PURPOSE

The purpose of this activity is for you to learn what kinds of models are used in practice.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

○ Describe the categories of traffic models

REQUIRED RESOURCE

○ *Traffic Signal Timing Manual*

DELIVERABLES

Prepare a document that includes

○ Answers to the Critical Thinking Question

○ Completed Concept Map

LINK TO PRACTICE

Read the sections of the *Traffic Signal Timing Manual* assigned by your instructor.

CRITICAL THINKING QUESTIONS

When you have completed the reading, prepare answers to the following questions:

1. How does the description of models from the Traffic Analysis Toolbox compare and contrast with the discussion in the *Traffic Signal Timing Manual*?

2. What could you learn from the four model types described in the *Traffic Signal Timing Manual* if they are used to evaluate a signal timing plan?

IN MY PRACTICE...

by Michael Kyte

Computer modeling tools are commonly used by the transportation engineer to both evaluate alternative designs as well as to visually demonstrate, through advanced animation techniques, how a transportation facility will perform under a given set of conditions. Even though many computer models are easy to set up, run, and produce "results", often the engineer is under pressure to produce results quickly. This means that such important steps as calibration of a model to the conditions of a local area are often skipped or not given sufficient time. The results from a model are only as good as the input data used and the time spent to fine-tune the model itself. Be skeptical of results. Ask questions before you believe what "the model says." It is a tool. You are the engineer.

CONCEPT MAP

Terms and variables that should appear in your map are listed below.

microsimulation model   performance measure   VISSIM

network   traffic analysis tool

Student Notes: