

APPENDIX 11D – PASSENGER CAR EQUIVALENTS ON SPECIFIC GRADES

Freeway and multilane highway sections may need to be segmented based on grade: segments longer than 0.5 mi with grades between 2% and 3%, or longer than 0.25 mi with grades of 3% or greater, should be considered as separate segments from adjacent segments. Consequently, the general terrain factors for level, rolling, and mountainous terrain are no longer valid. Instead, specific grade adjustment factors should be used, as a function of the mix between single-unit trucks (SUT) and tractor trailer (TT) vehicles, with buses and recreational vehicles included in the SUT category.

The following look-up tables for passenger car equivalents (PCEs) for specific grades have been reproduced from the HCM 6th Edition for easy access.

Figure 1 gives specific-segment PCE values for a 30%/70% SUT/TT mix, Figure 2 gives PCE values for a 50%/50% mix, and Figure 3 gives PCE values for a 70%/30% mix. The 30% SUT condition occurs more frequently on rural facilities, while the 50% condition occurs more frequently on urban facilities. Figure 3 is recommended for conditions where the majority of the trucks in the traffic stream are SUTs. If a segment length exceeds the maximum length given in these tables, the PCE for the longest length that is provided should be used.

Figure 1 PCEs for a Mix of 30% SUTs and 70% TTs

% Grade	Length (mi)	Percentage of Trucks (%)								
		2%	4%	5%	6%	8%	10%	15%	20%	>25%
-2	0.125	2.62	2.37	2.30	2.24	2.17	2.12	2.04	1.99	1.97
	0.375	2.62	2.37	2.30	2.24	2.17	2.12	2.04	1.99	1.97
	0.625	2.62	2.37	2.30	2.24	2.17	2.12	2.04	1.99	1.97
	0.875	2.62	2.37	2.30	2.24	2.17	2.12	2.04	1.99	1.97
	1.25	2.62	2.37	2.30	2.24	2.17	2.12	2.04	1.99	1.97
	1.5	2.62	2.37	2.30	2.24	2.17	2.12	2.04	1.99	1.97
0	0.125	2.62	2.37	2.30	2.24	2.17	2.12	2.04	1.99	1.97
	0.375	2.62	2.37	2.30	2.24	2.17	2.12	2.04	1.99	1.97
