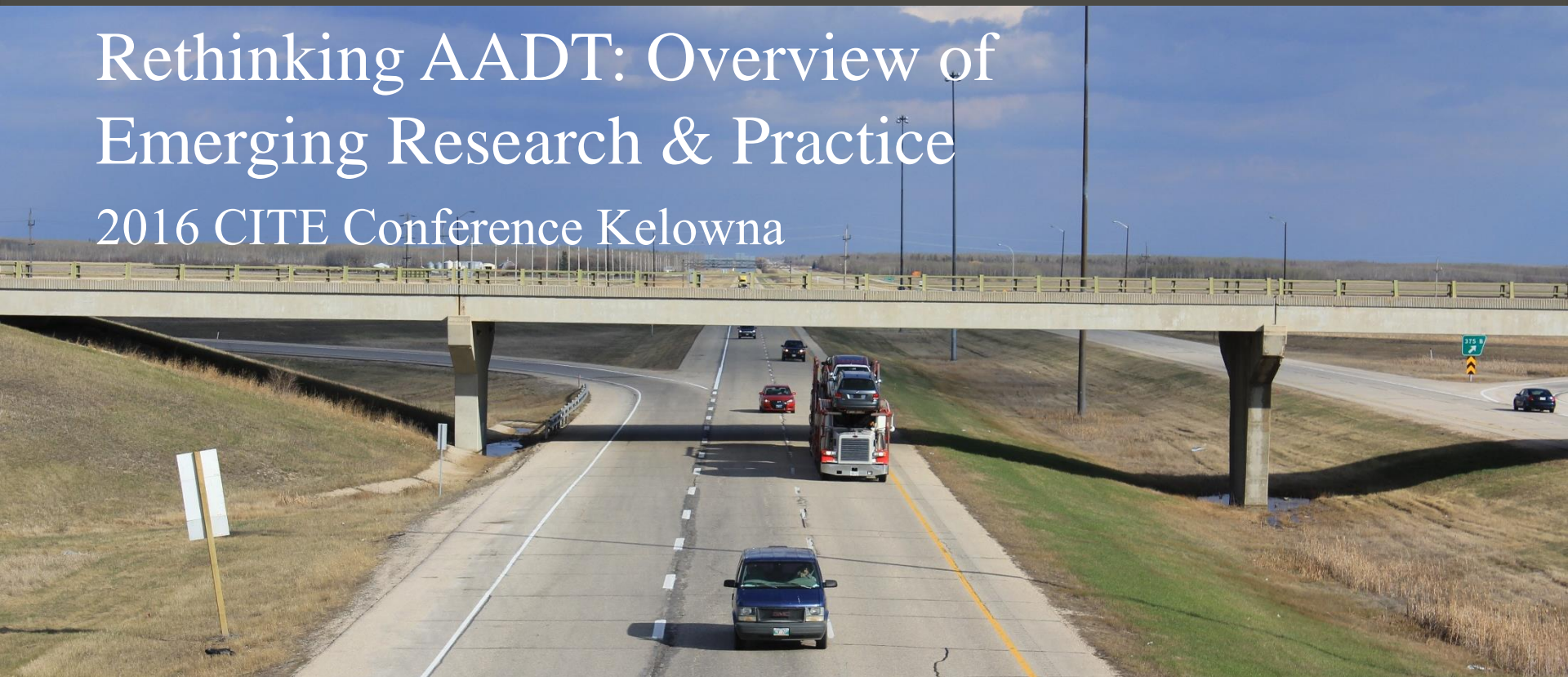


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Rethinking AADT: Overview of Emerging Research & Practice

2016 CITE Conference Kelowna



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Outline

1. Introduction
2. Current Practice
3. New AADT Formulation
4. Illustrative Analysis
 - a) Findings
 - b) Practical implications
5. Concluding remarks
6. References

Introduction

This presentation reviews current and emerging practice for determining AADT from continuous count sites.

