MDOT OPERATIONS TEMPLATE PROJECT SUBMITTAL MANUAL

Version 2.4
June 2021



PREPARED BY:

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for the preparation of submittals to the Congestion and Reliability (C&R) Section's Operations Template. Regions/TSCs should consider the following when preparing a submittal to the Operations Template:

- The analysis methodology presented in this guidance document is intended to streamline the analysis process, provide consistency between project submittals, and align with the Operations Template Final Submission Form.
- Refer to the Annual Call for Projects Letter for the most current timeline and evaluation criteria. The Annual Call for Projects Letter will overrule if discrepancies are identified in this guidance document.

1.1 Final Submission Requirements

Regions/TSCs must prepare a Final Submission Form for each project being submitted for funding consideration under the Operations Template. The Final Submission Forms are fillable PDFs. This document provides guidance on how to fill out the forms and identifies several tools available to assist with preparing the necessary information to complete the Final Submission Forms, as shown in **Figure 1**.

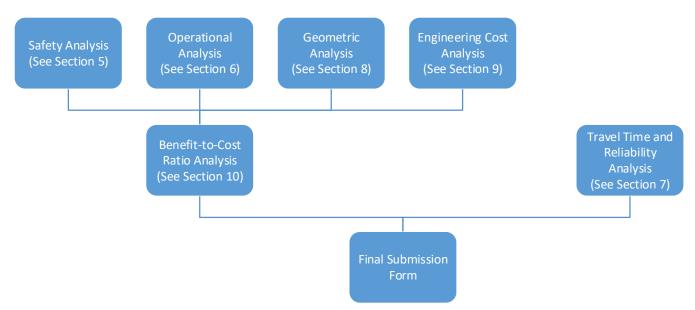


Figure 1: Final Submission Form Requirements

After analyses have been performed and the Final Submission Form is complete, Regions/TSCs should place the Final Submission Form in the ProjectWise folder specified in the Annual Call for Projects Letter.

1.2 Additional Reporting Requirements

There are slightly different requirements for reporting if the form is prepared by MDOT or by a Consultant, as identified below.

MDOT-Prepared: If MDOT performs the analysis for Final Submission Form, relevant supporting documents (e.g., spreadsheets, traffic models) must also be submitted to ProjectWise.

Consultant-Prepared: If a consultant performs the analysis for Final Submission Form, a final report must be prepared according to the sample final report referenced in this guidance document. Final report and relevant supporting documents (e.g., spreadsheets, traffic models) must be submitted to ProjectWise.

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1.3 Other Reference Documents

In addition to this guidance document, the submittal process relies on the following external documents. External documents are referenced throughout this guidance document as appropriate and are available upon request from C&R.

- Annual Call for Projects Letter
- Operations Final Submission Form
- C&R Benefit Cost Spreadsheet
 - Used to estimate construction costs, determine operational benefits from traffic analysis, input benefits (safety and operational), and output Benefit-to-Cost (B/C) ratio
- MDOT's Signal Optimization Benefit Cost Analysis Spreadsheet
 - o Alternate tool that may be used to quantify operational benefits from SimTraffic
- MDOT TOR spreadsheet
 - Used to determine safety benefits
- Sample Report
 - o Provides an editable Word document with appropriate sections, tables, and figures
- Previous Report Example
 - Provides a final report prepared as part of previous year's call for projects. There may be minor differences between the guidance provided in this manual and the example report (due to being prepared in advance of the manual). The guidance provided in this manual should be used in the case of any contradictions.

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2. Project Suitability

The submittal process for Operations Template funds is targeted at operational improvements, rather than capacity improvements.

An operational improvement restores or optimizes theoretical capacity and safe flow of traffic on the existing number of permanent, through travel lanes within the corridor. This may include, but is not limited to, geometric realignments (including new freeway ramps that supplement existing traffic movements) and improvements of existing travel lanes, the addition or improvement of auxiliary lanes (excluding High Occupancy Vehicle or High Occupancy Toll lanes), and the extension of an existing through lane (however it must be shown that the operational issue is not simply moved further downstream of its existing location).

Capacity improvements are typically not eligible for Operations Template funds. Capacity improvements are defined as adding one or more permanent, through lanes of travel resulting in an increase in the capacity of the roadway. The addition of a new interchange or the addition of a non-existent movement at an existing interchange is also considered a capacity improvement project. For example, adding a WB off-ramp where one previously did not exist would be considered a capacity improvement (See **Figure 2**).

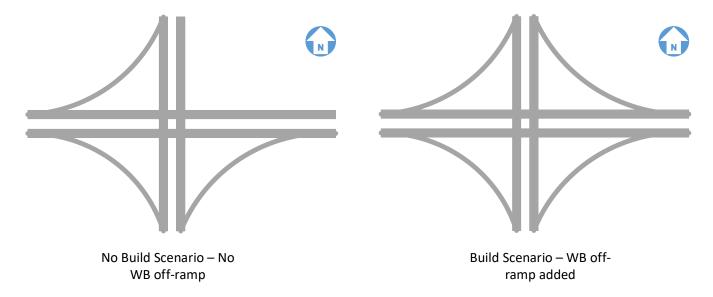


Figure 2: Example of Capacity Improvement

The most suitable projects have evidence of an existing congestion problem, such as a Planning Time Index (PTI) \geq 2.0, Travel Time Index (TTI) \geq 1.5, Level of Travel Time Reliability (LOTTR) \geq 1.5, or as otherwise defined in the Annual Call for Projects.

Table 1 provides project type, description, and examples of suitable projects. The table is not meant to be an exhaustive list, rather provide general direction and guidance on typical projects that align with the Operations Templates' purposes of improving congestion and reliability. "A Michigan Toolbox for Mitigating Traffic Congestion" provides example congestion mitigation strategies that are typically aligned with the Operations Template goals.

