AUTO-UTILITY TRAILER COMBINATIONS ON RURAL HIGHWAYS IN KENTUCKY

by

B. S. Siria and R. C. Deen Kentucky Bureau of Highways

ABSTRACT

An analysis of accident records indicated that auto-utility trailer (A-UT) combinations are involved in a disproportionately high number of traffic mishaps. Locations which have a history of accidents involving A-UT vehicles indicated that differential crosswinds and unanticipated driving maneuvers contribute to the driver's loss of control. A-UT combinations contributed to the fatigue loss in pavement life approximately SO percent as much as single-unit, two-axle, six-tire trucks (per vehicle). In general, this vehicle type constituted approximately three percent of the total traffic stream. Analysis of speed distributions indicated an equivalency factor for A-UT combinations equal to that for trucks for similar roadway types and topographical conditions.

Research Report 381

- 22 n san m.

AUTO-UTILITY TRAILER COMBINATIONS ON RURAL HIGHWAYS IN KENTUCKY

by

Bruce S. Siria Project Engineer Schimpeler - Corradino Associates Engineering & Planning Consultants Louisville, Kentucky

and

Robert C. Deen Assistant Director Division of Research Bureau of Highways DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Conunonwealth of Kentucky

> Offered for publication to the Highway Research Board

> > December 1973

INTRODUCTION

The Kentucky Bureau of Highways has recently completed several studies characterizing traffic on highways within the state. The first of these studies (I) established a methodology for predicting the vehicular composition of the traffic stream as related to significant local variables. The methodology was needed to increase the accuracy of predictions of cumulative equivalent axleloads (EAL's). The validity of the proposed procedure depends upon the accuracy of vehicle classification and loadometer data used as inputs. A second study (2) was conducted to enhance the validity of the predictive technique of the first by providing data on the lateral distribution of traffic on four- and six-lane limited access facilities. An analysis of loadometer and classification data of traffic utilizing bridges spanning the Ohio River from Kentucky resulted in a proposed methodology $(3, 4, 5, 6)$ by which the fatigue life of a bridge could be evaluated.

Present methods of classifying vehicle types do not segregate auto-utility trailer (A-UT) combinations. Traffic classification counts merely denote an auto-utility trailer combination as a passenger car. If a trailer is being pulled by a pickup truck, the combination is recorded as a single unit, two-axle, four-tire truck. In compliance with this practice, previous studies of traffic characteristics (1, 2, 3, 4) made no special notation of these vehicles. However, a surprisingly large number of automobiles pulling utility trailers was noted by the data collectors. Preliminary observations indicated that during peak periods of traffic flow up to ten percent of the total traffic stream was composed of A-UT combinations.

The present study, therefore, was conceived with the following objectives:

- I. To establish the presence of A-UT combinations on certain rural Kentucky highways,
- 2. To ascertain the effect of A-UT combinations on capacity (level of service) for various

highway types and various dissimilar highway sections (in terms of number of equivalent autos),

- 3. To provide a basic data bank for denoting quantitative trends for this vehicle type in the future,
- 4. To examine the advisability of counting A·UT combinations separately in classification studies,
- 5. To consider the effect A-UT axleloads have on the total equivalent axleload accumulation, and
- 6. To investigate accidents involving A-UT vehicles.

ACCIDENT DATA AND ANALYSIS

Preliminary comparisons of accident involvement rates of A-UT combinations to percentages of this vehicle type in the traffic stream revealed a glaring disproportionality (Table I). These data were obtained from toll roads records (7) and from available accident reports. Since these figures were valuable only for intuitive purposes, it was anticipated that a detailed analysis of accident records would provide additional information.

Extensive accident records of Kentucky highways were available for analysis. Table 2 summarizes the road-year data sets available. The geographical distribution of roadways investigated is shown in Figure .I.

Initially, A-UT accident trends were compared with those of accidents in general. The procedure involved examination of all single-vehicle accidents, accidents involving A-UT combinations, single-vehicle accidents involving A·UT combinations, and traffic volumes by means of a graphical representation of trends by hour of day, day of week, and month of year. Typical distributions of total traffic volume, total accident occurrence, total A·UT accidents, all single-vehicle accidents, and single-vehicle accidents involving A-UT combinations are shown in Figures 2 and 3. There was no marked difference (except for the smoothness of the curves as a function of sample size) in the hourly distributions of A-UT accidents relative to traffic volume distribution from the hourly distribution of all accidents. The same was true for single-vehicle accidents. During daylight hours, a greater percentage of single-vehicle A-UT accidents occurred than do single-vehicle accidents -- at night the opposite trends were evident. It was hypothesized that these trends were caused by the lower volume of A-UT traffic at night.

