

**ANALYSIS OF MOVES AND CMEM FOR EVALUATING THE EMISSIONS IMPACTS OF AN INTERSECTION CONTROL CHANGE**

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## **ANALYSIS OF MOVES AND CMEM FOR EVALUATING THE EMISSIONS IMPACTS OF AN INTERSECTION CONTROL CHANGE**

### **ABSTRACT**

EPA's Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator (MOVES) provides greater capability than the MOBILE emission models for estimating the impacts of traffic operational changes. EPA has proposed requiring the use of MOVES for conducting "project-level" analysis of PM and CO hot-spots. Local sustainability programs and federal grant program such as CMAQ reinforce the need for a consistent modeling system for estimating emissions from traffic operational changes.

This research compares the emissions estimates from MOVES with those generated by the Comprehensive Modal Emissions Model (CMEM), developed under NCHRP 25-11. CMEM was developed to meet the need for an emissions modeling system responsive to traffic operational changes. CMEM integrates with existing microsimulation software packages that generate second-by-second speed/acceleration vehicle profiles (trajectories).

The research developed a microsimulation test bed of a 3-leg intersection modeled as a pre-timed traffic signal and as a roundabout under 2 traffic volume scenarios. CMEM and MOVES output for CO and NO<sub>x</sub> (grams/hour) are evaluated. For NO<sub>x</sub>, results from CMEM are similar to those from MOVES when a detailed Link Drive Schedule is estimated from trajectory data using K-means clustering and LOESS scatter plot curve fitting. For CO, results from CMEM and MOVES are significantly discrepant over all modeling scenarios. Both CMEM and MOVES (utilizing Link Drive Schedules) estimate higher emissions for the roundabout when compared to the traffic signal.

Sources of emissions differences between CMEM and MOVES are discussed and enhancements to facilitate linking MOVES to microsimulation models are proposed.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

2 In May 2010 EPA published draft guidance for performing “project-level” transportation  
3 conformity analysis of PM “hot-spots”, sub-regional areas where local pollution concentrations  
4 might exceed NAAQS standards (1). EPA has proposed requiring use of the Motor Vehicle  
5 Emission Simulator (MOVES2010) model to quantify PM and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions  
6 impacts from hot-spots.

7 Beyond this significant regulatory requirement, there is a call from other quarters of society  
8 for consistent, accurate, and easy-to-use tools for estimating the emissions impacts of traffic  
9 operational changes. For example, cities and universities have initiated sustainability programs to  
10 measure and reduce transportation-generated air emissions. The carbon reduction toolkit accessible  
11 to these non-regional entities includes traffic operational strategies such as travel demand  
12 management programs, traffic signal optimization, and investments in alternative modes. In  
13 addition, many federal grant programs require documentation of air emissions benefits from a  
14 proposed project.

15 Specific examples of each of these are:

- 16 1. The City of Portland, OR has partnered with the Climate Trust to obtain carbon dioxide  
17 offsets in return for quantified reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions resulting from a multi-year,  
18 city-wide traffic signal optimization and coordination project (2).
- 19 2. Many universities have created Sustainability Departments to quantify the institution’s  
20 carbon footprint and promote low carbon policies. The University of New Hampshire  
21 (UNH) is a university with a climate action plan incorporating transit investment and  
22 transportation infrastructure changes (3). To support this program UNH has invested in  
23 a land use-based traffic microsimulation model to evaluate the air emissions impacts of  
24 traffic operational strategies, travel demand management programs, and land use  
25 changes they have control over.
- 26 3. The Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program requires an assessment of a  
27 proposed project’s emissions reduction benefits. Guidance published for CMAQ states:  
28 “State and local transportation and air quality agencies conduct CMAQ-project air  
29 quality analyses with different approaches, analytical capabilities, and technical  
30 expertise.(4)” The CMAQ guidance acknowledges the variety of approaches and  
31 technical sophistication of the program’s applicants.

32 Recent advances in traffic modeling and air emissions tools yield promise that a consistent  
33 emissions-estimating modeling system may be close at hand. Having a reliable, easy-to-use model  
34 for evaluating the emissions impacts of these strategies and policies is meaningful to sub-regional  
35 entities that are not otherwise required to perform Conformity Analyses.

## 36 BACKGROUND

37 Since the late 1970s EPA’s MOBILE models have been used to conduct regional air quality  
38 analysis from transportation sources. MOVES is EPA’s latest air emissions calculator for mobile  
39 sources. MOVES supports regional air quality analysis, but provides more detailed analysis than the  
40 previous MOBILE models of emissions from traffic operational changes. Such improvements are  
41 termed a “Project-Level Analysis” in MOVES.

42 MOVES documentation states that the model “allows users to represent intersection traffic  
43 activity with a higher degree of sophistication compared to previous models (5)”, accounting for  
44 “speed and temperature variations”, linked to emissions factors and processes obtained from  
45 extensive in-vehicle data collection. With this improved functionality, MOVES is a candidate tool  
46 for conducting air quality assessments of operations-level changes such as intersection  
47 improvements. Indeed, as described above, EPA has proposed that MOVES be used to complete  
48 PM and CO hot-spot analysis. In addition, MOVES will likely be used to complete NEPA analysis  
49 of transportation projects.

