

# Intersection Control Assessment Tool (ICAT)

VERSION 1.0 - SEPTEMBER 24, 2021

# Agenda

- Description of ICAT and why it was developed by CDOT
- The goals and benefits of ICAT
- Walk-through guide of each worksheet
  - Introduction Data
  - Stage 1 Shortlist
  - Stage 2 Assessment
- Use of an example case study to illustrate tool functionality

## What is ICAT?

- CDOT's Intersection Control Assessment Tool (ICAT)
  - Data-driven, performance-based approach
  - Objectively screen multiple alternatives
  - Identify optimal intersection control
- Support Colorado's safety policies and procedures
  - Traceability, transparency, consistency, and accountability when selecting an intersection type
  - Shift away from wider/larger intersections & signalization
  - Mainstream proven innovative and underutilized strategies
  - Emphasize context sensitivity, cost-effectiveness and sustainability

# Why ICAT?

- Highway Safety Improvement Program: Focus on areas with greatest potential to improve safety, including:
  - Intersection safety
  - Quantitative analysis to select intersection control
  - Consider context-sensitive control strategies
  - Consider project life cycle costs (not just capital costs)
  - Safe facilities for all users with overall best value
  - Evaluation of multiple alternatives using quantitative analysis
  - Documentation to support control decision

# Why ICAT?

- Ensure intersection investments across the state are prioritized
- Defensible benefits for safety and operations
- Provide simplified and consistent use of data to assess and quantify intersection control improvement benefits

## Benefits of ICAT



Simplified, consistent way to use data to quantify & evaluate intersection control



Reduces time to analyze & compare multiple alternatives



Provide traceability, transparency, consistency and accountability when evaluating and selecting control types



Serves as agreed upon decision document in the planning process

# **Getting Started**

- ICAT is open-source Excel workbook that includes 7 worksheets:
  - Introductions and Intersections: Purpose and goals, tool processes and responsibilities descriptions and graphics of intersection types and publication links
  - Intersection Data: Roadway, intersection, control, safety and traffic data entry
  - Stage I: Screening to eliminate alternatives and advance shortlist
  - Costs and Stage II: Generate cost estimates, assess shortlisted alternatives and select preferred alternative
  - Environmental Impacts: Document environmental mitigation needed
- Computations rely on input from multiple worksheets no results should be considered final until all worksheets are fully complete

# **Getting Started**

goals of the intersection control assessment, a description of the tool

processes and responsibilities, answers to frequently asked

The Intersections worksheet provides descriptions and graphics of each intersection type included for evaluation and links to national

The IntersectionData worksheet begins the ICAT data entry process.

Figure 1 illustrates a blank worksheet and requested inputs for project,

traffic, and safety data. Here and throughout the tool, orange text or boxes indicate required data inputs, and blue text or text boxes indicate

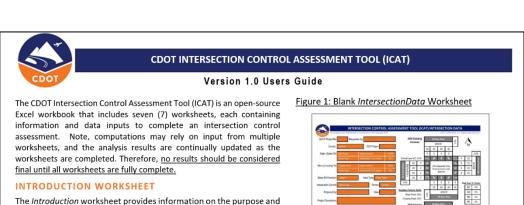
publications that describe each intersection type in greater detail.

questions, and documentation of ICAT version updates.

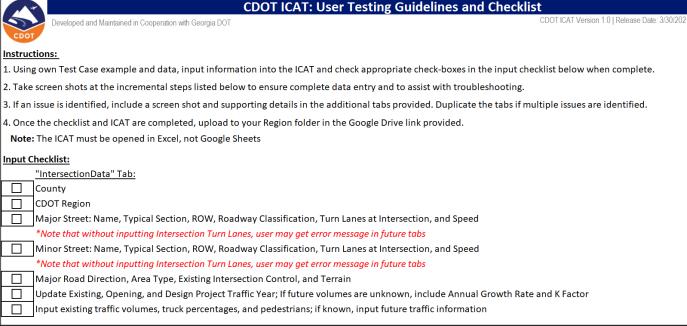
INTERSECTIONS WORKSHEET

INTERSECTION DATA WORKSHEET

- Several tools provided to assist tool data entry:
  - ICAT Users Guide provides step by step process for entering data
  - Data Entry Checklist provides checklist for all data needed and entered in ICAT







## Introduction

- Summarizes tool goal and requirements
- Introduces two-phase process and roles and responsibilities
- Link to ICAT Users Guide
- Track future versions and program updates



### **COLORADO INTERSECTION CONTROL ASSESSMENT TOOL (ICAT)**

Developed and Maintained in Cooperation with Georgia DOT

CDOT ICAT Version 1.0 | Release Date: 8/30/2021

### About the Colorado ICAT:

Introduction: The Intersection Control Assessment Tool (ICAT) uses a data-driven, performance-based approach to objectively screen alternatives and identify an optimal geometric and control solution for an intersection. In 2015, Colorado Governor Hickenlooper announced Colorado's safety initiative to reduce transportation related deaths: Moving Colorado Towards Zero Deaths. Zero deaths and serious injuries is a core value of the state's Strategic Transportation Safety Plan, which provides innovative and data-driven approaches to improving highway safety. Colorado's ICAT was developed to ensure intersection investments across the state are prioritized and implemented with defensible benefits for safety and operations.

