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Development of a Traffic Information Data Base for Sri Lanka

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Traffic data is vital for transport planning, road designing and traffic management measures. Traffic counts are conducted very often at different locations for different purposes. These counts can be grouped in two as link flow counts with or without vehicle classification and turning movement counts at intersections. Though a large number of traffic counts are conducted every year there is no mechanism to easily retrieve past data for any comparison or analysis. Not having a proper indexing system or centralized data base is one of the reasons for the above and the other reason is the non uniformity of data collected at different locations. Therefore many transport studies are conducted with minimal information due to the lack of past information or spend a lot of money and resources to collect information.

An attempt made to develop a database structure that can accommodate any link count or turning movement count with or without vehicle classifications for traffic surveys conducted is presented. As a sound road network management system should have the capability in maintaining and managing information and to present it with an analytical view. Hence, a sample software solution including the above mentioned functionalities is also presented with this. The database schema is developed with regard to the expected data structures for the surveys conducted by the Transportation Engineering Division, University of Moratuwa and the Road Development Authority. A standard data structure is proposed in such a way that it could handle a data set of any common format. The data base structure is also capable of retrieving past data based on the geographic location (by road link or intersection) or year of count. Data could be summarized or analysed into standard formats. User friendly interfaces have been developed for data entry and report preparation and to view analytical output patterns.

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