Typical accident and traffic volume distributions by day of the week are illustrated in Figures 4 and 5. Again, similarities were apparent. However, accident and volume distributions of A-UT traffic

 $\frac{3}{3}$

showed marked differences. Tuesday was the lightest day for A-UT traffic, yet Tuesday was the third highest day for A-UT accident occurrence. A similar situation existed for Friday; whereas for Saturday, the opposite was true. Thus A-UT traffic and A-UT accidents cannot be said to coincide to the degree that was exhibited for ail traffic and ail accidents. For all single-vehicle accidents, similarities with volume distributions were again evident. Once again, the greater-accident-than-volume condition for A-UT single-vehicle accidents prevailed for Tuesday and Friday; the opposite held true for Monday and Saturday. It may be concluded from these observations that the distribution by day of the week of all accidents, both single-vehicle and total, was not identical to that of similarly classed A-UT accidents.

Distributions of accidents and volumes by month are illustrated in Figures 6 and 7. Generally, A-UT accidents illustrated the same trends as all accidents. There were, however, some notable exceptions. The percentage of A-UT accidents increased markedly in April, while the percentage of all accidents dropped significantly. The trends then coincided until October, when A-UT accidents rose noticeably over a rather exaggerated September low. At the same time, all accidents decreased slightly from September to October. Again, in November, the percentage of A-UT accidents dropped perceptibly while the percentage of accidents in general increased slightly. Discounting exaggerations (again probably caused by small sample sizes), trends with respect to single-vehicle accident and single-vehicle A-UT accident distributions seemed to follow similar patterns with the exception of the previously noted differences for October and November. Volume of A-UT traffic (as a monthly percentage of the yearly total) increased significantly during the summer months; a corresponding increase in accident proportions was not observed. A relatively high percentage of A-UT accident occurrence during December and January was countered by the lowest number of A-UT vehicles during these two months. This suggests that A-UT accidents, like accidents in general, correlate rather highly with periods of inclement weather and reduced visibility. The distribution of single-vehicle A-UT accidents shows similar features to all A-UT accidents, but the increase in summer accidents corresponding to high summer volumes was more noticeable.

Another manner in which accidents involving A-UT combinations can be compared with other types of accidents is by distribution in space. It was hypothesized that any location at which the number of A-UT accidents was much greater than that of accidents in general could be analyzed for possible contributing factors. A typical spatial distribution of accident occurrences is shown in Figure 8. The methodology to select sites for detailed investigation initially identified all locations at which at least two A-UT accidents had been reported. Judgement was then employed to ascertain if the number of A-UT accidents represented a disproportionate percentage (60 percent or more) of the total number of accidents reported at that location. It was decided that, while specific accident records at each site

Siria and Deen 4

could provide insight into probable causes of the problem, accident records would be best utliized as a supplement to on-the-site investigations.

One location was situated on a relatively steep vertical grade (downgrade) in relation to several relatively deep rock cuts. Crosswind conditions created by such cuts have been recognized to contribute to accidents. It was hypothesized that crosswinds would affect A-UT vehicles more than automobiles because of the increased surface area on which wind forces could act. Sudden steering reactions required when a vehicle is subjected to differential crosswind could add to the already difficult task of controlling an A-UT combination. Two other locations were similar to the first. Here, however, steep grades reduced the speeds of A-UT combinations, inducing other vehicles to overtake and pass. The passing of a vehicle also creates a wind loading on both the passing and passed vehicle. Thus these particular accident sites indicated that at least some A-UT accidents occur at locations where cuts induce crosswinds and(or) steep grades lead to wind currents from passing vehicles. These wind factors may be sufficient to affect A-UT vehicles while not necessarily affecting other traffic to such a deleterious extent. Another site involving a disproportionate number of A-UT combination accidents was a section of six-lane interstate roadway (three lanes in each direction) with relatively high traffic volumes. Informational signs depicting exit ramps and signs advising of gas, food, and lodging may precipitate weaving by all traffic and especially A-UT traffic. There was also a median crossover at this site; a waiting vehicle within the crossover could induce erratic maneuvers within the traffic stream and thus indirectly create a traffic confiict and(or) a collision. Therefore, the high rate of A-UT accidents at this site was probably induced by weaving maneuvers performed during high traffic volume conditions. At another site, the only indicative factor was a blank blue sign panel which previously was lettered REST AREA 2 MILES. It was not known if the sign message appeared at this site, but there is no subsequent rest area to warrant such a message. Had this sign been erected with such a message, weaving would have been induced. There does not appear to be any contributing conditions, other than some advanced directional signing and the overpass of a county road with its concomitant bridge piers. At a final location, nothing notable in the way of signing appeared in the southbound lanes; but in the northbound direction, several sign panels preliminary to an exit (EXIT 1 MILE, GAS-FOOD-LODGING) seemed to present a situation which could induce weaving. In addition, a combination of the cut profile and tree patterns adjacent to the roadway created a situation where wind could be a problem. There was also a crossover located in the area. Specific accident records did not indicate this crossover to be a problem. The primary problem at this site appeared to be a combination of wind and weaving.