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Table 1: Suitable Projects

| Project Type | Project Description | Project Examples |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Safety Improvement | Reduces crashes at high-crash locations where congestion and/or travel-time reliability are known issues. | Road diets, traffic calming techniques, raised median, indirect left-turns, and sight distance improvements. Safety improvements are not required to result in an operational benefit. |
| Targeted Bottleneck Improvement | Address localized bottleneck issues that improve traffic flow and travel time reliability without moving the issue downstream. | Eliminating/improving weaving sections, acceleration/deceleration lane length deficiencies, closely spaced interchanges, deficient ramp signals, intersection configuration, turn lane capacity, and lane drops. |
| Demand Management | Reduces the total number of vehicles using the road system and/or spreading vehicles from peak to offpeak periods. | Transit enhancements to increase ridership and predictive traveler information. |
| Multi-modal/modal shift | Decreases single passenger vehicle trips by improving pedestrian, bicycle, and transit facilities. | Complete street solutions that enable safe access for pedestrians, bicycles, motorists, and transit riders. Complete street solutions may include safe pedestrian crossings, median islands, accessible pedestrian signals, bus pullout lanes, transit signal priority, and queue jump lanes. |
| Traffic Control | Reduces congestion due to a change in traffic control or operations, such as traffic signals, stop-control, etc. | Signal operations (i.e., phasing adjustments), central signal control system, communications upgrades, roundabouts, signalization. Signalization projects should add new functionality such as monitoring or additional detection; modernizations that replace in-kind are not suitable. |
| Access Management | Improves traffic flow through access management strategies, such as a reduction in conflict points and restricting access points close to intersections. Agreements for removing or modifying driveways should be arranged prior to requesting funding. | Driveway/crossover consolidation, median treatments, intersection spacing, innovative intersection configuration. |
| Innovative | Reduces congestion and improves travel time reliability through innovative strategies. | Integrated corridor management, active traffic and demand management (i.e., flex routes, ramp metering), and emerging mobility technologies. |

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PROJECT SUBMITTAL MANUAL



3. Traffic and Safety Analysis Methodology

Previously, the traffic operations and safety analysis required for the Operations Template submittals was managed by C&R. Beginning with FY2021 submittals (for funding through FY2026), the traffic operations and safety analysis should be performed or managed by the Region/TSC staff. This analysis can be performed by Region/TSC staff or contracted to a consultant. If consultant support is utilized, it should be paid for and managed by the Region/TSC, and C&R should be involved in the analysis, included on key correspondence, and included on any meeting invitations. Region/TSC should consider including other stakeholders (e.g., local agencies, MDOT Environmental Section) to analysis meetings.

For the duration of this document, the entity performing the analysis is referred to as "Preparer," which may consist of MDOT staff or a consultant. The Preparer must complete a project analysis to determine the operational benefits, safety benefits, and cost of the project. At a minimum, the analysis should include an alternatives analysis comparing a future nobuild alternative and at least two future build alternatives based on proposed improvements. Future conditions should be based on a 20-year horizon. The submittal requirements for consultant-prepared and MDOT-prepared analyses are provided in **Section 1.1**. Contact C&R if additional clarification is needed.

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4. Data Collection

Preparers are responsible to collect the data necessary to conduct B/C analysis and complete the Operations Template Final Submission Form. The following sections provide guidance on data collection. The Preparer should coordinate with the Congestion and Reliability Section to confirm data needs.

4.1 Study Area

Typical operational projects include intersections, highway segments, and freeway facilities. The following bulleted list includes guidance on determining the study area for by project type. However, the Region/TSC should confirm the study area with the C&R prior to performing the analysis. The C&R may request additional intersections/segments be included in the analysis to ensure impacts outside the project limits are considered.

- Intersection Include signalized intersections adjacent to each approach of the subject intersection if intersection spacing is <1 mile.
- **Highway Segment** Segments located >1 mile away from an intersection can be analyzed as standalone segments. If distance to nearest intersection is <1 mile, flow is considered interrupted and the intersection needs to be included in traffic analysis.
- Freeway Facility Contact C&R.

4.2 Traffic Counts

Wherever possible, traffic count data should be collected by the requesting Region/TSC and provided to the entity performing the traffic impact analysis. Traffic counts used in the analysis must be taken within the last 3 years unless it can be shown very little has changed. If there has been a significant operational change since the last traffic counts, new counts should be taken. If the Region/TSC is unable to collect the necessary data, the Region/TSC may request the counts be taken by MDOT Statewide and Urban Travel Analysis Unit or by an outside contract. Any costs for obtaining the traffic data should be paid for by the requesting Region/TSC or as part of the traffic analysis contract. Traffic count data should include 24-hour bi-directional tube counts on study area highway segments and 8-hour intersection peak hour (two hours AM, two hours midday, four hours PM) turning movement counts at study area intersections. Additional traffic data such as vehicle classification, pedestrian, bicycle, speed, queuing, and origin/destination should be collected if applicable to the proposed project, contact the C&R to confirm additional data collection needs.

<u>MDOT's Transportation Data Management System (TDMS)</u> provides previously collected traffic counts that may be used in place of collecting new data.

4.3 Growth and Adjustment Factors

The Preparer must develop projected 20-year horizon traffic volume conditions. Preparer should contact MDOT Statewide and Urban Travel Analysis Unit to obtain annual traffic growth rate and seasonal adjustment factors, if needed due to location of study or time of year data was collected.

If the proposed improvement is anticipated to result in changes to travel patterns, induced demand, modal shift, or other adjustments to traffic volumes, contact the C&R to confirm adjustment factors.

4.4 Crash Data

The most recent full three years of available crash data should be collected from the Traffic Crash Analysis Tool (TCAT) 2.0 from the Traffic Improvement Association (TIA). Crash data for intersections and roadway segments can also be collected using Michigan Traffic Crash Facts Data Query Tool. If fatalities occurred within the three-year timeframe, an additional two years of data should be added. For intersections, include crash data within a 250-foot radius. For freeway or non-freeway highway segments, crash data should include the subject segment(s) and 0.1-mile extensions at the beginning and end.

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5. Safety Analysis

Safety improvements are a key consideration in the selection process as they contribute to: 1) the Department's overall effort to reduce crashes on the state highway system, and 2) the quantifiable safety benefits associated with the proposed project. To evaluate safety for projects submitted for funding through the Operations Template, the MDOT TOR spreadsheet should be used to perform a time of return (TOR) analysis for each proposed alternative.

Projects will be evaluated based on the overall B/C ratio, which includes benefits attributable to both safety and operations improvements. For projects that focus on mitigating congestion and reliability related crashes, much of the benefit will be attributable to operations, rather than safety. Therefore, much higher TORs will be acceptable than on typical safety-focused projects.

Table 2 provides an example TOR safety analysis results.

| Total Network | Alt 1 | Alt 2 | Alt 3 |
|---|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| Annual Benefit (present value with inflation) | \$329,558 | \$369,209 | \$369,209 |
| Project Cost | \$504,613 | \$1,388,933 | \$1,374,614 |
| TOR = Cost/Annual Benefit | 153 | 3.76 | 3.72 |

The safety analysis performed to support this submittal process is needed to compute a B/C ratio. Additional safety analyses, such as a road safety audit (RSA), may be needed at later stages in the project. Each project must follow RSA guidelines, but this document does not include specific guidance on RSA or other safety analyses. C&R encourages Preparers to coordinate with MDOT Region Traffic and Safety Engineer to discuss opportunities to leverage information used in this submittal for the RSA, including completing the RSA process in conjunction with the C&R safety analysis or accounting for the completion of the RSA within the project's schedule and budget. The Preparer should coordinate with MDOT Region Traffic and Safety Engineer to confirm approach.