Tool Goal: The goal of ICAT is to provide a simplified and consistent way of importing traffic, safety, cost, environmental impact and stakeholder data to assess and quantify intersection control improvement benefits. The tool supports Colorado's stated policies and procedures to provide traceability, transparency, consistency and accountability when identifying and selecting an intersection control solution that both meets project purpose and reflects overall best value in terms of specific performance-based criteria. Note that a PDF of the ICAT users guide is available on both this tab (right) and the IntersectionData tab.

Requirements: Use of ICAT shall be required for any intersection or ramp termini improvement (new intersection, intersection modification, widening/reconstruction corridor project, or work requiring an access permit that affects an intersection) when: 1) The intersection includes at least one roadway designated as a State Highway or part of the NHS, 2) The intersection will be designed or constructed using State or Federal funding, 3) The intersection is included in Access Control Plans (ACP), Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL), Corridor Planning Studies, or Traffic Impact Studies (TIS), or 4) Requested by the Regional Traffic Representative's (RTR). Use of ICAT shall NOT be required when the proposed work does not include any geometric or capacity changes to the intersection design such as (but not limited to): resurfacing pavement projects, striping projects, routine maintenance projects, traffic signal retiming projects (that do not include adding a phase), a proposed RIRO intersection that meets the Colorado State Highway Access Code, or signal maintenance projects (to upgrade deficient equipment). A waiver eligibility form must be completed by the Project Manager and submitted to the RTR, and if approved, the project shall be exempt from ICAT requirements.

Two-Stage The assessment process consists of two stages: Stage 1, a Screening Analysis and Stage 2, Alternative Selection. The intent of Stage 1 is to eliminate any Process: infeasible intersection types through a series of screening questions. The purpose of Stage 2 is to perform a detailed analysis to determine a preferred alternative selection. The ICAT forms are designed to minimize required data inputs using drop-down menu choices and limiting text entry. All fields shaded in orange require either data entry or drop-down menu choices, and data fields in all worksheets must be filled before any reliable results can be obtained. All non data-entry cells in worksheets are locked, and all worksheets are password protected.

Stage 1: Stage 1 is intended to screen many different intersection types and select between 2 and 5 alternatives for detailed analysis in Stage 2. The purpose of Stage 1
Screening is not to compare intersection alternatives against each other but to assess the different intersection types individually to determine if and to what extent they
Decision potentially meet the project purpose and need, strategic program goals and project context by answering a number of questions regarding intersection right-of-Record way, safety, context, operations and costs. After the Stage 1 analysis is complete, the ICAT Champion will review and verify the results prior to the user moving onto the Stage 2 alternative selection.

Stage 2: Stage 2 further analyzes intersection types selected from the Stage 1 screening and determines the best possible intersection type for the project needs. The Alternative Stage 2 analysis includes additional safety and operational analysis, environmental, utility, and right-of-way impacts, cost comparisons, and other factors specific Decision to the context. Once all data is entered, each alternative is scored and ranked, and results provided inform on the best intersection control(s). Once determined, Record the user will collaborate with the ICAT Champion to recommend the final solution. The ICAT Champion will review and verify the analysis results and the RTR



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### Intersections

- Provides information on all intersection types in tool
- Educational links click on image to access published guides or research on each intersection



#### INTERSECTION CONTROL DESCRIPTIONS

Click on intersection images for additional resource publications

#### Signalized At-Grade Intersections



Signalized Intersection: The most common ype of signalized intersection with high driver amiliarity. Signal could be simple two-phase or more complex 8-phase to serve vehicular demand. Left turns can be permitted or protected (or combination of both). At a conventional 4-leg intersection there are 32 baseline conflict points.



Jughandle: Much like an at-grade diamond interchange, ramps on the major street diverge from the right side in advance of a cross street intersection, removing the left turn movement from directly at the cross-street intersection. Major street left turns are made at minor, stopcontrolled intersections on the cross-street. Le turns from the cross-street remain as direct movements at the main intersection.