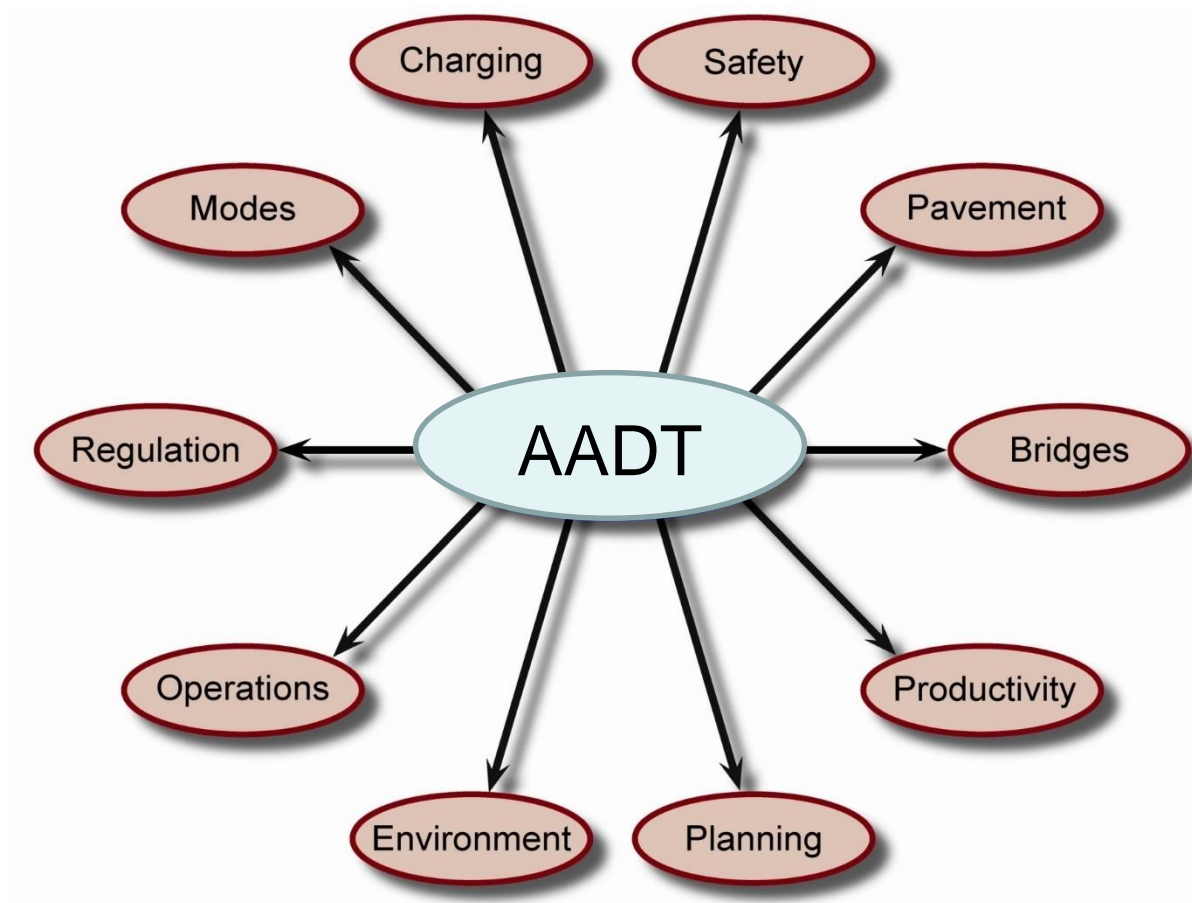
What is AADT?

- AADT is the number of vehicles passing a point on an average day of the year

Where do the data come from?

- Continuous count sites (focus of this presentation)
- Short-duration count sites (requires factoring)

Importance of AADT



Current Practice

So how do we currently calculate AADT?