50 An alternative approach to estimating transportation-related emissions impacts is described  
51

1 in NCHRP 25-21, “Predicting the Air Quality Effects of Traffic Flow Improvements”, published in  
2 2005 (6). This comprehensive study recommended a methodology for predicting the short-and  
3 long-term effects of traffic-flow improvement projects on air quality, with a focus on the key  
4 question: Will a specific traffic-flow improvement contribute to improved or worsened air quality  
5 locally and at the regional level, in the short term and in the long term (7)?

6 The study evaluated the most promising modeling approaches then being used to estimate  
7 the air emissions impacts resulting from traffic-flow improvements. The report recommended a  
8 hybrid modeling approach uniting the resolution and accuracy of microsimulation models with the  
9 system-wide predictive capacity of macroscopic models. The recommended modeling approach  
10 specifies a short-term “operations” effect of traffic-flow improvement projects which can create  
11 immediate “opening day” travel time savings or travel flow smoothing benefits. Longer term  
12 “traveler behavior” effects causing changes in traveler route or mode choice, and ultimately  
13 changes in land use patterns, are also described as important to understanding the total air emissions  
14 effects of a traffic-flow improvement project.

15 Interestingly, the authors of NCHRP 25-21 state: “It is assumed that the traveler behavior  
16 effects cannot completely eliminate the opening-day travel time improvements...” (8). This  
17 assumption suggests that the short-term operations effects dominate the longer-term effects. It  
18 follows that estimation accuracy is most critical at the operations level of analysis.

19 NCHRP 25-21 goes on to state that the Comprehensive Modal Emissions Model (CMEM,  
20 NCHRP 25-11 (9))” provides the most detailed and best tested estimates of hot-stabilized vehicle  
21 exhaust emissions at different speeds and accelerations.” A number of recent studies have used  
22 CMEM for evaluating the air emissions impacts of a range of operational changes (10, 11, 12, 13,  
23 14).

24 There are many traffic microsimulation tools that can be used for modeling the operations  
25 effects and extensive validation measures have been established for these tools (15).  
26 These microsimulation tools generate a significant amount of detail on vehicle performance that is  
27 critical for determining air quality impacts (16). Details such as second-by-second  
28 speed/acceleration profiles, vehicle characteristics, and network characteristics produce inputs to  
29 equally detailed air emissions models.

## 30 **MOTIVATION FOR THE RESEARCH**

31 The motivation for this research stems from the foregoing discussion, and can be  
32 summarized as follows:

- 34 1. There is a need for consistent emissions estimates caused by operational changes. This need  
35 comes from recently-established federal requirements for hot-spot analysis, and is  
36 reinforced by locally-based sustainability programs and by federal grant programs requiring  
37 demonstration of emissions reductions.
- 38 2. Longer term systemic adaptations to operational changes – termed “traveler behavior  
39 effects” – can reduce the immediate air emissions benefits of operational changes.  
40 However, this longer term compensating feedback will not eliminate the emissions benefits  
41 generated by operational changes. Fortunately there are abundant tools for developing  
42 highly accurate traffic microsimulation models so that the most critical component in the  
43 modeling system – accurately modeling the operational change – is now commonly  
44 achieved by practicing traffic engineers. Establishing an easy-to-use linkage with an  
45 accurate air emissions model is the remaining critical piece.

46  
47 This paper compares two options transportation engineers have for calculating air  
48 emissions related to traffic operational changes: MOVES and CMEM. Both models enable  
49 “project-level” or operations-level evaluations of emissions and both models can be linked with  
50 traffic microsimulation models. These modeling packages are evaluated for their analytical results.  
51 A discussion about ease of use and future improvements is provided.

To conduct this comparison, a test bed microsimulation model of a 3-leg intersection controlled by a pre-timed signal has been constructed (Base Case). Emissions results from the Base Case are compared with emissions results from an Alternative, where the intersection is controlled by a roundabout. Two traffic volume scenarios are modeled for both control types, representing light, off peak hour traffic and heavy, peak hour traffic.

**DESCRIPTION OF MODELING TOOLS AND APPROACH**

There are three modeling tools used in this research. At the front end of the analysis, a traffic microsimulation model is built using the Paramics software (17). The microsimulation model can represent a wide variety of networks, with a great degree of complexity in roadway geometry and traveler behavior. A key attribute of a microsimulation model is its ability to generate vehicle trajectories – second-by-second descriptions of each vehicle’s operating characteristics, including location, speed, and acceleration (Table 1).

