

CULVER ROAD AND EAST MAIN STREET INTERSECTION

# TRAFFIC ANALYSIS REPORT

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Group Name: "Three Degrees of Freedom"

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# Introduction

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## Data Analysis

To assess the traffic conditions at the Culver Road and East Main Street intersection, we determined the current state of the intersection in terms of federal DOT guidelines for this class of intersection, as well as analyses to examine trends and patterns in the traffic recorded and to predict occurrences of traffic congestion based on time of day, day of the week, and the weather conditions present.

### Traffic Analysis

There are a few common characteristics to examine when determining the traffic flow for a particular intersection. Namely, it is important to determine the amount of delay experience by drivers as they enter the intersection, the density of the vehicles as they pass through the intersection, and the velocity at which traffic flows through the intersection. With these three variables, it is possible to determine the effects of traffic congestions on the flow of traffic through the intersection.

The amount of time that vehicles wait at an intersection is referred to as the Level of Service (LOS). Ranked in letter grades from A to F, the LOS is an identifier for the overall health of the intersection. Ideally, an intersection should be classified as being either A, B, or C, denoting free flow, reasonably free flow, and stable flow, respectively. The 2010 Highway Capacity Manual classifications for LOS can be seen in Table 1, in which grade A intersections have less than 10 seconds of vehicle control delay, whereas grade F intersections have more than 80 of vehicle control delay.

Table 1: Level of Service classifications published in the 2010 Highway Capacity Manual.

LOS	Vehicle Control Delay (Sec.)
A	$\leq 10$
B	10 – 20
C	20 – 35
D	35 – 55
E	55 – 80
F	$\geq 80$

Using these classifications, we examined the average vehicle control delay for each five minute observation period. As shown in Figure 1, the majority of observations have a Grade F Level of Service (58.38%). Each of the other levels of service occurred in between 7.45% and 8.63% of observations. This suggests that the Culver Road and East Main Street intersections is experiencing traffic congestion, in which each vehicle move in lock step with the vehicle in front of it [1].

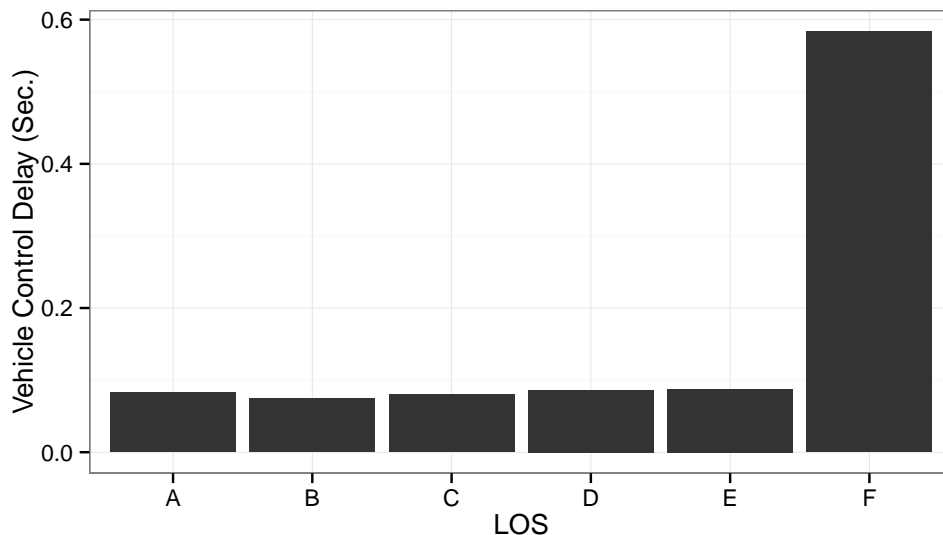


Figure 1: The Culver Road/East Main Street intersection has a poor Level of Service.

We also examined the relationship between the traffic density (vehicles/mile) and traffic volume (vehicles/hour), also known as flux. When plotted, the relationship between the traffic density and the traffic volume creates the fundamental diagram of traffic flow [1], as shown in Figure 2. The fundamental diagram presents a curve in which points on the left of the line represent free and bound traffic flow, and points on the right of the line represent the velocity of congested flow. Using linear regression techniques, we were able to estimate the free flow velocity to be 19.5 miles per hour and the traffic wave velocity to be 2.43 miles per hour against the direction of traffic. We also determined the critical traffic density to be 42.8 vehicles per mile. As the vehicle density passes the critical density, the traffic flow becomes more unstable leading to traffic waves and eventually congestion. To maximize the traffic flow, the vehicle density must remain below the critical density.