Median U-Turn: Left turn movements otherwise occurring at the main intersection are made via U-turns in the median, preceding or following right turns. U-turns may be only on major roadway or on both major and minor oadways. A conventional MUT has 16 baseline conflict points and has shown significant operational and safety benefits. Also known as: Indirect Left, Michigan Left, MUT



Continuous Green-T: Three-leg intersection that features raised channelization to allow the "top" through movement to operate under continual green. The opposite direction intersects with the major and minor street lefts at a signalized intersection (minor left turns merge with the continual through movement downstream). A Continuous Green-T has 9 baseline conflict points, the same as a conventional 3-leg.



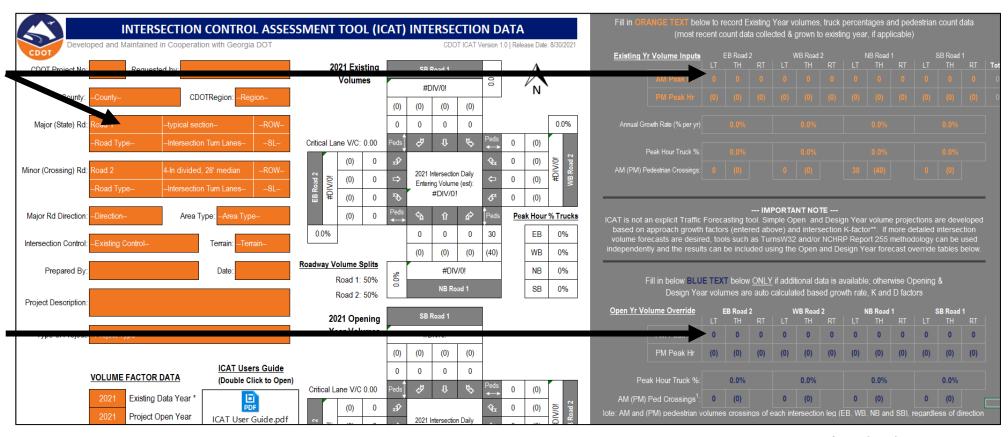
Superstreet / Reduced Conflict Intersection: Similar to the Median U-turn but features break in cross-street traffic that allows signals on opposite directions to operate independently. Left turns can make direct turns onto the minor road but minor road thru and left turn movements are made using the directional U-turn crossovers. A Superstreet / RCI has 14 baseline conflict points (over 3 intersections).



Offset-T Intersection: The minor street is bifurcated at the major roadway at two Tintersections, whereas through movements on the minor roadway use a portion of the major street between intersections. The minor street can be either offset right (as pictured above) or offset left, and the intersections can be unsignalized or signalized. If signalized, proper signal coordination is essential for efficient

Orange text or boxes (drop-down selections) are **REQUIRED** 

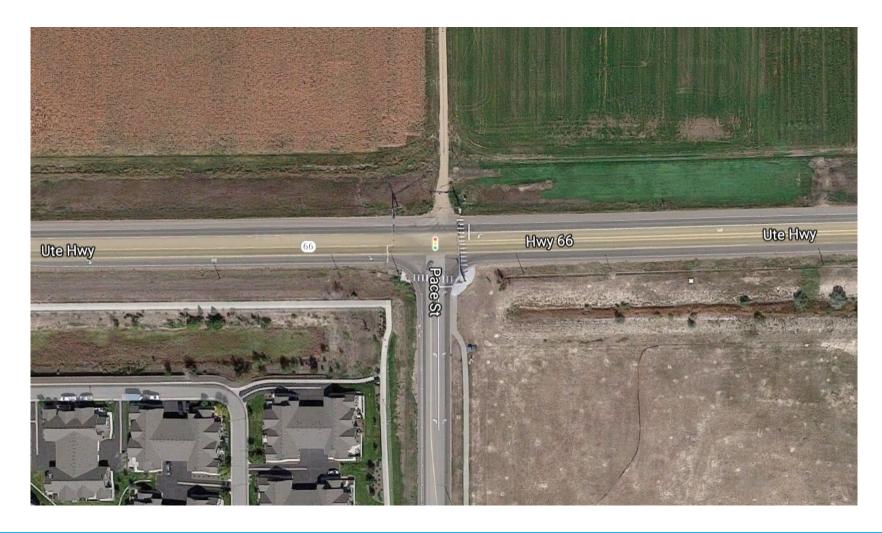
> Blue text or boxes (drop-down selections) are **OPTIONAL**