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6. Operational Analysis

The Preparer should perform AM and PM peak hour operational analyses for the future no-build (FNB) alternative and at least two future build (FB) alternatives. It is recommended to perform an Off-Peak analysis to capture operational benefits outside of the peak periods. The operational analysis should include a level of service (LOS) analysis and development of measures of effectiveness (MOEs) sufficient for quantifying the operational benefits in person-\$. FNB and FB alternatives should be based on 20-year analysis horizons. The final analysis report should summarize both the benefits quantified through the C&R Benefit Cost Spreadsheet and LOS/delay/density for all study area locations, as shown in the sample report. Existing LOS is a required input on the Operations Template final submittal form. The project may use the worst delay or level-of-service that is applicable to the issue being corrected for final submittal reporting.

Preferred traffic analysis software tools are shown in **Table 3**. Alternate tools and/or methodology may be used but should be approved by the C&R.

| Software | Location | Considerations/Approach |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Synchro/SimTraffic | Traffic signals and unsignalized intersections | Follow the procedures described in the most recent MDOT Electronic Traffic Control Device Guidelines |
| RODEL | Roundabouts | Follow guidance provided in MDOT Roundabout Design Aid (MRDA) and NCHRP 672: Roundabouts: An Informational Guide, Second Edition. See Section 6.6. |
| Highway Capacity Software (HCS) | Freeway segments, typically ramp extensions or addition of auxiliary lanes | Follow methodology defined in the Highway Capacity Manual (HCM). |
| VISSIM | Where the above tools do not adequately measure the traffic impacts (i.e., heavily congested locations, unusual geometric conditions) | Follow guidance provided in MDOT VISSIM Protocol Document. See Section 6.5. |

Table 3: Traffic Analysis Software Tools

After completing traffic operational analysis, Preparer must quantify operational benefits which will be used to support the overall project B/C ratio calculation. The preferred approach is to use the C&R Benefit Cost Spreadsheet to quantify projected operational benefits for each alternative. The following subsections describe the operational benefits tabs included in the C&R Benefit Cost Spreadsheet tool. The cell color conventions shown in **Figure 3** are utilized through the C&R Benefit Cost Spreadsheet tool.



Figure 3: C&R Benefit Cost Spreadsheet Color Conventions

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6.1 Intersection - C&R Benefit Cost Spreadsheet

The Intersection Benefits tab of the C&R Submittal Benefit Cost Spreadsheet quantifies operational benefits based on average user delay. This tab is intended for intersection analyses (e.g., Synchro, SimTraffic, RODEL) but can also be used for projects where average user delay is reported. The subject tab quantifies operational benefits between FB and FNB conditions based on the Annual Delay Savings (person-\$) as indicated in Equations 1 through 4.

Total Peak Period Delay = Avg. Delay × Peak Hour Volume (Eq. 1)

Daily Delay Savings = Total Peak Period Delay_{FNB} – Total Peak Period Delay_{FB} (Eq. 2)

Annual Delay Savings (veh – hr) = Daily Delay Savings × Avg. Workdays/Year (Eq. 3)

Annual Delay Savings (person – \$)

= Annual Delay Savings (veh – hr) × Avg. Vehicle Occupancy

× Weighted Avg. User Delay Cost Rate
$$\left(\frac{\$}{veh}hr\right)$$
 (Eq. 4)

The following procedure should be used for quantifying operational benefits using the Intersection Benefits tab:

- 1. Perform operational analysis using chosen tool (e.g., HCS, RODEL, Synchro).
- 2. Make a copy of **Intersection Benefits** and rename with the appropriate alternative (e.g., Alt 1 Intersection Benefits).
- 3. Enter the analysis locations. See #1 on Figure 4.
 - Enter entire network values or individual intersections. If entering individual intersections, all intersections must be accounted for in FNB and FB conditions
- 4. Enter Peak Hour Volumes (veh/hour). See #2 on Figure 4.
 - Ensure that Peak Hour Volume entered in the spreadsheet is consistent with the traffic analysis tool and the analysis locations entered in #1 on **Figure 4.** For example, if each intersection is entered, then the Peak Hour Volume should be the entering volume for each intersection.
- 5. Enter Average Delay (sec/veh). See #3 on Figure 4.
 - Spreadsheet will compute Total Peak Period Delay for each analysis location. See #4 on Figure 4.
- 6. Confirm default values are suitable for project. See Figure 5.
 - Obtain current user delay costs and enter in "Assumptions" section from https://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,4616,7-151-9625 54944-227053--,00.html
 - Cell will turn red if default value is changed. Provide justification for changes to default values.
 - Use **Peak Per Adj Factor** tab to calculate modified peak period adjustment factor, if needed. Calculated values should only be used if greater than the default value.
- 7. Spreadsheet will compute Total Delay and Delay Savings. See **Figure 6**. The total annual delay savings will be used as an input to the B/C ratio. Example 1 and Example 2 in **Appendix A** provide sample intersection and roundabout analyses, respectively.

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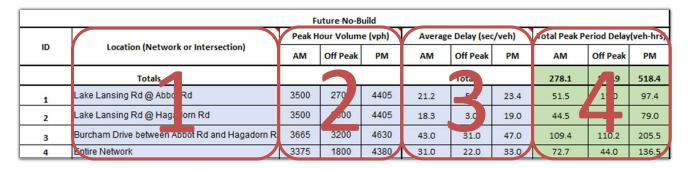


Figure 4: Intersection Benefit Inputs

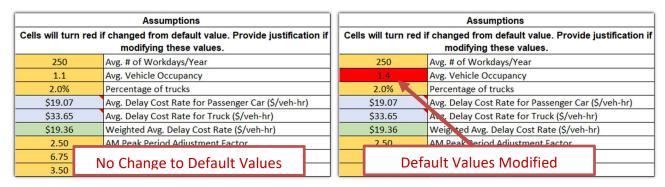


Figure 5: Intersection Benefit Assumptions

| | Total Peak P | Delay Savings | | | | |
|----------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| | Future No-Build | Future Build | Daily | | Υe | early |
| | veh-hrs | veh-hrs | veh-hrs Person-\$ | | veh-hrs | Person-\$ |
| AM Peak | 278 | 213 | 65 | \$ 1,388 | 16,293 | \$ 346,984 |
| Off Peak | 178 | 138 | 40 | \$ 854 | 10,028 | \$ 213,552 |
| PM Peak | 518 | 385 | 133 A | Annual Savin | gs 33,343 | \$ 710,070 |
| Total | 974 | 736 | 239 | \$ 5,082 | 59,664 | \$1,270,606 |

Figure 6: Intersection Benefit Results

Average delay can be obtained from several traffic analysis tools, as shown in **Figure 7**, **Figure 8**, and **Figure 9** for SimTraffic, Synchro, and RODEL, respectively.

