

# JOINT TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH PROGRAM

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## Updated Methods for Traffic Impact Analysis, Including Evaluation of Innovative Intersection Designs

### Introduction

In 1992, an applicant's guide to traffic impact analysis and a reviewer's guide to traffic impact analysis were developed for the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT). The methodologies they contained were meant to (a) standardize the methodologies for conducting traffic impact analyses (TIAs) in Indiana and (b) to help streamline the process of preparing and reviewing TIAs. Because 20 years have passed since the publication of the guides, there is a need to

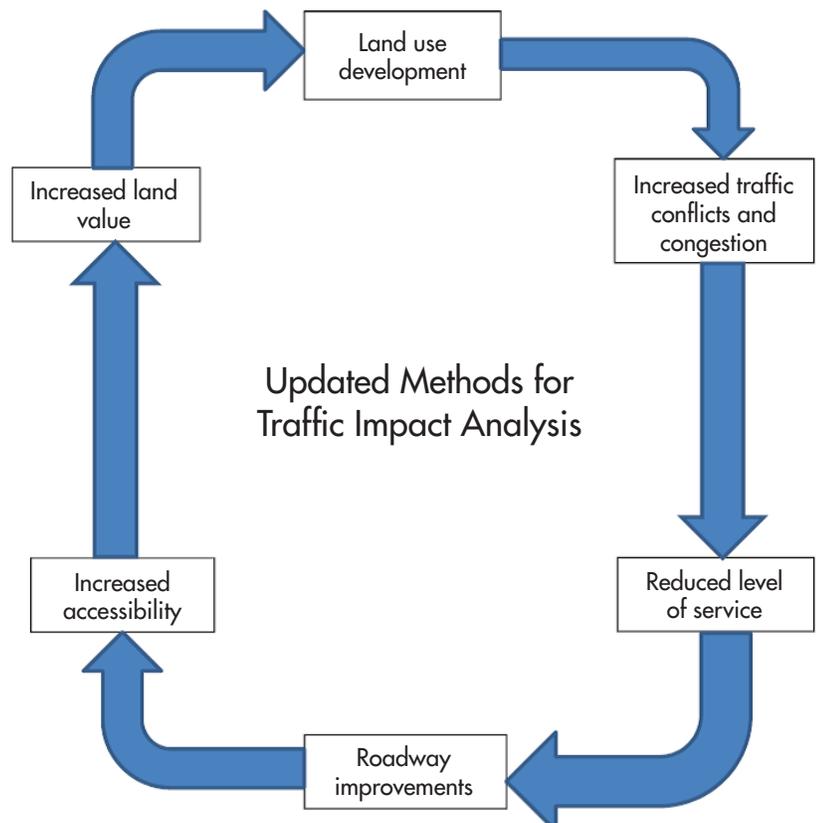
- evaluate how effective the guides have been,
- determine what in the guides has worked well,
- revise parts of the guides that have not worked well, and
- incorporate improvements and changes in TIA that have occurred since the 1992 guides' publication.

### Findings

- The researchers used surveys, meetings, and informal conversations to collect comments about the applicant's guide from INDOT personnel, engineering consultants, and local public officials. The comments were mostly positive, but the researchers were able to assemble a list of about 15 items that should be considered for inclusion in the updated guide. (See Chapter 3 of the report.)
- Updated procedures for pass-by trips and for

internal trips at mixed use sites were reviewed and demonstrated.

- Legal issues regarding TIA report preparer credentials, rights of access to property, and traffic impact fees were clarified.
- The updated guides were made compatible with the current editions of the ITE Recommended Practice, INDOT's Access Management Guide, INDOT's Design Manual, and other documents of value to TIA.



- The validity of using traffic microsimulation software to evaluate non-traditional intersection technologies was confirmed.
- Suggestions were made for enhancing the cooperation between jurisdictions when a development will have traffic impacts in more than one jurisdiction.

The project findings are documented in three volumes: (1) a technical report, (2) an applicant's guide to traffic impact analysis, and (3) a reviewer's guide to traffic impact analysis.

## Implementation

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Traffic impact analysis is a field that has matured, with many of its practitioners aware of standard practice and new methods. The applicant's guide contains flow diagrams and checklists that will continue to govern the phases of a TIA: preliminary steps, initial (scoping) meeting, TIA report format, and review process.

This project was conducted under the supervision of a study advisory committee that included INDOT personnel, local public officials, and a consultant. Other

consultants were also given the opportunity to comment on the draft applicant's guide. For this reason, the principal stakeholders in a traffic impact analysis are comfortable with the results of this project. Implementation should be immediate and effective. A workshop for potential users of the guides has been suggested.

## Recommended Citation for Report

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