Inputs in grey-shaded area are outside print border

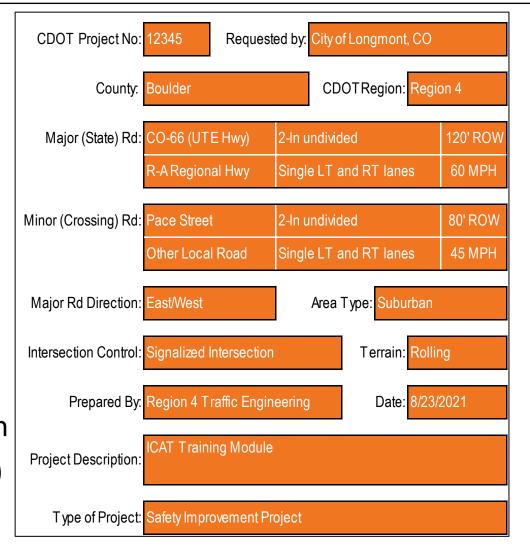
# Case Study Example

- Not actual case study
  - Exercise meant to show functionality of tool
- Hwy 66 at Pace Street, City of Longmont CO
  - Signalized T-intersection
  - High-speed rural highway intersecting local collector



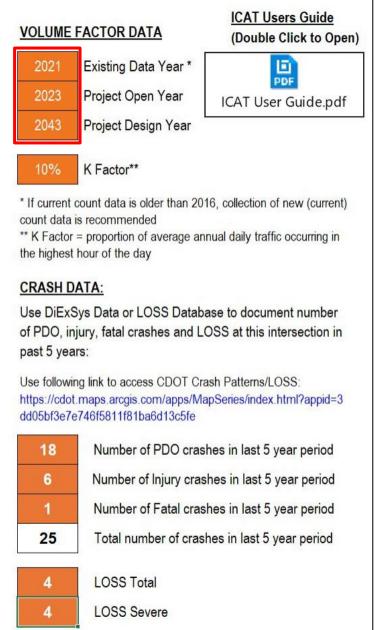


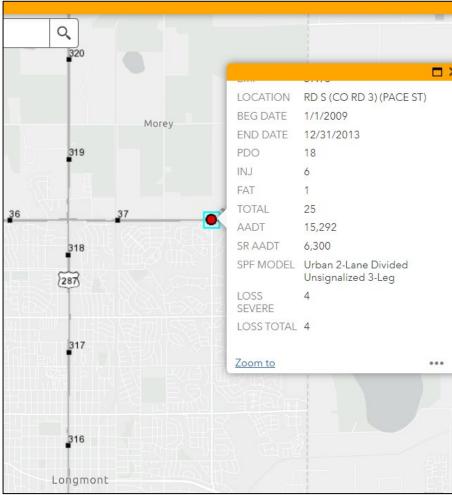
- Input intersection, volume, crash data
- Project number and requested by
- County selection drop box and CDOT region
- Major and Minor Road data
  - Name (limit to 15 characters)
  - Typical section (most conservative) and ROW
  - Turn lanes (most conservative if different)
  - Speed limit
- Area type, current control, general terrain
- Preparer (agency/firm), date, project description
- Type of project (important to evaluation factors)



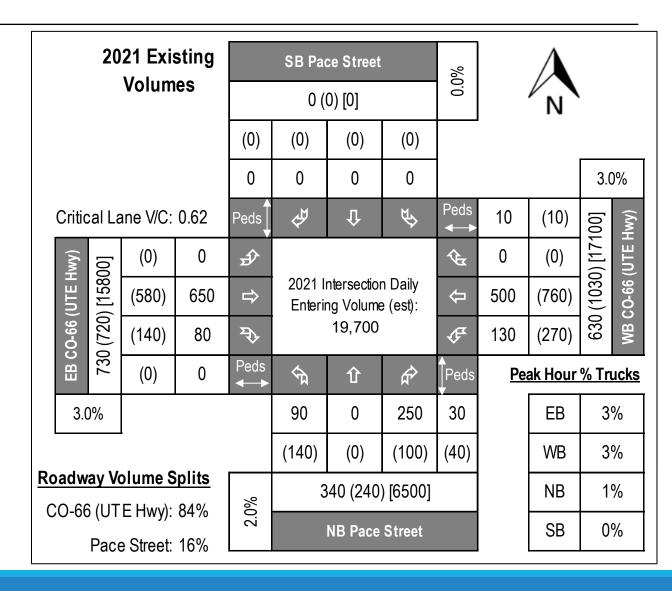
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- Volume factor data
  - Existing, Opening and Design Year
  - Intersection K-factor
  - Used to generate volume forecasts
- Crash data
  - CDOT LOSS Total and Severity Score
  - PDO, injury & fatal crashes over 5 years





- Existing AM (PM) volume data
- Annual growth rate on each approach
- Truck percentage on each approach
- Existing pedestrian crossing data (if available)
- Approach volumes, ADT's and future volume estimates appear in graphic
- ICAT not a traffic forecasting tool
  - Can import outside traffic forecast data
  - Will override calculated data