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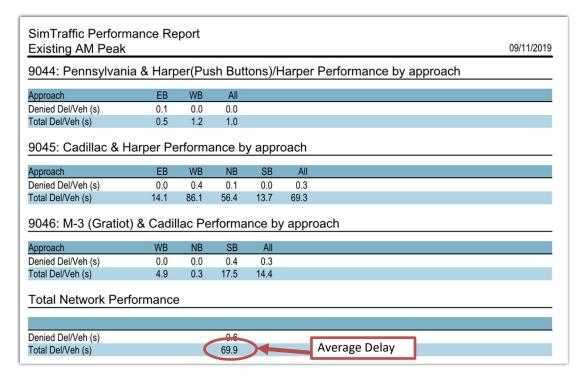


Figure 7: Average Delay Output from SimTraffic

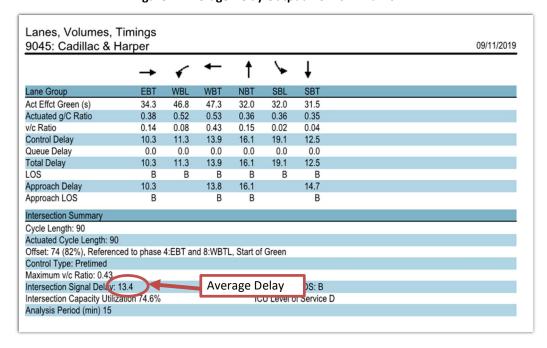


Figure 8: Average Delay Output from Synchro

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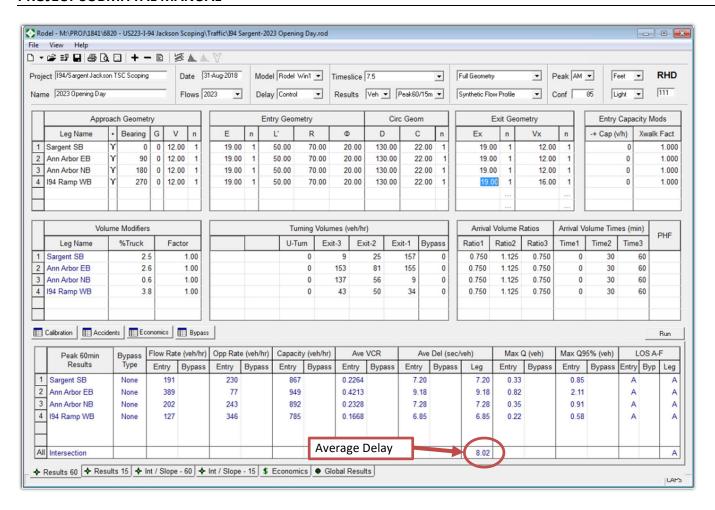


Figure 9: Average Delay Output from RODEL

6.2 Freeway - C&R Benefit Cost Spreadsheet

The **Freeway (HCS) Benefits** tab of the C&R Submittal Benefit Cost Spreadsheet quantifies operational benefits based on average speed. This tab is intended for freeway segment analyses (e.g., HCS analysis) but can also be used for projects where average speed is reported. The subject tab quantifies operational benefits between FB and FNB conditions based on the Annual Delay Savings (person-\$) as indicated in Equations 5 through 9.

$$Avg.Travel\ Time = Avg.Speed \times Segment\ Length\ (Eq.\ 5)$$

$$Total\ Travel\ Time = Avg.Travel\ Time \times Peak\ Hour\ Volume\ (Eq.\ 6)$$

$$Daily\ Delay\ Savings = Total\ Travel\ Time_{FNB} - Total\ Travel\ Time_{FB}\ (Eq.\ 7)$$

$$Annual\ Delay\ Savings\ (veh-hr) = Daily\ Delay\ Savings \times Avg.Workdays/Year\ (Eq.\ 8)$$

$$Annual\ Delay\ Savings\ (person-\$)$$

$$= Annual\ Delay\ Savings\ (veh-hr) \times Avg.Vehicle\ Occupancy$$

$$\times Weighted\ Avg.\ User\ Delay\ Cost\ Rate\ \left(\frac{\$}{veh}\ hr\right)\ (Eq.\ 9)$$

The following procedure should be used for quantifying operational benefits using the **Freeway (HCS) Benefits** tab:

- Perform operational analysis using chosen tool (e.g., HCS).
- 2. Make a copy of **Freeway (HCS) Benefits** and rename with the appropriate alternative (e.g., Alt 1 Freeway (HCS) Benefits).

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- 3. Enter the Segment and Segment Type. See #1 on Figure 10.
 - Each segment name must be unique and identify the segment name, type, and analysis alternative.
 - All segments must be accounted for in FNB and FB conditions.
 - Study area must have the same beginning and end point for the FNB and FB conditions.
- 4. Enter segment length (ft). See #2 on Figure 10.
- 5. Enter Peak Hour Volumes (veh/hour). See #3 on Figure 10.
 - Ensure that Peak Hour Volume entered in the spreadsheet is consistent with the traffic analysis tool and the analysis locations entered in #3 on **Figure 10**.
- Enter Average Speed (mph). See #4 on Figure 10.
 - Spreadsheet will compute Average Travel Time and Total Period Travel Time for each analysis location. See #5 on Figure 10.
- 7. Confirm that default values are suitable for project. See Figure 11.
 - Obtain current user delay costs and enter in "Assumptions" section from https://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,4616,7-151-9625 54944-227053--,00.html
 - Cell will turn red if default value is changed. Provide justification for changes to default values.
 - Use **Peak Per Adj Factor** tab to calculate modified peak period adjustment factor. Calculated values should only be used if larger than the default value.
- 8. Spreadsheet will compute Total Travel Time and Delay Savings. See **Figure 12.** The total annual delay savings will be used as an input to the B/C ratio. Example 3 and Example 4 in **Appendix A** provide sample ramp extension and weave analyses, respectively.
 - For HCS analysis on ramp extensions or auxiliary lane additions, preparer may omit analyses that do not result in positive delay savings. To omit, preparer should enter zero in the appropriate row in the Person-\$ column.

