



Proposed Methodology for Calculating & Mapping Bicycle and Pedestrian Levels of Traffic Stress (LTS) in the Greater Humboldt Bay Area

for the

Humboldt County Association of Governments
Humboldt Multimodal and Vibrant Neighborhoods Project

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Introduction & General Approach to Level of Traffic Stress

The Humboldt Multimodal and Vibrant Communities Project (“project”) is a planning, assessment and outreach project funded by a Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant and led by the Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG). A major component of the project is to develop a level of traffic stress (LTS) methodology, and apply that methodology to the streets and roads of the Greater Humboldt Bay/Wigi Area. The Greater Humboldt Bay/Wigi Area, as defined in the grant Scope of Work (SOW), includes Eureka (Jaroujiji), Arcata (Goudi’ni), Bayside, McKinleyville, Fortuna, Manila, Samoa, Fairhaven, Cutten, King Salmon, and Loleta including the Wiyot Tribe Table Bluff Reservation.

LTS is a metric for assessing the user experience of bicyclists and/or pedestrians on various transportation facilities, and placing those experiences in context of the level of discomfort or stress different kinds of users will tolerate. Specifically, LTS methodologies today most often use numerical scoring on a scale of 1 to 4, where LTS 1 “is meant to be a level that most children can tolerate,” LTS 2 can be “tolerated by the mainstream adult population,” and LTS 3 and 4 “represent greater levels of stress.”¹

In order to support the goals of the grant, as well as HCAOG’s broader goals as represented by the adopted Regional Transportation Plan (RTP, also known as “Variety in Rural Option of Mobility: 2022-2042,” or “VROOM”), the LTS methodology must meet a number of key criteria, including:

- **Simple and easy to replicate.** The methodology is initially intended to be applied to the Greater Humboldt Bay Area. Later, the methodology will be applied to the rest of Humboldt County in order to meet the RTP target of completing a countywide “Low-Traffic-Stress and connectivity analysis” by 2026. The SOW states that the methodology will be a “standardized LTS analysis that can be repeated inexpensively.” Therefore, the methodology should be simple and easy to replicate. The level of complexity and cost of applying any given LTS methodology depends largely—although not entirely—on the amount of data collection required. If methodologies demand large amounts of data which are not readily available, it may be necessary to make certain assumptions rather than mount extensive data collection efforts.

¹ Mekuria, Maaza C., Peter G. Furth and Hilary Nixon. 2012. Low-Stress Bicycling and Network Connectivity: p.1. Mineta Transportation Institute. <https://transweb.sjsu.edu/sites/default/files/1005-low-stress-bicycling-network-connectivity.pdf>

- **Supported by high-quality evidence.** Initial LTS measures were developed to assess how many bicyclists and potential bicyclists will tolerate various conditions—or, put another way, how many bicyclists will tend to avoid certain facilities based on “a combination of perceived danger and other stressors.”² Pedestrian LTS measures developed later have the same purpose. In order to produce useful results, the LTS methodology must use high-quality evidence correlating the calculated LTS with actual user experience.
- **Supportive of equity goals.** Transportation equity is a central concern of HCAOG (and CRTP). The RTP, *VROOM 2022-2042*, has a “Safety and Health” objective to, in part: “Increase safety especially for the most vulnerable users (elderly, youth, pedestrians, bicyclists, people with disabilities).” *VROOM* Policy Streets-10: Safe Routes to School and Transit, among others, also strives for equitable transportation safety. The LTS methodology is intended to reflect not only the traffic stress that children can tolerate, but also that older people, people with disabilities, and other potentially vulnerable or sensitive populations can tolerate.
- **Supportive of other adopted goals.** This LTS analysis is being pursued to support broader adopted Safe and Sustainable Transportation Targets in the RTP, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuel consumption, dramatically increasing the active transportation mode share (which includes transit), and correspondingly decreasing car-based vehicle miles traveled (VMT). The RTP goal of mapping LTS in Humboldt County corresponds to the “percent mode shift” performance measure. The idea is that to encourage more bicycling (or walking or rolling), conditions must provide an experience that more people find “low-stress.” Therefore, to meet the needs of HCAOG and local jurisdictions, the LTS methodology aims to provide real insights as to where and what improvements will help induce mode shift and reduce VMT.

Considering these criteria for a successful LTS methodology, we propose an approach that starts with two general principles:

1. **Utilize existing, well established and validated methodologies for bicycle and pedestrian LTS.** Using validated methodologies will help ensure that the resulting LTS calculations reflect actual user experience and therefore support related goals for increasing mode shift, and reducing VMT and emissions. However, it should be noted that no single methodology is supported by all validation studies, and there is no established consensus on a pedestrian LTS methodology. Additionally, we propose some simplifications and assumptions to reduce data collection required.
2. **Define high traffic stress as level of traffic stress 3 and 4 (LTS 3 and LTS 4) for the purposes of the RTP’s “Low-Traffic-Stress and connectivity analysis.”** The RTP calls for calculating the “percent of all road miles that are connection nodes at Low Traffic Stress Levels 1 or 2.” HCAOG’s goal of ensuring safety and utility for all users, including children and vulnerable adult populations, supports mapping LTS 1 and LTS 2 separately. However, LTS 3 and LTS 4 are tolerated by a relatively small proportion of the overall population, so we believe the benefits of differentiating between them are outweighed by the data collection and analysis costs. Lumping LTS 3 and LTS 4 together as “high traffic stress” facilities will make the methodology simpler, less expensive, and more easily replicable.

The following sections add detail about the proposed bicycle and pedestrian LTS methodologies. The accuracy and representativeness of the results of this methodology will rely in large part on the assumptions made and the quality of data used for a variety of LTS criteria.

² Mekuria et al. 2012, p.1

Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress

The bicycle LTS concept was first developed by Mekuria, Furth and Nixon in 2012.³ Furth has further refined the bicycle LTS criteria for road segments several times in the intervening years; he published the most recent version in 2022.⁴ The criteria for intersections have not been updated since 2012, with the exception of a proposed set of criteria for roundabouts in 2014 (not included in the original 2012 publication).⁵

Despite mixed validation results, Furth's criteria are the most widely used, best studied, and most well validated measure of bicycle LTS. They were used by Caltrans for the development of district Active Transportation Plans,⁶ including the local District 1 plan. Therefore, we propose to use them here as well.

