

ENGINEERING DIRECTIVE

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CHIEF ENGINEER

Guidance on Traffic Count Data

The purpose of this Engineering Directive is to provide guidance on how to estimate existing and future traffic counts in lieu of taking new traffic counts after March 13, 2020. Due to reductions in traffic volumes caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, taking new traffic counts in 2020 may undercount the baseline for which future years are based.

Engineering Directive E-11-001 requires that all MassDOT projects follow the 2/15/11 Revision of the Traffic and Safety Engineering 25% Design Submission Guidelines, including a preference that traffic count data be less than 2 years old. This Engineering Directive introduces and makes effective the MassDOT Guidance on Traffic Count Data dated April 2020, which supersedes Section I.B (Traffic Volumes) of the Traffic and Safety Engineering 25% Design Submission Guidelines.

Historical traffic data may be used on any project to supplement and/or replace existing traffic counts, as long as it conforms to the latest version of the MassDOT Guidance on Traffic Count Data, which can be found on the MassDOT Traffic Volume and Classification webpage.

This Engineering Directive applies to all projects that have not taken traffic count data prior to March 13, 2020, and includes all projects submitted to MassDOT, including projects that are advertised by the Department, Highway Access Permit Projects that are approved by the Department, and development projects that are permitted through the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act.