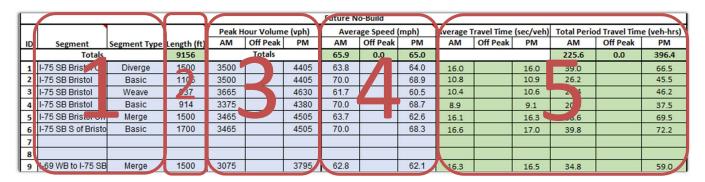


Figure 10: Freeway (HCS) Benefit Inputs

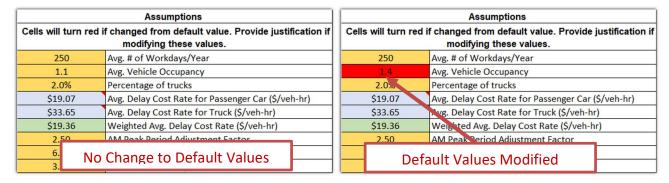


Figure 11: Freeway (HCS) Benefit Assumptions

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| | Total Peak Perio | d Travel Time | Delay Savings | | | | |
|----------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|------------------|---------|---------------|--|
| | Future No-Build | Future Build | Da | ily | 1 | Yearly | |
| | veh-hrs | veh-hrs | veh-hrs | Person-\$ | veh-hrs | Person-\$ | |
| AM Peak | 226 | 207 | 18 | \$ 390 | 4,584 | \$ 97,621 | |
| Off Peak | 0 | 0 | 0 | \$ | | \$ - | |
| PM Peak | 396 | 354 | 42 | \$ Annual | Savings | \$ 225,804 | |
| Total | 622 | 561 | 61 | \$ 1,294 | 15,187 | \$ 323,425 | |

Figure 12: Freeway (HCS) Benefit Results

Average speed can be obtained from several traffic analysis tools. **Figure 13** and **Figure 14** show example MOE reports containing average speed from HCS2010 and HCS7, respectively.

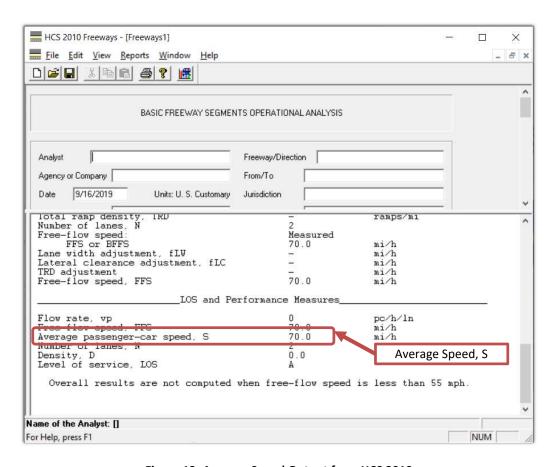


Figure 13: Average Speed Output from HCS 2010

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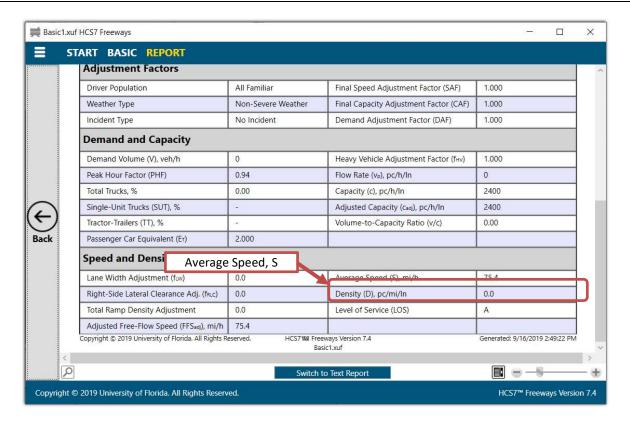


Figure 14: Average Speed Output from HCS7

6.3 MDOT Signal Optimization Benefit/Cost Analysis Spreadsheet

The C&R Benefit Cost Spreadsheet is the preferred method of quantifying operational results, but the MDOT Signal Optimization Benefit/Cost Analysis Spreadsheet can also be used to quantify operational benefits. The Preparer should follow the procedure in the MDOT Electronic Traffic Control Device Guidelines if using the MDOT Signal Optimization Benefit/Cost Analysis Spreadsheet. Error! Reference source not found. shows an example of the BC Analysis tab and the total yearly savings to be used as an input to the B/C ratio.

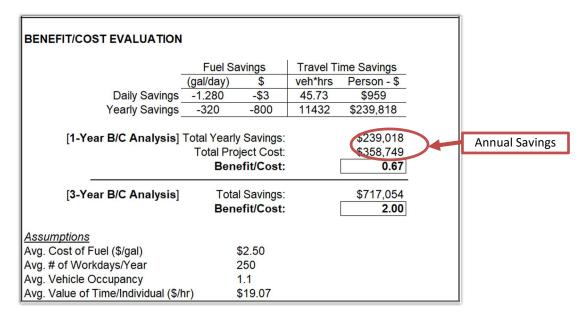


Figure 15: Example of Operational Benefits Spreadsheet

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6.4 MDOT Crash Investigation Site (CIS) Methodology for B/C

This protocol is intended to provide direction on how to calculate the B/C score for a proposed Crash Investigation Site (CIS) being submitted for Operations Template funds. To have statewide consistency, and an equal comparison of the B/C between proposed CIS submittals from different regions, please follow the instructions in this protocol. Please note this process is only for the B/C portion of the Operations Template scoring. The TOR scoring for potential CIS's should still follow the normal TOR process as approved by the Safety Programs unit.

The submitter is asked to obtain information on all crashes that occurred at or within 3-miles upstream of a proposed CIS, over the proposed analysis period. The analysis period must be a 3-year period. Only eligible crashes, as defined below, should be used in the analysis.

Eligible Crashes to be used for Benefit Calculation:

- -Crashes used in the calculation must have occurred within 5 years of the date the analysis was performed, and all crashes must have occurred within a consecutive 3-year time frame. (i.e. March 2017- Feb 2020).
- -The crash must have occurred within 3-miles upstream of the proposed CIS. Any crash downstream, or more than 3-miles upstream from proposed CIS location, will not be eligible, as it is unlikely the crashed vehicle would utilize the CIS from outside of that distance.
- -If, within the 3-miles upstream of the proposed CIS site, there is an exit ramp to a rest area, weigh station, or off-ramp to a non-freeway facility, then the 3-mile distance shall be shortened to the gore point of the nearest exit ramp. (i.e. crashes further upstream than the exit ramp should be excluded, as a tow truck would likely tow the crashed vehicle to the rest area, weigh station, exit ramp etc.)
- -The crash must have occurred in the same direction as the proposed CIS. (i.e., if the proposed CIS is for the EB direction, then crashes that occurred on the WB direction are not eligible). Crashes involving vehicles crossing the median and impacting both directions of travel are eligible.
- -Crashes that result in a full freeway closure are not considered eligible, because if a given direction of the freeway needs to be fully closed to service the crash, the pavement of the freeway itself could/would be used in place of a proposed CIS.

Calculating the Benefit:

For all eligible crashes during the 3-year period used, the user delay costs (UDC) will be obtained using the RITIS program. The Congestion and Reliability Unit will pull the data from RITIS. It will be the responsibility of the TSC/Region to provide the Congestion and Reliability Unit the dates and times of the eligible crashes. The TSC/Region may submit up to 10 eligible crashes to have RITIS data analyzed, per proposed CIS. If more than 10 eligible crashes occurred, the TSC/Region is encouraged to submit the 10 crashes that resulted in the greatest amount of delay.