Furth and his colleagues developed the bicycle LTS criteria based on studies of public attitudes toward bicycling that show that the majority of Americans are "interested but concerned," meaning they might bicycle more if they were more comfortable doing so.⁷ Furth's LTS criteria represent the original, most widely used approach to assessing traffic stress for bicyclists.

The Furth et al approach is also the most well researched. A number of studies have tested the criteria against real world bicyclist behavior. For example, studies in Oregon⁸ and Ohio⁹ both found that this LTS scheme partly predicted bicyclist travel behavior, but not in all analyses. Another study found that Furth's LTS 4 was correlated with bicycle crashes with more serious injuries.¹⁰

Of interest for equity considerations, recent studies have focused specifically on validating Furth's LTS 1 as an accurate representation of comfort for children (and their parents). A Denver, Colorado study largely validated LTS 1, finding that parents were mostly willing to allow their children to use LTS 1

³ Mekuria et al. 2012

⁴ See <https://bpb-us-w2.wpmucdn.com/sites.northeastern.edu/dist/e/618/files/2014/05/LTS-Tables-v2.2.pdf>

⁵ See <https://bpb-us-w2.wpmucdn.com/sites.northeastern.edu/dist/e/618/files/2014/05/LTS-Criteria-for-Modern-Roundabouts.pdf>

⁶ Caltrans, Toole Design, Cambridge Systematics and WSP. 2019. California Active Transportation Plans Data Framework and Applications.

⁷ The classification of people according to their attitudes toward bicycling was first proposed around 2006 by Roger Geller at the Portland Bureau of Transportation. It has since been validated in nationwide surveys; see for example: Dill, Jennifer and Nathan McNeil. 2016. Revisiting the four types of cyclists: findings from a national survey. Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board 2587(1). <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.3141/2587-11>

⁸ Wang, Haizhong, Matthew Palm, Chen Chen, Rachel Vogt and Yiyi Wang. 2016. Does bicycle network level of traffic stress (LTS) explain bicycle travel behavior? Mixed results from an Oregon case study. Journal of Transport Geography 57. https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Haizhong-Wang/publication/308736761_Does_bicycle_network_level_of_traffic_stress_LTS_explain_bicycle_travel_behavior_Mixed_results_from_an_Oregon_case_study/links/5a090f57aca272ed279ffa1d/Does-bicycle-network-level-of-traffic-stress-LTS-explain-bicycle-travel-behavior-Mixed-results-from-an-Oregon-case-study.pdf

⁹ Wang, Kailai, Gulsah Akar, Kevin Lee and Meredyth Sanders. 2020. Commuting patterns and bicycle level of traffic stress (LTS): Insights from spatially aggregated data in Franklin County, Ohio. Journal of Transport Geography (86). <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0966692319309081>

¹⁰ Chen, Chen, Jason C. Anderson, Haizhong Wang, Yin Hai Wang, Rachel Vogt and Salvador Hernandez. 2017. Accident Analysis and Prevention (108). https://research.engr.oregonstate.edu/hernandez/sites/research.engr.oregonstate.edu/hernandez/files/how_bicycle_level_of_traffic_stress_correlate_with_reported_cyclist_accidents_injury_severities_a_geospatial_and_mixed_logit_analysis.pdf

facilities, and even allowed them to use some Level 2 facilities.¹¹ However, a New Jersey study found that many parents were unwilling to let their children use many LTS 1 facilities. The New Jersey study noted that how parents assessed traffic stress for their children correlated with their own attitudes toward bicycling.¹²

Street and Road Segments

We propose to use Furth’s most recent (2022) criteria for assessing segments.¹³ The tables are modified with minor changes to formatting or wording. As discussed above, per our general principle #2, we define LTS 3 and LTS 4 as “high stress.” Note that per Mekuria et al., separated (Class I) trails and protected (Class IV) bikeways are considered to have LTS 1.

Table 1: Bicycling in mixed traffic (i.e., no bike-only facility)								
Number of lanes	Average daily traffic	Prevailing speed (mph)						
		0-23.5	23.5-28.5	28.5-33.5	33.5-38.5	38.5-43.5	43.5-48.5	48.5+
Unlaned 2-way street (no centerline)	0-750	LTS 1	LTS 1	LTS 2	LTS 2	High	High	High
	751-1500	LTS 1	LTS 1	LTS 2	High	High	High	High
	1501-3000	LTS 2	LTS 2	LTS 2	High	High	High	High
	3001+	LTS 2	LTS 2	High	High	High	High	High
2-way with 1 lane per direction and centerline, or wide* 1-way, 1-lane	0-1000	LTS 1	LTS 1	LTS 2	LTS 2	High	High	High
	1001-1500	LTS 2	LTS 2	LTS 2	High	High	High	High
	1501+	LTS 2	High	High	High	High	High	High
Narrow* 1-way, 1-lane	0-600	LTS 1	LTS 1	LTS 2	LTS 2	High	High	High
	601-1000	LTS 2	LTS 2	LTS 2	High	High	High	High
	1001+	LTS 2	High	High	High	High	High	High
2 thru-lanes per direction	0-8000	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
	8001+	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
3+ thru-lanes per direction	Any ADT	High	High	High	High	High	High	High

Note: *A one-way street is “narrow” if it is less than 30-ft wide with parking on both sides, less than 22-ft wide with parking on one side, or less than 15-ft wide with no parking. Otherwise, it is “wide.”

¹¹ Ferenczak, Nicholas N. and Wesley E. Marshall. 2020. Validation of bicycle level of traffic stress and perceived safety for children. Transportation Research Record 1-10.

