**Guidelines for Using Model Data and Output**

**Appropriate Uses of Model Data and Output**

* Highway traffic forecasts for TIP and local projects
* Alternatives / corridor analyses
* Traffic impact analyses for regionally significant developments (should not be used for small developments)
* Transit service analyses
* Information for purpose and need statements and EIS’s in general

**Cautioned Uses of Model Data and Output**

* Signal timing (not recommended)
* Direct use of turning movements (supplement with observed turn data whenever possible)
* Direct use of modeled traffic volumes (must work through the process described below first)

**Information to Review**

* Current year NCDOT or local traffic counts
* Current NCDOT or local turning movement counts
* Previously completed traffic forecasts
* 2018 socio-economic data
* 2050 socio-economic data
* 2050 / 2018 socio-economic data growth
* 2018 modeled daily traffic versus 2018 count
* 2050 modeled daily traffic and 2050 / 2018 growth rate

**Process**

* Check “Effective” date and confer with NCDOT to ensure you are using the most up to date / official model version
* Review and consider impacts of TAZ size and loading location(s) in the study area .
* Compare 2018 modeled daily volumes to 2018 traffic counts
* Determine how the model is performing in the area in question (loading high, loading low, loading within +/- 10%). This should be checked along the corridor using sections with logical termini rather than link by link.
* Determine reasonableness of 2050 / 2018 growth rates in the area in question
* Determine whether projected socio-economic growth in the area sufficiently addresses known “pipeline” developments.
* Compare current year traffic counts to 2018 volumes and 2050 projected volumes. Check for logical progression.
* Compare projected volumes to any previously produced traffic forecasts. If different, determine source of forecasted data and reason for difference.
* If the 2018 modeled volumes are not within +/- 10 % of the 2018 counts, 2050 projections can be adjusted by applying the 2050 / 2018 growth rate or the delta of 2018 to 2050, whichever is more reasonable, to the 2015 count.
* Reasonableness checks should be applied to any adjusted volumes using the steps previously outlined.