Web-based Training for Development of Traffic Analysis Technical Skills

SP&R, Part I Special Studies Request

Fact Sheet

What? Develop a web-based training program for staff within Caltrans and our regional/local partners that will provide a foundation for traffic analysis technical skills. The knowledge base will help managers and staff within our Department to make practical and realistic decisions as it relates to micro simulation modeling, 4-Step Modeling, and Systems Analysis.

Why? To better equip managers and technical staff with a comprehensive understanding of micro simulation modeling, 4-Step Modeling, and Systems Analysis skills.

This training program will provide consistent modeling practices Department-wide, enabling staff to analyze all components of the Strategic Growth Plan (i.e. the Pyramid) to include system monitoring and evaluation, maintenance and preservation, transportation demand management/value pricing, ITS/traveler information/traffic control/incident management, operational improvements, and system completion and expansion. In addition, this training program addresses the Department's goals of safety, mobility, delivery, stewardship, and service.

How? Develop a Research Technical Agreement, under an existing Master Services Agreement with the University of California, Irvine to develop web-based training based on existing courses given at the undergraduate and graduate level. This co-partnership will ensure that Caltrans will receive specialized expertise in traffic analysis tools within California. UC Irvine will host the training site and will create accounts for each student. Each student will receive a user id and password to access the training program. Upon completion of the training program, the student will receive a certificate of completion.

Products? The final product will consist of an online traffic analysis training course, with numerous modules, hosted by University of California, Irvine.

Outcomes? Consistent training for transportation planners and engineers in the area of modeling within the Department. In addition, this training program will provide management with a basic overview of traffic analysis tools and their application. This training program will provide technical staff with a comprehensive understanding of traffic analysis tools which is the foundation for learning and understanding the various modeling software packages.
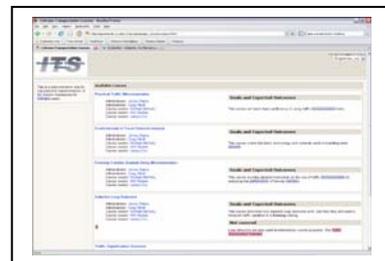
Who benefits? All transportation stakeholders, particularly Department and regional/local agencies to utilize and understand the application of traffic analysis tools (modeling software packages).

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