¹² Ralph, Kelcie and Leigh Ann Von Hagen. 2019. Will parents let their children bike on “low stress” streets? Validating level of traffic stress for biking. Transportation Research Part F: Psychology and Behavior (65). <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S136984781830740X>

¹³ See <https://bpb-us-w2.wpmucdn.com/sites.northeastern.edu/dist/e/618/files/2014/05/LTS-Tables-v2.2.pdf>

Table 2: Bicycling in conventional bike lanes, advisory bike lanes, and shoulders not adjacent to a parking lane

Number of lanes	Bike lane width	Prevailing speed (mph)					
		0-28.5	28.5-33.5	33.5-38.5	38.5-43.5	43.5-48.5	48.5+
One thru-lane per direction or contraflow lane	6+ ft	LTS 1	LTS 1	LTS 2	High	High	High
	Less than 6 ft	LTS 2	LTS 2	LTS 2	High	High	High
2 thru lanes per direction	6+ ft	LTS 2	LTS 2	LTS 2	High	High	High
	Less than 6 ft	LTS 2	LTS 2	LTS 2	High	High	High
3+ lanes per direction	Any width	High	High	High	High	High	High

Notes:

1. If bike lane is frequently blocked (as may be the case in commercial areas), or if parking is allowed in an advisory lane, use mixed traffic criteria.
2. Minimum bike lane width is 4 ft next to a curb and 3.5 ft next to a road edge or discontinuous gutter seam. For narrower bike lanes, use mixed traffic criteria.
3. Bike lane width includes any marked buffer next to the bike lane; also, add 2 ft if road has 1 thru-lane per direction and a central 2-way turn lane.
4. Use mixed traffic criteria if it would result in lower LTS.

Table 3: Conventional bike lanes and advisory bike lanes alongside a parking lane

Number of lanes	Bike lane reach = bike + parking lane width	Prevailing speed (mph)			
		0-28.5	28.5-33.5	33.5-38.5	38+
One thru-lane per direction or contraflow lane	15+ ft	LTS 1	LTS 2	LTS 2	High
	<15 ft	LTS 2	LTS 2	High	High
1-way multi-lane	15+ ft	LTS 2	High	High	High
	<15 ft	High	High	High	High
2-way, 2 lanes per direction	15+ ft	LTS 2	High	High	High
	<15 ft	High	High	High	High
Other 2-way multi-lane	Any	High	High	High	High

Notes:

1. If bike lane is frequently blocked (as may be the case in commercial areas), use mixed traffic criteria.
2. Minimum bike lane reach is 12 ft; for narrower reach, use mixed traffic criteria.
3. Bike lane reach includes any marked buffer next to the bike lane; also, add 2 ft if road has 1 thru lane per direction and a central 2-way turn lane.
4. Use mixed traffic criteria if it would result in lower LTS.

Intersections and Crossings

A high-stress intersection can change the character of what would otherwise be a low-stress route, so characterizing intersection LTS is important. The adopted RTP also calls for calculating the “number of barriers to low-stress bike/ped transportation.” A high-stress road or street crossing is one type of barrier to low-stress transportation; thus, the RTP provides another reason to assess intersection LTS. We propose, for the purposes of this project, using the unsignalized crossing LTS of the segment being crossed to assess bicycle crossing LTS of a segment outside of an intersection (see Table 4).

Mekuria et al. (2012) assume that signalized intersections “pose no traffic stress to cyclists.” We disagree. As the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) points out, most bike-

vehicle conflicts occur at intersections, and NACTO therefore acknowledges the need to implement safer intersection design strategies for bikes.¹⁴ In the absence of established LTS criteria for signalized intersections, we propose focusing on what is generally the highest stress intersection maneuver: the left turn. Specifically, we propose classifying any signalized intersection with a bicycle left-turn improvement (e.g., protected intersection, bike box, or bike priority signal) as LTS 1, while classifying signalized intersections lacking any such improvements as “high stress.”

We propose to use the original Mekuria et al. (2012) criteria for unsignalized intersections. The following table is from Furth¹⁵ (summarizing Mekuria et al.), with lightly modified formatting. As discussed above, per our general principle #2, we define LTS 3 and LTS 4 as “high stress.”

Table 4: Bicycling at unsignalized crossings

a. No Crossing Island	<i>Width of Street Being Crossed</i>		
	<i>Up to 3 lanes</i>	<i>4-5 lanes</i>	<i>6+ lanes</i>
<i>Speed Limit or Prevailing Speed</i>			
Up to 25 mph	LTS 1	LTS 2	High
30 mph	LTS 1	LTS 2	High
35 mph	LTS 2	High	High
40+ mph	High	High	High
b. With Crossing Island			
b. With Crossing Island	<i>Width of Street Being Crossed</i>		
	<i>Up to 3 lanes</i>	<i>4-5 lanes</i>	<i>6+ lanes</i>
<i>Speed Limit or Prevailing Speed</i>			
Up to 25 mph	LTS 1	LTS 1	LTS 2
30 mph	LTS 1	LTS 2	High
35 mph	LTS 2	High	High
40+ mph	High	High	High

For roundabouts, we propose to use Furth’s 2014 criteria. Using these criteria, when there is a “practical” bicycle sidepath around a roundabout, LTS is determined by the street crossings. (A practical sidepath by Furth’s definition must be paved, be at least 6 ft wide, be offset no more than 30 feet from the roundabout edge, have no turns sharper than 90 degrees, allow a bicyclist to see within 10 feet of each crossing whether it is safe to cross without looking over their shoulder, and have direct ingress and egress from adjoining bicycle facilities.) Where there is no practical sidepath, LTS is determined by the criteria of riding in mixed traffic (Table 1).

The following tables are from Furth¹⁶ lightly modified with “high” stress and wording.

¹⁴ See <https://nacto.org/publication/dont-give-up-at-the-intersection/>

¹⁵ See <https://peterfurth.sites.northeastern.edu/level-of-traffic-stress/>

¹⁶ See <https://bpb-us-w2.wpmucdn.com/sites.northeastern.edu/dist/e/618/files/2014/05/LTS-Criteria-for-Modern-Roundabouts.pdf>

<i>Type of entry/exit bicyclist crosses‡</i>	<i>Non-tangential* entry or exit lane</i>	<i>Tangential* entry or exit lane</i>
Single entry lane into roundabout	LTS 1	LTS 2
Single exit lane from roundabout	LTS 1	LTS 2
Dual entry lane, non-tangential	LTS 1	High
Dual exit lane, non-tangential	High	High

Notes: *An entry or exit lane is tangential if a driver does not have to steer to the right to enter or exit the roundabout. If a driver has to steer to the right to enter the roundabout, the entry lane is non-tangential, and if a driver must steer to the right to exit the roundabout, the exit lane is non-tangential.
‡The crossing with the worst LTS determines the score for the roundabout.

<i>Number of circulating lanes in roundabout</i>	<i>Average daily traffic (sum over all entry legs)</i>	<i>LTS</i>
1	4000 or less	LTS 1
1	4001 – 6000	LTS 2
1	>6000	High
2	Any	High

Data Availability, Collection, and Assumptions

Applying the criteria listed above to this project will require accurate data about every street, road and highway segment in the Greater Humboldt Bay.