## Trend and Pattern Analysis

To examine the general trend in the metrics we were provided, we performed linear and multivariate regression. These techniques allow us to approximate the traffic volume and delay. As shown in Figure 3. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Donec vitae nunc quis sem cursus luctus in at est. Etiam at augue ac libero interdum euismod non nec sem. Aliquam erat volutpat. Phasellus auctor urna purus, ac rutrum eros fermentum ut. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.

## Bayesian Analysis

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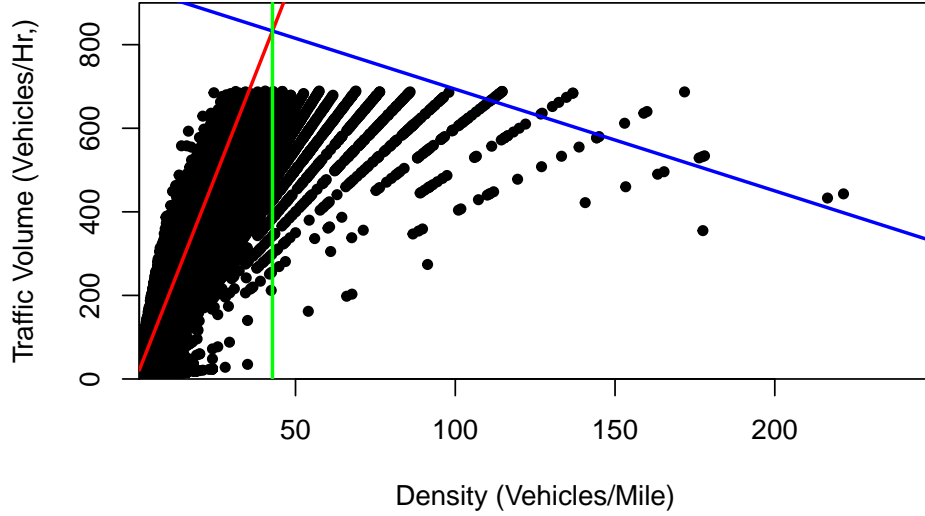


Figure 2: Fundamental diagram of traffic flow provides free flow and traffic wave velocities. Traffic density was calculated by dividing the traffic volume by the traffic speed. Using linear regression, we found the free flow velocity (19.5 mph) as depicted in red, the traffic wave velocity (2.43 mph) as depicted in blue, and the critical density (42.8 vehicles per mile) as depicted in green.

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## Weather Analysis

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## Recommendations

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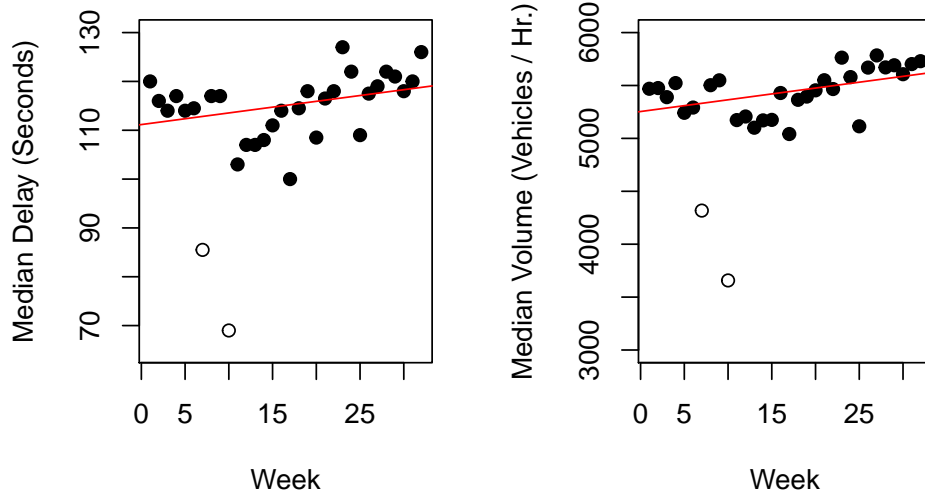


Figure 3: The median traffic delay and median weekly traffic volume are increasing over time. A linear regression of the median traffic delay for each week suggests that the traffic delay may be increasing 0.24 seconds per week ( $R^2 = 0.13$ ). Similarly, a linear regression of the median number of vehicles to pass through the intersection per week suggests that the number of vehicles utilizing the intersection may be increasing at a rate of 11.08 vehicles per week ( $R^2 = 0.24$ ).

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## Cited Literature

# Bibliography

- [1] Transportation Research Board of the National Academies, *Highway Capacity Manual 2010*. 5th edition, 2010.