

What is Level of Service (LOS)?

Level of Service is a quantitative measure of traffic operational conditions. Ranges of operation are defined for each type of roadway section (signalized intersections, freeways, ramp junctions and weaving sections) and are related to the amount of traffic demand at a given time as compared to the capacity of that type of roadway section.

Six levels of service are defined for each type of roadway section and are given letter designations from A to F, with A representing good operating conditions and F representing unsatisfactory operating conditions.

Intersection

- Highly stable, free-flow condition with little or no congestion
- Delay: <10 seconds/vehicle



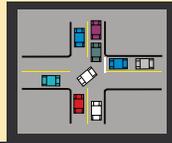
LOS A

- Stable, free-flow condition with little congestion
- Delay: 10 to 20 seconds/vehicle



LOS B

- Free-flow condition with moderate congestion
- Delay: 20 to 35 seconds/vehicle



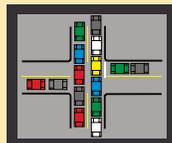
LOS C

- Approaching unstable condition with increasing congestion
- Delay: 35 to 55 seconds/vehicle



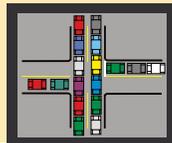
LOS D

- Unstable, congested condition
- Delay: 55 to 80 seconds/vehicle



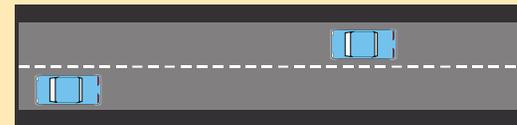
LOS E

- Stop and go
- Delay: >80 seconds/vehicle



LOS F

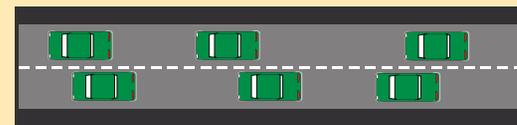
Roadway



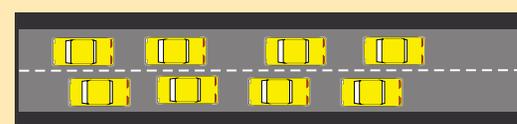
- Free flowing
- Uninterrupted vehicle



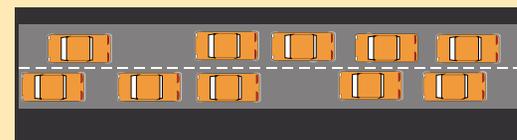
- Stable flow
- Other vehicles are more noticeable



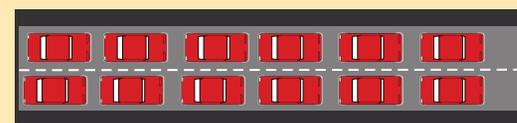
- Stable flow
- Vehicle operations affected by other vehicles



- High density free flow
- Operation of vehicle is affected by other vehicles



- High density traffic flow, nearing capacity
- Operating conditions are extremely poor



- Forced or breakdown flow
- Amount of traffic exceeds capacity