period was timed to be coincident with the peak demand for that intersection. The third $25-\mathrm{min}$ period was intended to measure the decay of the queue from the peak-demand period, and the fourth $25-\mathrm{min}$ period was a measure of the traffic flow after the peak demand had passed. In many cases, only three observations were required because, by virtue of an empty parking lot, it was obvious that the demand had dissipated.

Table 3. Number of intersections and observations by city.

| City | Number of <br> Intersections | Number of <br> 25-Minute <br> Observations |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Atlanta | 41 | 163 |
| Denver | 26 | 95 |
| Hartford | 36 | 152 |
| Phoenix | 30 | 126 |
| Tucson | 30 | 88 |
| Washington | 78 | 193 |
| Totals | 241 | 817 |

## Geometrics and Traffic Control

Of the 241 intersections, there were 124 cross intersections, 116 " T " intersections, and one intersection that fit neither description. This yielded a total of 413 observations at cross intersections, 400 observations at " $T$ " intersections, and 4 observations at the "other" intersection.

In the data base, there were 115 intersections that were controlled by stop signs, 126 intersections that were controlled by traffic signals, and 3 intersections that were controlled by police officers during at least one observation period. This yielded a total of 368 stop-sign control observations and 444 traffic-signal control observations. These classifications are summarized in Tables 4 and 5.

At the onset of the study, it was anticipated that many more observations would be obtained at locations controlled by police officers. In practice, however, this was found not to be the case in the six cities in which the data were collected. There were only five observations at intersections with police control. This was an unexpected finding because the identification of officer-controlled intersections was anticipated to be one of the primary means for identifying candidate peak-hour locations for data collection. In fact, the first question asked of the traffic engineers in the six cities where data were collected was a request for a listing of intersections where officers controlled traffic flow during peak

Table 4. Number of intersections by intersection geometrics and traffic control device.

| Traffic <br> Control | Geometric Classification |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Cross | "T" | Other | Total |
| Stop | 42 | 72 | 1 | 115 |
| Signal | 82 | 44 | 0 | 126 |
| Total | 124 | 116 | 1 | 241 |

periods. The scarcity of observations with officer control is an unfortunate occurrence because this form of traffic control is prevalent in a number of locations throughout the country.

Another stratification of the data base that is useful in interpreting the results is a comparison of the number of observations for each category of number of lanes on the main street and side street and whether the intersection is signalized or not. Tables 6 and 7 indicate that in the data base intersections of the higher geometric type are more likely to be signalized than those of a lower geometric type. There were only eight observations at signalized intersections with one lane on the main street and one lane on side street. For the most part, there was an adequate number of observations in most cells to allow statistical testing.

A factor to keep in mind is that the "number of lanes" is the number on each approach, not the roadway. In other words, a one-lane approach on the main street actually describes a two-lane, two-way roadway. In the detailed analysis, it was found to be convenient to group all multilane approaches into one category. The resulting number of observations is given in Table 8.

## Left-Turn Geometrics

A separate left-turn lane for the main street traffic turning onto the side street was investigated to determine the effects of the geometric conditions. From Table 9, it can be seen that a separate left-turn lane was more common as the number of lanes on the main street increased.

There was also concern as to whether the separate left-turn lanes were more prevalent at " T " intersections than at cross intersections. Table 10 indicates a trend to the reverse of this situation. Of importance, however, is the fact that the leftturn geometric variations were adequately represented for both the " T " and cross intersection categories.

## Main Street Speed Limits

The number of observations by speed limit category are given in Table 11. Of interest here is that a large majority of the observations (approximately 90 percent) fall within the range of 30 mph to 45 mph .

Table 5. Number of observations by intersection geometrics and traffic control device.

| Traffic <br> Control | Geometric Classification |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Cross | "T" | Other | Total |
| Stop | 136 | 228 | 4 | 368 |
| Signal | 277 | 167 | 0 | 444 |
| Police | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| Total | 413 | 400 | 4 | 817 |

Table 6. Number of observations at stop-sign-controlled intersections by number of lanes.

| Cross <br> Street | Main Street |  | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1 | 2 or More |  |
| 1 | 84 | 98 | 182 |
| 2 or more | 50 | 136 | 186 |
| Total | 134 | 234 | 368 |

Table 7. Number of observations at signal-controlled intersections by number of approach lanes.

| Cross <br> Street | Main Street |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |
| 1 <br> 2 or more | 8 | 2 or More |  |
| Total | 56 | 55 | 63 |

Table 8. Number of observations in major categories by number of lanes.

| Cross Street | Main Street |  | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1 | 2 or More |  |
| $\frac{1}{2 \text { or more }}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 92 \\ & 96 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 153 \\ & 471 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 245 \\ & 567 \end{aligned}$ |
| Total | 188 | 624 | 812 |

## Proximity to Other Signalized Intersections

A final descriptive stratification of the data base concerned the proximity of signalized intersections to the candidate intersection. Seventy percent of the observations were made at candidate intersections that were within $2,000 \mathrm{ft}$ of another signalized intersection. Details are given in Table 12.

## Data Summary

The foregoing has provided an overview description of the characteristics of the intersections at which the peak hour observations were made. It is important to emphasize that these intersections were not selected at random, but rather each intersection was chosen specifically because it was suspected of being a prime candidate for a peak-hour warrant. Thus, insofar as practical, it was determined that the intersection did not meet one of the existing warrants in the MUTCD, that it exhibited a peak period demand pattern, and that local traffic engineers (both JHK \& Associates resident engineers and public agency traffic engineers) felt that the intersection would likely meet a peak period warrant.

## ANALYSIS

Analysis of the data was conducted in six distinct steps:

- NAC/NCHRP assumptions.
- Criteria comparisons.
- Engineer's judgment.
- Intuitive analysis.
- Direct measure analysis.
- Other factors.

First, direct comparisons were made between the NAC and NCHRP warrants to ascertain areas of differences between the warrants. Next, the NAC criteria and the NCHRP criteria were applied to each $25-\mathrm{min}$ observation using applicable data. This resulted in a total of 817 applications of the NAC warrant criteria and 817 applications of the NCHRP warrant criteria.

A key element in this research approach is the exercise of the judgment of the field engineer for each 25 -min observation as to whether the intersection would have operated better with stop-sign control or with signal control. A major concern was of a possible bias of one or more of the observers, and, therefore, this issue is examined.

Given the results of the applications of the NAC warrant criteria and the NCHRP warrant criteria, the intuitive analysis is conducted.

Following the intuitive analysis is the analysis of the direct measures. This is done in a straightforward manner by determining the number of observations that agree between a standard and a field measure threshold. For example, the NCHRP warrant criteria were used as one of the standards and queue was used as one of the direct measures. A queue threshold of 3.5 vehicles was one of the thresholds used. As given in Table 13, there are two possible correct cells with the implication that a direct measure of queue of less than 3.5

Table 9. Number of observations by left-turn geometrics and by number of main street approach lanes.

| Number of <br> Main Street <br> Lanes | No Separate Lane | Separate Lane | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Left Turn Geometrics |  |  |
| 1 | 124 | 68 | 192 |
| 2 | 203 | 256 | 459 |
| $3+$ | 47 | 119 | 166 |
| Total | 374 | 443 | 817 |

Table 10. Number of observations by left-turn geometrics and by type of intersection.

| Type of <br> Intersection | Left Turn Geometrics |  | Notal Separate <br> Left Turn Lane |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Separate <br> Left Turn Lane | Total |  |
|  | 135 | 282 | 417 |
| Total | 239 | 161 | 400 |

Table 11. Number of observations by speed limit category.

| Main Street <br> Speed Limit <br> (MPH) | Number of <br> Observations |
| :---: | :---: |
| 25 or less | 62 |
| 30 or 35 | 406 |
| 40 or 45 | 320 |
| 50 or 55 | 29 |
| Total | 817 |

Table 12. Number of observations by traffic signal proximity and traffic control type.

| Traffic | Nearest Signal |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2000 ft | 2000 ft |  |
|  | 257 | 111 |  |
| Signal | 308 | 136 | 444 |
| Police | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Total | 568 | 249 | 817 |

Table 13. NCHRP warrant criteria versus queue.

| Queue | No Signal | Signal |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 3.5 | Correct | Beta Error |
| 3.5 | Alpha Error | Correct |

vehicles indicates that a signal should not be installed. There are also two possible wrong cells. These have been designated as Alpha and Beta errors. In any given error level, that is, where the sum of the Alpha plus Beta errors is a constant, it is desirable to minimize the Alpha error because it is considered the more grevious. In other words, if the "standard" is assumed correct (the NCHRP warrant criteria in the example), the Alpha error implies the justification of a nonwarranted signal. The Beta error, while also undesirable, would simply result in a potentially beneficial signal not being justified.

The direct measure analysis consists of comparisons of the standards (the NCHRP warrant, the NAC warrant, and the field engineer's judgment) against threshold values of the field measures (average approach delay, vehicle-minutes per hour; conflict, a measure of potential conflicts described later; and average queue length, number of vehicles).

The final step of the analysis was to ascertain the impact of potential parameters on the procedure. The parameters considered were proximity to signalized intersections, left-turn lane geometrics, main street speed, and type of intersection.

## NAC/NCHRP Assumptions and Criteria Comparisons

Both the NAC warrant and the NCHRP warrant are presented in graphical form with a curve of main street versus side street volumes for each of several different combinations of number of lanes on the main street and side street. The NCHRP warrant, however, applies two factors to adjust the side street demand volumes, a truck factor and a rightturn factor.

## Truck Factor

The proposed NCHRP peak-hour warrant includes a process that accounts for the percentage of trucks in the traffic stream on the side street. As described in Appendix A, one truck is considered as operationally equivalent to two passenger cars, and this "equivalent" volume is used as input to the next stage.

A review of the data collected at 817 side street approaches showed that the vast majority of approaches had very low truck percentages. Table 14 indicates that of the $81725-\mathrm{min}$ observations periods sampled by this study, approximately 72 percent had truck percentages of less than 1.4, and nearly 90 percent had percentages less than 3.4. The highest truck

| Truck <br> Percentage | Percent of <br> Samples |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1.4 | 71.8 |
| $1.5-3.4$ | 16.3 |
| $3.5-5.4$ | 6.1 |
| $5.5-7.4$ | 2.0 |
| $7.5-9.4$ | 1.4 |
| 9.5 | 2.4 |
| Total | $100 \%$ |

Table 14. Percentage of trucks on side street approaches.
percentage found was 23 percent. Only 2.4 percent of the sampling periods had truck percentages of 10 or more. The mean percentage of trucks at these candidate intersections under peak-hour demand conditions was found to be 2.0 percent.

The foregoing is not surprising when one considers the nature of traffic at locations that are candidates for peak-hour signals. Many of these locations have extremely peaked volumes because of the high proportion of commuters in the traffic stream. Commuters tend to drive passenger vehicles as opposed to trucks, as defined in this study. This indicates that the magnitude of truck traffic at 90 percent of the peakhour candidate locations ranges from zero to approximately 4 percent.

Another factor considered in reviewing the impact of trucks is how this is accounted for in the warrant criteria. It was found that the impact of the percentage of trucks on the outcome is small, particularly considering the range of typical truck percentages. For each 1 percent of trucks in the traffic stream, the side street volume threshold to satisfy the peak-hour warrant is reduced by 1 percent. This is shown graphically in Figure 6. An approach with 10 percent trucks


Figure 6. Comparison of NCHRP peak-hour warrants for 0 and 10 percent trucks.
would require 10 percent less total volume on the side street to satisfy the warrant than with no trucks. Even this 10 percent level, which has been demonstrated to be rare, is considered small in view of the fact that the statistical error in the measurement of total traffic volumes is often within this range.

This analysis indicates that there is little need to include the percentage of trucks in the process for determining when the peak-hour warrant is satisfied. Only in rare cases, when truck volumes are unusually high, does the truck factor need to be considered. Therefore, it is suggested that the percentage of trucks not be required in the general application of the warrant. This would eliminate one additional step in computations, and more importantly, relieves the warrant process of the need to collect costly vehicle classification data.

## Right-Turn Factor

The percentage of right turns on the side street approach is a major factor included in the currently proposed NCHRP peak-hour warrant. It is not considered in the NAC warrant. A rationale supporting this factor in the warrant is that right turns are made more easily (fewer conflicting movements) than are through or left-turn movements. In general, rightturn delay is related to the gap distribution of those vehicles approaching from the left on the main street, while through and left-turn movements are impacted by the combined gap distribution for both directions of main street flow. When considering both directions of flow, there are fewer acceptable gaps and, thus, more delay to those having to cross both streams.

The data collected in this study have verified the importance of the right-turn factor in the determination of peakhour warrants. There is a wide range in turn percentages at candidate intersections, and the effect of this variation significantly impacts the threshold at which a signal is warranted.

Figure 7 shows how the percentage of right turns affects the volume threshold for a basic geometric configuration in


Figure 7. Comparison of NAC and NCHRP peak-hour warrants -one-lane approaches.
the currently proposed NCHRP peak-hour warrant. Also plotted on this graph is the NAC volume curve. As indicated, an increase in the percentage of right turns increases the volume threshold for which a signal is warranted. Two observations may be derived from this figure. First, the NAC warrant curve is similar to the NCHRP curves; and, second, the NAC warrant is more lenient than the NCHRP warrant for all ranges of percent right-turn traffic.

With slightly different geometrics, two lanes on the main street approaches and one lane on the side street approach, the shape of the curves changes somewhat as shown on Figure 8. With these geometrics, the NAC provides the more stringent criteria over much of the range of main street volumes and percent right turns.

Figure 9 shows the NAC and NCHRP warrant curves for intersections with two lanes on both the main street and side street. The pattern shown on this figure is similar to that


Figure 8. Comparison of NAC and NCHRP peak-hour warrants -two-lane and one-lane approaches.


Figure 9. Comparison of NAC and NCHRP peak-hour warrants -two-lane approaches.
shown on Figure 7, with the NAC warrant in all cases being the less stringent criteria, except when the right-turn percent is zero.

Because of the impact of the right-turn percentage on the NCHRP criteria, a more detailed examination was conducted. Table 15 gives the frequency distribution of the percentage of right turns for the 817 samples in the data base. The mean percentage for one-lane approaches is 51 , while the mean for two-lane approaches is slightly lower at 38 percent.

There is a remarkably even distribution of right-turn percentages over the entire range of 0 to 100 percent for approaches with one lane. The distribution is skewed toward the lower percentages for approaches of two or more lanes. In both cases the percentage is.higher than the average that most engineers are used to dealing with for an average condition. This again is due to the particular types of sites selected for inclusion in the data base. Typically, they are local or collector streets opening onto an arterial, so that much of the side street traffic would be expected to turn.

From this review of the NAC and NCHRP warrants, it would appear that in general, the NAC warrant criteria would result in more signals being justified than the NCHRP warrant criteria. To test this assumption, both the NAC warrant criteria and the NCHRP warrant criteria were applied to all 817 observations. The results are given in Table 16.
The values displayed on this table clearly indicate that the NCHRP is the more rigid criteria. Thirty-eight percent of the observations met the NCHRP criteria for installing a signal, and 54 percent met the NAC criteria. This table also shows a relatively high agreement between the two criteria; 83 percent of the observations, 370 not met and 307 observations met, are in agreement. In the disagreement cells, there were 134 observations where the NAC criteria were met and the NCHRP criteria were not met.

This analysis shows that the two candidate warrants are distinctly different and that the NCHRP warrant is the more stringent of the two.

## Observer Bias

There was considerable concern that one or more individual field engineers who were making the decision as to whether the intersections would operate "better" with sTop-sign control or signal control was more lenient or strict than the group as a whole.

An initial review of the data showed that observations with average queue lengths ranging from 1 to 4 vehicles were the more difficult ones to judge. That is, when the queue was less than one, all observers judged the intersections to operate better with stop-sign control; with queues greater than 4 vehicles, most observations were judged to operate better with signal control. To focus on how the observers fared in making judgments in the critical range, a subset of the data base was created that contained all observations where the average queue ranged from 1 to 4 vehicles. There were 396 records in this subset, approximately 48 percent of the records in the data base.