The Congestion and Reliability Unit must be provided with a list of eligible crashes no later than September 1st, to have enough time to pull the necessary data and provide feedback. Submitting earlier is encouraged. The Congestion and Reliability Unit will provide the TSC/Region the resulting user delay cost. It will then be up to the TSC/Region to follow the steps below to achieve a B/C score. Again, only up to 10 crashes may be used for each proposed CIS.

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Calculation of the B/C Ratio for proposed CIS locations:

- 1- Sum together the obtained UDC associated from each crash analyzed in RITIS. (This value is provided by the Congestion and Reliability Unit)
- 2- Take the sum-total UDC of all crashes, divide by 3 (the range of crash years), and then multiply by 20 to get a 20-year benefit.
- 3- Finally, divide by the cost of the proposed CIS to obtain a B/C score.

6.5 VISSIM Analysis Considerations

Sections 6.1 and 6.2 provide guidance for using the C&R Benefit Cost spreadsheet with the analysis tools typically utilized for typical Freeway and Non-Freeway projects. For projects where the standard traffic analysis tools (e.g., Synchro, SimTraffic, RODEL, HCS) do not adequately measure the traffic impacts (i.e., heavily congested locations, unusual geometric conditions), the Preparer may use a more customizable traffic analysis tool, such as VISSIM. The preparer should complete a VISSIM analysis according to the guidance provided in MDOT VISSIM Protocol Document. On projects where VISSIM is used, either the Intersection Benefits or Freeway (HCS) Benefits tabs may be used to convert delay and speed outputs into operational benefits in person-\$, respectively. Other output processing tools are acceptable to calculate operational benefits in person-\$; however, backup information and calculations should be submitted as part of the Final Submission Form.

6.6 Roundabout Analysis Considerations

The Preparer should complete a roundabout preliminary operational and capacity analysis according to guidance provided in MDOT Roundabout Design Aid (MRDA) and NCHRP 672: Roundabouts: An Informational Guide, Second Edition. Each roundabout analysis should include a table of design parameters as shown in the MRDA, as well as a table of operational results that includes, at a minimum, average delay and level of service (LOS). The operational analysis should consider the geometric configuration per the guidance, and include performance checks for entry speed, speed consistency, entry angle, and path overlap. The traffic analysis should be conducted per the methods highlighted in Exhibit 4-4 of NCHRP 672. RODEL is the recommended deterministic software; however, other software packages are available and can be used with concurrence from the Congestion & Reliability Section.

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7. Travel Time and Reliability Analysis Requirements

When applicable, the Regional Integrated Transportation Information System (<u>RITIS</u>) will be used by C&R to conduct an analysis of the proposed area to determine the existing Planning Time Index (PTI), Level of Travel Time Reliability (LOTTR), and Travel Time Index (TTI) values, which are good indicators of the roadway's reliability and congestion.

7.1 Level of Travel Time Reliability (LOTTR)

The LOTTR is a MAP-21 requirement and is calculated on all National Highway System (NHS) routes in the State of Michigan. The LOTTR is the ratio of the 80th percentile travel time to the 50th percentile travel time. This information can be obtained directly from RITIS. All projects on the NHS system should use the LOTTR value.

7.2 Planning Time Index (PTI)

For locations not on the NHS system, the PTI is the recommended reliability measure. The PTI is the ratio of the 95th percentile travel time to the free-flow travel time. The measure is typically computed during the AM (6-9AM) and PM (3-6PM) peak periods on weekdays, but an alternate time frame can be used if appropriate. It should also use the most recent year without construction impacts. A PTI value greater than or equal to 2.0 is deemed unreliable and only one day in one direction must meet the criteria to qualify. PTI values can be found using the Probe Data Analytics Suite within RITIS.

7.3 Travel Time Index (TTI)

The Travel Time Index (TTI) is the ratio of the average peak period travel time to the free-flow travel time. This is more of an indicator of the level of congestion. This measure is computed for the AM (6-9AM) and PM (3-6PM) peak periods on weekdays. It should also use the most recent year without construction impacts. A TTI value greater than 1.5 is deemed congested and only one day in one direction must meet the criteria to qualify.

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8. Geometric Analysis

Conceptual layout exhibits should be prepared for project alternatives based on the following documents:

- MDOT Road Design Manual
- MDOT Geometric Design Guides
- Other guidelines as needed

Conceptual layout exhibits should be prepared that depict existing conditions and each proposed build alternative. The purpose of the exhibit is to perform geometric analysis of each proposed alternative, assess right-of-way (ROW) impacts, and estimate the construction cost of each alternative. An example geometric exhibit is provided in **Figure 16** and in the sample report.

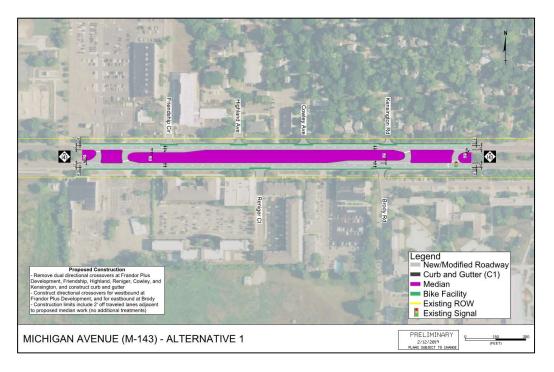


Figure 16: Example Geometric Exhibit

8.1 Geometric Data Collection

Existing ROW and major utilities should be gathered from existing MDOT ROW maps, existing plans, and aerial imagery and shown on the conceptual layout exhibit. Existing ROW for roadways throughout Michigan can be found using MDOT's Right-of-Way Map Files website. Requests for further ROW information or as-builts for the project area should be directed to the appropriate Region/TSC.

Design and/or ROW survey is not required for this stage of the project analysis. However, if existing ROW boundaries are not available, consider gathering information before continuing the analysis, especially if it is expected that the proposed alternative will require ROW acquisition. In the case that additional ROW is needed and funds are being requested from operations funding, the cost of land acquisition must be considered and included in the cost estimate. If an alternate funding source is being used, cost of ROW acquisition does not need to be considered in cost estimate submitted to the C&R. All projects are subject to NEPA regulations and processes. Preparer should contact MDOT Environmental Section to discuss NEPA requirements.

ROW can be purchased prior to project selection and be reimbursed by the Operations Template if the project is selected. ROW reimbursement will not be provided for projects not selected or for ROW not included in the project's cost estimate and B/C ratio. Purchases that are eligible to be reimbursed must have occurred no earlier than 2018 and

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a project must be selected within eight years of ROW acquisition. The full ROW amount or a portion of the ROW amount may be requested.

