Traffic forecasting predicts the impacts that various improvements or policies will have on travel at the state, region, or project levels.

Forecasting tools are necessary to identify future changes in travel as a result of changing demographics and technologies.

The MDOT Statewide and Urban Travel Analysis (SUTA) Section is responsible for developing, maintaining, and conducting:

- Travel demand models
- Air quality conformity
- Economic impact analysis
- Traffic analysis

www.michigan.gov/mdot
The statewide travel demand model contains state trunkline (I, M, and US routes) and other major routes. It analyzes long-distance trips and travel patterns between cities.

**Statewide travel forecasting applications:**
- Analysis outside urban areas
- Projects with significant impacts beyond urban model boundaries
- Estimating economic benefits of the state highway program
- Identifying areas of growth and future needs

MDOT uses travel demand models and forecasts of population, employment, and households to estimate future traffic volumes in these areas.

**Urban regional forecasting applications:**
- Testing alternatives for future transportation projects
- Identifying future congestion problems
- Modeling emissions to ensure conformity to air quality standards

**Project-level forecasting applications:**
- Testing construction alternatives and identifying detours
- Estimating impacts of new developments
- Evaluating geometric design alternatives
- Selecting appropriate construction materials

### Vehicle Miles Traveled

Historical and projected vehicle miles traveled in Michigan from 1990 to 2040.