# ICAT Stage I

## Stage I – 15 Context Questions

15 questions related to ROW constraints, safety, road context, operations and maintenance and costs to understand intersection needs and context

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<b>CDOT</b> Devel	oped and Maintained in Cooperation with	R	ight of Wa	ay		Sai	fety			Roadwa	y Context		Operati	ons/Main	tenance	Costs	
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Existing Control:	Signalized Intersection	constrained? nly)			issue t spot	salety iss ash hot sp edestrian 2=high)	activity?	speeds		ays ne iany)		can 0=N	can r 0=Nc mes   mod,	? (Max 2l , 2=yes)	ecome interchan ybe, 2=probably)	cision	Score
Prepared by:	Region 4 Traffic Engineering	cons hly)			safety ish ho		/cle activ 2=high)	등		exts, characteris tion? (0=no, 1ye ous driveways n 1=few, 2=many)	rsectior	ork, 2= dens ork, 2= dens rsection? Or eliminated?	d volu	no-build volun 6; (0=low, 2=n olumes high? 1=somewhat, 3			ation
Date:	8/23/2021	road 2=higl			ction 2=cre	ant po	nt bic) erate,	approach 2=high)	exts, c		nt inte rk, 2= sectio	r no-build vo 16; (0=low, volumes high	tion becon	nary 2=ye	valua		
Deselect or X or Y (resp	estions 1-16 with rating of 0, 1 or 2. select any alternative by placing an sectively) in column to right of score; se justification in rightmost column	Q1: Is ROW on major (0=no, 1=somewhat, 2	Q2: Is ROW on minor (0=no, 1=somewhat, 2	Q3: Intersection quac (0=no, 1=somewhat,	Q4: Are there intersection (0=low, 1=moderate, 2=cra	Q5: Are there significant p (0=none/low, 1=moderate,	Q6: Is there significant bicycle (0=none/low, 1=moderate, 2=h	Q7: Are one or more (0=no, 1=moderate, 2	Q8:Do roadway contexts, transition at intersection?	Q9: Are there numerous intersection? (0=no, 1=fe	Q10: What is adjacent i (0=isolated, 1=network,	Q11: Is this a T-intersection? Or thru or left turns be eliminated? (	Q12: Are design yr no Build 2043 V/C=1.16;	Q13: Are exist LT vol =270 vph) ; (0=no, 1=	Q14: Could intersection become interchange next 20 yrs? (0=no, 1=maybe, 2=probably)	Q15: Are costs a prin (0=no, 1=somewhat,	Total Stage 1 Screening Evaluation
	ernatives: (see Intersections tab for on of intersection/interchange type)	1	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	0	1	2	2	1	0	1	Total
	0 1 2																

- Q1: Is ROW on major road constrained? (0=no, 1=somewhat, 2=highly)
- Q2: Is ROW on minor road constrained? (0=no. 1=somewhat, 2=highly)
- Q3: Intersection guadrants constrained? (0=no, 1=somewhat, 2=highly)
- Q4: Are there intersection safety issues? (0=low, 1=moderate, 2=crash hot spot)
- Q5: Are there significant pedestrian crossings? (0=none/low, 1=moderate, 2=high)
- Q6: Is there significant bicycle activity? (0=none/low, 1=moderate, 2=high)
- Q7: Are one or more approach speeds high? (0=no, 1=moderate, 2=high)
- Q8:Do roadway contexts, characteristics transition at intersection? (0=no, 1yes)
- Q9: Are there numerous driveways near intersection? (0=no, 1=few, 2=many)
- Q10: What is adjacent intersection spacing? (0=isolated, 1=network, 2= dense network)
- Q11: Is this a T-intersection? Or can minor ST thru or left turns be eliminated? (0=No, 1=Yes)
- Q12: Are design yr no-build volumes high? No-Build 2043 V/C=1.65; (0=low, 2=mod, 4=high)
- Q13: Are exist LT volumes high? (Max 2021 LT =400 vph); (0=no, 1=somewhat, 2=yes)
- Q14: Could intersection become interchange in next 20 yrs? (0=no, 1=maybe, 2=probably)
- Q15: Are costs a primary decision factor? (0=no, 1=somewhat, 2=yes)

