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# Traffic Counts

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Traffic counts are the basis for safety, economic, and engineering considerations in guiding administrators and engineers in the development of highway systems.

The Department has a traffic count program that collects traffic data at over 100,000 locations across the Commonwealth. These traffic counts are collected over a three-year count cycle. The count schedule is set-up by county, so that all roads within a county are counted during the same year of the three-year cycle. All roads that are functionally classified higher than local will be counted once during that three-year period. Roads that are functionally classified as local will be counted once every six years (if there is growth potential for the area) or once every twelve years (if they serve fully occupied housing subdivisions). However, local roads that are unpaved and with a last count of between 40 and 49 vehicles are to be counted once every three years so as to collect updated information specifically for use in pavement decision consideration.

A primary product of the Department's traffic count program is the publication of Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) estimates for the roadways. The AADT estimates are used to create Vehicle Miles of Travel reports. All of these publications and reports are available on the VDOT website at: <http://www.virginiadot.org/info/ct-TrafficCounts.asp> or by contacting your Resident Administrator.