

Hello Kathy,

Nice to talk to you today. We apologize for any inconvenience the City of Gustavus has had with our recent traffic data counts. In the future, we will do better at letting communities know when we will be setting traffic counts in their area. The link attached below goes to our traffic data website that shows the data the we collect around the state.

<https://alaskatraficdata.drakewell.com/publicmultinodemap.asp>

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) collects traffic data around the state on roadways that are a part of the Certified Public Road Mileage (CPRM). In other words, ADOT&PF collects traffic data on roadways that are maintained and are open to public travel. This includes roads owned by the State of Alaska and roads owned and maintained by other agencies like the City of Gustavus. The traffic data collected is used to meet Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) reporting requirements. This data is used by Congress to determine the apportionment of federal money received by all states nationwide for transportation construction projects. At the state and local level, this means that traffic data helps with project nomination, design and data informed decision making.

Our methods for collection traffic data in the State of Alaska are greatly influenced by seasonal weather which leads to a field season when we can reliably collect traffic data between May-September. The “hose counts” stretched across the roads in Gustavus are using pneumatic hoses attached to a box that counts pulses of air as the axles of vehicles travel over the hoses. We call these Short Term or ST counts since they are only deployed for a little more than 1 week. We have other traffic counters called Continuous Count Stations (CCS) with sensor permanently built under and in the asphalt on major roadways around the state that collect traffic data 24 hours/day 7 days/week every day of the year.

We try to count all of our traffic station locations at least once every 6 years. Some communities, like Gustavus, which require air or ferry transportation results in a less regular schedule. Previous data collection years in Gustavus have been: 1986, 1993, 2003, 2007, 2012, 2015, 2018 and now 2026.

We acknowledge that traffic volumes are higher in Alaska during summer months than the rest of the year. The summer time counts are generally 7 days with each day of the week represented. The average of those 7 summer time days is referred to a raw ADT (Average Daily Traffic). To bring a summer traffic count to an annualized value, there are two factors (seasonal and axle factors) that can be applied to the ADT to adjust the raw summer data into an annual average.

For example, in 2018 we collected traffic data on the road to the Gustavus airport between June 5-11. The 7 day raw average (ADT) was 860 vehicles. After applying factors, this number decreased to 540 for the AADT (Annual Average Daily Traffic).

Thank you all for your patience with us during this year’s traffic data collection. Please reach out if you have any questions, I’m happy to help out.

Respectfully,

Matt Murphy



Matt Murphy

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Keep Alaska Moving through service and infrastructure.