The number of judgments that each field engineer made in each category is arrayed, by city, on Table 17. A chi-square

Table 15. Frequency of percent right turns on side street approaches.

| Percent <br> Right Turns | One <br> Lane <br> $(\%)$ | Two <br> Lanes <br> $(\%)$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $0-10$ | 10 | 15 |
| $11-20$ | 8 | 13 |
| $21-30$ | 10 | 15 |
| $31-40$ | 12 | 16 |
| $41-50$ | 11 | 9 |
| $51-60$ | 8 | 9 |
| $61-70$ | 10 | 11 |
| $71-80$ | 8 | 6 |
| $81-90$ | 10 | 4 |
| $91-100$ | 13 | 2 |
| Total | $100 \%$ | $100 \%$ |

Table 16. Number of observations meeting NCHRP criteria versus those meeting NAC criteria.

| NAC <br> Criteria | NCHRP Warrant Criteria |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Not Met | Met | Total |
| Not Met | 370 | 6 | 376 |
| Met | 134 | 307 | 441 |
| Total | 504 | 313 | 817 |

Table 17. Number of observations ( $1 \leq$ queue $\leq 4$ ) by control device by city.

| City | "Better" Traffic Control Device |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Stop Sign | Signal | Total |
| Atlanta | 40 | 37 | 77 |
| Denver | 20 | 25 | 45 |
| Hartford | 30 | 28 | 58 |
| Phoenix | 23 | 36 | 59 |
| Tucson | 24 | 29 | 53 |
| Washington | 49 | 55 | 104 |
| Total | 186 | 210 | 396 |

test was conducted to test the hypothesis that the two variables were independent; that is, there was no significant observer bias. Using the data arrayed on Table 17 as the contingency table, a chi-square score of 3.3 was calculated. With 5 degrees, of freedom and a 5 percent level of confidence, a chi-square score of 11.1 or higher is required to reject the null hypothesis. It was concluded, therefore, that there was no significant observer bias.

Using this same 396 record subset of the data base, another table was constructed. Table 18 gives the average queue and standard deviation of the observations that were judged better for srop-sign control and for those that were judged better for signal control. There are two observations relevant to this table. First, there is remarkable agreement in the averages for both classes in the six cities. Second, and more important, this table suggests that a possible threshold for signal justifications using queue would be between 1.5 and 2.5 .

## Intuitive Comparisons

The intuitive analysis as first proposed was predicated on the assumption that the reality that a signal was or was not actually installed would be a good indication of the actual need. Of course, there is no way of knowing whether the "need" which justified the signal installation was at all related to the peak-period demand.

To investigate this approach, two tables were developed showing the relationship between type of traffic control and the NCHRP criteria (Table 19), and type of traffic control and the NAC criteria (Table 20) As can be seen in both tables, the association between the warrant criteria being met and a signal being installed is in evidence, but the association is not strong.

There are several instances where the percentage of disagreements between existing control and warrant criteria is high. For example, 37 percent of the observations differed from the NCHRP warrant with existing signalized intersections being prevelant. Approximately 39 percent of the observations differed from the NAC warrant. Of these, half were stop-sign locations that warranted a signal and half were signals that were not warranted.

Because this approach did not appear to offer much promise, a slightly different approach was taken involving comparisons between the warrant criteria and the decisions of the field engineers.

Preliminary analysis of the differences between the NAC and the NCHRP warrant criteria indicated that the percent right-turn factor appeared to account for most of the difference. To test this, each observation was subjected to both the NAC warrant criteria and the NCHRP warrant criteria neglecting the percent right-turns factor. The results of this are given in Table 21.

This table shows that of the 817 observations, there were 788 agreements - 96 percent-and only 29 cases where the criteria disagreed. Of these 29,27 were in the cell indicating that the modified NCHRP criteria were met and the NAC criteria were not met. From this effort it was concluded that when the right-turn factor of the NCHRP warrant is neglected, the two criteria are very similar, with the NAC criteria being slightly more stringent.

The next comparison involved subjecting each 25 -min observation to the actual NCHRP warrant criteria and comparing the results to the NAC criteria results. This effort is depicted in Table 22. The magnitude of the differences between the NAC and NCHRP candidate begins to emerge from the data given in Table 22.

As with previous comparisons, the number of observations where the criteria agree is high- 677 observations out

Table 18. Average queue length for observations judged "better" for stop-sign control and for signal control.

| City | Stop Sign |  | Signal |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Average | Std. Dev. | Average | Std. Dev. |
| Atlanta | 1.50 | 0.60 | 2.63 | 1.03 |
| Denver | 1.45 | 0.51 | 2.69 | 0.74 |
| Hartford | 1.47 | 0.54 | 2.50 | 0.82 |
| Phoenix | 1.30 | 0.40 | 2.50 | 0.87 |
| Tucson | 1.47 | 0.31 | 2.35 | 0.63 |
| Washington | 1.83 | 0.57 | 2.54 | 0.77 |

Table 19. Comparison of NCHRP warrant versus traffic control device.

| Traffic | NCHRP Warrant |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  | Not Met | Met |
| Stop Sign | 285 | 83 |
| Signal | 216 | 228 |
| Police | 3 | 2 |
| Total | 504 | 313 |

Table 20. Comparison of NAC warrant versus traffic control device.

| Traffic | NAC Warrant |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  | Not Met | Met |
| Stop Sign | 213 | 155 |
| Signal | 162 | 282 |
| Police | 1 | 4 |
| Total | 376 | 414 |

Table 21. Comparison of NCHRP warrant criteria without RT factor versus NAC warrant criteria.

| NAC <br> Criteria | NCHRP Criteria (without RT Factor) |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Not Met | Met | Total |
| Not Met | 349 | 27 | 376 |
| Met | 2 | 439 | 441 |
| Total | 351 | 466 | 817 |

Table 22. Comparison of NCHRP warrant criteria versus NAC warrant criteria.

| NAC <br> Criteria | NCHRP Criteria |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Not Met | Met | Total |
| Not Met | 370 | 6 | 376 |
| Met | 134 | 307 | 441 |
| Total | 504 | 313 | 817 |

of 817 ( 83 percent). But the cell of major disagreement, NAC criteria met and NCHRP criteria not met, accounts for practically all of the difference, 16 percent. From this it was concluded that while the 'criteria agreed most of the time ( 83 percent), the area of disagreement clearly shows that the NCHRP is the more stringent criteria.

The next step is to compare both candidate criteria with the judgment of the field engineer. The results of these comparisons are given in Table 23 for the NAC warrant criteria and Table 24 for the NCHRP warrant criteria. An interesting coincidence is that both tables show 646 observations in agreement ( 79 percent).

An examination of the two nonagreement cells in both tables shows a definitive reversal of patterns. That is, the NAC warrant is definitely less stringent than the engineer's judgment as evidenced by the fact that the NAC criteria were met 117 times when the engineer judged the intersection to operate better with srop-sign control. Conversely, the NCHRP criteria are more stringent than the engineer's judgment. (Independent research has developed the following comparisons between engineer's judgment and the warrants, separated by existing control type. This was done using the data base presented in Appendix B.

| $\begin{array}{c}\text { Comparison of "Best" } \\ \text { Control at }\end{array}$ Traffic |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Stop-Sign-Only |  |  |
| Locations |  |  |$]$

It is interesting to note that engineering judgment closely matched the NCHRP warrant at sign locations and NAC warrant at signalized locations. Perhaps the NCHRP warrant

Table 23. NAC criteria versus engineer's judgment.

| Engineer's <br> Judgement | NAC Criteria |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Not Met | Met | Total |
| Not Met | 322 | 117 | 439 |
| Met | 54 | 324 | 378 |
| Total | 376 | 441 | 817 |

Table 24. NCHRP criteria versus engineer's judgment.

| Engineer's <br> Judgement | NCHRP Criteria |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Not Met | Met | Total |
|  | 386 | 53 | 439 |
| Met | 118 | 260 | 378 |
| Total | 504 | 313 | 817 |

(4 veh-hr delay) is a good indicator of need for peak-hour signal and NAC warrant ( 25 veh-hr) is a good threshold for converting to flashing operation. Unfortunately, neither time nor budget was available to pursue this issue as part of this project.)

Table 25 is a summary of the number of observations relating each of the three criteria (NAC, NCHRP, and judgment) to an implied optimum traffic control device. The relative differences among the three criteria are readily seen from this table. The NAC warrant is the least stringent, indicating that 441 observations should be signalized ( 54 percent). The engineer's judgment qualified 378 observations ( 46 percent) for signalization; while the NCHRP criteria only indicated 313 observations ( 38 percent) for signalization. The engineer's judgment appears to offer an exact middle ground between

Table 25. Traffic control versus signal criteria.

| Criteria | Traffic Control |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  | Stop Sign | Signal |
| NAC | 376 | 441 |
| Judgement | 439 | 378 |
| NCHRP | 504 | 313 |

the two candidate criteria, qualifying 8 percent fewer than the NCHRP and 8 percent more than the NAC for signalization.

This was an unexpected (and undesirable) result as it was hoped that the engineer's judgment would validate one or the other of the candidate warrants.

## Direct Measures

As described in Appendix C, Data Collection Procedures, a number of field measures of performance were observed during each $25-\mathrm{min}$ period. At this point in the study, three of these measures are relevant; total approach delay (vehicle-minutes per hour), average approach vehicle delay (vehicle-seconds per vehicle), and average queue (vehicles in queue).

It should be noted that these measures are highly correlated with each other and, in fact, total approach delay and average queue are virtually identical measures. For example, an average queue of 2 vehicles for 1 hr is, in fact, 2 veh-hr of delay. To avoid working with decimals, the principal investigator chose to express delay in terms of vehicle-minutes. Thus, the 2 veh-hr would be expressed as 120 veh-min of delay in this study.

## NAC Warrant Measures

The NAC warrant curves (see App. A) are intended to represent iso-delay curves of 4 veh-hr for one-lane approaches and 5 veh-hr for two-lane approaches. To determine whether this, in fact, was achieved, the total approach delay was averaged for all observations at nonsignalized intersections with two-lane approaches that experienced main street and cross street demand volumes within limits approximating the warrant curve. These limits are shown on Figure 10.

The results of these tabulations are given in Table 26. Fewer than 2 percent of the data base met these selection criteria - a total of 16 observations. In spite of the few observations lying exactly within the boundary conditions, the fact that these observations averaged only 144 veh-min (2.4. vehhr ) is important. The assumption that observations within the volume region would reflect 5 veh-hr of delay is obviously incorrect. Similar analyses for other combinations of numbers of main and side street lanes showed similar results. Based on these actual field measures, it was concluded that the curves contained in the NAC warrant represented delay conditions substantially less than that stated in the verbal description of the warrant.

## NCHRP Warrant Measures.

Because of the confounding impact of the right-turn factor, an analysis of the NCHRP warrant similar to that described above was not possible. Instead, a stepwide multiple regression analysis was used to determine whether it was possible to predict total delay (or queue) as a function of the following:

1. Number of lanes on the main street.
2. Number of lanes on the cross street.
3. Main street volume.
4. Side street volume.
5. Percent right turn.

Because the anticipated curve was not expected to be linear, a good fit was not anticipated. The purpose was to achieve a sense of the magnitude of the impact of each of the variables. As expected, the curve fit was not good. With all variables included in the equation, the R -square statistic was 0.24 . Of interest is the amount of the variance explained by each variable.

When the variables (including the intercept), which were not significantly different from zero, were removed, three remained: number of lanes on the side street, main street volume, and side street volume. The R-square statistic remained 0.24 . With these variables, 16 percent of the variance was explained by the side street volume, 5 percent by the main street volume, and 3 percent by the number of lanes on the side street. Although not possible within the time and budget constraints of this study, pursuing multiple regression using linear transforms and other nonlinear techniques appears to be a fruitful avenue of research.

## Conflict Analysis

Although the right-turn factor did not prove significant within the context of linear multiple regression, it was felt that this factor was important and should be investigated further using a surrogate measure, conflict.

Conflict (conflict analysis as defined and used in this study is separate and distinct from the Traffic Conflicts technique developed by General Motors Research Laboratories), which is fully described in Appendix B, is based on the number of potential conflicts between vehicles on the main street and vehicles on the side street. There are three primary attributes of conflict. First, it is simple, being derived by multiplying and adding data normally available from a classical turning movement count. Second, it is independent of any traffic control device, and therefore, can be used at signalized intersections (direct measures of delay and queue can only be used as a warrant at nonsignalized locations because the variables are directly influenced by signal timings). Third, it explicitly accounts for right-turning traffic in a manner similar to the correction factors included in the NCHRP warrant.

The conflict measure was used in two different procedures. One procedure used conflict as a dependent variable with queue as the independent variable in a simple linear regression. This was done using all observations in the data base at nonsignalized intersections (NOSIG). The results were poor. A correlation coefficient of 0.56 , an R-square statistic of 0.32 , and a standard error estimate of 188 were found. This procedure was abandoned in favor of the second procedure.

The second procedure that involved the conflict measure was an analysis of the conflict threshold that provided the optimum agreement with two criteria, the field engineer's


Major Street-Total of both Approaches-VPH
Figure 10. Volume cells used to approximate NAC warrant thresholds.

Table 26. Observed total two-lane approach delay within volume ranges.

| Volume |  | Number of <br> Observations | Average <br> Total Delay <br> (Veh-Min) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Main Street | Side Street |  | 54 |
| $800-1000$ | $400-500$ | 1 | 209 |
| $1000-1200$ | $300-400$ | 4 | 89 |
| $1200-1400$ | $200-300$ | 5 | 162 |
| 1400 | $100-200$ | 6 | 144 |
| Total | - | 16 |  |

judgment and the NCHRP warrant criteria. Because this threshold procedure is used in following sections, it is explained in detail.

The threshold comparison is based on the comparison matrix previously introduced and shown again on Figure 11.
Thus, a conflict threshold may be set at any value, say 200 for example, then that value may be used as a decision point. Observations with conflict measures equal to or greater than 200 meet the criteria, whereas conflicts less than 200 do not meet the criteria. For each observation, this decision based on conflicts may be compared to the decision of the field engineer with four possible outcomes (cells) as shown on Figure 11.

| CONFLICT | ENGINEER'S JUDGEMENT |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Not Met | Met |
| Not Met | Correct | Beta Error |
| Met | Alpha Error | Correct |

Figure 11. Comparison matrix.

Two of these cells are correct cells; that is, both measures are in agreement - either the criteria are met or they are not met. Two of the cells are "error"' cells; that is, the measures are in disagreement with one another.

In this analysis, the engineer's judgment, and subsequently the NCHRP warrant criteria, are used as standards against which the the conflicts measure is evaluated. Of the two types of errors, one is more detrimental than the other. This one has been designated an alpha error. This error occurs when the candidate criteria declare a signal warranted and, for the same observation, the standard (either the engineer's judgment or the NCHRP criteria) declares the signal not warranted. The beta error is the reverse condition. The alpha error is the more critical error because if the candidate criteria are adopted, a large error would result in a high proportion of signals being justified when, in fact, they should not be warranted.

Emphasis on the alpha error may be justified from a cost standpoint - unnecessary signals are as expensive to install and maintain as warranted signals. There is a second reason, however, for the emphasis on the alpha error. Many traffic engineers feel that the current warrants are too lenient and another warrant will simply lead to additional unncecessary
signals. Emphasis on the alpha error is to address this issue by reducing to a practical minimum the probability of making the error of stating that a signal should be installed when in fact it should not be installed.

The basic threshold analysis incremented candidate threshold values of conflict from 0 to 800 in 25 unit steps to see what value would prove to have the best combination of percent correct and minimum alpha error. The results of the threshold analysis for conflicts are plotted on Figure 12 for the comparison against judgment and on Figure 13 for comparison against NCHRP warrant criteria.

On Figure 12, the maximum percent correct was found to be 84 percent with conflict equal to 250 . Because the corresponding alpha error was high, 9 percent, the optimum value selected was a conflict value of 300 with corresponding percent correct of 82 percent and an alpha error of 6 percent.
On Figure 13, the results showed an optimum percent correct of 87 percent with an alpha error of only 4 percent with the conflict equal to 350 . This was considered an extremely valuable finding because conflict is easier to measure and apply than the NCHRP warrant criteria and yields results that are very similar.


Figure 12. Threshold analysis - conflict (full data base - judgment).


Figure 13. Threshold analysis - conflict (full data base -NCHRP).

## Delay and Queue

Other direct measures included in the analysis are total approach delay, average queue, and average approach delay. As noted previously, all three measures are highly correlated. The relationship between average delay and queue was studied with five subsets of the data base: all nonsignalized observations (NOSIG); one lane on all approaches (NOSIG 11); two or more lanes on the main street, one lane on the side street (NOSIG 21); one lane on the main street, two or more lanes on the side street (NOSIG 12); and two or more lanes on both streets (NOSIG 22).

