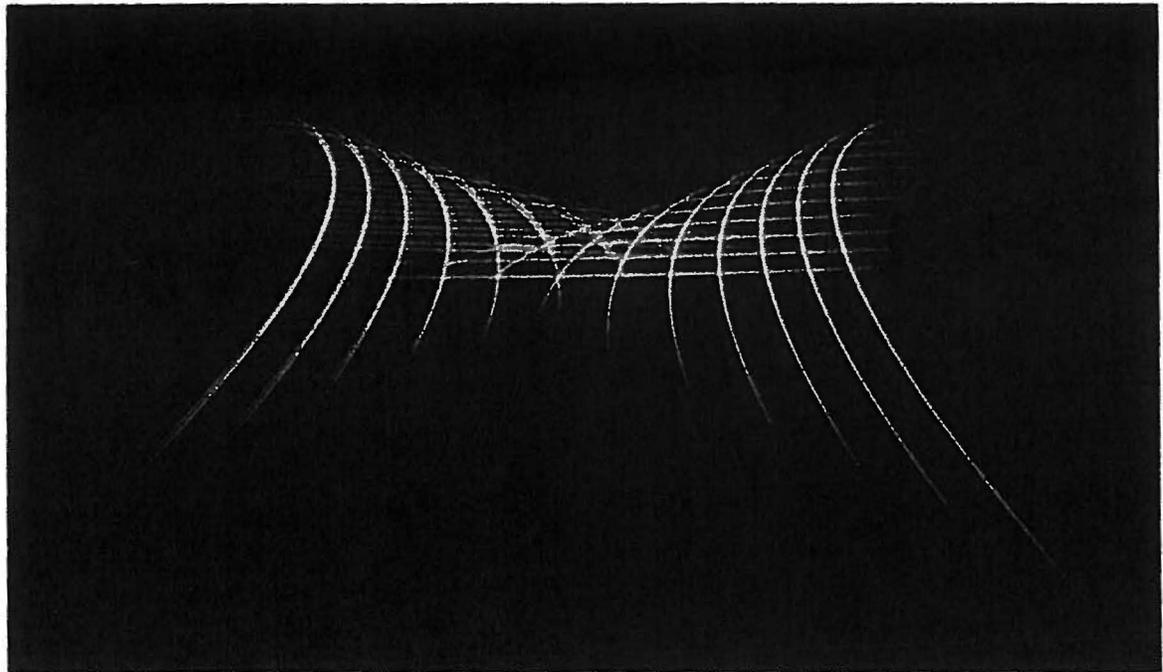


# HCM2010

HIGHWAY CAPACITY MANUAL



VOLUME 1: CONCEPTS



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## FOREWORD

This fifth edition of the *Highway Capacity Manual* breaks a great deal of new ground.

- It is the first *Highway Capacity Manual* to provide an **integrated multimodal approach** to the analysis and evaluation of urban streets from the points of view of automobile drivers, transit passengers, bicyclists, and pedestrians. This is the first manual to take into account the effects of cars on bicyclists and pedestrians.
- It is the first to address the proper **application of microsimulation analysis** and the evaluation of those results.
- It is the first to discuss **active traffic management** in relation to both demand and capacity.
- It is the first to include **example applications of its procedures implemented in software code and executables** to assist users and software developers in understanding the subtleties of the methodologies.
- It is also the first to provide tools, **generalized service volume tables**, to assist planners in quickly sizing future facilities.

While this edition of the *Highway Capacity Manual* has many firsts, it also builds on more than 60 years of work by many dedicated experts in the field.<sup>1</sup>

The first *Highway Capacity Manual* was published in 1950 as a joint venture between the Highway Research Board's Committee on Highway Capacity and the Bureau of Public Roads. That effort was led by O. K. Normann, committee chair, and William Walker, committee secretary. The manual was the first international document on the broad subject of capacity and provided definitions of key terms, a compilation of maximum observed flows, and the initial fundamentals of capacity.

The second edition was published in 1965 by the Highway Research Board and authored by the Committee on Highway Capacity. O. K. Normann led much of this effort until his untimely death in 1964. Carl C. Saal continued the work as the new committee chair with Arthur A. Carter, Jr., as secretary. The Bureau of Public Roads was again a significant contributor to the project. The 1965 manual was a significant extension of the 1950 edition and introduced the concept of level of service.

