

Truck Volume Maps

Introduction

The Data Services Division's Traffic Monitoring System (TMS) Team administers the Maryland State Highway Administration's (SHA) Traffic Monitoring Program. The program is responsible for the collection, processing, analysis, summarization and dissemination of Maryland highway traffic data and is supported by a comprehensive, user friendly, management information system.

Traffic monitoring data is a strategic resource for SHA and Maryland's Department of Transportation. The data is essential in the planning, design and operation of the statewide road system and the development and implementation of state highway improvement and safety programs. TMS is a product of the ISTEA Act of 1991, which required a traffic data program to effectively and efficiently meet SHA's long-term traffic data monitoring and reporting requirements. The quality control feature of the system allows data edit checks and validation for data from the 91 permanent, continuous automatic traffic recorders (ATR's) and short-term (Program) traffic data.

The Maryland Truck Volume Maps depict the average percentages of trucks at various locations on Maryland's roadways by county. Classification data is collected from a percentage of the 8700 program count stations and 91 ATRs throughout the state of Maryland. Program count data is collected (both directions) at regular locations on either a three (3) year or six (6) year cycle depending on type of roadway. Growth Factors are applied to counts which were not taken during the current year and the counts are factored based on the past yearly growth of an associated ATR. Counters are placed for 48 hours on a Monday or Tuesday and are picked up that Thursday or Friday, respectively. The ATR and toll count data is collected on a continuous basis.

The Truck Volume maps have the data represented as percentages of the total traffic volume for the classification counts taken during the years 2016-2018. The truck data is split into two categories according to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) guidelines, Single Units (classes 4-7) and Combination Units (classes 8-13). In case of multiple counts at the same locations and ATR data, the percentages are averaged over the entire data set for that station. The maps show two sets of percentages, one next to the other. The first is the percentages of Single Units and the second is the percentage of Combination Units. A description of the two classes is given on "Description of Classes". Starting this year, the current Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) is shown above the percentages.

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