- Simple average (if we have “good” data)
- AASHTO Method

Simple Average

Exactly what it sounds like:

$$AADT = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n VOL_i$$

Where:

VOL_i = total traffic on i th day of year

n = number of days in a particular year

Simple Average

Exactly what it sounds like:

$$AADT = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n VOL_i$$

- Works perfectly IF we have 365 full days of data (i.e., 24-hours each)
- If missing hours (or days) we introduce a bias because of the natural periodicities of traffic flow

AASHTO Method

Accounts for bias in missing data by grouping similar days by day of week and month:

$$AADT = \frac{1}{12} \sum_{m=1}^{12} \frac{1}{7} \sum_{j=1}^7 \frac{1}{n_{jm}} \sum_{i=1}^{n_{jm}} VOL_{ijm}$$

Where:

VOL_{ijm} = total traffic on i th occurrence of j th day of week within m th month

i = occurrence of a particular day of week in a particular month

j = day of week (1 to 7)

m = month of year (1 to 12)

n_{jm} = amount of times day j occurs in month m for which traffic data is available

AASHTO Method

Accounts for bias in missing data by grouping similar days by day of week and month:

$$AADT = \frac{1}{12} \sum_{m=1}^{12} \frac{1}{7} \sum_{j=1}^7 \frac{1}{n_{jm}} \sum_{i=1}^{n_{jm}} VOL_{ijm}$$

- Still requires 24 hours of data in a single day
- Requires at least one of every day-of-the-week per month
- Can calculate by class

AASHTO Method

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AASHTO Method: What Works

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New AADT Formulation: HPSJB

Concerns with accuracy and inability to use valuable data led to creation of the Highway Policy Steven Jessberger-FHWA and Battelle (HPSJB) Method

New AADT Formulation: HPSJB

$$AADT = \frac{\sum_{m=1}^{12} d_m * \frac{\sum_{j=1}^7 w_{jm} * \sum_{h=1}^{24} \left[\frac{1}{n_{hjm}} \sum_{i=1}^{n_{hjm}} VOL_{ihjm} \right]}{\sum_{j=1}^7 w_{jm}}}{\sum_{m=1}^{12} d_m}$$

Where:

VOL_{ihjm} = total traffic on i th occurrence of the h th hour within j th day of week within m th month

i = occurrence of a particular day of week in a particular month

h = hour of day (1 to 24)

j = day of week (1 to 7)

m = month of year (1 to 12)

n_{hjm} = number of times hour h within day j of week occurs during month m for which traffic data is available

w_{jm} = number of times day j occurs during month m



d_m = number of days in month m

New AADT Formulation: HPSJB

Two major differences from AASHTO method:

- Group by hour of day – *Improve useful number of days*
- Weighted average – *Reduce bias from shorter months*

$$AADT = \frac{\sum_{m=1}^{12} d_m * \left(\sum_{j=1}^7 w_{jm} * \sum_{h=1}^{24} \left[\frac{1}{n_{hjm}} \sum_{i=1}^{n_{hjm}} VOL_{ihjm} \right] \right)}{\sum_{m=1}^{12} d_m}$$