The third edition of the manual was published in 1985 by the Transportation Research Board (TRB) and authored by the Committee on Highway Capacity and Quality of Service, chaired by Carlton C. Robinson, with Charles W. Dale as secretary. Credit is also due to Robert C. Blumenthal and James H. Kell, who served as committee chairs between the publication of the 1965 and 1985 editions. The 1985 edition extended capacity analysis to additional facility types,

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<sup>1</sup> Thanks are extended to Adolf D. May for this short history of the *Highway Capacity Manual*, which was first provided in his Foreword to the 1994 edition.

incorporated driver perceptions into level of service, and was the first to have the analysis procedures implemented in computer software.

An update to the third edition of the manual was published in 1994 with Adolf D. May as chair of the committee and Wayne K. Kittelson as secretary. The 1994 edition of the manual is noted for new procedures for the analysis of freeway ramp junctions, all-way and two-way STOP-controlled intersections, and two-lane rural highways.

The fourth edition of the manual was published in 2000 with John D. Zegeer as chair of the committee and Richard G. Dowling as secretary. That manual was the first to go to a multivolume format (with one volume dedicated to concepts for policy makers) and was the first to test novel electronic formats for the manual using hyperlinked text and narrated self-guided tutorials for some of the example problems.

The *Highway Capacity Manual* has grown over the decades, and it has long since ceased to be the product of a few highly competent experts or even that of a single committee. This edition of the *Highway Capacity Manual* has benefited from the most extensive involvement of the professional community—far surpassing that of all the previous editions. More than 300 professionals, many of them entirely new to TRB, the Committee on Highway Capacity and Quality of Service, and the manual development process itself, contributed in the year-long chapter review process, which has culminated in the publication of this fifth edition.

This edition is the first to involve other TRB committees in its development. The following committees from the Operations Section (AHB00) of the Technical Activities Council of TRB provided reviewers or comments directly on the drafts of the manual:

- AHB20, Freeway Operations;
- AHB25, Traffic Signal Systems;
- AHB35, Committee on High-Occupancy Vehicle, High-Occupancy Toll, and Managed Lanes; and
- AHB45, Traffic Flow Theory and Characteristics.

The members of the Committee on Highway Capacity and Quality of Service thank these committees for their assistance and thank the chairs of the Operations Section, Daniel S. Turner and then Peter M. Briglia, Jr., for their support and encouragement of the multicommittee involvement in the development of the *Highway Capacity Manual*.

We are also grateful for the support we have received from the members and staff of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE). Our joint summer meetings with local ITE sections throughout the manual development process were particularly informative and productive.

Throughout this effort, the advice and support of Richard Cunard, Engineer of Traffic and Operations of TRB, was extremely valuable in helping the committee anticipate, address, and overcome the obstacles that arise every time a major new document is published.

The *Highway Capacity Manual 2010* would never have become a reality without the hard work of the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) 3-92 panel, chaired by Barbara Ostrom, with Ray Derr as Senior Program Officer for the project. The committee thanks the NCHRP 3-92 panel, its staff, and its contractor, Kittelson & Associates, Inc. for delivering a high-quality manual that will greatly improve transportation engineering and planning practice in the years to come.

The committee invites those interested in improving the profession's understanding of capacity and quality of service analysis to contact us at [www.AHB40.org](http://www.AHB40.org) and become involved.