# Stage I – 15 Context Questions

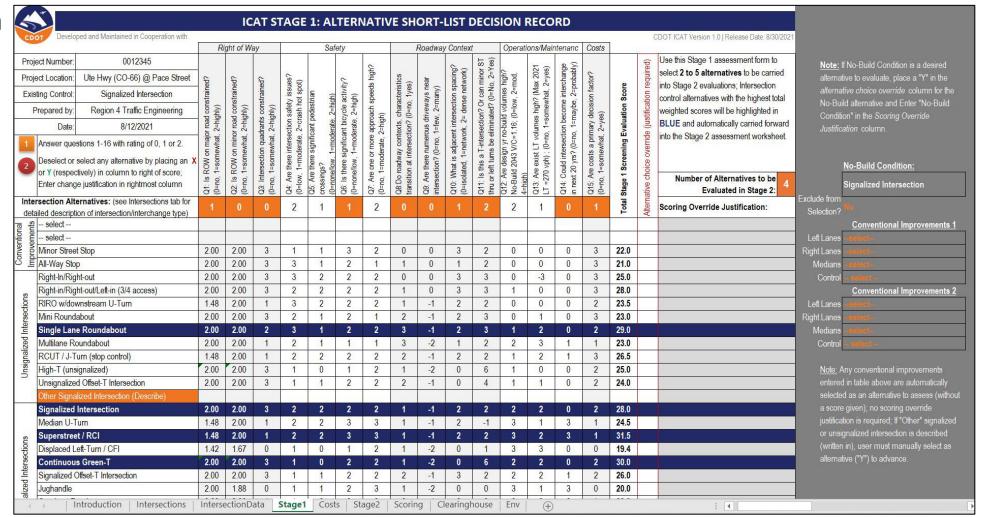
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	ernatives: (see Intersections tab for on of intersection/interchange type)	1	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	0	1	2	2	1	0	1	Total
	0 1 2																



# Stage I – Shortlist Selection

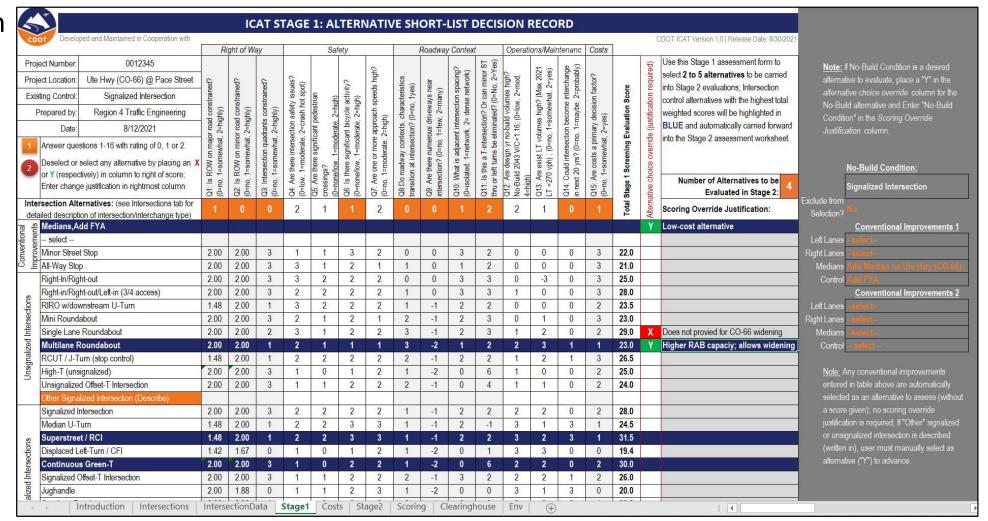
- Overall intersection score determined
- Users can create conventional alternatives
- Select/deselect alternatives (with justification) in order to shortlist alternatives



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# Stage I – Shortlist Selection

- Overall intersection score determined
- Users can create conventional alternatives
- Select/deselect alternatives (with justification) in order to shortlist alternatives





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Intersections

IntersectionData

Stage1

Costs

Stage2

# **ICAT Cost Worksheets (Optional)**

### Costs Worksheet

- Optional to aid cost development
- **Existing conditions data**
- Alternative Specific Data
  - Utility, driveway impacts
  - Wall, bridge area
  - Additional ROW & landscape costs
- Site Conditions
  - ROW, drainage type
  - Sidewalk/bike/MUP facilities
  - Project size / traffic management
  - Design/contingency factors



#### INTERSECTION CONTROL ASSESSMENT TOOL (ICAT): COST ESTIMATING AID

CDOT ICAT Version 1.0 | Release Date: 9/17/2021

Location: Ute Hwy (CO-66) @ Pace Street

Type of Proejct: Safety Improvement Project

County: Boulder

Date: 8/23/2021

Existing Intersection Control: Signalized Intersection

CDOT Region: Region 4

Agency/Firm: Region 4 Traffic Engineer

Area Type: Suburban CDOT Proj No: 0012345

	EB Ute Hwy (CO-66)			WB Ute Hwy (CO-66)			NB Pace Street			SB Pace Street		
Movement	Left Turn	Thru	Right Turn	Left Turn	Thru	Right Turn	Left Turn	Thru	Right Turn	Left Turn	Thru	Right Turn
Number of Lanes	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Bay Length**	0'		400'	750'		0'	220'		0'	0'		0'
Median Width (if any)		0'			0'			0'			0'	
Right-of-Way		120'		120'		80'			80'			