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HPSJB: Advantages

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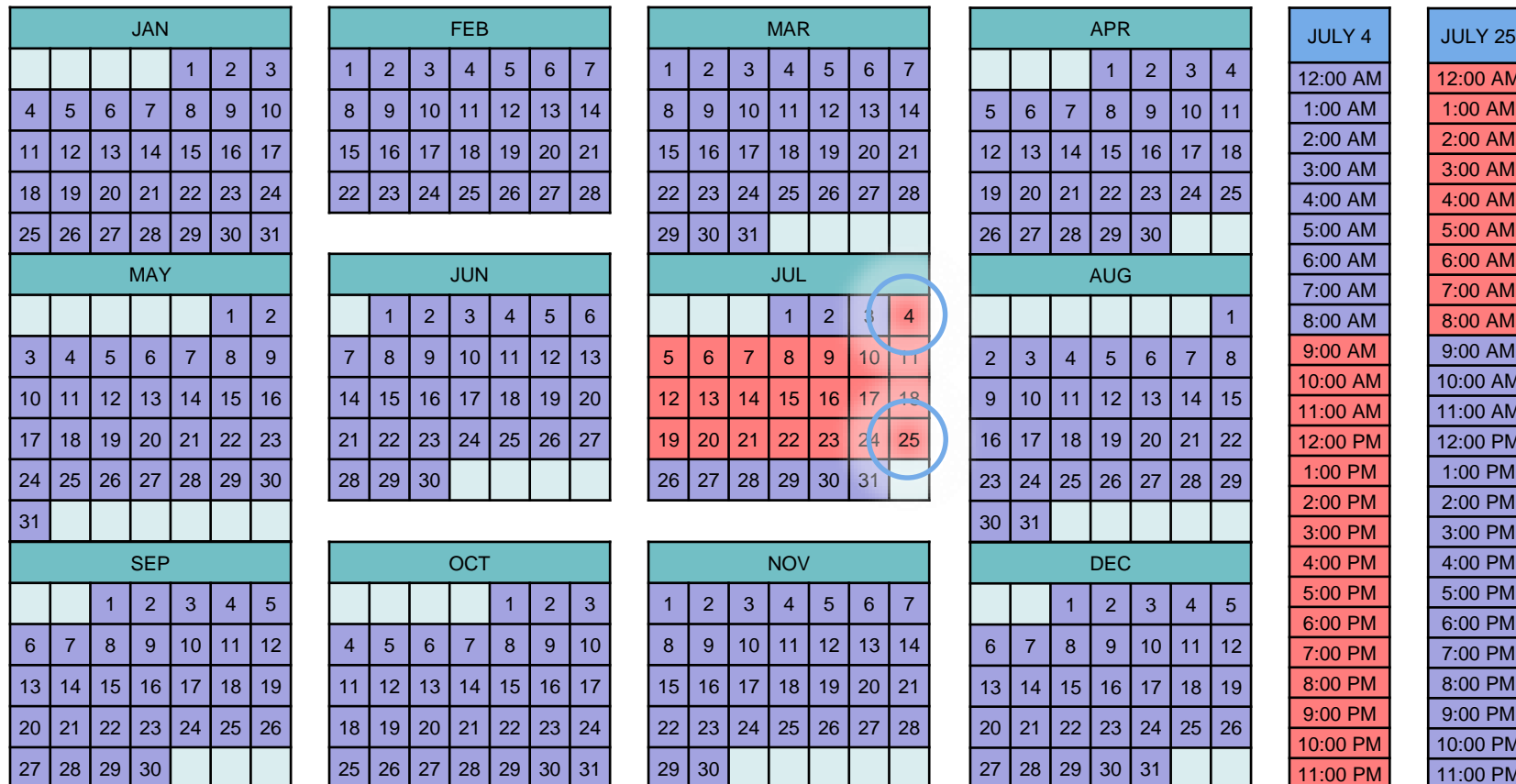
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HPSJB: Advantages



Illustrative Analysis Using Manitoba Data

Analysis Objective:

- Study the robustness of the simple average versus AASHTO versus other formulations

Illustrative Analysis Using Manitoba Data

Source Data:

- In Manitoba, 79 permanent count sites
- For 2014, 33 counters (with vehicle classifying capabilities) had 24 hours of data for a full year
- Two stations were analyzed: Station 1 and 90
- Both stations are automatic vehicle classifiers that counted for a full 24 hours every day in 2014