For the Committee on Highway Capacity and Quality of Service (AHB40),



Richard G. Dowling  
Committee Chair  
October 1, 2010

Lily Elefteriadou  
Committee Secretary

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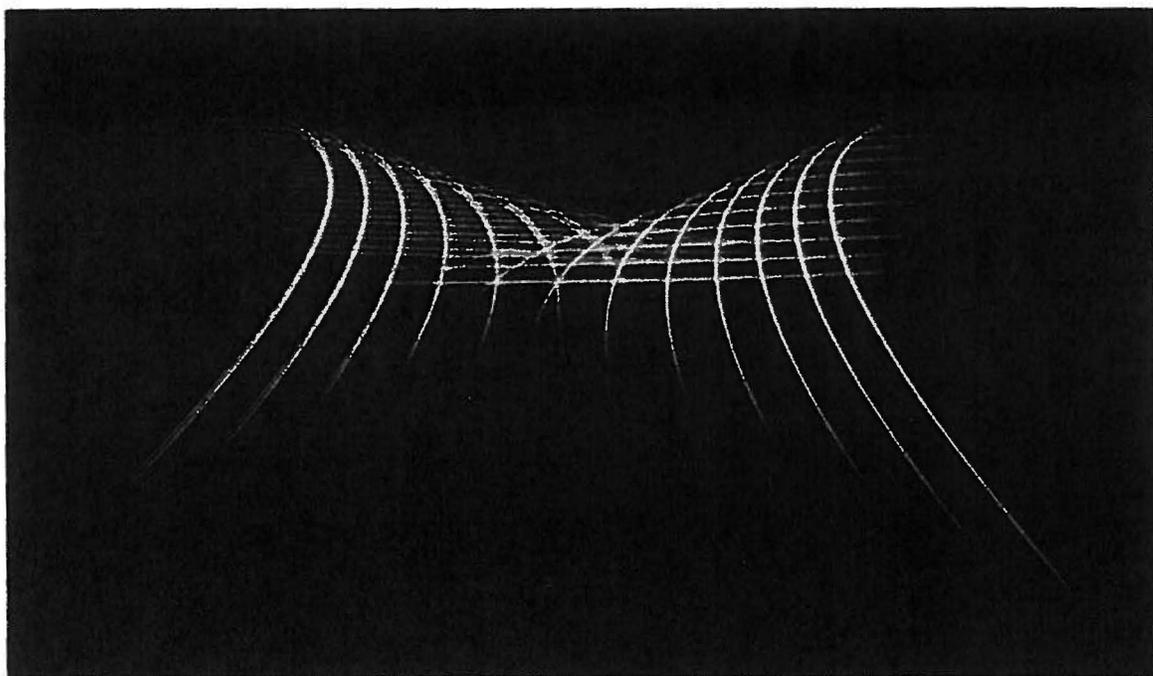
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HIGHWAY CAPACITY MANUAL



VOLUME 2: UNINTERRUPTED FLOW



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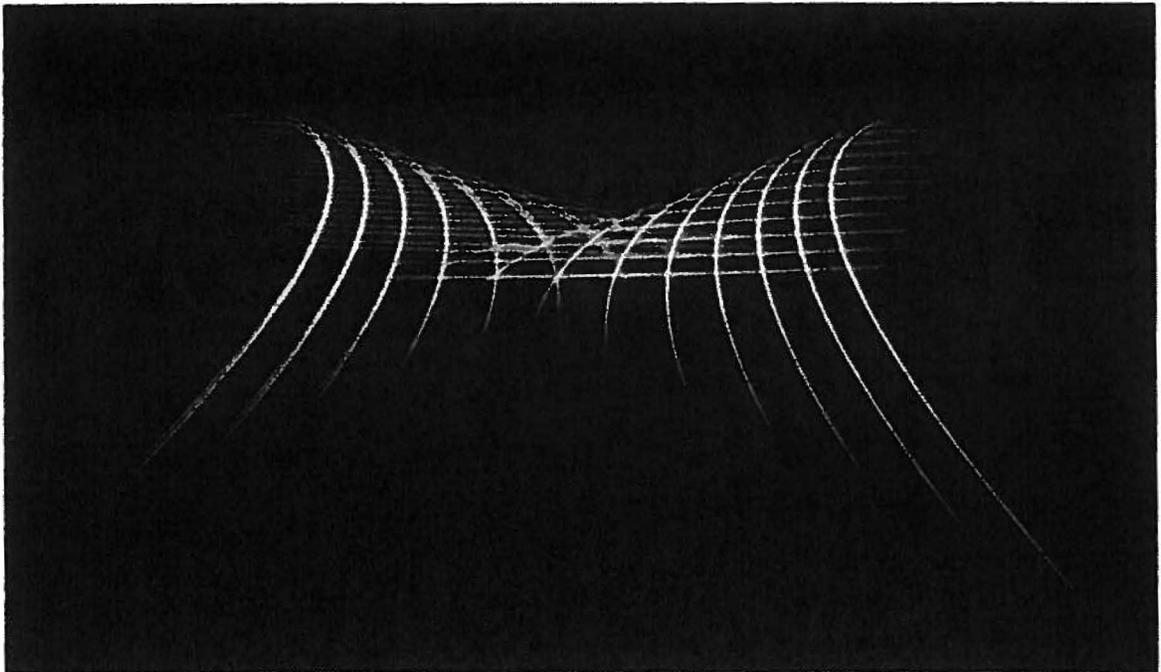
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