Summary statistics of the regression equations are given in Table 27. Although the correlation coefficients are relatively high, the regression equations are far from precise as indicated by the relatively large standard error of estimates, particularly the 34 sec for the NOSIG 22 data set.

To gain a better insight into this relationship, a scatter diagram was prepared of all data points in the NOSIG 22 category that had measured queue ranging from 1 to 12 vehicles. This plot is shown in Figure 14. As can be seen on this diagram, there is a positive correlation between average approach delay and queue length, but there is obviously quite a bit of scatter of the data.

The relationship between total delay and queue was found to be much stronger. Using linear regression, the following equation was derived:

$$
\text { Total delay }=1.5+54.9 \times \text { queue }
$$

Table 27. Regression summary average delay versus queue.

| Database <br> Subset | Number of <br> Observations | Correlation <br> Coefficient | Slope | Intercept | Standard Error <br> (sec) |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| NOSIG11 | 84 | .82 | 10.4 | 10 | 16 |
| NOSIG12 | 50 | .97 | 7.2 | 7 | 6 |
| NOSIG21 | 98 | .90 | 6.7 | 18 | 13 |
| NOSIG22 | 136 | .84 | 8.6 | 7 | 34 |
| NOSIG | 368 | .85 | 8.1 | 11 | 24 |

where: total delay is measured in vehicle-minutes and queue is measured in vehicles.
The R-square statistic for this equation was found to be 0.99 . Because a $t$ test on the intercept being different from zero was not significant at the 5 percent level, the equation could be simplified to:

$$
\text { Total delay }=55 \times \text { queue }
$$

This equation also has an R-square statistic of 0.99 .
Because these two measures are so highly correlated, emphasis was placed on queue measures for two reasons:

1. Total delay is derived from queue measures by factoring in time, and thus, as noted previously, it is simply another way of expressing average queue.
2. A lay person can more readily grasp the significance of


Figure 14. Average queue length vs. average delay.
number of vehicles in queue than vehicle-minutes (or vehicle-hours) of delay, and thus the queue concept provides a more universal means of communications. To actually realize this communications benefit, surrogate phrases would likely have to be used. Rather than average queue, "number of cars backed up" may be a more easily recognized term.

## Threshold Analysis

As with the conflict measure, the measures of average delay, total delay, and queue were analyzed using the threshold comparison technique previously described. This process proved extremely valuable and in collaboration with the results of previous research by Box and Alroth, Wilbur Smith Associates, and KLD Associates provided the foundations for a new peak-hour warrant.
Average Delay. Average side street delay thresholds were generated from zero to 200 sec per vehicle and compared to the engineer's judgment and the NCHRP warrant criteria. The results of percent correct, percent with alpha errors, and the percent with beta errors were plotted for visual analyses. These data are shown on Figures 15 and 16, respectively, for judgment and NCHRP criteria. Notice that these data are for the NOSIG subset of the data base since delay at signalized
intersections is significantly impacted by signal timing. On Figure 15, an optimum at 50 sec per vehicle with 81 percent correct and a 3 percent alpha error was selected.
With the NCHRP comparison, a slightly higher optimum of 60 sec per vehicle was selected. This optimum produced 75 percent correct comparisons with a 6 percent alpha error. This was a significant finding because it corroborated earlier assumptions used to formulate the NCHRP warrant as well as the results of a polling of engineers who attended a PeakHour Warrant Seminar conducted as a part of this study, as described in Appendix D.

Although average delay provided some valuable insight, this measure suffers from two problems. It is relatively difficult to compute when compared to the more simple average queue, and it produces a very flat percent correct threshold curve. It was expected that other measures would produce more peaked maximums.

Total-Delay. The threshold analysis procedure using total side street delay rather than average delay was completed next. Comparisons with judgment are shown on Figure 17 and comparisons with the NCHRP warrant criteria are shown on Figure 18.

These figures show extremely encouraging results. There was 92 percent agreement between total delay and engineer's judgment with an alpha error of 1 percent when the total delay threshold was set at 200 veh-min. An optimum of 225


Figure 15. Threshold analysis -ave-delay (NOSIG - judgment).


Figure 16. Threshold analysis -ave-delay (NOSIG-NCHRP).


Figure 17. Threshold analysis-tot-delay (NOSIG-judgment).


Figure 18. Threshold analysis-tot-delay (NOSIG—NCHRP).
veh-min ( 3.75 veh-hr) was found with an 8 percent alpha error when the comparisons were made with the NCHRP criteria.
Average-Queue. The threshold analysis procedures were applied in a manner identical to the previous analyses using average queue. Average queue is the average number of vehicles on the approach during the study period. This is measured using the point sample technique described in Chapter Three. The results were virtually identical to those found using total delay. Compared with judgment, an optimum was selected when the average queue was 3.5 vehicles yielding 93 percent correct comparisons with an alpha error of 1 percent. Against the NCHRP criteria, an optimum was found at 4.0 vehicles with 80 percent correct and an alpha error of 8 percent. These curves are shown on Figures 19 and 20.

Direct Measure Summary. To be assured that particular subsets of the data base would not result in significantly different optimum locations than that which was found with the NOSIG portion, similar data were plotted for NOSIG 11, NOSIG 12, NOSIG 21, and NOSIG 22.

Several conclusions were drawn from these analyses. The close agreement between the optimum selected for average delay (using both engineer's judgment of 50 sec per vehicle and NCHRP's 60 sec per vehicle) with previous assumptions tends to reinforce confidence in the threshold process. The virtually identical results obtained using total delay and queue confirms the fact that they are highly correlated and, in fact, are identical measures.

On the basis of the foregoing analyses, queue was selected as the recommended direct measure with a threshold value of 4.0 vehicles. That is, a signal is considered warranted when the average queue is 4.0 or more vehicles in length. Notice that this measure is independent of intersection geometrics but can only be applied to nonsignalized locations. For signalized locations, it is recommended that conflicts be used as the direct measure with a threshold value cf 350 .

The average queue of 4.0 vehicles was recommended primarily because it equates to 4 veh-hr of delay -a value that has appeared consistently in the literature during the last 15 years as a suitable criterion for a peak-hour warrant. The value of conflicts was chosen primarily for parallelism. That is, the 4 vehicles coincided with the NCHRP comparison optimum, therefore the 350 conflict measure was selected because it also coincided with the NCHRP comparison optimum.

## Regression Analysis

Attempts at estimating delay using geometrics, volumes, and percent right turns showed that the relationship among these variables is extremely complex. Several additional studies were conducted to attempt to achieve a better understanding of the mechanism.
Another subset of the data base was created. Observations at nonsignalized intersections with two lanes or more on all approaches that experienced total side street delay ranging from 210 to 270 veh-min ( 3.5 to 4.5 veh-hr) were included.


Figure 19. Threshold analysis - ave-que (NOSIG—judgment).


Figure 20. Threshold analysis -ave-que (NOSIG—NCHRP).

The main street and side street volumes are plotted on Figure 21.

The significance of this plot is that the minimum observed side street volume that resulted in at least 210 veh-min of delay was 279 vph . Because both candidate warrants have minimum side street volume criteria lower than this, this plot suggests a value of 250 vph may be more appropriate.

Another concern was the impact of the following factors: type of intersection (cross or " T "), protected left-turn lane for turns from the main street on to the side street (did or did not exist), speed posted on the main street (less than 40 mph or greater than 40 mph ); proximity of other signalized intersections (less than 200 ft or greater than 2000 ft ).

A subset of the data base was created that included all
observations at nonsignalized intersections. The foregoing factors were transformed from the format in the original data base to the binary format described above. A stepwise multiple regression was performed to measure the impact of these variables.

The results were inconclusive. With all variables in the equation, the R-square statistic was 0.37 . However, one variable, conflict, accounted for approximately 33 percent of this variance. The remaining variables, therefore, only account for a maximum of 5 percent. The proximity of adjacent signalized intersections explained virtually none of the variance and were eliminated from the equation. The geometric type appeared to account for 2 percent; the main street speed and left-turn lane appeared to account for 1 percent.


Main Street Volume
Figure 21. Nonsignalized intersections with total delay ranging from 210 to 270 veh-min.

## INTERPRETATION, APPRAISAL, AND APPLICATION

A brief interpretation of the findings as related to the candidate NAC and NCHRP warrants is provided in this chapter. This is followed by a description of a proposed new warrant that is based on a direct measure of queue.

## NAC WARRANT

The NAC warrant graph was found to represent delay values much less than the 4 (one-lane approach) and 5 (twolane approach) veh-hr of delay referenced in the verbal description of the warrant.
The reason for this, as postulated by the research team, is that this warrant was not developed with the intent of identifying signal installation criteria for a peak-period demand condition wherein the peak hour may be 25 percent of the average daily traffic (ADT). Instead, it suspected that this criterion was intended to be applied to locations that exhibited a more normal temporal variation of demand volumes, say 10 to 12 percent during the peak hour.

For example, by making the assumption that the eighth highest hour experienced 5.3 percent of ADT and the highest hour experienced 10.6 percent of the ADT, then if the "highest" hour exceeded two times the warrant value, the eighth highest hour would also exceed the warrant and the signal would be justified. Thus, this approach would appear to be more directly related to reducing the amount of data required than to identifying a true need based on peak-hour demand conditions.

This may explain why the data points based on field observations in the region of the NAC warrant curve (based on side and main street volumes) actually resulted in average measured delays of approximately half those stated in the verbal description of the warrant.

## NCHRP WARRANT

The NCHRP warrant criteria proved to be the most stringent of the three criteria that were compared; the NAC war-
rant, the engineer's judgment, and the NCHRP warrant. The only real problems that were found involving the NCHRP warrant were related to the procedures used in the warrant.

The warrant was distributed to a group of traffic engineers along with data for a hypothetical problem. The group was asked to follow the NCHRP warrant procedures and then comment on the method. Details of this meeting are provided in Appendix D.

In particular, the following problems were noted:

- Confusion between equivalent side street volume (Qss) and Effective Side Street Volume (ESSV) on Tables A-2 through A-5.
- The need to interpolate and extrapolate the ESSV values in Tables A-2 through A-5.
- The need to use one of four different graphs and which graph to use if the geometric condition was not represented. For example, a one-lane main-street approach with a twolane side street was found to be common in this field study but was not accounted for in the graphs.

From a positive perspective, the assumptions embedded in the simulation that was used to develop the NCHRP warrant were found to be extremely consistent with those measured in the field.

In the KLD approach to developing a peak-hour warrant, the primary factor used was queue stability. It was reasoned that as demand approaches capacity at a sTop-sign-controlled intersection, the probability of queue instability increases markedly. As this condition reflects a breakdown in intersection control, it must be avoided. The criterion adopted, therefore, indicated a need for signal control when the de-mand-to-capacity ratio exceeded 0.80 for a period of 1 hr . Application of queuing theory was used to transform this criterion to a mean queue of 4 vehicles.

In essence, this research study found that there was general agreement between the engineer's opinion of when an intersection would operate "better"' under signal control and the application of the warrant procedure. Because queue is very simple to measure in the field and because this direct measure avoids the problems of using the correct curve, interpreting tables, and so forth, the conclusion of the research team was to formulate a new warrant that would be based on a direct measure of queue.

## PROPOSED PEAK-HOUR WARRANT

The proposed peak-hour warrant is intended for application at intersections that are subjected to heavy traffic demands for a relatively short period.

For nonsignalized intersections, the peak-hour warrant is satisfied when, for at least 1 hr per day, 5 days per week, the traffic demand on the highest minor street approach results in an average queue of 4 , or more, vehicles based on a field study of queue. The procedure to determine queue is described in the following.

For signalized intersections, the peak-hour warrant is satisfied when, for at least 1 hr per day, 5 days per week, the conflict measure equals or exceeds 350 , and the highest side street approach volume is equal to or greater than 200 vph .

The conflict measure is calculated from the following equation:

$$
\mathrm{C}=\frac{(\mathrm{RB}+\mathrm{LB})(\mathrm{SSL})+\mathrm{RB}(\mathrm{SSR})}{1,000}
$$

where:

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\mathrm{C} & =\text { conflict measure; } \\
\mathrm{RB} & =\text { right-bound traffic; } \\
\mathrm{LB} & =\text { left-bound traffic; } \\
\mathrm{SSL} & =\text { side-street left-turn traffic; } \\
\mathrm{SSR} & =\text { side-street right-turn traffic. }
\end{array}
$$

The RB traffic and the LB traffic include both the through and left-turn movements. The SSL traffic includes through traffic if the intersection is not a " T "' type. Traffic from any other approach to the intersection is not used in the conflict measure. The movements are shown diagramatically on Figure 22.

The conflict measure was formulated to intentionally ignore left and right turns from the main street. The intent was to present an equation with as few factors as possible. Although other formulations and manipulations of intersection turning movement data may prove superior to the equation suggested herein, each formulation would have to be calculated and processed against the other variables (queue, delay, and etc.) to determine if, in fact, the new formulation is superior.

## QUEUE STUDY

The principal objective of the Intersection Delay Study is to collect data on the approach to a signalized intersection such that an accurate estimate of approach delay per vehicle can be made.

A step-by-step approach should be followed in the design of the study. The following elements must be considered:

1. Select intersection approach to be studied - the major side street approach must be determined.
2. Select time period to be studied - the peak period must be determined.
3. Select length of study period-a minimum of 60 point samples must be taken. This represents a 15 - or 13-min


Figure 22. Conflict movements.
period, depending on the interval between samples used. It is recommended that lengths of studies be either 60,90 , or 120 point samples.
4. Determine cycle length - for each proposed study period, the cycle length of pretimed or the background cycle of system control is determined. If the cycle length cannot be determined in advance of the study, it must be determined in the field just prior to performing the study.
5. Determine interval between samples-if a signal is operating in a pretimed or system mode, use a $13-\mathrm{sec}$ interval for cycle lengths of $45,60,75,90,105,120,135$, or 150 sec . For all other cycle lengths in a pretimed or system mode, use a $15-\mathrm{sec}$ interval between samples. For all traffic actuated signals not operating in a system, use a $15-\mathrm{sec}$ interval.
6. Determine means for obtaining volume count -a volume count must be taken simultaneously with the delay study if measures of performance are to be calculated on a per vehicle basis. A simple count of total volume using either an observer or some type of mechanical counter can be conducted.

The step-by-step procedure for performing the delay study is as follows:

- Step 1-Upon arrival at the site, find an observation point which ensures that a good view of stopped queues is available.
- Step 2-If a doubt exists as to traffic signal timing, perform a check by using a stopwatch to time three signal cycles, from end of green on the main street to the next end of green on the main street. If all three cycles conform to a cycle length of $45,60,75,90,105,120,135$, or 150 sec , a $13-\mathrm{sec}$ interval between samples is used. If not, a $15-\mathrm{sec}$ interval is used.
- Step 3-If more than one person is used for the delay study, the crew chief assigns specific lanes of the approach to each person. Then, at each sampling point, each delay observer records the number of stopped vehicles in those lanes for which he is responsible.
- Step 4-Each observer fills out the general information at the top of the data sheet.
- Step 5-At the proper time of day, the crew chief begins the study by starting the stopwatch in motion. At the same instant, he signals to all other persons that the study period has begun.
- Step 6-At time zero of the study, no point sample is taken. At the end of the first interval, which occurs at either

13 or 15 sec , each observer notes the number of vehicles stopped at that instant and records this number on the data sheet. Each successive sampling point is identical in operation in that the delay observer notes and records the number of vehicles stopped at the instant the interval ends. Observers are instructed not to try to guess what the value of any sample they miss might be, but rather to leave the box(es) blank.

- Step 7-At the end of the required number of samples, the crew chief signals to all others that the study has ended and reads the study timer to obtain the total elapsed time of the study. This time is noted on the data sheet under "Comments." It is important that the signal at the beginning and at the end of the study be given exactly at the zero point and the final sampling point, respectively, so that all observers can begin and end their count at the proper time.

Instructions to observers as to which vehicles are included in the sample of stopped vehicles at each sampling point are as follows:

- A vehicle with locked wheels (no motion) is counted.
- A vehicle that had previously come to a stop and is creeping (at the instant a point sample is taken) in a stopped queue which is not discharging from the intersection is classified in the following manner: it is considered as "stopped" if a gap of less than or equal to $50 \mathrm{ft}(15 \mathrm{~m})$ or about three car lengths, exists between it and the vehicle in front of it; it is considered to be "moving" (and thus is not counted in the point sample of stopped vehicles) if the gap to the next vehicle is greater than $50 \mathrm{ft}(15 \mathrm{~m})$.