Illustrative Analysis Using Manitoba Data

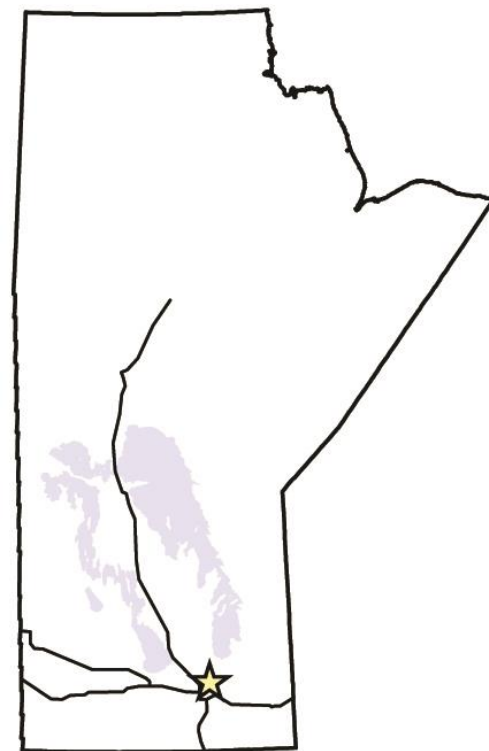
Analysis Method:

- Take counters with full year of 24-hour data
 - Treat them as if they are missing data
 - Compute AADTT using methods and compare to actual AADTT
- Data were removed following several different temporal patterns meant to represent real-life scenarios

Illustrative Analysis Using Manitoba Data

Station 1:

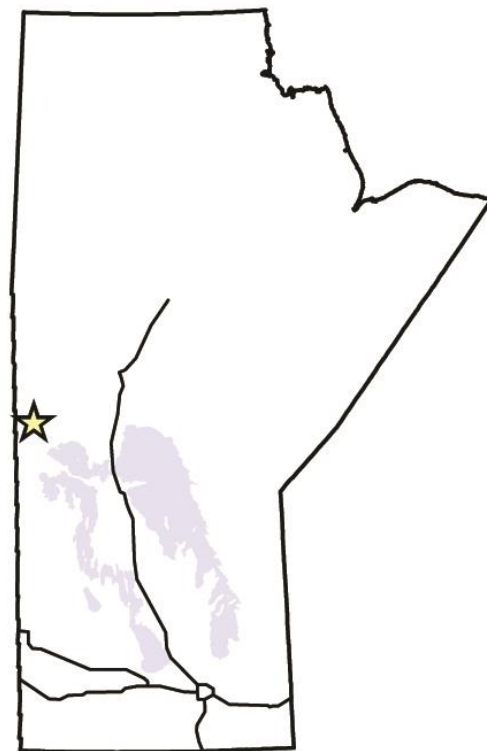
- Near Winnipeg perimeter highway
- Heavy urban influence
- True AADTT = 520



Illustrative Analysis Using Manitoba Data

Station 90:

- Northwest Manitoba near The Pas
- Heavy forestry influence
- True AADTT = 150

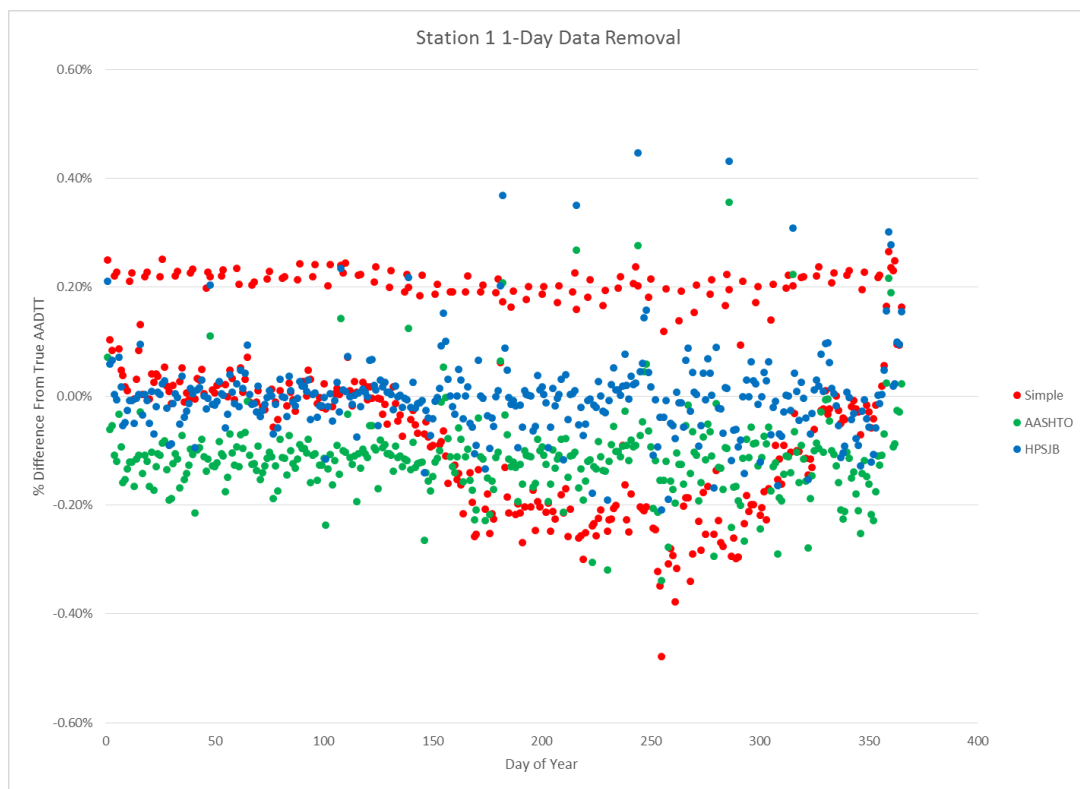


Illustrative Analysis Using Manitoba Data

1-Day Removal

(St. 1):

- Data removed for full 24 hours each day of the year
- HPSJB is poorest when holidays are removed

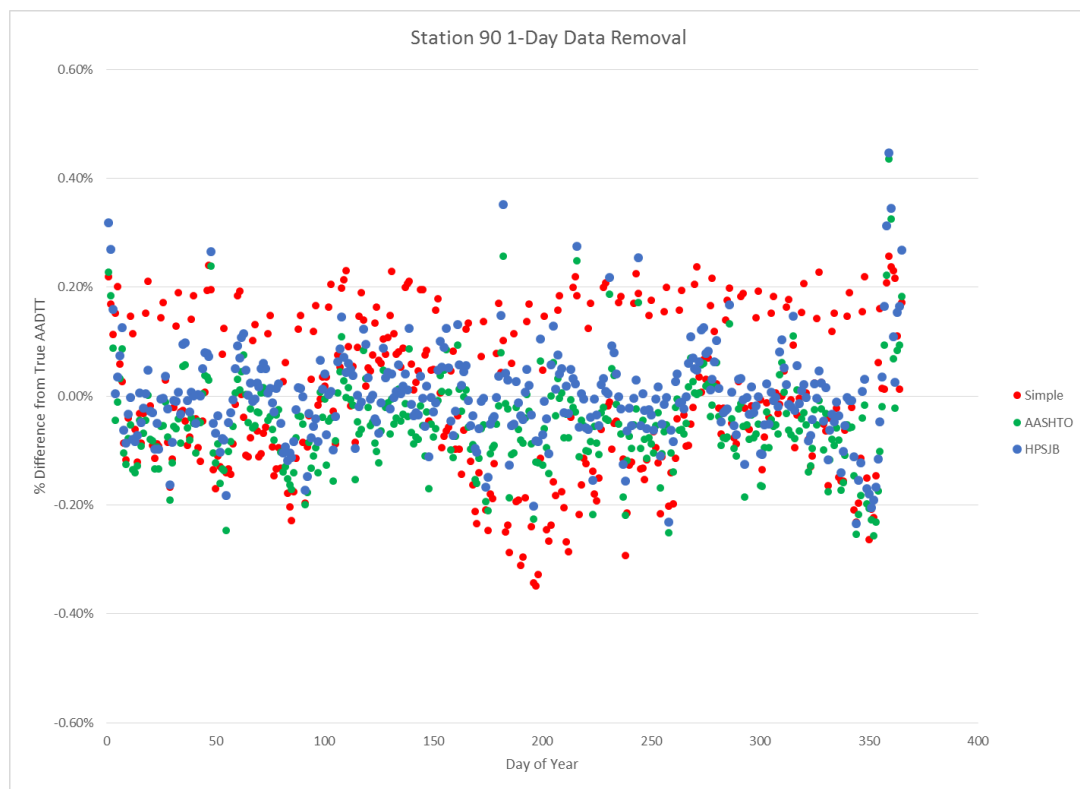


Illustrative Analysis Using Manitoba Data

1-Day Removal

(St. 90):