	0.625	2.62	2.37	2.30	2.24	2.17	2.12	2.04	1.99	1.97
	0.875	2.62	2.37	2.30	2.24	2.17	2.12	2.04	1.99	1.97
	1.25	2.62	2.37	2.30	2.24	2.17	2.12	2.04	1.99	1.97
	1.5	2.62	2.37	2.30	2.24	2.17	2.12	2.04	1.99	1.97
2	0.125	2.62	2.37	2.30	2.24	2.17	2.12	2.04	1.99	1.97
	0.375	3.76	2.96	2.78	2.65	2.48	2.38	2.22	2.14	2.09
	0.625	4.47	3.33	3.08	2.91	2.68	2.54	2.34	2.23	2.17
	0.875	4.80	3.50	3.22	3.03	2.77	2.61	2.39	2.28	2.21
	1.25	5.00	3.60	3.30	3.09	2.83	2.66	2.42	2.30	2.23
	1.5	5.04	3.62	3.32	3.11	2.84	2.67	2.43	2.31	2.23
2.5	0.125	2.62	2.37	2.30	2.24	2.17	2.12	2.04	1.99	1.97
	0.375	4.11	3.14	2.93	2.78	2.58	2.46	2.28	2.19	2.13
	0.625	5.04	3.62	3.32	3.11	2.84	2.67	2.43	2.31	2.23
	0.875	5.48	3.85	3.51	3.27	2.96	2.77	2.50	2.36	2.28
	1.25	5.73	3.98	3.61	3.36	3.03	2.83	2.54	2.40	2.31
	1.5	5.80	4.02	3.64	3.38	3.05	2.84	2.55	2.41	2.32
3.5	0.125	2.62	2.37	2.30	2.24	2.17	2.12	2.04	1.99	1.97
	0.375	4.88	3.54	3.25	3.05	2.80	2.63	2.41	2.29	2.22
	0.625	6.34	4.30	3.87	3.58	3.20	2.97	2.64	2.48	2.38
	0.875	7.03	4.66	4.16	3.83	3.39	3.12	2.76	2.57	2.46
	1.25	7.44	4.87	4.33	3.97	3.50	3.22	2.82	2.62	2.50
	1.5	7.53	4.92	4.38	4.01	3.53	3.24	2.84	2.63	2.51
4.5	0.125	2.62	2.37	2.30	2.24	2.17	2.12	2.04	1.99	1.97
	0.375	5.80	4.02	3.64	3.38	3.05	2.84	2.55	2.41	2.32
	0.625	7.90	5.11	4.53	4.14	3.63	3.32	2.90	2.68	2.55
	0.875	8.91	5.64	4.96	4.50	3.92	3.56	3.07	2.82	2.67
	1	9.19	5.78	5.08	4.60	3.99	3.62	3.11	2.85	2.70
5.5	0.125	2.62	2.37	2.30	2.24	2.17	2.12	2.04	1.99	1.97
	0.375	6.87	4.58	4.10	3.77	3.35	3.09	2.73	2.55	2.44
	0.625	9.78	6.09	5.33	4.82	4.16	3.76	3.21	2.93	2.77
	0.875	11.20	6.83	5.94	5.33	4.56	4.09	3.45	3.12	2.93
	1	11.60	7.04	6.11	5.47	4.67	4.18	3.51	3.17	2.97
6	0.125	2.62	2.37	2.30	2.24	2.17	2.12	2.04	1.99	1.97
	0.375	7.48	4.90	4.36	3.99	3.52	3.23	2.83	2.63	2.51
	0.625	10.87	6.66	5.79	5.21	4.46	4.01	3.39	3.08	2.89
	0.875	12.54	7.54	6.51	5.81	4.94	4.40	3.67	3.30	3.08
	1	13.02	7.78	6.71	5.99	5.07	4.51	3.75	3.37	3.14

