

Addressing Accessibility Gaps in Network Operations Planning

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Abstract:

Accessibility is broadly defined as the variety of opportunities provided from a location through the arrangement of land use and the provision of transport. Accessibility is the primary aim of the highway or transport system. The efficiency and quality of movement provided by the transport system is a means to achieve accessibility. Network operations planning is emerging as the preferred planning framework in Australia wherein the efficiency and quality of movement on a transport network is examined for short and medium term improvements. Network operations planning in Australia have so far focussed on small-area analysis wherein trade-offs of transport performance for the various road user groups at the link or node level has been the basis of the development of network operation strategies and treatments. Network operations planning have not yet been extended to address accessibility gaps. The Network Task Force of Austroads recognises the importance of incorporating accessibility and network operations planning and has commissioned several research and development streams towards this end.

The aim of this paper is to present recent and on-going research and developments in Austroads related to incorporating accessibility planning and network operations planning. The paper describes a preliminary accessibility-planning and network operation planning framework and the development of accessibility metric suited for network operations planning. Topics for further research are discussed.