Peak Hour Determination

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Peak hour is the hour during the peak period that has the highest traffic volumes, including pedestrians and cyclists. To illustrate and help determine the common peak hour, all the collected peak period data collection points are overlaid in tables and/or graphs. If the peak hour is different for some intersections, judgement may be needed to determine one peak hour for the entire corridor. Major and minor approaches may be separated if it makes more sense. Normally, there are two peak hours (AM and PM), but other design hours (school peak, extended peak, event peak, etc.) may be used if justifiable.

The examples shown below illustrate how the AM and PM volumes are combined to find the common peak hour between the five intersections.

AM and PM Peak Hour Determination Examples

Time	Intersection A	Intersection B	Intersection C	Intersection D	Intersection E	Total
5:00 AM	12	64	41	107	10	234
5:15 AM	16	67	40	133	9	265
5:30 AM	10	112	41	159	15	337
5:45 AM	19	112	67	156	15	369
6:00 AM	31	119	74	170	25	419
6:15 AM	35	131	82	171	26	445
6:30 AM	47	142	96	184	36	505
6:45 AM	50	131	102	163	37	483
7:00 AM	57	121	123	116	51	468
7:15 AM	63	143	145	116	78	545
7:30 AM	81	130	163	135	93	602
7:45 AM	82	131	165	162	76	616
8:00 AM	77	78	155	126	49	485
8:15 AM	66	75	145	120	53	459
8:30 AM	55	66	146	122	43	432
8:45 AM	55	72	156	131	44	458
9:00 AM	52	52	154	122	31	411
9:15 AM	52	55	152	136	48	443
9:30 AM	47	63	168	141	45	464
3:30 PM	128	119	263	210	95	815
3:45 PM	123	120	262	209	86	800
4:00 PM	126	119	272	192	84	793
4:15 PM	114	123	245	191	89	762
4:30 PM	116	136	262	197	88	799
4:45 PM	126	128	258	198	97	807
5:00 PM	138	139	285	222	107	891
5:15 PM	129	128	280	214	99	850
5:30 PM	113	121	256	206	90	786
5:45 PM	109	114	227	200	80	730
6:00 PM	98	95	222	194	75	684
6:15 PM	96	89	200	176	75	636
6:30 PM	84	80	209	167	68	608
6:45 PM	89	73	207	165	69	603