The time and expense of assessing bicycle LTS for this project will depend largely on the availability of the required data and the ability to make reasonable assumptions (see table below). If data are not available and if reasonable assumptions cannot be made, then data must be collected specifically for this project either by field visits or utilizing available satellite imagery. The more data must be collected specifically for this project, the greater the time and expense.

Note that assumptions (and assessments) only apply where agencies do not provide information. Thus, where the agency has good information, we will assess LTS based on the data, not the default assumption. Where we have no data, we may assume a facility is “absent” (e.g. bike lanes and buffers, traffic signal, and/or crossing islands).

Table 7: Bicycle LTS data needs & assumptions		
Type of Data Needed	Arterial & Major Collector	Minor Collector & Local
Two-way or one-way	<u>Assess</u>	<u>Assume</u> : two-way
Number of motor vehicle travel lanes per direction	<u>Assume</u> : Minor Arterial & Major Collector = 1 per direction, unless one-way, in which case assume 2 lanes; <u>Assess</u> : Principal Arterial: Count lanes per direction; record higher number if different; at intersections, count total lanes crossed (including turn lanes)	<u>Assume</u> : 1 per direction
Two-way turn lane (TWTL) presence/absence	<u>Assume</u> : Minor Arterial & Major Collector = absent <u>Assess</u> : Principal Arterial	<u>Assume</u> : absent
Centerline presence/absence	<u>Assume</u> : present	<u>Assume</u> : absent
Overall street width	<u>Assume</u> : (Number of lanes including TWTL x 12 ft) + (Number of parking lanes x 8 ft)	<u>Assume</u> : (Number of lanes x 12 ft) + (Number of parking lanes x 8 ft)
Average daily traffic	<u>Assume</u> : Average of other facilities of same classification in the jurisdiction, based on recent data. Otherwise, estimate relative to other facility of known volume if local knowledge indicates the first methodology will not be accurate.	<u>Assume</u> : Average of other facilities of same classification in the jurisdiction, based on recent data
Prevailing speed	<u>Assume</u> : Posted speed limit +10%	<u>Assume</u> : Posted speed limit +10%; or prima facie limit (25 mph in residential/business areas) +10%
Bike lane presence/absence	<u>Assume</u> : HCAOG online bike map is accurate	<u>Assume</u> : HCAOG online bike map is accurate
Bike lane width	<u>Assess</u> : Narrowest point on segment (round to nearest foot)	<u>Assume</u> : 4 ft
Bike lane buffer width	<u>Assume</u> : 0 ft <u>Assess</u> : If buffer presence reported by agency, narrowest point on segment (round to nearest foot)	<u>Assume</u> : 0 ft <u>Assess</u> : If buffer presence reported by agency, narrowest point on segment (round to nearest foot)
Parking lanes	<u>Assess</u> : Count 0, 1 or 2	<u>Assume</u> : Present both sides
Parking lane width	<u>Assume</u> : 8 ft	<u>Assume</u> : 8 ft

Non-parking lane shoulder width	<u>Assess</u> : Narrowest point on segment (round to nearest foot)	<u>Assume</u> : 0 ft
Traffic signal presence/absence	<u>Assume</u> : Absent	<u>Assume</u> : Absent
Crossing island presence/absence	<u>Assume</u> : Minor Arterial & Collector = absent <u>Assess</u> : Principal Arterial	<u>Assume</u> : Absent
Roundabouts	<u>Assess</u>	<u>Assess</u>
Bike left-turn facility presence/absence at signalized intersection	<u>Assume</u> : Absent	<u>Assume</u> : Absent

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Pedestrian Level of Traffic Stress

Pedestrian LTS and the related concept of pedestrian level of service have received substantial attention from researchers. However, unlike with bicycle LTS, there is no consensus, in either academic literature or planning and engineering practice, on a particular form of pedestrian LTS.¹⁷ As such, we propose using a version of the Oregon Department of Transportation’s pedestrian LTS criteria,¹⁸ which were also proposed for Caltrans’ district Active Transportation Plans.¹⁹ The Oregon pedestrian LTS scheme has the added advantage of mirroring the 4-tier rating system of Furth’s bicycle LTS scheme, offering greater consistency between the bicycle and pedestrian LTS criteria.

When we considered potential simplifying assumptions or modifications to these criteria or simplifying assumptions, we also reviewed sources such as the Montgomery County (Maryland) Pedestrian Level of Comfort methodology,²⁰ the pedestrian traffic stress scheme proposed for European cities by Vogt et al.,²¹ Raad and Burke’s review of pedestrian level of service schemes,²² and the naturalistic study of pedestrian stress levels by Lajeunesse et al.²³

Street or Road Segments

We propose to follow the Oregon criteria for street or road segments. However, note that we have re-ordered the four sets of criteria to put criteria involving sidewalk width and land use context first. The following table is from Oregon Department of Transportation Exhibit 14-21. As discussed above, per our general principle #2, we define LTS 3 and LTS 4 as “high stress.”

Table 8: Pedestrian LTS based on sidewalk conditions

Actual/effective sidewalk width (ft)		Sidewalk condition				
		Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	No Sidewalk
Actual	<4	High	High	High	High	High
	4 to <5	High	High	High	High	High
	5 to <6	LTS 2	LTS 2	High	High	High
Effective	≥6 feet	LTS 1	LTS 1	LTS 2	High	High

¹⁷ There is a current effort underway to develop a standardized pedestrian LTS. See <https://www.pedbikesafety.org/23uwm05>

¹⁸ Oregon Department of Transportation. 2020. Analysis Procedures Manual Version 2: Chapter 14 – Multimodal Analysis: p.14-35 et seq. See https://www.oregon.gov/odot/Planning/Documents/APMv2_Ch14.pdf

¹⁹ The plans did not end up actually assessing pedestrian LTS, however. For proposed methodology, see: Caltrans, Toole Design, Cambridge Systematics and WSP. 2019. California Active Transportation Plans Data Framework and Applications.

