

Traffic Impact Study Qualifications

Preparer: The preparation of a thorough traffic impact study requires extensive background and experience in traffic-related analyses. Therefore, the experience of the preparer best defines his or her ability to provide a technically sound analysis. Recommended preparer requirements are outlined below.

I. The person responsible for the preparation of the study shall meet the following requirements:

1. Three or more years of recent experience in the preparation of traffic impact studies.
2. The development of impact studies (and similar intersection and/or corridor analyses) comprises a major component of the preparer's recent professional experience. This requires ongoing experience and familiarity with the Highway Capacity Manual techniques as well as the computer software (Highway Capacity software and others) that provide level of service results and other analysis findings needed to fully assess potential impacts.
3. Specific education, training, and/or professional coursework in traffic impact analysis from an accredited college or university or other professional transportation training organization (i.e. National Highway Institute, Northwestern University Traffic Institute, etc.).
4. The study preparer shall be an associate (or higher) member of one or more professional transportation related organizations, particularly the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) or the Transportation Research Board (TRB). This helps ensure that the preparer is maintaining his or her knowledge as new research is published and analysis techniques are changed or refined.

II In addition, the preparer should have one of the following professional qualifications:

1. A registered engineer (PE).
2. A community planner with AICP or PCP certification.
3. A trained professional transportation planner.

III. Any study involving roadway or traffic signal design work shall be prepared by or under the supervision of a registered engineer (PE) with specific training in traffic engineering.

IV. The study should include a resume of the preparer responsible for the report. The study may also include relevant experience of the preparer's firm. The study should also be signed by the preparer with full recognition of potential liability for the results and recommendations outlined in the report.

Reviewer: Review of the study is important to ensure that the analysis and recommendations are based on accepted practices. The ITE recommends that the traffic impact study be reviewed by "trained traffic engineers or transportation planners". The qualifications of the reviewers should parallel those of the preparers as outlined above.