A general purview of records of accidents involving A-UT combinations seemed to indicate the

 $\frac{1}{5}$ Siria and Deen 5

primary sources of trouble were trailer hitches becoming loosened while the vehicle was in motion and a general loss of control of the A-UT combination. There was nothing to indicate that loss of control could be solely attributed to conditions of wet weather. Situations seemed to indicate that more often loss of driver control resulted from wind gusts created by roadway topography or overtaking vehicles. Such situations are difficult if not impossible to correct through modification of the roadway. The apparent difficulty lies with the vehicle itself and not with any roadway disparity. Of course, roadway situations in deep cuts and steep grades which may contribute to a wind problem are the result of a desire for economic optimality. Possible elimination or reduction of such situations are necessarily a trade�off against the economic toll of accidents induced by such features. The important factor is that these situations can present problems and may be genuine causes of accidents.

As a final step in the accident analysis, frequency rates of A-UT accidents were compared with the rates of occurrence of all accidents. The common denominator of this analysis was the accident rate per l 00 million vehicle-miles. To obtain reliable measures of such rates, accident records, ADT values, and roadway lengths were analyzed for all accidents. Similarly, rates were computed for A-UT accidents utilizing the number of A-UT accidents, the appropriate roadway length, and the volume of A-UT traffic. A-UT volumes were computed using data obtained from traffic classification counts and expanding this information with proper expansion factors. Using the volume of A-UT combinations was thought to be a more legitimate procedure than using total volumes and A-UT accidents.

Results of the analysis for ten sections of roadway are shown in Figure 9. The four toll roads are four-lane linaited access highways with attendant toll facilities. US 41 and the three interstate roadways are four-lane limited access highways with no toll facilities. US 27 represents a two-lane rural highway, and US 60 depicts a four-lane, no-toll, no access control facility. For the toll roads, the ratio of A-UT rates to total accident rates had an unweighted mean value of 0.97. This was markedly different from the unweighted mean value (3.32) for the four toll-free, four-lane, limited-access facilities. This disparity could not be related with any statistical significance to levels of volume, median design, or accidents which occurred on toll facilities. Likewise, no correlation could be established with percentage of A-UT vehicles in the traffic stream. Consideration of density did not offer a solution. Finally, this situation was judged to be the result of data sample size. A closer examination of Figure 8 reveals several peculiarities which could most aptly be related to sample size. For instance, the two-lane section of US 27 had the lowest accident rate of all roads considered. This did not conform to intuitive reasoning, since US 27 carried a relatively dense traffic stream in the subject area. Furthermore, many A-UT accident rates were based on a single A-UT accident. Undoubtedly, larger sample sizes of accidents would provide better

. <u>. . .</u> . .

Siria and Deen 6

indications. In general, however, it can still be said that the frequency of A·UT accidents was greater than accidents involving automobiles alone. The unweighted combination of the statistics depicted in Figure 8 indicated that A·UT accidents occur at a rate 2.35 times greater than the occurrence of all accidents.

The final portion of the accident analysis was an attempt to compare severity rates of A·UT accidents with those of all accidents. Here again, data were very sparse, and meaningful relationships were difficult to develop. Figure 10 illustrates values obtained in the severe accident analysis. No attempt has been made to draw any conclusions from these limited data; they are presented for informational purposes only.

ANALYSIS OF WEIGHT DATA

To test the hypothesis that the A·UT combinations contribute significantly more to accumulated equivalent axleloads on a pavement structure than standard automobiles, it was proposed to obtain sample weights of A-UT vehicles. No records were available of any previous loadometer data on automobile-utility trailers in Kentucky. A literature search did not reveal any data acquired elsewhere. Principal determinants in selecting weighing sites were compatibility with accident data and availability of facilities for weighing vehicles. Extensive accident records were available for rural, limited access facilities in the state, both toll roads and interstate highways. Permanent loadometer stations had been constructed in conjunction with several interstate facilities, and three of these installations were in operation. The I·75 weigh station was located in Scott County, the I·64 weigh station was situated in Shelby County, and the weigh station on I 65 was located in Hardin County.

Weighing operations were conducted only during the 16·hour period between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. during the summer of 1970. A·UT traffic between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. did not appear to warrant the inclusion of this time period in the weighing operations. This decision was justified by the number of A·UT vehicles finally weighed on I 65 and I 75 (114 and 202, respectively). Thus, a statistically large sample of vehicles in each direction of travel was weighed. However, only 49 vehicles were weighed on I 64. Of these, 21 were eastbound vehicles and 28 were westbound. The relatively smaller number of vehicles weighed was partially attributable to the small daily traffic volumes on I 64 and because of less responsiveness on the part of A-UT combination drivers to enter the weigh station area. For each set of data, representing each A-UT combination weighed, axleloads, axle spacings, direction of travel, roadway name, and type of trailer being pulled were recorded.