²⁰ Montgomery County Planning Department. 2020. Montgomery County’s Pedestrian Plan: Pedestrian Level of Comfort Methodology. See https://mcatlas.org/pedplan/images/FINAL_PLOC_Methodology_APPENDIX.pdf

²¹ Vogt, Johanna, Lisa Kessler and Klaus Bogenberger. 2022. On the Level of Traffic Stress for Pedestrians. Proceedings of the 10th symposium of the European Association for Research in Transportation (hEART). See <https://mediatum.ub.tum.de/doc/1688423/document.pdf>

²² Raad, Nowar and Matthew I. Burke. 2018. What are the most important factors for pedestrian level-of-service estimation? A systematic review of the literature. Transportation Research Record Vol. 2672(35).

²³ Lajeunesse, Seth, Paul Ryus, Wesley Kumfer, Sirisha Kothuri and Krista Nordback. 2021. Measuring pedestrian level of stress in urban environments: naturalistic walking pilot study. Transportation Research Record Vol. 2675(10).

Sidewalk width is one of the most widely used variables in pedestrian LTS schemes.²⁴ It has significant influence on pedestrian comfort based on the ability to walk or use a mobility device, and particularly the ability to pass others or walk side-by-side.²⁵

As part of width, effective sidewalk width (i.e., the clear, unobstructed path) is critically important; sidewalk obstructions are another of the most commonly used variables for estimating pedestrian LTS. Sidewalk condition is similarly important, especially from an equity perspective, because people using wheelchairs and other mobility devices may not be able to use a sidewalk in poor condition, they may be forced into the street.

Data on sidewalk condition, width, and effective width/obstructions are not widely available. Assessing these factors in this project would be extremely time-consuming and likely beyond the available budget.

To reduce data collection, we propose the following protocol:

1. Request estimates from local agencies of sidewalk width in specific neighborhoods or on specific facility types within their jurisdiction.
2. In the absence of agency estimates, assess sidewalks widths on arterial and major collector streets. On all other facilities, assume that sidewalks are at least 6 feet wide in downtown and neighborhood business district land use areas, and are 4 feet wide everywhere else. Since these width assumptions are meant to account for sidewalk obstructions, assume that the actual width is the same as the effective width.
3. Assume that sidewalks less than 5 feet wide are in “poor” condition in terms of low-stress access; that sidewalks 5-6 feet wide are in “fair” condition; and that sidewalks 6 feet or wider are in “good” condition for mobility.

Sidewalk width assumptions are informed by local knowledge. Sidewalk condition assumptions are informed by the idea that wider sidewalks are more likely to have an unobstructed clear path in reasonable condition. The assumptions are further supported by the scarcity of pedestrian-scale lighting in this region, and the suggestion from the Oregon methodology that assessors should consider increasing the pedestrian LTS by one level (higher) in the absence of illumination.²⁶

The next set of Oregon criteria we consider is based on land use context. Among variables studied directly, land use context has one of the highest impacts on physical measures of pedestrian stress.²⁷ The following table is from Oregon Department of Transportation Exhibit 14-24.

<i>Overall Land Use</i>	<i>Pedestrian LTS</i>
Urban/suburban residential, central business districts, neighborhood commercial, parks and other public facilities, governmental buildings/plazas, offices/office parks	LTS 1
Low density development, rural subdivisions, unincorporated communities, strip commercial, mixed employment	LTS 2
Light industrial, big box/auto-oriented commercial	High
Heavy industrial, intermodal facilities, freeway interchanges	High

²⁴ Raad and Burke 2018

²⁵ Vogt et al. 2022

²⁶ Oregon Department of Transportation 2020 p.14-44

²⁷ Lajeunesse et al. 2021

The final two sets of the Oregon criteria are based on (1) physical buffer type and prevailing or posted speed (Table 10), and (2) total buffering width and number of travel lanes (Table 11). All of these (or closely related) factors are common to most pedestrian LTS schemes.²⁸ LaJeunesse et al. (2018) found that functional classification—a proxy for traffic speed and volume—had a significant impact on physical measures of pedestrian stress, and attributed the effect at least in part to the effect of traffic noise. Noise has a well-documented impact on human stress levels, and traffic noise perceived by pedestrians is closely related to traffic speeds, distance from traffic (total buffering width) and physical barriers/landscaping.

The following tables are modified from Oregon Department of Transportation Exhibits 14-22 and 14-23, respectively.

Buffer type*	Prevailing or posted speed			
	≤25 mph	30 mph	35 mph	≥40 mph
No buffer (curb tight)	LTS 2	High	High	High
Solid surface	LTS 2‡	LTS 2	LTS 2	LTS 2
Landscaped	LTS 1	LTS 2	LTS 2	LTS 2
Landscaped with trees	LTS 1	LTS 1	LTS 1	LTS 2
Vertical	LTS 1	LTS 1	LTS 1	LTS 2

Note: *If two or more buffer types apply, use the most appropriate buffer, typically the lower stress level.
‡If street furniture, street lights, lighting, planters, etc. are present then LTS can be lowered to LTS 1.

Total number of travel lanes (both directions)	Total buffering width (ft)*				
	<5	5 to <10	10 to <15	15 to <25	≥25
2	LTS 2	LTS 2	LTS 1	LTS 1	LTS 1
3	High	LTS 2	LTS 2	LTS 1	LTS 1
4-5	High	High	LTS 2	LTS 1	LTS 1
6+	High	High	High	LTS 2	LTS 2

Note: *Total buffering width is the summation of the width of buffer, width of parking, width of shoulder and width of the bike lane on the side same side of the roadway as the pedestrian facility being evaluated.

Intersections and Crossings

A high-stress intersection can change the character of what would otherwise be a low-stress route, so characterizing intersection LTS is important. The adopted RTP also calls for calculating the “number of barriers to low-stress bike/ped transportation.” A high-stress road or street crossing is one type of barrier to low-stress transportation; thus the RTP provides another reason to assess intersection LTS.

There is not much available research on the pedestrian stress-inducing effects of various intersection configurations. We assess the Oregon criteria for assessing pedestrian LTS at crossings to be reasonable, and we propose using it for this project. Crucially, these criteria specify that any intersection without

²⁸ Raad and Burke 2018

ADA-compliant curb ramps cannot be rated at less than LTS 3.²⁹ For the purposes of this project, therefore, any intersection without compliant curb ramps will be rated “high stress.”

The following table summarizes the Oregon criteria for LTS of signalized intersections as they apply to this project. As discussed above, per our general principle #2, we define LTS 3 and LTS 4 as “high stress.”