**Table 1: Illustrative Trajectory File Output from Paramics**

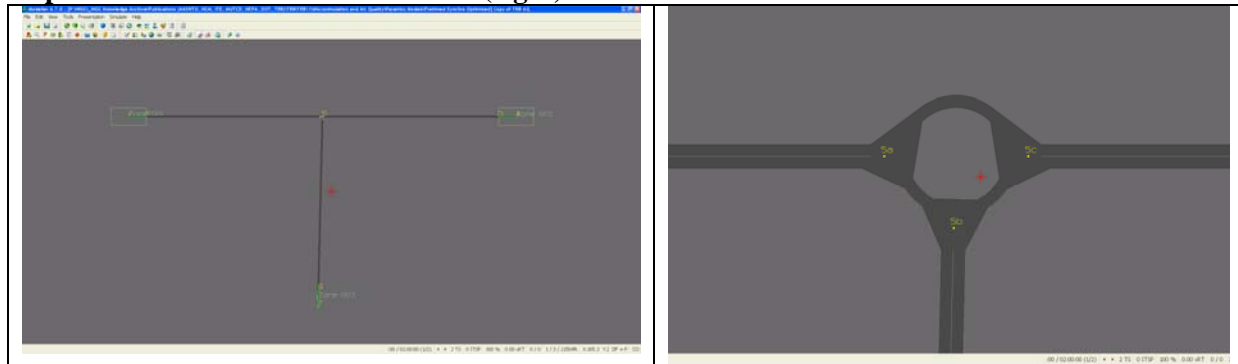
time	ID	type	origin	destination	lane	x	y	z	bearing	length ft	speed mph	acceleration fps	link	link length ft	link speed mph
3601	444	1	1	2	1	-3432.91	1634	0	-270	13.12	15.43	8.2	1:02	328.08	30
3601	442	1	1	2	1	-1840.56	1634	0	-270	13.12	33.83	0	2:05	3280.84	30
3601	443	1	1	2	1	-2001.22	1634	0	-270	13.12	32.82	0	2:05	3280.84	30
3601	437	1	2	1	1	718.3	1646	0	-90	13.12	32.91	0	3:05	3280.84	30
3601	438	1	2	1	1	789.91	1646	0	-90	13.12	34.47	-0.02	3:05	3280.84	30
3601	441	1	2	1	1	1817.19	1646	0	-90	13.12	30.76	-0.41	3:05	3280.84	30
3601	434	1	2	1	1	-357.39	1646	0	-90	13.12	33.18	0	5:02	3280.84	30
3601	431	1	1	3	1	-77.73	-1366	0	-178	13.12	33.57	3.28	5:06	3220.78	30
3601	435	1	1	3	1	-7.22	1591	0	-178	13.12	27.96	6.56	5:06	3220.78	30
3601	433	1	1	2	1	759.31	1634	0	-270	13.12	32.48	-0.1	5:03	3280.84	30
3601	432	1	3	1	1	5.02	1597	0	-359	13.12	0	0	6:05	3220.78	30

These detailed operational data are then linked to an emissions estimator -- CMEM and MOVES. In the case of CMEM, the linkage is automatic through a Paramics plug-in developed by the CMEM software team (18). In the case of MOVES, the linkage requires post processing of the vehicle trajectory file to create a Project-Level input file. A detailed description of each modeling tool and the model test bed follows.

**Description of the Microsimulation Model Test Bed**

To evaluate CMEM and MOVES for an operational change a simple intersection model was constructed using the Paramics microsimulation software. The Base Case intersection is a 3-leg intersection of urban streets controlled by a pre-timed traffic signal (left in Figure 1). The operational alternative that will be used to evaluate emissions impacts is a single lane roundabout (right in Figure 1).

1 **Figure 1: Simple Simulation Model Showing Base Case Pretimed Traffic Signal (left) and**  
 2 **Operations Alternative Roundabout (right)**



3  
 4 In both networks, three road segments posted at 30-mph lead to the intersection, each 0.60-  
 5 0.62 miles in length. This length was selected so that all vehicles were at cruise speed when  
 6 entering the network. In this way, the emissions reflected hot stabilized operating conditions  
 7 helping to isolate the effects of the intersection control change.

8 Several other factors are held constant in this analysis, as follows:

- 9 1. Traffic volumes – Two sets of traffic volumes are evaluated for the Base Case (signal) and  
 10 Alternative (roundabout) (Figure 2).  
 11  
 12 a. One set represents lighter traffic illustrative of off peak conditions (850 vehicles  
 13 per hour) and operating at Level of Service B (11 seconds per vehicle) according to  
 14 Highway Capacity Manual procedures. A pre-timed signal cycle of 40 seconds is  
 15 sufficient for maintaining efficient operations under this traffic load.  
 16 b. A second set represents heavier traffic illustrative of peak conditions (1700  
 17 vehicles per hour), operating at Level of Service D (35 seconds per vehicle) using  
 18 HCM procedures. A pre-timed signal cycle of 90 seconds is modeled for this  
 19 condition.  
 20

21 **Figure 2: Light and Heavy Traffic Volumes for Simulation Test Bed**

Light Volume, Signalized LOS B				Heavy Volume, Signalized LOS D			
		←	300			←	600
200	→		↘	100		↘	200
100	↘						
		↘	↗			↘	↗
		100	50			200	100

- 22  
 23 2. Vehicle type – One vehicle type corresponding to a passenger car was modeled in  
 24 Paramics, CMEM, and MOVES. The corresponding vehicle types used in this analysis are  
 25 shown in Table 2. 100% of the vehicles in the simulation are passenger cars and are all  
 26 entered into MOVES as 5 years old, representing a higher mileage vehicle.  
 27

28 **Table 2: Corresponding Vehicle Types in MOVES, CMEM, and Paramics**

	ID (in modeling software)	Description
MOVES	21	Light Duty General Vehicle, Passenger Car
CMEM	Light Duty Vehicle 4	3-way Catalyst, >50K miles, low power/weight
Paramics	Vehicle Type 1	Passenger Car

- 1
- 2 3. Emissions process – MOVES estimates emissions from several different processes,  
3 including start emissions, running emissions (“hot stabilized”), evaporative emissions, and  
4 “hot soak” emissions, referring to evaporative emissions occurring after a hot engine is  
5 turned off. To minimize variability in the comparative analysis, emissions representing hot  
6 stabilized operation are measured for both CMEM and MOVES. It is assumed that all  
7 vehicles are hot stabilized, including emissions that occur during idling while stopped at a  
8 traffic signal.
- 9 4. The same model runs are used to generate CMEM emissions estimates and the input data  
10 for MOVES. As CMEM has been developed with a Paramics plug-in, its emissions  
11 estimates are reported at the end of a model run. An output of a Paramics run is a vehicle  
12 trajectory file, an illustration of which is shown in Table 1. This trajectory table provides  
13 operational data for each vehicle in the network, for each ½ second of operation. Several  
14 vehicle attributes are recorded including the instantaneous speed and acceleration of each  
15 vehicle. These data are used directly by CMEM in calculating emissions and, as described  
16 below, these data can be post-processed for input into MOVES.
- 17 5. Pollutants – two pollutants of interest are modeled: carbon monoxide (CO) and oxides of  
18 nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>), both of which are NAAQS criteria pollutants. The same methodology can  
19 be applied for other near-highway pollutants, such as diesel particulates and CO<sub>2</sub>.  
20 Narrowing the list to CO and NO<sub>x</sub> simplifies reporting for the purposes of this research.  
21 CO is additionally meaningful because EPA will soon require hot-spot analysis of CO  
22 using MOVES. NO<sub>x</sub>, an ozone precursor subject to non-attainment area air quality budgets,  
23 is selected as there is now a one-hour NO<sub>2</sub> standard which is appropriately-scaled to an  
24 intersection-level analysis.
- 25 6. Roadway gradient – all links in the model are level (0% gradient).
- 26

### 27 **Description of CMEM**

28 The Comprehensive Modal Emissions Model was developed at the University of  
29 California-Riverside Center for Environmental Research and Technology in collaboration with the  
30 University of Michigan and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. This extensive data collection  
31 and modeling effort was supported under NCHRP 25-11 and is described fully in that project’s final  
32 report (19).

33 Development of CMEM commenced in 1995 largely in response to the need for an  
34 emissions model capable of performing microscale analysis, such as an intersection control change.  
35 CMEM developers conducted extensive testing of approximately 340 vehicles in order to develop  
36 emissions calculations based on vehicle/technology categories, incorporating considerations of  
37 catalytic type, vehicle mileage, and vehicle power/weight ratios. A separate categorization is  
38 performed for trucks based largely on truck age and weight (20).

39 For the purposes of this research there are two key features of CMEM that are notable. First  
40 is CMEM’s fine resolution time scale, which takes information on speed and acceleration for each  
41 vehicle, to create a driving cycle power demand. CMEM has established improved emissions  
42 prediction accuracy by estimating a temporal component of emissions based on the most recent  
43 record (past several seconds) of fuel throttle activity. Validation efforts showed consistency of  
44 CMEM predictions when compared to MOBILE (21).

45 A second key feature of CMEM is that it has been built to interact directly with Paramics as  
46 a plug-in. A key input of the CMEM plug-in is the categorization of vehicle types. For this  
47 research, the Paramics’ Vehicle Type 1 (passenger vehicle) was equated with CMEM’s Light Duty  
48 Vehicle #4, corresponding to a low-power/low-weight vehicle with a 3-way catalyst and >50,000  
49 miles (see Table 2).

50 For this analysis, 10 model runs for each of the four scenarios (signal, light traffic; signal,  
51 heavy traffic; roundabout, light traffic; and, roundabout, heavy traffic) were conducted, and the

1 results averaged for reporting.

