

STATISTICAL FORECASTING MODELS OF COUNTY-LEVEL TRAFFIC VOLUMES FOR THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

CLIENT

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The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation engaged Michael Baker, Jr., Inc., and Econsult Corporation to construct statistical forecasting models of county-level traffic volumes for the state of Pennsylvania. Econsult was specifically engaged to:

- Evaluate the various forecast vendors able to provide economic/demographic drivers for the proposed PennDOT traffic forecasting models and select one that best met project needs and;
- Prepare a critique of the models estimated by Michael Baker, suggest any needed changes, and review the entire draft final report before delivery to the client.

Econsult contacted a variety of public and private forecast vendors and evaluated their products. To finalize the selection, county forecasts were purchased from two vendors for a single county and evaluated. The entire selection process was documented in a report to Baker, including a general section on the theory and design of forecasting models. This report was later incorporated as a chapter in the final report.

Once the models and initial forecasts were produced, Econsult critiqued the results and made several suggestions for changes to the final report.