Two additional points are important. First, when two persons are used to perform the Delay Study it is recommended that they stand relatively close together so that an audible cue from the crew chief can be heard by both. If it becomes absolutely necessary for one delay observer to move away from the other, a prearranged system of audible or visual cues is used to signal each sampling point.

Second, the delay observers should be made aware of the fact that the most difficult point to sample is just after the traffic signal has turned green and the front end of a stopped queue is moving. The observer should make a mental note of all vehicles that are stopped at the instant of the sampling point. Then the observer can take a few seconds to count all of these vehicles.

## CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTED RESEARCH

Two specific conclusions have been drawn from the findings of this study. First, the existing NAC and NCHRP warrants, while appearing to be similar, are distinctly different. The NCHRP warrant is the more stringent of the two. Of the 817 observations made during this study, the NAC warrant qualified 54 percent of them for signalization, while the NCHRP warrant qualified only 38 percent of them.

Of perhaps greater importance, however, was the finding that the NAC warrant criteria based on the graphical representation violated the embedded assumptions. That is, the stated warrant criterion was 4 veh-hr ( $5 \mathrm{veh}-\mathrm{hr}$ on multilane approaches) of delay. Actual observations with main street and minor street volumes corresponding to the warrant curve measured delay averaging 2.0 to 2.5 veh-hr per hour.

The second conclusion was that both the NAC and NCHRP warrants, as evaluated, were found to be relatively difficult to use, primarily based on the data requirements. The NAC warrant requires traffic engineers to collect volume data and use graphs based on the number of lanes on the main and side streets, the main street speed limit, and the surrounding community size. The NCHRP warrant requires that turning-movement counts that are classified as to vehicle type be conducted and the results compared to a series of graphs based on the number of lanes on the main and side streets, percentage of right-turning vehicles, and percentage of trucks.

Because of these issues, a new peak-hour traffic-signal warrant was deemed necessary and was developed as part of this project. The warrant is described in the preceding chapter.

To be effective, a warrant must accurately predict when a signal should be installed and it must be easy to use. The proposed peak-hour warrant was developed to meet both of these requirements. There was a strong relationship between this warrant and an engineer's judgment of whether or not a signal should be installed so it is an accurate predictor.

It is also easy to use. The peak-hour warrant proposed herein requires that, for an unsignalized location, an observer record queues on the side street approach during the peak period and that a side street volume count be conducted during the same period. If both the minimum volume and average queue thresholds are exceeded, the location meets the requirements of the warrant.

If the intersection is presently signalized, a turningmovement count must be conducted during the peak hour. From these data, the conflict measure is calculated. Only if both the minimum volume and conflict thresholds are exceeded does the warrant indicate that a signal is justified at that location.

One of the primary goals of this project was to collect field data to verify a peak-hour warrant. This was done by collecting many different types of data at more than 200 intersections and for more than $80025-\mathrm{min}$ observation periods. These data are presented in Appendix B and offer the opportunity for future research into such topics as flashing versus stop-and-go intersection control modes and saturation flow rates of stop-sign-controlled approaches.

No additional research is recommended with respect to the peak-hour warrant issue. The approach used in NCHRP 3-20, which was based primarily on simulation, and the approach used in this study, which was based primarily on field observations, have given the same general result. That is, a traffic signal would significantly improve intersection operation when an average queue of 4 , or more, vehicles is present for a period of 1 hr .

At issue is a comparison between the NCHRP procedure and the queue measuring procedure proposed herein. The queue measuring procedure was recommended primarily because the necessary field studies can be conducted by one person, while the need for turning movement and classification data as input to the NCHRP procedure dictates the need for at least two persons to conduct the necessary field studies.

The second point is that queue-average number of cars waiting at the stop-sign - is a concept readily explained to the lay person, and thus should enable the traffic engineer to readily communicate the technical warrant requirements to the general public.

Two additional findings of the analysis are related to percentage of trucks and the impact of right turning traffic from the side streets.

This study showed that there is little need to include the percentage of trucks in the process for determining when the peak-hour warrant is satisfied. Only in rare cases, when truck volumes are unusually high, does the truck factor have an impact. Therefore, it is suggested that the percentage of trucks not be required in the general application of the warrant. This would eliminate one additional step in computations and, more importantly, relieves the warrant process of the need to collect costly vehicle classification data.

The data collected in this study have verified the importance of the right turn factor in the determination of peak hour warrants. There is a wide range in turn percentages at candidate intersections, and the effect of this variation significantly impacts the threshold at which a signal is warranted.

## APPENDIX A

## NAC AND NCHRP WARRANTS

## NAC PEAK-HOUR WARRANT

## Warrant 9 Peak-Hour Delay and Volume Warrants

The peak-hour delay and volume warrants are intended for application where traffic conditions are such for one hour of the day that minor street traffic suffers undue delay or hazard in entering or crossing the main street.

The peak-hour delay warrant is satisfied when the conditions given in the table exist for one hour (any four consecutive 15 -minute periods) of an average weekday.

## Table - Peak-Hour Delay Warrant

The peak-hour delay warrant is met when:

1. The total delay experienced by the traffic on a side street controlled by a STOP sign equals or exceeds four vehiclehours for a one-lane approach and five vehicle-hours for a two-lane approach, and
2. The volume on the side street approach equals or exceeds 100 vph for one moving lane of traffic or 150 vph for two moving lanes, and
3. The total entering volume serviced during this hour equals or exceeds 800 vph for intersections with four (or more) approaches or 650 for intersections with three approaches.
The peak-hour volume warrant is satisfied when the plotted point representing the vehicles per hour on the major street (total of both approaches) and the corresponding vehicles per hour on the higher volume minor street approach (one direction only) for one hour (any four consecutive 15 -minute periods) on an average day falls above the curve in Figure A-1 for the existing combination of approach lanes.

When the 85 -percentile speed of major street traffic exceeds 40 miles per hour or when the intersection lies within a built up area of an isolated community having a population less than 10,000 , the peak-hour volume requirement is satisfied when the plotted point referred to above falls above the curve in Figure A-2 for the existing combination of approach lanes.

## NCHRP PEAK-HOUR WARRANT

## Engineering Data Required

A comprehensive investigation of traffic conditions and physical characteristics of the location is required to determine the necessity for a signal installation and to furnish necessary data for its proper design and operation. The following definitions apply:

If the existing control at an intersection is a two-way STOP (or YIELD sign), then the major street approaches are those that are not controlled. The side street approaches are those that are controlled by a sign.

- If the existing control at an intersection is a three- or four-way STOP sign, of if the intersection is not controlled with any device, then the major street approaches are those servicing a combined (total or bot ADT (hatic (ADT) that is higher than the combined ADT of theting approaches. These competing approaches servicing the lower ADT are the approaches. These competing approaches servicing the lower ADT are the
side street approaches. If the respective values of combined ADT on the competing streets are comparable, then the engineer must exercise his judgement to classify the approaches as major and side streets.
. For a tee intersection, the approach constituting the "stem" of the tee is the side street approach.
The required data should include:
1.1 The number of vehicles entering the intersection in each hour from each approach during eight hours of a representative day. The eight hours selected should ordinarily contain the greatest percentage of the 24 -hour traffic. If it is not possible to identify these eight hours, then data should be collected over 12 consecutive hours.
1.2 Vehicular volumes for each traffic movement from each approach, classified by general vehicle type (heavy trucks, passenger cars and light trucks, and public transit vehicles), during each $15-\mathrm{min}$ period of eight (or 12) hours considered in Paragraph 1.1.
1.3 Pedestrian and bicycle volume counts on each crosswalk during the same periods as the vehicular counts in Paragraph 1.2 above and also during hours of highest pedestrian/bicycle volume. Where young or elderly persons need special consideration, the pedestrians or bicycle riders may be classified by general observation and recorded by age groups as follows:
a. under 13 years
b. 13 to 60 years
b. over 60 years.

Detailed pedestrian and bicycle counts are not required if total volume crossing the major street is well below 100 per hour.
1.4 The 85 -percentile speed of free-flowing vehicular traffic on the major street approaches beyond the influence of any intersection control. This data shall be collected during at least three of the hours considered in Paragraph 1.1. Each value of speed should reflect a different range of major street volumes.
1.5 A condition diagram showing details of the physical layout, including such features as intersection geometry, channelization, grades, sight-distance restrictions, bus stops and routings, parking conditions, pavement markings, distance to nearest signals and adjacent land use.
1.6 A collision diagram showing intersection accident experience by type, direction of movement, severity and time of day for at least two years.
1.7 Measurement of delay in queue should be undertaken for all side street approaches only when the intersection configuration does not adhere to those defined for the Vehicular Volume Warrants. The methodologies recommended in "A Technique for Measurement of Delay at Intersections" by W. R. Reilly, et ai. shall be applied.

## PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS

Traffic control signals should not be installed unless one or more of the proposed traffic signal warrants are met. Data should be obtained by means of engineering


Malor Street-Total of Both Approachea-VPH

Note : 150 VPH Applles as the Lower Threshold Volume for a Minor Street Apprach with Two or More Lanes and 100 VPH Applies as the Lower Threshold Volume for a Minor Street Approaching with One Lane

Figure A-1. Peak Hour Volume Warrant


Note: 100 VPH Applies as the Lower Threshold Volume for a Minor Streat Approach witt Two or More Lane and 75 VPH Applies as the Lower Threshold Volume for a Minor Street Approaching with One Lane
(Community Less than 10,000 Population or Above $\mathbf{4 0}$ MPH on Major Street)
requirements are not met, a traffic signal should neither be put into operation nor continued in operation (if already installed).

When a traffic signal is warranted, prior consideration should be given to viable alternatives. Widening of one or more side street approaches may be preferred as an alternative to signalization. In urban areas, the widening sometimes may be effected by eliminating parking in the vicinity of the intersection. Other alternatives include modifications in channelization, speed zoning, improved lighting, advance warning signs, geometric improvements, and alterations to satisfy sight distance requirements. It should be determined whether a new signal installation would have a disruptive effect on an existing progressive signal system. For any fixed-time signal installation consideration should be given to placing the signal on flashing operation during those periods of at least four consecutive hours when the appropriate Vehicular Volume Warrant is not satisfied.

If it is determined that a traffic signal installation represents the best solution, the signal and all related traffic control devices and markings should be installed according to the standards set forth in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Signal indications should be properly phased. If the new signal is part of a progressive system, all traffic signals should be properly coordinated. Adequate supervision should be given to the operation and maintenance of the signal and all of its related devices. The traffic signal operation should be selected on the basis of engineering study and judgement.

## Warrants for Traffic Signal Installation

The investigation of the need for traffic signal control should consist of the applicable warrant procedures as specified in Table A-1.

## Volume Adjustments

Approach volumes are adjusted according to the following:

1. Select one of the (at least) eight hours of data collected to determine the value of Total Major Street Volume (TMSV), i.e., sum of both approaches if two-way traffic is serviced.
2. For each such hour note the total volume of traffic on each side street approach (SSV), the associated percentage of right-turn movements ( $\mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{R}}$ ) and the volume of truck and bus traffic $\left(\mathrm{Q}_{\mathrm{T}}\right)$.
3. For each side street approach, calculate the "equivalent" volume, $\mathrm{Q}_{\text {ss }}=\mathrm{SSV}+\mathrm{QT}$, which states that one truck/bus is equivalent to two passenger cars.

## Intersection Classification Notation

The following intersection notation scheme is used:

1. The major street approaches and side street approaches each service one through lane of traffic (2222).
2. The major street approaches each service two through lanes of traffic; the side street approaches each service one through lane (4222).
3. The major street approaches and side street approaches each service two through lanes of traffic (4242)
4. The major street approaches each service three through lanes of traffic; the side street approaches each service one through lane of traffic (6222).

## Peak-Hour Warrant

A traffic signal is warranted if one (or more) point(s) plotted on the Warrant

Diagram lies within the shaded region labelled, "PEAK-HOUR WARRANT SATISFIED." When a value of TMSV exceeds 1600 vph , a traffic signal is warranted if the associated value of HSSV exceeds 100 vph for a one-lane side street approach.

A traffic signal installed under this warrant should be either semi- of full-traffic-actuated as determined by the responsible engineer.

Table A-1
Application of Specified Traffic Signal Warrants

| Warrant | Data Required | Applicable Conditions |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1. Vehicular Volume | Sections 1.1, 1.2, 1.5 | Right-angle intersections with 3 <br> (tee) or 4 approaches. Major street <br> may have a total width of 2, 4 or 6 |
| lanes. Each side street approach |  |  |
| has one lane. For the case where the |  |  |
| major street has a total of 4 lanes, |  |  |
| side street approaches with 2 lanes |  |  |
| are also considered. |  |  |

Impact of Right-Turn Movements: Configuration 2222*

| Pquivalent <br> Side <br> Street <br> Volume <br> $\mathbf{Q}_{\text {ss }}$ | Effective Side-Street Volumes (ESSV) <br> for Indicated Right-Turn Percentages ( $\mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{R}}$ ) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 |
| 100 | 90 | 80 | 70 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 140 | 130 | 120 | 110 | 100 | 80 | - | - | - |
| 180 | 170 | 160 | 150 | 145 | 120 | 100 | 83 | - |
| 220 | 210 | 200 | 190 | 170 | 140 | 110 | 100 | 90 |
| 260 | 250 | 240 | 230 | 210 | 190 | 170 | 150 | 120 |
| 300 | 280 | 260 | 250 | 240 | 220 | 210 | 190 | 160 |
| 340 | 310 | 240 | 270 | 260 | 250 | 230 | 220 | 200 |
| 380 | 350 | 320 | 290 | 280 | 270 | 260 | 250 | 240 |
| 420 | 390 | 360 | 330 | 310 | 290 | 280 | 270 | 270 |

[^3]Impact of Right-Turn Movements: Configuration 4222*

| $\begin{gathered} \text { Equivalent } \\ \text { Side } \\ \text { Street } \\ \text { Volume } \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Effe } \\ & \text { r Ind } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { ive s } \\ & \text { ated } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { de-st } \\ & \text { ight } \end{aligned}$ |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { (EsSV } \\ & \text { ges } \end{aligned}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{Q}_{53}$ | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 |
| 100 | 90 | 80 | 70 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 140 | 130 | 120 | 110 | 90 | 80 | - | - | - |
| 180 | 170 | 150 | 140 | 120 | 100 | 80 | - | - |
| 220 | 200 | 180 | 160 | 140 | 120 | 100 | 80 | - |
| 260 | 250 | 230 | 210 | 190 | 160 | 130 | 80 | - |
| 300 | 290 | 270 | 250 | 230 | 200 | 180 | 150 | 100 |
| 340 | 330 | 320 | 310 | 290 | 250 | 220 | 200 | 170 |
| 380 | 370 | 360 | 350 | 330 | 300 | 270 | 250 | 220 |
| 420 | 410 | 400 | 390 | 370 | 340 | 320 | 290 | 270 |

(Rounded to multiples of 10 )
*Also 4122,4211,4111

Impact of Right-Turn Movements: Configuration 4242*

| Equivalent Side Street Volume Qss | Effective Side street Volumes (ESSV) for Indicated Right-Tum Percentages ( $\mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{R}}$ ) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 |
| 120 | 110 | 100 | 90 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 200 | 190 | 180 | 170 | 160 | 130 | - | - | - |
| 280 | 260 | 250 | 230 | 220 | 200 | 160 | - | - |
| 360 | 340 | 310 | 290 | 270 | 240 | 210 | 130 | - |
| 440 | 370 | 350 | 330 | 310 | 290 | 250 | 200 | - |
| 520 | 420 | 370 | 340 | 330 | 310 | 300 | 240 | 120 |
| 600 | 500 | 410 | 380 | 360 | 340 | 320 | 300 | 240 |
| 680 | 570 | 480 | 400 | 380 | 370 | 350 | 330 | 280 |

(Rounded to mulitples of 10 )
*Also 4142,4221,4121

Impact of Right-Turn Movements: Configuration 6222*

| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Equivalenced } \\ & \text { Side } \\ & \text { Street } \end{aligned}$ | Effective Side Street Volumes (ESSV) <br> for Indicated Right-Tum Percentages ( $\mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{R}}$ ) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{Q}_{\text {ss }}$ | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 |
| 100 | 90 | 80 | 70 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 140 | 130 | 120 | 110 | 100 | 90 | 80 | - | - |
| 180 | 170 | 160 | 140 | 120 | 100 | 80 | - | - |
| 220 | 210 | 200 | 180 | 160 | 130 | 100 | - | - |
| 260 | 250 | 240 | 220 | 190 | 160 | 130 | 90 | - |
| 300 | 290 | 280 | 260 | 230 | 200 | 160 | 120 | 80 |
| 340 | 330 | 320 | 300 | 270 | 240 | 200 | 160 | 120 |
| 380 | 370 | 360 | 340 | 310 | 270 | 240 | 200 | 140 |
| 420 | 410 | 400 | 380 | 350 | 310 | 280 | 240 | 190 |

*Also 6122,6211,6111



Figure A-4. Vehicular Volume and Peak-Hour Volume Warrant Diagram
for the 4222, 4122, 4211 and 4111 Intersection Configurations



Figure A-6. Vehicular Volume and Peak-Hour Volume Warrant Diagram for the 6222, 6122, 6211 and 6111 Intersection Configurations

## APPENDIX B

## DATABASE

The general format of the magnetic media databases is basically one record per observation. Each record, therefore, represents the traffic volumes, intersection approach delay, average queue, and so forth observed during each 25 -minute observation period. In addition, each record contains variables describing the intersections, such as the number of lanes on the main and cros5 streets, speed limits on a main street, and whether it was signalized or not. In the paragraphs below, a description of the codes used in the database is provided. This is followed by a description of the intersections included in the peak-hour database.