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9. Engineering Cost Estimate

An Engineer's cost estimate should be developed for each proposed alternative. Each cost estimate should calculate the overall project cost, including the appropriate amount of Early Preliminary Engineering (EPE), Preliminary Engineering (PE), Construction (CON), Construction Engineering and Administration, and Right-of-Way (ROW). All cost estimates should be developed using current year dollars. If a project is selected, the Region/TSC will be responsible for project costs exceeding the overall engineering cost estimate.

Routine maintenance costs for roadway, signs, traffic signals, etc. should not be included in the Engineer's cost estimate unless directed by the C&R; this will be applicable to most projects. If non-routine costs are needed to deploy the project, such as ITS projects that require dedicated staff to operate (e.g., FlexRoute TOC operators), the ongoing costs should be identified in the Additional Annual Costs portion of the **INPUT – Costs** tab as shown in **Figure 19**. Alternate funds will need to be identified and approved before the project can be selected as the Operations Template will not fund operations and maintenance.

The preferred method for cost estimating is to use the **Construction Costs** tab of the C&R Benefit Cost Spreadsheet, as shown in **Table 4**. The **Construction Costs** tab includes the following components:

- 1. Removal and Construction Quantified using geometric exhibits described in Section 8; based on MDOT Pay Items/Standard Specifications for Construction where possible. Typical item quantities of interest include: curb and gutter removal, pavement removal, embankment fill, earth excavation, base aggregate, hot mix asphalt or concrete, saw cuts, new concrete curb and gutter, new sidewalk, detectable warning surfaces, and traffic signal upgrades, etc. Quantity measurements should be documented per item. Unit prices for removal and construction should be based on MDOT's most recent weighted average item price report.
- 2. Miscellaneous Removal and Construction* Determined as a percentage of pay item-based removal and construction items in #1. Default percentages can be adjusted based on project-specific conditions with appropriate justification. Includes the following items:
 - a. Pavement Markings
 - b. Maintaining Traffic
 - c. Environmental
 - d. Permanent Signing
 - e. Drainage Items
 - f. Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control
 - g. Utility Relocation
- **3. Percentage Based Construction Cost*** Determined as a percentage of the sum of removal and construction costs in #1 and #2. Includes the following items:
 - a. Mobilization
 - b. Contractor Staking
 - c. Contingency
- **4. Engineering and Design Services*** Determined as a percentage of sum of construction costs in #1, #2, and #3. Includes the following items:
 - a. Environmental Analysis Lump sum cost item. Contact MDOT Environmental Section to discuss NEPA requirements and develop cost estimate for NEPA completion, if required.
 - b. Early Preliminary Engineering
 - c. Preliminary Engineering
 - d. Construction Engineering and Inspection
- **5. Right of Way (ROW)** Determined as a lump sum based on needs identified during the development of geometric exhibits described in **Section 8**.

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*Construction Costs tab includes default percentages for percentage-based items. The default values may be modified but justification must be provided. Cell will turn red if default is changed as shown in Figure 17.

| Miscellaneous Removal and Construction | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|---------------------------|---------|------------|-----|--------|--------|
| Instructions: Typical miscellaneous Congestion and Reliability Section No Change to Default Values Unit Price column will turn red if changed from default value. | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 10,858 | |
| - Maintaining Traffic | | | LS | \$ 217,152 | 10% | \$ | 21,715 |
| | | Miscellaneous Removal and | l Const | ruction | | | |
| Instructions: Typical miscellaneous Default Values Modified Unit Price column will turn red if changes from default values. | | | | | | | |
| - | | | | | | | 23,887 |
| - | Maintaining Tra | affic | LS | \$ 217,152 | 10% | \$ | 21,715 |

Figure 17: Default Value Changed on Percentage-Based Item

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 Table 4: Engineer Cost Estimate Template Example

| Project | {Project Title} | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------|----------------|
| Alternative | {Alternative Name} | | | | | |
| | | | n | | | |
| Source | {MDOT Average Unit Price Versi | on Us | sea} | | | |
| Date | {Date} | | | | | |
| Pay Item Code | Item Description | Unit | Quantity | Unit Price | Cost | |
| | Removal and Const | ruction | | | | |
| nstructions: Sample | removal and construction items provided. Add, re | nove, a | nd modify as ne | eeded based on p | roject | specifics. |
| | | | | | | |
| | Curb and Gutter, Rem | Ft | 421 | | \$ | 2,8 |
| | Pavt, Rem | Syd | 869 | 100 | \$ | 6,3 |
| | Embankment, CIP Excavation, Earth | Cyd | 338 | | \$ | 2,6 |
| 400000000000000000000000000000000000000 | Aggregate Base, 8 inch | Cyd Syd | 225 338 | 2 S. (Annual) | \$ | 3,0 |
| Control Control Ave | HMA Surface, Rem | Syd | 336 | \$ 3.00 | \$ | - |
| | HMA Approach | Ton | 68 | | 2 | 8,7 |
| | Saw Cut, Intermediate | Ft | | \$ 2.24 | \$ | - |
| | Curb and Gutter, Conc, Det F4 | Ft | 516 | \$ 16.95 | \$ | 8,7 |
| 8030010 | Detectable Warning Surface | Ft | 38 | \$ 31.91 | \$ | 1,2 |
| 8030034 | Sidewalk Ramp, Conc, 6 inch | Sft | 687 | \$ 6.93 | \$ | 4,70 |
| | Traffic Signal Modernization | Ea | 1 | \$ 175,000.00 | \$ | 175,0 |
| 0 | | | | | \$ | |
| | SUBTOTAL | | | | \$ | 217,1 |
| Pay Item Code | Item Description | Unit | Quantity | Unit Price | Cost | |
| ray item code | Miscellaneous Removal and | | <u> </u> | Onit Frice | Cost | |
| Instructions: Typical I | niscellaneous removal and construction items pro | the second second | | mined by the Con | gestio | n and |
| | anges to these cells are allowed, but justification : | | | THE COLUMN TWO IS NOT THE OWNER, WHEN | | |
| if changed from defau | ılt value. | | | | | |
| 125 | Pavement Markings | LS | \$ 217,152 | 5% | \$ | 10,8 |
| 25 | Maintaining Traffic | LS | \$ 217,152 | 10% | \$ | 21,7: |
| - 2 | Environmental | LS | \$ 217,152 | 1% | \$ | 2,1 |
| 2 | Permanent Signing | LS | \$ 217,152 | 2% | \$ | 4,34 |
| - 2 | Drainage Items | LS | \$ 217,152 | 6% 1% | \$ | 13,0 |
| - | Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Utility Relocation | LS | \$ 217,152 \$ 217,152 | 5% | \$ | 2,1 |
| | SUBTOTAL | | V 217,102 | 3,0 | \$ | 65,14 |
| | | | | | | |
| | SUBTOTAL REMOVAL AND CONSTRUCT | ION CO | ST | | \$ | 282,29 |
| | | | | | | |
| | Percentage-Based Const | 760 to 55 | 50 10 10 | room w | , | -0 10 0000 |
| | percentage-based construction cost items provide | | | | | |
| | nese cells are allowed, but justification should be p | orovide | d. Cells in Unit I | Price column will t | urn re | d if |
| changed from default | Mobilization, Max | 1.0 | ć 202.200 | 10% | 4 | 20.2 |
| | Contractor Staking | LS | \$ 282,298 \$ 282,298 | 2% | | 28,23 |
| 8240001 | Contingency | LS | \$ 316,174 | 20% | | 63,23 |
| | SUBTOTAL | | | | Ś | 97,11 |
| | | | | | 100 | |
| | CONSTRUCTION ESTIMATE (ROUN | DED) | | | \$ | 380,00 |
| | | | | | | |
| | Engineering and Desig | n Servic | es | | | |
| Instructions: Enginee | ring and Design Services determined by the Conge | stion an | d Reliability Sec | ction Changes to | these | cells are |
| | ion should be provided. Cells in Unit Price column | | | | | cens are |
| | - MAN CALCADE FOR HER AND | 100000000000000000000000000000000000000 | | | | |
| - | Environmental Analysis | LS | 1 | | \$ | - |
| | Early Preliminary Engineering | LS | \$ 380,000 | 5% 12% | - | 19,0 |
| - | Preliminary Engineering Construction Engineering and Inspection | LS | \$ 380,000 | 10% | - | 45,60 38,00 |
| | PE ESTIMATE (ROUNDED) | LU | \$ 500,000 | 1070 | \$ | 103,0 |
| | ,, | | | | | |
| | ROW | | | | | |
| 2 | ROW | LS | 1 | \$ - | \$ | |
| 1 | ROW ESTIMATE (ROUNDED) | | | | \$ | |
| | | | | | | |
| | TOTAL PROJECT COSTS (Present Year | Value) | | | \$ | 388,00 |
| | | | D-t- | V | 1 | |
| TOTA | PROJECT COSTS (Mish Inflation) | | Rate | Years | | 412.20 |
| TOTA | L PROJECT COSTS (With Inflation) | | 1.30% | 5 | \$ | 413,22 |