It was desirable to separate the trailers into distinguishable categories so as to evaluate trends which

 $\sum_{i=1}^{n}$ Siria and Deen 7

might be evident for given trailer types. However, it was realized that to obtain statistically significant sample sizes there was a certain practical limit to the number of categories which could be used. As the number of categories increased, the size of each data subset necessarily decreased. Thus, it was decided to categorize the vehicles into three to six classes. A pilot study of vehicle classification was conducted prior to the collection of any data for use in the study for the purpose of establishing procedures and determining classification of trailers to be used in the actual data collection process.

The sample data were collected for approximately 2 hours on I 75. From this sample, it was decided that A-UT combinations should be classified as either house trailers, boat trailers {loaded or unloaded), or U-Haul type trailers. A fourth category was provided for other types of trailers which did not lend themselves to categorization in this manner. This classification system was utilized during the weighing operations. Later, it became apparent that the system needed revision due to the large number of trailers being recorded as miscellaneous types which could be classified as a specific type. With the exception of the relatively small amount of data acquired at the I 64 weigh station, the 16-hour weighing period provided statistically sufficient data sample sizes. At the I 64 weigh station, the gross number of vehicles weighed (49) was a significant sample size, but subdivisions of the data into smaller groupings reduced the size of samples below that generally regarded as being statistically large (i.e. 30).

The relationship between vehicle load and contribution to fatigue, whether the fatigue being considered involves structural metallic materials (as in bridge members) or asphaltic or portland cement concrete pavement substances, can best be analyzed by consideration of discrete loading distributions. The initial phase of weight data analysis was to calculate values of selected characteristics. Results of this analysis are summarized in Tables 3 and 4.

Since the principal intended use of the axie weight data was its application to pavement design techniques, decomposition of these data into subsets of vehicle type, road name, and direction of travel was a necessity if trends peculiar to a certain subset were to be identified (1). However, if certain subsets could be examined with extraneous variables eliminated, the analysis could pinpoint more accurately the source of these trends. To determine whether or not certain aspects of data subsets were combinable, appropriate statistical tests were used to examine the equality of means and variances, the Smith-Satterthwaite t-test for equality of means and the F-test for equality of variances. Each of these statistical analyses was performed at the 95-percent level of confidence, with the $a = 0.05$ region divided into two tails.

A rather arbitrary method was necessarily chosen to evaluate results of the statistical comparisons.

Siria and Deen 8

Four criteria were established. The first was the acceptable statistical combination of three of the four axleloads. The second was the acceptability of combining gross loads. The third examined the combinability of two of the three axleloadings. Statistical lumping of the wheel base was the final criterion. If three of the four criteria were satisfied, it was deemed sufficient evidence of the combinability of the statistical parameter under study. As a result of these tests, the only data Jumping deemed proper was that of I 64 eastbound with I 64 westbound and that of I 65 northbound with that of I 65 southbound.

Pavement design philosophies embody a concept of failure by fatigue in both flexible and rigid pavements and recognize the fatigue-contributing equivalence of a certain number of passages of a standard axleload to a single passage of another weight. The passage of a sufficiently heavy axle contributes to a reduction in the remaining fatigue life. Thus, any unanticipated increase in the number of axleloads from any traffic source could theoretically decrease the useful life of the pavement. Since A·UT combinations are categorized merely as automobiles in traffic classification studies, trailer axles are not included in pavement design analyses. If the trailer axles should prove to be relatively heavy, then the damage to the pavement could be significant. When both car axles and trailer axles are considered in a cumulative fatigue analysis for flexible pavement design, the additional equivalent axleloads accumumated for a 20-year design period for a roadway with significant A-UT traffic was approximately five percent. A-UT combinations contributed to the fatigue loss in pavement life about 50 percent as much as single-unit, two-axle, six-tire trucks (per vehicle).

TRAFFIC COUNTS

Locations at which to conduct classification studies were restricted from both the aspect of compatibility with available accident records and facilities available for loadometer studies and of congruity with radar speed study information. Visual classification surveys were conducted in the vicinity of the three loadometer stations:

- I. I 65 in Hardin County, approximately 0.75 miles (1.2 km) south of the loadometer stations where East Rhudes Creek Church Road is overpassed by I 65.
- 2. I 75 in Scott County, about 0.5 mile (0.8 km) north of the loadometer stations where KY 620 passes under the interstate.
- 3. I 64 in Shelby County, 1.3 miles (2.1 krn) west of the interchange with KY 395 where Wentworth Road passes beneath I 64. This site is 3.4 miles (5.5 km) east of the loadometer stations on I 64, but there are no intervening exits to allow any change in the traffic stream.