## DATABASE CODES

These codes applied to the database that was used for the study. In general, all field entries were numeric. The allowable range for each field is shown in parentheses after the field name.

I/S-NUM (101-699) - This is the intersection identification number. The first
digit identifies the city as follows:
1 - Atlanta,
2 - Denver,
3 - Hartford,
5 - Phoenix,
6 - Washington.
The remaining two digits uniquely identifies each intersection.
OBS-NUM (1-9) - Each observation consists of a 25 -minute field study of the traffic flows at the intersection. There are normally four consecutive observations at each intersection.
IS-TYPE (1-3) - Each intersection is classified into one of three categories as follows:

1 - Normal cross intersection;
2 - "T" Intersection (study approach is the stem leg); and
3 - Other intersections with special geometrics.
LANES-MS (1-3) - Number of through lanes in each direction on the main street approaches.
LANES-SS (1-3) - Number of lanes on the side street approach.
LT-LANE ( 0 or 1 ) - A " 0 " indicates that there are no separate left turn lanes on the main street. A " 1 " indicates that there is at least ore separate left turn lane.
TRAFFIC CONTROL ( $0-2$ ) - A " 0 " indicates that the intersection is not signalized, a " 1 " indicates that the intersection is signalized, and a " 2 " indicates that the intersection was under police control

MS-SPEED (0-4) - The posted speed limit on the main street is coded as follows: - Unknown or not posted,

- $25 \mathrm{MPH}, 30 \mathrm{MPH}$ or 35 MPH ,
- 40 MPH or 45 MPH , and
$3-50 \mathrm{MPH}$ or 55 MPH .
SIG-RITE (0-3) - The distance to the nearest signal to the right (when looking at e intersection from the study approach) is coded as follows:

1-2000 feet or less;

- from 2000 to 4000 feet, and

3 - more than 4000 feet.
SIG-LEFT (0-3) - The distance to the nearest signal to the left and is coded as described above.
MS-VOL (0-9999) - The total main street (two-way) traffic expressed as an hourly flow rate (VPH) that was counted during the study per.od.

Rourly flow rate (VPH) that was counted during the study period.
PCT-RT ( $0-100$ ) - The percent of sidestreet traffic turning right during the 25 minute observation period.
TOTALVOL (0-9999) - The total traffic entering the intersection during the
study period expressed as an hourly flow rate (VPH).
CLV-VPH (0-9999) - The sums of the Critical Lane Volumes for the intersection were calculated for each period using the hourly flow rates described above.
CONFLICT (0-9999) - This is a measure of the potential conflicts at an intersection and is calculated using the following equation:

$$
C=\frac{(\mathrm{RB}+\mathrm{LB})(\mathrm{SSL})+\mathrm{RB}(\mathrm{SSR})}{1000}
$$

## where:

The "RB" traffic and the "LB" traffic include both the through and left turn movements. The "SSL" traffic includes any through traffic if the intersection is not a "T" type as shown below. All other traffic that may enter the intersection is ignored.


Hat
-

$$
\overbrace{\text { ssL }}
$$

PCT-STOP (0-100) - This value is simply the percentage of vehicles on the study approach that were stopped before entering the intersection. Notice that for STOP sign controlled intersections, the PCT-STOP value is not relevant. The actual field measures of percent stopping traffic was conducted only at signalized intersections.

TOT-DELA ( $0-9999$ ) - This value is the total approach delay measured during each observation period. The value is normalized to an hourly figure to enable comparisons. The units used are vehicle-minutes per hour of delay.
AVE-DELA (0-999) - Another statistic that is indicative of intersection performance is the average delay per vehicle. The units used here are seconds per vehicle.
QUEUE (0.0-9.9) - Closely related to the total approach delay is average queue. This is simply the average number of vehicles in queue on the study approach to the intersection during each 25 -minute observation period.
JUDGEMENT ( 0 or 1) - During each observation period, the engineer-supervisor made a value-judgement as to whether the intersection would have operated here. A " 0 " indial or without a signal. The results of this judgement are coded signal control and a "l" indicates that a traffic signal would have improved the situation.
NAC Warrant ( 0 or 1) - For each observation, the criteria expressed in the NAC warrant were followed to determine whether the criteria were satisfied for that warrant were followed to determine whether the criteria were satisfied for tha that a signal is warranted.
NCHRP Warrant (0 or 1) - Similarly, the NCHRP warrant criteria were applied and the results were coded - a " 0 " indicating that the warrant was not met, a "I" indicating that the warrant was met.


|  | 101 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 1108 | 238 | 264 | 100 | 41 | 11 |  | 0 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | 101 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 751 | 312 | 234 | 100 | 60 | 12 | 1 | - |
|  | 101 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 857 | 171 | 147 | 100 | 31 | 11 | 1 | 0 |
| 4 | 101 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 4 | ${ }^{2}$ | 0 | 378 | 85 | 32 | 100 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | 102 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 168 | 405 | 67 | 80 | 111 | 16 | 2 | 0 |
| 6 | 102 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 120 | 423 | 51 | 73 | 99 | 14 | 2 | 0 |
| 7 | 102 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 74 | 261 | 19 | 83 | 92 | 21 | 2 | 0 |
| 8 | 102 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 41 | 206 | 8 | 86 | 72 | 21 | 1 | 0 |
| 9 | 103 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2474 | ${ }^{223}$ | 488 | 84 | 152 | ${ }_{31}^{41}$ | 3 | 1 |
| 10 | 103 | 2 | 2 |  | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2729 | 364 | 790 | 64 | 205 | 34 | 4 | 1 |
| 11 | 103 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2400 | 374 | 708 | 75 | 175 | 28 | 3 | 1 |
| 12 | 103 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2537 | 235 | 519 | 81 | 124 | 32 | 2 | 1 |
| 13 | 104 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3088 | 79 | 185 | 67 | 29 | 22 | 1 |  |
| 14 | 104 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3345 | 124 | 332 | 75 | 38 | 18 | 1 |  |
| 15 | 104 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3762 | 516 | 1513 | 77 | 312 | 36 | 6 | 1 |
| 16 | 104 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3381 | 180 | 491 | 68 | ${ }^{40}$ | 13 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | 105 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3164 | 55 | 145 | 100 | 31 | 34 | 1 | 0 |
|  | 105 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3839 | 142 | 427 | 88 | 78 | 33 | 1 | 1 |
| 19 | 105 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4054 | 142 | 430 | 78 | 71 | 30 | 1 | 1 |
| 20 | 105 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3662 | 69 | 217 | 70 | 52 | 45 | 1 | 0 |
| ${ }_{2}^{21}$ | 106 |  | 2 | 2 | 2 | ${ }_{2}^{2}$ | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ${ }_{23}^{22}$ | 106 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | I | 1394 1294 1 | 619 514 | ${ }_{396}^{483}$ | 82 | 316 210 | 31 25 | ${ }_{4}^{6}$ |  |
| 24 | 106 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1073 | 413 | 277 | 64 | 96 | 14 | 2 | 1 |
| 25 | 109 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1849 | 286 | 385 | 64 | 68 | 14 | 1 | 0 |
| 26 | 109 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2031 | 120 | 174 | 84 | 45 | 23 | 1 |  |
| 27 | 109 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1412 | 434 | 459 | 76 | 157 | 22 | 3 |  |
| 28 | 109 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1529 | 123 | 164 | 78 | 64 | 31 | 1 | 0 |
| 29 | 110 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 3488 | 19 | 43 | 100 | 16 | 48 | 0 | 0 |
| 30 | 110 | 2 | 1 | 4 | $\stackrel{2}{2}$ | 2 | - | 4102 | 26 | 62 | 100 | 24 | 55 | 0 | 0 |
| 31 | 110 |  | 1 |  | 2 |  |  | 4499 | 290 | 958 | 100 | 211 | 44 | 4 |  |
| 32 | 110 | 4 | 1 |  | 2 | 2 | 0 | 5182 | 57 | 230 | 100 | 62 | 65 | 1 |  |
| 33 | 111 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1537 | 267 | 289 | 83 | 55 | 12 | 1 | 0 |
| 34 | 111 | 2 | 1 | 2 | ${ }^{2}$ | 3 | , | 1686 | 675 | 838 | 77 | 337 | 30 | 6 | 1 |
| 35 | 111 | 3 | 1 |  | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1707 | 740 | 897 | 85 | 436 | 35 | 8 |  |
| 36 | 111 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | , | 1 | 1865 | 218 | 316 | 89 | 57 | 16 | 1 | 1 |
| 37 | 112 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 990 | 185 | 134 | 82 | 41 | 13 | 1 | 0 |
| 38 | 112 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 1013 | ${ }^{938}$ | 700 | 93 | ${ }^{481}$ | 31 | 9 |  |
| 39 | 112 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 1226 | 291 |  | 88 | 75 | 16 | 1 | 1 |
| 40 | 112 | 4 | 1 | 1 |  | 4 | 1 | 1267 | 142 | 142 | 90 | 48 | 20 | 1 | 1 |
| 41 | 113 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1334 | 300 | 291 | 100 | 220 | 44 |  | 1 |
| 42 | 113 |  | 2 | , | 2 | 2 |  | 1539 | 473 | 519 | 100 | 647 | 82 | 12 | 1 |
| 43 | 3113 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1089 | 156 | 115 | 100 | 43 | 16 | 1 | 1 |
| 44 | 4113 | 4 | , | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 856 | 99 | 53 | 100 | 18 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| 45 | ¢ 114 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 536 | 297 | 134 | 100 | 52 | 11 | 1 | 0 |
| 46 | 7 114 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 552 | 516 | 227 | 100 | 141 | 16 | 3 |  |
| 47 | 7114 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 537 | 299 | 130 | 100 |  | 13 | 1 | 0 |
| 48 | 8114 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 392 | 194 | 58 | 100 | ${ }_{71}$ | 25 | 1 | 0 |
| 49 | 9116 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1344 | 248 | 240 | 100 | 71 | . 7 | 1 | 0 |





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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| REC NuM | I/S NUM | TYPE | LANES | LANES Cross | Speed | DEvice | volume <br> MAIN | $\begin{aligned} & \text { volume } \\ & \text { CROSSS } \end{aligned}$ | CON- |  |  |  | ave J |  |
| 300 | 315 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 504 | 239 | 102 | 57 | 23 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| 301 | 315 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | ${ }_{501}$ | 295 | 128 | 51 | 28 | ${ }_{6}$ | 1 |  |
| 302 | 315 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 501 | 341 | 156 | 50 | 31 | 6 | 1 |  |
| 303 304 | 315 316 | 1 | $\frac{1}{2}$ | ${ }_{1}^{2}$ | 2 | 1 | 319 135 | 295 93 | 71 | 57 | ${ }_{8}^{21}$ | 4 | ${ }_{0}$ | ${ }_{0}$ |
| 305 | 316 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 166 | 199 | 26 | 43 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 306 | 318 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | ${ }_{6} 97$ | 379 | 102 | 76 | 74 | 12 | 1 |  |
| 307 |  | 2 | 2 | 2 | ${ }_{2}^{2}$ | 1 | 833 | 524 | 185 | 94 | ${ }^{169}$ | 19 | 3 |  |
| 308 |  | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 818 | 528 | 191 | 90 | 182 | 21 |  |  |
| 309 | 318 | 2 | $\stackrel{2}{2}$ | 2 | 2 | 1 | 708 | 304 | 98 | 96 | 67 | 13 | 1 | 0 |
| 310 311 | 319 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1150 1145 | ${ }_{242}^{245}$ | 198 | 100 | 64 107 | ${ }_{26}^{16}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ |  |
| 311 312 | 319 | 2 | ${ }_{2}^{2}$ | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1054 | 247 | 250 | 100 | 184 | 45 | 3 |  |
| 313 | 319 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1123 | 207 | 224 | 100 | 82 | 24 | 2 |  |
| 314 | 321 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 964 | 163 | 146 | 100 | 44 | 16 | 1 |  |
| 315 | 321 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | $\begin{array}{r}1138 \\ 950 \\ \hline\end{array}$ | 175 | ${ }_{8}^{171}$ | 100 | 64 32 | 22 | 1 |  |
| 316 317 | ${ }_{321}^{321}$ | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 950 975 | ${ }_{82}^{91}$ |  | 100 | 15 | ${ }_{11}^{21}$ | 1 |  |
| 318 | 322 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1287 | 75 | 80 | 58 | 25 | 21 | 1 |  |
| 319 | 322 | 2 | 2 | 1 |  | 1 | 1317 | 55 | 62 | 48 | 18 | 20 |  |  |
| 320 | 322 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 910 | 137 | 124 | 58 | 57 | 25 | 1 | 0 |
| 321 | 322 <br> 322 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 921 894 | 132 134 | ${ }_{90}^{122}$ | ${ }_{82} 3$ | ${ }_{6}^{27}$ | ${ }_{29}^{12}$ | 1 | ${ }_{0}$ |
| 323 3 | 323 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 960 | 200 | 138 | 80 | 101 | 30 | 2 |  |
| 324 | 323 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1200 | 252 | 244 | 97 | 209 | 50 |  |  |
| 325 | 323 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1384 | ${ }^{281}$ | 322 | 93 | ${ }^{196}$ | 42 | 4 |  |
|  | 323 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1164 | 151 | 111 | 76 | 71 | 28 | 1 |  |
|  | 324 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 733 | 168 | 86 | 74 | 50 | 18 | 1 |  |
| 328 | ${ }^{324}$ | 1 | 1 | 2 | ; | 1 | 8980 | ${ }_{242}^{247}$ | 167 | ${ }_{78}^{77}$ | 77 | 19 | 1 |  |
| 329 330 | 324 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | ${ }_{875}^{816}$ | 242 300 | 207 | 71 | 74 | 15 | 1 |  |
| 331 | ${ }_{324}^{324}$ | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 715 | ${ }^{224}$ | 120 | 68 | 44 | 12 | 1 |  |
| 332 | 326 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | ${ }_{8}^{662}$ | ${ }^{343}$ | 167 | 85 | ${ }_{281}^{191}$ | 33 | 4 | 1 |
| 334 | 326 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1156 | 326 | 259 | 94 | 197 | ${ }_{36}$ | 4 |  |
|  | ${ }^{326}$ | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1090 | ${ }_{5}^{60}$ | 47 | 85 | 22 | 22 | 0 |  |
| 336 337 | ${ }_{327}^{327}$ | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 3 | 0 | 489 993 | 55 201 | 132 | 100 100 | 78 38 | ${ }_{11}^{8}$ | 0 | ${ }_{0}^{0}$ |
| 338 | 327 | 2 |  | 1 | 3 | 0 | 739 | 245 | 143 | 100 | 75 | 18 | 1 |  |
| 339 | 327 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 983 | 245 | 213 | ${ }^{56}$ | 76 | 19 | 1 | - |
|  | 328 328 | ${ }_{2}^{2}$ | $\stackrel{2}{2}$ | 1 | 2 | 1 | 484 856 | 4 36 |  |  | ${ }_{11}^{1}$ | 14 18 | 0 | ${ }_{0}^{0}$ |
|  | 328 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 836 | 123 | 71 | 98 | 66 | 32 | 1 |  |
| 343 | 328 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 907 | 281 | 197 | 97 | 183 | 39 | 3 |  |
| 344 | 330 | 2 | ${ }^{3}$ | 1 | 1 | 0 | 501 | 149 | 75 | 100 | ${ }^{36}$ | 15 | 1 |  |
| 345 346 | 330 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | ${ }_{588}^{480}$ | 118 | 57 | 100 | 22 | 11 | 0 |  |
| 347 | 330 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 665 | 132 | ${ }_{88}$ | 100 | 39 | 18 |  |  |
| 348 349 | 330 335 | 2 | 3 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |  |  | ${ }_{122}^{62}$ | 100 | 31 | 14 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |




Figure B－1．Database（Cont＇d）
12／24／81 lanes lanes speed control voume

AVE AVE
deiAy pueue num num num main cross limit device main cross flict stop delay deiay queus
$\begin{array}{ll}400 & 356 \\ 401 & 356\end{array}$
${ }_{4} 402 \quad 356$
$\begin{array}{ll}403 \\ 404 & 363\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{ll}405 & 363 \\ 406 & 363 \\ 407 & 365\end{array}$
008
409
4090 ${ }_{4}^{412}$
4134






解号

ค雬
な号


$\underset{4}{498}$



Figure B-1. Dafabase (Cont'd)




Figure B-1. Dafabase (Cont'd)


Figure B-1. Database (Cont'd)

## APPENDIX C

## DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES

As part of Task 1, a careful study of the data definitions of the two warrants was used to develop a final set of descriptive characteristics which were necessary for the evaluation of the warrants. The set of characteristics and the method of obtaining them is defined below:

1. Total side street delay--obtained from a delay study;
2. Average side street delay--obtained from a delay study;
3. Average queue--obtained from a delay study;
4. Traffic volumes--obtained from a turning movement and percent stopping count;
5. Number of right-turning vehicles--obtained from a turning movement count;
6. Number of trucks--obtained from a classification count;
7. Number of lanes per approach--obtained from a field sketch;
8. Intersection geometry--obtained from a field sketch;
9. Pavement markings--obtained from a field sketch;
10. Traffic signal equipment--obtained from a field inventory;
11. Approach speed--obtained from a field inventory;
12. Encompassing community size--obtained from interviews of local officials;
13. Adjacent land use, driveways, curb usage--obtained from photographs; and
14. Traffic generators--obtained from field observations and interviews of local officials.
To gather this data, four types of studies were performed at approximately 200 signalized and non-signalized intersections in the United States. The studies included the following:

Intersection delay studies;

- Percent stopping studies;

Traffic volume counts; and
Physical inventories.
Each of these studies is briefly described below:
Intersection Delay Study - The delay study followed the methodology for conducting an intersection delay study described by Reilly $\underline{1 /}$. The time period which was observed was selected so as to encompass the peak demand period.

Percent Stopping Study - This technique is also described by Reilly. . This study was performed only at signalized intersections. It encompassed the same time intervals and locations as those used for the intersection delay study. It included as a by-product a volume count on each approach.

Volume Counts - As mentioned above, volume count observations were obtained for signalized intersections as part of the percent stopping study. For unsignalized intersections, separate volume counts were conducted as the basis for estimating delay per vehicle. Since an estimate of percent right turns is required for applying the

[^4]NCHRP warrant, the volume counts included whether or not a vehicle turned right as well as classifying it as an automobile, truck, or motorcycle.

Physical Inventory - A physical inventory was conducted at each of the studied intersections. This inventory included all traffic control devices within 100 feet of the intersection; a sketch of the intersection; and photographs of the approaches. This inventory was conducted by a JHK professional and comments regarding any atypical features were recorded.

The techniques for conducting the studies were refined through a pilot test which was conducted at the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. Four sites in the Evanston area were studied using NUTI staff and Reilly's techniques. From these preliminary studies, the specific tasks that each member of the field crew would perform during the data collection effort were determined.

It was found that a four-person field crew could collect all the necessary data for all geometric configurations of intersections. In addition, a JHK professional would be on-site to supervise the data collection effort. The specific tasks that each person performed are described below.

The JHK professional:

1. Completed the Intersection Data Sheet, being sure to describe the traffic generator.
2. Took photographs of each intersection approach.
3. Supervised all counts.
4. Made an intuitive judgement of whether or not a signal was warranted. This was based on such factors as availability of gaps, perceived average delay of vehicles, and an "informal judgement" by the engineer as to whether or not the intersection does or would work better with a signal than without one.
Person No. I:
5. Acted as the crew chief during the traffic counts. He insured that all persons knew which approaches they were to count, were located properly to conduct the count, knew how long the count was to be conducted, and gave the signals which began and ended the traffic counts.
6. Performed a delay study on the delay approach. This was done using the Performed a delay study on the delay approach. This was done using the
procedures described in A Technique for Measureme.nt of Delay at Interprocedures described in A Technic
sections, Volume 3, User's Manual.
Person No. 2 conducted the percent stopping-classification-turning movement count, or the classification-turning movement count depending on the method of intersection control as noted on Figures $\mathrm{C}-1$ and $\mathrm{C}-2$. The percent stopping-classification-turning movement count was conducted using the procedures described in A Technique for Measurement of Delay of Intersections, Volume 3, User's Manual. The only difference was that, in addition to determining whether or not a vehicle stopped, each vehicle was classified as an automobile, truck, or motorcycle and its movement at the intersection was noted.

Persons No. 3 and No. 4 conducted the classification-turning movement counts as noted on Figures $\mathrm{C}-1$ and $\mathrm{C}-2$.

Another by-product of the pilot test was the development of the data collection forms to be used. These forms are described below:

1. Intersection Data Sheet (Figure C-3)--Completed by the JHK representative. This form shows all general data for the intersection;
2. Intersection Delay Study Form (Figure C-4)--Completed by Person No. 1 while conducting a delay study;
3. Percent Stopping Study Form (Figure C-5)--Completed by Person No. 2 while conducting a percent stopping-classification-turning movement count; and
4. Turning Movement and Classification Count Form (Figure C-6)--Completed by Persons No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, or No. 4 while conducting a classificationturning movement count.
Data were collected in six cities across the United States. The cities were Atlanta, Denver, Hartford, Phoenix, Tucson, and Washington, D.C. The studies were started in Washington in the fall of 1980 and continued through the summer of 1981. Data were collected in Washington during the winter of 1980 whenever the weather permitted it. In the spring, the Co-Principal Investigator visited each of the other five cities to help organize the studies, to train the temporary personnel, to identify the study locations, and to brief the local JHK representative on the techniques of conducting the study.

Prior to traveling to a city, the local JHK office was contacted and the project was described to the office manager. The description included the project objective, the project methodology, and the type of intersections which were necessary for data collection. In addition, the Co-PI requested that local mapping be obtained and that a preliminary list of candidate intersections be prepared.

Also before visiting a city, the Co-PI contacted the local traffic engineer and the traffic division of the local police department. The project was described and an interview meeting was arranged with each of them.

When the Co-PI arrived at a city, he first went to the JHK office and discussed the project with the local staff member that was to be involved with the project. During this meeting, the list of candidate sites which the local office had developed was plotted on a map.

The next step of the process was to rent an airplane and fly over the city, looking for potential count sites. These were identified by locating exits from large parking lots, which were easily identified from the air. These locations were plotted on a map. After the flight, the rest of the day was spent driving around the city to check the locations which had been identified up to that point and to identify any new candidates.

When identifying intersections for study, it was determined that it was best to avoid locations which were near areas of construction, which were controlled by fourway stop signs, which had poor sight distance, or which were on steep grades. These conditions introduced extraneous variables that would require special control.

Day 2 began with interviews with the police department and the traffic engineer. A list of candidate sites was obtained from each of them and these locations were plotted on the map.

The rest of day 2 and the morning of day 3 was spent driving around the city to check the candidate sites and to find new sites. From all of these sources, a final list of sites was established by the end of day 3 .

On day 4, the Co-PI visited the city offices and obtained any existing volume counts for the intersections to be studied. From these counts, the peak period was identified.

The Co-Pl identified approximately 60 candidate locations in each city. Typically, counts were available for only ten of the 60 candidate locations. Originally, the peak periods at the other intersections were going to be determined by placing
road tube counters on the side streets and collect count data. However, few of the cities had road tube counters available, so an alternative means of collecting data was developed. Instead of installing mechanical counters, the field crew conducted "short counts" at each intersection at which the peak period had not been previously identified from City counts or from the Co-PI's travels. During these short counts, a volume count was conducted on the study approach of an intersection for at least ten minutes of each half hour between 3:00 and 6:00 PM. Sites were selected so that one person could count two intersections, with a maximum of five minutes of travel time between the intersections. The person would count for ten minutes at Intersection 1 ; move to Intersection 2 and count ten minutes; move back to Intersection 1, and so on. This process was continued for two hours.

From these counts, the local JHK personnel were able to determine which intersections had strong peaking characteristics and when the peak occurred. The "short count" method was found to be a less expensive and quicker method of determining an intersection's peaking characteristics than installing road tubes. This process typically found that only 30 of the 60 candidate locations had suitable peaking characteristics for further study.

The rest of day 4 was spent training the people involved with the project. The Co-PI explained all the study procedures to the local JHK representative. The methodology of the counts was carefully explained, as was the use of the forms. After the JHK staff member was trained, the field crew, which had been hired by the local staff, was given training. Again, the Co-Pl explained how to conduct all the counts. Assignments of duties were made at this time. Day 4 ended with the field crew conducting a delay study at an intersection near the office. This was strictly supervised by the Co-PI and the local JHK representative to ensure that the field crew totally understood how to conduct the studies. The field crew was encouraged to ask questions during this trial run. They were also evaluated by the JHK staff and, if it was felt that they were not able to perform the study, they were replaced.

Day 5 was spent doing miscellaneous paper work and conducting a delay study at an intersection. Again, the studies were highly supervised.

The counts were performed for four 25 -minute study periods over a two hour period. A five minute break was given between study periods. Counts were not conducted during inclement weather conditions. It took approximately six weeks to collect data in each of the cities.

## TWO-WAY MAIN STREET

1. Delay - d.,y.
2. Classification, turn move-t.
3. Classification, turn move:main st, heavy-t.
4. Classification, turn move:mair. st, light; side street, light-t.

5. Delay - d.,g.
6. Classifization, turn move-t.
7. Classification, turn move:main st, heavy-t.
8. Classification, turn move:main st, light-t.

ONE-WAY MAIN STREET

1. Delay - d.,g.
2. Classification, turn move-t.
3. Classification, turn move:main st.-t.
4. Classification, turn move:side st...t.

5. Delay - d.,g.
6. Classification, turn move-t.
7. Classificition, turn move:main st, left lane(s)-t.
8. Classification, turn move:main st, right lane (s) -t.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Legend } \\
& \mathrm{d}= \text { Intersection Delay Study form } \\
& \mathrm{g}= \text { Intersection Data Sheet } \\
& \mathrm{t}= \text { Turning Movement and Classification } \\
& \text { Count form }
\end{aligned}
$$

Figure C-1. Data Collection Assignments - Stop Sign Control

## TWO WAY MAIN STREET

1. Delay - d.,g.
2. \% stop, classification, turn move-\%
3. Classification, turn move:main st-t.
4. Classification, turn move:main st, side $s t-t$.

5. Delay - d.,g.
6. \% stop, classification, turn move-\%
7. Classification, turn move:main st-t.
8. Classification, turn move:main st-t.

Legend
d = Intersection Delay Study form
$\mathrm{g}=$ Intersection Data Sheet
$\mathrm{t}=$ Turning Movement and Classification Count form
\% = Percent Stopping Study form

Figure C- 2. Data Collection Assignments - Signal Control

INTERSECTION DATA SHEET
CITY $\qquad$
INTERSECTION OF $\qquad$ AND Cross Street DATE OF COUNT $\qquad$ TIME OF COUNT $\qquad$ CONTROLLED BY
$\square$ STOP SIGN $\square$ SIGNALPOLICE OFFICER IF SIGNALIZED MODE OF OPERATION $\square$ PRETIMED $\square$ SEMI-ACTUATED $\square$ FULLY ACTUATED STUDY APPROACH
$\square$ NB $\square$ SB
 $\square$ WB

TRAFFIC GENERATOR $\qquad$
Estimated Approach Speed
Approach Speed
$\qquad$

based on peak period observations, SHOULD THIS INTERSECTION BE SIGNALIZED? COMMENTS $\qquad$

Figure C- 3. Intersection Data Sheet

$\qquad$
$\qquad$

Figure C-4. Intersection Delay Study Form


Figure C-5. Percent Stopping Study Form

TURNING MOVEMENT AND CLASSIFICATION COUNT



Figure C-6. Turning Movement and Classification Count Form

## APPENDIX D <br> USER ACCEPTABILITY OF PEAK-HOUR SIGNAL WARRANT CONCEPTS

This appendix outlines activities undertaken by the research team in order to assess the acceptability of potential peak-hour signal warrant concepts and analytical techniques to practicing traffic engineers. User needs and capabilities were considered, as they may affect the value and useability of such a warrant.

A questionnaire was prepared and distributed to participants in a special twohour workshop session conducted at The Traffic Institute Training Center, Evanston, Illinois on November 17, 1981. The results of this questionnaire are not intended to be, and should not be interpreted as, representative of a national cross-section of potential warrant users. Nevertheless, this limited sampling of responses does yield an indication of warrant acceptability to the engineering community, and it was used as advisory input in the development and analysis of alternative peak-hour signal warrants.

## METHODOLOGY

Members of two groups of practicing traffic engineers were invited to attend a special two-hour evening workshop session on peak-hour signal warrants. All members of the Illinois Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (approximately 220 individuals) were sent an introductory letter four weeks prior to the workshop. A second, follow-up letter was sent to 35 Illinois Section ITE members who indicated an interest in the workshop session. Copies of these letters are included as Figures D-1 and D-2 respectively.

Similar invitations were sent to 28 individuals registered for a one-week continuing education course entitled Traffic Signal Workshop conducted November 1620, 1981 by the Traffic Institute.

Information provided to workshop participants prior to the session included

1. Objectives of NCHRP Project 3-20A;
2. Objectives of the workship session;
3. Summary descriptions of the proposed "NCHRP" and "NAC" warrants; and
4. Summary of warrant data requirements.

Thus, workshop participants were somewhat knowledgeable about concept, application, and format of the two candidate peak-hour warrants prior to the workshop session.

The agenda for the workshop is included as Figure D-3. After a brief introduction to the project, participants were requested to complete questions 1
through 10 of the questionnaire shown in Figure D-4. This strategy was employed to avoid significantly biasing the participant responses related to the importance and acceptable limits of various characteristics related to peak-hour traffic operations.

At this point in the research project, the proposed NCHRP peak-hour signal warrant appeared to hold greater promise than did the proposed NAC warrant. Therefore, the analytical basis of the NCHRP warrant was briefly presented and its application techniques described. No attempt was made to thoroughly educate workshop participants in the use of this proposed warrant. Rather, participants were given the case study work project shown as Figure D-5 after the brief introduction, and were asked to apply the proposed warrant. This was intended to test the comprehensibility of the warrant instructions. Participants then completed questions 11 through 18 of the questionnaire, and the session was concluded with a discussion of the current status and future direction of the research project.

THE TRAFFIC INSTITUTE NOATHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
S5S Clapk S7. PO. BOX $140 G$ EVANSTON. IL EOROA

Dear Illinois Section ITE Member:
We would like to invite you to participate in a special two-hour workshop session dealing with a proposed new warrant for traffic signal installation, based on peak hour conditions. This is your opportunity to help shape the content of a new signal warrant. This session will be held at The Traffic Institute Training Center, Evanston, Illinois on Tuesday evening, November 17, 1981.

The Traffic Institute and JHK and Associates are currently performing a study of alternative peak-hour warrants for the National Cooperative Highway Research Program. The need for a traffic signal warrant based on peak-hour conditions has been identified by traffic engineers. This warrant would be used to supplement the existing warrants in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) by providing a basis for determining the need for a traffic signal due to the unique peak-hour conditions that are not fully considered by the other warrants.

Several peak-hour warrant elements have been proposed by various organizations, but have not been verified with regard to the acceptability of the underlying assumptions and the actual numerical values. These elements are being investigated and verified to determine which should be adopted for, general use.

The purpose of this special workshop session is to present and test the proposed new warrant within the practicing traffic engineering - community. We wish to obtain your input on the acceptability and applicability of the warrant. We will present the proposed warrant, direct a workshop session in applying the warrant to a series of example intersection conditions, and elicit your reactions through a discussion session and questionnaire.

