

Title: Development of traffic impact assessment ( TIA ) criteria in Malaysia ; Johor state as the basic model

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Abstract:

Traffic Impact Assessment was introduced in Malaysia about 10 years ago. Although, it has no legal ground, it has been accepted as a useful tool to examine development impact. Currently, TIA practice in the country suffers from some drawbacks, such as, lacking of threshold values or criteria for its imposition and not being guided by guidelines on its contents, scope and coverage. There is no systematic evaluation or review process for TIA reports submitted to the local authorities or Jabatan Kerja Raya (JKR). Local authorities also differ in their interpretation on the provisions of various Acts of Parliament which had empowered the local authorities to impose the TIA requirement on the proposed development projects. To overcome these weaknesses, the State of Johor has been chosen as a basic model in this research for the evaluation of TIA process in Malaysia. In this research, the main contributions to the body of knowledge would be the development of threshold values or criteria for the imposition of TIA requirement derived based on the local critical gap values and movement capacity carried out in Johor. The said threshold values are only applied to unsignalised T-junctions with the current level-of-service (LOS) of C or worse. It also provides useful reference to formalise the evaluation or review process for TIA and standardise the contents of TIA reports. In addition, amendments to the existing Act of Parliament will strengthen the status or "locus standi" of TIA requirement imposed on the proposed development projects. This will eliminate ambiguity and help enhance the power of the local authorities to impose TIA.