Siria and Deen 9

Additional sites were selected to provide data from different classes of roads. One site was located on US 41 in Hopkins County at a point 0.6 mile (1.0 km) south of the US 41 - US 62 interchange where US 41 overpassed the old Nortonville-White Plains Road. Other locations selected were on US 27 in Jessamine County, 0.8 mile (1.3 km) south of the intersection with KY 981 at a roadside park, and on US 60 in Woodford County, 4.6 miles (7.4 km) south of the Fayette - Woodford County line. It was believed these six classification study locations, combined with information available from four toll roads, would provide necessary classification information for purposes of this study.

At each site, there was a physical limitation as to the number of varying types of information which could be obtained for each count. Some information desired included the lane distribution of total traffic and of A-UT traffic and information as to whether the automobiles had trailer hitches. During any one count period, distribution of traffic by lane or the separation of those vehicles having trailer hitches could be recorded, but not both. A count of cars with trailer hitches was an indicator of the potential of A-UT combinations on the roadway. At sites on I 64, I 65, US 27, US 60, US 41, and the short count on I 75, data concerning trailer hitches was recorded. For the week-long count on I 75, where determination of the presence of a trailer hitch during darkness was difficult, it was decided to record the lane distribution of automobiles and of A-UT combinations.

A long count (a staggered, week-long study which included each hour of the week) was conducted at the I 75 location in Scott County. Personnel limitations precluded a 24-hour per day, seven-day continuous count. The remaining counts, which were short, were conducted at locations on I 65, I 64, US 27, US 60, and US 41. The short counts were of 12-hours duration, conducted from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. These data were supplemented by toll receipts data.

Prior to obtaining the classification information, a method to classify trailer types was chosen. An investigation of the licensing procedure in Kentucky indicated that only "house trailers" and the general class of "trailers" were licensed; a better stratification of trailer type information was needed. During initial counts, it was observed by data collectors that an unusually large number of miscellaneous trailers which could be classified separately as campers were being recorded.

Stratification of trailers by axle configuration was included because this is the type of data needed in an analysis of the effect of axleloads on the pavement. A systematic presentation of loadometer data would of necessity include those types of data needed for the computation of the average numbers of axles in various subsets. Distinction was made between those trailers having two axles closely spaced in tandem and those spaced similar to standard automobiles.

Table 5 indicated the average percentages of vehicle types for each of the six roadways at which

classification information was obtained. This table also presents a weighted (by volume) average of all data and of data acquired at four-lane, controlled-access facilities. It can be seen that A·UT vehicles ranged from 1.12 percent of total traffic on US 27 to 4.24 percent on I 75; the weighted mean value was 2.47 percent on all roads and 3.00 percent on four-lane, controlled-access highways. Thus, the total weighted percentage of recreational vehicles on all roads was 3.48 percent and on all four-lane, limited-access facilities was 4.11 percent. The range was a low of 1.75 percent on I 64 to a high of 5.56 percent on I 75.

From data obtained for I 75, it was possible to determine the distribution of vehicle types by hour of day (Table 6) and by day of week (Table 7). An analysis of the percentage of A-UT traffic as a function of hour of day indicates a good correlation with traffic volume. Regression analysis indicated an equation of the form

 $y = 2.48 + 0.00148$ x,

where x is the hourly traffic volume and y is the percentage of A-UT traffic. The correlation coefficient of this equation is 0.85. The boundary lines within which 95 percent of the points fall are:

Lower: Upper: $y = 2.05 + .00107$ x $y = 2.91 + .00189$ x

A similar attempt to relate percentages of A-UT vehicles to daily volumes did not produce any significant correlation. It was hypothesized that correlation with volume was significant when day of the week could be incorporated into the percentages, but when percentage as a function of volume is stratified by day of the week, no correlation was evident.

These regression models are presented for the purpose of iliustrating trends rather than for the actual prediction of A-UT percentage. Correlation is high, but this does not necessarily mean that there is a causative relationship. The regression line was derived from volumes stratified by hour of the day; the real meaning of this correlation was that the increase in A-UT traffic during certain periods of time was proportionately greater than the increase in traffic in general. It was obvious this was true for certain days of the week, and the figures presented seem to indicate that this was also true for certain hours of the day.

An analysis was also performed to test the directional equality of vehicle percentages and volume

percentages. At the 95-percent level of significance, the percentages of the four vehicle types and of volume were not significantly different by direction of travel.

Furthermore, an analysis was made of the percentage of non A-UT automobiles which had a trailer hitch (Table 8). The mean percentage of such vehicles was 9.09 and the standard deviation was 1.79. There was no statistically significant difference in the percentages of non A-UT vehicles with trailer hitches. The percentage of this type of vehicle indicated a potential for as much as 10 to 12 percent of the total traffic being A-UT vehicles.

Analysis of the percentage of A-UT vehicles in the shoulder lane of traffic revealed an unweighted mean percentage of 90.49 when the data were stratified by hour and 88.68 percent when categorized by day. Examination of the hourly percentages revealed that, except for the period between 4 a.m. and 5 a.m. when every A-UT vehicle was traveling in the shoulder lane, no particular hour had a statistically significant percentage differential. Similar analysis of percentages by day revealed no significant deviation. It may be concluded that approximately 90 percent of A-UT combinations travel in the shoulder lane. Hourly and daily distributions of the percentages of A-UT vehicles in the shoulder lane are shown in Tables 9 and 10.

The final analysis of traffic classification data was a summary of trailer types. A matrix of five trailer types and three axle configurations was used (Table II). The distribution of trailer types is dominated by camper trailers; each of the other four trailer types share an approximately equal percentage of the total. Nearly four-fifths of all trailers had one axle and less than one percent had three axles. Camper trailers were the dominant type of one-axle and three-axle trailers but were the least dominant two-axle trailer. House trailers were the least prevalent one-axle trailer. With the exception of miscellaneous trailer types, house trailers were also the most prevalent two-axle trailer. There were no three-axle boat or U-Haul trailers observed. The largest single trailer type was the one-axle camper trailer.

There was one roadway section, I 75, at which the classification study extended to each hour of the week. It was hypothesized that a calculation could be made to determine the percentage of daily A-UT traffic which occurs during each hour of the day, and this information could be utilized to expand a 12-hour count to a full day's count. Similar calculations could then be made for day of the week. Information available from toll road collections could then be used to project the data from the month in which it was taken to the entire year.

There were several assumptions implicit in this numerical manipulation. The distribution by hour of the day was lumped for all days of the week. Therefore, the assumption was that the distribution does not vary within the week. There are several obvious instances in which this assumption is not

valid. However, in general, it was felt that the hypothesis was true. Similarly, the assumption was implicit that the week during which the classification study was conducted was typical of every week of the year. Finally, the assumption was also made that the years for which toll data were acquired were typical. In addition, the assumption was implicit that distributions by hour and by day on I 75 were typical of that for other roads.

 \sim

Table 12 lists the percentages of A-UT vehicles of the total volume for each hour of the day. It can be seen that the percentage occurring between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. exceeds that during the hour 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. and that the percentage occurring between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. and that occurring between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. were not significantly different. Therefore, it can be concluded that the 8-8 shift for the 12-hour count was preferable to a 7-7 shift. The percentage of daily A-UT vehicles counted between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. was 77.31. Tables 13 and 14 show similar distributions by day of week and month of year.

SPOT SPEEDS

The final phase of the study was to determine various spot-speed parameters for different vehicle types. It was felt this information could be used to determine auto-utility trailer combination equivalency factors to be utilized in capacity analyses. Furthermore, since accident potential on high-speed facilities increases as speed differentials increase, an analysis of speed differential trends might yield a correlation with accident records.

The choice of locations at which to conduct spot-speed studies was made in conjunction with appropriate criteria for other phases of the study. Specific criteria which were considered especially relevant to the collection of spot-speed information were relatively straight and level sections of roadway and appropriate possibilities for conceabnent of measuring apparatuses. The requirement that the roadway section be relatively straight and level was derived from the assumption that the most important aspect to be considered is the relative speed between A-UT combinations and autos, not the absolute speed of either.

At least 3 hours of data in each direction were obtained for each road. Spot speed was recorded for as many vehicles as possible. However, only the first vehicle of a platoon was recorded since this vehicle was the speed detenninator of the queue. This limited the data which could be obtained on the two-lane roadway, US 27; however, the greater volume and multilane aspects of the other roads eased the effects of this restriction. Speeds were obtained for automobiles, A-UT vehicles, and trucks.

A statistical analysis of speed data indicated a statistically significant difference between speeds

$\frac{13}{13}$

of A-UT combinations and of automobiles at each of the six test sites. Table 15 shows a parcel of information from a plot of the cumulative speed distributions of automobiles, trucks, and A-UT combinations for the six roadway sections. Use of the 85th percentile is consistent with the normal practice used to establish speed limits and gauge the normal running speed of the traffic stream. The 50th percentile is the median speed, a common measure of central tendency. The 15th percentile is used as a lower base for running-speed calculations, sometimes used as the speed below which allowance should not be made in the design of speed-influenced elements. !t is also an appropriate statistical symmetry for the 85th-percentile speed.