This is your opportunity to become familiar with the proposed new signal warrant, as well as, providing input into the evaluation process that will shape the final format and contents of the warrant. If your organization is currently, or has recently considered the installation of a traffic signal at an intersection where heavy traffic volumes during the peak period indicate the desirability of signal control, but none of the conventional eight signal warrants are met, we would be interested in using this as a case study.

If you are interested in possibly participating in this workshop session, please complete and mail the attached response form prior to November 2, 1981. Approximately one week before the session, we will send additional information about the workshop schedule and the proposed warrant. Following the sessions, we invite you to join us for a reception with refreshments.


| Erumatiensict | A5me tinc | Letial | 4\%e 5ese |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Fteld cienvertan, | atre |  |  |
| Fiestararte DGvers, | abe 3e 10 | Futtertinnow | A\% "1643 |
| 1 rarmem | 492-52e |  | 454 |

PROPOSED PEAK-HOUR
TRAFFIC SIGNAL WARRANT WORKSHOP SESSION

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1981 TRAFFIC INSTITUTE TRAINING CENTER

EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

If you are interested in attending this session, please complete and return this form before November 2, 1981. Additional information will be forwarded about one week before the session.

YES, I AM INTERESTED IN ATTENDING $\qquad$

NAME
TITLE $\qquad$
ORGANIZATION
MAILING ADDRESS $\qquad$

PRONE $\qquad$
Return to:
Robert K. Seyfried
The Traffic Institute
555 Clark Street
P.O. Box 1409

Evanston, lllinois 60204-1409

## THE TRAFFIC INSTITUTE NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY SSS CLARK ST' P.O. EOX 1409 EVANSTON. IL GOROA

```
NDEL C. BUFE, Ph.D.
```

Director

## Dear Participants:

You have indicated an interest in attending oúr special workshop on the proposed Peak Hour Signal Warrant. This workshop will be held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 17, 1981 at The Traffic Institute Training Center, 555 Clark Street, Evanston, Illinois. A map of downtown Evanston is enclosed, indicating the location of The Traffic Institute. The session will last about $1 \frac{1}{2}$ hours and will be followed by a reception.

Two alternative proposed warrants have been under consideration in this study. These are referred to as the "NAC" Warrant and the "NCHRP" Warrant. The essential elements of these two proposed warrants are described on the accompanying pages. It is likely, that the final warrant will be some modification of one of these. In the special workshop session, we will discuss the basis of the alternative warrants, data requirements, analysis procedures, and results of field testing. We will also solicit your comments and criticisms.

If you are familiar with an intersection where heavy peak hour traffic volumes indicate the desirability of signal control, but none of the conventional eight signal warrants are met, you may wish to bring to the meeting enough data to test the proposed warrant(s). The following data will be required for the peak hour (four consecutive $15-\mathrm{min}$ (

1. Total main street entering traffic (both directions)
2. Highest side street approach entering traffic (one direction)
3. 85 th percentile speed (or speed limit) of main street
4. Intersection geometry (number of approach lanes)
5. (Optional) Average queue length on highest volume side street approach during peak hours (use measurement technique contained in A Technique for Measurement of Delay at Intersections, Federal Highway Administration Report No. RD-76-137, NTIS No. PB265 703, November 1976). This assumes current 2 -way STOP control.
6. Your intuitive judgement as to whether a signal be appropriate at the intersection.

If you do not have such data available, we will provide sample data for use in testing the proposed warrant(s).

Very truly yours,


Senior Transportation Engineer
Transportation Engineering Division

Enclosures

| PMONES: 1 Areo Code 312] |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Drector | 492.5476 | Engmeerng | 492-5040 | Legea | 492-5280 |
| Eubiness Monager | 492-5050 | Fiela Servicos | 492.5380 | Motor vel icle Adm, | $492 \cdot 5257$ |
| Library | 492-5273 | Pesearch \& Developrnent | 492.3270 | Publicatums | $492-3033$ |
| Regretrar | 492.7245 | Trairung | 492-5222 | Book Orcer Depl. | 492-5053 |

The peak hour warrant is satisfied when for any four consecutive 15-minute periods during an average weekday:

1. The ratio of traffic demand to capacity on the highest volume side street approach exceeds 0.80 . This saturation ratio" implies an average queue length of about 4 vehicles on the side street for the hour This translates to 4 vehicle-hours of delay and
2. Certain minimum volume requirements are met.

The peak hour warrant is satisfied when the plotted point representing vehicles per hour on the major street (total of both approaches) and the corresponding "equivalent" vehicles per hour on the higher volume in the figure geometric intersection configurations. "Equivalent" side street volumes are computed by adjusting for percent of right turn traffic and commercial vehicles.


The peak hour warrant is satisfied when for any four consecutive 15-minute periods of an average weekday:

1. The total delay experienced by the traffic on a side street controlled by a STOP sign equals or exceeds four vehicle-hours for a one-lane approach and five vehicle-hours for a two-lane approach, and
2. Certain minimum volume requirements are met.

The peak hour warrant is interpretted as being satisfied when the plotted point representing the vehicles per hour on the major street total of both approaches) and the corresponding vehicles per hou on the higher volume minor street approach (one direction only) are modified for rural/high curves are modified for rural/high speed conditions.


MAJOR STREET-TOTAL OF BOTH APPROACHES-YPH-

## I. Introduction

A. Need for peak hour warrant
II. Questionnaire - Questions 1-10
III. Proposed Peak Hour Warrants
A. Analytical basis
B. Application techniques/data collection
IV. Case Study - Participant Work Project
A. Presentation
B. Review
V. Questionnaire - Questions 11.- 18.
VI. Project 3-20A
A. History/status
B. Theoretical basis of the peak hour warrants
C. Potential future developments

1. What type of agency do you work for? (Check one)
$\qquad$ ederal; $\qquad$ State; $\qquad$ Municipal; $\qquad$ County; $\qquad$ Consultant Other $\qquad$
2. Are you attending the NUTI Traffic Signal Workshop
$\qquad$ Yes; $\qquad$ No.
3. Do your responsibilities involve making recommendations or decisions regarding the installation of traffic signals? (Check one)
$\qquad$ Yes; $\qquad$ No.
4. Does your organization use formal warrants (guidelines, criteria) for signal installation to supplement the eight warrants currently included in the U.S. MUTCD? (Check. one)
$\qquad$ Yes; $\qquad$ No.

If yes, briefly describe the additional warrants:

1. $\qquad$
2. $\qquad$

## Peak Hour Conditions

5. Do you believe that there is a need for an additional signal warrant in the HUTCD based on peak hour traffic conditions? (Please rate this need on a scale from 1 to 10 by circling the number which best reflects your opinion)
Strong need for
Peak Hour Warrant
Peak Hour Warrant not needed

1
6. Have you had occasion to make recommendations or decisions regarding signal installation where signals were desired because of peak period congestion, but none of the eight MUTCD warrants were met? (Check one)
$\qquad$
$\qquad$ No.
If yes, briefly describe criteria or considerations used in arriving at your decision or recommendation?
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
7. Please rate the following factors in terms of their potential importance in considering the installation of signals where congestion is a problem one or two hours of the day (rate the importance on a scale of 1 to 10 by checking the number which best reflects your opinion)

| Factors | Scale of importance |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Very Important |  |  | 7 | 6 | 5 | Not Important |  |  |  |
|  | 10 | 9 | 8 |  |  |  | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 1. Main street volumes (peak hour) | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 2. Side street volumes (peak hour) | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 3. Side street delay (peak hour) | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 4. Side street queue length (peak hour) | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 5. Distance to nearest signal | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | - 6 | 5 | 4. | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 6. Main street speeds | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 7. Number of approach lanes | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 0thers |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8. | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 9. | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 10. | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

8. Please rate the experience and capability of your organization in collecting the following types of traffic data (check the rating which best reflects your organization's present practices)

## Data Collection

1. Machine volume counts
2. Manual volume counts
3. Spot speeds
4. Average queue length
5. Average approach delay
6. Total approach delay
Frequently Do/

Fully Capable \begin{tabular}{c}

| Occasionally Do/ |
| :---: |
| Possible |
| But Difficult | <br>

\hline
\end{tabular}

9. To the best of your ability, fill in values for the following table, indicating desirable maximum and absolute tolerable maximum conditions for side street traffic in the peak hour with stop sign control. Leave lines blank if you ldo not have a good "fee!" for some values.

Side Street Peak Hour Condition Desirable Maximum Maximum Tolerable
Average Delay/Vehicle (Seconds)
Maximum Delay/Vehicle (Seconds) Total Approach Delay (Vehicle-Hours) Average Queue Length (vehicles) Maximum Queue Length (Vehicles) $\qquad$
10. Is there a minimum side street volume that should be present (one approach) in the peak hour before signal installation is considered, regardless of other factors.
__Yes; No
If yes, what minimum volume should be required on:
1 lane approach $\qquad$
2 lane approach $\qquad$
3 or more lane approach

## Evaluation of Proposed NCHRP Warrant

The following questions relate to the proposed peak hour signal warrant presented. Please indicate your opinions based upon your brief exposure to the method.
11. Ease of understanding concepts. (Please rate on scale from 1 to 10 by circling the number which best reflects your opinion)

| Basis of warrant <br> was easy to <br> understand |  |  |  |  |  |  | Basis of warrant <br> was difficult <br> to understand |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

11a. What concepts were easily understood? $\qquad$
$\qquad$
l1b. What concepts were difficult to understand? $\qquad$
$\qquad$
12. Ease of application of warrant.

| Warrant would <br> be easy to use |  |  |  | Warrant would be <br> difficult to use |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

12a. Indicate what aspects were easy to use $\qquad$
$\qquad$

12b. Indicate what aspects were difficult to use $\qquad$
$\qquad$

12c. Do you prefer a graphical or tabular presentation of volume criteria for the warrant? (Check one)
Prefer graph $\qquad$
Prefer table $\qquad$
13. How well does the proposed warrant apply to your analysis needs?

## Would handle many Signal installation decisions

Would handle many Signal
installation decisions

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | .4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

14. Is the required data collection effort for this warrant acceptable with respect to your agency's man-power and technical capabilities?

| Reasonable level <br> of effort |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

14a. Please indicate changes in required data collection that you would suggest (if any)?
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
15. Is the required analysis effort for this warrant acceptable with respect to your agency's man-power and technical capabilities?

| Reasonable level of effort for purpose of analysis |  |  |  |  |  |  | Too much effort for purpose of analysis |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

15a. Please indicate changes in analysis methods that you would suggest (if any)?
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$

PEAK HOUR SIGNAL WARRANT
CASE STUDY

## DATA

Given:

1. The T-intersection as shown, with peak hour approach volumes in VPf.

2. 85th percentile speed on Mc Daniel Avenue is 35 MPH .
3. Intersection delay field data collection during peak hour as shown on attached forms.

Find:

1. Apply the proposed peak hour warrant to this intersection to determine whether traffic signal installation is warranted.
2. Is the result "reasonable"?
3. Select one of the (at least) eight hours of data collected to determine the value of Total Major Street Volume (TMSV), i.e., sum of both approaches if two-way traffic is serviced.
4. For each such hour note the total volume of traffic on each side street approach (SSV), the associated percentage of right-turn movements $\left(P_{R}\right)$ and the volume of truck and bus traffic ( $Q_{T}$ ).
5. For each side street approach, calculate the "equivalent" volume, $Q_{\mathbf{S S}}=\mathbf{S S V}+\mathrm{Q}_{\mathrm{T}}$, which states that one truck/bus is equivalent to two passenger cars.
6. For each side street approach, enter the appropriate table (A-2 through A-5) for the intersection configuration, with $Q_{s s}$ and $P_{R}$ to obtain the "Effective Side Street Volume," (ESSV).
7. Define HSSV as the higher value of ESSV, and LSSV as the lower value (for two side street approaches).
8. If TMSV + HSSV + LSSV $>800$ for two side street approaches or TMSV + HSSV > 650 for one side street approach (T-intersection), proceed to Step 7. otherwise, this condition does not satisfy the
warrant. Return to Step 1 if there is additional data: if not, proceed to Step 8.
9. Plot the point defined by the coordinates (TMSV, HSSV) on the appropriate Warrant Diagram (Figures A-1 through A-4) for this intersection configuration. When the value of TMSV exceeds 1600 vph , the point lies above the warrant curve if the value of HSSV exceeds 75 vph for a one-lane approach, 100 vph for a two-lane. approach. Return to Step 1 if there is additional data; if not, proceed to Step 8.
10. R-traffic signal is warranted if any four platted points lie above Elro aigmat Warrant curve within the cegtom labelled, "VOLUME WARRANT SATISPIED."

### 3.2 Peak-Hour Warrant

A traffic signal is warranted if one (or more)
point(s) plotted on the Warrant Diagram lies within the shaded region labelled, "PEAR-HOUR WARRANT SATISFIED."

When a value of TMSV exceeds 1600 vph , a traffic signal is warranted if the associated value of HSSV exceeds 100 vph for a one-lane side street approach, 150 vph for a two-lane approach.

A traffic signal installed under this warrant should be either semi- or full-traffic-actuated as determined by the responsible engineer.

Table A-3
Impact of Right-Turn Movements: Configuration 4222*

| EquivalentSldeStreatvolumaQ $_{\text {ss }}$ | Effective Side-Street Volumes (ESSV) for Indicated Right-Turn Percentages ( $\mathrm{P}_{\mathrm{R}}$ ) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 |
| 100 | 90 | 80 | 70 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 140 | 130 | 120 | 110 | 90 | 80 | - | - | - |
| 180 | 170 | 150 | 140 | 120 | 100 | 80 | - | - |
| 220 | 200 | 180 | 160 | 140 | 120 | 100 | 80 | - |
| 260 | 250 | 230 | 210 | 190 | 160 | 130 | 80 | - |
| 300 | 290 | 270 | 250 | 230 | 200 | 180 | 150 | 100 |
| 340 | 330 | 320 | 310 | 290 | 250 | 220 | 200 | 170 |
| 380 | 370 | 360 | 350 | 330 | 300 | 270 | 250 | 220 |
| 420 | 410 | 400 | 390 | 370 | 340 | 320 | 290 | 270 |

(Rounded to multiples of 10)

- Also 4122, 4211, 4111


Figure A-4. Vehicular Volume and Peak-Hour Volume Warrant Diagram for the 4222, 4122,4211 and 4111 Intersection Configurations

Figure D-5. Case Study (Con't.)

The following analysis of data obtained from the questionnaire addresses each question separately. All statistics are computed based on the number of responses to the given question. Overall, 35 individuals participated in the workshop session and 33 questionnaires were returned. Questionnaire responses are tabulated in Figure D-6.

## Question 1

Most workshop participants ( 69 percent) resided in the State of Illinois However, a total of 7 states and Puerto Rico were represented. About half ( 17 of 33) of responding participants were employed by private consulting firms. This distribution is important since consultants may act in an advisory role concerning signal installation, but tend to be somewhat farther removed from the final decision-making process than traffic engineers employed by public agencies.

## Question 2

All workshop participants attended this session voluntarily, presumably because of an interest in and desire to learn more about the proposed warrants. This may have resulted in a greater receptiveness to new concepts and techniques than might ordinarily be found in the overall traffic engineering profession.

## Question 3

Nearly all responders ( 85 percent) indicated some current responsibility related to installation of traffic signals.

## Question 4

Twenty-two percent of responding participants indicated the use of criteria in addition to the 8 warrants currently contained in the U.S. MUTCD. Most of these responses appeared to be related to a state of Illinois warrant for signals at commercial or industrial driveways.

## Question 5

Participants indicated a strong need for an additional MUTCD warrant based on peak-hour conditions. There was probably an inherent bias in this group since individuals with little interest in peak-hour warrants were unlikely to attend.

## Question 6

Thirty-nine percent of responding participants had occasion to make signal installation judgements that may have been aided by a peak-hour signal warrant. Present and future traffic volumes and delay appeared to be important concerns in making such judgements.

## Question 7

Main street and side street traffic volumes and side street delays are perceived as very important in making a determination on signals for peak-hour conditions. Significantly, side street queue is perceived as of only moderate importance. This appears to indicate that the responders did not perceive any correspondence between average queue and delay. The other listed factors were also perceived as being of moderate importance.