### 3 **Description of MOVES**

4 MOVES is described in detailed documentation available on the EPA website:  
5 <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/models/moves/index.htm>. To conduct a “Project-Level” analysis in  
6 MOVES, which is an analysis of emissions from a traffic operational change, such as an  
7 intersection control change, MOVES offers 3 options:

- 8  
9 1. Using average speeds for each approach and departure link, referred to as the “Average  
10 Speed” approach. In developing emissions calculations using this approach, MOVES refers  
11 to default driving schedules that are associated with the speed profile and road type. EPA  
12 recommends using the Average Speed approach during initial transition from MOBILE to  
13 MOVES, suggesting that more detailed approaches should be utilized if modeling output  
14 can support them.
- 15 2. Using a “link drive schedule” for each approach and departure link. This is referred to as  
16 the “Link Drive Schedule” approach. A link drive schedule is a second-by-second speed  
17 profile for a vehicle, which can be a single vehicle or a generic vehicle that is representative  
18 of the driving cycle for multiple vehicles.
- 19 3. Using an operating mode distribution. Operating modes are determined by several factors,  
20 including cruising, accelerating, coasting, braking, idling, and tire wear. Each of these  
21 factors is further divided into bins defined by Vehicle Specific Power, vehicle speed, and  
22 vehicle acceleration. There are a total of 23 operating modes in MOVES, not including  
23 braking and idling.

24  
25 In this analysis, the first two options are evaluated, utilizing the Average Speed and Link  
26 Drive Schedule approaches. To simplify the modeling and hold as many variables constant as  
27 possible, we have chosen to model one vehicle type only which makes unnecessary the detail  
28 required by the Operating Mode approach to modeling. This approach to Project-Level analysis  
29 should be analyzed in future research.

30 To obtain average speeds for the Average Speed approach, average speeds for each  
31 approach and departure link, as well as for the roundabout links in the roundabout models, were  
32 obtained directly from Paramics runs. Average speeds are input into MOVES within the “Links”  
33 input file submitted to the MOVES Project Data Manager. The Links input file also contains link  
34 volume, length, and gradient, as well as identifiers for road type, and geographical location<sup>1</sup>.

35 For the Link Drive Schedule approach, vehicle trajectory data output from Paramics needs  
36 to be post-processed in 2 ways:

- 37 1. The vehicle trajectory files need to be analyzed for clustering, which creates a characteristic  
38 speed-acceleration profile descriptive of multiple vehicles. To produce appropriate clusters  
39 for this analysis, we utilized a k-means algorithm which identifies k clusters from n  
40 observations. Figure 3 shows the results of k-means clustering for the vehicle trajectory  
41 files produced by Paramics for the “Traffic Signal, Heavy Volume” runs. A total of 20  
42 clusters were estimated for each of the 4 model scenarios.

43 Clusters 1, 9, 10, and 11 describe relatively undelayed vehicle progression through the  
44 network at various speed/acceleration profiles. The other clusters exhibit some amount of  
45 delay, with clusters 18 and 19 showing the longest stopped delay. For input into MOVES  
46 the number of vehicles within each cluster must be enumerated. Each cluster is input into  
47 MOVES as a unique link with a traffic volume and a link drive schedule.

48 In conducting this research we initially modeled each individual vehicle as its own

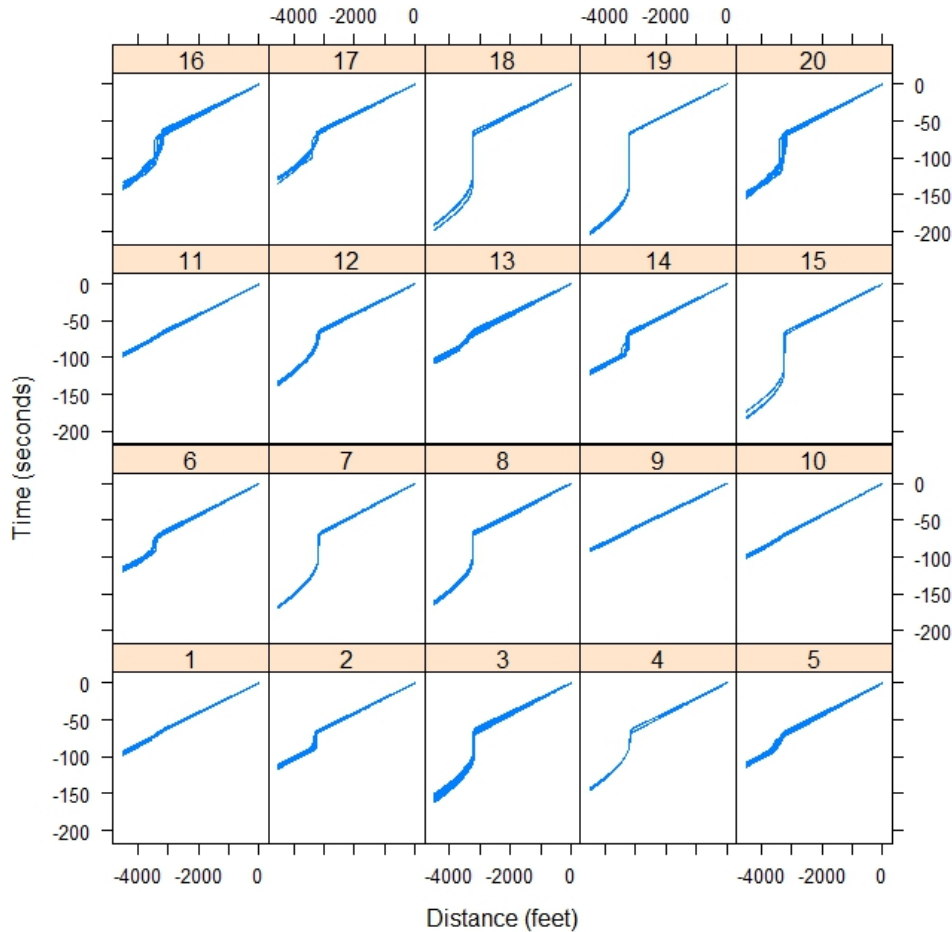
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<sup>1</sup> For this research, the area modeled is Strafford County, New Hampshire (county ID 33017); the road type modeled is Urban Unrestricted Access.

