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Subject: Article on the accuracy of traffic modeling used to justify highway expansions
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Dear C/CAG Board,

At past meetings you have heard that highway expansion and/or improvements are necessary to alleviate expected traffic congestion. Often, the justification for these predictions are traffic models that we are unable to review given time constraints and lack of access to underlying data. Thus, we are encouraged to accept the analysis at face value.

I thought the following article on this subject to be enlightening. It includes various examples of significant errors in traffic modeling that have been used to justify highway expansions. In addition, the authors have dived deep into the data and analyses to discover flaws that have resulted in faulty recommendations.

I encourage us to continue to ask hard questions in analyzing data used to justify projects that we review in the future.

Mike Swire