## Question 8

Manual and machine traffic volume counts were indicated as being familiar and fully within the organizational capabilities of nearly all responders. The remaining data collection techniques were rated as being only moderately familiar or within organizational capabilities. Generally less experience with the latter data collection processes is likely to explain these lower ratings.

## Question 9

Responding participants were requested to estimate values for "desirable maximum" and "absolute tolerable maximum" conditions under STOP sign control. No great confidence in the reported statistics should be inferred. This was a relatively small sample, and responses varied over a considerable range.

Several items of interest may be noted, however. The sample average ( 64.4 seconds) and median ( 60 seconds) values for desirable maximum delay per vehicle is close to the value ( 56.9 seconds) for delay that should not be exceeded for any vehicle on a STOP approach as suggested by Lieberman.

Also, average ( 4.2 vehicle-hours) and median ( 4 vehicle-hours) maximum tolerable total approach delay values are similar to the basic criteria imbedded in the proposed NCHRP and NAC peak hour warrants. It should be noted, however, that the average and median values for average queue are not consistent with values for total delay. As discussed for Question 7, this may indicate that the responders did not associate the two characteristics.

## Question 10

Seventy-one percent of responding participants indicated that there is some minimum side street volume threshold that should be exceeded before signals are considered, regardless of other factors. The median responses for one lane and two lane approaches ( 100 and 150 veicles per hour respectively) correspond exactly with volume thresholds in the proposed NCHRP and NAC peak hour signal warrants. Summaries of these proposed warrants were available to the participants prior to the workshop session.

Questions 11 through 18 were completed by participants after the proposed NCHRP peak hour signal warrant had been described and participants had applied it to an example intersection case study (included as Figure D-5). Responses to questions 11 and 18 relate specifically to the proposed NCHRP warrant.

## Question 11

Responding participants indicated that the concepts underlying the NCHRP warrant were moderately well understood, although several indicated great difficulty with it. The concepts of volume adjustments and graphical presentation of the warrant appear well accepted. However, a number of commenters expressed difficulty with the terminology and abbreviations used in the warrant instructions. Also, specific conditions required for application of the warrant were not fully understood.

Responding participants also indicated that the proposed NCHRP warrant would be relatively easy to apply to practical signal installation decision-making. The use of a graphical presentation was particularly well accepted. Terminology was confusing, and interpolation within the right turn adjustment table tended to be a problem in applying the technique. Sixty-seven percent of those responding indicated a preference for a graphical rather than a tabular presentation of warrant criteria.

## Question 13

The proposed warrant was rated as having moderate applicability to the signal installation decision needs of participants. This is consistent with the level of interest in peak-hour signal warrants represented within the group.

## Question 14

The level of data collection required for application of the warrant was rated as highly acceptable. The type of data required appears to be well within the capabilities and experience of most agencies. This result corresponds well with the responses to Question 8.

## Question 15

The level of analysis was also judged as being highly reasonable with respect to man-power and technical capabilities of the agencies represented. There were indications again, however, that the warrant terminology and computational instructions require clarification.

## Question 16

The results of the warrant appear to be moderately to highly consistent with the engineering judgement of nearly all of the responding participants. That is, the warrant yields credible results to technical personnel. Most comments on this question seem to relate to Question 11 and 12, concerning concepts and ease of application rather than consistency of results.

## Question 17

This question elicited no new comments of interest.

## Question 18

A number of comments and concerns about the proposed NCHRP warrant were expressed in response to this question. However, the comments are highly diverse and there do not appear to be any dominant reservations or concerns which are prevelant throughout the responding participant group.

## QUESTIONNAIRE

peak hour signal warrant NCHRP 3-2OA RESEARCH PROJECT

## TABULATION OF RESPONSES

1. What type of agency do you work for? (Check one)

O Federal; 6 State; 6 Municipal; 3 County; 17 Consultant - Other Transit: 1
2. Are you attending the NUTI Traffic Signal Workshop.

12 Yes; 21 No.
3. Do your responsibilities involve making recommendations or decisions regarding the installation of traffic signals? (Check one)
$\qquad$ Yes; $\qquad$
4. Does your organization use formal warrants (guidelines, criteria) for signal installation to supplement the eight warrants currently included in the U.S. MUTCD? (Check one)

$$
\text { ? Yes; } 25 \text { No. }
$$

If yes, briefly describe the additional warrants:

1. Missouri 2-hour warrant $\qquad$
2. 2-hour peak at $4 x$ Warrant \#2
3. Political
4. ILL. Industrial Warrant
5. Commercial-Industrial warrant (factor $x$ Warrants 1 \& 2)

## Peak Hour Conditions

5. Do you believe that there is a need for an additional signal warrant in the MUTCD based on peak hour traffic conditions? (Please rate this need on a scale from 1 to 10 by circling the number which best reflects your opinion)

| Strong need for | Peak Hour Warrant |
| :--- | :--- |
| Peak Hour Warrant | not needed |


| 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

$\begin{array}{llllllll}10 & 4 & 8 & 4 & 2 & 2 & 1 & 2\end{array}$
Average $=7.9$, Median $=8$, Mode $=10$
6. Have you had occasion to make recommendations or decisions regarding signal installation where signals were desired because of peak period congestion, but none of the eight MUTCD warrants were met? (Check one)
13 Yes $\qquad$ No.

If yes, briefly describe criteria or considerations used in arriving at your decision or recommendation?
Delay; energy consumption; likely non-observance of stop sign; Illinois commercial-industrial warrant; Volumes; Gaps; Approach width; delay; accidents; Intuitive judgement; bus volvone and scheduling; future growth
of traffic; land use changes; politics; 2-hour peak at $4 x$ Warrant \#2
7. Please rate the following factors in terms of their potential importance in considering the installation of signals where congestion is a probem one or two hours of the day (rate the importance on a scale of 1 to 10 by checking the number which best reflects your opinion)

|  | Scale of importance |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Factors | Very Important |  |  |  | 6 | 5 | Not Important |  |  |  |
|  | 10 | 9 | 8 |  |  |  | 4 | 3 |  |  |
| 1. Main street volumes (peak hour) | 14 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1* |  |  |
| 2. Side street volumes (peak hour) | 12 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 4* |  |  |  |
| 3. Side street delay (peak hour) | 11 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 2* |  |  |  |
| 4. Side street queue length (peak hour) | 3 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 1 |  | * |
| 5. Distance to nearest signal | 2 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 3* |  |  |
| 6. Main street speeds | 5 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 1* |  |  |
| 7. Number of approach lanes | 6 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 1* |  |  |

Others: 8. Total delay 9. No. stops 10. Accidents 11. (aps in main street traffic 12. Modification of traffic demand 13. Frequency of peak conditions 14. Main street delay 15. Possible additional
driveways 16. Politics 17. Left turn volumes 18. Progression
$\begin{aligned} & \text { 19. Bus volume/turns } \\ & \text { 20. Climatic conditions/grades 21. Geometrics }\end{aligned}$
*1. Average $=3.3$, Median $=9$, Mode $=10,2$. Average $=8.0$, Mediar $=9$, Mode $=10$, 3. Average $=8.0$, Median $=9$, Mode $=10, \overline{4 .}$ Average $=6.6$, Mediar. $=6$, Mode $=6$, $\frac{5 .}{}$ Average $=6.9$, Median $=7$, Mode $=8, \underline{4 .}$ Average $=6.1$, Mverage $=7.0$, Mediar: $=7$, Mode $=8$, 7. Average $=6.8$, Median $=7$, Mode $=7$.

Figure D-6. Tabulation of Questionnaire
8. Please rate the experience and capability of your organization in collecting the following types of traffic data (check the rating which best reflects your organization's present practices)

Data Collection

1. Machine volume counts
2. Manual volume counts
3. Spot speeds
4. Average queue length
5. Averag̀e approach delay
6. Total approach delay
7. To the best of your ability, fill in values for the following table, indicating desirable maximum and absolute tolerable maximum conditions for side street traffic in the peak hour with stop sign control. Leave for side street traffic in the peak hour with stop sign control. Leave

Side Street Peak Hour Condition Desirable Maximum Maximum Tolerable

Average Delay/Venicle (Seconds) Maximum Delay/Vehicle (Seconds) Total Approach Delay (Vehicle-Hours)* Average Queue Length (vehicles) Maximum Queue Length (Vehicles) (*6 respunses)

Occasionally Do/
Possible
Frequently Do/ requ Fully Capable

| $\frac{23}{27}$ |
| :---: |
| $\frac{4}{14}$ |
| 11 |
| 9 |$\frac{4}{12}-12$

Never Do Not Capable | 3 |
| :---: |
| 2 |
| 2 |
| 3 |
| $1:$ |
| 12 |

## Ave. $=34.5 \mathrm{Med} .=30 \quad$ Ave $=59.4 \mathrm{Med} .=40$

 Ave. $=64.4 \mathrm{Mec} .=600 \quad$ Ave. $=75.9 \mathrm{Med} .=60$ Ave. 3.2 Med. $=4$ Ave. $=4.2 \mathrm{Mod} .=4$ Ave. 5.8 Med. $=$ i $\quad$ Ave. $=22.0 \mathrm{Med} .=8$ Ave. 9.5 Med. $=3 \quad$ Ave. $=23.3 \mathrm{Med}$.10. Is there a minimum side street volume that should be present (one apprcach) in the peak hour before signal installation is considered, regardless cf other factors.
$22^{\mathrm{Yes} ;} 2^{\mathrm{No}}$.
If yes, what minimum volume should be required on:
1 lane approach Ave. $=118.6$ Med. $=100$
2 lane approach Ave. $=188.9$ Med. $=150$
3 or more lane approach Ive. $=222.9$ Med. $=1 \% \%$
Evaluation of Proposed NCHRP Warrant
The following questions relate to the proposed peak hour signal warrant presented. Please indicate your opinions based upon your brief exposure to the method
11. Ease of understanding concepts. (Please rate on scale from 1 to 10 by circling the number which best reflects your opinion)

Basis of warrant
was easy to
understand

| 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 2 | 5 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 |  | 2 |

Average $=6.9$, Median $=8$, Mode $=8$.
11a. What concepts were easily understood? TMSV; All; Comparative street volumes Equivalent vehicles; Equivalent volume; ESSV; the curve; TMSV, SSV, 2ss; Calculations; ESSV; ss and ESSV; Use of volumes; Volwmes and adjustments; peak hour volwe: A iustment factors. Data collection. ESSV and adiustments Sraph; Not cownterintuitive; ESSV; M:ISV, SSV, $F_{r}$; Maior and minor street volumes; Volume relatiorsinirs.
11b. What concepts were difficult to understand? HSS\%, SSSV, TMSV, shaded region of zrain; difficult to explain to layman; ESSV; Vone; Rigitt tum adjustment, average ard maximwn delay; explonations are avful; what vaiues are to be used ana what are not; ESE:; what is major street arrroach; should right turms De oonted is there is a might tum lane?; abbreviations; too simole to be confident in resuits; serminoloze an*ising; rocedure contusing; terminoiogy; intermolation in chart; erarin; :One; :BSV; definition of reak hour; instructions; TMSV; io not account for unusual gap occurance; terminology; what is peak hour; rieht turns; right turn adjustment; capacity definition; HSSV/LSSV; HSSV; abbreviations.
12. Ease of application of warrant.

| Warrant would | Warrant would be |
| :--- | :--- |
| be easy to use | difficult to use |


| 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 10 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 |  |  |

$$
\text { Average }=7.7, \text { Median }=8, \text { Mode }=10 .
$$

12a. Indicate what aspects were easy to use Plotting on zrarh; caloulations 0 : XVV SV; graph and charts; whole warrant rocedure cvear; i hour of traffic coint seometrics; TMSV; ail; Lata collection; shart; cook book easu to follow, Instructions easu to jollow if terms dejined; calculations; yolimes easy to otain; matn is straiont forward; table and grawh; rarn; overall sequence, Grarh; simple data collection; calculations; chart simplicitit; tabie and zrarh; Warrant clear and simple; easily computed; calculations; data collection; arath simple calculations;

12b. Indicate what aspects were difficult to use Equivalent/effective-terminoioj; difficult to explain to layment; sirmlifs; no feel for it; none; when volweres polation); terminology; no exact answers; abbbreviations; :̈SSV; TMSV; instmuction poor: intermolation in table; none; lata base not clear; meaning of reak cour, interpolation in table; arbitrary; right turns; terminology; interpolation in table; table.
12c. Do you prefer a graphical or tabular presentation of volume criteria for the warrant? (Check one)

Prefer graph $\qquad$
Prefer table 11

Figure D-6. Tabulation of Questionnaire (Con't.)
13. How well does the proposed warrant apply to your analysis needs?

Would handle many Signal
installation decisions Would not be used

| 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 4 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 4 |  |

Average $=6.1$, Median $=6,{ }^{2}$ Mode $=5$. ${ }^{3}$ 3 4 Is the required data collection effort for this warrant acceptable with respect to your agency's man-power and technical capabilities?
Reasonable level
of effort
Too much effort

| 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 11 | 10 | 4 |  |  | 2 | 1 | 1 |  |  |

Average $=8.3$, Median $=9$, Mode $=10$.
1
14a. Please indicate changes in required data collection that you would suggest (if any)?
Geometric considerations; pedestrians; right tum traffic from major to minor street; clarify definition of conflicting volwmes; prefer 2 hour count; OK if volume data used, more effort if delay is used; require 25 minute comting periods; seems simple enough; each intersection much be evaluated on its own basis.

15 Is the required analysis effort for this warrant acceptable with respect to your agency's man-power and technical capabilities?

Reasonable level of effort
for purpose of analysis

| 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 16 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 2 |  | 1 |


15a. Please indicate changes in analysis methods that you would suggest (if any)?
No reason to collect 8 hours of data; interpolation awkward; gap acceptance simplify calculations; analysis of gaps; adjust rruck factor to greater than 2PCE; table; simplify HSSV and ESSV; instruction's hard to follow; interpolation; use mathematical equations to determine answers; terminology; better definition of peak hour and data collection needed. incorporate delaulqueue length measures whless volwe is good surrogate; clarify terminology and
16. Does this warrant give results that are consistant with your engineering judgement as to the appropriateness of traffic signal control?

| Method seems to be highly consistant with my judgement |  |  |  |  | Method seems to be highly inconsistant with my :udgement |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 |  |
| 4 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 2 |  | 1 |  |  |

Average $=7.2$, Median $=7$, Mode $=6$.
16a. Please describe inconsistancies (if any)? Terminology: definitions: relationship to nearby signals not explicit; should consider delay more explicitly; engineering udgment needed; saturation ratio is very subjective. rioht turn from mion minor street; treatment of non-conflicting right turns; effect of seasonal variations?; interpolation difficult; treatment of "T"" and 4-leg intersection the same; Queues, delay, physical conditions.
17. If there is anything else you like about the procedure, please not it here: Like right turn adjustment concept, east of use; limited data needed; define
$\qquad$
18. If there is anything else about the procedure you did not like, please not it here:

Basic approach reasonable; flash or tight actuated control imparative in off-peak Basic approach reasonable; flash or tight actuated control imparative in offcomplicated; what if plotted point is above "capacity"? too many caiculations complicated; what if plotted point is above "capacity"? too many caiculations intersection; treatment of off-peak operation; warrant does not tupify actua peak hour; what does "capacity" line represent? terminology confusing too simplistic to be applied without judgment

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[^1]:    RESEARCH SPONSORED BY THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS IN COOPERATION WITH THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

[^2]:    The Peak-Hour Volume Warrant was designed to assess short-term demands to determine whether a traffic signal is warranted. The primary factor is queue stability. It is based on the assumption that as demand approaches capacity on an approach controlled by a STOP sign, the probability of queue instability (growing without bound) increases markedly. Such instability reflects a breakdown in intersection control and must be prevented. The criterion adopted indicates a need for a traffic signal to be installed whenever the saturation ratio of traffic demand to capacity on a side street approach exceeds 0.8 , for a period of one hour.

    > The above criterion will allow the mean delay experienced by side street vehicles to substantially exceed 25 seconds during the relatively short period of one hour, so long as the queue remains stable. The actual delay experienced varies with conditions. According to queueing theory, the mean queue at a saturation ratio of 0.8 is approximately four vehicles.

[^3]:    (Rounded to multiples of 10 )

[^4]:    1/ Reilly, W. R., C. C. Gardner, and J. H. Kell, A Technique for Measurement of Delay at Intersections, San Francisco, CA, JHK \& Associates, September 1976 $\frac{\text { Delay at intersections, San Fra }}{\text { (FHWA-RD-76-135), three Vols. }}$