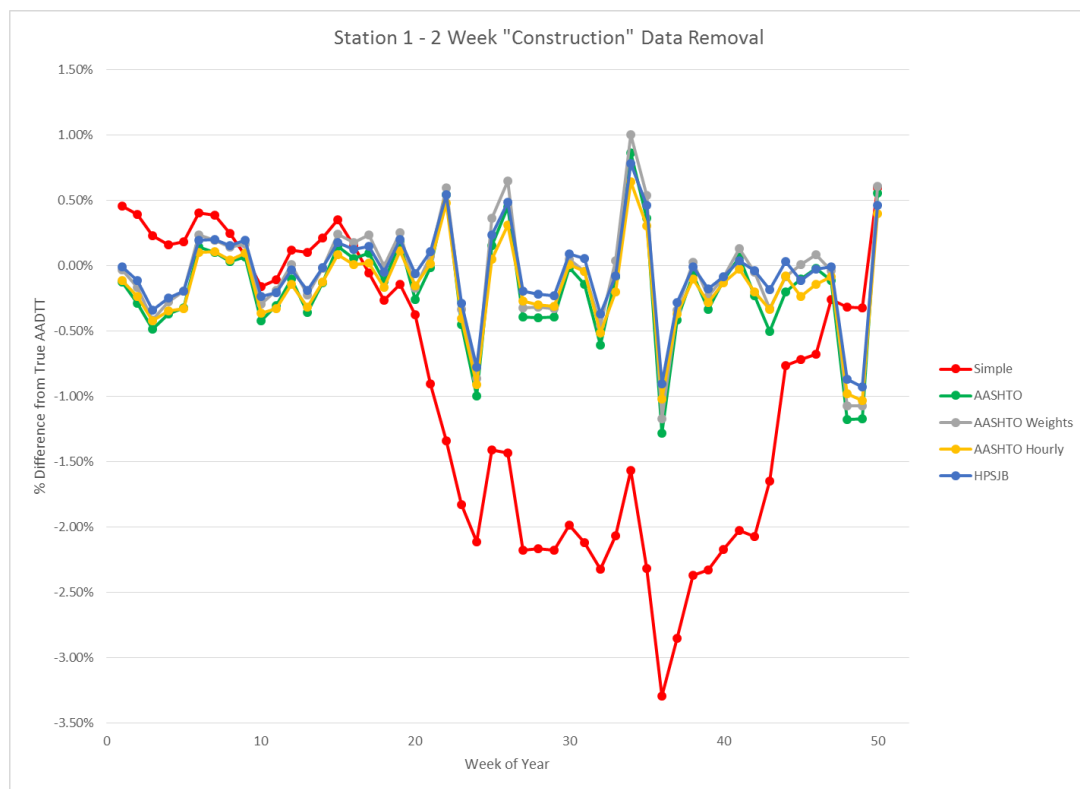
- Data removed for full 24 hours each day of the year
- Low volume obscures the apparent patterns



Illustrative Analysis Using Manitoba Data

Construction Scenario (St. 1):