Table 12: Pedestrian LTS at signalized intersections	
<i>Intersection Conditions</i>	<i>LTS</i>
Default for signalized intersections (i.e., none of the features listed below)	LTS 1
Any of these features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permissive left or right turns for drivers • Lack of illumination • Lack of pedestrian signal countdown head 	LTS 2
Any of these features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple or narrow (<6 ft) refuge islands • Lack of ADA-compliant curb ramps • More than 6 lanes crossed at once • Non-standard geometry (more than 4 legs, or highly skewed approaches) • Permanently closed or limited crosswalks • Free-flow or yield-controlled channelized right turns for drivers 	High

The following table summarizes the Oregon criteria for LTS of roundabouts.

Table 13: Pedestrian LTS at roundabouts	
Single lane crossing	LTS 1
Double lane crossing or splitter island less than 10 ft wide	LTS 2

The following tables summarize the Oregon criteria for unsignalized intersections without a median island and are modified from Oregon Exhibits 14-25 and 14-26. Note that LTS 3 and 4 are distinguished for arterial crossing tables, because these ratings can potentially be modified later by crosswalk enhancements, reducing them as low as LTS 2.

²⁹ Oregon Department of Transportation 2020 p.14-47

Table 14: Pedestrian LTS at local & collector unsignalized intersection crossings			
a. Illuminated	<i>No Median Refuge</i>		<i>Median Refuge Present*</i>
<i>Speed limit or prevailing speed</i>	<i>1 lane crossed</i>	<i>2 lanes crossed</i>	<i>Maximum 1 thru-/turn lane crossed per direction</i>
Up to 25 mph	LTS 1	LTS 1	LTS 1
30 mph	LTS 1	LTS 2	LTS 1
35 mph	LTS 2	LTS 2	LTS 2
40+ mph	High	High	High
b. Not Illuminated			
	<i>No Median Refuge</i>		<i>Median Refuge Present*</i>
<i>Speed Limit or Prevailing Speed</i>	<i>1 lane crossed</i>	<i>2 lanes crossed</i>	<i>Maximum 1 through/turn lane crossed per direction</i>
Up to 25 mph	LTS 2	LTS 2	LTS 2
30 mph	LTS 2	High	LTS 2
35 mph	High	High	High
40+ mph	High	High	High
Notes:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use criteria for arterial crossings with a median refuge if ADT exceeds 5,000 or total number of lanes exceeds 2. 2. Street may be considered a one-lane road when there is no centerline and oncoming vehicles commonly yield to each other. <p>*Refuge should be at least 10 feet for LTS 1; lower LTS by one level for refuges 6 to <10 feet.</p>			

Table 15: Pedestrian LTS at arterial unsignalized intersection crossings without a median refuge

a. Illuminated							
<i>Speed limit or prevailing speed</i>	<i>Total lanes crossed (both directions)</i>						
	<i>2 lanes</i>			<i>3+ lanes</i>			<i>4+ lanes</i>
	<i><5,000 ADT</i>	<i>5,000-9,000 ADT</i>	<i>>9,000 ADT</i>	<i><8,000 ADT</i>	<i>8,000-12,000 ADT</i>	<i>>12,000 ADT</i>	<i>Any ADT</i>
Up to 25 mph	LTS 2	LTS 2	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)
30 mph	LTS 2	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)
35 mph	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)
40+ mph	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)
a. Not Illuminated							
<i>Speed limit or prevailing speed</i>	<i>Total lanes crossed (both directions)</i>						
	<i>2 lanes</i>			<i>3+ lanes</i>			<i>4+ lanes</i>
	<i><5,000 ADT</i>	<i>5,000-9,000 ADT</i>	<i>>9,000 ADT</i>	<i><8,000 ADT</i>	<i>8,000-12,000 ADT</i>	<i>>12,000 ADT</i>	<i>Any ADT</i>
Up to 25 mph	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)
30 mph	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)
35 mph	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)
40+ mph	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)
Note: For one-way streets, use the criteria for arterial unsignalized intersection crossings of 3 or more lanes with a median refuge.							

More than any other road users, pedestrians are likely to cross a street outside of an intersection. Pedestrians have the legal right to cross streets outside of a crosswalk (or against a traffic light) when safe, since California enacted the Freedom to Walk Act (AB 2147) in 2022. Therefore, it is important to assess the LTS for pedestrians crossing outside of intersections. The Oregon pedestrian LTS criteria for “unsignalized intersections without a median refuge” (Table 15) apply equally well to non-intersection crossing locations.³⁰ We propose assuming that, for the purposes of this project, the pedestrian LTS of crossing outside an intersection is identical to the pedestrian LTS for unsignalized intersection of the relevant segment without a median island (except in the case of an improved mid-block crossing).

The following table summarizes the Oregon criteria for unsignalized intersections with a median island from Oregon Exhibits 14-28 and 14-29. Note that LTS 3 and LTS 4 are distinguished separately for arterial crossing tables, because these ratings can potentially be modified later by crosswalk enhancements, reducing them to as low as LTS 2.

³⁰ Even where a median island exists away from an intersection, ADA-accessible facilities for accessing and crossing the island are typically not present. We do not view it as appropriate to lower LTS ratings as a result of an inaccessible median island, which may in these cases act more as a barrier for some individuals.

a. Illuminated								
<i>Total lanes crossed (both directions)</i>								
<i>Speed limit or prevailing speed</i>	<i>1 lane</i>	<i>2 lanes</i>			<i>3+ lanes</i>			<i>4+ lanes</i>
	<i>Any ADT</i>	<i><5,000 ADT</i>	<i>5,000-9,000 ADT</i>	<i>>9,000 ADT</i>	<i><8,000 ADT</i>	<i>8,000-12,000 ADT</i>	<i>>12,000 ADT</i>	<i>Any ADT</i>
Up to 25 mph	LTS 1*	LTS 1*	LTS 2	LTS 2	LTS 1*	LTS 2	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 4 (High)
30 mph	LTS 2	LTS 2	LTS 2	LTS 2	LTS 2	LTS 2	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 4 (High)
35 mph	LTS 2	LTS 2	LTS 2	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)
40+ mph	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)
a. Not Illuminated								
<i>Total lanes crossed (both directions)</i>								
<i>Speed limit or prevailing speed</i>	<i>1 lane</i>	<i>2 lanes</i>			<i>3+ lanes</i>			<i>4+ lanes</i>
	<i>Any ADT</i>	<i><5,000 ADT</i>	<i>5,000-9,000 ADT</i>	<i>>9,000 ADT</i>	<i><8,000 ADT</i>	<i>8,000-12,000 ADT</i>	<i>>12,000 ADT</i>	<i>Any ADT</i>
Up to 25 mph	LTS 2	LTS 2	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 2	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)
30 mph	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)
35 mph	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 3 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)
40+ mph	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)	LTS 4 (High)
Note: *Refuge should be at least 10 feet for LTS 1; lower LTS by one level for refuges 6 to <10 feet.								

