

The county or VDOT, at its discretion, may request the applicant to adjust the peak hour turning movement counts in order to account for seasonal variations in traffic or other localized factors.

In addition, the applicant will be responsible for ensuring that any submitted site plans meet the minimum state and local standards for geometric design. The study should be conducted only by an individual or firm that could be qualified as an expert in traffic engineering.

Upon submission of a draft traffic impact analysis report, the county and VDOT will review the study data sources, methods, and findings and provide comments. The applicant will then have the opportunity to incorporate necessary revisions prior to submitting a final report to public officials. Accompanying the applicant's submission will be written comments of local and state staff. This information will then be used to reach a decision regarding the proposed development.

C. DETERMINING THE NEED FOR A TRAFFIC IMPACT STUDY

The reviewing agencies should have the discretion to determine when a traffic impact study is needed. The need for a traffic impact study should be evaluated based on conditions surrounding the individual development. The site specific conditions that should be considered include:

1. The potential impact upon the local and regional road networks.
2. The capacity and level of service of the existing roadways to be entered.
3. Roadway geometrics.
4. The type and size of the proposed development.
5. Traffic operations of one or more intersections.
6. Issues of safety and/or traffic operation within the public right of way.

VDOT and the county should consider requesting that a group of developers jointly sponsor a traffic impact study on a section of highway where many independent developments are planned.