

Traffic Surveys

Civil Engineering

What each traffic measure really means.

Counts are cheap. Interpreting them badly is not.

Measure	What it means
AADT	Average daily flow across a year
Peak hour flow	The hour the design must serve
Design hour volume	Often the 30th busiest hour
Directional split	Share going the busier way
Classified count	Mix of cars, buses and lorries
Turning count	Movements through a junction

Educational reference. Short counts are scaled to annual values by seasonal factors, and that scaling carries real error.