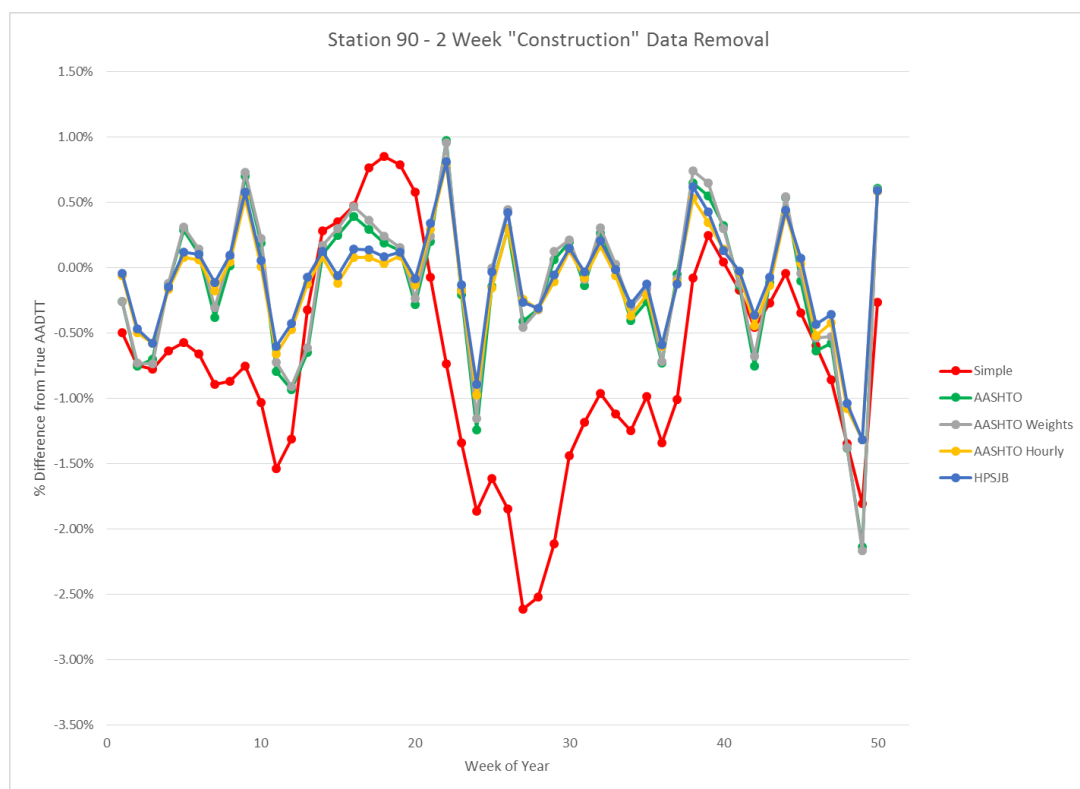
- Mon-Fri data removed from 7:00 AM- 5:00 PM for two weeks
- Generally, HPSJB performs best (but with exceptions)



Illustrative Analysis Using Manitoba Data

Construction Scenario (St. 90):

- Mon-Fri data removed from 7:00 AM- 5:00 PM for two weeks
- Generally, HPSJB performs best (but with exceptions)



Findings

- Research shows that HPSJB method improves accuracy of AADT when days are missing
 - Reduced bias
 - Improved confidence
 - Accuracy improvements are evident but in the order of 0-2% of true AADTT
- Expected addendum to FHWA Traffic Monitoring Guide
- Possible consideration in new Canadian guide for traffic monitoring (in progress)

Practical Implications

- Better utilization of continuous counters
 - Less data rejection
 - Inclusion of data from alternative sources (e.g., loops at traffic signals)
- Although accuracy improvements are small, they may be important in certain applications
 - Determining and applying traffic growth rates
 - Evaluating conditions of a warrant

Concluding Remarks

- AADT is the fundamental measure of traffic volume
- A new AADT formula has been proposed that provides a small improvement in accuracy and better reliability when missing days of data
- Changes in AADT calculations influence transportation engineering applications

References

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- FHWA. *Traffic Monitoring Guide*. September 2013.
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- Manitoba Highway Traffic Information System (MHTIS). *2014 Traffic Report*. 2015.

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REBEL ADVENTURER TRAILBLAZER

INNOVATOR CHALLENGER REBEL VISIONARY

REBEL PIONEER CREATOR EXPLORER TRAILBLAZER INNOVATOR

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