Based on a symmetry analysis, i.e. a comparison of the difference between the 85th-percentile level and the 50th-percentile level with the difference between the 50th percentile and the 15th percentile, it can be said that automobiles were relatively symmetrical in their speed distribution, exhibiting a slightly greater tendency toward more dispersion among lower speeds. Trucks were not greatly skewed in their distribution, yet they exhibited a marked trend toward greater variance at lower speeds - more so than automobiles. Speed distributions of A-UT vehicles exhibited the greatest variance in distribution in either direction, undoubtedly due to a smaller sample size. However, when the mean difference between upper and lower differentials was computed, the A-UT distribution was more heavily skewed downward than the distribution of either automobiles or trucks. By inference, the lower half of the A-UT speed distribution was more widely variant than those for automobiles or trucks, indicating that the lower half of the speed range was more extended for A-UT combinations.

Equivalency factors can be computed to a remarkable degree of accuracy from speed distributions (8). The process used here to compute equivalency factors for A-UT combinations was to compare speed distributions of automobiles, trucks, and A-UT combinations. Using established factors for trucks as a base and the mean ratio between truck-auto differences and A-UT-auto differences as a multiplier, a related figure for A-UT combinations was calculated.

Speed-differential ratios for five percentile levels are listed for each road in Table 16. It can be seen that the mean on each of these roads was close to unity. Therefore, the automobile equivalency factor for A-UT combinations is essentially the same as the factor for trucks.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of the preceeding discussion has been to consider the influence of automobile-utility trailer (A-UT) combinations on several aspects of highway design and operation. The accident history of these vehicles, the influence of their axle weights on pavement design, the relative proportions of

these vehicles in the traffic stream, the relative speed distributions of these vehicles and other vehicle types are factors which have never before been considered. The purpose of this discussion was not to provide an exhaustive treatise on any of these subject areas but merely to consider all four areas from a general viewpoint.

The following conclusions can be drawn from the results of the study:

1. Accidents involving A-UT combinations are disproportionately greater than the prevalence of these vehicles in the traffic stream.

 $\label{eq:1} \rho_{\rm{max}} = \rho_{\rm{max}} + \frac{1}{2} \rho_{\rm{max}}$

- 2. Although the size of the data sample was small, several types of locations were pin-pointed which seemed to be problem areas for A-UT accidents.
- 3. Indications at these locations were that A-UT accidents are related to wind forces created either by passing maneuvers or cross sectional configurations or to weaving.
- 4. Trailer axles, while generally being heavier than automobile axles, are relatively light.
- 5. When both car axles and trailer axles are considered in a cumulative fatigue analysis for flexible pavement design, the additional equivalent axleloads accumulated for a roadway with significant A-UT percentage is approximately five percent.
- 6. Four-fifths of the A-UT combination trailers on the road are one-axle trailers.
- 7. The camper trailer is the most common type of trailer.
- 8. The speed distribution of A-UT combinations closely resembles that of trucks.
- 9. The automobile equivalency factor for A-UT combinations is approximately equal to that for trucks.

LIST OF REFERENCES

- 1. Deacon, J. A. and Deen, R. C., Equivalent Axleloads for Pavement Design, Record 291, Highway Research Board, 1969.
- 2. Lynch, R. L. and Hamby, G. N., Lateral Distribution of Traffic on a Four-Lane and Six-Lane Section of I 75 South of Covington, Kentucky Department of Highways, June 1969.
- 3. Lynch, R. L., Analysis of Traffic Loads on Bridges, Kentucky Department of Highways, February 1968.
- 4. Lynch, R. L., Analysis of Traffic Loads on Bridges, Characteristics of Traffic on Ohio River Bridges · 1968, Kentucky Department of Highways, March 1969.
- 5. Havens, J. H. and Deen, R. C., Bridges: Synthesis of Load Histories and Analysis of Fatigue, Kentucky Department of Highways, January 1972.
- 6. Bruner III, R. J., Fatigue Analysis of Central Bridge Deduced from Strain Gage Data and Probability Analysis, Kentucky Department of Highways, February 1973.
- 7. Annual Summary, Office of Toll Facilities, Kentucky Department of Highways, 1967 and 1968.
- 8. Highway Capacity Manual, Special Report 87, Highway Research Board, 1965.

 $\mathfrak l$

alling in School College of Schools

TABLE I

inter in personalità di distinguista di controle della papa della

ACCIDENT INVOLVEMENT OF A-UT COMBINATIONS ON SELECTED KENTUCKY HIGHWAYS (1967 and 1968)

i sama mentah tidak dan persekali dan mengentuk mengendapan dan selama mengentuk mengentuk mengentuk mengentuk
Sejarah mengentuk me

 ~ 25

ata na mpambanga

 \mathbb{R}^n

TABLE 2

in West

94

ACCIDENT DATA SETS

^aMontgomery, Clark, and Shelby Counties (all regular median)

b_{Shelby} and Franklin Counties (irregular median)