Source: HCM 6th Edition, Exhibit 12-26

Note: Interpolation in the exhibit is permitted.

Figure 2 PCEs for a Mix of 50% SUTs and 50% TTs

% Grade	Length (mi)	Percentage of Trucks (%)								
		2%	4%	5%	6%	8%	10%	15%	20%	>25%
-2	0.125	2.67	2.38	2.31	2.25	2.16	2.11	2.02	1.97	1.93
	0.375	2.67	2.38	2.31	2.25	2.16	2.11	2.02	1.97	1.93
	0.625	2.67	2.38	2.31	2.25	2.16	2.11	2.02	1.97	1.93
	0.875	2.67	2.38	2.31	2.25	2.16	2.11	2.02	1.97	1.93
	1.25	2.67	2.38	2.31	2.25	2.16	2.11	2.02	1.97	1.93
	1.5	2.67	2.38	2.31	2.25	2.16	2.11	2.02	1.97	1.93
0	0.125	2.67	2.38	2.31	2.25	2.16	2.11	2.02	1.97	1.93
	0.375	2.67	2.38	2.31	2.25	2.16	2.11	2.02	1.97	1.93
	0.625	2.67	2.38	2.31	2.25	2.16	2.11	2.02	1.97	1.93
	0.875	2.67	2.38	2.31	2.25	2.16	2.11	2.02	1.97	1.93
	1.25	2.67	2.38	2.31	2.25	2.16	2.11	2.02	1.97	1.93
	1.5	2.67	2.38	2.31	2.25	2.16	2.11	2.02	1.97	1.93
2	0.125	2.67	2.38	2.31	2.25	2.16	2.11	2.02	1.97	1.93
	0.375	3.76	2.95	2.77	2.64	2.47	2.36	2.20	2.11	2.06
	0.625	4.32	3.24	3.01	2.84	2.63	2.49	2.29	2.19	2.12
	0.875	4.57	3.37	3.11	2.93	2.70	2.55	2.33	2.22	2.15
	1.25	4.71	3.45	3.17	2.99	2.74	2.58	2.36	2.24	2.17
	1.5	4.74	3.47	3.19	3.00	2.75	2.59	2.36	2.24	2.17
2.5	0.125	2.67	2.38	2.31	2.25	2.16	2.11	2.02	1.97	1.93
	0.375	4.10	3.13	2.92	2.77	2.57	2.44	2.26	2.16	2.10
	0.625	4.84	3.52	3.23	3.03	2.77	2.61	2.38	2.26	2.18
	0.875	5.17	3.69	3.37	3.15	2.87	2.69	2.43	2.30	2.22
	1.25	5.36	3.79	3.45	3.22	2.92	2.73	2.47	2.33	2.24
	1.5	5.40	3.81	3.47	3.24	2.93	2.74	2.47	2.33	2.25
3.5	0.125	2.67	2.38	2.31	2.25	2.16	2.11	2.02	1.97	1.93
	0.375	4.89	3.54	3.25	3.05	2.79	2.62	2.39	2.26	2.19
	0.625	6.05	4.15	3.75	3.47	3.11	2.89	2.58	2.42	2.32
	0.875	6.58	4.43	3.97	3.66	3.26	3.01	2.67	2.49	2.39
	1.25	6.88	4.58	4.10	3.77	3.35	3.09	2.72	2.53	2.42
	1.5	6.95	4.62	4.13	3.80	3.37	3.10	2.73	2.54	2.43
4.5	0.125	2.67	2.38	2.31	2.25	2.16	2.11	2.02	1.97	1.93
	0.375	5.83	4.03	3.65	3.39	3.05	2.84	2.55	2.39	2.30
	0.625	7.53	4.92	4.38	4.01	3.53	3.24	2.83	2.62	2.50
	0.875	8.32	5.34	4.72	4.29	3.75	3.42	2.97	2.73	2.59
	1	8.53	5.45	4.81	4.37	3.81	3.47	3.00	2.76	2.62
5.5	0.125	2.67	2.38	2.31	2.25	2.16	2.11	2.02	1.97	1.93
	0.375	6.97	4.63	4.14	3.81	3.38	3.11	2.74	2.55	2.43
	0.625	9.37	5.89	5.16	4.68	4.05	3.67	3.14	2.88	2.72
	0.875	10.49	6.48	5.65	5.09	4.37	3.93	3.34	3.03	2.85
	1	10.80	6.64	5.78	5.20	4.46	4.01	3.39	3.08	2.89
6	0.125	2.67	2.38	2.31	2.25	2.16	2.11	2.02	1.97	1.93
	0.375	7.64	4.98	4.43	4.05	3.56	3.26	2.85	2.64	2.51
	0.625	10.45	6.45	5.63	5.07	4.36	3.92	3.33	3.03	2.85
	0.875	11.78	7.16	6.20	5.56	4.74	4.24	3.56	3.22	3.01
	1	12.15	7.35	6.36	5.69	4.85	4.33	3.62	3.27	3.05

Source: HCM 6th Edition, Exhibit 12-27

Note: Interpolation in the exhibit is permitted.