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10.Benefit-to-Cost (B/C) Ratio

The Preparer must perform a B/C analysis, comparing the quantifiable project benefits with the Engineer's cost estimate using the C&R Benefit Cost Spreadsheet. The B/C ratio is calculated in the **OUTPUT – Benefit-Cost** tab of C&R Benefit Cost Spreadsheet once the following tabs are completed.

- "INPUT Benefits". See Figure 18.
 - See Section 5 for Annual Safety Benefits
 - o See **Section 6** for Annual Operational Benefits
 - Annual Additional Benefits should only be used to account for benefits (e.g., incident management) that
 are not included within Annual Safety Benefits or Annual Operational Benefits. Provide justification in the
 C&R Final Submittal Form if additional benefits are included.

| INPUTS-Benefits | Alt 1 | | Alt 2 | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|---------|-------|---------|--|
| Annual Safety Benefits | \$ | 100,000 | \$ | 100,000 | |
| Annual Operational Benefits | \$ | 200,000 | \$ | 200,000 | |
| Annual Additional Benefits | \$ | 111,000 | \$ | 300,000 | |

Figure 18: INPUT - Benefits Tab

- "INPUT Costs" See Figure 19
 - See Section 9 for Construction Cost
 - Additional Annual Cost should only be used to account for costs (e.g., ongoing operations and maintenance) that are not included in construction cost or MDOT routine maintenance. Most costs for typical roadway elements such as resurfacing, signs, traffic signals, etc. are included in routine maintenance funds; therefore, most projects will not need to include any additional annual costs. Examples of additional annual costs are ITS projects that will require dedicated staff to operate (e.g., Flex Route TOC operators).

| INPUTS-Costs | | Alt 1 | Alt 2 | | |
|-------------------------|----|---------|-------|---------|--|
| Total Construction Cost | \$ | 483,000 | \$ | 222,000 | |
| Additional Annual Cost | \$ | 200,000 | \$ | 200,000 | |

Figure 19: INPUT - Costs Tab

The C&R Benefit Cost Spreadsheet will calculate a 1-year and 20-year B/C ratio for each project alternative, as shown in Table 5. Total annual benefit is the sum of safety (Section 5), operational (Section 6), and additional (miscellaneous) benefits which are calculated per Section 6 and Section 7 of this document. The benefit can be calculated solely from the safety or operational benefit if the other benefits are negligible.

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Table 5: Total Annual Benefit and 20-Year Benefit Results

OUTPUT

| Benefits | Alt 1 | Alt 2 |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Annual Operational Benefits | \$ 200,000 | \$ 200,000 |
| Annual Safety Benefits | \$ 100,000 | \$ 100,000 |
| Annual Additional Benefits | \$ 111,000 | \$ 300,000 |
| Total Annual Benefit | \$ 411,000 | \$ 600,000 |
| Estimated 20-year Benefit | \$ 8,220,000 | \$ 12,000,000 |
| Costs | | |
| Construction Costs | \$ 483,000 | \$ 222,000 |
| Additional Annual Costs | \$ 500,000 | \$ 200,000 |
| Total Cost - Year One | \$ 983,000 | \$ 422,000 |
| Estimated 20-year Cost | \$ 10,483,000 | \$ 4,222,000 |
| Benefit/Cost (B/C) | | |
| B/C Ratio (1-year) | 0.42 | 1.42 |
| B/C Ratio (20-year) | 0.78 | 2.84 |

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11. Other Considerations

11.1 Inclusion of Key MDOT Units

If a project utilizes or impacts ITS equipment, traffic signal equipment, or changes the geometry of the intersection/roadway/roundabout, the appropriate contact from the ITS, Traffic Signals, or Geometrics section should be contacted and involved as part of the analysis stage. Any improvement must be approved by the applicable MDOT engineer from the subject section(s).

11.2 CMAQ Documentation

If the location is in a non-attainment area and is eligible for (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) CMAQ funds, the C&R may require CMAQ documents be completed and submitted for possible funding. The following link: www.michigan.gov/cmaq provides the necessary FHWA Emissions Calculator Toolkit/MDOT forms along with the list of additional items needed to determine eligibility.

11.3 Other Templates

Operational and reliability issues can be very broad and do not necessarily fall perfectly under one template.

Collaborating with the other templates to maximize improvements to operations, reliability, and safety is encouraged.

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Appendix A – Project Examples

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