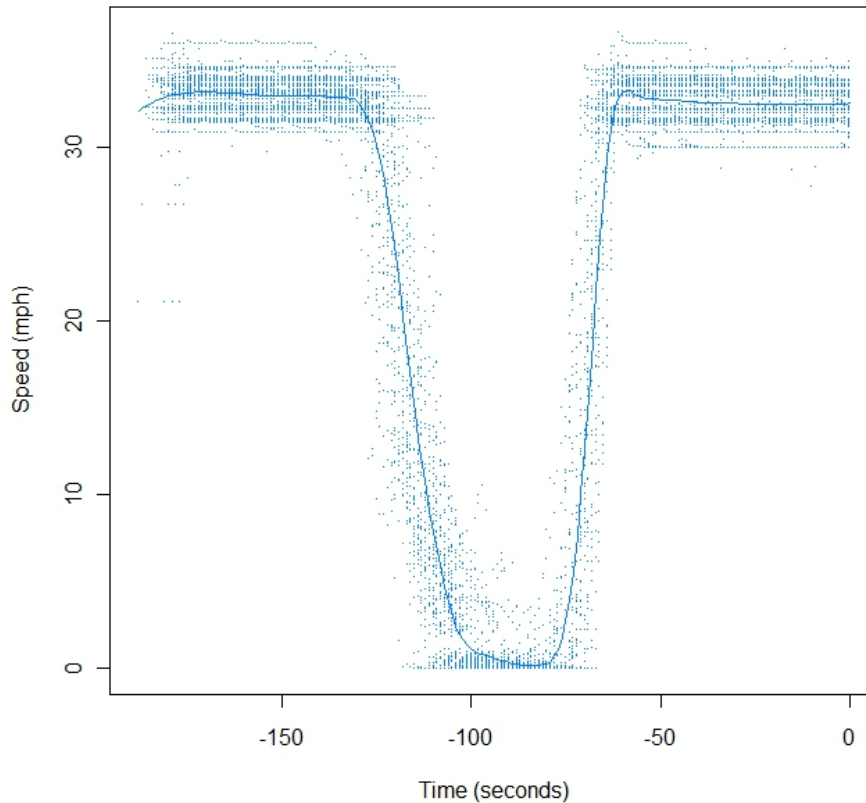


1 link in MOVES, which would have preserved the unique speed/acceleration profile of each  
 2 vehicle. For the light volume scenarios, this approach generated nearly 60,000 rows of  
 3 second-by-second data (850 vehicles X 70 seconds per vehicle (average time on the link)).  
 4 This number of links exceeded MOVES input capability.  
 5

6 **Figure 3: Twenty Distance-Time Clusters for the Traffic Signal, Heavy Volume Scenario**



7  
 8 2. The second post processing required for transferring the trajectory files into MOVES is to  
 9 estimate a characteristic Link Drive Schedule for each of the 20 clusters. To accomplish  
 10 this we utilized a LOESS (locally weighted scatter plot smoothing) routine. Figure 4 shows  
 11 a LOESS curve fitted to a scatter plot from dozens of vehicle trajectories. LOESS curve  
 12 fitting yields a characteristic Link Drive Schedule for each of the 20 clusters for each  
 13 modeled scenario.  
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 21  
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1 **Figure 4: Sample of LOESS Curve Fitting for a Binned Set of Vehicle Trajectories**

2  
3 Both the K-means and LOESS algorithms were implemented in the “R” software for statistical  
4 computing.