	Pavement	Utility	Driveways	Retaining	New/Widen	Add'l ROW/	Landscape
<u>Alternative</u>	Area	Impacts:	Impacted	Wall (sqft)	Bridge(sqft)	Demolition	Cost
Multilane Roundabout	38112 sf	Moderate	0	200	0	\$0	\$30,000
Medians,Add FYA	0 sf	Minimal	0	0'	0	\$0	\$0
Superstreet / RCI	58000 sf	Moderate	2	500'	0	\$250,000	\$0
Continuous Green-T	38100 sf	Minimal	2	0'	0	\$0	\$0

		Multilane	Medians,Add	Superstreet /	Continuous	
	Environmental Impacts	Roundabout	FYA	RCI	Green-T	
	Historic District/Property:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
NOTES:	Archaeology Resources:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
For minimal or significant	Graveyard:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
environmental impacts identified in Stage 2	Stream:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
(highlighted in ORANGE), enter cost estimate to	UST/Hazmat:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	·
mitigate each impact.	Park Land:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	·
	EJ Community:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	·
	Floodplain:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	Wetland:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	T&E Species Habitat:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	Totals:	<b>\$</b> 0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$</b> 0	

### Site Conditions Prevalent ROW Type ROW Cost/Acre \$50,000 Topography Rolling Roadway



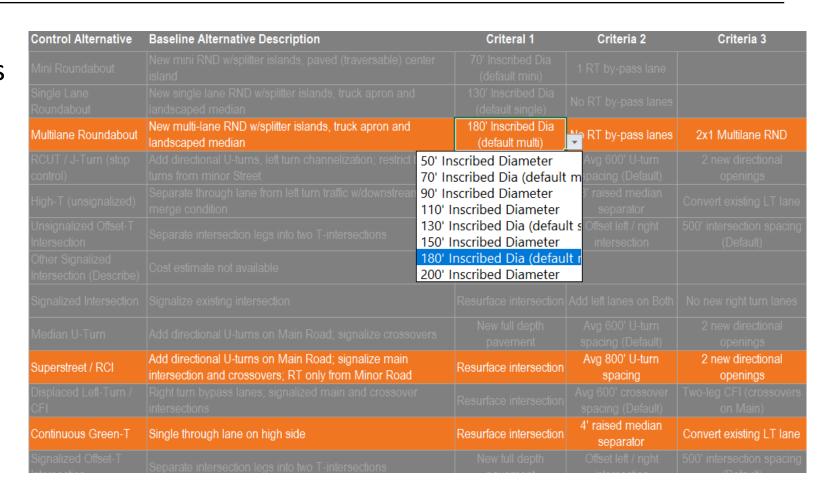


Bike Lanes / MU Paths

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## Costs Worksheet

- Alternative specific factors chosen to better define costs
- Examples include:
  - Pavement improvement type
  - Roundabout diameter
  - U-turn crossover distances
  - Adding turn lanes
  - Intersection spacing
  - Median openings
  - Median treatments
  - Lane channelization
  - Special signing and marking



Costs

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# ICAT Stage II

## Stage II



- **Evaluation of 5 Factors:** 
  - Costs
  - **Traffic Operations**
  - Safety
  - Environmental Impacts
  - Stakeholder Input
- Cost data from Cost worksheet
  - Generates costs for each alternative
  - Can adjust cost specifics
- Traffic analysis measures
  - No-build design year operations
  - Delay, V/C for each alternative

### **ICAT STAGE 2: ALTERNATIVE SELECTION DECISION RECORD**

Developed and Maintained in Cooperation with Georgia DOT CDOT Project Number: 0012345

Project Location: CO-66 (UTE Hwy) @ Pace Street

Existing Intersection Control: Signalized Intersection

County/Region: Boulder / CDOT Region 4

Area Type: Suburban

Prepared by: Region 4 Traffic Engineering

Date: 8/23/2021

Type of Project: Safety Improvement Project

Existing /	Design	Year No-Build	Traffic O	perations

48.0 sec

0.90

24.0 sec

0.55

53.0 sec

0.98

40.0 sec

0.70

Traffic Analysis Measure of Effectiveness	Intersection Delay		
Traffic Analysis Software Used	Synch	Synchro 10	
Analysis Time Period	AM Peak Hr	PM Peak Hr	
2021 Existing No-Build Peak Hr Intersection Delay	40.0 sec	52.0 sec	
2021 Existing No-Build Peak Hr Intersection V/C ratio	0.80	0.90	
2043 Design Yr No-Build Peak Hr Intersection Delay	64.0 sec	82.0 sec	
2043 Design Yr No-Build Peak Hr Intersection V/C ratio	1.10	1.25	

