

AASHTO Guidelines for Traffic Data Programs

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials

AASHTO

The Voice of Transportation

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CHAPTER 1

Introduction

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Objective

The objective of the guidelines is to improve the quality of the traffic information that supports decisions at all levels of the transportation profession. Traffic data programs are essential for state Departments of Transportation to accomplish their mission of ensuring safety and mobility to the traveling public. Traffic data supports capital investment programs and budgets, as well as effective design and maintenance programs.

This document is a reference for professional traffic monitoring and establishes recommended national traffic monitoring practices that reflect current practice and advances made in the past several years.

1.1.2 Background

The first edition of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) *Guidelines for Traffic Data Programs* was developed by an AASHTO Task Force that was formed in 1990 and was composed of members of two AASHTO Committees and representatives of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Strategic Highway Research Program. That edition built upon and supplemented the 1985 edition of FHWA's *Traffic Monitoring Guide* (TMG).

Since publication of the first edition of the guidelines in 1992, many advances have been made in traffic monitoring procedures, and updated editions of the TMG were published in 1994 and 2001. This new edition of the Guidelines represents a general updating of all material so the content reflects the current state of the art and complements the TMG.

The guidebook is intended for use by state and local transportation agencies, as well as others involved in traffic data programs.

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