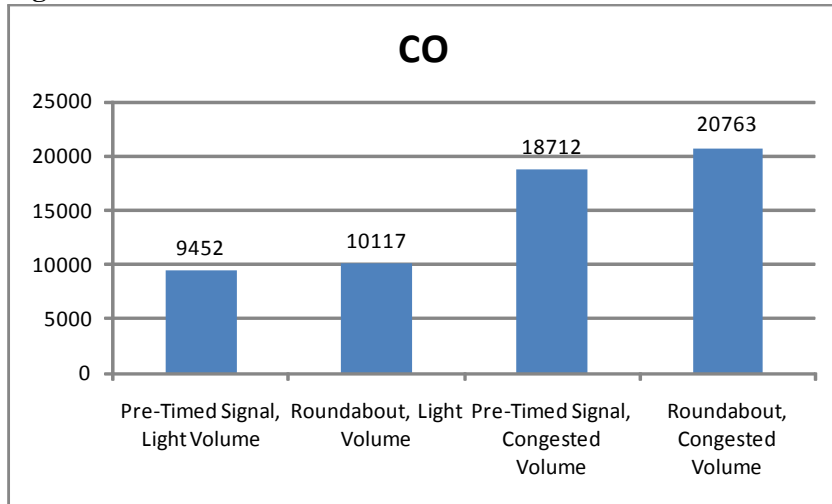
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6 **ANALYSIS OF RESULTS**

7 Figure 5 and  
8 Figure 6 show the results for CO and NO<sub>x</sub> from the CMEM Paramics plug-in. In each case, the  
9 results of four modeling scenarios are shown: Signalized, Light Volume; Signalized, Heavy  
10 Volume; Roundabout, Light Volume; Roundabout, Heavy Volume. For the Signalized, Light  
11 Volume case, CMEM estimates the production of approximately 9500 grams of CO in the hour.  
12 When converted to a roundabout, CMEM predicts a 7% increase in CO emissions (10,100 grams).  
13 Doubling the traffic volume results in scaling CO emission up by a factor of 1.97 for the traffic  
14 signal and 2.05 for the roundabout.

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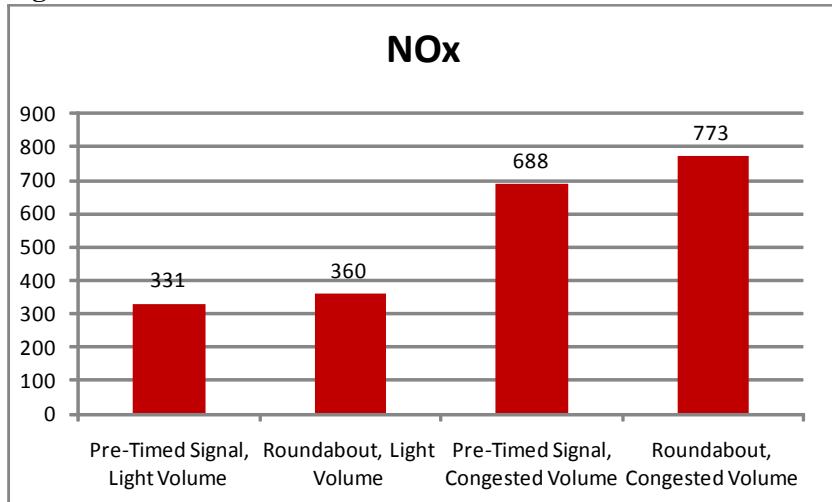
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**Figure 5: CMEM Carbon Monoxide Estimates for Four Intersection Scenarios (grams/hour)**



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4  
5

**Figure 6: CMEM NOx Estimates for Four Intersection Scenarios (grams/hour)**



6  
7

The pattern of emissions for NOx is similar to that of CO. In the case of NOx, the roundabout scenario is estimated to generate nearly 9% more than the traffic signal in the Light Volume scenario (360 grams to 331 grams) and over 12% more in the Heavy Volume scenario (773 grams to 688 grams).

This particular finding – the roundabouts may generate higher emissions than a traffic signal – has been found in other studies as well. Ahn, et al (22) conducted a literature review of the environmental impacts of roundabouts and determined that “the literature presents mixed results on the environmental impacts of roundabouts.” Their particular research, which was also conducted with linked microsimulation models (VISSIM and INTEGRATION) and air quality models (CMEM and VT-Micro) found that a roundabout at a higher speed intersection (>70 km/hr) would generate higher emissions and fuel consumption than a traffic signal and attributed this to the roundabout’s design which causes a deceleration maneuver followed by an acceleration maneuver for every vehicle that traverses it.

Utilizing CMEM the Ahn study estimated a CO emissions rate of 5-11 gram/vehicle, which compares to 11-12 grams per vehicle in this study.