Figure 3 PCEs for a Mix of 70% SUTs and 30% TTs

% Grade	Length (mi)	Percentage of Trucks (%)								
		2%	4%	5%	6%	8%	10%	15%	20%	>25%
-2	0.125	2.39	2.18	2.12	2.07	2.01	1.96	1.89	1.85	1.83
	0.375	2.39	2.18	2.12	2.07	2.01	1.96	1.89	1.85	1.83
	0.625	2.39	2.18	2.12	2.07	2.01	1.96	1.89	1.85	1.83
	0.875	2.39	2.18	2.12	2.07	2.01	1.96	1.89	1.85	1.83
	1.25	2.39	2.18	2.12	2.07	2.01	1.96	1.89	1.85	1.83
	1.5	2.39	2.18	2.12	2.07	2.01	1.96	1.89	1.85	1.83
0	0.125	2.39	2.18	2.12	2.07	2.01	1.96	1.89	1.85	1.83
	0.375	2.39	2.18	2.12	2.07	2.01	1.96	1.89	1.85	1.83
	0.625	2.39	2.18	2.12	2.07	2.01	1.96	1.89	1.85	1.83
	0.875	2.39	2.18	2.12	2.07	2.01	1.96	1.89	1.85	1.83
	1.25	2.39	2.18	2.12	2.07	2.01	1.96	1.89	1.85	1.83
	1.5	2.39	2.18	2.12	2.07	2.01	1.96	1.89	1.85	1.83
2	0.125	2.67	2.32	2.23	2.17	2.08	2.03	1.94	1.89	1.86
	0.375	3.63	2.82	2.64	2.52	2.35	2.25	2.10	2.02	1.97
	0.625	4.12	3.08	2.85	2.69	2.49	2.36	2.18	2.08	2.02
	0.875	4.37	3.21	2.96	2.78	2.56	2.42	2.22	2.11	2.05
	1.25	4.53	3.29	3.02	2.84	2.60	2.45	2.24	2.13	2.07
	1.5	4.58	3.31	3.04	2.86	2.61	2.46	2.25	2.14	2.07
2.5	0.125	2.75	2.36	2.27	2.20	2.11	2.04	1.95	1.90	1.87
	0.375	4.01	3.02	2.80	2.65	2.46	2.33	2.16	2.06	2.01
	0.625	4.66	3.35	3.08	2.88	2.64	2.48	2.26	2.15	2.08
	0.875	4.99	3.52	3.21	3.00	2.73	2.56	2.32	2.19	2.12
	1.25	5.20	3.64	3.30	3.08	2.79	2.60	2.35	2.22	2.14
	1.5	5.26	3.67	3.33	3.10	2.80	2.62	2.36	2.23	2.15
3.5	0.125	2.93	2.45	2.34	2.26	2.16	2.09	1.98	1.92	1.89
	0.375	4.86	3.46	3.16	2.96	2.69	2.53	2.30	2.18	2.10
	0.625	5.88	3.99	3.59	3.32	2.98	2.76	2.46	2.31	2.22
	0.875	6.40	4.26	3.81	3.51	3.12	2.88	2.55	2.38	2.28
	1.25	6.74	4.43	3.96	3.63	3.21	2.96	2.60	2.42	2.32
	1.5	6.83	4.48	3.99	3.66	3.24	2.98	2.62	2.44	2.33
4.5	0.125	3.13	2.56	2.43	2.34	2.21	2.13	2.01	1.95	1.91
	0.375	5.88	3.99	3.59	3.32	2.98	2.76	2.46	2.31	2.22
	0.625	7.35	4.75	4.22	3.85	3.39	3.10	2.71	2.51	2.39
	0.875	8.11	5.15	4.54	4.13	3.60	3.27	2.83	2.61	2.47
	1	8.33	5.27	4.63	4.21	3.66	3.33	2.87	2.64	2.50
	5.5	0.125	3.37	2.69	2.53	2.42	2.28	2.19	2.05	1.98
0.375		7.09	4.62	4.11	3.76	3.31	3.04	2.66	2.47	2.36
0.625		9.13	5.68	4.97	4.49	3.88	3.51	3.00	2.74	2.59
0.875		10.21	6.24	5.43	4.88	4.18	3.76	3.18	2.89	2.71
1		10.52	6.41	5.57	5.00	4.27	3.83	3.24	2.93	2.75
6		0.125	3.51	2.76	2.59	2.47	2.32	2.22	2.08	2.00
	0.375	7.78	4.98	4.40	4.01	3.51	3.20	2.78	2.56	2.44
	0.625	10.17	6.23	5.42	4.87	4.17	3.75	3.18	2.88	2.71
	0.875	11.43	6.88	5.95	5.32	4.53	4.04	3.39	3.06	2.86
	1	11.81	7.08	6.11	5.46	4.64	4.13	3.45	3.11	2.90

Source: HCM 6th Edition, Exhibit 12-28

Note: Interpolation in the exhibit is permitted.