The following table summarizes the Oregon criteria for reducing pedestrian LTS at arterial crosswalks. The table is modified from Oregon Exhibit 14-27. Note that these measures cannot lower pedestrian LTS more than two levels, and they cannot result in reducing the pedestrian LTS of an arterial intersection below LTS 2.³¹

³¹ Oregon Department of Transportation 2020 p.14-48

Table 17: Pedestrian LTS adjustments for arterial crosswalk enhancements	
<i>Treatment</i>	<i>LTS adjustment</i>
Crosswalk markings*	-0.5
Roadside signage*	-0.5
Additional (pedestrian scale) illumination	-0.5
Pedestrian-activated beacon (e.g., RRFB)	-1.0
In-street signs	-1.0
Curb extensions/bulb-outs	-0.5
Raised crosswalk	-1.0
Standard 12" flashing beacon	-0.5
Note: *Not applicable for pedestrian median refuges as crosswalk markings and roadside signage are assumed as part of the basic installation.	

We propose applying Table 17 LTS adjustments to both arterial intersections and improved arterial mid-block crossing locations. The National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) recommends a maximum crosswalk spacing of 200 feet in most contexts, meaning that a crosswalk is never more than 100 feet away from any location on a street.³² Assuming this is a reasonable estimate of the distance a pedestrian will walk to access a crosswalk, we propose that the LTS rating for arterial crosswalk enhancements should be applied to a segment extending 100 feet on either side of the crosswalk.

Data Availability, Collection, and Assumptions

Just as with bicycle LTS, applying the pedestrian LTS criteria to this project will require accurate data about every street, road and highway segment in the Greater Humboldt Bay area. We expect that there will be larger data gaps and more active data collection necessary for pedestrian LTS assessment than for bicycle LTS assessment. We will need data listed in Table 18.

Note that assumptions (and assessments) only apply where agencies do not provide information. Thus, where the agency has good information, we will assess LTS based on the data, not the default assumption. Where we have no data, we may assume a pedestrian facility is “absent” (e.g. ADA-compliant curb ramps, crosswalk markings, in-street pedestrian signage, roadside pedestrian signage, bulbouts, pedestrian-countdown signal heads, and/or slip lanes).

The time and expense of assessing pedestrian LTS for this project will depend largely on the availability of the required data and the ability to make reasonable assumptions (see table below). Additionally, many of the data categories will only apply for arterials and signalized intersections, which will further reduce the need for labor-intensive data collection. If and where data are not available, and if reasonable assumptions cannot be made in the absence of direct data, then data must be collected specifically for this project either by field visits or utilizing available satellite imagery.

³² See <https://nacto.org/publication/urban-street-design-guide/intersection-design-elements/crosswalks-and-crossings/>

Table 18: Pedestrian LTS data needs & assumptions		
Type of Data Needed	Arterial & Major Collector	Minor Collector & Local
<i>Needed for pedestrian LTS but not for bicycle LTS</i>		
ADA-compliant curb ramp presence/absence	<u>Assume:</u> Absent	<u>Assume:</u> Absent
Functional classification	Use Caltrans map	Use Caltrans map
Actual sidewalk width	<u>Assess:</u> Narrowest point on segment (round to nearest foot)	<u>Assume:</u> 6 ft in downtown & neighborhood business district land uses; 4 ft everywhere else NOTE: Request agencies provide estimates by neighborhood/subdivision to limit need to assume
Effective sidewalk width (N/A)	<u>Assume:</u> Same as actual	<u>Assume:</u> Same as actual
Sidewalk condition	<u>Assume:</u> <5 ft wide = poor; 5 to <6 ft wide = fair; 6+ ft wide = good	<u>Assume:</u> <5 ft wide = poor; 5 to <6 ft wide = fair; 6+ ft wide = good
General land use context	Use local agency data	Use local agency data
Sidewalk buffer type	<u>Assess:</u> Least protective point on segment	<u>Assume:</u> None
Sidewalk buffer width	<u>Assess:</u> Narrowest point on segment	<u>Assume:</u> 0 ft
Illumination status	<u>Assume:</u> Arterials = illuminated (not pedestrian scale) <u>Assume:</u> Major Collector = not illuminated	<u>Assume:</u> not illuminated
<i>Needed only for pedestrian LTS on arterials</i>		
Crossing island width	<u>Assume:</u> <6 ft	N/A
Crosswalk markings presence/absence	<u>Assess:</u> Identify if present on all legs	N/A
In-street pedestrian signage presence/absence	<u>Assume:</u> Absent	N/A
Roadside pedestrian signage presence/absence	<u>Assume:</u> Absent	N/A

Pedestrian flashing beacon locations	<u>Assume</u> : Absent	N/A
Pedestrian activated beacon locations	<u>Assume</u> : Absent	N/A
Raised crosswalk locations	<u>Assume</u> : Absent	N/A
Bulb-out presence/absence	<u>Assume</u> : Absent	N/A
<i>Needed only for pedestrian LTS at signalized intersections</i>		
Permissive turning rules at intersections	<u>Assume</u> : Permissive turning rules	<u>Assume</u> : Permissive turning rules
Pedestrian countdown signal head presence/absence	<u>Assume</u> : Absent	<u>Assume</u> : Absent
Non-standard intersection geometry	<u>Assess</u> whether there are more than 4 legs or highly skewed approaches	<u>Assume</u> : Standard geometry
Slip lane presence/absence	<u>Assess</u> whether there are any slip lanes present	<u>Assume</u> : Absent
<i>Needed for both pedestrian and bicycle LTS</i>		
Roundabouts	<u>Assess</u>	<u>Assess</u>
NOTE: See Table 7 for other variables.		