Table 3 shows the CMEM CO output compared with the MOVES output for both

23

1 pollutants utilizing the Average Speed and Link Drive Schedule approaches.  
 2 **Table 3: Comparison of CMEM CO and NOx Emissions with MOVES CO and NOx**  
 3 **Emissions Using the Average Speed and Link Drive Schedule Approaches (grams/hour)**

**Pre-Timed Signal, Light Volume**

	CMEM	MOVES- Average Speed	MOVES-Link Drive Schedule
CO (g/hr)	9452	2379	1670
NOx(g/hr)	331	565	323

**Pre-Timed Signal, Heavy Volume**

	CMEM	MOVES- Average Speed	MOVES-Link Drive Schedule
CO (g/hr)	18712	4809	3077
NOx(g/hr)	688	1143	589

**Roundabout, Light Volume**

	CMEM	MOVES- Average Speed	MOVES-Link Drive Schedule
CO (g/hr)	10117	2346	1719
NOx(g/hr)	360	553	337

**Roundabout, Heavy Volume**

	CMEM	MOVES- Average Speed	MOVES-Link Drive Schedule
CO (g/hr)	20763	4786	3332
NOx(g/hr)	773	1132	646

4  
5  
6 Key observations from the data in Table 3 are:

- 7     ▪ CO estimates from CMEM are 4-6 times higher than those from MOVES. This discrepancy  
8       increases with the more detailed modeling method used in MOVES incorporating the Link  
9       Drive Schedule, where CO emissions decline when compared to those produced with the  
10      Average Speed approach.
- 11    ▪ NOx estimates in CMEM are considerably lower than those generated by the MOVES  
12      Average Speed approach, but are in line with the estimates produced by the MOVES Link  
13      Drive Schedule approach.
- 14    ▪ CMEM and MOVES-Link Drive Schedule estimate higher emissions with the roundabout  
15      when compared to the signal for either volume scenario. The MOVES Average Speed  
16      method shows slightly lower emissions for the roundabout. The relative differences  
17      between the Base Case signal and the Alternative roundabout are shown in Table 4.

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**Table 4: Percentage Change in CO and NOx Emissions When Converting from a Traffic Signal to a Roundabout Under Light and Heavy Traffic Conditions**

	Light Volume			Heavy Volume		
	MOVES- CMEM	MOVES- Average Speed	MOVES-Link Drive Schedule	MOVES- CMEM	MOVES- Average Speed	MOVES-Link Drive Schedule
	CO	7%	-1%	3%	11%	-0.5%
NOx(g/hr)	9%	-2%	4%	12%	-1.0%	10%

## DISCUSSION AND FUTURE RESEARCH

This research has successfully developed methods for integrating MOVES with a traffic microsimulation model. Utilization of k-means clustering and LOESS curve fitting are examples of methods that can convert microsimulation model output into usable input files for MOVES.

The research shows that MOVES and CMEM are comparable in NOx estimates, but widely discrepant in their estimates of CO. While this research has sought to hold constant many of the variables that are involved in this analysis – traffic volumes, roadway geometry, driving cycles, etc. – there remain several important sources of differences that may account for the discrepancies in estimates:

1. Meteorology – MOVES explicitly accounts for the prevailing weather conditions for the county which the modeling seeks to represent. CMEM does not incorporate this factor into its emissions estimates
2. Fuel type – MOVES requires the user to select a fuel formulation that is representative of the fuel in the project area. CMEM does not incorporate this detail as a user input in the Paramics plug-in.
3. Pollutant process – both CMEM and MOVES model idling emission, hot stabilized emissions, and crankcase emissions. MOVES extends this list to other processes. The research reported herein analyzed hot stabilized emissions only.
4. Emission rates source data– Emissions rates developed for MOVES rely on a dynamometer data set of 62,500 tests collected in Phoenix, AZ for the 1995-1999 and 2002-2004 time periods (23). Much of this information was collected from on-road vehicles using portable emission measurement equipment. CMEM's emission rates were developed from 343 recruited vehicles tested using chassis dynamometers in the 1996-1999 time frame. The MOVES data incorporates the data from CMEM.
5. Pollution modeling—CMEM uses analytical modeling of the physical processes involved in combustion. The MOVES model uses statistical modeling of emissions from vehicles grouped by vehicle specific power and speed (24).

The research suggests that emissions associated with a roundabout can be greater than a simple pre-timed signal. Existing research on this topic shows mixed results.

This research has tested a very simple network and raises the question of how MOVES can be adapted to a more realistic network. There are limits to the number of Link Drive Schedules that can be input into MOVES. A complicated network with dozens of intersections may challenge the processing capability of the software while also requiring substantial sophistication from the modeler. Future research into the application of MOVES for microsimulation applications should address the following questions:

1. What is the limit for network complexity when utilizing MOVES' more sophisticated processes (e.g. Link Drive Schedules or Operating Mode Distributions)?
2. What are the best methods for automating the connection between microsimulation model outputs and MOVES Link Drive Schedule and Operating Mode Distribution inputs?
3. How will emissions estimates vary when modeling an identical operations change using the

1 Link Drive Schedule and Operating Mode Distribution approaches? How do these  
2 approaches compare for accuracy, consistency, and ease of use?

- 3 4. In utilizing k-means clustering for characterizing similar vehicle trajectories, what is the  
4 optimal number of clusters for a given set?
- 5 5. Can MOVES support a hybrid modeling approach for more complex networks where  
6 Average Speeds could be used for the non-changing elements of a network, but more  
7 detailed data can be applied to the portions of the network where infrastructure changes are  
8 being contemplated?
- 9

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