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Alternatives Analysis	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
Proposed Control Type Improvement:	Multilane Roundabout	Medians,Add FYA	Superstreet / RCI	Continuous Green-T
Project Cost (From Cost Worksheet)	Add addt'l description here			
Construction Cost	\$1,439,400	\$450,000	\$1,403,215	\$673,383
ROW Cost	\$0	\$0	\$283,058	\$0
Environmental Cost	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Reimbursable Utility Cost	\$51,321	\$40,000	\$70,161	\$20,202
Design & Contingency Cost	\$513,215	\$240,000	\$701,608	\$336,692
Cost Adjustment (justification req'd)	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total Cost	\$2,003,936	\$730,000	\$2,458,042	\$1,030,277
Traffic Operations				
Traffic Analysis Software Used	SIDRA7	Synchro 10	Synchro 10	Synchro 10
Analysis Period	AM Peak Hr PM Peak Hr			

2043 Design Yr Build Intersection Delay

Costs

2043 Design Yr Build Intersection V/C

30.0 sec

0.65

35.0 sec

0.70



55.0 sec

0.95

66.0 sec

1.10

# Stage II: Safety

- Safety benefit by change of intersection control determined using FHWAs CMF Clearinghouse (www.cmfclearinghouse.org)
  - CMFs (Crash Modification Factor) used to compute the expected number of crashes after implementing a given improvement
  - CRFs (Crash Reduction Factors) estimates % reduction in crashes
- Many CMFs predefined based on existing/ proposed control; for some, users may have to find or develop and document





# Stage II

- Safety data from CMF
   Clearinghouse or added
   from other data sources
- Identify any potential environmental impacts for each alternative
- Environmental Impacts
   worksheet used to
   identify mitigation
   efforts; add mitigation
   costs to Cost worksheet

Safety Analysis				
Predefined CRF: PDO	26%	0%	15%	4%
Predefined CRF: Fatal/Inj	71%	0%	15%	4%
Predefined CRF Source:	FHWA Clearinghouse IDs: 4196 / 4195	-	FHWA Clearinghouse ID:9984	CDOT Study ID:8655
User Defined CRF: PDO		8%		
User Defined CRF: Fatal/Inj		8%		
User Defined CRF Source (write in if applicable):		CDOT CMF Factor		
Environmental Impacts				
Historic District/Property:	None	None	None	None
Archaeology Resources:	None	None	None	None
Graveyard:	None	None	None	None
Stream:	Minimal	None	None	None
UST/Hazmat:	None	None	None	None
Park Land:	None	None	None	None
EJ Community:	None	None	None	None
Floodplain:	None	None	None	None
Wetland:	None	None	Significant	Minimal
T&E Species Habitat:	None	None	None	None



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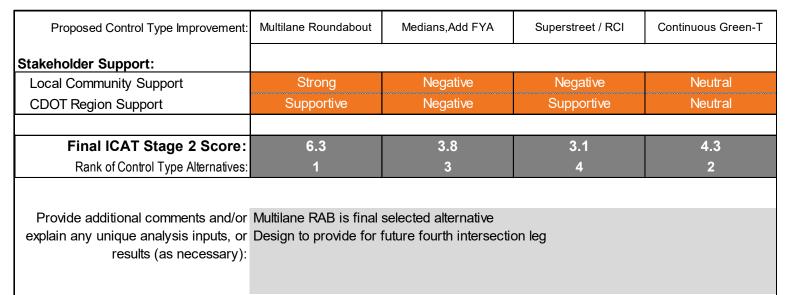
# Stage II

- Stakeholder Inputs (if known)
  - Negative, neutral or supportive
  - Local Community Support
  - CDOT Region Support

Introduction

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 Final score and ranking and input of any comments



Env

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## Conclusions

- ICAT process is intended to:
  - Provide the optimal intersection solution
  - Document the data and approach used to select control choice
- Tool should NOT replace good engineering judgement
  - Use best judgment entering data
  - Lower scoring alternative can be selected (with justification) if scores are close
- CDOT will soon be issuing guidance on how and when to use ICAT
- Suggestions for improvements to the tool are welcome, and updates to ICAT are expected in future version releases
- Thank you and please visit the Learning Lane to view additional training videos, the ICAT worksheet and Users Guide