Steps for Proposed Methodology

Data Needs

Table 19: Summary of Segment Data Collection Needs					
Type of Data	Principal Arterial	Minor Arterial	Major Collector	Minor Collector	Local
One-way or two-way	Assess	Assess	Assess	-	-
Number of lanes	Count lanes per direction; record higher number if different	-	-	-	-
Two-way turn lane presence/absence	Identify	-	-	-	-
Bike lane width	Measure narrowest point on segment to nearest foot	Measure narrowest point on segment to nearest foot	Measure narrowest point on segment to nearest foot	-	-
Bike lane buffer width (only where presence reported by agency)	Measure narrowest point on segment to nearest foot	Measure narrowest point on segment to nearest foot	Measure narrowest point on segment to nearest foot	Measure narrowest point on segment to nearest foot	Measure narrowest point on segment to nearest foot
Parking lanes	Count	Count	Count	-	-
Non-parking lane shoulder width	Measure narrowest point on segment to nearest foot	Measure narrowest point on segment to nearest foot	Measure narrowest point on segment to nearest foot	-	-
Actual sidewalk width	Measure narrowest point on segment to nearest foot	Measure narrowest point on segment to nearest foot	Measure narrowest point on segment to nearest foot	-	-
Sidewalk buffer type	Classify by least-protective part of segment	Classify by least-protective part of segment	Classify by least-protective part of segment	-	-
Sidewalk buffer width	Measure narrowest point on segment to nearest foot	Measure narrowest point on segment to nearest foot	Measure narrowest point on segment to nearest foot	-	-

<i>Type of Data</i>	<i>Principal Arterial</i>	<i>Minor Arterial</i>	<i>Major Collector</i>	<i>Minor Collector</i>	<i>Local</i>
Number of lanes	Count total lanes crossed (including turn lanes)	-	-	-	-
Crossing island presence/absence	Identify presence/absence	-	-	-	-
Crosswalk marking presence/absence	Identify if present on all legs	Identify if present on all legs	Identify if present on all legs	-	-
Non-standard intersection geometry	Assess whether there are more than 4 legs or highly skewed approaches	Assess whether there are more than 4 legs or highly skewed approaches	Assess whether there are more than 4 legs or highly skewed approaches	-	-
Slip lane presence/absence	Assess whether any slip lanes are present	Assess whether any slip lanes are present	Assess whether any slip lanes are present	-	-
Roundabouts (bike & pedestrian features)	Assess	Assess	Assess	Assess	Assess

Segments

Segments will be defined as starting and ending with each new cross-street.

Step-wise Screening Process

Where different criteria could produce different results, LTS for a segment is defined by the most stressful (highest LTS) result. Therefore, segments that are high-stress based on any particular variable can be “screened out” for the purpose of further analysis. For example, based on Tables 1-3, any segment with a prevailing speed of 38.5 mph or greater (approximately equivalent to a speed limit of 35 mph or greater) would be classified as high-stress for bicyclists, and would not require any further data collection. Combining multiple sources of data—such as prevailing speed and average daily traffic (ADT)—allows screening out of even more segments.

Following the same principle, we propose not to score both sides of a street or road separately, but rather, if features differ, to apply the most stressful (highest LTS) result to the whole segment.

For pedestrian LTS, we expect that much of the street network will be classified as high-stress by initially applying the proposed assumptions and agency-provided data. Therefore, most of the street network would not require detailed analysis and would not call for all of the data listed in Table 18.

We also propose to “screen out” intersections from further assessment when any of the approaches/adjoining segments are scored “High Stress,” because the stress level of the intersection depends on the approaches. In other words, whether the intersection would be scored low stress or high stress is not relevant if it can only be reached from some directions via high stress facilities.

For the same reason, we propose to “screen out” from further assessment crossings outside of intersections when the underlying segment is scored “High Stress.”

Weaknesses of the Proposed Methodologies

While every effort has been made to reduce the complexity of both the bicycle and pedestrian LTS assessments, the methodologies nevertheless involve a large number of variables and even greater quantities of data. The more complexity and the greater the number of required data sources, the more expensive and the less replicable the methodology will be.

Conversely, simplifying the methodologies by step-wise screening has its own weaknesses. Most notably, applying this technique may mean that many street segments do not have all of the relevant data associated with them in the final work product (i.e., if they are “screened out” as high stress after applying assumptions and agency-provided data). This means that proponents of future projects meant to reduce LTS on high-stress facilities may need to collect additional data in order to assess the post-project LTS.

Another weakness of the proposed methodologies arises from lumping together LTS 3 and LTS 4 as “high stress.” While this is a crucial simplification, applying this technique will mean that information gathered about each segment will be less nuanced. This will make it more challenging to assess the experiences of a variety of user groups with a variety of stress tolerances—and some people with higher tolerances may object to the “high stress” classification.

The accuracy and representativeness of the results of this methodology will rely in large part on the assumptions made and the quality of the data used for a variety of LTS criteria.

Uncertainties and Other Considerations

The exact proportion of facilities that can be easily “screened out” using available data and assumptions is unknown. The answer to this question will have a significant impact on the feasibility, replicability, and accuracy of the proposed methodologies.

Further consideration should also be given to how the final product will be updated over time to reflect new safety projects that change LTS.

Step-by-Step Methodology and Replicability

We propose the following step-by-step methodology. We will use a combination of ArcGIS and Google Maps for assessment and data entry. Details may vary depending on exact software features, work flow, etc.

1. Enter all data provided by agencies.
2. Enter all assumptions for remaining segments & intersections.
3. Screen out all segments and intersections rated “High Stress” based on agency data and assumptions.
4. Assess remaining segments, segment by segment, using ArcGIS and Google Maps/Street View.
Work in following order:
 - a. Principal Arterials
 - b. Minor Arterials
 - c. Major Collectors
 - d. Minors Collectors & Local Streets/Roads
5. Screen out all intersections and mid-block crossings where any approach/adjoining segment is scored “High Stress.”
6. Assess remaining intersections (except roundabouts) and improved mid-block crossings, one at a time, using ArcGIS and Google Maps/Street View. Work in following order:
 - a. Principal Arterials
 - b. Minor Arterials
 - c. Major Collectors
 - d. Minors Collectors & Local Streets/Roads
7. Assess roundabouts.
8. Calculate final LTS scores for all remaining segments, intersections, and mid-block crossings.

Successfully replicating the methodologies will depend largely on the availability of data and the assumptions that assessors are willing to make. Data availability may vary from place to place, limiting replicability.