^cHardin and Larue Counties

dHardin, Larue, Hart, Warren, and Simpson Counties

eLimited Access Section in Hopkins County

f_{Grant} County

^gMadison, Scott, Kenton, Whitley, Grant, Boone and Rockcastle Counties

TABLE 3

SUMMARY OF A-UT AXLE WEIGHTS AND SPACINGS BY ROADWAY

TABLE 4

SUMMARY OF A-UT AXLE WEIGHTS AND SPACINGS BY TRAILER TYPE

Siria and Deen

 $\overline{8}$

- 70

uu saaye ni shintarka waxayn

-981

DISTRIBUTION OF VEHICLE TYPES

*Vehicles per day

TABLE 6

DISTRIBUTION OF VEHICLE TYPES ON I 75 BY HOUR OF DAY

*Vehicles per hour

DISTRIBUTION OF VEHICLE TYPES ON I 75 BY DAY OF WEEK

*Vehicles per day

Friday 85.34 Saturday 87.92

TABLE 8

VEHICLES WITH TRAILER HITCHES

Mean 9.09

PERCENT

HITCH

9.68 11.31 8.16 7.22

ROAD

us 41 us 27 I 65 I 64

A-UT TRAFFIC IN SHOULDER LANE BY HOUR

TABLE 9

4.18 1.20 9.28 24589 4.87 1.64 5.57 39569

 $Mean = 90.49$

Standard Deviation = 4.44

Largest deviation from mean is not significantly large.

87.80
89.21

85.58

85.67

84.47

93.86 91.43 97 P.C

TABLE 10

The comment

R

A-UT TRAFFIC IN SHOULDER LANE BY DAY

 $Mean = 88.68$

Standard Deviation = 1.91

T test indicates Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday have significantly different percentages.

TABLE ll

TRAILER TYPE PERCENTAGES

 $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{F})$ is the state of the contract of the contract of the $\mathcal{F}(\mathcal{F})$

 $\mathcal{R}^{\mathcal{A}}$ r zapr

a di parti di parti del personal del personal del control del control del control del control del control del
La control del control de

l,

 \sim \sim 19 Martin

्र में होता

TABLE 12

HOURLY DISTRIBUTION OF A-UT TRAFFIC

TABLE 13 TABLE 14

DAILY DISTRIBUTION MONTHLY DISTRI BUTION

 $\label{eq:2} \frac{1}{2}\sum_{i=1}^n\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{2}\sum_{i=1}^n\frac{1}{2}\right)^2.$

OF A-UT TRAFFIC

 $\hat{\mathbf{g}}$

المستخدمة من المراجع المستخدمة المنافس الموجهة التي يقادمه المستخدمة المستخدمة المستخدمة المنافسية المستخدمة ا
المستخدمة المراجع

a sa Kilima

 $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{C})$.

 \sim \sim

TABLE 15

<u> Martin Martin Martin Martin Martin </u>

SUMMARY OF VEHICULAR SPEEDS

a da da da bara bara da bara da san ang sa sa sa sa pagbaran na pagparan ng pagbaran ng pagparang pagparang pa

SPOT SPEEDS AND RATIOS*

*Ratio of Truck Spot Speed to A-UT Spot Speed

 \sim

Siria and Deen

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Geographical Distribution of Roadways Investigated.

-26

- Figure 2. Accident and Volume Distributions by Hour of Day for I 75 (Scott County).
- Figure 3. Accident and Volume Distributions by Hour of Day for I 75 {Scott County).
- Figure 4. Accident and Volume Distributions by Day of Week for I 75 (Scott County).
- Figure 5. Accident and Volume Distributions by Day of Week for I 75 (Scott County).
- Figure 6. Accident and Volume Distributions by Month of Year for I 75 (Scott County).
- Figure 7. Accident and Volume Distributions by Month of Year for I 75 (Scott County).
- Figure 8. Spatial Distribution of Accidents on the Bluegrass Parkway.
- Figure 9. Summary of Accident Rates.
- Figure 10. Summary of Severe Accident Rates.

17 \sim - - - - -

Figure 2. Accident and Volume Distributions by Hour of Day for I 75 (Scott County).

Figure 3. Accident and Volume Distributions by Hour of Day for I 75 (Scott County).

Figure 4. Accident and Volume Distributions by Day of Week for I 75 (Scott County).

- 199

Figure 5. Accident and Volume Distributions by Day of Week for I 75 (Scott County).

.

aalkti

and or process

Figure 6. Accident and Volume Distributions by Month of Year for I 75 (Scott County).

7925

.

. . *. .* . **.** . *. .*

a provincia comunica comunica

Figure 7. Accident and Volume Distributions by Month of Year for I 75 (Scott County).

المتناج فالمتحاذ المستحدث والمتحدث

mp.

. . *.*

Figure 8. Spatial Distribution of Accidents on the Bluegrass Parkway.

D,

illian e

734

77

Figure 9. Summary of Accident Rates.

 \boldsymbol{r}

33

 \mathcal{J}

.

 \sim

Figure 10. Summary of Severe Accident Rates.